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WORLD 13
BRITISH PM TO UNVEIL
NEW BREXIT STRATEGY

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Govt plans panacea for farmers' woes

DBT, regular direct income, interest-free crop loan in relief package

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With agrarian crisis gripping India, the Narendra Modi Government is considering direct benefit transfer (DBT) or transfer cash to farmers and other low income rural families to ease their financial burden, instead of offering subsidies. As per the plan, the Government may combine all farm subsidies, including fertiliser costs, in the DBT. The Government is also planning to tweak the guidelines of Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojna to ensure minimum premium and maximum benefit to farmers.

The additional cost will be limited to ₹70,000 crore (\$9.8 billion) annually after a full rollout of the programme. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had budgeted ₹70,100 crore for farm subsidies in the year ending March 31, 2019.

Coming ahead of general elections next year, the proposal is expected to put more money into the hands of farmers, enabling more investments in the industry, and raising consumption to boost the overall economy, said officials privy to the plan.

One proposal is to transfer ₹4,000 per acre to farmers, including small or marginal farmers who are farm labourers. Under the direct income support scheme, farmers would be entitled to a periodic payment. The amount will be paid



SILVER BULLET!

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- The direct income support scheme, farmers would be entitled to a periodic payment.
- The other step being considered is doubling collateral-free loans under Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to ₹2 lakh and changes in the PM crop insurance scheme to enhance coverage and ensure faster settlement of claims and schemes.

to them to carry out farming activities. An interest-free crop loan, from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh for every farmer, is also on the Government's relief package menu. The cash transfer for irrigation and power cost for running tube can also be worked out.

Sources said that the Cabinet Secretary had held a several rounds of meeting with

officials of Agriculture Ministry, Finance Ministry and NITI Aayog to decide package for farmers. "The cash transfer to farmers in a year by the Centre for land-owning farmers appears to be favourable. The scheme is expected to cost ₹1.2- ₹1.3 lakh crore," sources said. "The fiscal burden will shift to the next fiscal year, giving room for the Centre to

simultaneously rework some subsidies being given to farmers such as that on fertilisers and crop loans," sources added. Subsidies to the agriculture sector include power subsidy, fertiliser subsidy, agriculture loan at lower rate of interest, irrigation subsidy, and insurance cover for farmers at lower premium rates. The power subsidy alone stands at over

₹90,000 crore followed by fertiliser subsidy at ₹75,000 crore. The Government has already rolled out fertiliser subsidy to companies under DBT. In order to keep the credit flow to the farm sector robust, the Centre is also planning to raise the Budget outlay for interest subvention for agriculture loans to ₹23,000 crore in 2019-20, a huge jump from

₹15,000 crore budgeted for the current fiscal. The other step being considered is doubling collateral-free loans under Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to ₹2 lakh and changes in the PM crop insurance scheme to enhance coverage and ensure faster settlement of claims and schemes.

Besides, the Centre pays 2 per cent interest subvention against the base rate (9 per cent in case of PSBs) on all farm credit. An additional 3 per cent interest subsidy on crop loans of up to ₹3 lakh is paid to farmers who repay loans in one year, reducing effective rate of interest in such cases to 4 per cent.

After electoral debacle in three major States — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan — in the last year Assembly polls, the Narendra Modi Government has realised that its existing policies have failed to reach the farmers. The Modi Government, which is seeking a second term, has to win over discontented farmers before the election. They have been hit by falling crop prices and rising input costs, prompting thousands of them to protest in the street to seek debt waivers. At the same time, the Opposition Congress has mounted pressure on the Government to act after it waived farm loans following victories against the BJP in three States last month.

Cong suspends MLA booked for murder attempt

PNS ■ BENGALURU

K'TAKA CRISIS

The Congress on Monday suspended its Karnataka MLA JN Ganesh, who hit his colleague Anand Singh during an alleged brawl at a private resort here on Saturday night. In further trouble for Ganesh, Anand — who suffered injuries in the scuffle and is admitted to a private hospital — has filed an FIR against Ganesh.

According to the FIR, besides attempt to murder, Ganesh, who was one of the MLAs reportedly under the BJP lens for desertion, has been charged with causing grievous injuries and giving threats.

Ganesh claimed he too was injured in the scuffle but insisted that no "bottle attack" had taken place as projected in the media. However, he admitted a scuffle had taken place between him and Anand at Eagleton Resorts on the city outskirts late on Saturday.

The Congress had shifted its legislators to the resort on Friday last fearing "poaching" by the BJP as bid to destabilise the Congress-JDS coalition Government in the State.

With the Congress is facing much embarrassment over the episode, KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao said Ganesh has been suspended with immediate effect. In order to conduct detailed enquiry

into the incident a special enquiry committee had been constituted under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister G Pameshwar.

The panel also includes Ministers KJ George and Krishna Byre Gowda, the release said, adding that the committee had been asked to submit the report at the earliest.

A statement issued by the KPCC said party leaders have conducted a preliminary enquiry about the "unpleasant" incident and have also collected information from Anand.

"Whatever the media has created about (me) hitting (Anand) with bottle ... and he getting 14 to 20 stitches ... are all completely false. There were also reports about (me) having bitten our gun man. He is physically present here. This is a lie," Ganesh said. Stating that Anand is like an elder brother to him, Ganesh said he and his family have respected Anand, whom they knew for the last 15-20 years.

He added, "I have not done this to him purposefully. On some issue Bhima Naik (another Congress MLA) and Anand (had differences), I tried to bring them together (compromise) ... but some wrong events happened."

Continued on Page 7

India has vast potential: Swaraj

PNS ■ VARANASI

Declaring India as an educational hub for the Indian diaspora living across the world, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj cited examples of highly-reputed IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology), IIMs (Indian Institutes of Management) and other institutions apart from government programmes aimed at rapid development.

Swaraj was addressing the inaugural address at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to mark the rousing start of the three-day 15th edition of PBD at Deendayal Hastakala Sankul in Varanasi on Monday morning. She added the Indian diaspora had dramatically changed the world's perception of Indians and the country.

The inaugural event was also addressed by UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, MP from Norway Himanshu Gulati and MP from New Zealand Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi.

Addressing 6000 delegates from over 150 nations, Swaraj said the success of each and every Indian emigrant was a testimonial to their indefatigable spirit, unflinching dedication and patience in the face of extreme hardships. Calling upon the young NRIs to be a part of India's



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurates Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Varanasi on Monday as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath looks on

growth story, the Minister of External Affairs said: "The aim of this conclave is not only to keep you connected with your roots but also provide you an opportunity to contribute positively to country's development."

"While the Indian diaspora started migrating centuries ago, it is the migration of the educated, highly-skilled and dynamic young Indians that has brought laurels to India," she said, noting that many of the multi-national corporations are headed by young Indian-origin CEOs such as Sundar Pichai of Google and Satya Nadella of Microsoft.

Swaraj highlighted that by 2020, the average age in India would be 29, making it the

world's youngest country with 64 per cent of the population in the working age group.

"While countries like the US, Western Europe, Japan and even China are ageing rapidly, India is getting younger and younger. By 2022, these ageing countries will become super-aged with over one-third of their population over 65 years of age, while India will have the world's largest working population. This demographic prospective offers India an unprecedented edge, which could further contribute to building a New Young India by 2022. It is projected that India will be the source of skilled manpower to the world by 2022," she added.

The government's Skill India initiative is aimed at making the country the skill capital of the world by 2022. "Our aim is to not just export 'man-power' to the world, but to export 'skills'. Exporting 'skilled' manpower will not only garner a better image for India on the global space, but also will lead to better salaries and better remittances, thus raising India's GDP further," the minister said.

Asserting that India is now a land of innovation and start-ups, Swaraj said contribution of Indian diaspora in technical field was exemplary with nearly 16 per cent of startups in the Silicon Valley having an Indian co-founder.

In the last four-and-a-half years, the government has dismantled lots of rules and regulations and further opened up India's investment regime, Swaraj said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said he had made a lot of efforts to change the investment scenario in the state. He also invited all NRIs to invest in the land of their forefathers. "Our diaspora has always championed Indian culture in far away lands and contributed tremendously to India's success story," Rathore said on the occasion.

Later, the first plenary session on 'Engagement with younger members of Indian diaspora' was co-chaired by Rathore and Singh.

PM to open PBD convention in Vns today

PM to open PBD convention in Vns today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Tuesday inaugurate the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi. For the first time, the three-day-long convention is being organised from January 21 to 23 instead of January 9 to allow participants visit the Kumbh mela in Allahabad and attend the Republic Day parade here.

The theme of this year's convention is 'role of Indian diaspora in building new India', a statement from the Prime Minister's office said.

Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth will be the chief guest of the convention, while Himanshu Gulati, member of Parliament of Norway, will be the special guest. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, member of Parliament of New Zealand, will be the guest of honour. The decision to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was taken by then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the first event was celebrated on January 9, 2003 here. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi had returned to India from South Africa.

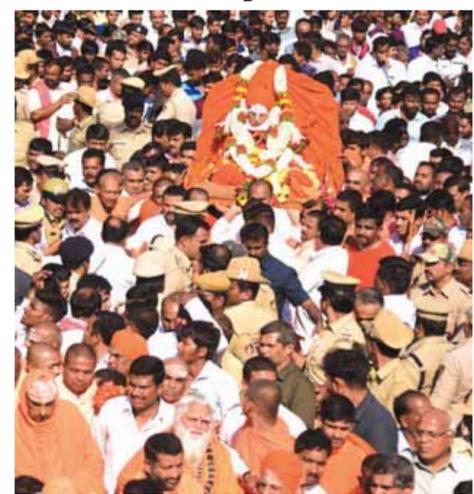
Siddaganga 'Walking God' leaves for heavenly abode

Bengaluru: The "Walking God" as he is reverentially called, the 111-year old Sree Shivakumara Swami of Siddaganga mutt has left an indelible imprint with his stellar contributions to education sector and philanthropy targeted at children in whom he saw the Almighty.

Known as "trivida dasohi" for his triple sacraments — food, shelter and education — among his followers, the swamiji, who died on Monday, is considered as the incarnation of Basavanna, the 12th century social reformer, as he accepted all irrespective of their religion or caste.

Born on April 1, 1907 at Veerapura in Magadi Taluk near here to Honnappa and Gangamma as Shivanna, he was among the 12 siblings.

Losing his mother at the age of 8 is said to be one of the reasons for transformation in Shivanna's behaviour that turned spiritual. After completing primary education at his native village and Nagavalli, the Swamiji completed his matriculation in Tumkur, before coming here for Bachelor degree with Physics and Mathematics as optional Subjects.



Devotees carry the body of spiritual leader Shivakumara Swamiji before it is being placed for public viewing in Tumkur, Bangalore, on Monday

Siddaganga took over as the "peethadipati" (pontiff) of Siddaganga mutt succeeding his Guru Sree Uddana Shivayogigal Shivakumara Swami and reigned over the seminary for about 76 years. During the seven decades,

he founded Sri Siddaganga Education Society under which thousands of students, mostly from villages and under privileged sections, are being educated in both traditional and modern learning.

Continued on Page 7

Azadi-Ke-Diwane to salute Netaji at Red Fort

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the January 26 Republic Day celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Wednesday inaugurate three museums in Red Fort as a tribute to martyrs of Independence era.

These include a museum showcasing role of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose's INA; "Azadi-Ke-Diwane" in remembrance of martyrs of India; and "Yaad-e-Jallian" museum to honour those killed in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre 100 years ago.

The museums showcase an interesting mix of archival material and state-of-the-art technology which would create an immersive experience for



visitors as well as students of history. For instance, it has been

Modi will also inaugurate "Yaad-e-Jallian" museum to honour those killed in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre 100 years ago

od that the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) could gather from various sources. Bose's army INA trials were held inside the precincts of the historic monument. Several officers of the INA were court martialled here in November and December 1945, said an ASI official.

The inauguration of museum on Bose comes a less than a month after the Prime Minister renamed three islands

of Andaman and Nicobar archipelago as a tribute to the freedom fighter. The Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep as was suggested by Bose in 1943.

Azadi-ke-Diwane museum houses original archival material and replicas related to 1857 with 70 original paintings on the uprising, said an official, adding that names of the martyrs available from the ICHR has been put on display as a mark of tribute to known and unknown freedom fighters.

The third museum showcases incident on massacre of Jallianwala Bagh, alongside archival material on India's

participation in WWI. This interactive museum aims to enlighten visitors particularly youth about the occurrences in Punjab and the rest of India leading up to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on April 13, 1919.

Jallianwala Bagh houses a memorial of national importance, established in 1951, to commemorate the massacre of peaceful celebrators, including unarmed women and children by British occupying forces, on the occasion of the Punjabi New Year (Baisakhi). The exact number of fatalities is unknown with various newspapers giving different data.

On the display will be ancient public records, private papers, photographs, paint-

ings, sketches, illustrations, contemporary newspapers reports, journals and periodicals, proscribed literature, audio archives, films clippings, videotapes, animation and multimedia.

Disclaimers have been put at various places as we are not sure of some names which have been collected from various sources, said the official, adding spaces have been left to add left out names also in case someone comes with a proof.

"These have been procured from various sources. Some are original while a few are replicas. At some places, we have tried to use audios or visuals of the period which have been made available from various sources," the official added.

Fugitive Choksi gives up Indian citizenship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, a prime accused in ₹ 13,000 PNB credit fraud case, has surrendered his Indian passport at the Indian High Commission in Guyana, official sources said on Monday.

Choksi had earlier acquired Antigua passport in 2018 and the 1st move is being seen here as a ploy to frustrate extradition efforts against him. Choksi is uncle of fugitive diamondaire Nirav Modi, also an alleged architect of the PNB scam who is said to be hiding in the UK.

UP govt increases destitute pension

Sadhus included in scheme

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Lok Sabha elections coming closer, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to increase destitute pension by ₹100 per month and include sadhus in the scheme.

This was announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Monday.

While a press release issued by the state government did not mention the inclusion of sadhus in the scheme, information advisor to the Chief Minister did not rule out the possibility in near future.

"Sadhus can also be included if they come under the category of destitute," a senior offi-

cial said.

Now all destitutes (men, women, disabled and others) will get a pension of ₹500 per month against the previous ₹400.

There were reports that the government could give exclusive pension of ₹10,000 to sadhus and saints, but it was denied by the government, which said that sadhus and saints could avail the benefit of old age pension scheme.

The government claimed that the exchequer would face an additional burden of ₹600 crore.

The Chief Minister asked officials to organise special camps at every Vidhan Sabha

constituency between January 20 and 30 to distribute pensions to aged people, widows, divyangs and destitutes. The elected representatives and lower level officials have been asked to attend these camps.

A government spokesman said that district magistrates had been asked to appoint chief development officers, sub-divisional magistrates and other senior district officials as nodal officers for holding such camps.

He said that so far nine lakh beneficiaries had availed this benefit but if the officers worked with right earnest, the figure would jump to 70 lakh.

Over one crore devotees take dip on Paush Purnima

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Over one crore devotees took a holy dip at the Sangam on the auspicious occasion of Paush Purnima, the second important bathing of the 49-day-long Kumbh, here on Monday.

From Sunday night itself, the Sangam area was buzzing with activity as devotees started arriving even as security forces maintained a close watch on the movement of pilgrims and visitors at the mela venue.

Even before sunrise, devotees were seen coming out from the ghats after taking the dip.

The devotees and kalpvasis in large numbers took the holy dip at all the 35 temporary ghats where adequate strength of river police was deployed to check cases of drowning.

At each and every ghat barricading had been done and warning boards had been installed for the convenience of the pilgrims.

Officials repeatedly made announcements requesting devotees not to venture into deep waters and also keep an eye



Devotees taking dip at the Sangam during Kumbh on the occasion of Paush Purnima in Prayagraj on Monday

over suspicious elements in their vicinity and report it to the police.

The full moon was at its splendid best over Sangam before the break of dawn and devotional songs greeted visitors

in the Sangam area.

Fog too was seen before sunrise at various places in the Sangam area. However, it failed to dampen the mood of devotees.

As the day progressed, the

number of devotees coming to take the holy dip increased.

The Kumbh Mela administration and police had made elaborate arrangements on the occasion.

Devotees not only from

UP but from the neighbouring states like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand and different countries too had arrived in the Sangam City bringing the chilly weather conditions.

The priests claimed Paush Purnima marked the beginning of the austerity period (kalpvās) which is observed during Magha month. During the entire month, the kalpvās stay on the bank of the river.

Minister of State for Muslim Waqf and Haj, Mohsin Raza on Monday visited the Sangam on the occasion of Paush Purnima and described it as "heaven on earth".

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti visited the Sangam on Monday.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivedra Singh Rawat was also in Sangam City to extend an invitation for the Kumbh Mela, which will be held in Haridwar later, and met office-bearers of various Akhara, said Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chairman, Mahant Narendra Giri.

Akhilesh endorses decision

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav endorsed Yogi Adityanath government's decision to give provide pension to sadhus (seers) who were above 60 years of age.

He demanded that each old sadhu be given a monthly pension of at least ₹20,000.

"We want the restoration of ₹50,000 per month pension to Yash Bharti awardees and also the Samajwadi pension. Pension should also be given to those reciting Ramayana and those performing the roles of Ram, Lakshman and Sita in Ramilas. If some money is left, then those playing the role of Ravana can also be given pension," Akhilesh said at a press conference in Lucknow on Monday.

Welcoming the Union government's move to open Akbar's Fort on the bank of Yamuna river in Allahabad thereby enabling people to have a 'darshan' of Akshayvat, the SP chief said that the Centre should transfer ownership of the fort to UP government.

Reiterating his demand for the use of ballot papers instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in election, Akhilesh said, "People want restoration of ballot papers instead of EVMs as they want to vent



their anger by stamping on ballot papers."

Amid chants of 'Jai Akhilesh' and Bahujan Samaj Party slogan 'Jai Bhim' by members of Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha, the SP chief reaffirmed that the BSP-SP alliance had been stamped and talks for identifying seats had been completed.

"There is no confusion within the cadres of both parties. Now the people have decided to elect a new prime minister. The coordination between SP and BSP workers is spirited, as can be witnessed with the raising of the slogan of BSP by our workers," he said.

On the question of leadership of the joint opposition, Akhilesh said, "As far as leadership is concerned, it is actually the people who will decide it. You will see in near future how many options we have," he told the media persons.

"But one thing is clear — that the country is waiting for a new prime minister. If the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is so concerned about us, has a new prime minister they should tell the people," Akhilesh said.

On Mulayam Singh Yadav, he chief said, "SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav will be fielded from the seat of his choice."

On the controversy over BJP MLA Sadhana Singh's derogatory remarks against BSP chief Mayawati, Akhilesh said the language being used by the ruling party leaders reflected their frustration.

On Pravasi Bharatiya Divas being organised in Varanasi from Monday, the SP chief said, "Since the last so many years, we are waiting for the NRIs to invest in the state. May be those coming here will have a change of heart after visiting Kumbh Mela and taking a dip in the Ganga. Some policies, decisions and confidence were required for making those sitting on the dais of Pravasi Divas function invest in the state."

"Thoko (shoot and kill) policy will neither bring order nor confidence. I will ask them to use Agra-Lucknow Expressway during their return journey so that they (NRIs) may know who has worked and who has betrayed the people," Akhilesh said.

Meanwhile, Pichhara Samaj Swabhimani Party led by VK Singh Yadav announced to merge with the SP on Monday.

Foreigners take part in Sangam aarti



Foreign devotees taking a holy dip at the Sangam on the occasion of Paush Purnima during the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad on Monday.

Allahabad (PNS): An international delegation comprising 24 persons from Indonesia, Japan, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, Brazil, Spain, Argentina and USA arrived at the Parmarth Niketan camp in Kumbh Mela on the occasion of Paush Purnima here on Monday. They took the holy dip and participated in the morning prayer, yoga, Sangam aarti and 'sat-sang' (religious discourse). In his address Swami Chidanand and Saraswati, head of the ashram, said that people came from across the world as well as India at the Sangam just for a holy dip. The 'triveni' (confluence) of nature, culture and future should emerge in the Kumbh of our lives, he pointed out. Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati said it was not just for taking a holy dip that the people flocked the Sangam during Kumbh but for the inner cleanliness of the spirit.

Guv convenes UP budget session from February 5

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Ram Naik has convened the budget session of Uttar Pradesh assembly from February 5.

The session will begin with the Governor's address to the joint sitting of both houses of the state legislature. The date of presentation of the budget for 2019-20 fiscal is likely to be decided next week.

An official of Vidhan Sabha secretariat said that the meeting of business advisory committee of the assembly was likely to be held on February 4 in which the date of presentation of the budget and the agenda of the budget session would be decided.

In view of the coming Lok Sabha elections, the budget session is likely to be a short one.

As per rules of business for UP Vidhan Sabha, there should be a minimum of 23 sittings during the budget session. During the session, four days are allotted for debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the joint sitting of the state legislature and four days for general discussion on the annual budget followed by grant-wise debate on the budget.

Meanwhile, Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit on Monday formally inaugurated the Parliamentary Monitoring Committee of the assembly set up on August 29 last year.

Dikshit said the PMC played an important role in ensuring accountability of bureaucracy and other agencies of the state. He said the committee would address the long-

standing grievances of MLAs that the government was either evasive or not in giving satisfactory reply or information in response to questions and notices given by members during the session of the House.

He said that the committee would also address issues concerning the protocol of members of the House.

An official of assembly secretariat said, "The complaints by MLAs, particularly of the opposition, that they were being ignored or humiliated by government officials would be taken up and redressed by the PMC and action would be taken against errant officials."

UP Assembly is the only one among Commonwealth nations to have such kind of committee for ensuring accountability of the bureaucracy.

Muslims inadequately represented in Mamata's Kolkata rally: Azam

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan lashed out at the recent opposition rally organised by Trinamool Congress supreme and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata for inadequacy in representation of interests of Muslim minority at the event. Khan also slammed the opposition parties for limiting their discourse only on certain political issues and not focusing on national interest.

On January 19, Mamata Banerjee had organised a mega conclave of opposition parties in which leaders of 24 regional parties had assembled at the Brigade Parade ground. "Representation of the second biggest population or Muslims was merely namesake. Only one leader from Kashmir and another from Assam attended the rally. Muslims are worried about their representation," Khan said in Firozabad on Sunday.

"The Kolkata rally was aimed at joining everyone together for the nation's benefit. While several political issues were raised, discussion on where the nation is going and where it is supposed to lead was not taken up seriously," he said.

In Kolkata's mega rally, opposition leaders, including Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka, N Chandrababu Naidu, Arvind Kejriwal and HD Kumaraswamy, respectively, former CMs Omar Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) MK Stalin were present.

2 cops suspended over murder of BJP leader

Lucknow (PNS): Two policemen, including a local beat sub-inspector, were suspended and a magisterial enquiry was ordered into the brutal killing of a Bharatiya Janata Party leader in Kushinagar. The victim was battered to death by the goons on Sunday morning.

As per reports, BJP MP Rajesh Pandey visited victim Wakil Singh's home in Bihuli Sumali area of Kushinagar on Monday morning to condole the death. He also assured all necessary help by the party. Pandey told the family that on directions of Cabinet minister and Kushinagar in-charge Rajendra Singh aka Moti Singh, the district police chief suspended a sub-inspector and constable for negligence and also ordered a probe by the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM).

Regional general secretary of BJP, Wakil Singh, was dragged out of his home and battered to death by unidentified miscreants on Sunday morning, soon after he returned home from the local police station.

He was having a land related dispute with someone and the local police suspect that the killing might have been orchestrated at behest of his rival.

No arrest could be made by the police till Monday afternoon, even as two teams were working on the case.

Rahul to kick off Cong poll campaign in UP on Feb 10

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress president Rahul Gandhi will kick-off his party's campaign for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh by addressing a rally in Lucknow on February 10.

Leaders of UP Congress Committee are busy giving final touches to the preparations.

"Rahul Gandhi has given his nod to launch the poll campaign by addressing a rally in Lucknow on February 10. He will spread the campaign by addressing one rally each in every zone of the state," a UPCC leader said.

"We all are busy preparing a base by strengthening the organisation up to the booth level. We will show the opposition parties that the Congress is no pushover in UP and we will win the maximum number of seats in the coming parliamentary elections," he said.

Sources said that senior leaders supervising the preparations for Rahul's Lucknow rally were dissatisfied with the progress made so far. They warned all district party chiefs who had so far failed to provide names of leaders at block and booth levels.

Meanwhile, United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress chief Rahul Gandhi will visit their respective parliamentary constituencies, Rae Bareilly and Amethi, for two days from January 23.

Both leaders will reach Fursatganj airport by a chartered aircraft in the morning of January 23. While Sonia Gandhi will go to Rae Bareilly from the airport, Rahul will head to Amethi. However, both will stay for the night at Bhue Mau guest house in Rae Bareilly.

Representative of Sonia Gandhi at Rae Bareilly, KL Sharma, said in Lucknow on Monday that Sonia Gandhi would meet party leaders and could visit some selected villages to review development works.

Before leaving for Delhi on January 24, the UPA chairperson would hold a 'janata darshan' at Bhue Mau guest house along with Rahul Gandhi and then attend a meeting of district development monitoring and vigilance committee.

Sonia Gandhi would be visiting her constituency after a long time. Rahul would also visit a couple of villages in Amethi and attend the district development monitoring and vigilance committee meetings.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name from Syed Mohammad Jawwad to Mohd. Jawwad for all purposes. Mohd. Jawwad S/o Saiyyad Asad Javed, 235/49, Gumme Wali Kothi, Bajaja, Chowk, Lucknow.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है, मैं प्रदीप कुमार सिंह S/o श्री राजाराम सिंह, मैं अपनी पुत्री का नाम सोम्या (Shomya) से बदल कर सोम्या सिंह (Saumya Singh) रख दिया है। अब से इसे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाय। पता - ग्राम आटा करैलसगंज, मोनडा।

NOTICE

Due to mistake my daughter Sayana Newhal's date of Birth written in school records as 11.06.2007, whereas her correct Date of Birth is 11.12.2009. Please correct accordingly. Subhash Chandra, E-7/129, Avas Vikas Colony, Amrapali Scheme, Hardoi Road, Lucknow.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that the name of the my son Ashutosh Kumar Singh's DOB in school record entered as 26.05.2006 which is wrong. While the son's DOB is 26.11.2008, which is correct. In future his DOB should be write and known his correct DOB as 26.11.2008. Subhash Chandra, R/o E-7/129, Amrapali Yojna, Hardoi Road, Dubagga, Lucknow.

FORM NO.-5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal)

Summons for filling Reply & appearance by Publication Original Application No. 818/2018 Date 14.01.2019 (Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules 1993).

State Bank of India Versus Applicant Bank Neelam SINGH Versus Defendant To.

1. Neelam Singh W/o Akhilesh Singh R/o 13/60/A-3 Vikash Nagar Lucknow. Permanent Address village & Post office- Shahab Ganj, District Chandauli, U.P.

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in paper Book form in Two Sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same. The applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 22/02/2019 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

North Eastern Railway E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

TENDER NOTICE NO. GSD-IZN-TANKER-OT-19-20 dt. 18.01.2019

"CONTRACTORS ARE REQUESTED TO VISIT www.ireps.gov.in ON WHICH TENDERS ISSUED BY DY.CMM/DEPOT/IZZATNAGAR OFFICE ARE PUBLISHED AND TENDER DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. THE SITE ALSO PERMITS FOR SUBMITTING THE OFFER ONLINE". Deputy Chief Material Manager/Depot/Izzatnagar

Railway Vlg. Mobile Help Line No. 0551-155210 (Regarding corruption complaint)

Do not travel on roof top and foot board of train

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

No.: C/341/Halt/N.I.T./P.A. Date: 18.01.2019

Notice No- 61/2018 Date- 28.12.2018

First Corrigendum

Sub.-: Notice for invitation of application for appointment of halt agent at halt station.

02 Halt stations Chithari & Tila are added in above notification.

S.No.	Name of the Halt Station.	Section	Date from which work to be started.
1.	Chithari	Lalitpur-Khajuraho	From the date of allotment
2.	Tila	Lalitpur-Khajuraho	From the date of allotment

Other Terms & conditions will be same.

North central railway @CPNCR 1304/18(K)

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (उ.प्र.)

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)

Talibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur- 492 099 (CG) (www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)

Advt. No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect./CS/Pub./2019/677, Date: 21-01-2019

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, GoI, invites e-tender for following:

Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on CPPP/ Website	Pre-bid Meeting date	Closing date
Tender for Supply of Gamma Detection Probe for Radio Guided Surgery for Nuclear Medicine Department at AIIMS Raipur	Rs. 84,000.00	18-01-2019	23-01-2019 at 03:30 pm	07-02-2019 at 03:00 PM
Supply of Fundus Camera System for Dept. of Ophthalmology	Rs. 1,00,600.00	18-01-2019	25-01-2019 at 03:30 pm	14-02-2019 at 03:00 PM
Supply of Vitreo Retina Unit with Integrated Phacoemulsification for Ophthalmology Department	Rs. 2,67,200.00	18-01-2019	25-01-2019 at 03:30 pm	14-02-2019 at 03:00 PM

The details terms & conditions are available on the website- www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in

Stores Officer

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण

(ISO 9001:2008 एवं ISO 14001:2004 प्रमाणित संस्था)

प्राधिकरण भवन, विजय चौक, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.)

दूरभाष : 0522-2302586, वेबसाइट : www.lidonline.in

पत्रांक : 82 / उप निदेशक (उ.) / 18 दिनांक : 21 / 01 / 2019

रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest)

गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना के भाग-1ए के अन्तर्गत जनेश्वर मिश्र पार्क परिसर में गोलक कार्ट की व्यवस्था एवं संचालन कार्य हेतु अनुज्ञप्ति आधार पर दिनांक 10.02.2019 को 03.30 बजे तक रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest) प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। प्रस्ताव के साथ 2,50,000.00 (दो लाख पचास हजार) मात्र का राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक का बैंक एफंडींग आरंभ सचिव, लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण के पक्ष में सलमन करना होगा।

अनुज्ञप्ति से सम्बन्धित नियम व शर्तें किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रातः 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 4.00 बजे तक उप निदेशक (वैधान) के कार्यालय / www.lidonline.com प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

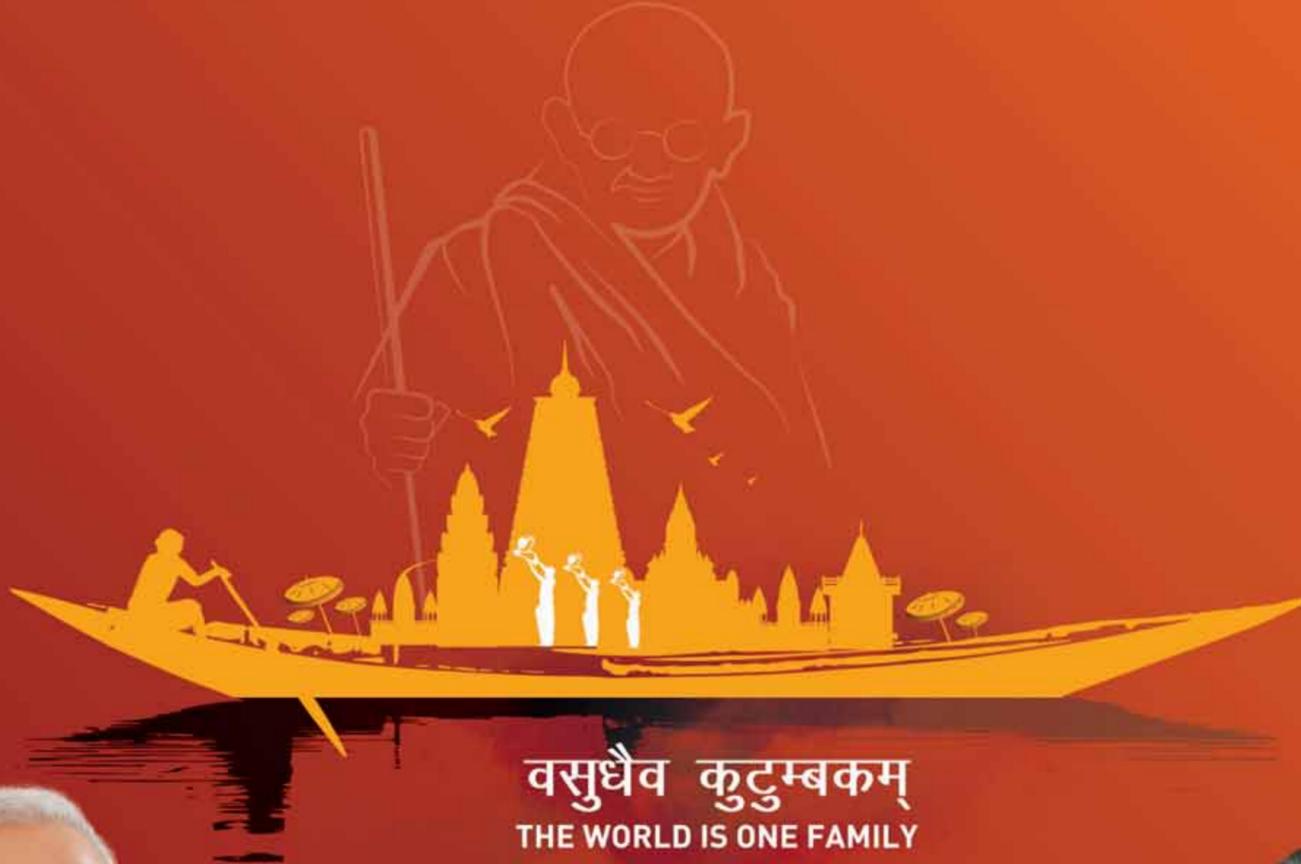
मुख्य अभियन्ता



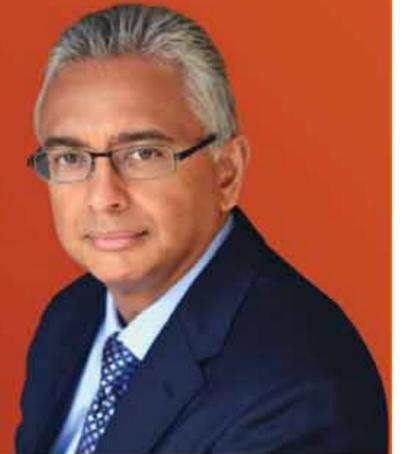
15^{वां} प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
 15th PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
 जनवरी 21-23, 2019 वाराणसी, उत्तर प्रदेश

नये भारत के निर्माण में
 प्रवासी भारतीयों की भूमिका

ROLE OF INDIAN DIASPORA
 IN BUILDING A NEW INDIA



वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्
 THE WORLD IS ONE FAMILY



Inaguration of
**15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
 Convention 2019**

on 22nd January, 2019 at Varanasi, 10:00 AM onwards

by

Chief Guest

Narendra Modi
 Prime Minister of India

Pravind Jugnauth
 Prime Minister of Mauritius

in august presence of

Yogi Adityanath
 Chief Minister
 Uttar Pradesh

Sushma Swaraj
 Minister for External Affairs
 Govt. of India

Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh
 Minister of State for External Affairs
 Govt. of India

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Programme	Venue
'Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz' Award Ceremony & Group Photo	Stadium
Bilateral meeting/Meetings with Prominent Indian Diaspora	Stadium
Plenary Session II: Role of Indian Diaspora in capacity building for affordable solar power	Trade Facilitation Centre
Plenary Session III: Giving back to India: Opportunities and Challenges	Trade Facilitation Centre
Cultural Programme	Stadium

Bike thief tortured, dies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The death of an accused of a bike theft put the Lucknow police in a sticky situation on Monday with the family blaming Chowk police for subjecting him to third degree torture to own up his crime and later sending him to jail without a medical. The Chowk police nabbed Abdul Rahim (38) of Thakurganj on January 14 for stealing bikes. On January 19, Abdul fell sick in Lucknow jail following which he was admitted to Balrampur Hospital. His condition deteriorated and he was referred to Trauma Centre of KGMU where he died on Monday.

After the news of his death reached his family, they assembled in a huge number at the Trauma Centre and created a ruckus demanding removal of cops of Chowk police. They said the police failed to provide them the medical report which is mandatory at the time of sending someone to jail. "The police had beaten him up in

blue and black to own up his crime. We were ready to send him to jail but we pleaded with senior officials to save him from police torture. But none of the cops heard us," they alleged. Abdul's brother said the police persuaded the jail staff to take the custody of Abdul even though he was badly injured due to torture. "At the time of entry in jail, the jail staff examines the medical report. It is baffling why this was overlooked when the police took him to jail," he alleged. ASP, West, Vikas Tripathi said the body had been sent for autopsy and further investigation are on. "Abdul was sent to jail on January 15 and had no injuries after the doctors conducted medical. He was treated in jail hospital after he suffered bouts of fits. He was given some injection there but his condition did not improve. He was admitted to Balrampur Hospital in an unconscious state and was later admitted to Trauma Centre," he said.

Meanwhile, unidentified

miscreants opened fire on a railway contractor on Monday night. Dilip Yadav of Bheemnagar in Alambagh was lying in a pool of blood under the Alambagh Metro railway station. Dilip was admitted to Trauma Centre and his condition was critical. Police suspect contract-related rivalry as motive for the attack. Dilip was attacked when he was on his way to home around 11 pm.

7-YEAR-OLD BOY DEAD

A seven-year-old boy, who had suffered serious injuries after a van rammed into him on Saturday, succumbed to injuries at KGMU's Trauma Centre on Monday. The van ran over Fahad (7), a class I student, when he was playing outside his house in Bhedwa locality of Bazaarkhala. The FIR was registered in this connection and the charge of causing death by negligence was added to it. Bazaarkhala SHO Sujeet Kumar Dubey said that driver Mustafa Abbas was detained on Saturday and was released on bail on Sunday.

Traffic diversions announced for R-Day preps



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic department has announced diversions for the first rehearsal of the Republic Day parade on Tuesday and for the main function on January 26. The parade will start from the Ravindralaya at 9.30 am and then move towards KKC tri-crossing, Maharana Pratap crossing, Babu Bhawan, Hazratganj crossing, Mayfair trisection, DM residence, KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium, Motimahal tri-crossing, Chiraiya Jheel, Sikandarbagh crossing, Hazratganj, Bandaria Bagh and back to Lal Batti crossing.

From 8 am, the traffic near Charbagh railway station will be completely stopped. Vehicles moving from Alambagh and Mawaiyya towards Charbagh will be diverted either towards Kaiserbagh or be made to take a U-turn towards Mawaiyya and Alambagh. Traffic will not be allowed to move from Rana Pratap

crossing towards KKC and Charbagh, and will be diverted towards Basmandi crossing. Vehicles moving from Bandaria Bagh crossing towards Hazratganj will be diverted towards Golf Club and Gandhi Setu.

Traffic will be completely prohibited on the road in front of Vidhan Bhawan from 2 pm onwards on January 25 in view of the seating arrangements to be made there. Traffic will also remain restricted from Novelty crossing to Capital Cinema tri-crossing. Only those with car passes will be allowed to move from Novelty to Janpath for parking. Traffic will not be allowed from Hazratganj crossing towards Parivartan crossing, and will be diverted towards Ashok Marg and Sapr Marg. Vehicles coming from Mahanagar and Nishatganj will not be allowed to move towards Hazratganj crossing from Sikandarbagh crossing, and will be diverted towards Dalibagh colony.

Buses coming from Kaiserbagh will not be allowed to move towards Hussainganj, and will be diverted towards Mawaiyya and Alambagh. Traffic officials said passengers going to Amausi airport and Charbagh railway station should look for alternative routes instead of Amausi-Charbagh and KD Singh stadium route.

IndiGo's Jaipur-bound flight grounded after 'high vibration' in P&W engine

Lucknow: Another P&W-powered A320neo aircraft of IndiGo was grounded on Monday after its pilot observed "high vibration" in its engine soon after taking off from Lucknow airport. The flight 6E-451, which was heading to Jaipur, returned to Lucknow as a precautionary measure. It is currently being inspected by IndiGo's technical team.

Pratt and Whitney (P&W) engine woes have forced both IndiGo and its smaller rival GoAir to ground some of the

A320neos. IndiGo operates around 57 P&W-powered A320neo aircraft.

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Thursday banned IndiGo and GoAir from operating their A320neo planes to Port Blair in the wake of problems with their P&W engines.

"An IndiGo flight 6E-451 was operating from Lucknow to Jaipur on January 21, 2019. The pilot observed high vibration on engine number 2. As a precaution, he returned the

aircraft to Lucknow," IndiGo said in its statement. "The aircraft is currently at Lucknow and being inspected by the technical team," the airline added. P&W said in its statement: "The Indigo A320neo aircraft which was involved in the air turn back at Lucknow, Amausi, India on January 21, 2019, was powered by Pratt & Whitney PW1100G-JM engines. We are working with our customer to help minimise any disruption to their operations." **PTI**

DM: Remove encroachments, ensure smooth traffic flow



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma presided over a meeting for proper flow of traffic in trans-Gomti areas, arrangements of vending zone and removal of encroachments. The meeting was attended by the ADM, additional municipal commissioner and officials of various government departments such as LESA and NHAI. The DM said that concerted efforts should be made to see that work was carried out in a proper manner and a report be submitted along with photographs.

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation officials were directed to make a 10-foot-wide strip from Kapoorthala crossing on Purania road in

front of Sahara Bhawan for parking of vehicles. The DM said it should be marked with yellow and proper signages be set up for the purpose. He told the LMC officials to put up sign boards at the vending zones and remove encroachments in front of a biryani outlet and Bhootnath market. They were also asked to remove meat and chicken shops from the main routes, identify a vending zone under Purania bridge and remove encroachments from in front of public toilets.

The NHAI officials were asked to remove encroachments from Munshipulia and Kaleva crossing, close the cut in front of a jewellery showroom in Mahanagar, construct a bus stand at Tedhipulia and an island at Bithauli crossing.

The police officials were asked to coordinate with the departments concerned to ensure removal of encroachments from Bhootnath market, issue challans parked on roadside and stop plying of e-rickshaws in Gole Market.

The Lucknow Development Authority officials were directed to remove encroachments and identify areas for parking. The PWD officials were directed to mark a space 50 metres away from Kapoorthala crossing towards Chandganj road for a strip to be identified for parking of tempos so that congestion at Kapoorthala crossing could be eased. He also directed the officials to place a 'no parking' board at the point where Nishatganj pull descends.



e-rickshaw drivers at Congress office in Lucknow on Monday

Bid to make Chowk a model market

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Office-bearers of Chowk Vyapar Mandal held a meeting with mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and senior officials of district administration and Lucknow Municipal Corporation on Monday to make Chowk a model market.

Adheesh Jain from Chowk Vyapar Mandal said they had sent a proposal in this regard to Lucknow Municipal Corporation. He said they had high expectations from various government departments, including LMC, LESA, traffic and police.

Traders said they had pro-

posed for restoration of Gol Darwaza, regular cleaning of nullahs, and door-to-door garbage collection in the morning and evening. They said they wanted the cobweb of electric wires to be removed.

The traders also proposed a sitting area for senior citizens and a team of traffic officials for smooth flow of traffic. They said they also wanted proper flow of e-rickshaws and autos besides proper implementation of one-way system. The traders also demanded proper entry and exit points besides arrangements of toilets in the market.

SCHOOLSCAN

CMS STUDENT EXCELS

Saksham Sharma, a class VII student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II, performed excellently in an inter-school Computer Science competition. Saksham was awarded a wrist watch and other gifts for his performance. The competition was organised under the aegis of educational organisation Delta Step Learning. Nearly one lakh students from reputed schools participated in the contest and displayed their acumen in Computer Science.



Deoband asks students to avoid train journey on Republic Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband has directed its students to avoid travelling by trains on Republic Day, and if they have to do so, then to finish their work and report at the seminary hostel the same evening.

The seminary has also asked its students to stay away from debates at public places and during transit by train.

A notice to this effect was pasted on the Darul Uloom notice board. "Checking and frisking by

police on Republic Day is more than on normal days and numerous people have to face harassment which creates an atmosphere of fear among the masses. Hence, the students have been advised to avoid travelling by train on Republic Day," said hostel in-charge of Darul Uloom Deoband, Maulana Muneer. He said that students had been told to be calm and patient and avoid debates at public places. The tricolour is hoisted at Darul Uloom Deoband every year during Republic Day and Independence Day.

Passion for work keeps me going: Aruna Irani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

She is still rocking at the age of 73 years. Actress Aruna Irani who has spent a total of 64 years in the film industry and has been working since the age of nine years said that the secret of her energy was her passion for her work. The actress was in the city for the promotion of her latest show 'Dil Toh Happy Hai Ji'. In a chat with The Pioneer, she said that her sisters always tell her to rest but she loves the idea of waking up and stepping out to work. As for her beauty tip at this age, she said it was the regular use of 'malai' on her face. "My sisters often tell me that I should stop working because I had earned so much of money and I tell them what should I sit at home for counting my money. I get up in the morning with the eagerness to go and work which keeps me fresh and kicking," she said. The actress said that she was careful about her diet. "I try to have less of carbohydrates so that it does not increase my weight and more of vegetables," she said.

Looking young for her age, the actress pushes aside any comments that she has used plastic surgery. "I have never used plastic surgery although I know that the lines on my face are getting deeper. I have long given up the use of expensive creams on my face but I feel rubbing fresh cream (malai) on the face helps. There was a time when people from the industry used to tell me to remove the mole which I had on my face and I also tried it but I left after I fell scared. Now that same mole has become my identity," she said. For one who has done several sizzling dances in the past and charted the full course from a dancing diva to a grandmother gives a surprising statement when she says that she did not know how to dance. "The dance master used to throw me out at the time of shooting because I did not know how to dance and it was so insulting that one had to learn dance properly," she added.

Talking about the show, she said 'Dil Toh Happy Hai Ji' is a tale of Happy Mehra from Amritsar. Played by



Jasmine Bhasin, the character falls from a middle class living with her joint family. "After her father's death, Happy wishes to support her mother and sister by doing whatever she can with her capabilities. What keeps her going is her attitude as she shakes off all the problems with a bout of positivity. Making others happy brings joy to her. This is the story of the show." "I play the role of a Punjabi grandmother and am a typical grandmother who wants that people should respect her." It may be pointed out here that just recently the actress wined up a show where she was playing grandmother to Prince Salim. Talking about Lucknow, she said that she was coming after a gap of 12 years. "I love Lucknow for its food and the first thing which I did was to have gilauti kebabs which Lucknow is famous for. I also like the chikankari garments here," she added.

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण
ISO 9001 प्रमाणित
प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.)
फोन नं. 0522-2302586

संख्या : 80 / ई-निविदा / मु030 / 2018-19 दिनांक: 21.01.2019

ई - निविदा सूचना

लखनऊ विकास क्षेत्र में निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण या अन्य विकास प्राधिकरणों में पंजीकृत अथवा आवस्य एवं विकास परिषद में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य से सम्बंधित विस्तृत निविदा-नोटिस तथा ड्राफ्ट निविदा-प्रपत्र लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट "http://www.lkvaonline.in" पर देखा जा सकता है, जिसमें धरोहर धनराशि, निविदा डालने की तिथि, श्रेणी, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि एवं ई-निविदा लागत तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तों का उल्लेख है। कार्य से संबंधित ई-निविदा-प्रपत्र वेबसाइट "http://etender.up.nic.in" पर उपलब्ध होंगे तथा ई-निविदा करने होंगे।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (रु0 लाख)	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि
1	डा0 राम मनोहर लोहिया पार्क, गोमती नगर में औद्योगिक रखरखाव का कार्य।	106.45	19.02.2019
2	बसंत कुंज योजना के सेक्टर-पी व एच (सी.एस.यू.पी. एवं आश्रयहीन) की सीवर लाइन, नालियों की सफाई हेतु स्वीपर गैंग की आपूर्ति का कार्य।	21.95	05.02.2019
3	लक्ष्मण जी पार्क, जी.पी.ओ. पार्क, ग्लोब पार्क एवं बेगम हजरत महल पार्क की दैनिक सफाई व्यवस्था का कार्य।	21.52	05.02.2019
4	बसंत कुंज हरदोई रोड योजना के सेक्टर-बी स्थित एक नलकूप तथा सेक्टर-एच आश्रयहीन योजना स्थित निर्मित 1 नलकूप के वार्षिक संचालन एवं अनुसंधान तथा सेक्टर-बी के दो नलकूपों के रखरखाव का कार्य।	6.78	01.02.2019
5	अलीमगंज योजना कस्बेखला स्थित सहयुक्त नगर नियोजक कार्यालय की मरम्मत व रंगाई-पुतार्ई कार्य।	5.03	01.02.2019
6	प्राधिकरण भवन, गोमतीनगर कार्यालय गेट नं0-2 (यूको बैंक) के सामने स्थित रोड पर साईं मंदिर से जे.पी.एन.आई.सी. गेट तक फूटपाथ की रिपेयरिंग कार्य।	4.57	01.02.2019
7	प्राधिकरण कार्यालय, लालबाग स्थित राइड्स कार्यालय, टेस्टिंग लेव एवं सलनम गैलरी की पेन्टिंग तथा टेस्टिंग लेव हेतु प्लेटफार्म आदि का निर्माण कार्य।	2.12	01.02.2019
8	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना सेक्टर-4 स्थित एस.पी. एस. में लगी लाईटों की रिवाइडिंग का कार्य।	2.03	01.02.2019
9	गोमती नगर योजना के अंतर्गत डा0 राम मनोहर लोहिया पार्क में साइड आफिस की मरम्मत का कार्य।	7.50	01.02.2019
10	बसंत कुंज योजना के सेक्टर-डी में मकान नं0 सी-2/69 स्थित पार्क के औद्योगिक एवं रखरखाव कार्य।	7.32	01.02.2019
11	गोमती रिवर फ्रंट के (एल.एच.एस.) साइड पर सी.ओ. ऑफिस से गांधी सेतु के मध्य मिट्टी आपूर्ति एवं गोमती बैराज के नीचे समतलीकरण हेतु अतिरिक्त भूमि की कटिंग का कार्य।	5.52	01.02.2019
12	अर्जुनगंज मोड़ पर शाहीद पथ के नीचे दोनो तरफ (दायें एवं बायें साइड) विकसित लॉन का अनुसंधान कार्य।	5.22	01.02.2019
13	गोमती रिवर फ्रंट के आर.एच.एस. स्टेडियम साइड गेट निर्माण, कर्ब स्टोन, पाथवे रिपेयर, जल निकारी एवं स्लोप विधिग एस/सी वाल पर पेन्टिंग का कार्य।	2.58	01.02.2019

ई-निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई बदलाव अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना मात्र उपरोक्त दोनो वेबसाइट्स पर ही उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी, अतः इच्छुक निविदादाता नियमित रूप से उक्त दोनो वेबसाइट्स देखते रहें।

उपरोक्त क्रमांक - 9 तथा 13 पर अंकित कार्य हेतु सामान्य निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिनके निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट "http://www.lkvaonline.in" से डाउनलोड किये जा सकेंगे।

मुख्य अभियन्ता

GRAMIN BANK OF ARYAVART Demand Notice
REGIONAL OFFICE, LUCKNOW REGION.
Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneh Nagar (VIP Road), Alambagh, LUCKNOW

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

In exercise of the powers conferred upon under section 13(2) of SARA/ASIA ACT, 2002, being the authorised officer of Gramin Bank of Aryavart issued Demand Notice to the following borrower and the demand notice was sent through registered post on the respective residential address. Again by virtue of this publication following borrowers are informed to pay all their debts mentioned below within 60 days of this notice. Further the borrower in particular and public in general are cautioned not to deal with Sale-purchase of the following movable properties which is kept with us as security.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors, Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding (Rs.)	Description of Property & Name of Owner
BRANCH : Nigohan, Lucknow			
1.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sahu S/o Ram Sharan Sahu Village - Udaipur, Post - Nigohan, Lucknow - 226302. Date : 13/12/2018	Rs. 1,40,195.00 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sahu S/O Ram Saran Sahu 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO: 06/07/2012 / UP33T 6580 3. VEHICLE CLASS: THREE WHEELER (PASSENGER) 4. MAKER'S NAME: VIKRAM 750 DI, SCOOTERS INDIA LTD 5. CHASSIS NO: MCV1594417005881900 6. ENGINE NO: A2C0619481 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO: 05/07/2014
BRANCH : Bijnaur			
2.	Mr. Azizul Hasan S/O Siraj Hussain 390/47, Rustom Nagar, New Water Tank, Saadatganj, Chowk, Lucknow - 226003. Date : 13/12/2018	Rs. 1,03,855.00 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Azizul Hasan S/O Siraj Khan 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO: 28/04/2017 / Up32 HN 4583 3. VEHICLE CLASS: E-RICKSHAW(P) 4. MAKER'S NAME: BRIGHT AUTOZONE PVT. LTD. 5. CHASSIS NO: M56BRAZ1E7A160138 6. ENGINE NO: BRAZ1 603138 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO: 27/04/2032
BRANCH: Kalli Paschim			
3.	Mr. Durgesh Saini S/O Ram Shankar Saini Village - Kalli Purab, Post - Mohanlalganj, Lucknow - 226301. Date : 03/01/2019	Rs. 1,73,612.96 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Durgesh Saini S/O Ram Shankar Saini 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO: 23/11/2012 / UP32DN9297 3. VEHICLE CLASS: JEEP TAXI 4. MAKER'S NAME: BOLARO SLX 2WD 75TR, MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LIMITED 5. CHASSIS NO: MA1P52GRKCSJ91920 6. ENGINE NO: GRC4J44739 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO: 22/11/2014
4.	Mr. Bhagwan S/O Kandhai Village - Babu Khera (Yadav), Post - Kalli Paschim, Lucknow 226301. & Mr. Suresh S/O Kandhai Village - Babu Khera (Yadav), Post - Kalli Paschim, Lucknow - 226301. & Mr. Ram Ratan S/O Dwarika Prasad Village Lalai Khera, Ashraf Nagar, Post- Bijnaur, Lucknow - 226002. Date : 03/01/2019	Rs. 3,49,190.00 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Bhagwan Singh S/O Kandhai Lal 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO: 09/11/2011 / UP32DY4223 3. VEHICLE CLASS: AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR 4. MAKER'S NAME : MAHINDRA 265 D1-TRACTOR, MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LIMITED 5. CHASSIS NO: NHGLO4944 6. ENGINE NO: NHGLO4944 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO: 08/11/2026
BRANCH: Bithauli Khurd			
5.	Mr. Suresh Kumar Yadav S/O Pyare Lal Yadav B - 1/19, Sector - J, Aliganj, Lucknow - 226024	Rs. 8,68,587.00 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME : Mr. Suresh Kumar Yadav S/O Pyare Lal Yadav 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO : 30/04/2016 / UP32G29300 3. VEHICLE CLASS : MOTOR CAR (LMV) 4. MAKER'S NAME : MAHINDRA & Mahindra Limited 5. CHASSIS NO : MA1TA25JKG2C32620 6. ENGINE NO : SIGAC17031 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO : 29/04/2031
6.	Mr Ram Sujeet Yadav S/O Late Heera Lal Takrohi Bazar, New Indira Nagar, Lucknow - 226016	Rs. 1,18,084.00 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME : Mr Ram Sujeet Yadav S/O Late Heera Lal 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO : 02/02/2011 / UP32DP7707 3. VEHICLE CLASS : MOTOR CAR (LMV) 4. MAKER'S NAME : FORD FIESTA 1.6 EXI, FORD INDIA PVT LTD 5. CHASSIS NO : MAJBXMRJBAR61994 6. ENGINE NO : MAJBXMRJBAR61994 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO : 01/02/2026
BRANCH: Rakabganj, Lucknow			
7.	Mr. Om Prakash Sarraf S/O Late Rukmanand Sarraf Rifa Colony, Behind Axon Montessori School, New Haiderganj, Lucknow - 226004	Rs. 1,23,478.00 + interest & expenses etc.	1. OWNER'S NAME : Mr. Om Prakash Sarraf S/O Late Rukmanand Sarraf 2. REGISTRATION DATE / NO : 10/06/2010 / UP32C29033 3. VEHICLE CLASS : GOODS CARRIER (LGV) 4. MAKER'S NAME : Mahindra Maximo, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited 5. CHASSIS NO : MA1FA25HRA6C12894 6. ENGINE NO : HRA6C12503 7. FITNESS VALID UPTO : 10/12/2015

Date : 22.01.2019 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, Gramin Bank of Aryavart

Send team to check fish quality: AP CM to Nitish

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

After Bihar banned sale of Andhra fish over quality concerns, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Monday requested his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar to send a technical team to look into the issue and restore the trade between the two States.

The Bihar Government has imposed a ban for 15 days in Patna after it found formalin, a known carcinogen, in some of the consignments brought from Andhra Pradesh. Formalin is used to preserve fish.

In a letter written to the Bihar Chief Minister, Naidu informed that the State Government has conducted surprise raids and tested samples but could not find formalin in any fish products.



The AP State Fish Farmers Association has denied alleged use of formalin to preserve the fish. Aquaculture farmers and traders have said this could be an attempt to disturb trade between two States, he added.

Against the backdrop, Naidu requested the Bihar CM to "depute a technical team from Bihar state for quality check" and take initiative against the persons responsible for

damaging the image of Andhra State fishery products and to restore the good fish trade relations as existed earlier.

He also suggested quality checks at borders of Bihar for which Andhra Government is ready to depute a team.

If required, the Andhra Government is ready to issue quality certification as per the procedure suggested by Bihar Government, he added.

After Navy, Meghalaya suspends operation to retrieve dead miner's body

Shillong: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday suspended the operation to retrieve the body of a dead miner trapped inside a 370-foot-deep coal mine to avoid disintegration of the decomposed corpse.

The State Government's order came a day after the Navy on Sunday suspended the operation to pull the body out after it was found by the unmanned ROV last week during a routine search mission inside the main shaft where the 15 miners are trapped since December 13.

The State Government has given the order of suspending the operation to pull out the body of the miner as it is becoming an impossible task, Sangma told mediapersons.

We decided that we will suspend the operation because it is really not working out, he

added. We have asked the medical department, Navy, administration and forensic department for their advice and observation, he said. Asked if the State Government will call off the rescue operations involving multi-agencies, including the Navy and the NDRF, Sangma said, no decision had been taken yet. We are going to take inputs from all the experts from different organisations that have been working on this and once we get the report from all of them, it will be appropriate to decide on how to move forward, he said.

Operation spokesperson R Susngi on the other hand informed that the district authorities were waiting for the family members of another seven miners hailing from Rajabala area in West Garo Hills district to identify the miner.

Eight drowned as boat capsizes in Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Eight persons drowned and another was 'missing' while 17 people were rescued when a boat carrying about 26 pilgrims capsized at Karwar, the Indian Navy said on Monday.

According to police, there was an annual fair at the Kurumagada island in the Arabian sea, where the Narsimha Swamy shrine (dedicated to Lord Vishnu's incarnation Narsimha) is located. Police had earlier said nearly 1,000 people had gone there to take part in the fair and the boat capsized while returning to the Karwar beach.

The Navy said in a tweet that there were 26 people in the boat. Learning about the incident, Navy and Indian Coast Guard carried out rescue



A view of search operation being carried out by Indian Navy and India Coast Guard after a ferry boat capsized with 26 on board, near Karwar, on Monday PTI

operations.

Of the 26 persons reported to be on the boat, 17 people were rescued by other civil boats operating in the area, the Navy said. Eight bodies have

been recovered by the navy and Coast Guard while search is on for the one person still missing.

A Dornier aircraft has been launched from Goa for search and rescue, the Navy added.



People walk on a road during light rain as snow-clad mountains are seen in the background, on the outskirts of Srinagar, on Monday. Rain lashed plains while higher reaches witnessed fresh snowfall in the Valley. The MET office has forecasted widespread rain and snow with heavy falls at isolated places till Tuesday PTI

BJP cancels Modi's Feb 8 Brigade rally

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday attacked the BJP for carrying out disinformation campaign against her Government over the change in landing location of BJP president Amit Shah's chopper at Malda in North Bengal where he will hold a rally later this week.

The BJP is distorting facts she said, adding her Government had already granted her permission for the Malda rally. "We gave permission for the meeting without objecting to it," she said, adding "police had only said that the chopper should land at some other location because of some security reasons. But they are unnecessarily creating a hullabaloo over it."

The issue was however solved following reports that Shah's chopper would land at

the BSF helipad.

The BJP president was to hold a series of rallies in Bengal apart from the one's to be addressed by Prime Minister whose reported February 8 rally at Brigade Parade Ground stood to be cancelled.

The BJP is distorting facts she said, adding her Government had already granted her permission for the Malda rally, says West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy backed Mamata Banerjee for the Prime Ministerial chair a visibly thrilled Trinamool Congress leadership said the JD(S) leader's statements testified Bengal Chief Minister's acceptance throughout the country

lies in between at various locations in the State.

Meanwhile, hours after Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy backed Mamata Banerjee for the Prime Ministerial chair a visibly thrilled Trinamool Congress leadership said the JD(S) leader's statements testified Bengal Chief Minister's acceptance throughout the country.

Senior State Minister and TMC general secretary Partho Chatterjee on Monday said though Banerjee currently was for postponing all other consid-

erations so that all parties could concentrate only on dislodging the Narendra Modi Government, Kumaraswamy's statement only underscored her abilities and acceptance.

His comments "only underscore the ability and acceptance of Mamata Banerjee throughout the country," Chatterjee said adding "though Mamata Banerjee is not in the Central Government now Mr Kumaraswamy's statements prove that she is anyway in the centre of everything."

Kumaraswamy had earlier told agencies that the Bengal Chief Minister by dint of her long stint as a good administrator had developed all the capabilities to lead the country.

He said, "She is simplest of simple and a very good administrator. I believe that Mamata ji has all the capabilities of leading the country and she has already proved herself by leading Bengal for so many years."

EC rejects cyber expert's claim of EVM tampering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Opposition on Monday got fresh ammunition to further its contention that the EVMs can be tampered after a cyber expert said so, the BJP as well as the Election Commission (EC) came out with a strong counter. The BJP accused the Congress of being behind the move while the EC backed the EVMs and said it will even explore legal action against the expert.

Leading "EVM can be hacked charge", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the Opposition will take up with Election Commission the claims made by expert Syed Suja. She said every vote was valuable and the issue should be taken up. "Our great democracy must be protected. Every vote of yours is precious. All Oppn parties discussed the #EVM issue after the #UnitedIndiaAtBrigade rally. We are working closely

together and decided on Jan 19 itself to consistently take up the matter with EC. Yes, every vote counts," she tweeted.

The cyber expert has demonstrated how EVMs can allegedly be hacked at an event in London organised by the Indian Journalists' Association (Europe).

Coming out hard, Union Minister MA Naqvi said the Congress has a lot of freelancers, who sometimes reach even Pakistan to take help for removing Modi. "They are making a hacking horror show of their possible defeat in the upcoming elections," he said.

Congress leader Kapil Sibal didn't go by accident, Naqvi maintained adding he was sent by the Congress, its president Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. "Jin logon ko bhi desh aur desh ki loktantrik vyavastha ko badnaam karne ki supari di gayi hai, us supari ko lekar yaha se koi dakiya to jaana chahiye na. Two wo

dakiya bheja gaya hai," he asserted.

For its part, the Election Commission issued a statement saying, "It has come to our notice that an event claiming to demonstrate EVMs used by ECI can be tampered with, has been organised in London. ECI has been wary of becoming a party to this motivated slugest and stands by empirical facts about foolproof nature of ECI EVMs."

"It is being separately examined as to what legal action can and should be taken in the matter," it said even as it went to point out that the EVMs are manufactured in Bharat Electronics Ltd. & Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. under very strict supervisory and security conditions. "There are rigorous Standard Operating Procedures observed under supervision of a Committee of technical experts constituted in 2010," it pointed out.

'WALKING GOD'...

Proficient in Kannada, English and Sanskrit, he was known for strict discipline. A noted religious figure and humanitarian, Shivakumara swami performed "trikala Linga pooja" according to Virakta tradition of Veerasaivism until recently, even during his hospitalisation. He even taught English and Sanskrit at the Mutt's institutions and his students are scattered across the world in high positions. The Swamiji's staff have often cited his organised life style, scientific diet plan, graceful humility and blissful simplicity in life, along with hard work as the secret of his long life. He was also strongly devoted to the cause of farmers and agriculture by organising cattle and agri fairs. He has been conferred the honorary "Doctor of Letters" Degree by the Karnatak University, Dharwad. It is said that during his graduation, Shivanna had gone to Siddaganga mutt to perform the last rites of Marularadhya, who would have been the next head of the mutt, when the then senior pontiff Uddana Shivayogigalu announced him as his succes-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or. He was formally initiated into the holy order as a successor in March 1930, thus joining the lineage of sages that is said to have its traditions dating back to 1300 A.D. The Swamiji who has several laurels and awards to his name was bestowed with the prestigious "Karnataka Ratna", the state's highest civilian award, and "Padma Bhushan". There is now a clamour from people of different walks of life, including politicians, for conferring "Bharat Ratna" on him. Mutt officials and his disciples believe Swamiji had "icha mrutyu" (ability to decide on his death), as he miraculously recovered from critical health conditions. He had even undergone critical liver bypass last month, which is said to be very rare at this old age. Also, he had undergone certain procedures, including implant of stents in the common bile duct at the ripe age. The highly revered swamiji of Lingayats, the majority community, had remained politically neutral. At the height of controversy over granting reli-

gious minority status to Lingayats, which had become a politically sensitive issue during the May assembly polls last year, the senior pontiff had remained non-committal. The swamiji had the magnetic pull to attract politicians of all hues, including chief ministers of the state and elsewhere. His 100th birthday celebrations were attended by the then President A P J Abdul Kalam in April, 2007. Sree Siddaganga Education Society (R), found-

ed by the seer, runs more than 125 educational institutions, most of them imparting primary and secondary education mostly located in rural areas.

PTI

CONG SUSPENDS...

"If the events that happened there have pained him (Anand), I would apologise to his family. This did not happen intentionally. He was unwell and was hospitalised. Things have been created by

the media," he added. Asked about Anand being injured, Ganesh said "nothing as you think ... I also have injuries I cannot say ... leave it, nothing as you are thinking." On why he was blaming the media, Ganesh said, "Who told you that I have hit Anand with a bottle? The Media is showing that way, which is false. Our gunman is here; ask him, reports claimed I have bit him too," he said. Asked whether reports about him hitting Anand were false, Ganesh said "some incident" had taken place and he was not denying it."

Bulls gore to death two in Jallikkattu

Chennai (PNS): An attempt by a Minister in the Edappadi Palaniswami Government to create a world record in Jallikkattu in his home district ended up in a tragedy on Sunday as two spectators were gored to death by bulls while 40 people were injured in the mele. The incident happened within minutes of Chief Minister Palaniswami who inaugurated the event at Viralmalai in Puthukkotta district declaring that Jallikkattu was Tamil Nadu's sport of valour.

A Ramu, a 32-year-old spectator and G Satish (35), a bull owner were gored to death. The event was organised by the controversial Health Minister C Vijaya Baskar, who hails from the district and who also owns costly bulls. It may be remembered that the home and offices of Vijaya Baskar were raided twice by the Income Tax department in the run up to the April 2017 RK Nagar by-poll and had seized unaccounted cash worth crores of rupees and incriminating documents. "The Income Tax authorities have informed that several complaints were received recently indicating that Dr C Vijaya Baskar is the main person involved in bribing the voters in RK Nagar Assembly constituency which is going to bypolls on April 12, 2017.

GRAMIN BANK OF ARYAVART

REGIONAL OFFICE : LUCKNOW

POSSESSION NOTICE {for immovable property under Rule 8(1)}

The Authorized Officer of Gramin Bank of Aryavart under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated hereunder calling upon the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being together with further interest at contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. within sixty days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described herein below in exercise to powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with the Rule-8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned hereunder. The borrowers attention is invited to the provision of Sub-Section (8) of section - 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties. Any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Gramin Bank of Aryavart for the amounts and interest thereon. Details of the mortgaged Properties of which the possession had been taken is as follows.

Name of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Branch	Details of the Mortgaged Properties	Date of Demand Notice	Date of possession	Amt. Due as per Demand Notice
Mr. Ram Dev Mishra S/o. Mr. Ram Mishra.	EWS House No. SSE- 87, Sector- G, Ward- Janki Puram, Pargana, Tehsil & District Lucknow. Area:- 36.75 Sq. Mtr., Standing in the Name of Mr. Ram Dev Mishra S/o. Mr. Late Ram Mishra. Bounded as:- East-6 Mtr. Wide Road, West- House No. 108, North- House No. 86, South- House No. 88	19.09.18	18.01.19	1,77,217.00 + int. & other expenses
Mrs. Pushpa Singh W/o. Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh.	Shop No. 242, Lekhray Gold, Sector 16, Munshi Puliya, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. Area:- 3.810 Sq. Mtr., Standing in the Name of Mrs. Pushpa Singh W/o. Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh. Bounded as:- East-Shop No. 243, West-Shop No. 239, North-Shop No. 244, South-5 Ft. wide Common Passage.	15.07.17	18.01.19	2,69,308.00 + int. & other expenses
Mr. Vishnu Prakash Gupta S/o. Mr. Om Prakash Gupta.(M/s Joy World)	House Built on Plot No. 232, Khasra No. 159, Mohalla Madiyaon, Vashisthpuram Yojna, Ward Janki Puram, Pargana, Tehsil & District Lucknow. Area:- 125.464 Sq. Mtr., Standing in the Name of Mr. Vishnu Prakash Gupta S/o. Mr. Om Prakash Gupta. Bounded as:- East-Pilot Deegar, West-Road 30 Ft. Wide, North-House Built on Plot No. 232 A, South-House Built on Plot No. 231.	27.08.18	18.01.19	8,10,012.85 + int. & other expenses

Authorised Officer

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(12) 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) (the "said Demand Notice(s)"), which are also given to you. Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay 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. 00043164 of Lucknow Branch) Santosh Kumar Jha (Borrower) Yogita Jha (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1212853/- (Twenty lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Three) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Plot No. 70 Khasra No 173, Minj Vill - Buhar, Pargana Teh & Zila, Lucknow- 226020
(LC No. 0004037 of Lucknow Branch) Rakesh Kumar Mediratta (Borrower) Mona Mehndi Ratta (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 4812265/- (Forty Eight lakh Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No. 7 Kh No 13 Sa Minj Vill Semra Gaurhi Ward Faizullahganj Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020
(LC No. 00044942 of Lucknow Branch) Nitish Srivastava (Borrower) Nidhi Srivastava (Co Borrower) Om Prakash Srivastava (Co Borrower2)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1503403/- (Fifteen lakh Three Thousand Four Hundred Three) (NPA date : 01-09-2018)	Plot On Part of Khasra No 2011 Minj Village Para Ward Alamnagar Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020
(LC No. LUK32018 of Lucknow Branch) Wealth Mantra Properties Limited (Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 7150527/- (Seventy One lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No. A/1/0002, Sushant Golf City, Sector. A, Pocket 1, Lucknow, Lucknow- 226025
(LC No. PTM32585 of Delhi Branch) Prityve Promart Pvt Ltd (Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 18626390/- (One Crore Eighty Six lak to Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Ninety) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	H/ Flat No PH- 2, Floor No. 8th & 9th, Plot No. Para Ward Alamnagar Highway Nr Petol Pump, Jhansi- 284001
(LC No. 00041399 of Delhi Branch) Ram Ratan Mukhya (Borrower) Mukkun Devi (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 482819/- (Four lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Flat No. 243 C Second Floor Block S K Sharmik Kunj Sector 66, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar- 201301
(LC No. NOD30267 of Delhi Branch) Nilam Madan (Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 959950/- (Nine lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No 411, Sec- 5 Vasundra, Ghaziabad - 201001
(LC No. 00000453 of DELHI Branch) Surendra Kumar Yadav (Borrower) Kunti Devi Yadav (Co Borrower) Saroj Kumar Yadav (Gaurantor1)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 901976/- (Nine lakh One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Six) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	H.no. 37 A/247/14, Durga Nagar Vidhya Nagar, Near Sabji Mandi Crossing Nagla Padi, Agra- 282002
(LC No. 00000046 of Kanpur Branch) Nand Kishor Srivastava (Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1968812/- (Nineteen lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Flat No. 307, 3rd Floor Prem No. 12/474, Nansheer Dwelling Gwalitoli, Civil Lines, Kanpur, Kanpur Urban-208001
(LC No. 00003762 of Kanpur Branch) Manoj Kumar Tiwari (Borrower) Mansi Tiwari (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1039989/- (Ten lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Plot No 49, Arzi No 753KA, Mauza Makshudabad, Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh 208001
(LC No. 00000111 of Gorakhpur Branch) Prashant Rai (Borrower) Kiran Devi (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 527327/- (Five lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Arazi No 108 Mauja- Pokhar Bhinda Urf Karim Nagar, Tehsil- Sadar, Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur- 273003
(LC No. 00000675 of Jhansi Branch) Shobharam Ahirwar (Borrower) Sukhdevi Ahirwar (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1964862/- (Nineteen lakh Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Arazi No. 163 Mauza Niyanpan New Pal Plot No. Para Ward Alamnagar Highway Nr Petol Pump, Jhansi- 284001
(LC No. 00000001 of Bareilly Branch) Soni Prabhu Masih (Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 1451373/- (Fourteen lakh Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Three) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Part Of Plot No. A 132 Village Biharam Nagla Bannu Nagar Phase II, Bareilly - 243001
(LC No. 00000184 of Bareilly Branch) Mohd Wared Khan (Borrower) Kaynat Varsi (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 3261349/- (Thirty Two lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Nine) (NPA date : 01-12-2018)	Khet No. 628- 635 Baks Bihar Man Nagla Munshinagar Bareilly, Bareilly - 243001
(LC No. 00000360 of Bareilly Branch) Rajeshwar Prasad Tripathi (Borrower) Prem Kumari (Co Borrower)	27/12/2018/ ₹ 2128250/- (Twenty One lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifty) (NPA date : 01-11-2018)	Khet No.64 Partapur Chaudhry, Bareilly - 243001

If the said Borrower(s) 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 Borrower(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower(s) 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 : 22-Jan-2019
Place : UTTAR PRADESH
(Authorised Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Farce in Karnataka

The brawl among captive MLAs has cost the Congress its ability to hold cadres together



While the Karnataka Congress seems "drunk" on power games, what with its MLAs caught in a nasty brawl with liquor bottles being hurled liberally to decide whether one should stay with the JD(S) government or topple it, the central Congress leadership must realise that it cannot afford to appear so in its quest for national relevance and must restore a modicum of discipline among party rank and file. It must realise that it has yet to build confidence among the electorate as a national alternative and should not be "drunk" over its recent electoral success-

es in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Truth be told, it has barely made it and now has to do much more to win back trust, something that regional parties seem to command better at this point of time and is a glue of a federal front as a viable option. It also needs to understand that three Assembly victories are not enough to assume that it can strong-arm its way vis-a-vis allies and that resurgence cannot be seen as arrogance or greed akin to swamping propriety. While one can charge the BJP with attempting a coup in Karnataka to expose the faultlines of the Congress-JD(S) alliance, can the Congress really afford to be swept up by the poachers' trap and risk its image as an auctioneering rather than an actionable party? It is sad enough that former Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has had a hard time confining party MLAs to a plush resort to ensure they don't quit the flock. It is a shocker that four MLAs still dared to defy the whip. And the grand old party, instead of chalking out strategies for the Lok Sabha election, has only been playing hide-and-seek games in this crucial southern state, quelling fistfights among legislators over joining the BJP just to get prized posts denied to them in the current regime. If the recent United India rally by the federal front leaders in Kolkata is any indication, then it amply proves that the Congress, in public perception, is very much the B-Team and in Karnataka has done a pathetic, iffy job as an ally. Clearly miffed by such shenanigans, Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy lost no time in heaping praise on his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee, saying she was a "good administrator" and has all capabilities of leading the country, indicating that if need be, the regional parties could do without the Congress and could very well choose from many capable prime ministerial candidates among themselves. They could browbeat the Congress even further, which actually needs them more to give the emergency jet packs for political survival.

The Congress high command understands the need for continuity of its alliance government with JD(S) but has somehow desperately failed to impart some lessons in realpolitik to its myopic cadre. Siddaramaiah's discomfort with the Gowdas is well-known and was visibly upset when his loyalists were kept out of the State Cabinet. A disturbing video leak of his critical remarks against the JD(S) had already cost the Congress in the initial days of government formation with chief Rahul Gandhi compelled to make him the chairman of the Congress-JD(S) coordination committee and ensure he was abreast of all developments in the government. The Congress must realise that it will lose all credibility and be considered an opportunist if it sinks Kumaraswamy. The latter, seen as a victim, will be expected to be open to other alliance partners. If the Congress cannot keep its MLAs together and ends up destabilising the government, then it can give up any hope of progressing in the state where a strong Vokkaliga backlash could grind it to dust. The Congress must realise that it has to have grace, humility and the wisdom of a kingmaker if it wants to have a stake in the Lok Sabha elections. It cannot afford to be a king yet, nor behave like one.

Wealth inequality

Oxfam's report might ignore millions of Indians rising from abject poverty but it does highlight how unequal India remains



As the richest and most powerful men and women in the world get ready to discuss global issues in Davos, Switzerland, the British charity, Oxfam, has released a report highlighting global wealth inequality. It highlights that the world's 26 richest people own as much wealth as the world's 50 per cent of the poorest people and in India, the top nine families control half the country's wealth. While some of the mathematics and calculations used by the charity have been made to sensationalise the issue, there is little escaping from the fact that we live in

a highly iniquitous world. But the question is how can this problem be solved?

Inequality has been a hallmark of human civilisation; utopian societies and ideologies that have advocated equality, at least economic equality, have always failed. A massive programme of wealth distribution is not the solution but a more equitable world will require some amount of wealth redistribution and that should happen through Government taxation. As the charity suggests, a one per cent wealth tax on the richest people in the world can easily fund education, and to a certain degree, even healthcare for the very poor. However, clever tax lawyers and low-tax jurisdictions have often made it very easy for the wealthy, or rather the less morally upright among them, to hide their wealth. This has to change and new banking and taxation regulations are making it tougher for people and corporations to shelter their wealth. However, ironically, anti-tax politicians have, by using nativist arguments, propelled themselves to positions of power in several developed countries.

There is little doubt that countries like China have taken massive strides in lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty and indeed in the past two decades so has India — extreme poverty levels have declined. That, however, does not mean that inequality will decline in the long-term. Indeed, in the past, whenever sustained periods of inequality have been around, it usually ended in a bloody revolution, although may be those times are past if Governments across the world can take it upon themselves to solve this problem. This will need a massive transfer of wealth from the developed world to the developing world, something that China managed thanks to its manufacturing prowess. But India has missed the manufacturing bus and with the nation also going to suffer the fallout of global climate change, things are going to be very difficult for this country whose taxpayers are already frustrated. Higher levels of taxation might lead to a brain and wealth drain that this nation cannot afford, yet something has to be done. That is one of the dilemmas facing whoever takes up the hot seat come May 2019.

Civilisational heritage

Leaders and intellectuals, who stand against the Citizenship Bill, must rise above partisan politics and understand that immigrants with Indic links deserve to seek refuge here



SANDHYA JAIN

The anger in Assam and North-eastern States over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is understandable but not justified. All these States must appreciate that Indian citizenship is a continuum of their civilisational heritage within the Indian Republic. Their leaders and intellectuals must rise above partisan considerations and accept that Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and Parsis (Christians cannot be abandoned either), fleeing jihadi terror in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, deserve refuge in India.

The current political leadership in Afghanistan and Bangladesh is not party to the persecution of minorities there but externally-funded fundamentalism is presenting serious challenges to governance in both nations. Pakistan is a cauldron of Islamic fundamentalism, which now seems beyond control. In Bangladesh, radicals have become morbidly intolerant of dissent, as attested by the brutal murders of bloggers demanding ordinary human decencies in society. Recognising this reality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while campaigning during the general elections of 2014, had asked the people, "where can persecuted Hindus turn for refuge if not India?" In response to a grim humanitarian crisis, the Centre is proposing that members of minority groups from the neighbourhood become eligible for Indian citizenship after six years of residency instead of 11 years at present. This applies to persons who entered India before December 31, 2018.

The tragedy of Bengali Hindus is a legacy of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's supreme indifference to the plight of refugees on both frontiers. His attempt to stem the tide of refugees from west Pakistan was robustly repulsed by Master Tara Singh. In Bengal, the great revolutionaries were no more and barring Syama Prasad Mukherjee, there was no one who could talk tough with Nehru and no organisation which could manage relief in the manner that the Hindu Mahasabha and the Gurdwaras did in Punjab.

Nehru's attitude is best discerned in his letter to the then West Bengal Chief Minister Dr BC Roy (August 16, 1948): "I have your letter of August 4, about the influx from east Bengal. ... But as I told you long ago, there is no reasonable solution to the problem if there is a large influx from east Bengal. That is why I have been terribly anxious throughout to prevent this, whatever might happen. I still think that every effort should be made to prevent it. I think that it was a very wrong thing for some of the Hindu leaders of east Bengal to come to west Bengal."

Subsequently (August 22, 1948), Nehru added, "I have been quite certain right from the beginning that everything should be done to prevent Hindus in east Bengal from migrating to west Bengal...I think the Hindu leaders of east Bengal, who have come



away, have done no service to their people. If as you suggest things have gone too far already, then naturally, we shall all do what we can but I shudder at the prospect and the magnitude of the human misery that will come in its train. To the last I shall try to check migration even if there is war".

In other words, the leader, who abandoned the fight to regain territory grabbed by Pakistan in 1947-48, was willing to fight to keep unarmed, desperate and indigent Hindus away from Hindustan.

Syama Prasad Mukherjee resigned from the Cabinet on April 1, 1950, in protest against Nehru's failure to take Pakistan to task for the continued suffering of his people. At a Cabinet meeting the same day, Mukherjee said, "What do you care for us Bengali Hindus? What do you care for the criminal assaults on our women?" (*Soundings in Modern South Asian History*, ed. DA Lov) Enraged at the renewed exodus of Hindus, which he viewed as deliberate, he suggested an exchange of populations, which Nehru rejected vehemently.

The need to stem the flow of refugees on both sides of the borders and avert international opprobrium led to the Nehru-Liaquat Pact (April 8, 1950), wherein each side pledged to secure its minorities and give equality of citizenship regardless of religion. Both sides promised to help recover

BEFORE SHUTTING THEIR DOORS ON THEIR HINDU BRETHREN, THE PEOPLE OF ASSAM MUST OWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ILLEGAL MIGRATIONS THAT ALMOST OVERWHELMED THEIR STATE

looted property, assist in the recovery of abducted women and not recognise conversions made during communal disturbances. In India, the problem was especially grim in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.

Dr Triguna Sen, former Union Minister for Education and former vice-chancellor of the Jadavpur University and Banaras Hindu University, observed in his book, *The Marginal Men*, "It is extraordinary how passively West Bengal accepted after Partition the uprooting and the near extermination of an entire people who participated almost to a man in the Indian struggle for freedom..." The Hindu population of east Bengal was almost entirely driven out by "riots sponsored by an Islamic State and social, economic and religious persecution of the Hindus by Muslims in collusion with the bureaucracy..." The brutal massacres in various districts of east Bengal in 1950, however, provoked Hindus to retaliate and triggered a two-way exodus that "might have brought about an unofficial transfer of population and the natural solution of the communal problem in West Bengal".

Nehru, for his own reasons, scuttled the *de facto* population exchange with the 1950 Accord. Thereafter, Muslims, who had left West Bengal, returned and Nehru ensured that their property was

restored to them. But the tragedy of the Hindus continues to this day and has encompassed the Buddhist Chakmas of Chittagong Hill Tract.

Before shutting their doors on their Hindu brethren, the people of Assam must own responsibility for the illegal migrations that almost overwhelmed their State. Much has been written about the role of certain politicians in facilitating the influx (even before 1947), insinuating illegals into the voters' list and helping them with ration cards *et al*. The Assamese allowed the illegals (overwhelmingly Muslims) to grab all vacant agricultural land and make deep inroads into the socio-economic and political fabric (as vote banks) before they finally protested in the late 1970s. Other States, unhappy with Bangladeshi immigrants, have only spoken now when humanitarian gestures are being mooted for Bengali Hindus.

What has the political and civil leadership of each State done to preserve their respective ethnic, social, cultural and linguistic identities? No women in modern Indian history have been so brutalised as the Hindu women of Bengal. Syama Prasad Mukherjee fought for and died in Kashmir. His daughters have a right to solace in their original motherland. (The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

She (Mamata) is a very good administrator. I believe that Mamataji has all the capabilities of leading the country.



Karnataka Chief Minister —H D Kumaraswamy

Indian diaspora has dramatically changed the world's perception of Indians and of India as well. Indians are leading the world today.



External Affairs Minister —Sushma Swaraj

I believe age or life stages should not affect a woman's career. It's important not to limit yourself. Women can do it all.



Actor —Kareena Kapoor Khan

It is the fear of the BJP's successes that has made the Opposition come together. They are afraid of the fact that we will once again form the government.



Union Home Minister —Rajnath Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Start-up flaws

Sir — The Indian start-up ecosystem is currently undergoing volatile changes. The exit of Ananth Narayanan from Flipkart-owned Mynt has created uncertainty over the sustainability of start-ups in our country. The rapid growth of Flipkart created a trend for small entrepreneurs and product managers to come on board the 'marketplace' and thrive in a seamless manner. The trend witnessed robust growth of products and Artificial Intelligence and innovation-based ventures, aided by 'angel investors' and Silicon Valley tech-entrepreneurs, who were hired to oversee the 'operations' in India. With rapid progress in providing product-based solutions, leaders were then looked upon as the emerging 'Jack Mas' of India.

But now, the focus has shifted to markets and survival instead of improving product strategy. The sudden urge to survive and make a dash in the market has led to a series of rapid mergers and acquisitions. The much-needed thrust on innovation, too, is weakening. The ecosystem is now witnessing poster boys and Silicon Valley leaders are leaving the boardrooms with a huge kitty. The vacuum created has, thus, resulted in no significant trail of either a commendable leadership to carry on the start-up story or no major achievement related to innovation or a product legacy.

Varun SD Bengaluru

A great show of grand unity but what next?

This refers to the editorial, "Didi's headline act" (January 21). It was interesting to see the show of strength at the mega rally organised by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in Kolkata, which was attended by over 20 Opposition parties, who came together with one agenda — to dethrone Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The irony, however, is that the gathering didn't bring a common ideology to the table which it ought to have if it really intended to take away the focus from a personality war. Defeating the Modi Government, therefore, will be a Herculean task for Opposition parties as all leaders seem to be governed by their own interests. TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, made it clear that Congress president Rahul Gandhi was not their chosen prime ministerial candidate for the 2019 Lok Sabha poll.

The bigger question then is: Even if the Opposition wins the poll battle, who will become the Prime



Minister? As top leaders from the Congress skipped the mega rally, it may well be a strategic ploy of the grand old party to play to the gallery. For them, it is good to remain tongue-tied. The adage, 'silence is golden' is what they should stand by in present times as in the coming days, the political drama will certainly entertain every one.

TK Nandanam Chennai

Bareilly stations, is sure to be welcomed, especially by the present generation that remains oblivious to the exotic earthen fragrance of *kulhad*.

Ashutosh Garg New Delhi

Emerging story

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Didi's headline act" (January 21). There can be no second opinion that by getting most of the leaders in the Opposition to converge in Kolkata and actively participate in her rally, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has proved that she can be a great organiser.

Now that the ball to remove the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has started rolling, it is paramount that the Opposition remains united and chalks out ways and means to achieve this goal without leaving any room for complacency, egos or animosity till the target has been achieved.

Anna Mary Yvonne Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Innovation is not exploitation

Controls on GM crops will curb access to new solutions needed to tackle climate change. Our farmers will be the biggest losers



UTTAM GUPTA

Bt cotton, the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop so far allowed for cultivation in India, is genetically tweaked to kill bollworms that ravage cotton crops. It promises substantial increase in return by saving on pesticide use and increase in crop yield. At the price paid for Bt cotton seed, including technology fee paid to biotech major Monsanto, farmers get handsome returns. Since its introduction, the use of Bt cotton in India has increased manifold with the area under coverage, leap-frogging from a mere 50,000 hectare to around 12 million hectare, covering major States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. At present, 98 per cent of the area under cotton is covered by Bt technology. Yet Bayer-Monsanto (renamed after acquisition of Monsanto by Bayer) faces a stifling environment due to legal/judicial, regulatory and administrative hurdles. On March 28, 2017, a single judge Bench of the Delhi High Court upheld Monsanto's patent related to the gene sequence responsible for Bt trait but held as illegal the latter's termination of its sub-licence agreement for GM hybrid cotton seeds with Nuziveedu Seeds (a local seed company). It also ordered domestic companies to make all future royalty payments as per Government stipulations.

While Monsanto challenged the above order pertaining to termination of sub-licence agreement, Nuziveedu challenged the portion upholding of the patent. A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court in its judgement on May 2, 2018, invalidated the patent, arguing that gene sequence responsible for Bt trait is a part of the seed, and, hence, unpatentable in terms of Section 3(j) of the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2005 that excludes higher life forms like plants, animals and their parts, and essential biological processes from the realm of patentability. Bayer Monsanto challenged this order in the Supreme Court. In its order dated January 8, the apex court restored Monsanto's Bt cotton patent in India till its validity is decided finally by Delhi High Court. But this does little to unshackle the company. In December 2015, the Union Agriculture Ministry had issued a Cotton Seed Price Control Order under which it fixed the price of cotton seed sales all over the country at a uniform level and max trait fee (royalty) payable to Monsanto. Under it, MRP of a packet of Bollgard II seed (450 grams) was cut from ₹930 (including ₹163 for trait fee) to ₹800 (₹42 trait fee). The cut in trait fee alone was ₹121. In March 2018, the price was further reduced to ₹740, including trait value of ₹39.

The company had challenged the order but till date, the court has not even started hearing the case. Meanwhile, limiting the trait fee to a pittance five per cent of MRP denies the innovator a reasonable opportunity to recuperate the investment on discovery, development and commercialisation of the new transgenic variety. Furthermore, on May 18, 2016, the ministry had issued another order, making it mandatory for Monsanto to license technology to any seed company that approaches it. Following protests, though the order was withdrawn, local companies are freely selling seeds bearing patented technology of the biotech major. A company, which holds patent for the product of its innovation, has exclusive rights over its production/import, distribution, pricing and use. In this case, however, forget exclusivity, the innovator/patent holder (read: Monsanto) has no say whatsoever even as decision on all these parameters are taken by the Government. The situation remains unchanged despite the top court's order.

This is not a good sign for farmers, who will not only be denied access to advanced versions of Bt cotton but also new technology solutions for saline soils, drought- and flood-resistant GM crops. They badly need the help of technology to meet the challenges of fast-changing climatic conditions. Already, Monsanto withdrew the herbicide tolerant cotton seeds from the approval process in August 2016. Reportedly, it also put in abeyance its plans to submit newer seeds for approval in India. A collateral damage is by way of unapproved new seeds finding their way to the farmers. According to the Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee, a body of experts chaired by the co-chair of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, around 15 per cent of the seeds being used in major cotton-growing States comprise unapproved herbicide-tolerant seeds. Even worse, these seeds are selling at ₹1,200-1,500 per packet — almost double the MRP of Bollgard II seed (albeit approved) fixed by the Union Government. These illegal seeds have increased the problem of resistant weeds and are responsible for the new threat posed to the cotton crop — pink bollworms. The crux of the problem lies with the mindset of the Government. It feels that the innovator is out there to exploit the patent-induced monopoly to fleece farmers, which is not true. This in turn prompts it to impose excessive controls viz pricing, licensing a royalty. This mindset has to change or else our farmers will be put to loss due to denial of access to new solutions.

(The writer is a freelance journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I DON'T THINK UTTAR PRADESH'S FORMER CHIEF MINISTER IS A WOMAN OR A MAN. SHE SOLD ALL HER DIGNITY TO GET POWER.
 —BJP LEADER
SADHANA SINGH



THE REMARK SMACKS OF DESPERATION AND NERVOUSNESS AMONG BJP LEADERS AND IS AN AFFRONT TO ALL WOMEN.
 —SP CHIEF
AKHILESH YADAV

Test of a United India

The fissures in the *mahagathbandhan* are gradually becoming visible and its ability to maintain a united front till after the election results will be the decider



AMITABH SHUKLA

As the Lok Sabha election gets tantalisingly close, the season of *mahagathbandhan* or a grand alliance has started in right earnest. So has flexing of political muscles by what can loosely be called as the anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (anti-BJP) — a conglomeration of diverse regional parties, united by a single agenda of removing the Modi-Shah duo from national politics in the Lok Sabha election. Of course, BJP rebel and now architect of the "Save Democracy" movement Yashwant Sinha adroitly reminded everybody that the Modi versus Rest narrative would only strengthen the former's image and the Opposition needed to counter the BJP on ideological counts.

Raised hands and clenched fists of all leaders present in the Kolkata rally, organised by the Trinamool Congress (TMC), not only gave a perfect photo opportunity to Opposition leaders but somewhere down the line increased the frown lines of the defender — the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Many considered the rally largely as an exercise to project TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a possible prime ministerial candidate of the grand Opposition alliance for the Lok Sabha poll even though the stated objective was to bring all anti-BJP parties on the same platform. But that's just one aspect of the burgeoning index of Opposition unity.

Of course, all the 20-plus parties that participated in the Kolkata rally on January 19 had different agenda on their minds. Most of them were looking for a better outing in the Assembly polls with their respective alliances, where the BJP has become a force to reckon with since 2014. But given that the TMC hosted the first successful Opposition rally and managed to get on board almost all leaders and parties opposed to the BJP, it can now safely claim to be the leader of this Third Front. Banerjee also pitched herself as a sort of an arbitrator for possible disputes, whenever and wherever they arise, among this Front. Her diplomatic handling of the stage and giving importance to all the leaders present amply suggested her ease of managing diverse interests, her acceptability and showed her national ambitions.

But the fissures in such a loose formation are still too wide and its ability to pose as a united front before the election is still a matter of speculation. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Chandrababu Naidu, who was present in the Kolkata rally, has practically abandoned the Congress with which he had sewed an alliance for the Assembly polls of Telangana. Congress president Rahul Gandhi and Naidu had become the poster boys of this *mahagathbandhan* then, beaming as they were with hands raised in solidarity.

As an afterthought, the TDP supreme perhaps realised that he cannot give much space to the Congress to grow in his home state of Andhra Pradesh. An alliance with the Congress in the State would limit his chances to have a go at the chair of Prime Minister. He might have perhaps looked at the prospects of him somehow becoming a possible compromise candidate in the event of this Opposition grand alliance getting close to government formation.

Besides, Mamata Banerjee and Chandrababu Naidu, who are possibly looking at a national role

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 POST-VERDICT ELECTORAL SUPPORT AND ALLIANCES COULD BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES CEMENTED PRE-POLL. IN A POSSIBLE SCENARIO WHERE THE NDA IS A LITTLE SHORT OF MAJORITY, THE BSP COULD ALWAYS SPRING A SURPRISE. IT HAS A HISTORY OF ALIGNING WITH BOTH SP AND BJP. THERE HAS BEEN NO SHIFT IN BSP'S IDEOLOGY EVEN AS IT GOES TO POLLS THIS TIME AROUND AS A FORMIDABLE FORCE IN ALLIANCE WITH THE SP IN UTTAR PRADESH



for themselves, this anti-BJP Opposition front also has Dalit leader and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati as the prime ministerial candidate. She has been endorsed strongly not only by her own party but also by her newly-found political partner and nephew Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party (SP). The *Bua-Bhatija* alliance is the one which has set the tone and template for the general election and almost every political pundit now says that the road to New Delhi this time would go through the lanes and bylanes of Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh.

Days before the Kolkata rally of the Opposition, the SP-BSP alliance in Uttar Pradesh triggered a wave of anticipation among the anti-BJP front and threw open a wide range of political possibilities at the cost of the saffron party in the largest State of the country. The TMC rally simply took the idea of unity ahead and sort of announced to the world that the neutral Third Front was alive and kicking and both the BJP and the Congress should consider it as a possible contender for the throne in Delhi provided it gets the numbers leaders are hoping for. And if all parties do well individually, then the Congress can provide outside support if the situation so warrants.

Coming back to the SP-BSP alliance, even the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar, which has a vote base similar to the SPs in Uttar Pradesh, is excited about its prospects. This perhaps explains why Tejaswi Yadav, the *de facto* supreme of the party in the absence of the incarcerated Lalu Prasad Yadav, dashed to Lucknow to congratulate Mayawati on her birthday and tweeted pictures in which he touched her feet reverential-

ly. It's rare to see bonhomie between the parties representing the Dalits (BSP) and OBCs led by the Yadav community (SP and RJD), as they have not only been at political but also social loggerheads for decades.

Tejaswi knows for sure that keeping the BSP in good humour would only help consolidate and expand the vote base of the grand alliance in Bihar. Dalit leader and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Ram Vilas Paswan is firmly in the NDA fold, at least for the Lok Sabha election, and the RJD would be more than happy to get any incremental votes of Dalits in the State if Mayawati is on board even if the BSP does not contest a single seat as part of the grand alliance in Bihar. In fact, the RJD could go to the extent of offering a seat or two to the BSP even though the Mayawati-led party does not have any foothold in the neighbouring state.

In this season of anti-BJP posturing, photo ops and alliances ahead of the Lok Sabha poll, the only motive seems to be removal of Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister by working out sound electoral mathematics and ensuring a higher seat turnout than the BJP did in the 2014 polls. The SP-BSP alliance is simply banking on the fact that if it gets a combined vote share, which is higher than the NDA's in the state, it would be in the driver's seat. Of course, chemistry and adjustment are equally important in alliances and it remains to be seen how firmly it is cemented at the grassroots and booth levels.

Left out of the alliance in Uttar Pradesh — a move on expected lines — the Congress is neither happy nor unhappy at this moment, contemplating the different possibilities along with

permutations and combinations ahead. Optimists in the party believe that at the end of the day, the SP-BSP alliance could be a part of the UPA if the numbers so demand and they are at a striking distance of forming the next government. Of course, Mayawati would throw her hat in the ring for a possible go at the chair of Prime Minister if the situation so warrants and the *mahagathbandhan* gets a respectable number of seats. This situation would be conditional on the Congress not doing well and remaining well below 100 seats, regional parties dominating the results and the BSP itself performing well and getting a reasonable number of the 38 seats it would be contesting out of the 80 in Uttar Pradesh.

But there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. Post-verdict electoral understandings, support and alliances could be quite different from the ones cemented pre-poll. In a possible scenario where the NDA is a little short of majority, the BSP could always spring a surprise. It has a history of aligning with both SP and BJP, and there has been no shift in BSP's ideology even as it goes to polls this time around as a formidable force in alliance with the SP in Uttar Pradesh.

Similarly, the TDP, too, could go anywhere — from the NDA to the UPA, or to Third Front — in the post-poll political calculations. In the last six months, we have seen the party travelling all platforms. So there we are. It all depends on numbers after the polling and till then, all political parties would be posturing and keeping their options open. Much water will flow till then.

(The writer is Senior Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh)

Political economy of tribal development

Reinstating the fundamental right to property is just one area that the Government must work upon to ensure tribals get their due. What is needed is to encompass tribal welfare as a core value of forest management



VK BAHUGUNA

Tribal development (especially *adivasi*) has been a hot topic of discussion for ruling Governments as well as political parties. Ever since independence, several Governments have launched numerous programmes, which have seen minimal success in terms of enhancing the socio-economic condition of the tribal population. Of course, a minuscule group of educated people have benefitted from the policy of job reservation. But it is the land tenure reforms that have been at the forefront of tribal struggles. Many NGOs as well as social workers have been raising the issue of tribal land with the forest department. Tribal livelihood rights, after all, are intricately linked with the management of forest ecosystems. For, it is equally important that forest bio-diversity remains in good shape to meet tribal needs.

Not only the tribal people but villagers living in about 170,000 villages, situated in and around 32 million hectare of forest lands,

are partially dependent on the adjoining forest lands for daily needs. As per the 2011 Census, the tribal population in India stood at 10.4 crore and constituted around 8.6 per cent of the total population. In 2004, the then NDA Government had brought to fore the issue of historical injustice regarding settlement of disputed claims of tribals over forestlands, which were pending since decades, particularly after the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. A notification was issued on February 4, 2004, recognising the rights of occupation of forest lands by tribal people and a procedure was communicated to the States to vest the occupied land. This recognition was welcomed but could not be implemented because the NDA could not come back to power. Taking cue from this notification, the then UPA Government re-initiated the process and enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, (FRA) 2006. Ever since, it remains one of the biggest reforms to correct the historic injustice done to tribals. It will be appropriate to examine the impact of this Act on the political economy of the tribals.

One of the biggest constraints for forest management and tribal development is that our forests, regions of tribal habitation and



mineral-bearing areas overlap each other. Due to this, inherent conflicts occur. For long-term sustainability of forest management and to meet the climate change targets, it is essential that not only does our forest land become productive enough but also that the land vested under the Act can offer a decent livelihood to tribals, in a manner that their dependency on forests is gradually reduced. The ultimate goal should be that our forests are managed for ecological sustainability of all kinds of landscapes. For this to happen, it is essential that political parties assess the economic polity of the tribal-forests interface and chalk out an integrated strategy.

Let us first examine the implementation

of the FRA. Though the basic surmise of the Act, before its enactment, was on community rights, it is now focused on settling individual rights. It will be interesting to note that during the last 10 years, till May 2018, 58.5 lakh hectares of land were vested but more than half of this figure was distributed in the next five months, by the end of October 2018. The Act is open-ended and for the past 10 years, the process is still on.

This reflects that either the system is incompetent or the Act is being used as a tool to barter away forest land. The moot point is: Was it an easy task for the tribal, revenue and forests departments to ascertain the land under occupation, as on 2006 when this Act

came into effect? Why it is taking so long for officials to ascertain tribal occupation? Land is a precious resource. A lackadaisical attitude in implementation will yield to increasing encroachments of our forest lands. Political parties as well as the Government must act timely, pull up their socks to fix this malady. After this, focus must be shifted to developing these lands for better returns to the beneficiaries. Land rights, however, are not the only reason for tribal alienation. The lack of infrastructure, deteriorating health conditions, struggle for livelihood and educational deprivation, too, are some of the reasons why they feel disenfranchised. Unless the land vested is demarcated, digitised on priority and becomes productive, the real purpose of tribal empowerment will not be achieved.

The implementation of FRA should, therefore, be linked with the creation of livelihood. A nationally coordinated project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Rural Development for livelihood generation

is a *sine qua non*. The project should also have a second component, based on a cluster approach to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Power to create necessary infrastructure.

Questions now arise about its implementation. Considering the interface between forests and tribes, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes requested the Government to rename Indian Forest Service (IFS) as the Indian Forest and Tribal Service. This is an excellent proposal but renaming IFS is not essential. What is needed is to encompass tribal welfare as a core value of forest management. For this, IFS training will require changes and the Indian Institute of Forest Management and Indra Gandhi National Forest Academy should be assigned this task. The IFS cadre will require revamping to create a capable force. To begin with, one Additional Director-General's post should be created in the Ministry of Environment to deal with tribal affairs, ensure convergence and plan future set-ups. In the long-run, a tribal child should grow up imbibing his culture while encompassing the fruits of modern development.

(The writer is a retired civil servant)



GoodNews

Researchers have identified a protein, ORP2, responsible for transporting cholesterol inside cells that opens the way for new drugs to increase the body's good cholesterol levels. The ORP2 could also be targeted to fight cancer



DOCYARD

DR ANUP DHIR

Senior Consultant, Cosmetic Surgeon

APOLLO HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI



Fair and handsome

Of late, many people are opting for lasers treatment for hair reduction, skin rejuvenation and skin lesions. Lasers are medical devices, which produce high-energy, focused beams of intense, single-coloured light, and heat which have been found—through ongoing research and extensive clinical experience—to selectively interact, in very useful ways, upon various tissues within the skin and body. The amount and distribution of energy in laser light is more precisely delivered. So this may have an advantage over mechanical application of a scalpel or topical chemicals, for the successful treatment of many aesthetic and medical conditions.

HAIR REMOVAL

This a cosmetic procedure that uses a powerful laser like diode to remove unwanted hair. This light source heats and destroys hair follicles in the skin, which disrupts hair growth. Common areas to treat are face, legs, arms, underarms & bikini line. It can be helpful for women with hirsutism (excessive hair growth). Generally, it's most effective on women with pale skin and dark hair.

You may be recommended up to six sessions, spaced about four to six weeks apart. The results of laser hair removal may not be permanent. They usually last from weeks to months, and regular sessions may be needed to achieve and maintain the desired effect. There's no guarantee it will clear all the hair. Take time to find a reputable practitioner who is properly qualified and practices in a clean, safe and appropriate environment.

On the day, you'll wear specially designed goggles to protect your eyes during the procedure. Local anaesthetic isn't necessary. The practitioner will apply a cool gel or cooling air spray to the area of the skin. They then press a hand-held device to your skin and trigger the laser. This may feel like an elastic band snapping at your skin. The number of sessions needed depends on the area to be lasered and the system used.

The area may be red with a raised rash for up to 24 hours afterwards. Holding an ice pack to the skin may help. Your skin will be more sensitive to the sun after laser hair removal. Avoid sun exposure and tanning beds for at least a week after treatment, and use sunscreen.

It's important to go to a trained cosmetic surgeon who has the knowledge of lasers for these procedures. Lasers can be harmful if not applied properly

SKIN RESURFACING

Laser resurfacing uses a specially crafted beam of thermal energy like carbon dioxide laser that gets to work deep into the layers of your skin. Unlike peels or abrasive skin exfoliation, these laser beams of heat precisely target and vaporize damaged skin. By creating injury to the old skin, the body works to create new, tighter skin that has smaller pores and fewer wrinkles and blemishes. Skin resurfacing removes the epidermis and penetrates into the papillary dermis, which responds by producing new collagen. This allows healing and regeneration of the skin. This is usually done to improve wrinkles or acne scars or other imperfections from the skin.

REMOVAL OF BIRTHMARKS, TATTOOS & SKIN LESIONS

Port-wine stain birthmarks respond remarkably well to laser treatment. The abnormal blood vessels that cause these marks are reduced in size by the laser. This results in a lightening of the treated area. Skin growths, facial "spider veins," warts, and some tattoos respond to laser surgery. Most situations take more than one laser treatment, but some respond to a single treatment. The tattoos can also be removed by a special laser.

With new technology lasers have become safe to use. But it is important to go to a trained cosmetic surgeon who has the knowledge of lasers for these procedures. Lasers can be harmful if not applied properly. The plastic surgeon often uses the minimum laser intensity possible. The low intensity requires many treatments. However, the low intensity also preserves as much of the healthy tissue as possible. This produces an aesthetically pleasing result.

After your surgeon has indicated that a laser can be helpful in the surgery, your surgeon will explain the laser of choice and what can be accomplished. As with all surgery, the laser has its limitations. Often the results are very good. Your surgeon will give you the best judgment for the particular procedure.

Some surgeons may use local anesthetics to numb the treated area before the surgery. Because safety is a major component of laser use, your surgeon will describe safety precautions before the surgery.

WARMFOODS

HEMP SEEDS: The Hemp seeds are the seeds of the hemp plant, Cannabis sativa. They are from the same species as cannabis (marijuana) but a different variety. Hemp seeds are rich in healthy fats and essential fatty acids. They are also a great protein source and contain high amounts of Vitamin E, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, magnesium, sulfur, calcium, iron and zinc. Hemp seeds can be consumed raw, cooked or roasted. Hemp seed oil is also very healthy and has been used as a food and medicine in China for at least 3,000 years. Hemp seeds are a great source of arginine and gamma-linolenic acid, which have been linked to a reduced risk of heart disease. About 25% of the calories in hemp seeds come from protein. What's more, they contain all the essential amino acids, making them a complete protein source. Hemp seeds may reduce symptoms associated with PMS and menopause, thanks to its high levels of gamma-linolenic acid (GLA).



The master mineral

Magnesium-rich foods help in strengthening bones and muscles, says DR SWATI SANGHVI

Magnesium is an important mineral as it contributes to fortifying human health, especially bones and muscles. It is known to be the fourth and most abundant mineral found in the human body, and is often referred to as the "Master Mineral" as it is crucial to the heart, musculo-skeletal system, and brain for producing antioxidants that combat multiple diseases.

Furthermore, as one of the six essential macro-minerals that comprise 99 per cent of the body's mineral content, it enables the smooth functioning of thousands of enzymes that aid in the regulation of one's system, and is considered extremely essential to the production of energy from food.

As a vital component of the immune system, magnesium aids in keeping a number of illnesses at bay such as asthma, diabetes, insomnia, high blood pressure, constipation, depression, migraines and more. Other important areas where magnesium helps are regulating calcium from bones and cardiac and skeletal muscles, cleaning the bowel, balancing blood-sugar levels, inducing optimal blood circulation and maintaining blood pressure, calming the nervous system, making joints and ligaments flexible, regulating the sleep pattern, combating depression, and improving Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS) symptoms.

Unfortunately, however, one of the most commonly encountered problems, as per several medical experts and practitioners, is the deficiency of magnesium in the human body. Despite following an adequate diet, a large number of people across the globe tend to be magnesium deficient. While not many short-term ill effects have been discovered, this could cause abundant damage to



TO ENSURE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND MAINTAIN GOOD HEALTH, IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSUME MAGNESIUM-RICH FOODS LIKE DARK CHOCOLATE AND LEGUMES LIKE BLACK BEANS & CHICKPEAS



one's health in the long run.

With the absence of magnesium in the body, producing adequate energy in cells will become increasingly difficult, with muscles not being able to relax or contract, which will also hinder the synthesis of essential hormones. This, in turn, might hamper the control of vital functions within the system and make the body prone to common diseases.

Studies have found that magnesium deficiency is strongly connected to mineral bone density. Therefore, its deficiency adversely affects bones by decreasing their strength, volume, and causing poor bone development.

Moreover, the lack of magnesium in one's daily diet has most frequently been associated with chronic depression, especially among today's youth, and an increased risk of Type II diabetes, because insulin resistance can increase urination frequency, and thus, urinary excretion of the mineral. It can also become a major contributor to severe hypertension and lead to a rise in systolic and diastolic blood pressure.

Digestive disorders such as chronic diarrhoea and celiac diseases are also a result of low magnesium intake.

There are no evident symptoms of magnesium deficiency that show up in any specific part of

one's body. However, certain mild and common symptoms include dizziness, difficulty in concentration, fatigue, constipation, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), heart palpitations, irritability, muscle cramps, anxiety, and increased food cravings as well as a loss of appetite, headaches, mood swings, facial twitching, and excessive pain during menstruation. If these persist for a long period of time, it is advisable to have necessary check-ups done.

To steer away from its ill effects and in turn, reap its benefits, it is imperative to understand the value of magnesium as an extremely important mineral, and to thus, include it in one's daily diet.

Experts recommend a good amount of magnesium consumption to women, that is, 310mg for ages 19 to 30, and a little more than that for women above the age of 31. In extreme cases of magnesium deficiency, it is also advised to opt for an epsom salt bath, but only when prescribed by a medical practitioner.

In order to ensure the smooth functioning of one's immune system and maintain good health, it is ideal to consume magnesium-rich foods such as dark chocolate, legumes (black beans, chickpeas, peas, and soybeans), nuts (almonds, cashews, and Brazil nuts), seeds (flax, pumpkin, sunflower, and chia seeds), grains (wheat, oats, and barley), bananas, leafy vegetables (kale, spinach, broccoli and mustard greens), fatty fish (salmon and mackerel), tofu and skim milk.

The writer is head of advance physiotherapy, Saifee Hospital



DadiKaKehna

Besides wearing layers of clothing, there are several ways to keep the body warm during cold winter months.

ROSHANI DEVI tells you what one can do to keep the chill away



Given that winter has started to play hide and seek especially in North India, it is important to protect the body from extreme climatic conditions to keep healthy. Most people wear warm clothes to keep the chills away. But there are certain kinds of food that help to keep the body warm during cold winter months.

Most households have ginger. Besides being good for digestion, fresh ginger helps keep the body warm. Dry ginger is even better. You can use it to run a bath as well. Boil about two litres with 250 gm of ginger for about 20 minutes. Strain and pour this mixture

into your bath and have a nice soak.

Eat nuts and seeds (in limited quantities) like almonds, cashews, walnuts, flax seeds and sesame seeds. These will provide necessary vitamins and natural oils and provide required nutrients to keep the body warm.

Use spices like fennel, cumin, coriander, anise, cinnamon, black pepper, turmeric, mustard seeds and cardamom while cooking food.

Most importantly, avoid cold foods and iced drinks. This means ice cream even if one is tempted to do so once in a while.



TIPTOP

Statistics indicate that there has been an increase of about 300% in the incidence of coronary artery disease (CAD) in Indians, especially in the last three decades. Approximately 12% of those affected are in urban India. Apart from the common risk factors including regular consumption of processed food and a sedentary lifestyle, the condition can exacerbate in winter. Those with a family history of the condition must be more careful and take precautionary measures.

Research has shown that each 1°C reduction in temperature is associated with about 200 additional heart attacks — there are 53% more such cases in winter. Lower temperatures bring about a variation in the plasma level of hormones and blood clotting factors. In winters, the heart must also work harder to maintain body temperature.

Speaking about this, Dr Manoj Kumar, Director & Head, Cardiac Cath Lab, Max Super Specialty Hospital, Patparganj, New Delhi, said: "Sudden change in temperature causes thermal stress for the body and the latter must work more to maintain a constant temperature. This type of stress has direct effect on blood viscosity, making it thicker, stickier, and more likely to clot. Low temperatures can cause blood vessels to narrow which restricts blood flow throughout the body. This leads to a reduction in the amount of oxygen that reaches the different organs including the heart. The heart, therefore, has to work doubly hard to ensure that enough blood and oxygen is pumped to the entire body. Over time, this can lead to heart failure, especially in people with coronary artery disease (CAD)."



SLIMLINE

The PCR vans are usually the first to respond to a road emergency, and now the police control room personnel are set to turn paramedics to manage accident trauma. The vans will now carry cervical collars and fracture braces, among other medical accessories, to provide proper care within minutes of an accident. The van will also carry ice packs and eye shades to ensure that the victim is in comfort and the pain from the injuries is managed before they

are shifted. The PCR vans should also be equipped with Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine and personnel should be trained in its use. Defibrillation within 3 to 5 minutes of collapse can result in survival rates as high as 50-70%. Doctors from AIIMS and NGOs, who already teach the cops how to provide cardio-pulmonary resuscitations and undertake basic procedures, will instruct them in life-saving measures.

STAY FIT WHILE TRAVELLING

Want to go on a vacation and be on track with the diet? DR NIKITA NADKARNI tells you how

Taking a short or a long vacation is the most ideal way to de-stress and take a break from our fast-paced lives. In our busy lives, our body is under constant flight or fight mode. Chronic stress can lead to a number of health hazards.

However, we tend to get slightly off track while we are on a vacation. Here are a few things to keep in mind that will help you enjoy the most yet be on track.

Research

Before booking a hotel, make sure to check the facilities like an attached gym, a sports club or a swimming pool. Indulging in any of these while you are there will help you keep fit and refreshed.

Walk/run around the city

It would be a good idea to explore the city on foot instead of hiring a cab or local transport. You would be able to explore much more, interact with the locals who could guide you to good places to eat and explore. It is also much cheaper. Make sure you carry a comfortable pair of shoes for this.

Prioritise sleep

There is a change of your sleep environment (one which lacks the reminders of your daily stress) certainly helps set the tone for more relaxation and usually better sleep. Make sure you are getting enough snooze in time so that you don't feel tired.



Throw in this small yet effective fitness tool while travelling. You could use it anywhere, at the airport, hotel room even outdoors. It helps in stretching and strengthening muscles.

Day pass/ trial class

There are a lot of fitness centres and sports clubs that offer trial classes or day passes. It would be a good idea to check these out. It could also be a good way to explore a new form of workout that you have never tried before. You may actually enjoy it and learn something new.

Keep hydrated

Dehydration is a common illness with tourists, caused by not drinking enough fluid, to replace the fluid that the body loses due to heat. Several factors can help our body to become dehydrated such as the climate, physical exercise, and diets. Make sure you carry your water bottles while moving around.

Trying local cuisine

Experiencing the local culture is a huge part of travelling and taking back a lot of memories. The food is made out of the rich produce that is grown locally. Try a new fruit, vegetable or dish that may not be available in your hometown.

Pack nutrition bars, nuts, seeds and dry fruits. They are lightweight to carry around and will resist the urge to binge when hungry.

The writer is exercise science professor, Gold's Gym Fitness Institute

STUDYCENTRE

According to a recent report, about 44 people died in Delhi between 1 January and 6 January, including a two-year-old child due to the cold weather conditions. Several of these deaths may probably be due to a condition called hypothermia.

Hypothermia is generally defined as having a core body temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or lower and can occur when the outside environment gets too cold or the body's heat production decreases. An individual may suffer from hypothermia if he has been exposed to cool temperatures and shows one or more of the following signs: slowed or slurred speech; sleepiness or confusion; shivering or stiffness in the arms and legs; poor control over body movements; slow reactions, or a weak pulse. Some tips from Heart Care Foundation of India:

- Make sure the home is warm.
- Even mildly cool homes with temperatures from 60 to 65 degrees can lead to hypothermia in older people.
- Stay warm at home, wear long underwear under your clothes, along with socks and slippers. Wear several layers of warm loose clothing to help trap warm air between the layers.
- Use a blanket to keep your legs and shoulders warm.
- Wear a hat, scarf, and gloves or mittens to prevent loss of body heat through your head and hands when going out in the cold.



LIC acquires majority stake in IDBI Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IDBI Bank on Monday said insurance behemoth LIC has completed acquisition of 51 per cent controlling stake in the bank, making it the lender's majority shareholder.

"The deal, conceptualised in June 2018, is envisaged as a win-win situation for both IDBI Bank and LIC with an opportunity to create enormous value for shareholders, customers & employees of both entities through mutual synergies," IDBI Bank said in a BSE filing.

In August last year, the Cabinet approved the acquisition of controlling stake by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) as a promoter in the bank through a combination of preferential allotment and open offer of equity.

LIC had been looking to enter the banking space by acquiring a majority stake in IDBI Bank, as the deal is expected to provide business synergies despite the lender's stressed balance sheet.

The bank had reported a net loss of ₹3,602.49 crore during the September quarter of 2018-19. Its gross non-performing assets hit 31.78 per cent (₹60,875.49 crore) of the gross advances as on September 30, 2018, as compared with 24.98 per cent in

the year-ago period.

IDBI Bank has about 1.5 crore retail customers and about 18,000 employees. With this deal, LIC will have a strategic investment in a large bancassurance channel, thereby increasing its productivity and reducing distribution costs.

Over 800 branches of IDBI Bank can be used as touch points for selling LIC policies, the public sector lender said.

IDBI Bank said it would significantly increase its investments in building data analytics capabilities to analyse customer behaviour of both the entities.

This will enable the bank to enhance its product offerings, reduce distribution cost, de-risk portfolio and support retail business build, it added.

IDBI Bank said its retail loan portfolio is expected to reach 50 per cent by fiscal 2019-20.

"IDBI Bank and LIC have started working to ensure full realisation of their synergies over the next 12 months. Improved financial health will pave the way for the bank to exit from prompt corrective action (PCA) in a time-bound manner and be a future-ready, top-ranked bank. LIC and IDBI Bank are committed to serve the interests of all stakeholders," the bank said.

Farm support steps to increase states' fiscal deficit: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Competitive populism in the form of farm loan waivers and other schemes ahead of the general polls would inflate cumulative fiscal deficit of states, a report by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has pointed out.

In its report, the Fitch group company has maintained a stable outlook on the finances of Indian states for 2019-20.

The agency expects the aggregate fiscal deficit of states to come in higher at 3.2 per cent in 2019-20 than its forecast of 2.8 per cent in the 2018-19 Mid-Year Outlook.

"Although this is higher than the fiscally prudent level of 3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), Ind-Ra believes this will not pose a

significant upside risk to states' aggregate debt burden in 2019-20," the report said.

Ind-Ra expects states' revenue account on aggregate to clock a deficit of 0.5 per cent of GDP in 2019-20 due to a higher growth in revenue expenditure than in revenue receipts.

"The competitive populism, in the nature of farm loan waivers and other financial support schemes, would take centre stage in the run-up to next general elections in May 2019. A larger impact is expected on fiscal and revenue deficit to gross state domestic product ratios for Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan, among non-special category states, in 2019-20," the report said.

The report said the announce-

ment of farm loan waivers by the governments of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Rajasthan in December 2018 extends the list of states that have resorted to this mechanism to address farmers' distress.

Additionally, Odisha and Jharkhand announced schemes to provide financial assistance to small and marginal farmers along the lines of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme implemented in Telangana, it said.

Ind-Ra estimates the gross market borrowings of states to be ₹5.7 trillion (lakh crore) in 2019-20.

The aggregate gross market borrowings by states would be in the range of ₹5.01 trillion-₹5.13 trillion in 2018-19, higher than the states' budgeted gross market borrowings of ₹4.4 trillion for 2018-19.

Govt may cut customs duty on some medical devices

New Delhi: The government may consider reducing customs duty on certain medical devices in the forthcoming budget with an aim to boosting domestic manufacturing of such goods, sources said.

The move would also help promote the government's ambitious Make in India initiative, said the source.

Industry chamber CII in its has pre-budget memorandum has asked the government to reduce customs duty from 10 per cent to 2.5 per cent on PDS Plates used for nasal recon-

structive surgery. It has also asked to exempt the duty on instruments for joint replacement and spinal equipment.

"Reduction of basic customs duty on PDS Plates to 2.5 per cent would reduce the cost and benefit the patients," CII has said.

The government has recently set up National Medical Devices Promotion Council (NMDPC) to boost manufacturing, attract investments and promote exports of the fast-growing sector. **PTI**

Omega Healthcare inks MoU with IIT-B

New Delhi: Omega Healthcare Management Services on Monday said it has signed a pact with IIT-Bangalore for advanced use of latest technology in providing healthcare solutions.

The MoU is aimed at building industry-grade AI engines that can be embedded as part of Omega's business solutions to solve healthcare business challenges, the company said in a statement. The pact also entails research programmes in artificial intelligence (AI) and Data Science, aiming to focus on specific business-related processes along with expected outcomes, with the programme being collectively decided by both organisations, it added.

The company however did not provide any financial details of the agreement. **PTI**

BUSINESS CORNER

BMW DRIVES IN ALL-NEW X4 MODEL IN INDIA



New Delhi: German luxury carmaker BMW Monday launched its new X4, a sports activity coupe, in India priced up to ₹65.9 lakh (ex-showroom). The company is rolling out the new model locally from its Chennai-based manufacturing plant. The two diesel variants are priced at ₹60.6 lakh and ₹65.9 lakh, respectively, while the sole petrol trim is tagged at ₹63.5 lakh. (All prices ex-showroom). "BMW established the sports activity vehicle (SAV) category and the latest addition to this hugely successful family is the all-new BMW X4 belonging to the sports activity coupe segment," BMW Group India President Hans-Christian Baertels said in a statement. Its distinctive vehicle concept will be proven an instant hit in this class and will become a trend-setter, he added. The all-new BMW X4 comes with innovative technologies such as the BMW display key that allows drivers to keep in contact with their car round the clock. Other features include BMW Gesture Control, wireless charging and parking assist.

YAMAHA INDIA LAUNCHES FZ-FI, FZS-FI BIKES PRICED UP TO ₹97K

New Delhi: Japanese two-wheeler major Yamaha Monday launched two new motorcycles in its FZ range in the premium segment priced up to ₹97,000 (ex-showroom Delhi). The two new products FZ-FI and FZS-FI equipped with advanced braking system, anti-lock braking system (ABS), are powered by 149 cc 4-stroke, single-cylinder engines, India Yamaha Motor (IYM) said in a statement. While the FZ-FI is priced at ₹95,000, the FZS-FI is tagged at ₹97,000 (all prices ex-showroom Delhi), it added. "The new launch from Yamaha will strengthen the company's presence in the deluxe class in India," Yamaha Motor India Group of companies Chairman Motofumi Shitara said. The introduction of the new FZ-FI and FZS-FI with ABS followed the first launch of ABS-enabled YZF-R15 version 3.0 from the company in 2019. The company also has introduced ABS-equipped version of its FZ 25 model; and will be available for ₹1.33 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	10919.35	10987.45	10885.75	10961.85	54.90
RELIANCE	1194.00	1239.95	1188.65	1235.00	50.65
KOTAKBANK	1240.70	1275.50	1222.65	1274.00	33.80
BAIJAJFINSV	6253.85	6400.00	6211.10	6380.00	130.10
SUNPHARMA	390.10	406.55	390.05	398.55	7.80
INFINITY	2548.00	2606.00	2526.60	2588.00	45.10
GAIL	323.00	328.90	320.45	327.60	5.45
ANIL	738.20	751.00	734.00	743.25	12.30
ASIANPAINT	1395.20	1424.80	1395.20	1420.85	20.40
ULTRACEMCO	3810.00	3867.50	3790.00	3853.00	33.05
HDFCBANK	2139.95	2166.50	2126.50	2145.40	15.15
INFRAEEL	278.05	279.85	270.65	279.60	1.55
TECHM	710.35	721.40	709.00	712.55	3.40
TITAN	960.10	965.80	957.00	962.60	1.65
TCS	1902.00	1932.00	1895.45	1903.50	2.85
HDFC	765.00	772.85	756.20	766.90	0.85
INDUSUNILVR	1749.00	1758.00	1736.05	1745.85	1.75
TATASTEEL	473.00	477.50	470.10	470.05	0.10
CIPLA	510.00	514.20	508.20	509.05	-0.35
HDFC	1998.00	2016.00	1983.20	2005.00	-1.80
HREDDEY	2605.00	2642.00	2581.80	2593.90	-2.95
ICICIBANK	373.00	376.15	370.60	371.45	-0.55
HCLTECH	969.05	981.50	962.05	964.00	-2.30
IT	1279.00	1337.25	1273.45	1314.60	-3.30
VEDL	200.10	202.50	197.65	198.10	-0.60
JSWSTEEL	285.90	288.95	283.95	284.40	-1.20
HINDPETRO	236.70	241.90	236.70	238.25	-1.25
BHARTIARTL	310.70	315.50	306.00	309.45	-1.70
ITC	292.85	293.20	288.70	289.85	-1.60
EICHERMOT	20151.00	20297.95	19949.75	20003.00	-119.75
INDUSINDBK	1511.30	1517.90	1497.00	1507.65	-2.65
BPL	351.10	355.70	348.30	351.60	-9.20
COALINDIA	230.45	231.25	228.15	228.20	-1.80
NTPC	146.50	146.75	142.65	143.05	-1.25
AXISBANK	661.55	664.50	656.50	658.85	-5.75
M&M	738.00	738.00	727.35	728.50	-6.45
SBN	295.90	296.75	291.45	292.30	-2.65
ZEEL	445.00	445.00	434.05	436.25	-4.05
ADANIPOWER	397.50	402.70	392.10	393.35	-3.95
HINDALCO	209.10	209.90	205.10	206.65	-2.15
TATAMOTORS	184.30	184.95	180.65	181.40	-1.90
ONGC	147.00	147.20	144.10	145.00	-1.75
POWERGRID	193.95	194.70	190.65	191.20	-2.60
GRASIM	828.00	828.00	811.95	811.95	-13.00
IOC	137.00	137.00	135.45	135.20	-2.35
IBULLHSGFIN	818.00	821.00	801.00	803.00	-14.35
BAIJAJ-AUTO	2724.75	2724.75	2670.00	2672.00	-48.75
MARUTI	7358.00	7380.00	7161.00	7188.00	-169.95
WIPRO	340.00	344.90	333.20	336.45	-9.70
YESBANK	199.30	200.90	190.70	191.20	-7.40
HEROMOTOCO	2901.00	2909.85	2780.00	2783.00	-115.75

BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	GNFC
RCOM	13.32	13.48	13.07	13.11	TAKE
SUZLON	5.30	5.32	5.21	5.26	ZEORL
SUNPHARMA	390.90	406.35	390.75	398.35	ESCBT
RELIANCE	1193.90	1237.40	1189.75	1234.50	HINDZINC
SPARC	148.00	177.80	147.15	173.85	IGL
LINDIENDIA	655.00	678.00	576.80	666.25	RECLTD
YESBANK	199.00	204.00	191.80	192.10	IOC
ICICIBANK	372.00	376.20	370.25	371.25	GRUH
IT	1275.00	1336.45	1275.00	1314.20	CANBK
JETAIRWAYS	275.20	284.20	272.40	276.45	NAUKRI
KOTAKBANK	1241.00	1276.00	1224.05	1267.30	HCLTECH
WIPRO	342.00	344.80	337.30	337.50	BAIJAJ-AUTO
ITI	107.40	114.80	107.40	112.05	BEML
JISLJALEQF	64.90	64.90	59.50	61.75	DISHTV
PHILPNCARB	188.00	188.00	166.40	168.05	GODREJCP
INFY	733.00	750.70	733.00	742.75	TATAELXI
GRAPHITE	701.00	721.45	681.00	684.05	COALINDIA
JHFC	7.20	7.20	7.05	7.11	BOMDYEING
HDFCBANK	2149.00	2165.00	2125.55	2146.55	FRETAIL
DCBBANK	172.50	187.65	172.50	183.20	BAIJAJFINSV
HCC	3549.00	3568.20	3357.00	3374.65	ADANIPHARMA
UNIONBANK	93.00	93.45	85.05	86.40	DRREDDY
TCS	1900.40	1931.30	1896.55	1905.80	HINDPETRO
MINDTREE	894.90	912.45	874.60	880.00	FEDERALBNK
NIITTECH	1221.15	1298.40	1216.40	1270.10	DABUR
ANIPAINTECH	1399.80	1424.20	1396.50	1420.65	TRENT
MARUTI	7384.00	7384.00	7160.45	7200.95	SAIL
SBN	295.15	295.15	291.00	292.35	NBCCC
L&TH	140.95	141.80	137.65	140.00	ADANIPOWER
AXISBANK	661.90	664.45	656.75	660.35	NCC
INFILINRA	297.25	300.00	287.85	289.15	KAJARIACER
ONGC	146.25	147.20	144.15	145.10	JKKBANK
TATASTEEL	472.20	477.40	470.10	475.15	INTELLECT
DHFL	216.20	219.95	210.35	211.35	IBREALEST
ASHOKLEY	92.60	92.75	90.40	90.65	PEL

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27441.30	27617.40	27292.25	27322.40	-88.15
MOTHERSUMI	159.00	165.80	157.75	162.85	5.30
BIOCON	654.80	671.30	654.30	664.00	11.95
OFSS	3639.95	3710.00	3604.25	3681.25	65.40
LUPIN	857.00	879.70	857.00	870.90	8.60
NIACL	177.70	181.60	177.70	181.60	1.60
DABUR	425.10	433.75	424.15	427.60	3.50
AUROPHARMA	770.40	784.80	767.20	775.80	5.75
MRF	65739.80	66298.95	65501.00	66178.00	438.20
MCDOWELL-N	584.90	596.00	580.05	587.50	3.20
ABB	1281.20	1303.00	1275.00	1281.75	5.65
PIDILITIND	1150.00	1168.00	1144.00	1153.50	4.70
PGH	10035.70	10060.00	9951.20	10000.00	38.00
NHPC	25.20	25.40	25.10	25.20	0.00
SCHRECEM	15560.00	15749.00	15410.00	15620.15	29.90
COALPL	1312.20	1323.55	1311.30	1313.30	2.50
ICICIPRULI	352.45	355.50	348.55	351.75	0.60
BEL	86.90	87.60	85.70	86.45	0.10
BHEL	71.10	72.25	70.70	71.00	0.05
SBLIFE	625.00	644.70	612.50	620.00	-0.20
HDFCLIFE	383.90	386.20	382.00	383.30	-0.40
AMBUJACEM	213.00	214.80	212.00	212.20	-0.45
HAVELLS	679.25	685.55	673.00	676.00	-1.50
PETRONET	216.30	220.75	216.25	218.05	-0.50
NMDC	91.00	91.30	89.60	90.45	-0.25

Taliban attack kills at least 12 in Af

AFP ■ GHAZNI

At least 12 people were killed Monday in a Taliban-claimed attack on a military compound in central Afghanistan, officials said, as the insurgents continue to batter the war-torn country's beleaguered security forces.

The attack began after a vehicle loaded with explosives rammed into the entrance of a compound in Maidan Shahr — the capital of Wardak province that lies about 50 kilometers south of the capital Kabul.

At least three gunmen stormed the base following the explosion, igniting a firefight with Afghan security forces. All three gunmen were later killed in the exchange, according to a provincial official.

"So far our reports show 12 have been killed and 20 wounded, most of whom were Afghan security forces," Akhtar Mohammad Taheri — the head of Wardak provincial council — told AFP.

"The Taliban used a Humvee vehicle to hit the compound," Taheri added. Provincial health director Mohammad Salim Asgharkhail confirmed the toll. "Some wounded people were taken to hospitals in Kabul for further treatment as they were in critical condi-

tion," said Asgharkhail. Provincial governor spokesman Abdul Rahman Mangal said the huge blast had also partially damaged the base. The Taliban — who have been waging a 17-year war against the Western-backed Afghan government — later claimed responsibility for the assault.

The attack comes a day after a Taliban suicide bomber targeted the convoy of Logar province's governor, killing at least seven security guards. Fights between security forces and Taliban fighters have continued to intensify across the country during the frigid Afghan winter, which traditionally experiences a lull in fighting.

The recent Taliban attacks come as Washington is stepping up efforts for a peace deal that could pave the way for the Taliban's participation in the next government, with the US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad visiting regional powers this month after meeting Taliban representatives in December. Khalilzad ended his visit to neighbouring Pakistan Sunday after meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan last week to discuss ongoing peace efforts.

Israel strikes Iranian targets in Syria

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel struck what it said were Iranian targets in Syria early Monday in response to missile fire it blamed on Iran, sparking concerns of an escalation after a monitor reported 11 fighters killed. Israel announced the strikes against facilities it said belonged to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force as they were occurring, continuing its recent practice of speaking more openly about such raids.

It said the strikes were in response to a medium-range, surface-to-surface missile the Quds Force fired from Syria at the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Sunday, which Israeli air defences intercepted.

"We saw that as an unacceptable attack by the Iranian troops - not proxies, not Shiite militias, not Syrian forces - Iranian troops firing an Iranian-made missile from the vicinity of Damascus towards sovereign Israel," Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told journalists.

Israel said targets included munitions stores, a site at Damascus International Airport that was allegedly the Quds Force's main logistics hub in the country, an Iranian intelligence installation and an Iranian military training camp.

It said it also hit Syrian air defence batteries in response to



dozens of missiles fired from them.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said at least 11 pro-regime fighters including two Syrians were killed. Russia, which like Iran is a key backer of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the country's war, said the Israeli strikes killed four Syrian soldiers and wounded six, while damaging Damascus airport infrastructure.

The Observatory said air strikes and ground-to-ground missiles hit targets around the capital including near the Damascus airport, as well as near the Thaala military airport in Sweida province to the south of the capital.

The targets included weapons depots belonging to the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah and Iranian fighters,

the missile. The ski centre was closed on Monday. Israel then early Monday announced it was striking Quds Force targets in Syria while SANA reported that Syrian air defence systems had responded to "enemy" fire.

Israel has pledged to stop its main enemy Iran from entrenching itself militarily in neighbouring Syria.

It has carried out hundreds of air strikes there against what it says are Iranian military targets and advanced arms deliveries to Tehran-backed Hezbollah.

Its warplanes have been targeted by anti-aircraft fire during such raids, but it has rarely faced surface-to-surface missile fire in response.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters on Sunday that "we have a permanent policy: to strike at the Iranian entrenchment in Syria and hurt whoever tries to hurt us." Netanyahu and other Israeli officials have been speaking more openly about the country's strikes in Syria in recent days, which some analysts partly attribute to the premier wanting to burnish his security credentials ahead of April 9 elections.

But others also say it carries a strategic military purpose as well. "If you want to make clear to the other side that you

are determined to prevent something, either you escalate the operation - more targets, more sophisticated - or you say in public I am doing it, meaning I am ready to take the risk," said former Israeli national security adviser Yaakov Amidror.

"Israel, instead of escalating, decided to make it public." But Israel also risks an escalation with Syria and Iran, as well as possibly further angering Russia at a time when the United States is seeking to withdraw its forces from Syria.

Military coordination between Israel and Russia in Syria took a hit after a friendly fire incident in September that led to a Russian plane being downed by Syrian air defences during an Israeli raid.

The incident angered the Kremlin and complicated Israel's operations in Syria, particularly after Moscow's delivery of the advanced S-300 air defence system there in response.

On Thursday, Israeli military officials concluded a series of talks with their Russian counterparts aimed at improving their coordination there.

More than 360,000 people have been killed and millions displaced since the start of Syria's civil war with the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011.

Qatar to invest \$500 million in Lebanese govt bonds

AP ■ BEIRUT

Qatar has announced that it will invest USD 500 million in Lebanese government bonds to support the Mediterranean country's struggling economy. Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani made the announcement in comments to Qatar's state news agency. Monday's announcement came a day after Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani made a short rare visit to Lebanon where he met President Michel Aoun and took part in an Arab economic summit.

Lebanon's economy has been struggling from massive debt, little growth and high unemployment. Earlier this month, Lebanon's Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil was quoted by a local newspaper as saying that the country may restructure its debt, leading to sell-off in Lebanese bonds. He later clarified that Lebanon is committed to paying back all maturing debt.

Kamala Harris jumps into presidential race

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris, a first-term senator and former California attorney general known for her rigorous questioning of President Donald Trump's nominees, entered the Democratic presidential race on Monday. Vowing to "bring our voices together," Harris would be the first woman to hold the presidency and the second African-American if she succeeds.

Harris, a daughter of immigrant parents who grew up in Oakland, California, is one of the earliest high-profile Democrats to join what is expected to be a crowded field. She made her long anticipated announcement on ABC's "Good Morning America." "I am running for president of the United States," she said. "And I'm very excited about it." The 54-year old portrayed herself as a fighter for justice, decency and equality in a video distributed by her campaign as she announced her bid.

"They're the values we as Americans cherish, and they're all on the line now," Harris says in the video. "The future of our country depends on you and millions of others lifting our voices to fight for our American values." Harris launched her presidential as the nation observes what would have been the 90th birthday of the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The timing was a clear signal that the California senator — who has joked that she had a "stroller's-eye view" of the civil rights movement because her parents wheeled her and her



sister Maya to protests — sees herself as another leader in that fight.

She abandoned the formality of launching an exploratory committee, instead going all in on a presidential bid. She plans a formal campaign launch in Oakland on January 27. The campaign will be based in Baltimore, with a second office in Oakland.

Harris joins what is expected to be a wide-open race for the Democratic presidential nomination. There's no apparent front-runner at this early stage and Harris will face off against several Senate colleagues.

Sens Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York have both launched exploratory committees. Sens Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota are also looking at the race.

If Booker enters the race, he and Harris could face a fierce competition for support from black voters. Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders, who unsuccessfully sought the 2016

Democratic nomination, is also considering a campaign. Several other Democrats have already declared their intentions, including former Maryland Rep. John Delaney and former Obama administration housing chief Julian Castro.

Harris launches her campaign fresh off of a tour to promote her latest memoir, "The Truths We Hold," which was widely seen as a stage-setter for a presidential bid. She is already planning her first trip to an early primary state as a declared candidate. On Friday, Harris will travel to South Carolina to attend the Pink Ice Gala in Columbia, which is hosted by a South Carolina chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which Harris pledged as an undergraduate student at Howard University. The sorority, founded more than 100 years ago, is a stronghold in the African-American community.

South Carolina, where black voters make up a large share of the Democratic electorate, is likely to figure heavily into Harris's prospects. And early voting in Harris's home

state of California will overlap with the traditional early nominating contests, which could give Harris a boost.

Harris's campaign team is already taking shape and includes several veterans of Democratic politics. Juan Rodriguez, who ran Harris's 2016 Senate campaign, will manage her presidential bid. Her sister, Maya Harris, a former top adviser to Hillary Clinton, will be the campaign chair.

The veteran campaign finance lawyer Marc Elias will serve as the Harris campaign's general counsel, and Angelique Cannon, who worked for Clinton's 2016 campaign, will serve as national finance director. David Huynh, who was Clinton's director of delegate operations in 2016, will serve as a senior adviser. Lily Adams, a Clinton campaign alum who has worked as Harris's spokeswoman, will be communications director. Her staff says she plans to reject the assistance of a super PAC, as well as corporate PAC money.

She's invested heavily in cultivating a digital, small-dollar donor network before her presidential bid. Before her 2016 victory in the Senate race, Harris made her career in law enforcement. She served as the district attorney in San Francisco before she was elected to serve as attorney general.

Harris is likely to face questions about her law enforcement record, particularly after the Black Lives Matter movement and activists across the country pushed for a criminal justice overhaul.

EU sanctions Russia military intel chief over Skripal

Brussels (AFP): The European Union imposed chemical weapons sanctions on nine Russian and Syrian officials on Monday, including the chief of the powerful GRU military intelligence agency.

The EU blamed the Russians — two agents and the head and the deputy head of the GRU — for the "possession, transport and use" of the nerve agent used in the attack in Salisbury, England last March. In addition to an assets freeze and travel ban for the Russian officials, the bloc announced sanctions on an alleged Syrian chemical weapons agency and five Syrians, EU states said in a statement.

"This decision contributes to the EU's efforts to counter the proliferation and use of chemical weapons which poses a serious threat to international security," the statement said, after a meeting of EU foreign ministers. Full details of those targeted were to be placed in the EU Official Journal later Monday.

Russian agents have been blamed for the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the English city in March last year using the Soviet-developed nerve agent Novichok.

The Salisbury attack, the first offensive use of chemical weapons in Europe since World War II, caused an international outcry and prompted a mass expulsion of Russian diplomats by Western nations.

Cyber expert claims India's 2014 general election was 'rigged'

PTI ■ LONDON

An Indian cyber expert, seeking political asylum in the US, Monday claimed that the 2014 general election was "rigged" through the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which, he says, can be hacked. Addressing a press conference in London via Skype, the man, identified as Syed Suja, said he fled India in 2014 because he felt threatened in the country after the killing of some of his team members.

He claimed the telecom giant Reliance Jio helped the BJP to get low frequency signals to hack the EVMs. Suja said the BJP would have won Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh elections if his team hadn't intercepted the BJP attempts to hack the transmissions in these states.

The outlandish and explosive claims, made in a cloak and dagger manner, could not be immediately confirmed. He claimed he was part of a team at the public sector Electronic Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), which designed and developed the EVMs. He was presented at a press conference organised by the Indian Journalists' Association (Europe).

Although he appeared on screen through Skype, his face was masked. India's Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora earlier this month said that the EVMs were tamper-proof and an expert committee was looking after their functioning. There is absolutely nothing to doubt about the



integrity of the system, Arora said, adding that the entire functioning of the EVMs is being looked after by a highly-qualified technical committee.

Several political parties in the past have alleged that the EVMs are prone to tampering and demanded reintroduction of the ballot papers.

Speaking at the event in London, Suja claimed that he worked for the ECIL from 2009-2014. Suja said that he was part of a team which designed the EVMs used in the 2014 elections. He said that he and his team were instructed by the ECIL to find out if EVMs could be hacked, and find out how to do this.

"The 2014 general elections were rigged," he claimed. He also alleged that the Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Delhi election results were rigged during the elections.

The cyber expert claimed that the EVMs were hacked by

the BJP using a modulator which transmits military-grade frequency.

The cyber expert also claimed that BJP leader and union minister Gopinath Munde was "killed" because he was aware of EVM hacking in 2014 general elections. Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi weeks after the BJP won the 2014 elections.

Suja also claimed the NIA officer investigating Munde's death, Tanzil Ahmed, was planning to file an FIR noting he had been murdered, but was himself killed.

"In Delhi state elections in 2015, we managed to intercept the transmission, resulting in the AAP winning 67 out of 70 seats. Otherwise the BJP would have swept," he claimed. He said that other than the BJP, the SP, BSP, AAP and Congress too are involved in the EVMs rigging.

Suja said some of his team members were killed and he was also allegedly attacked but survived.

GLOBE TROTTING

Steve Guttenberg gets married

Los Angeles: "Police Academy" actor Steve Guttenberg has tied the knot with CBS-TV's "Living Large" reporter Emily Smith. The couple got married in a small, intimate ceremony in Malibu, California, on Saturday, reported People magazine. Guttenberg and Smith first met on a blind date in 2014 after WCBS-TV's Scott Rapoport played matchmaker and though it took two months for them to fix a meeting, they instantly hit it off. A year later, the pair moved in together and in December 2016, Smith revealed in a Facebook post that she had got engaged to the 60-year-old star. Guttenberg was previously married to model Denise Bixler.



Lady Gaga calls out Trump and Pence on shutdown

Los Angeles: Lady Gaga slammed US President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence on the ongoing federal government shutdown during her Las Vegas residency. On January 19, the pop star stopped her gig to say her piece on the current scenario while she was performing "Million Reasons" on the piano. "If the f*cking president of the United States could please put our government back... There are people who live paycheck to paycheck and need their money," she said. Gaga then took aim at Pence, whose wife Karen is facing flak for accepting a job at a school that excludes LGBT and trans candidates.



New stem cell approach may help treat diabetes

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Scientists have tweaked the technique for turning human stem cells into insulin-secreting beta cells and shown that the resulting cells are more responsive to fluctuating glucose levels in the blood. Stem cells can be transformed into cells that produce insulin, the hormone that controls blood sugar, according to the study published in the journal Stem Cell Reports.

However, there is a major challenge: the amount of insulin produced by these cells is difficult to control. The researchers at the Washington University in the US transplanted the beta cells into mice that could not make insulin. They found that the new cells began secreting insulin within a few days, and continued to control blood sugar in the animals for months. "We have been able to overcome a major weakness in the way these cells previously had been developed. The new insulin-producing cells react more quickly and appropriately when they encounter glucose," said Jeffrey R Millman, an assistant pro-



fessor at the Washington University. "The cells behave much more like beta cells in people who do not have diabetes," Millman said.

The researchers now believe it may be time to evaluate whether the same stem-cell approach could produce insulin and effectively control blood sugar in people.

"Previously, the beta cells we manufactured could secrete insulin in response to glucose, but they were more like fire hydrants, either making a lot of insulin or none at all," Millman said.

"The new cells are more sensitive and secrete insulin that better corresponds to the glucose levels," he said.

'Unpaid work done by women worth 43-times Apple's annual turnover'

PTI ■ DAVOS

Unpaid work done by women across the globe amounts to a staggering USD 10 trillion a year, which is 43 times the annual turnover of the world's biggest company Apple, an Oxfam study said Monday. In India, the unpaid work done by women looking after their homes and children is worth 3.1 per cent of the country's GDP. Women spend 312 minutes per day in urban areas and 291 minutes per day in rural areas on such unpaid care work, it added.

In comparison, men spend only 29 minutes in urban and 32 minutes in rural areas on unpaid care work. The report, released by the international rights group before the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in this Swiss ski resort town, also said women and girls are hardest hit by rising economic inequality, including in India.

Oxfam said inequality has a "female face" in India, where women are less likely to have paid work when compared to men, while even among the richest there are only 9 women in the country's 119-member bil-



lionaires club. The paid work women do bring them less earnings as compared to men due to the existing wage gap and therefore households that rely primarily on female earners tend to be poorer, it said, referring to the country's gender pay gap at 34 per cent. It observed that various intersections of caste, class, religion, age and sexual orientation have further implications on women inequality as a process.

The Oxfam study also referred to India's poor 108th ranking on the WEF's Global Gender Gap Index of 2018, saying it was 10 notches less than in 2006 and far below the global average and

behind its neighbours China and Bangladesh.

Oxfam said India has many laws that deal with violence against women, but their implementation remains a challenge, including due to a deeply patriarchal society.

It said a law to deal with sexual harassment at workplace was passed in 2013 after a struggle by women's rights organisations and group of lawyers for 17 years, but it is the recent #MeToo movement in India that has opened the doors for the organised workforce to ensure that mechanisms are in place and due process is followed.

Imran Khan's party seeks disqualification of Zardari



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party on Monday filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking the disqualification of former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chief Asif Ali Zardari.

Khurram Sher Zaman, a Member of Sindh Assembly from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, filed the disqualification petition against 63-year-old Zardari in the apex court, Geo TV reported.

Zardari, the husband of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was elected to parliament from the southern Sindh province in the elections in July last. "We hope that the court will hear the petition soon and I am confident I will win this case," Zaman said while speaking to the media outside the court.

"Zardari owns assets worth billions which he concealed. This is a very big case

and we have a lot of evidence," he said. "We will apprise the media when there is any headway in the case."

On December 20, Zaman had filed a reference in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) seeking the disqualification of the former president for allegedly concealing his New York apartment in his tax returns.

However, earlier this month, the PTI leader withdrew the disqualification reference stating that he would move the apex court against Zardari. Zardari served as the 11th President of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013.

On December 27, the Pakistan government placed Zardari and his sister Faryal Talpur on the Exit Control List (ECL) to prevent them from flying abroad after they were named in a Supreme Court-appointed joint investigative team probing fake bank accounts. The JIT probe, con-

stituted by the apex court on September 5, focused on "32 fake accounts" which were allegedly used to give massive financial benefits to Zardari, Talpur and several others.

However, the Supreme Court on December 31 expressed anger over the government's move placing the names of 172 suspects on the ECL and ordered it to review the decision.

The Cabinet then sent the list to a review committee. The review committee recommended the removal of 20 names from the ECL, including those of the PPP leaders.

However, Prime Minister Khan and his team rejected the recommendations and decided not to remove names of Bhutto-Zardari from the ECL.

Last week, the Supreme Court ordered the government to lift the travel ban imposed on opposition leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and the Sindh Chief Minister, and asked the country's anti-corruption body to probe their involvement in the Rs 35 billion 'fake accounts case'.

Pak court to indict Ashraf in power project corruption case

An accountability court in Pakistan will indict former premier Raja Pervez Ashraf and other accused in a power project corruption case on February 8, according to a media report. The accused were appearing in a case against three rental power

projects, which includes Gulf Rental Power Plant, Reshma Power Generation Limited and Young Gen Power Limited.

The case was heard by Judge Arshad Malik, who issued the summons for all the accused during the next date of hearing and deemed their attendance mandatory, the Express Tribune reported.

He further said that the immunity application will only be looked into after the indictment.

Judge Arshad also wondered why there was no progress in the case despite it being under trial for so long. He was told that some legal processes took more time than others and proved to be hindrances in the trial. Ashraf was Pakistan's prime minister from June 22, 2012 to March 16, 2013. In 2014, Ashraf was accused of misusing his authority as the minister for water and power to push the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and the cabinet to increase the down payment to rental power companies from seven per cent to 14 per cent.

According to details, on April 13, 2009, he sent a summary to the ECC, contained allegedly misleading facts about not meeting the terms and conditions of the seven per cent advance and advised them to double it.

Brit PM turns to Brexit 'Plan B'

AFF ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May unveils her Brexit "Plan B" to parliament on Monday after MPs shredded her EU divorce deal, deepening the political gridlock 10 weeks from departure day. Britain will leave the European Union on March 29 without a deal unless MPs can force a delay or get their act together in time and come up with an alternative plan that Brussels is also happy with.

The world's fifth-biggest economy could lose preferential access to its largest export market overnight, affecting every sector, leading to rising costs and disruption at British ports.

London and Brussels have spent the best part of two years working on a divorce agreement but MPs in parliament's lower House of Commons comprehensively rejected it on Tuesday.

May's government then survived a confidence vote on Wednesday and set about talks with figures from rival parties. But the main opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn stayed away, saying a "no-deal" departure must be ruled out first — something May says is impossible.

May spoke to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday, and to EU leaders Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk by telephone Friday to discuss where to go next on Brexit.

EU chiefs have so far ruled out renegotiating the agreement, but have signalled they could postpone the withdrawal if May changes her "red lines" on leaving the EU's customs union and blocking free movement of citizens.

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, centre, laughs during a meeting with New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, left, and military personnel in Downing Street in London on Monday.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, centre, laughs during a meeting with New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, left, and military personnel in Downing Street in London on Monday.

China grants Ivanka 5 trademarks amid trade talks

AP ■ SHANGHAI

The Chinese government has granted Ivanka Trump's company preliminary approval for another five trademarks this month, as her father's administration pushes ahead on trade negotiations with China.

Four trademarks, including child care centers, sunglasses and wedding dresses, were approved on Sunday. A fifth, covering brokerage, charitable fundraising and art valuation services, was approved on January 6, according to online trademark office records.

The applications were filed in 2016 and 2017. If no one objects, they will be finalised after 90 days. Ivanka Trump's expanding intellectual property holdings have long raised ethical concerns, particularly in



China, where the courts and bureaucracy tend to reflect the will of the ruling Communist Party. Ivanka Trump's lawyers in China did not respond immediately to a request for com-

ment. Critics argue that by asking a foreign government for valuable intellectual property rights, White House officials could open themselves to pressure in government negotia-

tions. There is also concern that the family's global trademark portfolio would open the way for lucrative business opportunities once Donald Trump leaves office.

Ivanka Trump closed her fashion brand in July. Her representatives assert that trademark filings are a normal business practice and are needed to protect her name from copycats seeking to capitalize on her fame. Companies apply for trademarks for a range of reasons.

They can be signs of corporate ambition, but many also are filed defensively, particularly in China, where trademark squatting is rampant. China has said it treats all trademark applications equally under the law.

Kremlin says peace talks with Japan a 'drawn out' process

AFF ■ MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Monday dampened expectations of any breakthrough at the upcoming summit between the leaders of Russia and Japan, saying striking a peace deal would be a very "drawn out" process.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will meet Tuesday in Moscow, part of revived negotiations aiming to formally end World War II. The peace process stalled in the 1950s due to a dispute over the Kuril islands the Soviet army occupied in the last days of the war. "The president has said from the start that the

issue of signing a peace agreement with Japan will be very drawn out in terms of time," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists hours before Abe's expected touchdown in the Russian capital. "The talks are in their initial stage," he said.

Tokyo claims as its own the so-called southern Kurils, a string of islands just north of Hokkaido which it calls Northern Territories.

In the 1950s, the Soviet Union had said it would be willing to transfer Shikotan island and Habomai, a group of islets, to Japan, following a signed peace accord. Japan at the time refused, demanding

the entire chain, which also includes the islands of Iturup and Kunashir. The notion that Moscow could now cede any territory to Japan is extremely sensitive in Russian society, with a number of protests held against it in recent weeks, including in Moscow at the weekend.

Peskov did not rule out the possibility that Putin could hand over territory in exchange for a peace deal. "Nobody has officially offered anything, so any eventual line of reasoning is hardly appropriate, they don't help the spirit of the talks," he said. "Nobody is going to go against their national interests," Peskov said.

'Trump, Erdogan agree to pursue a negotiated solution for Syria'

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump and his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan on Monday agreed to continue to pursue a negotiated solution for northeast Syria, the White House said Sunday following a telephonic conversation between the two leaders. Trump underscored the importance of defeating terrorist elements that remain in Syria, it said.

"The two leaders agreed to continue to pursue a negotiated solution for northeast Syria



that achieves our respective security concerns," the White House said in a readout of the call. The two leaders also discussed their mutual interest in expanding the trade relationship between the United States and Turkey, it said.

The White House further said Trump and Erdogan spoke on a number of important bilateral issues. Erdogan expressed his condolences for the loss of American lives in an attack claimed by ISIS in Manbij, Syria, last Wednesday.

Pope visit to Centam highlights church ministry to migrants

Guatemala City (AP): When Pope Francis visits Panama this week, he arrives not only as the first Latin American pontiff to visit Central America but as perhaps the world's most prominent advocate for migrants at a time when migration has become a pressing political issue in the region and elsewhere.

The Argentine-born son of Italian immigrants has long held the issue dear to his heart and has signaled that it will be a central theme during the trip, which comes as the latest caravan of Central Americans is wending its way toward the US-Mexico frontier and President Donald Trump's promised border wall has led to the longest government shutdown in the country's history.

Francis' emphasis on fundamental Christian teaching about welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked and feeding the hungry has been a breath of sustenance for those involved in efforts to aid migrants in Central America and Mexico, where Catholic priests, nuns and laypeople have taken the lead on attending to migrants amid what is often a vacuum of inaction and indifference by governments — or even outright hostility.

"It has been so hard, even within the church itself, to convince (people) that helping migrants is precisely part of the work of the church," said Lidia Mara Souza, coordinator of the group Pastoral of Human Mobility in Honduras.

"But the pope has supported us tremendously, and I think now he comes to help us," added Souza, a nun of the Scalabrinian order, which aids migrants as its vocation and is present along the length of the migratory route. "He must remind the politicians who declare themselves to be Christians to be that for real."



Pope Francis points at a tablet as he unveils his own user profile in Click To Pray, the official app of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, during the Angelus noon prayer he recited from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican on Sunday.

The migratory trail north from Mexico and the violent Northern Triangle region of Central America is fraught with peril. Criminal gangs control much of the route and prey upon migrants, who are often stigmatized and face discrimination as they travel distances as long as 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) with little but dreams in their backpacks.

All along the way, they rely on a network of support in the form of Catholic-run shelters where they can find a place to sleep, be safe from the cartels and get a meal or advice.

Scalabrinians were among the first to start ministering to migrants in this part of the world, in the mid-1980s opening a shelter in Tijuana, across from San Diego.

At the time, migration was largely an ignored phenomenon, said Bishop Raul Vera of Saltillo in northern Mexico, one of the first Mexicans to get involved in the cause. Little by little, Vera said, the network of safe houses tied to the church sprang up

over the following decades to reach the current number of over 80 in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

"The migrants became the messengers," the bishop said. "They told us, 'Here they mistreat us, here they receive us well.' And that way we began to see that in many places we were duplicating efforts and we began to coordinate among ourselves." In Honduras, Souza recalled, nuns attended to refugees from civil wars in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, but soon they realized that many people were also leaving that country and still more were being returned from the United States.

Now their main focus is on deportees, who in some ways are the most vulnerable.

"When the systematic deportations from the United States began, those who came back were people linked to the gangs, and I think the stigma was created that deportees are criminals and we shouldn't help them," Souza said.

Filipino Muslims vote on autonomy after long peace effort

Marawi (Philippines): Muslims in the southern Philippines voted Monday in a referendum on a new autonomous region that seeks to end nearly half a century of unrest, in what their leaders are touting as the best alternative to a new wave of Islamic State group-inspired militants.

The vote caps a tumultuous peace effort by the government in Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main rebel group, to seal a deal that was signed in 2014 but languished in the Philippine Congress until it was finally approved last year. Bloodshed including the siege of Marawi city by IS-linked militants and other bombings and attacks in the south threatened to derail it. Al Hajj Murad Ebrahim, chairman of the Moro rebels,

has repeatedly said that the creation of a viable Muslim autonomous region is the best antidote to about half a dozen smaller IS-linked radical groups that remain a threat in Mindanao, the homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

"We can roughly conclude that all these splinter groups are a result of the frustration with the peace process," Murad said in July, when President Rodrigo Duterte signed the legislation creating the new region, called Bangsamoro.

Under the deal, the rebels gave up their goal of an independent state in exchange for broad autonomy, although they originally wanted a federal unit with more powers. There are 30,000 to 40,000 fighters who are to be demobilized. Murad has

appealed to the international community to contribute to a trust fund to be used to finance the insurgents' transition from decades of waging one of Asia's longest rebellions.

People remaining in battle-scarred Marawi voted in schools set up as voting centers, and evacuees voted in Saguiaran, with some hoping peace would mean they could get their homes and lives back in the city where military troops stand guard at checkpoints and homes are filled with bullet holes.

"We believe that this plebiscite will be the key to peaceful life," said teacher Gehariyah Daroninbang, who was voting "yes" and said while the deal was not assured to be perfect, it was "near to perfect." Centuries of conquest — first

by Spanish and American colonial forces that had ruled the Philippine archipelago followed by Filipino Christian settlers — have gradually turned Muslims into a minority group in Mindanao, triggering conflict over land, resources and sharing of political power.

Uprisings seeking self-rule have been brutally suppressed, feeding more resentment.

Insecurity is fueled by proliferation of weapons and armed groups that have resorted to ransom kidnappings and extortion for survival, such as the brutal Abu Sayyaf, which is not part of any peace process.

Bangsamoro replaces an existing poverty-wracked autonomous region with a larger, better-funded and more powerful entity.

China's low birth rate falls for second year

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's two-child policy implemented in 2016 has failed to make an impact on the country's low birth rate as the number of new-borns dropped by two million last year in the world's most populous nation, according to official figures released Monday.

The figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said the low birth rates coupled with the slowdown of the Chinese economy raised concerns as the country faced demographic crisis with the population of about 60 years making 249 million, accounting for almost 18 per cent of the total population. After China implemented the comprehensive two-child policy that allows all couples to have two children — abandoning its decades-long one-child policy — in 2016, the country's health authority predicted that the fertility rate in 2017 and 2018



would be 1.97 and 2.09. They predicted that the number of new-borns in 2018 would be 7.90 lakh more than 2017.

The steady increase in old age population raised concerns over mounting costs of health care for the elderly and the shortage of labour in the world's second largest economy which is also facing a slowdown. A total of 15.23 million babies were born last year in

China, a drop by about two million from that of 2017, the data said.

It marks the second-year consecutive decrease since the country relaxed its controversial family planning policy and fully implemented the universal second-child policy since 2016. The birth rate also dropped from 1,243 to 1,094 per 100,000 population from 2017 to 2018, state-run China

Daily reported, quoting the NBS data.

Before the population data was released, Chinese experts forecast that the number of birth for last year would continue to fall due to causes such as rapid decline in the number of women at childbearing age and people's lack of willingness to have more babies.

China adopted the universal second-child policy at the beginning of 2016, allowing all couples to have two children, to counter problems such as ageing and dwindling workforce.

After the number of birth reached 17.86 million that year, the highest since 2000, the number of birth fell to 17.23 million in 2017.

The latest NBS figures also show that the total population on the Chinese mainland reached 1.395 billion, an increase of 5.3 million year-on-year with the number of peo-

ple at 60 years old or above exceeded 249 million, accounting for 17.9 per cent of the total population, according to the bureau.

The number of workforce, or those between 16 and 59 years old, stood at around 897 million, accounting for 64.3 per cent of the total population, it said.

Yi Fuxian, a research fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Su Jian, director of the National Centre for Economic Research at Peking University, told the state-run Global Times early this month that the figures for the number of new-borns failed to meet the health authority's expectation.

The number of women between the ages of 20 and 39 is expected to drop by more than 39 million over the next decade, said He Yafu, a demographer and author of a book on the impact of China's population policy.

Trend
Slazer

Madhavan solely directs Rocketry

Actor **R. MADHAVAN** will be taking over the complete directing duties on *Rocketry — The Nambi Effect* after Ananth Mahadevan had to leave the project due to "unavoidable circumstances."

Earlier, Madhavan was co-directing the film based on the life of scientist and aerospace engineer S. Nambi Narayanan, with Ananth. "He is an extremely talented filmmaker. However, owing to unavoidable circumstances and certain pressing commitments he could no longer direct the film," Madhavan said. "*Rocketry* is close to my heart. The film is shaping up well and I can't wait to tell the incredible story to the world," he added.



'I believe age or life stages should not affect a woman's career. It's important not to limit yourself. Women can do it all. I have always enjoyed playing various roles on reel — a warrior princess, model. All of this has been possible because I focus on being healthy inside to stay beautiful outside.'

—**Kareena Kapoor Khan**



Actress **ARCHANA PURAN SINGH** says she has more to offer as an artiste. She made her acting debut in 1987.



"Sometimes I feel that being an artiste, I could have explored more in the industry. In my career I have mostly got comic roles... I did not get much chance to experiment different roles. It is very important to be a versatile actor and I believe I have that potential in myself," she said. However, she has no regrets. "I am happy and satisfied with whatever God has given me. I did not even imagine that I would be able to cover such a long path in showbiz. Whatever I am today is because of God's grace and my fans love. I am grateful to them," she added.

Luke has advice for young actors

Actor **LUKE PERRY** has some acting advice for his young co-stars of *Riverdale*.

It was a different era when *Beverly Hills, 90210* was on air. Back then, where there was no social media. On the biggest challenges about having to deal with that aspect of promotion today, he said, "To me, the biggest challenge that comes with it all is just focus. You need to focus on the work."

He added, "I just try to get the younger guys to keep their private stuff private and keep the show visible. That's the key. You get a lot of feedback from the fans through social media platforms, which is great, but there are some negative sides too."



Designers **GAURAV GUPTA** and **SHANTANU-NIKHIL** unfurl their plans for a bold spring that is more about personality than gender

FLUID FALLS

Bringing together the delicacy of hand-woven fabrics with the sharpness of his signature gravity-defying, patterned designs, designer Gaurav Gupta is set to showcase his summer/resort collection — *The (Un)Folding* — at the opening of the Lakmé Fashion Week 2019.

Gaurav said his collection will bring together elements that are "unique" to Indian design, highlighting his love for origami-folding and fluid-structural construction through embellishments and textiles. He has included many first-time elements such as Lucknawi *chikankari* draped into demi-couture dresses, a particular tone of yellow that is traditionally called '*basanti*', which means the essence of sun-lit spring and Banarasi brocades, which are turned into deconstructed *lehengas*, perfect for a modern bride on a destination wedding. Even the menswear features *chikankari* and brocades in unexpected ways.

The colour palette features mostly pastel shades like powder blue, yellow, ivory and rose. Along with his scaffold-like pattern, these tones are Gaurav's vision of a glamorous and powerful spring of 2019.

Fashion designers, Shantanu and Nikhil Mehra are also going to present their first-ever grand finale for the LFW. Inspired by the beauty theme for the season, *Recruit SS'19* promises to take the audience on an empowering journey of the culmination of modern authority in the contemporary Indian framework of beliefs and will highlight the evolution that has led to the emancipation of the millennial Indian woman.



SHANTANU-NIKHIL FEEL LIKE BEING 'REBORN IN THE WORLD OF FASHION' AS THEY CALL THE SHOW AS THEIR 'ULTIMATE EXAM'

This time they are giving red a new dimension in matte flavour. Now this is a colour that they have never dabbled with. They are then sort of weaving it in with a story that has a strong emotional connect of valour, pride and integrity which pretty much sets the tone for this time's collection.

The designers feel like being "reborn in the world of fashion" as they call it their "ultimate exam." As

Nikhil said, "It has happened to us after 18 years and there isn't anything more exciting than this. The first Shantanu and Nikhil finale on a platform like Lakmé Fashion Week which has continuously given fashion and makeup a new dimension."

Added Shantanu, "It is almost like being reborn in the world of fashion. We still feel like 'Is this really happening to us?' It is like the ultimate fashion show for us...as if it is our first and last fashion show. This is the ultimate exam in the fashion world."

Talking about how much this collaboration is going to add responsibility to them as designers, Shantanu said: "First, we are always questioning ourselves at work and always looking to reinvent our styles and designs. We are looking for a disturbance in our equilibrium at work, so it is not unusual for us to be putting ourselves into this position."

Added Nikhil, "As far as the responsibility is concerned, if you have a story to tell and you stick to it, just go full-throttle and that's what we are doing. How do we make red, black and gold integrate seamlessly. Then sort of weave it in with a story that has a strong emotional connect of valour, pride and integrity that pretty much sets the tone for this collection."

The designers have been focussing on gender-neutral clothing for the last few years as they introduced men to draped kurtas which is considered to be extremely feminine. "We have taken cue from that and moved to a line for a woman who is more empowered. The silhouettes are more structured which give her that opportunity to lead the path. It speaks of women's abilities through silhouettes," said Shantanu.

Talking about being a trend-setter, Nikhil said, "We're always considered to be an anti-trend brand of design. Even the gender equality that we try to show is through the medium of couture, is more subdued and brings in a little more sanity but keeps it more occasion-driven. The focus is not only on the garment but on the wearer, there is a story to every garment."

A brand that started in 2007, building it up was the toughest and most challenging task "but at the same time is the most fulfilling and it has taken us 14 years to understand what Shantanu & Nikhil as a brand mean to the world. This rude awakening has happened recently where we have fallen in love with the country we live in and feel the need to bring back some of those glorious moments of India and modernising it to cater to this new wave of the emerging market called the millennials," said Shantanu.

They also feel that the Indian fashion industry has now realised the opportunity that lies in India's history without having to depend on craftsmanship only.

(*Lakmé Fashion Week is slated to kickstart from January 30 to February 3.*)

—With IANS inputs



Time for some 'stair-snacking'

For people who find it difficult to take out extra time for physical activity after a hectic schedule, exercise just got simpler and harder to avoid. Researchers have shown that a few minutes of stair climbing called the "stair-snacking" approach, at short intervals between work, can improve cardiovascular health.

The study showed that virtually anyone can improve their fitness, anywhere and any time throughout the day. "The findings make it even easier for people to incorporate 'exercise snacks' into their day," says Martin Gibala, professor at McMaster University in Canada. "Those who work in office towers or live in apartment buildings can vigorously climb a few flights of stairs in the morning, at lunch, and in the evening and know they are getting an effective workout."

The latest study has challenged previous studies which had shown that brief bouts of vigorous exercise or sprint interval training (SIT) are effective when performed as a single session, requiring a total time commitment of 10 minutes or so.

For this study, researchers set out to determine if SIT exercise snacks, or vigorous bouts of stair-climbing performed as single sprints spread throughout the day, would be sufficient enough to improve cardio-respiratory fitness (CRF). For the study, one group of sedentary young adults vigorously climbed a three-flight stairwell, three times per day. They repeated the protocol three times each week over the course of six weeks. The researchers compared the change in their fitness to a control group which did not exercise.

The findings, published in the journal *Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism*, showed that although sprint interval training works but the stair snacking approach was also effective. "Vigorously climbing a few flights of stairs on your coffee or bathroom break during the day seems to be enough to boost fitness in people who are otherwise sedentary," said Jonathan Little, assistant professor at University of British Columbia in Canada.

In addition to being more fit, the stair climbers were also stronger compared to their sedentary counterparts and generated more power during a maximal cycling test. In future, researchers hope to investigate different exercise snacking protocols with varying recovery times and the effect on other health-related indicators such as blood pressure and glycemic control, the team noted.

Nandana speaks from the heart

Actor, writer and child rights activist **NANDANA DEV SEN** launches her new book that demystifies the world of adopted kids



Adoption is when a child grows from her mommy's heart instead of her tummy, believes Nandana Dev Sen, an award-winning actor, writer and child rights activist who released her first book, *In My Heart*.

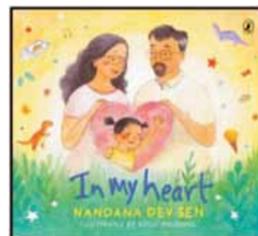
Accompanied with many illustrations, the book is well-imagined and sensitively told, encouraging all children to celebrate the unique ways in which different families are born.

Nandana said, "As a child, reader and an author, I've always adored books that were imaginative. Books that promote a kind, brave, inclusive and sensitive view of the world, without being preachy."

She further said that adoption is a critical topic in India, where we have countless disenfranchised children whose lives could be transformed just by embracing them. Yet the topic is rarely discussed in mainstream media or in Indian popular culture.

"There is still a fear of bullying attached to adoption. We don't have enough books yet that foster families can directly relate to. They could use books as a tool to discuss their precious family identities. But yes we can see a wave of change flowing, the interest is quite rapidly increasing," added the writer.

'Adoption is a critical topic in India, where we have countless disenfranchised children whose lives could be transformed just by embracing them'



Her books focusses on a larger understanding of belonging based on love rather than biological relation. It would speak equally to all non-traditional families, for instance children with homosexual parents, step siblings or a surrogate mother. She wrote this one for all kids, with the objective of widening their understanding of and regard for how different kinds of families grow together through love.

Nandana said, "The dynamics of a non-traditional family has a great deal to do with the world accepting its 'normality' and bond with

absolute respect and ease without bullying or persecution. I've always believed that children's books can go a long way in fostering a lifetime of empathy in impressionable minds — that's one reason why I love them so much."

She believes that children's books are the most influential and deliciously infectious literature in the world. They encourage them to soar with their imagination, think critically, ask questions and communicate their thoughts and feelings.

Repainting Sita

Author **CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI**'s new book, *The Forest of Enchantments* takes the readers on a voyage of introspection from a woman's perspective



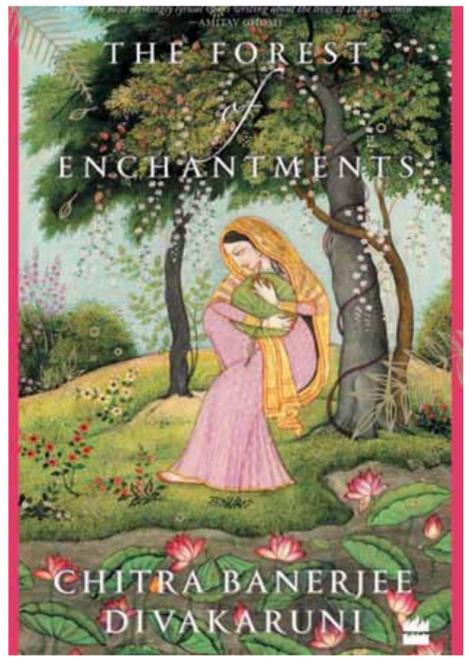
At every stage of an Indian woman's life, her name is invoked. She is portrayed as a quintessential daughter, an ideal wife and a perfect mother in various illustrations, texts, stories, and modern media. In *Ramayana*, there are disparate perspectives and different brushes with which people have painted the character of Sita over the years.

Author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni has launched her novel, *The Forest of Enchantments*, which delves in some rare archives from the Indian epic with a new perspective.

During the launch, combining her immense knowledge of Indian mythology and the fascinating stories and events in *Ramayana*, the author took the audience on a voyage of retrospection from the perspective of Sita.

In this retelling, Divakaruni places Sita at the centre of the novel calling it the "Sita's version."

The novel is also a human story of a few other women in the epic, often misunderstood and relegated to the margins — Kaikeyi, Surpanakha and



Mandodari. A powerful comment on duty, betrayal, infidelity and honour, it is also about women's struggle to retain autonomy in a world that privileges men, as Divakaruni transforms an ancient tale into a gripping, contemporary battle of wills.

Divakaruni said, "I continued to discover myself through Sita, who for me has always been at the height of the *Ramayana*."

She talked about the condition of women. She told how

she wanted to show Sita's desire to experience the world outside her confinement in a space where she only took care of her in-laws.

While the *Ramayana* resonates even today, the author in her book makes it more relevant than ever through the underlying questions in the novel — How should women be treated by their loved ones? What are their rights in a relationship? When does a woman need to stand up and say, 'it's enough.'

'India will win badminton Gold at Tokyo'

Chief National coach Gopichand expects shuttlers to continue impressive run and win first ever yellow metal in 2020 Olympics

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Saying that "every year has been better than the previous one", chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand is hopeful India would clinch its first-ever Gold medal in the discipline at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The 45-year-old badminton legend said the sport has undergone remarkable change in India in the last ten years.

"Well, I think every year, in the last few years, has been better than the previous one."

"In 2008 (Beijing Olympics) — the quarterfinal results was the biggest result, in 2012 (London Olympics) we had the first-ever Bronze (Saina Nehwal), in 2016 (Rio Olympics) we had the first-ever Silver (P V Sindhu) and, hopefully, 2020 (Tokyo Olympics) we will have the first-ever Gold," Gopichand said on Monday.

The former All England champion was speaking after felicitating the seven winners of the IDBI Federal Quest for Excellence #Young Champ programme, who will undergo training at his academy in Hyderabad.

Gopichand said earlier badminton was remembered for men's singles players like Nandu Natekar, Suresh Goel and Prakash Padukone, among others, but Nehwal changed the perception.

"Well, yes. For a long time before these girls (referring to Nehwal, P V Sindhu) came out, badminton was primarily



Saina Nehwal poses with 2012 London Olympics Bronze medal; (in box) P V Sindhu kisses 2016 Rio Olympics Silver medal; (right) P Gopichand poses for a photograph with young shuttlers during an event launch PTI/File Pictures



remembered for men's singles players, whether it is Nandu Natekar, Suresh Goel, Prakash (Padukone) Sir or Syed Modi.

"It is how that whole thing was. The change to that (perception) happened (and for that) Saina (Nehwal) was important.

"We needed somebody with that kind of push, hunger, will to win, because (being) the first person to come out and win is very difficult," the veteran shuttler said.

He heaped praise on Sindhu, saying the 2016 Rio Olympics Silver medalist has at least two more Olympics left.

"It is great to see what Sindhu has achieved — World

Championship medal, Olympic medal and all other medals — and you can still look at her and say 'she has two Olympics to go at least', and that is something fantastic," he noted.

Gopichand said he was able to pass on the formula for winning to his students at an early age.

"I won the All England (Championship) at 27 and all my life I wish I had won All England at 20, then I would have had so many more years of experience."

"When we were starting off (with coaching), it was my mom's statement — 'if you had won early, or if your kids (students) will win early, they will have enough

chances to stumble, fall down, tie their laces and move'.

"Because when I realised that I knew the formula for winning, my career was finished. So I just wanted to pass it (formula) so that my kids (students) can win at a younger age."

"And I'm sure I have been successful in that because Sindhu won when she was very young. A lot of my players have won at a young age," he said.

According to Gopichand, the change in Indian badminton over the last 10 years has been "fantastic".

"Fantastic, I would say. The sport has jumped in all parameters. Prakash (Padukone) Sir played leagues in Denmark, Vimal (Kumar) played in UK, I have played in Germany and today we host the biggest league in the world (Premier Badminton League).

"Things have changed. We have (Carolina) Marin coming here to play, Viktor (Axelsson) coming here to play."

"Tournaments in those countries are stopped because we have leagues more popular than theirs. The earnings of top players have gone up. They are encouraging a whole set of people to take the sport forward," he signed off.



Delhi Police XI players pose for a group photograph after reaching Yamuna Trophy 2018 final by beating Aaj Tak XI by 99 runs in the semifinal match

SINGLES

WARNER TO UNDERGO ELBOW SURGERY

SYDNEY: Banned former Australian vice-captain David Warner is expected to undergo minor surgery on his elbow on Tuesday after returning home from the Bangladesh Premier League with an injury. The 32-year-old returned to Australia last week following a stint with the Sylhet Sixers in the Bangladesh Twenty20 tournament after he reported pain in his right elbow. Warner's elbow will be assessed in Melbourne on Tuesday, before he is expected to undergo minor surgery, *Cricket.Com.Au* reported on Monday. Cricket Australia's website said Warner's condition was not believed to be as serious as the elbow injury sustained by Smith, also in the Bangladesh tournament. Smith, 29, underwent surgery last week and is expected to spend six weeks in a brace before extensive rehabilitation. Smith's injury could affect his chances of being picked in the national side for the World Cup starting in May, as well as the Ashes series — also in England — later this year.

KI SUNG RULED OUT OF ASIAN CUP

AL-AIN: South Korea's Asian Cup hopes have suffered a blow after Premier League midfielder Ki Sung-yueng was ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury. The 29-year-old Newcastle United man played less than an hour at the tournament before being taken off during South Korea's opening win over the Philippines in Dubai. Ki's withdrawal was announced as South Korea, two-time winners of the tournament and the 2015 runners-up, prepare to take on Bahrain in the round of 16 on Tuesday.

ANAND BEATS MAMEDYAROV

WIJK AAN ZEE: Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand scored a crushing victory over Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the eighth round to share the lead with Norway's Magnus Carlsen in the Tata Steel chess tournament. Having outclassed Vladimir Kramnik of Russia as black in the previous round, Anand, a five times winner here, continued his demolition act and grounded Mamedyarov who currently holds the third position in the world rankings. The Indian ace took his tally to 5.5 points out of a possible eight and is matched only by reigning world champion Carlsen who himself played a fine game to beat Richard Rapport of Hungary. With two leaders in front, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, Ding Liren of China and local star Anish Giri are right on their heels, trailing by half a point. Temour Radjabov of Azerbaijan is in sole sixth spot on 4.5 points while other Indian Vidit Gujrathi shares the seventh spot having four points in all. Five rounds still remain in the first super tournament of the year.

Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth to compete at Indonesia Masters

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Olympic Silver medalist P V Sindhu will resume her quest for glory in the new season, while Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth aim to continue their impressive run when they start their campaign at the Indonesia Masters, starting with qualifiers on Tuesday.

Seeded second Sindhu has been a cut above other Indians as she claimed Silver medals at all the major events — Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championship, before ending the year with the prestigious World Tour Final title, the first Indian to achieve the feat.

After the engagements of Premier Badminton League (PBL), Sindhu decided to skip

last week's Malaysia Masters and she will begin her campaign against former Olympic Gold medalist China's Li Xuerui on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old from Hyderabad is expected to clash with reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin at the quarterfinals.

Saina, on the other hand, had an impressive start to the season, losing semifinal spot at Malaysia Masters, which was the first World Tour Super 500 tournament of the season.

The London Olympic Bronze medalist will take on a qualifier in the opening round



and faces the prospect of meeting Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, seeded fourth, at the quarters.

Srikanth, who also entered the quarterfinals at Kuala Lumpur last week, plays his first match against Malaysia's Liew Daren.

The eighth seeded Indian will be joined by others such as Sameer Verma, B Sai Praneeth and HS Prannoy.

Sameer had enjoyed a good run last season, winning titles at Swiss Open, Hyderabad Open and Syed Modi International. He also qualified for the World

Tour Finals at the last moment and secured at a creditable semifinal finish. Praneeth also had a forgettable 2018 but dished out some good performances at the PBL and would look to translate the confidence in the international circuit.

With the 2020 Olympic qualification period starting from April, the Indian trio of Sameer, Praneeth and Prannoy will look to put the best foot forward.

Sameer will begin the season with a clash with the legendary Lin Dan, Praneeth faces Olympic champion Chen Long, while Prannoy meets Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in the first round.

In men's doubles, it will be a

clash between two Indian combinations with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty taking on Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy.

Women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will square off against Thailand's eighth seed Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai, while mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj and Ashwini will pair up to clash with seventh seeded English husband-wife combination of Chris Adcock and Gabriella Adcock.

Another mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will face fourth seed Indonesian combo of Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir.

'Shouldn't get too caught up with Kohli'

PTI ■ NAPIER

New Zealand's senior-most batsman Ross Taylor on Monday urged his team to focus on the Indian top-order rather than "get caught up" with run-machine Virat Kohli during the upcoming limited overs series.

The tour starts on Wednesday with the first ODI in Napier. India will be playing five One-dayers and three T20 against the 'Black Caps'.

Entering the Test series worried about how to decode Kohli, the Australians recently learnt it the hard way as Cheteshwar Pujara stole the thunder Down Under, helping his team to an epic triumph. Taylor doesn't want his team to follow a similar approach.

"He's (Kohli) a sensational player, the best one-day player going around, easily. It's easy to get caught up in him. You've got



two pretty good openers at the top, Sharma and Dhawan, before he gets in," Taylor was quoted as saying by *stuff.Co.Nz*.

Taylor had his first net session at the McLean Park after his finger injury during the home series against Sri Lanka.

While Kohli averages a staggering 113 in ODIs in 2018, Taylor's average is 92 in the same period across 13 ODIs.

"I've played a few internationals now and understand my role in the team. I've worked on my game and try and rotate the strike early and be as busy as I can. Different shots against spinners at different stages have maybe evolved my game in a positive way," Taylor said. "But you're still human and you still have to start again, and it's exciting against India."

I WILL BE FIT BEFORE IPL: SHAW

NEW DELHI: Recovering from an ankle injury that forced him out of the Australia tour, the young Prithvi Shaw on Monday said he will be fit in time for the 12th season of Indian Premier League.

The 19-year-old Shaw suffered the injury in Australia before the start of the four-match Test series.

"I will be fit before the Indian Premier League and I am trying hard to reach full fitness. I am working on my ankle as well as on my upper body," Shaw told *India TV*.

The Mumbai opener has been retained by Delhi Capitals for what will be his second season.

The batsman twisted his ankle while fielding in the deep during practice match ahead of the first Test in Adelaide.

Having stayed on with the team hoping to be fit for the second Test in Perth, Shaw was eventually ruled out of the remainder of the series and sent back home for an extensive rehabilitation programme. PTI

Don't mind being called arrogant: Vinesh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Stubborn by her own admission, trail-blazing Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat doesn't mind being called arrogant for it since the attitude comes in handy to intimidate rivals on the mat.

"I am very stubborn, since childhood. If I feel something is right, even if that is wrong, I will be very stubborn about that and I make sure people agree with me even if I am wrong sometimes," she laughed.

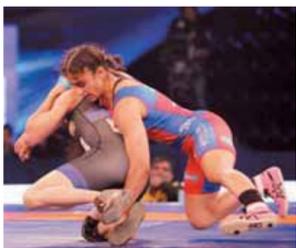
But would she call it a virtue, to be steadfast even if wrong?

"If someone explains with love and proves that my thought process is wrong and I also start to realise that, then I concede and step back," she said.

And what about the perception of being arrogant for being so headstrong? "Yes people say that (arrogant) but I know what's inside me. And if it helps me on the mat, I don't bother," she said.

"It helps me on the mat. People say it's over-confidence but for me it's belief. I don't get intimidated and your opponent also notices the body language. Some people work on it but for me it's God gift," she added.

Vinesh, the first Indian athlete ever to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Award, also insisted that the mindset of Indian wrestlers have greater self-belief.



Vinesh, the first Indian athlete ever to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Award, also insisted that the mindset of Indian wrestlers have greater self-belief

"I feel India have 4-5 strong contenders, who can beat any wrestler in the world. I won't take names but we can win 2-3 Olympic medals. The mindset has changed," she asserted.

"Earlier people used to just look for participation or win a round at the Worlds but now medals are a possibility for all. I know these girls. After Sakshi's Bronze, girls are now targeting Gold at Olympics.

"We have started becoming technically smart while earlier we just played a power game, it's giving results."

The significance of getting a nomination for the prestigious Laureus awards has still not dawned on the Haryana grappler.

"Honestly I still don't know what this nomination is about. I just know that my name has been put for voting. I had not even heard of Laureus. And if no Indian athlete has been nominated before, I can only be proud of it."

"...It's definitely huge for wrestling in India because it is still struggling for recognition," said Vinesh, who is competing for the Mumbai Maharathi in the ongoing edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL).

The winner of multiple international medals says her comeback from a career-threatening injury, sometimes has even amazed.

"I have seen athletes struggling so badly after suffering injuries. Sometimes I get shocked to see what and how I have achieved this success. It's nothing but God's grace."

Will she not give credit to her own hard work?

"It's not just hard work because innumerable athletes do that. This is something which I don't know. I beat even the formidable Japan wrestlers after injury, it's God's grace only."

साफ नीयत - सही विकास

हुनर को मिलेगी नई पहचान

विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना

प्रदेश के शहरी एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के पारम्परिक कारीगर जैसे बड़ई, दर्जी, टोकरी बुनकर, नाई, सुनार, लोहार, कुम्हार, हलवाई, मोची, राजमिस्त्री एवं हस्तशिल्पियों के आजीविका के साधनों का सुदृढीकरण करने की नई पहल

योजनान्तर्गत आच्छादित पारम्परिक कारीगरों एवं दस्तकारों को उद्यम के आधार पर एक साप्ताहिक कौशल वृद्धि हेतु प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया जायेगा। प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम निःशुल्क एवं आवासीय होगा।

परम्परागत कारीगरों द्वारा प्रयोग किये जा रहे औजार पुरानी तकनीक पर आधारित हैं। सेवा/व्यवसाय के सफल संचालन हेतु आधुनिकतम तकनीक पर आधारित उन्नत किस्म के टूलकिट का वितरण कौशल वृद्धि प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के उपरान्त सभी प्रशिक्षणार्थियों को किया जायेगा।

-: योजना की पात्रता :-:

1. आवेदक उत्तर प्रदेश का मूल निवासी होना चाहिए।
2. आवेदक की न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष होनी चाहिए। आयु की गणना आवेदन करने की तिथि से की जायेगी।
3. आवेदक को पारम्परिक कारीगरी जैसे बड़ई, दर्जी, टोकरी बुनकर, नाई, सुनार, लोहार, कुम्हार, हलवाई, मोची अथवा दस्तकारी व्यवसाय से जुड़ा होना चाहिए।
4. योजनान्तर्गत लाभ प्राप्त किये जाने हेतु किसी प्रकार की शैक्षणिक योग्यता आवश्यक नहीं है।
5. परिवार का केवल एक सदस्य ही योजनान्तर्गत आवेदन हेतु पात्र होगा। परिवार का आश्रय पति अथवा पत्नी से है।
6. योजनान्तर्गत पात्रता हेतु जाति एक मात्र आधार नहीं होगा। योजनान्तर्गत लाभ प्राप्त करने हेतु ऐसे व्यक्ति भी पात्र होंगे जो परम्परागत कारीगरी करने वाली जाति से भिन्न हों। ऐसे आवेदकों को परम्परागत कारीगरी से जुड़े होने के प्रमाण के रूप में ग्राम प्रधान, अध्यक्ष नगर पंचायत अथवा नगर पालिका/ नगर निगम के सम्बन्धित वार्ड के सदस्य द्वारा निर्गत किया गया प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य होगा।
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Serena muscles past Simona

Williams overcomes top seed Halep's tough challenge to advance in quarters

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Serena Williams subdued a stubborn fightback from world number one Simona Halep to take her quest for a record-equalling 24th major into the season's first Grand Slam quarter-finals on Monday.

The 37-year-old American beat the Romanian top seed 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in an epic three-setter to line up a last eight clash with Czech eighth seed Karolina Pliskova.

It was Williams' first match against a world number one since returning after having a baby in September 2017 and the American showed why many already regard her as the greatest of all time.

She unleashed an early onslaught and Halep was in danger crumbling before the French Open champion regrouped for a stirring comeback.

"It was an intense match and there were some incredible points," Williams said.

"She's the number one player in the world and there's a reason why... (but) I'm such a fighter, I just never give up."

Williams won her 23rd Grand Slam Down Under two years ago while two months pregnant and is the bookies' favourite to claim an eighth Australian title, despite being seeded 16th.

Another major would match Margaret Court's tally and an intensely-focused Williams had not dropped a set in three matches before meeting Halep.

Halep started slowly when she allowed Halep to bring up three break points in the opening game, conceding with a double fault.

But the American broke back in the next, racing to the net for an overhead smash when one of her powerfully hit returns flew high off Halep's racquet.

She then ran away with the first set 6-1 in 20 minutes, blasting 10 winners to



Serena Williams, right, is congratulated by Simona Halep after winning fourth round match at the Australian Open championship. AP

three against the world's top-ranked player. Halep did better early in the second set, and when the American did break her in the third game she immediately broke back.

Standing well behind the baseline, she drew Williams into more rallies and began to find her range, hitting the corners to move the American around.

Halep broke again to take a set off Williams, celebrating with a fired-up double fist pump.

The turning point came in the sixth game of the third set when Halep clawed three break points but Williams held and took a decisive break in the fifth.

UPBEAT DESPITE LOSS

World number one Simona Halep remained upbeat after a gutsy display against 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams, who is on a mission this year for a record equalling 24th title.

When asked to rate her campaign she replied: "Close to 10." "I have the courage to say that, because I took the risk to stay home so much (for off-season rest)."

"I haven't prepared for the highest level in tennis, but I didn't play bad, so I'm happy about the way that it's been going this tournament. I take only the positives. I had great matches." Halep was not concerned her fourth-round exit could cost her the number one ranking, saying she preferred to concentrate on tournament results.

"The main goal is just to play as good as I can every match, to win every match I play, so the ranking doesn't really matter," she said.

"At this stage I have to work hard to get the level back, to feel 100 percent every match. So I'll work for that."

As for her immediate plans, Halep said she would be resting up and closely watching the rest of the season-opening Grand Slam.

"I'll just go home, I will rest and I will watch tennis," she said. "I'm also curious about who is going to win."



DJOKOVIC INCHES CLOSER TO HISTORY

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Drenched Novak Djokovic admitted he "didn't feel so great" after surviving a physical fourth-round examination against 15th seed Daniil Medvedev at the Australian Open.

The world number one came through an almost three-and-a-half hour, four-set grind that extended into the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Djokovic dropped a set for the second match running but won 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-3 at 12:43 am to set up a quarter-final against Japan's eighth seeded Kei Nishikori on Wednesday.

Serb Djokovic and Russian Medvedev both needed attention from the trainer during an exhausting encounter liberally sprinkled with punishing rallies of 30 shots or more.

"I didn't feel so great, you know, in the last 20 minutes of the match," Djokovic told reporters. "So we'll see tomorrow how the body reacts. But I'm confident I can recover and I can be ready for next one," he said.

"It was just, you know, a little bit of fatigue, a little bit of back. Nothing major. But there are a couple of things that have surfaced," said the 14-time Grand Slam champion.

"It was kind of a cat-and-a-mouse game for most of the match."

"We had rallies of 40, 45 exchanges. That's why I think it was physically exhausting."

'DRAINING MATCH'

"His backhand is very, very solid. He didn't give me much from that side, but, you know, you can't always play on the forehand."

"You have to open up the court and try to be patient and construct the point." The 31-year-old Serb crucially saved three break points at 1-2, 0-40 in the pivotal third set to break the tenacious 22-year-old's resolve.

"Even though it was three sets to one, it seems like a five-set match, really," said Djokovic.

"It was draining physically a lot, because, you know, you just could not rely on the one-two punch tactics," Djokovic reached his 43rd Grand Slam quarter-final to stay on course for a record seventh Australian Open title, but will next have to conquer marathon man Nishikori.

The Japanese number one was in trouble at two sets down before winning a third five-setter in four matches to get past Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

"Congratulations to him for fighting back from two sets to love down and break down. He's a fighter," said Djokovic.

"He's a very talented player. One of the quickest players on the tour. You know, hard worker. I have lots of respect for him."

The Australian Open is Djokovic's most successful major and a seventh crown would put him clear of six-times champion Roger Federer, who was eliminated on Sunday, and Australian great Roy Emerson, whose six wins all came before the Open era.

Barty fired up for Kvitova re-match

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Hometown hope Ashleigh Barty faces a tough battle against Czech veteran Petra Kvitova for a spot in the semi-finals on Tuesday but will have the entire host nation cheering her on. The other contest for a final four berth pits the unseeded pairing of Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Danielle Collins against one another, with both players seeking Grand Slam breakthroughs.

Barty, 22, entered this year's tournament as 15th seed but carries massive pressure from an Australian public desperate for Grand Slam success after becoming the first local to make



the last eight in a decade.

She has already downed five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova and is on a red-hot run of form, winning seven of her eight matches this year. But against the eighth-seeded Kvitova, Barty is up against one of the few players on tour

who can boast a richer vein of 2019 form.

Kvitova has won all nine of her matches this year, including a three-set win over Barty in the final of the Sydney International warm-up tournament.

With two Wimbledon titles in her trophy cabinet, the 28-year-old Kvitova has experience going deep into Grand Slams, while Barty's run to the Melbourne quarters is the furthest she has gone at a major.

Throw in the fact that Kvitova has a 3-0 record against Barty and the task facing the Australian looks imposing.

But Barty, whose best showing at a major is the US Open fourth round last year, has wel-

comed the pressure, saying this year's career plan was always to "go deep into Slams".

"I feel like that was the next step for me," she said.

Russia's Pavlyuchenkova, the world number 44, is a player who has been threatening to reach the next level for several years but still remains on the fringes of success at the majors.

The 27-year-old's match against Collins is her second appearance in the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park and her fourth overall at Grand Slams.

She is yet to progress further but showed admirable resilience to fight back after dropping a set to US fifth seed Sloane Stephens in a third-round match.

Nadal faces Tiafoe

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Relentless Rafael Nadal will aim to snuff out the challenge of young giant-killer Frances Tiafoe on Tuesday, while young Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas has eyes on a maiden semi-final after knocking out Roger Federer. The tournament hits the quarter-final stage in Melbourne with 17-time Grand Slam winner Nadal emerging as a strong title favourite. The Spaniard has not dropped a set and demolished former world number four Tomas Berdych 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) in the fourth round in an awesome display.

Lying in his path is

American Tiafoe who has already accounted for the fifth seed Kevin Anderson and become a fans' favourite with his exuberant LeBron James style celebrations and inspiring life story. The son of immigrants from Sierra Leone, Tiafoe turned 21 on Sunday and celebrated his birthday by beating 20th seed Grigor Dimitrov to reach a Slam quarter-final for the first time.

"I'm so excited to play Rafa. We're going to have some fun, going to have some long rallies." Nadal said he was aware of the young world number 39, and would be on his guard against a man he had never played.

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