

VIRAT WINS ICC
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YEAR AWARD
15 SPORT

Modi takes on Congress over corruption issue

PNS ■ VARANASI

Launching a veiled attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the corruption issue and said despite knowing the disease which was weakening the nation, the party had neither taken any step to treat it nor showed any will power to overcome the same. He announced the BJP ended "85 per cent of the loot" in four-and-a-half years.

Addressing the inaugural session of Parvasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at Deendayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi on Tuesday, he said: "Former PM (indicating Rajiv Gandhi) had accepted that only 15 paise of Re 1 reached the masses and said Congress governments over the years did nothing to stop the leakage. Modi said his government gave about ₹5,80,000 crore to the people directly through various schemes.

Modi described NRIs as India's brand ambassadors and said they were the symbols of the country's capabilities.

The government has changed the mindset that India cannot change, he said in the presence of chief guest Mauritian Prime Minister, Pravind Jugnauth, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others during the inauguration of 15th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention 2019, in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Modi said India's contribu-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others during the inauguration of 15th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention 2019, in Varanasi on Tuesday

tion was being recognised at the international level, especially its role with regard to environment.

The PM added that during the last four and a half years of governance, about Rs 5,80,000 crore was transferred to the beneficiaries of various welfare schemes directly to their bank accounts. "Imagine, if the country was being run on the older system, then Rs 4,50,000 crore would have vanished," PM Modi said while addressing the NRIs in his Lok Sabha constituency.

"Now just consider that if

the country was being run through the old system, then even today from this ₹5,80,000 crore, about ₹4,50,000 crore would have disappeared or leaked. If we would not have brought a change in the system then this amount would have been looted like the former prime minister had accepted that it was looted," Modi said.

This corrective measure could have been taken earlier also, but there was no intention or will, he said.

Modi said his government also identified about 7 crore fake people who existed only on

paper, taking advantage of government schemes. "Just think about it, more than the population of many countries such as Britain, France, Italy, we had people who just existed on paper to take advantage of government schemes," he said.

Mauritian premier Jugnauth, who is the chief guest for the three-day event, also spoke on the occasion. He hailed the Prime Minister for India's transformation through initiatives such as the Skill India and the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao schemes. He also praised Modi's global steward-

ship in promoting clean energy and for setting up the International Solar Alliance.

Jugnauth announced that his country will hold a Bhagavad Gita Mahotsav next month and a Bhojpuri Festival next year.

For the first time, the three-day convention is being organised from January 21 to 23 instead of January 9 to allow participants to visit the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad and attend the Republic Day parade in the national capital.

The theme of this year's convention is 'Role of Indian diaspora in building new India.'

Mauritian PM delights crowd at PBD with chaste Bhojpuri

Varanasi: Many foreign dignitaries speak a few Hindi words to wow crowds in India but Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth went a step further on Tuesday and broke into chaste Bhojpuri in his address at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, much to the delight of the gathering. Delivering the keynote address as the chief guest at the inauguration of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in this temple town, Jugnauth also announced that Mauritius will host a Bhagavad Gita Mahotsav in partnership with the Haryana government next month and also for the first time organise a Bhojpuri Festival next year.

"Bahut bars pehle, jaun logan hiyan se Mauritius jal rahan, aaj oo logan ki sانتاana ee pavitra dharti par aal hawan, ja humni ki khatir ee apam aap mein aega teertha

(Many years ago, those people who had left for Mauritius, their children have come to this pure land and for them this land is pilgrimage)," the visiting leader said, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

Jugnauth, who also spoke in Hindi several times during his address, signed off saying,

"Dono deshon ki gehri mitrata bani rahe (the friendship between the two countries continues)."

Many of those from India who first arrived in Mauritius to work as indentured labourers were those from Bihar, speaking Bhojpuri. "If India is unique, Indianness is universal," Jugnauth said in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Uttar Pradesh Chief



PM Narendra Modi with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

Minister Yogi Adityanath, among others.

The Mauritian premier lauded India's soft power and said the recognition of the International Day of Yoga was a manifestation of it. Jugnauth also hailed Prime Minister Modi's leadership, saying India had transformed under him and taken many initiatives to facilitate the less fortunate to have better access to opportunities.

The world applauds the impressive economic performance of India and the transformation of this country under your leadership Modi ji.

Your wish for a modern and prosperous India has inspired many initiatives like Skill India, Digital India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Smart city, Start Up, India Swachh Bharat,

Ayushman Bharat and many others. "These not only speak of your vision of a modern India, your attachment to respect for human dignity and inclusiveness but also your wish to ensure that development benefits all citizens, including the global community," he said, praising Modi's development initiatives.

He lauded India for spearheading the setting up of the International Solar Alliance.

Jugnauth said the diaspora connect was very important in the development journey.

He also thanked India for supporting Mauritius' development through various assistance projects. Later, Jugnauth held talks with Modi on the sidelines of the event and the two leaders discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

IPS officer's brother among three ultras shot in Shopian encounter

KHURSHEED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Three Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, including younger brother of a serving Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shirmin village of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday.

The encounter took place a day after three ultras were gunned down in a similar operation in Hapatnar area of central district Budgam. Clashes erupted at the site of the encounter resulting to injuries to several persons, including four journalists.

A police spokesman said that the operation was carried out on the basis of "credible inputs about the presence of terrorists" that followed a cordon and search operation jointly by police and security forces in the area.

Security sources said one

of the slain terrorists was identified as Shamsul Haq Mengnoo, a resident of Draggad village in Shopian district. Mengnoo was pursuing bachelors course in Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) at a Government college here before joining militancy. Belonging to a well-off family of orchardists, his elder brother Inamul Haq is a 2012 batch IPS officer, presently posted in North-East.

Security sources said soon after the cordon was intensified in Shrimul village, terrorists hiding underground in an open area tried to escape while opening fire on the security forces. During the retaliatory action, three ultras were killed.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range) Swayam Prakash Pani said the security forces conducted "two good" operations in Budgam and Pulwama district

on two consecutive days. "These were difficult operations to conduct. They (terrorists) were hiding in open area," Pani said.

A large number of protesters gathered around the encounter site in a bid to hamper the operation and help terrorists escape. Reports also said four journalists were hospitalised after they suffered pellet injuries while covering the gunfight. They received pellets on face, neck and other body parts. Police said six security personnel were also injured in the clashes.

"Only five cases of injuries were reported and three of them were discharged after preliminary medical attention. Separately six security force personnel injured during the clashes have been discharged after medical attention," police said in a statement.

Data provided by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), under the Ministry of

102 one-horned rhinos killed in 10 years

Assam hogs list of casualties; 209 poachers arrested

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Environment and Forests, showed that the maximum number of killing of 84 one-horned rhinoceros was reported from Assam.

West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are the only two States which have reported such killings, with 17 deaths and one death, respectively, during the period, according to data.

Noida-based lawyer Ranjan Tomar had sought State-wise data on the number of one-horned rhinos killed by poachers in the last 10 years and offenders arrest from the WCCB, a statutory body formed to combat organised wildlife crime in the country.

"As per data available in the records of the bureau based on the information from the State forest and police departments, 102 one-horned rhinos have been killed and 209 poachers have been arrested in the last 10 years in India," the WCCB said in a written reply.

Continued on Page 7



EC orders FIR against expert for rigging claim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With controversy erupting over allegations made by a self-proclaimed cyber expert who alleged Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) can be hacked and the 2014 Lok Sabha polls were rigged, the Election Commission on Tuesday filed a complaint with the Delhi Police, asking it to register an FIR against him for his false claims which, it said, can "create fear" in voters' minds.

In its complaint to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi District), the poll panel asked police to investigate the matter "promptly" for violation of certain sections of the Indian Penal Code dealing with spreading rumour to alarm the public and other provisions of related laws. Syed Shuja had on Monday claimed in London that the EVMs can be tampered with and that the 2014 Lok Sabha elections were rigged. See P5

Hailstorm, rain pelt down on rabi crops

IMD predicts more farm damage as raging blizzard likely in J&K, HP, Uttarakhand today

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The hailstorm and rainfall that lashed Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday may damage the ongoing standing rabi crops, including wheat cultivation. The national Capital was also whipped by severe hailstorm and downpour since early on Tuesday.

According to Agriculture Ministry officials, while the production of wheat and other rabi crops was expected to come down this year as the sowing area has reduced as compared to that of the last year, the hailstorm will further damage the rabi crops.

"However, it is too early to

estimate the damage from hailstorm. The State Government's Agriculture Department will assess the damage and inform the Ministry," said officials.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted widespread rainfall, hailstorm with gusty wind and snowfall along with heavy rainfall over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on Wednesday.

The IMD said rain and thunderstorm will continue on Wednesday in northern and northwest parts of the country due to intense western disturbance bearing down on North West India and cyclonic circulation developed over Afghanistan and Central Pakistan.

Rain lashed the plains while higher reaches of Kashmir witnessed fresh snowfall for the second day. The snowfall and rain blocked the 300-km long Srinagar-Jammu national highway. The flight operations at the airport here were also affected. Four flights were cancelled and 11 delayed due to poor visibility. The Himachal Pradesh capital and picturesque Manali and Dalhousie on Tuesday witnessed more snow that snapped road links, however tourists made merry by hurling snowballs at one another.

Director of the Punjab Agriculture Department Jasbir Singh Bains advised wheat growers to not let rainwater stagnate in the field as it could



be harmful to the crop.

Naseeb Singh, a farmer from Jind district, said rain at this time will help in containing the fungal disease yellow rust, but hailstorm will destroy crop. Wheat is the main rabi crop in Punjab and is grown in over 35 lakh hectare area in the State, also known as the food bowl of the country. In Haryana, 25.01 lakh hectare are under wheat cultivation.

As per latest Agriculture Ministry's data, sowing of winter or rabi crops, an indicator of the pace of farm activities, is down by nearly 5 per cent compared to last year. A significant fall in sowing in Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Rajasthan has affected wheat and other crops, bringing the

overall area under rabi crops down by nearly 5 per cent to 588 lakh hectares. The total area cultivated in the corresponding week in 2017-18 was around 618 lakh hectare.

Rabi cultivation data released by the Agriculture Ministry showed the area under rice is about 21.5 per cent lower than the same period last year due to a drop in rice cultivation in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Despite favoured growing conditions for the rabi crops, wheat cultivation, on the other hand, reported a 2.5 per cent deficit as compared to last year. As against an area of around 304 lakh hectare sown in 2017-18, the area under wheat cultivation is around 296 lakh hectare, main-

ly because of drop in sowing in drought-hit Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as West Bengal.

There is nearly a 10 per cent drop in the sowing of gram, a major pulse crop of the season. This deficit has pulled down the overall pulses area by over 5.5 per cent. As compared to the 157.8-lakh hectare covered in the corresponding week in 2017-18, the pulse has been grown only in 95 lakh hectare so far. Coarse cereals, too, are faring badly, with an overall drop in area of nearly 14 per cent.

The area under jowar cultivation at 24.6 lakh hectare is around 19 per cent lower than the 30.27 lakh hectare last year; maize is down by 9.5 per cent to 14 lakh hectare.

B'khand e-way base to laid before March

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi government is certain to lay the foundation stone of much-hyped Bundelkhand Expressway before the notification for Lok Sabha elections in March this year. "Officials of Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) have been asked to speed up ground work so that the foundation of Bundelkhand Expressway can be laid before March," a senior official told *The Pioneer* in Lucknow on Tuesday.

The proposed Bundelkhand Expressway is a 294-kilometre, four-lane access-controlled highway. This will start from Etawah and after joining Agra-Lucknow Expressway, pass through Auraiya, Jalaun, Orai, Rath, Banda and Chitrakoot. As

Agra-Lucknow Expressway connects Agra-Noida Yamuna Expressway, commutation time between Delhi and Chitrakoot will be reduced by almost eight hours.

The official said that as the Defence Corridor was also to come up along Bundelkhand Expressway, the government wanted to expedite the project as the twin schemes were bound to change the face of Bundelkhand.

A series of meetings have been held between officials of UPEIDA and Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey, where directions were given to speed up land procurement for the project. Funds in the excess of ₹3,000 crore have been earmarked for the purchase of land while an additional ₹11,000 crore will be required to build the Expressway. Over 60 per cent of the project will

be financed by private players. UPEIDA officials have been asked to complete land purchase by January-end so that levelling can be started by February. In the next budget, we are expecting a good budgetary allocation and once the foundation is laid before announcement of poll notification, work would continue," the official said.

The tentative date for foundation laying of the project is March 3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may attend the function. The notification for Lok Sabha elections is likely to be issued by March 7. The Yogi government is trying to hasten the foundation-laying ceremony keeping Lok Sabha elections in mind so that the BJP can go to the people claiming that it started the construction of the Expressway within a year.

Mayawati, Akhilesh question use of EVMS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav objected to the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMS) during polling and demanded that ballot papers be used in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The demand came after a self-proclaimed US-based Indian cyber expert claimed at a London press conference on Monday that the 2014 Lok Sabha elections were 'rigged' through EVMS and said that the machines could be hacked. Referring to the startling claim, Mayawati said: "The latest revelations have only strengthened the doubts on EVMS. Under such condition, it would be better that future elections, especially the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, be conducted using ballot papers which can be verified at three levels unlike the EVMS."

Urging the Election Commission to take a strong note of the issue, Mayawati said that the latest revelation was sensational and exposed the 'conspiracy' of the BJP.

Akhilesh questioned the use of EVMS saying why even advanced nations were not using them.

Akhilesh alleged that the BJP government was weakening democratic institutions and was using them to suppress dissent and the voice of the opposition. The SP chief was speaking at a function at Janeshwar Mishra Park in Lucknow after paying floral tributes to Janeshwar Mishra, popularly known as 'Chhote Lohia', on his death anniversary on Tuesday.

"Why does a country like Japan, which is very advanced in science and technology, not use EVMS? This question should be raised with the nation's 130 crore people," the SP chief said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Returning to the BSP-SP alliance, Akhilesh said that it had given an alternative to the people to crush the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. On PM Narendra Modi calling the 'mahagathbandhan' leaders a gang of corrupt politicians, the SP chief said that the Opposition could defeat the BJP by keeping silence.

Aam Aadmi to protest today

Lucknow (PNS): Aam Aadmi Party workers and leaders, led by party MP and UI chief Sanjay Singh, will stage a demonstration in Ayodhya on Wednesday against the Yogi government demanding withdrawal of cases against party leaders.

State AAP spokesman Mahendra Singh said in Lucknow on Tuesday that the party had taken out a march from Ayodhya to Kashi protesting the BJP government for demolishing temples in Kashi on January 12.

"The march was led by state chief Sanjay Singh and the district administration which was named 'BJP bhagao bhagwan bachao yatra'. Despite the district administration being informed, a case against 250 AAP workers, including Sanjay Singh, was lodged on

the plea that Section 144 CrPC was imposed in Ayodhya on the day. It is evident that the district administration is working under the pressure of the Yogi government. But we are not afraid of any oppressive measure and will continue to fight for the public," the spokesman said.

कार्यालय नगर निगम देहरादून

पत्रांक- 4695 (ई-निविदा) दिनांक- 22.01.2019

नगर निगम देहरादून द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 हेतु सफाई उपकरण एवं कीटोनाशक सामग्री क्रय करने हेतु 'कार्यालय विड' या 'वित्तीय विड' के आधार पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा उत्तराखण्ड की ई-निविदा राइट वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in में दिनांक 14.02.2019 को 02.00 बजे तक जमा की जा सकती है। यो कमेटी के समक्ष दिनांक 15.02.2019 साथ 04.00 बजे खोली जायगी। सम्पर्क नं- 7536804949, 7055909056 नगर आयुक्त नगरनिगम देहरादून

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

ऑफिस इनियो रियल ऑफिस, LUCKNOW

1st floor, Union Bank Bhawan, Near Mantri Awas, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226 010

TEL.: 2306915, 2306893, FAX 2306884

EMANELMENT OF VENDORS FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & AMC OF CCTV, SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM, FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Union Bank of India intends to empanel vendors for a period of 3 years for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of above equipments for its branches/offices/ATMs in Lucknow region. The terms and conditions are given on the websites. Interested firms, may obtain the tender documents from the above mentioned address, on payment of applicable amount (non-refundable by way of Pay order/Draft favouring Union Bank of India, Payable at Lucknow) during working hours from 23 Jan 2019 to 13 Feb 2019. The tender documents along with detailed terms and conditions are available during aforesaid period on bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in and www.tenders.gov.in. The application forms downloaded from websites shall be accompanied by Pay order/Demand Draft of applicable amount (non-refundable) favouring Union Bank of India, Payable at Lucknow. Union Bank of India reserves the right to reject any or all applications received without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Regional Head

Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Haldwani

Letter No.: 56/ADHES - 4/11

Date : 21.01.2019

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam (Nainital) 263139, on behalf of Chairman, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Dehradun, invites sealed item rate tender under two bid system on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, for Construction of Transit Hostel (8 Room) for Medical Officer at CHC Metabagh District - Nainital. Work cost nearly Rs. 156.00 lacs And Construction of Transit Hostel (8 Room) for Medical Officer at CHC Ramgarh District - Nainital Work cost nearly Rs. 170.00 lacs (separately). The tender form can be downloaded from <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 22-01-2019, 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or from phone no. 9411107868 of office of tender inviting authority.

"जल संचय -जीवन संचय" "कृपया जल ट्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाइये" "जल ट्रोत बताइये-पेयजल योजना पाइये" "जल ट्रोतों को प्रदूषित करना दखलीय अपराध है"

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110 608 EXAMINATION SECTION



ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 11/2019

Ref No. F. AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Adv.I/4-5/(PG-JULY-19)/2019

22-01-2019

AIIMS-PG (POSTGRADUATE) COURSE-JULY 2019 SESSION

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Entrance Examinations leading to admission in Postgraduate (MD/MS/M.Ch.(6 years)/DM (6 years)/MDS) Courses of AIIMS, New Delhi and six other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur & Rishikesh) for July 2019 session.

Online Registration for Applications		
Starts on	Closes on	
Online Basic Registration open for all MD/MS/MDS courses.	18-10-2018	19-02-2019*
Status of Basic Registration & Last date for correction for rejected images	26.02.2019	02-03-2019*
Final Status of Accepted Basic Registration		08-03-2019
Date for Generation of code (only for accepted Basic Registration candidates)	08-03-2019	14-03-2019*
Uploading of Prospectus including seat position for Sponsored and Foreign National candidates		19-03-2019
Final Registration for completion of other details : Qualification, City Choices, Payment (Only for the candidates those have generated the code)	22-03-2019	02-04-2019*

Date of Examination	Sunday, 05th May, 2019
Examination Timings	Medical Courses 09:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Dental Courses 09:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Examination Centres	Cities all over India

Important For Prospectus detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiims.exams.org. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Basic Registration is mandatory. Only those with accepted Basic Registration can proceed for Generation of Code for Final Registration.

*The Closing time will be up to 05:00 PM

PAAR dapt 17112/11/0083/1819 ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

Office Project Manager, Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Eman Nirman Nigam Ghingharikh, Ranikhet, Distt. Almora

E-Mail: pmranikhet@rediffmail.com Fax & Ph. No.: 05966-220690

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Letter No. 102 / NIVIDA / 30

Date: 21-01-2019

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, for the following works-

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender (Rs. in lacs)
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL BUILDING AND APPURTANENT WORK AT GOVIND SINGH MEHRA GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL RANIKHET, DISTRICT - ALMORA	180.00 Lacs
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL BUILDING AND APPURTANENT WORK AT C.H.C. DWARAHAT, DISTRICT - ALMORA	180.00 Lacs
3.	CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL BUILDING AND APPURTANENT WORK AT C.H.C. CHAUHUTIYA, DISTRICT - ALMORA	180.00 Lacs
4.	CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL BUILDING AND APPURTANENT WORK AT C.H.C. BAJNATH, DISTRICT - BAGESHWAR	180.00 Lacs
5.	CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL BUILDING AND APPURTANENT WORK AT C.H.C. DHAULADEVI, DISTRICT - ALMORA	180.00 Lacs
6.	CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL BUILDING AND APPURTANENT WORK AT DISTRICT HOSPITAL BAGESHWAR, DISTRICT - BAGESHWAR	237.00 Lacs

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 22.01.2019 at 18:00 hrs to 07.02.2019 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or obtained from office or phone no. 05966-220690 of office of tender inviting authority.

PROJECT MANAGER



Many Muslim leaders join PSPL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL) founder Shivpal Singh Yadav on Tuesday claimed that the 'unholly' alliance between the BSP and SP would not be accepted by the people as leaders of both parties ditched their partners and leaders for vested political interests.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, several senior political leaders, including former Rajya Sabha member Mohammad Adeeb, joined the PSPL.

Addressing media persons during the joining of several party leaders in Lucknow on Tuesday, Shivpal said that BSP chief Mayawati ditched her rakhi brothers -- Narendra Modi and Lalji Tandon while Akhilesh Yadav backstabbed his father and uncle and joined hands for vested political interests. "This alliance is a 'thugbandhan' to confuse the people and to benefit the BJP," Shivpal alleged.

The PSPL chief added that talks were underway with secular parties, including the Congress, and new entrant Mohammad Adeeb had been authorised to initiate talks with those parties on behalf

BJP will be ousted from the Centre in 2019 and from UP in 2022," he said.

On Tuesday, several Muslim leaders joined the PSPL in the presence of Shivpal Yadav and others. They included former RS member and ex-president of AMU Students' Union Mohammad Adeeb, Sunni Ulema Council general secretary Haji Mohammad Salim, former Haj committee member Arshad Mia and former MLA from Azamgarh Hafiz Irshad.

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Protesters keep cops on toes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the mysterious death of an accused in bike theft case, hundreds of residents came in support of the family of the deceased and staged a massive protest in Old City. On Monday, Abdul Rahim of Thakurganj had died at KGMU Trauma Centre where he was admitted after his condition deteriorated in Lucknow jail on January 19.

He was arrested by the Chowk police in connection with a bike theft on January 14 and the police had later recovered six motorcycles from a place allegedly following his disclosure. The family had alleged that the Chowk police subjected Rahim to third degree, forcing him to own up his crime. They alleged that the police had rounded up Rahim on January 13 night and sent him to jail on January 15 without sending him for a medical test. On Tuesday, the police handed the body of the man to his family after which they created a ruckus at the mortuary, demanding removal of the Chowk SHO and other policemen. Locals in huge numbers also came out in

BIKE THIEF SUCCUMBS TO TORTURE



spot. Senior officers, led by ASP (West) Vikas Tripathi, urged the protesters not to take law into their own hands and sought time to initiate action against the errant cops.

Police department sources said Rahim's body had injury marks and he was tortured during police interrogation. "In jail record, the staff had mentioned the injuries Rahim suffered," they claimed. The ASP (West) said Rahim was sent to jail on January 15 after he had undergone a medical test at a government hospital in Chowk and he had no injuries.

"Rahim suffered fits when he was lodged in jail and was treated in the jail hospital. He was administered some injection there but his condition did not improve. He was admitted to Balrampur Hospital in an unconscious state and was later admitted to KGMU Trauma Centre, also in the same state," he said. Police spokesman AK Dwivedi said the autopsy report failed to ascertain the cause of death and doctors suggested that the viscera be preserved and sent to forensic lab.

Loot bid at house of jeweller

Lucknow (PNS): A miscreant stormed the house of a jeweller on Tuesday night but developed cold feet as latter's mother cried for help. He fled the scene, leaving behind an air gun, gloves, a bag and helmet. The jeweller, identified as Mohit Kapoor of New Sardari Kheda, was in his shop a kilometer away from his house on Alambagh road. Around 6.30 pm, the bike-borne miscreant reached the house and pressed the doorknob. Mohit's mother Sudha Kapoor (60) was home alone as her daughter-in-law had gone to a neighbour's house and grandchildren for tuition classes. As Sudha opened the door, the miscreant forcible entered the house training the air gun at her.

Sudha raised an alarm which made the miscreant jittery and he fled the scene. Sudha informed Mohit, who reached home and called the police. Krishna Nagar circle officer LP Singh said the police had recovered the air gun, gloves and helmet. "We are scanning CCTV footages to trace the miscreant. A case of loot attempt will be registered," the CO said.

Power tariff not to be hiked

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Giving a major relief to power consumers in the state, UP State Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) has decided not to hike power tariff for the financial year 2018-19.

The UPERC secretary said in Lucknow on Tuesday that the Commission had decided not to hike power tariff in any category in the current fiscal. Being the election year, UP Power Corporation Limited has also not sought hike in tariff for the current fiscal. In its last tariff order issued on November 30, 2018, the UPERC had announced a hefty hike for all categories of consumers.

The decision was taken after a long hearing and it did not accept any new proposal for UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL). The Commission approved Rs 70,203.32 crore revenue against the demand of Rs 79,632.45 crore while to purchase power Rs 53,575.33 crore was agreed upon against the demand of Rs 59,659.01 crore.

The Commission also approved average supply of power at the rate of Rs 6.73 per unit. The state government will also pay total subsidy during 2018-19 to bridge the cash deficit of UPPCL.

The rebate to power consumers who shift from unmetered to metered connection shall be entitled to a rebate of 10 per cent on the 'RATE' which shall be applicable from the date of installation of meter till end of the financial year 2018-19. To encourage the use of solar energy, the Commission has decided to continue with the rebate to consumers for installing and using solar water heaters (Rs 100/month). The Commission has also decided to continue with provisions for advance deposit of monthly energy bills which will provide the consumer convenience as well as earn interest rates (that is same rate of interest as interest on security deposit) on their advance payments. With this, the licensees will also get benefited by improvement in their working capital requirement/cash flows.

Police clueless a day after railway contractor shot at

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the murderous assault on railway contractor Dilip Yadav, police failed to get any clue about the miscreants who shot at the victim thrice near Alambagh Metro station late on Monday night. Sources said SSP Kalanidhi Naithani held a meeting with the ASP (Crime) and asked him to expedite the probe. "The ASP (Crime) was asked to share the findings of the investigation on Tuesday evening and he reached the SSP camp office for the purpose," the sources said. They said a team led by Alambagh CO Sanjeev Sinha worked on the case and sorted some suspicious mobile numbers on Tuesday. "Police have obtained the call detail records of victim's mobile phone and put some numbers on surveillance. The team hopes to crack the case soon," the sources said.

Meanwhile, the police registered a case of murderous assault against unidentified miscreants on the complaint of victim's brother Pradeep Yadav, a resident of Bheem Nagar in Alambagh. In his complaint, Pradeep stated that his brother Dilip was returning home when the miscreants opened fire on him. "Two bullets hit him in the back while one grazed past his waist," a police spokesman said. A case under Section 307 of IPC was registered in this connection. "The police are yet to get any clue. The family had not named any person in the complaint," he said. The sources said Dilip was attacked over a money-related dispute like Alambagh trader Amanpreet, who was also killed over a monetary dispute with a contractor Dilshad and two businessmen. "At the same time, rivalry due to contract-related issue cannot be overruled out either," the sources said. The assault on the railway contractor on Monday, the day Alambagh police had cracked Amanpreet murder case, dampened the spirit of upbeat cops. The Alambagh police had organised a press conference on Monday afternoon to brief mediapersons about the details on the arrest of prime accused Raju Sardar in connection with the Amanpreet murder case.

FOCUS ON SMOOTH FLOW OF TRAFFIC IN CHOWK

Lucknow (PNS): The Traffic department will now be focusing on the smooth flow of traffic at Chowk market. SP (Traffic) Ravi Shankar Nim said a meeting in this regard was held with District

Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma and residents of Chowk. He said the residents had made a demand for a team of traffic cops headed by a TSI but we already have 10 constables along with homeguards to look into the traffic issue.

He said they would be strengthening the number of traffic staff at various points

in the market. Asked what was the biggest challenge which they would be facing in the management of traffic at the Chowk market, he said it was the parking of vehicles. "We have been informed that there is an under-construction parking which is almost 90 per cent complete and which will be operational by February 1," he said.

Canara Bank

CIRCLE OFFICE : Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the Vehicle hypothecated to bank described herein, taken possession under the clause of the hypothecation agreement, will be sold through auction on the following terms & conditions.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Total Liabilities	Description of Vehicle	Reserve Price	Last Date of Deposit of EMD	Last Date for Receipt of Tender Documents
			EMD Deposit	EMD	Date & Time of E-Auction
Branch : Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow	1 Borrower : Shri Vivek Kumar S/o Ram Avtar, 57 Behan Purwa, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Near Wave Cinema, Lucknow. Total Liabilities : Rs. 6,59,680.00 + int. & other expenses w.e.f. 07.01.2019	MODEL M/S FORCE MOTORS LTD. CRUISER BS III REGISTRATION NO : UP 32 FN 1694 COLOUR : WHITE ENGINE NO. : D60014103 CHASSIS NO. : MC1D4EA3FPU53432	Rs.1,44,000.00	05.02.2019	05.02.2019 07.02.2019 Time: 12:00 noon to 01:00 pm

Other Terms & Conditions : The sale shall be subject to the following conditions: (a) The vehicle will be sold in "as is where is and as is what is" basis including encumbrances, if any. There is no encumbrance to the knowledge of the bank. The prospective bidders are advised to make appropriate enquiry regarding title, identity and encumbrance etc., from their end. (b) The vehicle can be inspected, with Prior Appointment. (c) The vehicle will not be sold below the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. (d) EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, Gomti Nagar Extension branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, Gomti Nagar Extension Branch, A/c No 5522295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0005522 or on before 05.02.2019 upto 5:00 pm. (e) The intending bidders should submit the following documents/details on or before 05.02.2019 by 05:00 pm to Branch by hand or by email. (1) Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. (2) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder will have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. (3) Bidders Name, Contact No., Address, E Mail Id. (f) EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them within 2 days of finalization of sale. The EMD shall not carry any interest. (g) Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. (h) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him/her shall be forfeited by the Bank without any notice and vehicle shall forthwith be put up for sale again. (i) All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. (j) Bank reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the auction without assigning any reason thereof. For further details contact: (l) Gauri Shankar Yadav, Manager, 8173007840

Date: 23.01.2019

Place: Lucknow

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



विदेश मंत्रालय
Ministry of External Affairs



Government of Uttar Pradesh

15th 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

Valedictory Session & Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards Ceremony
on 23rd January, 2019 at Varanasi, 9:00 AM onwards

Chief Guest
Ram Nath Kovind
Hon'ble President, Republic of India

in august presence of
Ram Naik
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Sushma Swaraj
Minister for External Affairs, Govt. of India

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Programme

- Plenary Session IV: Indian Community Organizations working for Indian nationals in distressed situation
- Plenary Session V: Indian Diaspora's role in capacity building of Artificial Intelligence in India
- Plenary Session VI: Role of Indian Diaspora in capacity building for affordable waste management
- Plenary Session VII: Developing cyber capacity of India
- Valedictory Session: Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards Ceremony and Valedictory address by Hon'ble President of Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind (5:00 PM onwards)

Venue

NRI Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Trade Facilitation Centre

Trade Facilitation Centre

Trade Facilitation Centre

Trade Facilitation Centre

Stadium

Babbar confident of win in LS polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW



Exuding confidence that the Congress would do better in the Lok Sabha polls in UP by going alone, UP chief Raj Babbar on Tuesday attacked the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party claiming that the duo 'underestimated' the grand old outfit of the country while announcing the 'mahagathbandhan'. "Yes, we have been out of power for quite sometime in UP. But the SP and BSP have underestimated us by not even contacting us for talks on alliance and announcing the coalition," asserted Babbar. "We will now come out with more vigour and unity and show the regional parties that their decision was 'wrong'. We have recently showed in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan that we could perform well by going alone. We will come up with similar results in Lok Sabha polls in UP," cited Babbar.

"In 2009 general elections, Congress won almost the same number of seats as won by the SP and BSP respectively even when we did not have a government for almost three decades in UP. We firmly believe that the mandate and support of the people will

decide who is more powerful and who is weak," Babbar further said. "The Congress just wants unity amongst the Opposition parties just as they all wanted to defeat the BJP. But the SP and BSP took it as our 'weakness,' he said. About talks with smaller parties for an alliance in UP, Babbar said that all parties wanting to defeat the BJP were welcome but the party was readying to contest all 90 Parliament seats. The Congress leader did not rule out a truck with the newly-formed Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (PSP) of Shivpal Yadav. Babbar was in Lucknow on Tuesday to review preparation of Rahul Gandhi's rally in Lucknow to kickstart the 2019 poll campaign on February 10. The Congress leader claimed that the turnout in Rahul's rally would be a pointer to the Congress support from the public which was desperate to throw out the Modi government.

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स, केसा हाउस, केस्को, कानपुर। ई-निविदा विस्तारण सुचना अपरिहार्य कारणों से ई-निविदा सं.-06 / आईटी.सेले १८-१९ दिनांक 28.01.2019 तक विस्तारित की जाती है, जो केस्को की वेबसाइट <http://kesco.co.in> पर (E-tender आइकन) उपलब्ध है। (आएक्सीसिंह) अधिकारी अधिकारा आईटी.सेल। पत्रांक-41, दिनांक 22.01.2019 "राष्ट्रद्वितीय में विजली बचाए"

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71 सिविल लाइन्स, केसा हाउस केस्को कानपुर। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सुचना अधोविताकरक्ता द्वारा ई-निविदाओं पृष्ठ-पृष्ठ दो भागों में निम्न सामग्री हेतु केस्को ई-निविदा वेबसाइट www.kesco.co.in/ https://etender.up.nic.in पर आमत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदायें प्रपत्र पूर्ण कर निविदादाताओं द्वारा वेबसाइट पर खुलने की तिथि के अपराह्न 1200 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। उत्तर ई-निविदा उसी दिन 15:00 बजे से 17:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट पर सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। उत्तर निधि को अवकाश धोखाती होने पर निविदायें अगले कार्यदिवस में नियत समय पर खोली जायेंगी। ई-निविदा धनराशि का आपूर्ति और लाईंग नगद फैक्ट्र आरटी.जी.एस.सी. ICIC0006288) के रूप में केस्को कानपुर के पक्ष में देय होगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि के प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 08.02.2019 समय 14:00 बजे। 2. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं 113 / विकाशांम / 2018-19 : कार्यशाला खण्ड - लखनऊ ब्रेट के अन्तर्गत कार्यशालाओं में कम्प्यूटर पर कार्य हेतु 05 नग कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटर की आपूर्ति का कार्य। प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 1180.00, धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 00 7000.00। ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 07.02.2019, समय 17:00 बजे तक तथा प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 08.02.2019 समय 14:00 बजे। 3. ई-निविदा सं. 114 / विकाशांम / 2018-19 : कार्यशाला खण्ड - अयोध्या के अन्तर्गत कार्यशालाओं में कम्प्यूटर पर कार्य हेतु 05 नग कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटर की आपूर्ति का कार्य। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि 07.02.2019, समय 14:00 बजे। 4. ई-निविदा सं 115 / विकाशांम / 2018-19 : कार्यशाला खण्ड - अयोध्या के अन्तर्गत कार्यशालाओं में मरीजों, अवान एवं ट्रेटिंग उपकरणों के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 1180.00, धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 00 10000.00। ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 22.02.2019, समय 17:00 बजे तक तथा प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 23.02.2019 समय 14:00 बजे। 5. ई-निविदा सं. 116 / विकाशांम / 2018-19 : कार्यशाला सीतापुर में 160 से 630 केवीए के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों की मरम्मत का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 5900.00, धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 00 40000.00। निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 22.02.2019, समय 17:00 बजे तक तथा प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 23.02.2019 समय 14:00 बजे। 6. ई-निविदा सं. 117 / विकाशांम / 2018-19 : कार्यशाला सीतापुर में 400 केवीए के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों के मरम्मत का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 44,000.00। निविदा शुल्क ₹ 2100.00 क्रम सं 3 निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या 171 / विकाशांम 00 (वा) / 2018-19 कार्य का नाम विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत कार्यशाला केन्द्र लालगंज जनपद प्रतापगढ़ में 25, 63 एवं 100 केवीए क्षमता के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों के मरम्मत का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 00 60,00,000 निविदा शुल्क ₹ 2100.00 क्रम सं 3 निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या 170 / विकाशांम 00 (वा) / 2018-19 कार्य का नाम विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत कार्यशाला केन्द्र मंजनपुर जनपद कौशम्बी में 63 एवं 100 केवीए क्षमता के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों के मरम्मत का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 00 60,00,000 निविदा शुल्क ₹ 2100.00 क्रम सं 4 निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या 171 / विकाशांम 00 (वा) / 2018-19 कार्य का नाम विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत कार्यशाला केन्द्र बरेली जनपद कौशम्बी में 400 केवीए क्षमता के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों के मरम्मत का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि ₹ 00 80,00,00 निविदा शुल्क ₹ 2100.00 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्यशाला मण्डल, पूर्वोषिणीलिंग वाराणसी पत्रांक- 69 दिनांक 22.01.2019 "राष्ट्रद्वितीय में विजली बचाए"

Republic Day rehearsals lead to traffic snarls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW



Republic Day parade rehearsals in Lucknow on Tuesday. (Below) Commuters stuck in traffic jam



Pioneer

Traffic snarls occurred on Tuesday morning due to the Republic Day rehearsals despite traffic diversions having been announced a day in advance. The commuters faced problems in reaching their respective destinations even as the district administration and the traffic officials tried to smoothen the flow of traffic. The parade which started from Ravindralaya moved via the KKC trifurcation, Maharana Pratap Crossing, Bapu Bhawan, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Hazratganj Crossing, Mayfair trifurcation, DM's residence, under the Metro PUL and then the KD Singh Babu Stadium. Thereafter it went via the Motimohar trifurcation, Chiraiya Jheel, Sikandarbagh Crossing, Hazratganj, Bandariabagh and back to the Lal Batti Crossing.

Traffic officials admitted that the load of the traffic increased at the time of the rehearsals and the congestion points were the Royal Hotel Crossing, Lal Batti Crossing, Bandariabagh and the DSO Crossing. Commuters were a harried lot while some found themselves searching for public vehicles and others had to shell out extra money to reach their desired destinations.

One of the office-goers in Indiranagar said that it took him more than an hour from his usual time to reach his office.

"The bus in which I came moved from Naka to Lalbagh and then came to IT College after which I alighted at Badshah Nagar. I had to take a tempo and shell out extra money for finally reaching my office

in the Bhootnath market," he said.

Arun, a daily wager who comes to Gomtinagar, said that he was stuck for a long time in the traffic snarls at Hazratganj and had to forego his duty.

Yet another commuter, Prabhudev, said that after coming to Charbagh from Alambagh by bus he had to trudge a long distance and wait for a considerable period before he finally got a public transport. "I walked from Charbagh to the KKC and then from KKC to the Income Tax office. Thereafter I got an auto which finally took me to my office in the Lekhraj Market," he said.

Sama Khan, a student from a local school, said that she got stuck in Hazratganj for over half an hour after the parade had moved on. "It was post the parade as a huge row of

vehicles blocked the road until the Hazratganj Crossing," she said.

Yet another commuter said that seeing the volume of traffic at the Loreto Crossing and in trying to avoid the traffic snarls at this point he opted for an inner lane which took him to the Golf Club Crossing.

A senior district administrative official admitting the congestion which took place said, "We hastened the parade on the Vidhan Sabha Marg to help ease the congestion and allow the smooth flow of vehicles." He admitted that the diversion of traffic had been announced yet the people got caught in these traffic snarls with the timings matching those of the office-goers.

The SP (Traffic), Ravi Shankar Nim, said that the snarls occurred because of the gap in the timing

between the performances of the student groups during the parade. "This gap in the performance was the reason which delayed the flow of the parade causing these congestions. The traffic load increased thereby slowing the movement of the vehicles," he said.

He said that the rehearsal was held with the same intention of knowing where the shortcomings were and thereby filling these gaps so that these things did not occur at the time of the full dress rehearsal which would take place on January 24. The traffic department will impose the same traffic diversions which were imposed for the first dress rehearsal. These would include restrictions in the Charbagh area, Hussainanj, Royal Hotel, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Hazratganj Crossing and Parivartan Chowk. The traffic officials said that

the passengers coming to the CCS (Amausi) Airport and the Charbagh railway station should look for alternative routes instead of the Amausi-Charbagh and KD Singh Stadium routes.

LDA finds Ganj parking lots poorly managed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority conducted a raid at the under-ground parking lot in Lalbagh on Monday and found a large portion is being used as the dumping ground and was also poorly managed. The disciplinary action is being taken against the contractor engaged in running the parking slot.

This was a part of the initiative taken by the LDA administration to ensure the underground and multi-level parking lots are properly maintained. It is said that they were several complaints

lodged with Vice-Chairman PN Singh and other officers alleging those running the parking lots were using them for their own benefit by which their purpose is defeated. Singh said that effective measures had been initiated to check the unscrupulous practices and also encourage people to park their vehicles at the right place by displaying hand bills at prominent spots and through public address system.

Singh instructed officer on special duty (OSD) Rakesh Kumar to remove goods dumped there by civic authorities and make an inventory of the goods found there.

The SHO said victim's face was burnt beyond recognition. "It is difficult to find if she belonged to some city area or village area," he said, adding no impression of tyres was found on the road stretch.

Police sources said victim's dress was disheveled state.

"It is suspected that the girl was sexually assaulted or her dress was got disheveled when she was being stuffed in the suitcase. It

may also be a case of honour killing or hate crime," sources opined. They said it could also be a case of murder over dowry. The sources said the suitcase would give police a lead about the killers.

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EVM hacking claim triggers political storm

EC orders FIR against Shuja, self-proclaimed cyber expert

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after a self-proclaimed cyber expert claimed that EVMs could be 'hacked', a huge political storm erupted across the country with the Opposition and ruling parties trading charges against each other prompting the Election Commission of India (ECI) to lodge an FIR against the claimant Syed Shuja.

While the BJP and the Government alleged that the Congress had organised the EVM hackathon in London, Congress alongwith other Opposition parties demanded a proper probe in the matter and reiterated their demand for VVPAT voting.

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, who was noticed

being present at the Press conference where Shuja claimed that the 2014 general election was "rigged" through the EVMs, stated that he was there as part of invitation from the organisers and claimed that all the political parties including the election watchdog was invited for the presser in London. The Congress, however, distanced itself from the event.

The BJP dubbed the allegations of rigging in the 2014 polls a "Congress-sponsored conspiracy" designed to "defame" Indian democracy and its Election Commission. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called the claims 'garbage' and the next 'big lie' after 'Rafale',

"Indian Journalists Association London President Ashish Ray told me he has sent



invitations to all political parties including BJP and also Election Commission... He (Ashish Ray) sent me a personal e-mail also. I told him that I will be in London for some personal work and he insisted that I should come as

they are going to make an important revelation. So I went," Sibal said. Ray was one of the organisers of the event.

Reiterating Shuja's claims that a day after the 2014 elections, 11 members of his team which was working on EVMs

were murdered, Sibal sought a thorough probe.

The ruling party launched a stinging attack on the Congress and said it has already started looking for an "alibi" for its certain loss in the coming Lok Sabha polls. Union

Minister and BJP spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Indian Journalists' Association is headed by Ashish Ray who is a "committed Congressman and writes for National Herald".

Ray "campaigns" for the Congress on social media and has often attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prasad claimed, adding that he had also organised Rahul's public event in London.

Prasad also dismissed Sibal's claim that he was present in his personal capacity, saying he was intelligent enough to know implications of his being there. He claimed that Sibal went there by deliberate design.

He said the invite for the event had claimed that the hacking of EVMs will be shown but the "gentleman" appeared in the US wearing a mask.

"I could not understand this drama. He (Shuja) offered no proof and nor did he present himself to questioning by the media. No evidence, no cor-

roboration and no question and such big allegations were levelled," he said.

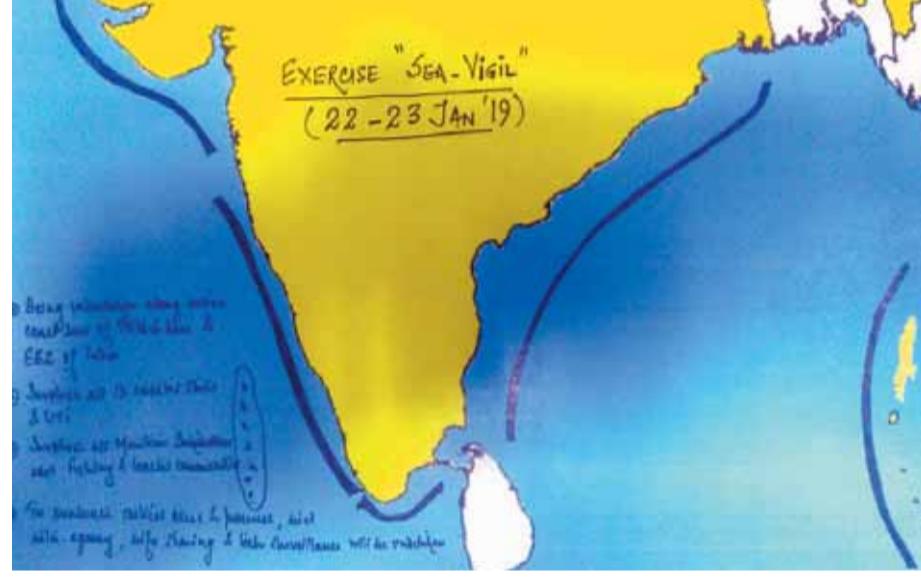
Prasad also expressed his party's "deep pain" at the allegation in the London event that Union Minister Gopinath Munde was "murdered" because he was aware of the 2014 poll "rigging" and was set to disclose it. He dismissed it as rubbish. Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi weeks after the BJP won the 2014 elections.

Uttar Pradesh rivals BSP's Mayawati and SP's Akhilesh Yadav, who have joined hands to contest the Lok Sabha polls, demanded that the upcoming polls be held using ballot papers instead of EVMs.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu too stated leaders of 22 parties would meet the Election Commission soon to discuss the EVMs and the voter verifiable paper audit trials (VVPAT) system.

SEA VIGIL TO TEST STEPS TAKEN SINCE 26/11

Navy kicks off largest-ever coastal defence exercise



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to test the operational readiness of all the stakeholders to ward off any attack like the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 wherein terrorists came in through the sea route, the Navy has commenced the largest ever coastal defence exercise Sea Vigil along the entire 7,000 km coast of the country. The two-day first of its kind national level exercise starting Tuesday also covers the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The exercise covers the entire 7,516.6 km coast covering 13 coastal states and union territories and stake holders also include fishing and coastal communities, Navy spokesperson DK Sharma said here on Tuesday.

Explaining the objectives of Exercise Sea Vigil, he said it aims to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken since '26/11'. Seaward monitoring during the exercise will entail patrolling off coast, in Offshore Development Areas and off our islands by the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, supported by the State Marine Police.

Closer coast, strategic assets, ports, Single Point Moorings (SPMs) will be patrolled by designated agencies. Seaward monitoring will also entail inputs from technical means, including intelligence sources. Shore-based monitoring will entail enhanced vigil by the State Police along the coast, monitoring of fish landing centres by state fisheries departments as also monitoring of port areas by respective port authorities.

The exercise aims to simultaneously activate the coastal security mechanism across all states and Union Territories. The exercise will cover a wide frontage covering for the first time the entire coast of India, including island territories. The exercise will also go deeper, being spread over seaward, coastal and hinterland areas.

Evaluation of critical areas and processes, including inter-agency coordination, information sharing and technical surveillance will be undertaken.

On the first of its kind drill, he said so far smaller exercises are conducted in coastal states on a biannual basis, including combined exercises amongst adjoining states are conducted. The national level reflects the distance that has been covered since '26/11' and the relative maturing of the organisation for coastal security to take on this large-scale endeavour.

The scale of the exercise is unprecedented in terms of the geographical extent, the number of stakeholders involved, number of units participating and in terms of the objectives to be met. All operational assets of the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard are participating in the SEA VIGIL. The conduct of the exercise SEA VIGIL is also being facilitated by the Ministries of Defence, Home Affairs, Shipping, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fisheries, Customs, State Governments and other agencies of centre and state.

Post '26/11', the Indian Navy was designated as the agency responsible for overall

maritime security, including offshore and coastal security. The Indian Coast Guard was designated as the agency responsible for coastal security in territorial waters, including waters to be patrolled by the State Marine Police.

Coastal security is complex construct since it involves activities both at sea and at land. The targets of the terrorists could be well inland. In the aftermath of "26/11", a whole-of-government approach to maritime security was adopted and a large number of measures were taken by a host of stakeholders.

At the apex level National Committee on Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS) with Cabinet Secretary at the helm was established to review important matters pertaining to Coastal Security and for effective centre-state coordination.

Likewise committees have also been established at State and District level. At the operational level, it included setting up of Joint Operations Centres (JOCs) of the Navy and Coastal Security Operations Centres of the Indian Coast Guard. A multi-tiered patrol and surveillance mechanism with focus on technical surveillance and augmenting Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through the coastal radar chain and other systems was adopted. Real-time information sharing through the National Command Control and Intelligence (NC3I) Network; greater intelligence and operational coordination were made the focus areas.

Post '26/11', the Indian Navy was designated as the agency responsible for overall

Indian Citizenship won't be given without State Govts' consent: MHA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry clarified on Tuesday that Indian citizenship would not be granted to any foreigner without the consent of State Governments concerned after the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Home Ministry spokesperson Ashok Prasad said every application for Indian citizenship will be enquired into by the deputy commissioner or district magistrate concerned, who will carry out due diligence and submit it to the state Government concerned.

The State Government also has to conduct an enquiry through its agencies. Only then, an individual will be granted Indian nationality. Without the state government's recommendations, no one will be given Indian citizenship, Prasad told reporters here.

The Citizenship

Amendment Bill 2019, being strongly opposed by a large section of people and organisations in the Northeast, seeks to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities — Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Christians — from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after they have stayed in India for seven years, instead of 12 years at present. This is applicable to those who came to India before December 31, 2014.

The six religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan were earlier given a special dispensation for grant of long term visas. People belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhism, Jain, Parsi and Christian religions from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan will have to prove they belonged to any of the three countries and were persecuted on religious lines for Indian

citizenship. A large section of people and organisations in the Northeast have opposed the Bill saying it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date for deportation of all illegal immigrants irrespective of religion.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh has already said the Bill will apply to all States and Union Territories and the beneficiaries can reside anywhere in the country. "The burden of these persecuted migrants will be shared by the whole country. Assam alone would not have to bear the entire burden and the government is committed to giving all help to the state government and people of Assam," Singh had said.

Home Ministry sources said the ministry is considering a proposal to provide incentives to those people who want to settle anywhere in India, except the Northeast.

CCS approves ECHS benefits to Assam Rifles pensioners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has approved granting of Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) to Assam Rifles pensioners. The beneficiaries will include pensioners and their dependents residing in India and Nepal subject to certain conditions. The Assam Rifles, one of the oldest para-military forces mostly deployed in the North-East has officers from the Army and the home ministry has the administrative control of the force. The soldiers are recruited from all over the nation.

Giving details of the decision taken the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), officials said here on Tuesday that there are more than three lakh beneficiaries including dependents. As per the home ministry records, there are about 92,000 Assam Rifles pensioners including about 27,000 residing in Nepal.

Pak forces attacked Indian fishing boat; India lodges protest

New Delhi: The Pakistani maritime agency fired on an Indian fishing boat with seven persons on board and sank it on January 17, following which India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over the incident, official sources said on Tuesday.

Six Indian fishermen on board the boat 'Sudama Puri' were rescued by Indian Coast Guard while one fisherman was missing after the incident which occurred 64 nautical miles south west off Mitha Port in Gujarat, they said. PTI



President Ram Nath Kovind presents Bal Shakti Puraskar 2019 in the field of innovation to Aswath Suryanarayanan sports to Angel Vijay Deokule during the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019 function at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Extensive transfer, posting of CBI officers to cleanse system: Officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The extensive transfer and posting of officials by interim CBI chief M Nageswar Rao is aimed to break the caucus of well entrenched officers posted in the agency headquarters for over three years and restore the professional credibility.

Nineteen out of the 20 transfers executed on Monday comprise cadre officials. The lone officer Prem Gautam is an IPS officer who is the SP of the Economic Offences Wing and has been given additional charge of Deputy Director (Administration/Personnel) after relieving the current incumbent Anish Prasad, who had allegedly put former Special Director Rakesh Asthana's number on surveillance without due procedure, sources said.

More transfers are in the offing in the coming days at various levels in the agency, the sources said.

In a major reshuffle, Rao transferred around 20 officers Monday, including some officers handling crucial cases like the 2G scam. The case of SP Vivek Priyadarshi who was probing the 2G case and was posted in the headquarter for

over a decade has now been transferred to Chandigarh.

Likewise, SP SK Nair posted as SP in BSFC, Mumbai who was probing the Mehul Choksi/Nirav Modi case relating to PNB scam has been transferred to Anti-Corruption Bureau in Mumbai. SP OF BSFC, P Balachandran has also been transferred as SP Cochini.

SP Mohit Gupta who was entrusted by their CBI chief Alok Verma to probe the case against his deputy Rakesh Asthana has been brought to the BSFC, Delhi.

"The exercise was aimed to cleanse and purge the system. The purpose was also to fill the vacancies in branches which are handling crucial cases and to restore checks and balances and strengthen vigilance mechanism in the agency," an official in the know of developments said.

Rao after taking over as the

interim chief of the agency for the second time on January 11 had undone the decisions taken by Verma, who was reinstated by the Supreme Court on January 8.

The first cycle of transfers was done on October 24, last year, a day after Rao was made acting director of the agency for the first time.

He was appointed to the post after the government divested Verma and Asthana of their powers following a bitter feud between the two top CBI officers.

Verma was removed by the high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising of Justice A K Sikri and leader of Congress Mallikarjun Kharge, two days after his reinstatement.

Government again gave the charge to Rao in an interim capacity.

as one of the most spectacular forts in the country while the Bibi Ka Maqbara is a tomb built by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's son Azam Shah in the memory of his mother (posthumously known as Rabia ud Daurani).

It bears a striking resemblance to the famous Taj Mahal, the mausoleum of wife of Shah Jahan. Aurangabad is also home to Ellora — one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple cave complexes in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring Buddhist, Hindu and Jain mon-

uments, and artwork, dating from the 600-1000 CE period. Dedicated to the Hindu 'God Surya', what remains of the Sun Temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot (30 m) high chariot with immense wheels and horses, all carved from stone. Once over 200 feet (61 m) high, much of the temple is now in ruins.

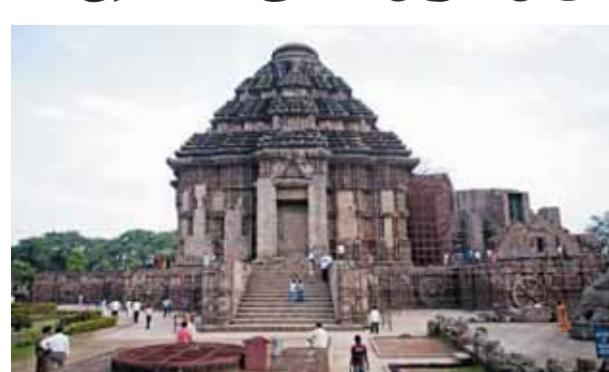
There are 3686 centrally protected monuments/sites under the ASI, majority of which are manned by private security agency. The Taj Mahal has 280 CISF security personnel while the Red Fort has 290.

4 iconic monuments to get CISF security soon

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After year-long confabulations, the plan to provide Central Security Industrial Force (CISF) security cover to the four iconic monuments — Sun Temple in Konark in Odisha, Daulatabad Fort, Bibi Ka Maqbara (Tomb of the Lady) and Ellora caves, all three in Aurangabad in Maharashtra — is now all set to see the light of the day.

Sources in the Union Culture Ministry said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard will be



set up by the Union Home Ministry for protection of country's industrial units and airports.

The CISF protected museums include Salarjung

Museum in Hyderabad, National Museum in Delhi and Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. When contacted, Superintending Archeologist (Aurangabad Circle) Dr. Dilip Kumar Khamari confirmed that the three monuments will be under CISF ambit if a proposal in this regard is given the green signal. But he refused to divulge further details of the proposal which was conceived early last year.

However, sources said that the four top heritage sites are facing security threats, encroachments and unman-

Shah vows to banish TMC, illegal immigrants from Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A saffron Government, if it comes to power in the State, will end cross-border infiltration and "syndicate tax raj" in Bengal, BJP president Amit Shah on Tuesday said while launching a venomous attack on the Mamata Banerjee Government.

Shah was holding a rally at Malda in North Bengal said reminding, the first precondition for a State-level changeover is a thunderous victory for the saffrons in the

coming Lok Sabha elections.

"Trinamool Congress needs to be uprooted from this State so as to bring to an end its syndicate tax raj," Shah said reminding "in order to see the back of this Government which has promoted gun and bomb workshops in the place of traditional factories we will have to defeat them in the general elections."

Setting a target of 23 seats Shah said "we will have to win 23 seats from this State so that we can throw them out of power in the next State election." Attacking the Trinamool

tions," adding the coming general polls will not only determine the future of India but also write the history of Bengal in a different way.

"The 2019 elections will determine whether this TMC Government which has murdered democracy in Bengal and set up syndicate tax raj, will remain in Bengal or will be uprooted," Shah adding "in Gujarat you don't have to cough up money to the syndicates for buying cement, bricks and sand to construct a house.

The BJP Government will provide citizenship to all the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain refugees during the NRC

regime he said.

Mocking the grand United India rally organized last Saturday by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the historic Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata and attended by 23 national leaders Shah said "this was a rally where there were 9 aspirants for the Prime Minister's post. This means there were nine Prime Ministers whereas in BJP there is only one, that is Narendra Modi," adding the people will definitely choose the better and later option.



BJP national president Amit Shah waves at supporters during a public rally at Nitaypur in Malda on Tuesday

PTI

Unconditional cash transfer to farmer better option: SBI Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government should opt for the unconditional cash transfer to farmers to alleviate agrarian distress rather than Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme, the SBI said in a report on Tuesday. At present, it may not be feasible to initiate Rythu Bandhu Scheme on national level as land data in several states, including Jharkhand, Bihar, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu are yet to be digitised, the SBI

said in its 'Eowrap' report.

"Hence, it is best to initiate unconditional cash transfer scheme as it will be more equitable (on a per farmer basis) with a meaningful impact and once the problems are ironed out in terms of proper tenancy laws, then make it conditional," it said. The study said that there have been reports saying that Government is planning to provide direct cash support to the farmers in lieu of various farm level subsidies/support.

Such move comes on the back of suggestions in public domain by noted agri-economists as well as Niti Aayog that perhaps Rythu Bandhu Scheme that is fiscally prohibitive to launch on a pan India level

should be netted against fertiliser subsidies, interest plus and insurance support, it said, adding that instead of this the farmers should be provided the benefit as direct cash in their account. "We however believe this argument has flaws, though a cash transfer scheme is always a better option than an Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme. Many countries have found that UBI does not address the structural problems and is at best a solution in interregnum," the report said.

On Monday and Tuesday, more than 55 lakh people were screened in nearly 20 lakh houses across the state, Dr V K Mathur, Director (public health) of the medical and health department said.

for the H1N1 virus. Looking at the situation, the medical and health department Monday launched a three-day screening drive for swine flu and it has now been extended to three more days.

Movie buffs to get special treatment at NMIC

It will remain open for public every Sunday, Tuesday between 11-6 am

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what will provide an opportunity to movie aficionados to undertake an absorbing journey over a century of Indian cinema, the newly inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) at the Film

Divisions campus will remain open for public between 11 am and 6 pm every Sunday and Tuesday. The NMIC — housed in two buildings, the New Museum Building and the 19th century historic palace Gulshan Mahal — which was inaugurated on by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday — opened for the first time on Sunday and it remained open for the second day on Tuesday.

The NMIC provides a glimpse into Indian film history and help film students, film-makers, fans and critics to learn and understand

cinema as a medium of artistic expression in the country and globally. The museum has on display artefacts like vintage cameras, projectors, editing and recording equipments, costumes, photographs and other materials portraying the journey of Indian cinema since the dawn of Indian cinema in 1913 with the first full-length feature film, "Raja Harischandra" made by the legendary Dhundiraj Govind Phadke, known as Dadasahab Phalke.

The New Museum Building has four Exhibition Halls which encapsulate: Gandhi & Cinema: it

not only depicts the movies made on the life Mahatma Gandhi but also showcases the deep impact his life had on cinema. The Children's Film Studio in the museum gives visitors, particularly children, an opportunity to explore the science, technology and art behind filmmaking. It offers hands-on experience on various facets associated with making cinema like camera, light, shooting, experience of acting, etc. — presented in an interactive format.

The displays displayed include chrome studio, immersive experience zone, stop-motion anima-

tion studio, virtual makeover studio, etc.

The NMIC showcases the creative use of technology by Indian film makers over the years to produce cinematographic impact on the silver screen. It also showcases the charismatic kaleidoscopic presence of the vibrant cinematic culture across India.

Gulshan Mahal is an ASI Grade-II Heritage Structure which has been restored as part of the NMIC project. The displays presented here showcase the journey of over a hundred years of Indian cinema.

Centre to set up housing complexes at all Integrated Check Posts: Rajnath



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh with the BSF at Joint Check Post (JCP) in Attari on Tuesday

Man kills self while fiddling with gun

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



A 32-year-old man 'accidentally' shot himself dead while 'fiddling' with a gun at South Delhi's Sangam Vihar area. The incident occurred on Monday night when the man identified as Amit, while hanging out with his friends, as a jest, loaded the gun and removed the magazine after he allegedly placed it on the temple and pulled the trigger. A shot was fired, injuring the man, however, he later succumbed to injuries during treatment.

According to police, the deceased was identified as Amit Kumar (32) is a resident of Sangam Vihar. Deputy Commissioner Police (South) Vijay Kumar stated that a Medico Legal Case (MLC) call was received at Sangam Vihar Police Station around 1.30 am on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday from Batra Hospital regarding admittance of an injured person with bullet injury, who was later referred to AIIMS Trauma Centre. "During investigations, it was revealed that late night on Monday Amit had gone to meet a friend identified as Bablu at Gandhi Camp, Sangam Vihar. The two of them reportedly consumed beer before deciding to leave for Amit's residence," said the DCP. "On the way, Amit asked Bablu to stop at the house of another friend identified as Rajnish," the DCP said, adding that, during the visit, Amit's friend Rajnish saw the weapon Amit was concealing in his clothes by chance. However, Rajnish started enquiring about the gun and started questioning Amit, who insisted that he

was keeping the gun only for his protection and nothing would happen to him. To validate his statement, Amit allegedly took out the gun he was concealing and removed the magazine. Further, he placed the gun on his temple before pulling the trigger. "Rajnish reportedly tried to stop Amit, while his other friend Bablu, who was at a distance also tried to stop him, but in vain. Amit pressed the trigger and a shot was fired which injured him," said the DCP, adding that he was immediately rushed to Batra Hospital by two passers-by identified as Sumit and Rahul, who happened to be sitting in a street nearby. In the meantime, Bablu collected the weapon and rushed to Amit's house and informed his brother about the incident, the DCP disclosed. "Amit was referred to AIIMS Trauma Center, where he was later declared dead at the center during treatment," DCP said, adding that a case under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Arms act was registered in this regard at Sangam Vihar Police Station. "Further investigation into the incident is underway," he added.

Fake currency notes seized, one held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has seized a big consignment of counterfeit Indian currency notes in the denomination of ₹2,000 sent from across the border. The face value of notes is around ₹10 lakh.

Police have arrested key member of the syndicate identified as Khalik Sheikh (32) resident of Jyotipur, district Malda, West Bengal, who used to pump fake currency notes into Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal via the porous Bangladesh border.

According to Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, a specific information was received about a key member of the said syndicate. The information was that member would come

near Anand Vihar Railway Station in East Delhi to deliver big consignment of fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) to one of his Delhi based contacts following which a trap was laid and the accused was

join his illegal trade of FICN trafficking. He has been indulged in transporting and circulating of FICN to various parties in Delhi, UP and other adjoining areas for last about three years," said the DCP.

Explaining the modus operandi of the accused persons, the DCP said that Sheikh used to buy FICNs from one Ashfaq by paying ₹40 per ₹100 FICN and further used to supply it to his contacts for ₹50-60 per ₹100 of FICN. "So far he accepted to have delivered about 4 to 5 consignments of FICN amounting to more than ₹20 lakh in

Delhi and UP. They used to smuggle FICN into Malda in West Bengal through Bangladesh," said the DCP.

"During interrogation the accused disclosed that to earn easy money he was lured by Ashfaq a resident of Bangladesh and presently living in Malda, West Bengal, to

apprehended with ₹10 lakh FICN in his possession on the spot.

"Further investigation of case is in progress. Efforts to nab remaining members of this syndicate are afoot," the DCP added.

According to Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, a specific information was received about a key member of the said syndicate. The information was that member would come

to stop mobilisation of people in the area. The Shopian encounter took place a day after three local cadre of Al Badr outfit were killed during an encounter at Hapatna village in Chinar-e-Sharif area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Meanwhile, the Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), an international body for journalists, called upon the Indian authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the pellet firing at journalists.

Taking to social networking site Twitter, the RSF said the security forces' violence against Kashmiri photojournalists is 'unacceptable.'

"Unacceptable violence by #India's security forces against photojournalists covering a gunfight in the south," RSF tweeted. "We call on #indian authorities to conduct a thorough investigation on this blatant attack on press freedom. #JournalismIsNotACrime," it tweeted.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned assault on journalists covering the encounter.

Commenting on the incident, Kashmir Video Journalist Association (KVJA) in a statement said that this has become a routine that journalists while performing their professional duties are either being thrashed or showered with pellets. The KVJA appealed to the Governor and the DGP to initiate strict action against those who were involved in the Sharmal incident. "It has been reported that the journalists were delivering their professional duties during the encounter and the protests in the area when the security forces fired pellets at them. A few photojournalists have received injuries on their faces during this incident," the KVJA said in a statement.

The advertiser verification process will begin on

Navy resumes operation to retrieve trapped miner's body, not successful

Shillong: The Indian Navy on Tuesday resumed its operation to retrieve the decomposed body of one of the trapped miners detected inside a 370-foot deep illegal coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district but failed to achieve success.

Navy divers, who had suspended their operation on Sunday on the advice of the district administration, along with NDRI personnel, used remotely operated vehicles.

After day-long efforts, they only managed to move the body a few metres from where it was left on Sunday and brought it near the bottom of the main shaft, officials said.

"The body has been pulled near the bottom of the main shaft... The process to bring the body to the top will take some more time due to the presence of some obstructions inside the mine," spokesperson of the operation R Susngi said.

Efforts to retrieve the body would continue on Wednesday, he added.

The Navy personnel had earlier managed to pull the body, seen 200 ft along the horizontally dug small hole, about half way to the bottom of the shaft. But, it could not be brought out due to apprehension that further moving it could result in its disintegration, Susngi said.

PTI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

102 ONE-HORNED...

Tomar had also sought to know the estimated monetary value of body parts of the rhinos killed by poachers during the period, to which the bureau said it does not maintain such data. An year-wise analysis of the data shows that the maximum such killings took place in 2013 and 2014 (22 each year), followed by 11 in 2010, eight in 2015 and 2009, seven in 2011, 2012 and 2018, five in 2016, three in 2008 and two in 2017. The Indian rhino or the Greater One-horned rhino, are found in the Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam, according to the NGO World Wildlife Fund (WWF), India. The total population of the one-horned rhino, the fourth largest land animal, is 3,500 in India and Nepal combined, the WWF States on its website.

Tomar said that official response suggests there is a need for stricter implementation of the law from the Centre and the states to ensure zero poaching and killings of the one-horned rhino, whose existence falls in the "vulnerable" category. "Also, the findings reveal that the habitat of the rhinos has shrunk over a period and it is now found only in these regions, which again is a worrisome finding," the 30-year-old social activist told PTI. "One good thing is that the number of killings has come down in the last few years from 22 each in 2013 and 2014. However, there is a need for conservators to step up action and check such killings," he added.

IPS OFFICER'S...

The authorities snapped mobile internet services in the district, appar-

Political ads: Google promises transparency

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After Twitter, Google Tuesday vowed to bring more transparency in political advertisements on its platform ahead of general elections in the country, saying it will provide details of advertisers as well as money spent on such ads.

In a statement, Google said its updated election ads policy for India requires advertisers seeking to run poll ads to provide a 'pre-certificate' issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) or anyone authorised by the ECI, for every ad they wish to run.

Also, Google will verify the identity of advertisers before their election ads run on its platforms.

"To bring more transparency to the online election ads, Google will introduce an India-specific Political Advertising Transparency Report and searchable Political Ads Library. These will provide comprehensive information about who is purchasing election ads on Google platforms and how much money is being spent," it said in the statement.

The advertiser verification process will begin on

February 14, while the India Political Ads Transparency Report and Ads Library will go live in March 2019, it said.

With general elections slated to be held in the coming months, the government had warned social media platforms of strong action if any attempt was made to influence the country's electoral process through undesirable means.

It has recently also proposed to amend IT rules, wherein social media, online platforms and messaging apps will be required to deploy tools to "identify" and curb unlawful content as well as follow strict due diligence practices.

Earlier this month, Twitter had stated it will provide a new dashboard showing expenditures by political parties on advertisements its platform.

The advertising dashboard will provide information on spending by entities for polluted advertisements.

In December, Facebook had said it will make it compulsory for advertisers to disclose their identity and location before any political advertisement material can be run on the popular social media platform and Instagram.

Facebook had said it will also start showing a disclaimer on all political advertisements by providing details of those placing the advertisements.

In its statement, Google said its latest initiative is aimed at bringing "openness to election advertising online and enabling voters to get the election-related information they need". "In 2019, over 850 million Indians are expected to cast their vote to elect the country's next government. We're thinking hard about elections and how we continue to support democratic processes in India and around the world," Chetan Krishnaswamy, Director - Public Policy, Google India said.

Krishnaswamy added: "In line with this, we are bringing more transparency to election advertising online, and surfacing relevant information to help people better navigate the electoral process."

Google has said that in the build-up to elections, people need useful and relevant information to help them navigate the electoral process and that for the upcoming polls, it will make electoral information from the Election Commission of India and other authoritative sources easily discoverable on Google Search.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, LUCKNOW CIRCLE LUCKNOW

Address : Near Vikas Bhawan, Sarovar Nagar, Lucknow.

e-Procurement Notice (Short Term)

Letter No : 4901 / RED / Tender / File No-09 / 2018-19 / Computer / Lucknow dated : 17.01.19

1. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT Lucknow Circle, Lucknow on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, and C as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.

2. Name of work as per table.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh) (excluding GST)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Bid document including GST (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	वार्ड फैजुल्लाहांग द्वितीय, श्याम विहार कालोनी में बूद्धा पर्लिंग रखौल के आगे से जायसबाल जराल रटार तक जाने वाली सड़क इप्टरलाइंकिंग एवं नाली निर्माण कार्य।	65.31	1.31	3500.00	04 माह	
2	लखनऊ-उत्तर	वार्ड जानकीपुर प्रभाग, नहर रोड से गढ़रियन पुर्या जाने वाली मुद्रा सम्पर्क कार्य।	62.11	1.25	3500.00	03 माह
3		वार्ड फैजुल्लाहांग चार्चुंग से गैरी होटल चौपांह से द्रवणमार्ग होते हुए बाल निकेन कार्य जाने वाली सड़क का इप्टरलाइंकिंग एवं नाली निर्माण कार्य।	47.35	0.95	3500.00	03 माह
4		वार्ड फैजुल्लाहांग चार्चुंग से गैरी होटल चौपांह से द्रवणमार्ग होते हुए बाल निकेन कार्य जाने वाली सड़क का इप्टरलाइंकिंग एवं नाली निर्माण कार्य।	51.23	1.03	3500.00	03 माह
5		मेमीरा मार्ग दिलीप सिंह के घर से नहां पासी के मकान होते हुए बौद्धीपुर सम्पर्क मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य।	77.25	1.55	3500.00	03 माह
6	लखनऊ-सरोजनी नगर	रायबद्देली राजमार्ग से प्रामर होते हुए नीजीजार्डी वार्ड कार्य का निर्माण।	165.62	3.32	3500.00	04 माह
7		बचानखेड़ा मार्ग से गैरी चुनौती होते हुए नटखेड़ा सम्पर्क मार्ग का निर्माण।	50.85	1.02	3500.00	03 माह
8		मोरांग कारोपी मुद्रा सम्पर्क मार्ग				

Who let the cranks out?

Constant talk of EVMs being hacked is nothing but a systematic and insidious way to undermine democracy



Let us get one thing straight, even a stand-alone electronic machine, no matter how simple, can be manipulated. If you have the knowledge, expertise and time, you can hack your kitchen appliances like a toaster or blender. If you have a lot of time and an unlimited budget, you might even be able to do so over the air, but the sheer expense and effort required to do that makes it unviable. The reason we are talking about basic kitchen appliances is that they are as simple as an Indian electronic voting machine (EVM). A microwave or advanced food processor is not let alone anything that is connected to the internet of things. If the question is whether an EVM can potentially be hacked, it might be possible. But can it happen in reality is a different question altogether and the accusations being thrown by random, untrustworthy people have to be dismissed with a degree of condescension.

A basic degree of understanding the way an Indian election is conducted needs to be understood. If you have ever voted in an election, you would have seen the huge number of voting agents of every colour at every contested seat. Most Indian voters are smart enough to look and register who they have voted for. If they notice something grossly out of line, they would immediately find the booth agent for their party of choice and the complaint is forwarded with alacrity. In fact, the biggest risk in Indian elections has always been and will continue to be human intervention. Fake votes are cast in the name of others thanks to corrupt electoral agents and by musclemen. This still happens with alarming regularity in some rural areas and where single political forces dominate. That said, the rise of electronic and online media, which brings such instances to light rapidly in most cases, has managed to reduce the problem. In talking about EVMS being the problem, some folks would rather that you focus on an issue that does not exist and make excuses for their electoral failures. It is also an insidious plot to undermine democracy by some politicians who are out of power and we must see through that.

That said, the Election Commission of India, in addition to denying these allegations, must make a strong effort to show that their voting machines are secure. At the same time they should work overtime to ensure that the machines are securely stored and accounted for. Stories emerged during recent polls across India that EVMS were found in strange places. Again the human element comes into play just like it does in paper ballots. To those who doubt the veracity of the elections in India, including some journalists, we would urge them to learn a bit more. India cannot bear the cost and the time of conducting paper ballot elections, and hopefully the latest issue by some nobody trying to position himself as the Edward Snowden of India should be dismissed. After all, Snowden and Julian Assange have emerged as Russian agents out to undermine American democracy. So we should treat this latest crackpot with the same contempt.

The memorial push

The Mumbai mayor has now moved to a zoo campus to make way for Thackeray museum



City zoos aren't exactly forests but a reminder of what we've lost out on in our relentless march towards civilised living — the call of the wild. So long these have been dots of biosphere that enable us to experience the animal world in the gush of the Maximum City. But turns out that just like the forests, we will end up encroaching into these as well and prioritise urban living over allowing other creatures the right to co-exist. So it is that the Mumbai mayor is reluctantly moving into a heritage bungalow in the Byculla zoo as his earlier official residence,

also a heritage building, is being converted to a memorial for Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray. In other words, one is to safely deduce that no property in the country's commercial capital could be found to accommodate mayor Vishwanath Mahadeswar. It seems he can only live in heritage structures to continue colonial rituals even if we cannot afford them anymore and though he had wanted two on the posh Malabar Hill and Carmichael Road, he had to reconcile to the Byculla bungalow, which, last heard, was renovated at ₹80 lakh. The BMC has used much of this to build a gate on the access road to the bungalow to provide the mayor privacy and install sound barriers to keep the animals away. But given the mayor's busy schedule, the hosting of several events and the newly-created, expansive parking lot, it is difficult to understand how animals can be immune to either noise pollution or human depredations.

Of course, his old Shivaji Park bungalow at Dadar is also a grade II heritage structure though the Thackeray memorial administrators insist that they are complying with the norms, environmental and structural, to ensure that no damage is done to it. Except the working shed and re-imagining the use of the basement space, nothing is being touched upon, they claim. But since the building comes under CRZ 1 (Coastal Regulation Zone), even the slightest changes in peripheral construction require the nod from several agencies, including the Union Environment Ministry. The proposed construction has already been challenged in the Bombay High Court for alleged flouting of norms, so formal construction can begin only when that's settled. But for now a *bhoomipujan* is sealing that predicted legitimacy with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis clearing ₹100 crore for development of the memorial and handing over the bungalow to Sena president Uddhav Thackeray at a token ceremony. The political import of this being an olive branch by both sides in poll season is not lost on anybody. Neither is the fact that by respecting what is an emotional issue for the Shiv Sena, the BJP is keen to heal the recent wounds caused by ongoing public spats and the on-off threats to snap ties of almost two years. The political will to accommodate the Sena's concerns, to the extent of even asking the mayor to vacate his place against his wishes, can be understood considering that the clearance for the Thackeray memorial was given by the Congress-NCP regime. The larger question is do we pursue a memorial mania just because there are precedents of iconisation even in European history? Isn't it enough that contemporary history teaches generations after us what matters the most — the contribution of our movement leaders? The Sena trust could run several welfare programmes for the youth and keep the legacy alive in a far more vibrant manner than simply housing a museum in a heritage bungalow. That's just caging a leader known as the "tiger" once.

Vote for world peace

Had it not been for the success of the first general and Assembly elections in 1952, the great experiment of democracy would have failed in India and the world would not have been what it is



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

Sukumar Sen, an Indian civil servant — the first Chief Election Commissioner of India no less — arguably deserved a 'Nobel Prize for Peace' in his official capacity for actually launching this country into the trajectory of democracy. Were it not for the successful completion of the first general and Assembly elections in 1952, the exalted principles of democracy, as enshrined in the Constitution, could have received a rude setback.

Imagine for a moment in 1953, when Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, to give him his full breadth, got his Nobel Prize for Literature (in absentia) "for his mastery of historical and biographical descriptions as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values"; Sen receiving the same in the Peace category. His citation could read, "for peacefully conducting the world's largest elections in India in 1952 on the basis of universal adult suffrage notwithstanding an abysmally low literacy rate of the electorate, thereby launching the Asian nation on the path of democracy believed to be a preserve of affluent and industrialised nations of the West".

In reality, the Nobel Prize for Peace, 1953, was awarded to General George C Marshall Junior (1880-1959), former US Secretary of State, for his plan ('Marshall Plan') aimed at economic recovery of Western Europe after the World War II. No Nobel Peace Prize was given over the next two years. The free world failed to fathom the significance of independent India's espousing democracy. India spearheaded the struggle for de-colonisation in Asia and Africa. It was also a harbinger of parliamentary democracy in the non-Western world. One fifth of the world's population, enlisted to the cause of democracy, was no mean achievement at the onset of the Cold War. India kept out of power blocs and military pacts.

In early 1975, or 25 years after the Constitution of India came into force, there were only 40 democracies in the world. They were predominantly in rich and industrialised nations of the West. It was not until the 1980s, or more noticeably the 1990s, after the cessation of the Cold War, that significant democratisation happened worldwide. There are around 125 electoral democracies in the world today.

The role of democracies in contributing to regional peace is well-acknowledged. Democracies rarely get involved into conflicts with each other or display hegemonic designs. They also tend to promote an open society. They thus, have a moderating effect on global situation.

Mao Zedong led China to become a People's Republic within a year of India's independence. It, thus, took a very different political trajectory than India's. Both nations shared cordial ties in the beginning before relationships soured. But China's going over to communism, initially as an ally of the erstwhile USSR, and subsequently as adversary, introduced definite tension in international relations.



tions. Its support to North Korea encouraged the communist regime to attack South Korea on June 25, 1950, thus triggering the Korean War (1950-1953).

The US failed to tame China and had to resume harmonic diplomatic relationship in 1972 after a quarter century of alienation. Then US President, Richard Nixon, visited Beijing to meet Mao Zedong and seal that negotiation between the two politically incompatible. But China never lost its capacity to give headache to its neighbours and the free world in general with its aggressive posturing on geopolitical and economic matters.

Our other neighbour, Pakistan, also could not develop genuine democracy. Its record of military dictatorship extends from Field Marshal Ayub Khan in the 1950/60s to General Pervez Musharraf in the new millennium. It has become a hub of Islamic extremism and terrorist groups. Its greatest rebuff to democracy was Islamabad's persistent refusal to accept the result of general elections of December 7, 1970, which sparked off the Liberation War of Bangladesh. The genocide of 1971, mostly of the Hindus in east Bengal, by the Pakistani Army, remained an excruciating chapter of history.

India's democracy is the fruition of Constitutional agitations of the 19th century, followed by mass movements led by MK Gandhi between 1920 and 1942. The first produced a nucleus of men versed in the legislative science and Western democratic principles. The sec-

ond led to the growth of contact between the leadership and the masses. The demand for the introduction of elective principles in India long ante-dated the demand for independence. The demand for introducing elective principles (in legislative councils) was raised by the likes of Justice MG Ranade, antiquarian Rajendralal Mitra, Surendranath Banerjee and several other leaders in the last quarter of the 19th century. There was not even remotely a demand for independence then.

Democracy, based on universal adult franchise, is a gift of our Constitution-makers. To ensure free and fair elections, they envisaged an autonomous Election Commission under Article 324. However, universal franchise is an upshot of our freedom struggle, which was waged in the name of every Indian, regardless of gender, social, economic and educational status.

But to implement the same at the ground level posed a huge administrative challenge. The delimitation of constituencies, based on the Census of 1941, creating an accurate voter's list, building capacity and mobilising Government employees on election duty were tough challenges for a newly-independent nation affected by Partition, mass migration and integration of princely states.

There was no dearth of sceptics who predicted that India's first general election would prove to be its last. They argued that a population with a dismal literacy rate of 16.6 per

cent was unfit to handle democracy. Critics, however, were proven wrong. A 51.5 per cent voters' turnout was recorded, which was by no means unsatisfactory.

The Election Commission made elaborate publicity arrangements to educate the voters. Sen himself went over to radio and gave a series of talks to enlighten the voters on a range of issues. January 25, 1950, was the day when the Election Commission of India was instituted. Since 2011, the day is being marked as 'National Voters' Day' to motivate and facilitate the voters to exercise their franchise. Democracy is a continuous revolution, which must be fed intermediately.

"Democracy is by no means a Western institution, it is a human institution. Wherever man has attempted to evolve political institutions, he has hit upon this wonderful institution called democracy," observed Subhas Chandra Bose in his presidential address at the Maharashtra Provincial Conference in Pune on May 3, 1928. Yet like a polar satellite, there was a danger of it going to pieces, if not properly launched. India's first Chief Election Commissioner set an example. Today, the Election Commission conducts elections five times that size. Little do we realise how immensely they contribute to world peace.

(The writer is author of recently published book, *'The Microphone Men: How Orators created a Modern India'*. Views expressed are his personal)

SOUND BITE

The sense of duty among people before India's Independence has now turned into a sense of entitlement.

Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi



A self-reliant diaspora can be an asset in bringing new perspectives, investments and ability to connect home countries with India.

Mauritius Prime Minister
—Pravind Jugnauth



I feel there are people waiting for me to fail. My failure is important to them. I understand their cynicism but I can never be like them.

Actor
—Kangana Ranaut



Young people must strive to serve the less fortunate and learn to be empathetic to needs and sufferings of fellow citizens.

Vice President
—M Venkaiah Naidu



Letters to the editor

Unanswered questions

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Didi's headline act" (January 21). The prelude to a mouth-watering political drama has been written for 2019 with an appetiser in Kolkata.

A range of opposition parties came together to address a mega rally there wherein soaring speeches were delivered, gracious gestures exchanged and clever slogans worked to prime the crowds whose expectations were running high. They all had a common target: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in general; and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief, Amit Shah, in particular.

The election was presented as a binary — the BJP alone on one side with the rest of the country on the other. In the aftermath of Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's rally, the pertinent questions that need answering now would be — what would be the role of the Congress in the political near-future?

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Exposing the real culprit of Syrian problems

This refers to the article, "Syria's carnival of treachery" (January 21) by Gwynne Dyer. In their capacities as Presidents of two close NATO allies, both Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Donald Trump are always in constant contact, especially on international issues of mutual concern. Recently, the US President decided to withdraw American troops from northern Syria, exercising his Constitutional prerogative as he strongly believed that the Islamic State (IS) was almost eliminated on the ground. It is expected that the withdrawal should be in full coordination with Turkey so that there would not be any security vacuum on the ground to be filled by terrorists again. The YPG, an affiliate of a terrorist organisation, PKK in Syria, has been awarded with immense support from Pentagon in the name of fighting IS, another terrorist organisation. Therefore, YPG is understandably upset with President Trump's decision. Those in the international media like 'independent journalists' are also shocked with this decision.

As everybody may recall, Turkey launched two military operations against IS in northern Syria in 2017 and

inequality. A Gini of 0 denotes perfect equality and 100 absolute inequality. The Gini coefficient was as high as 48 percentage point in 2013 but jumped to an alarming 63 percentage point in 2016.

After coming out of bottle, the Gini, as it were, had grown 15 percentage points in just three years. The top one per cent

of income tax filers earned 15 per cent of total income in 2013. After three years, the top one per cent of income tax filers were allowed to gulp 45 per cent of all income in 2016.

Not only is India's inequality growing but doing so now at a much faster pace. This glaring inequality must immediately be bridged by inclusive growth,

developing social sectors, adopting labour-intensive technology, empowering Dalits and women and ensuring social security for the needy. Otherwise, such barbaric inequality will force us to live in a dog-eat-dog environment where equality and fraternity are absolute no-no.

Sujit De
Kolkata

Prosperous society

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Wealth inequality" (January 22). It is true that there is a huge gap between the rich and poor in India. And this state is the same across the world. This mammoth gap cannot be curbed immediately but at least we need to make a start to build a society where everyone can live decently and gleefully. The data exhibited by Oxfam is very much similar to the Pareto principle. If the gap widens between the richer and poorer, a prosperous society can't be formulated.

Kirti Wadhawan
Kanpur

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Ladies, keep a smart purse

A majority of women today cannot take financial decisions and look up to their counterparts. To ensure a healthy nation, they must start investing



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Over the years, the strategic and influential role of women leaders in the modern economy has increased manifold and they have started contributing to the economy. They have become significant for the advancement of a nation. However, even today, a majority of women are not involved in the financial decision-making process and leave it to the men — their fathers, brothers or husbands. But all of this can change as women are economically independent and have been taking the responsibility of their earnings and investments. With inflation and taxes eating up a chunk of one's salary, savings alone are not enough to meet financial goals of a family. One needs to invest in order to get the best returns. Investments must be linked to goals. So, women have to become savvier about savings, taxes and investments, when compared to old times. In fact, financial needs, and, therefore, investment options of women are also different. When compared to men, they have more breaks in their careers, maybe due to marriage, child birth and because they have to take care of their children or the elderly.

In addition, there is also a rise in the number of single women. Women need to be financially literate in order to stay financially independent and ensure that their goals are always in line with that of their family. So, is there an age when women should start looking at investments? Actually, there is no particular time to start saving or investing. The earlier one starts, the better it is.

In your 20s: At this stage, most women choose their career path, which sets the tone for their future. This should also be the time for them to set the tone for investments. One of the basic tenets of investments is to start early. Equities can be a good investment choice in the 20s as one can take more risk when he/she is young. A young woman can choose to invest in equity mutual funds for long-term goals as mutual funds give one the benefit of professionals managing the money. Every working professional will retire sooner or later. Young women in their 20s can open a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account where she can start investing from as low as ₹500 to a maximum of ₹1,50,000 per year. These are the least risk investment products.

In your 30s: At this age, women are usually married and some might even have children. Besides, they have the additional responsibility of caring for the family. Women must remain invested in mutual funds and must also hold life insurance policies. One life insurance policy for each earning member in the family is a must. It is also important to invest for the child's future. Systematic Investment Plans mutual funds are a good way to start. A mother should opt for the Sukanya Samridhi scheme, which provides higher interest in order to save if she has a girl child. This is also a good time to invest in real estate or buying a home as well and enjoy the multiple benefits of long-term security, tax benefits, hedge against inflation, and in some cases, rental income. Some banks also give concessional interest rates to women in case they want to avail loans. Women should make the most of it. This is also a good time to invest in a suitable health insurance plan, which will take care of medical emergencies. Having sufficient money market funds or liquid funds is crucial to help tide over emergencies.

In your 40s: This is a time to think more in lines of capital protection than capital appreciation. So, fixed deposits should be the flavour as it helps in getting assured returns and one can use them to take loans as well. Most women and their spouses think about funding their kid's higher education. If one hasn't saved enough, they can take educational loan. This loan gives one tax benefits under Section 80E of the Income Tax Act. One should never use the retirement savings to fund one's child's education because it will be difficult to rebuild those savings. Once one has used his/her savings to fund some goals, the money used should be redirected to the retirement savings. Another important point is that some women buy gold jewellery as they consider it to be a good investment. Gold jewellery doesn't have great resale value because of wastage and other charges. Investment in gold should always be in the form of coins or bars. One could even invest in gold mutual funds.

In your 50s: As one nears retirement, he/she should start moving some of the risky investments to safer avenues like debt mutual funds. But women shouldn't give up investing in equities yet, and have a small portfolio of their investments in equities to beat inflation, which will most probably have a huge impact on savings once they retire. Investing in Senior Citizen Savings Scheme or fixed deposits for senior citizens upon retirement can also be beneficial. It's high time that women start investing smartly so that they can gain from higher returns and ensure stability for their financial future and in turn, become the backbone and strength of our nation.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO BLOCK EVERY PROGRAMME OF AMIT SHAH, BE IT A RALLY, YATRA OR THE LANDING OF HIS CHOPPER.

—UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL

POINT COUNTER POINT



WE BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY. POLICE GAVE THE PERMISSION TO LAND AMIT SHAH'S HELICOPTER. BJP IS MISINFORMING THE PEOPLE.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE

Giving back to the roots

India needs to address the concerns of ethnic Indians anywhere in the world, without jeopardising its relations with host countries. A more proactive diaspora policy is required



AMIT SINGH

The then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had conceptualised the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to acknowledge the existence of overseas Indians in the national narrative, give them a connective tissue to their country of origin and make them stakeholders in the country's development. Significantly, he inaugurated the first conclave on January 9, 2003, to commemorate the 'expatriate' Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa after 20 years. On that date in 1915, Gandhiji set foot on home soil and drew on his experiences to rejuvenate India's freedom struggle. Historically, the overseas Indians funded the activities of the Indian National Congress and the Indian National Army in gaining Independence. They also led the Ghadar Movement against the British Raj. Fifteen editions down the line, the Divas, currently being held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, has even solidified their role in the country of their birth with the theme being the "Role of the Indian Diaspora in Building a New India."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is faced with an uphill task of redefining India as well as global politics, is poised to give equal opportunities to overseas communities. The large presence (more than 25 million) of the diaspora across the world has compelled New Delhi to positively engage its untapped asset in fulfilling its internal as well as external dreams. Indians abroad have the potential to advance the country's profile through their intellect, finance, expertise and enterprise. They played a critical role during the 1990s, when our economy opened up for the first time, and in 1998, when we were faced with Western economic sanctions following the Pokhran II nuclear tests.

Moreover, in the contemporary globalised world, the diaspora has emerged as a powerful factor in developing workable relations between nation states and been a catalyst in strengthening bilateral relations between India and host nations. It is also playing a pivotal role in India's soft power diplomacy, which is one of the major components of New Delhi's foreign policy strategy. The India-US Civil Nuclear Deal would not have happened if ethnic Indians in the US had not lobbied successfully. Our lobby groups, in fact, have done a lot to change the perception of India on Capitol Hill despite regime changes. And at a time when the world talks about how overseas Chinese plough back resources into their home country, it is significant that India retained its position as the world's top recipient of remittances in 2018, too, with \$80 billion. Interestingly, the total remittances are estimated to be equivalent to 2.8 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to an Indian Economic Review survey, using National Sample Survey Organisation data, these remittances helped in poverty reduction and changing consumption behaviour in rural areas. Researchers found that receiver families progressed very well in spending on healthcare and amenities that pushed up their ease-of-living index.

Therefore, knowing the potential of the Indian diaspora, Modi deliberately interacted with the overseas community during his trips to the US, Australia, Myanmar, Fiji, Saudi Arabia and UK among others. He even liberalised visa services for them and encouraged them to be partakers in new projects.

The Government is also thinking about con-

MANY IN THE PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN (PIO) COMMUNITY BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOTALLY IGNORED THE INDIAN DIASPORA, EXCEPT WHEN IT OCCASIONALLY ADDRESSED CERTAIN ISSUES AS PER ITS OWN CONVENIENCE. NEW DELHI WANTS TO ENGAGE THE PIOs BUT WITHOUT ANY LIABILITIES. THE REASON IS QUITE CLEAR — THE PIOs AT PRESENT DO NOT CREATE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE FOR THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AS COMPARED TO THE NRIs



nnecting diaspora communities across generations, particularly trying to revive ties with original settlers, whom we call People of Indian Origin (PIOs). This is a good step as NRIs, also known as the 'new' diaspora and being more affluent, tend to top the headline acts and seem to project themselves as better influencers.

The push for an inclusive approach can be traced as far back as 2000, when the Government set up a high-level committee on Indian diaspora for assessing issues concerning Indians overseas, suggesting new policy and organisational frameworks and recommending a country-specific agenda to intensify India's diplomatic engagement. On the recommendation of that committee, the government implemented numerous policy initiatives, including the decision to celebrate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and institute the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards. The most significant initiative announced by Vajpayee at the inaugural edition was that PIOs in certain countries would get dual citizenship. However, his party lost the next general elections.

In 2004, the Manmohan Singh Government adopted two significant measures: Establishing a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and introducing the Overseas Citizenship of India Scheme in August 2005 in response to "dual citizenship". During the 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2012, the government announced voting rights to NRIs and some of them exercised their franchise for the first time in the 2014 general election.

However, many in the PIO community now believe that the government totally ignored the Indian diaspora, except when it occasionally addressed certain issues as per its own convenience. They were upset by the government's

handling of racial attacks on Indians in Australia, when New Delhi watched the whole episode as a mute spectator and engaged only in lip service to pressure Canberra. Another example of the government's apathy was in 2007 when the Hindu Rights Action Force (HINDRAF) internationalised the wretched condition of ethnic Indians in Malaysia. The government's initial response was tight-lipped. This came as a shocker considering it had given a stern response in 2003, when nearly 300 Indians, mostly IT professionals in Kuala Lumpur, were "malreated" and "interrogated" by Malaysian authorities. It had warned that any repeat of such incidents would affect bilateral ties.

Nonetheless, one can also argue that the victims of ill-treatment on March 9, 2003 were Indian citizens/NRIs. On the other hand, the protest of November 2007 concerned Malaysian citizens of Indian descent and, therefore, the government refrained from interfering in what could be interpreted as interference in the internal matters of Malaysia. However, the fact of the matter is that most PIOs still consider themselves as Indians and, whenever they are in trouble in the host countries, look at their motherland in protecting their interests. Interestingly, New Delhi also wants to engage the PIOs but without any liabilities. The reason is quite clear — the PIOs, at present, do not create an economic constituency for the Indian government compared to NRIs. Therefore, one must engage in some form of meaningful reciprocal links with PIOs.

This apathy has led to a lesser participation of overseas Indians in successive celebrations of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Nowadays, the diaspora has realised that the event is more about

"Bharat" rather than the "Pravasi." The Modi Government has realised this predicament and, therefore, has made it a biennial instead of an annual event.

Now, it is high time for the government to revise its almost two-decade-old report and chalk out a proactive diaspora policy. In fact, the ruling BJP should not forget its election manifesto of 2014, where it made it clear that it would work with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) by adopting a proactive diplomacy strategy to develop what referred to as "Brand India." It stated that "the NRIs, PIOs and professionals settled abroad are a vast reservoir to articulate the national interests and affairs globally. This resource will be harnessed for strengthening Brand India."

India should be obliged to address the concerns of ethnic Indians anywhere in the world, without jeopardising its relations with host countries. Only then, the condition of PIOs as well as India will improve globally, as PIOs constitute more than 75 per cent of the Indian diaspora. This is, therefore, an opportune time for New Delhi to substantially, rather than symbolically, recalibrate its diaspora policy that will redefine its terms of engagement. This recalibration can pay rich dividends to its foreign policy objectives and will also help them be a valuable human resource for developing a new India. As the Prime Minister himself acknowledged, while addressing the first PIO Parliamentarians Conference in New Delhi, law makers from countries ranging from the US and the UK to Reunion Islands in the Indian Ocean could boost India's economic growth.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, University of Delhi)

The many perils of a coalition

The impressive show of unanimity among Opposition leaders at a rally in Kolkata for the first time presented a prospect of a pre-poll alternative to the BJP. But for that to fructify, challenges are many. Most important of all is to stay united



KALYANI SHANKAR

Can the Opposition unite to pose a challenge to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the coming months? There are so many ifs and buts although West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee organised a mammoth rally in Kolkata's Brigade grounds last week.

The who's who of the Opposition gathered to prepare a roadmap for a coalition against the ruling BJP. Addressing the 'United India' rally, Banerjee predicted that the BJP's days were numbered and that the "expiry date" of the Modi-led Government had come. The rally was, perhaps, the beginning of Opposition efforts to oust the BJP Government ahead of the 2019

Lok Sabha election. Though the idea could not move forward earlier, when Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy took oath on May 23 last year. Several Opposition leaders had graced that occasion too.

But this time, it is likely to be followed up with another rally in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh, by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and another one in Delhi, organised by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal. An impressive list of leaders from 20-plus parties — including former Prime Minister Deve Gowda, former Union Ministers Sharad Pawar, Arun Shourie and Shatrughan Sinha, Chief Ministers Chandrababu Naidu, Arvind Kejriwal and HD Kumaraswamy, former Chief Ministers Akhilesh Yadav, Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Geogong Apang among others — were a part of the Kolkata rally.

From the podium, Banerjee appealed to the country, 'Delhi mein sarkar badal do' (change the Government at the Centre). Other Opposition leaders, too, echoed similar sentiments. This was the first big effort by the Opposition after the BJP lost badly in the three Hindi heartland States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — last month.

The Opposition combine boasts a wealth of leaders but as Deve Gowda pointed out, it would be very difficult for different party leaders to forget their differences and come together. There are so many Opposition parties of various hues and ideologies that are pulling in different directions, the possibility of which is not a national coalition but state-specific alliances.

Most importantly, ego of regional chieftains comes in the way of unity. In fact, the Congress is working on this strategy and so are other parties. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have come together, keeping the Congress out. In West Bengal, will

the Congress go with the Trinamool Congress or the Left? Will the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) continue its ties with the Congress in Andhra Pradesh, where the party's vote share is almost zero?

In the North-East, an alliance with regional parties is required. Left parties have remained outside as they do not want to share the platform with the TMC. Meanwhile, Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrashekhar Rao, who was busy mobilising a federal front, was absent at the rally because he did not want to share the dais with Naidu and Congress leaders.

These are the challenges that will come in the way of Opposition unity. Once this issue is resolved, then comes the question of who would be the prime ministerial candidate? This topic has been pushed aside for now. Leaders have claimed that it will be a collective leadership and the candidate can be decided in a post-poll scenario.

"Throw the BJP out. We will figure out who can become the Prime

Minister. Modiji need not worry," said Banerjee. Even the Congress agreed that the decision should be taken only in a post-poll scenario. The Opposition, therefore, will go without a challenger to Modi despite its galaxy of leaders. The BJP will, taking advantage of this scenario, opt for a presidential style of campaign.

The third challenge is for the regional satraps to show an extraordinary determination to sweep the polls in their respective States. They did well in 2014 by winning an impressive number of seats. A repeat performance would go a long way in challenging Modi and his Government.

The fourth challenge is a 'one-on-one fight' against the BJP. This would avoid a division of Opposition votes but it appears difficult; despite our differences, we have to tread the path holding hand together).

The coming days and weeks will show whether the opposition means what it says.

The fifth and the most important point is that the Opposition has no new narrative — just Modi-bash-

ing will not fetch them votes. Unless they come up with a new vision, voters will not get enthused. Recently, Modi reacted in his characteristic style: "My stand on corruption has made some people angry as I prevented them from looting public money; they have formed the *maha-gandhan*." Modi is simply sticking to his corruption plank.

There is no doubt that Opposition unity is very difficult to achieve but there is no harm in trying. After all, the BJP came to power with just 31 per cent vote share in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll.

As one of the Opposition leaders said, "Manzil bahut door hai, Raasta bahut kathin hai; Dil mile na mile, Haath mila ke chalo" (our destination is far and the path is difficult; despite our differences, we have to tread the path holding hand together). The coming days and weeks will show whether the opposition means what it says.

(The writer is a senior political commentator and syndicated columnist)



OFFER PROTECTION TO THE WORKERS

Bangladesh is not alone in having a garment sector in which workers are ruthlessly exploited. An investigation found a Chinese toy factory where women were paid on average 1p to make a doll which sells for £34.99 in the UK. So long as such factories are controlled by authoritarian governments, improvements can only be piecemeal and often cosmetic.

(The Guardian editorial)

Given the importance of accounting in trade, commerce and Government, jobs in this field will never lose their significance, says DR NARENDRA SHYAM SUKHA

ACCOUNT YOUR FUTURE

Accounting helps you keep a track of money and who isn't interested in money? Accounting with daily journals, ledgers, bank reconciliation statements, profit and loss statements and income and balance sheets present an unbiased picture of the financial position of an organisation.

Accountants tell the true position with regard to its liabilities, cash sources, viability of managerial and investor decisions and compliance with taxation and corporate laws.

Further, accounting helps a business, venture or a nation plan, control and execute their budgets and expenditures, forecast revenues or turnovers, purchase new assets or take on new liabilities, monitor financial health, take decisions with regard to personnel hiring or recruitment and regulate growth in the economy. Considering the vital importance of

accounting work to trade, commerce and Government, is it any wonder that accounting jobs never lose their significance.

According to *payscale.com*, the top salary for an accountant, not being a Chartered Accountant, could go up to ₹487,303 a year. There is steady and assured growth for an accountant over the progression of her career. Experience affects accountant salaries markedly. The highest growth can take place during the middle to late career milestones. In a related survey of those working in accounts on the same platform, it was found

EXPERIENCE AFFECTS ACCOUNTANT SALARIES MARKEDLY. ACCORDING TO Payscale.com, THE TOP SALARY FOR AN ACCOUNTANT, NOT A CA, COULD GO UP TO ₹5 LAKH A YEAR



additional competencies because of the expansion of digitisation to every sphere of business. SAP is one of the most widely used enterprise application programmes being used in industry and to obtain veracity and genuineness of training, it is crucial to choose a SAP authorised training delivery partner to complete your certification in this software.

Most accountants become record-keepers, especially at the entry-level. However, they are supposed to check and maintain calculations, create sales and cash flow reports, administer payrolls, prepare balance sheets, carry out billing activity, manage budgets and inventory. At a mid to senior level, the accountant may also be expected to file taxes or go through historical reports to create turnover forecasts. Sometimes, internal audits may be needed to identify trouble areas in performance. An accounting staff must also monitor whether office personnel are adhering to company policies and relevant statutes. It takes skill for the accountant to prepare management reports with the right amount of accuracy, detail and illustration.

Ordinarily, commerce graduates with an additional diploma or certification in specialised accounting practices may start working as an accountant. Internships as an accountant help in cementing working knowledge and adding authority to your resume. Knowledge of application software such as Quickbooks, Tally or Microsoft Excel is indispensable to reconcile new age imperatives with existing competencies. Accounting work is seldom understood by solo entrepreneurs and small businesses and so the accountant must be a self-starter. However, in other organisations, she may be required to work as part of a team and collaboration must also be part of your skill set.

Accountants, today, may require



Remember that you need not be a number cruncher to be an accountant. Arithmetic skills are honed by constant practice. Initially, you may even find reporting work to be boring and repetitive. But it will pay the bills while you earn and you can always enroll in and complete more advanced courses that lead into a leadership role. Financial roles are little understood and diligence and open-mindedness can get a long way in this enticing profession.

The writer is founder chairman, ICA Edu Skills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Annual alumni meet



Dignitaries along with alumni of IP University's Management School during their annual alumni meet

institution socially, culturally, academically and professionally."

In order to encourage the contribution of the alumni, the school has recently instituted 'Distinguished Alumni Award' which was given to Puneet Gaur, an alumnus of 2001 in recognition of his professional accomplishment and contribution to corporate life of the school.

A portal for the alumni of the school was also launched to maintain better connectivity to the alumni of the school. The event was followed by alumni interaction, cultural programmes and fun activities.

The Jashwini of Kaligriha Ranganathan Montford, Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Perambur, Chennai.

B Aravind, Ashwin Ranga VB and LS Yuvarajesh of Shristi Vidhyashram Senior Secondary School, Vellore, won the first prize and cash award of ₹10,000 in the working models contest along with K Somasundaram and D Devandhiran of Government HSS, Pennathur, Vellore. Students of both the schools received ₹10,000 as cash prize. The second prize with a cash award of ₹7,500 went to Janarthana of Veera Lakshmi Vidyalaya High School, Salem and P Dinesh Kumar and G Dhanush Kumar of Sunbeam Matriculation School, Vellore.

Among those who took part in the prize distribution function included Pro Vice Chancellor Dr S Narayanan, Dr A Mary Saral, dean, School of Advanced Sciences and Professors Dr R Vijayaraghavan, Dr E James Jebaseelan Samuel and Dr N Arunai Nambi Raj.

In the idea presentation contest, the first place was bagged by E Aswathi of AKM Higher Secondary School, Kottoor, Kerala and received ₹10,000 as cash prize. In the quiz contest for students in Class XI and XII, Anand, Krishna Rajmohan and Suhail of Bhavans Vidya Mandir, Kochi, Kerala, won the first

National science contest



Founder and chancellor of VIT, Dr G Viswanathan, hands over the prizes to the winners of annual National Level Science Contest

Vidashram, senior secondary school, Vellore, won the first prize in the quiz contest and received ₹15,000 cash prize, while P Greeshmant, M Avinashand Ch Bhavadeep of St Mary's Public School, Nellore, AP, won the second place & received ₹10,000 as cash prize.

In the quiz contest for students in Class XI and XII, Anand, Krishna Rajmohan and Suhail of Bhavans Vidya Mandir, Kochi, Kerala, won the first

place and received ₹20,000 as cash prize, while the second prize with a cash award of ₹15,000 went to Mohan Mythresh, Manish KR and Vignesh C of Sunbeam CBSE school, Vellore.

In the idea presentation contest, the first place was bagged by E Aswathi of AKM Higher Secondary School, Kottoor, Kerala and received ₹10,000 as cash prize, while the second prize with a cash award of ₹7,500 went to S Bavedra, P Pavithra and S

Washington DC, followed by Copenhagen, Oslo, Vienna and Zurich. Washington's steady economy, dynamic population, outstanding infrastructure and connectivity, highly-skilled workforce and world class education are all characteristics which contribute to making the city such a talent hub.

For the first time, the 2019 GTCI provides a longitudinal analysis of talent competitiveness based on the results of all GTCI editions since 2013.

The main finding is that the gap separating the talent champions from the rest of the global community has been growing. Talent competitiveness is strengthening in groups of countries where it is already comparatively high and weakening in those where it is relatively low.

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Although India has a few universities and educational institutions offering some of these courses, they

The eighth two-day annual National Level Science Contest was conducted recently for school students at Vellore Institute of Technology. Founder and chancellor of VIT, Dr G Viswanathan, handed over prizes worth ₹3 lakh along with the certificates to the winners.

Organised by VIT every year, the National Level Science Contest gives a platform to the school students to demonstrate their talent in their area of interest. Competitions and innovative projects were displayed during the course of the two-day contest. Around 564 students from 33 High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala participated in various events.

Around 70 teams took part in working models event, 42 teams in idea presentation, 59 teams in poster presentation and 62 teams competed in the quiz contest.

S Dhnanjanay, Sanjay B and Dhruv N of Shristi

Global talent competitiveness index



efforts to develop bottom up innovation and empower employees. Such progress is especially true in the cities, where 'Smart cities' ecosystems are increasingly acting as talent magnets.

The results further show:

■ The highest-ranking countries and cities tend to be the most open to entrepreneurial talent.

■ Digitalisation and globalisation are increasing the role of entrepreneurial talent.

Cities rather than countries are developing stronger roles as talent hubs and will be crucial to reshaping the global talent scene.

This growing importance of cities is due to their greater flexibility and ability to adapt to new trends and patterns, as nimble economic units where policy can be changed more

swiftly, cities are thus more attractive for talent, especially entrepreneurial talent.

The top-ranked city this year is

TIPTOP

Hone child's growth with early childhood education

PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH shares why early childhood education is essential for subjective, social and physical development of a child

Early childhood is a crucial time for subjective, social and physical development of a child. Improvement is affected by characteristics of the young, their family, and the more extensive social conditioning around the surrounding.

Physical well-being, discernment, dialect, and social and enthusiastic improvement thereafter supports school preparation. Openly supported, focus based, through early youth improvement programmes advances the prosperity of youthful youngsters.

Most parents think that Early Childhood Education (ECE) is not so important for their child's development and therefore send them directly to primary schools.

Therefore, often they end up ignoring the basic education which a child needs to learn from the beginning. A strong assemblage of proof demonstrates that young children who get fitting nourishment with passionate and subjective incitement around the surroundings are better arranged for school and learning.

Early age improvement pro-

grammes are intended to enhance their subjective learning and prepare socially enthusiastic preschool children thus impacting preparation for learning in the school setting. Proper upbringing, education, personal development is very necessary today. ECE is about honing and moulding the child which will

eventually form the basis of their lifelong journey. Let's discuss some essential benefits of ECE:

■ **Socialisation:** Socialisation with individuals other than the family in a protected situation is the fundamental component to the underneath territories. As guardians, we instinctively comprehend that it's critical to acquaint our children with other youngsters and bolster their progress into their very own kinship gatherings. The prior we do this, the better, as it enables children to conquer modesty and increase fearlessness. In the event that we leave this for late in time, we end up obstructing their social advancement.

■ **The idea of cooperation:** Figuring out how to share, collaborate, alternate and drive forward inside a protected learning condition, guided by experts incites this practice. This is particularly essential for the parents who may not be accustomed to offering the same to their child at home.

■ **Focusing on integrated development:** The methodology taken to guide the solid establishment of the youngster's social, physical and mental advancement, sets them up for a lifetime of learning. Teachers specialised in early childhood education are most prepared in recognising regions where attention is required for youngsters and

therefore help in building projects and exercises around these requirements. The company of such experts are additionally critical as in such settings preschoolers are agreeable and comprehensive.

■ **Values and morals:** A child learns values and morals from the environment that they are growing from their parents, relatives and school. So, it's very important that we give much importance to inculcating values and morals in school. There is no better place to take in this one,

■ **Confidence, concentration, patience & self-esteem:** Children need opportunities to be involved in an abundance of social experiences, where they can explore and practice the social skills of patience. A solid feeling of prosperity gives youngsters certainty, positive thinking and confidence which will urge children to investigate their abilities and aptitudes. Positive cooperation with other youngsters and instructors will advance them into a positive, solid and secure perspective of themselves that will enable them to approach circumstances and issues unhesitant for the rest of their lives.

The writer is founder and MD, Cambridge Montessori Preschool

other than in a chaotic preschool condition, where everything is shared and class and conduct are both instructed and adapted to naturally.

■ **Flexibility:** It's critical that early youth instructors and guardians cooperate to create versatility in child as early as expected. By making a reliable, secure and reasonable social condition, with clear desires and unsurprising outcomes, children can inculcate abilities in overseeing themselves and their feelings. It's an educator's business to give a testing situation where children can learn through direct encounters.

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The writer is founder and MD, Cambridge Montessori Preschool

Loan for off-beat courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Recent trend shows that Indian students are opting for international universities to pursue their higher education in non-traditional courses like robotics, applied science or artificial intelligence along with sports management, music technology, photonics and image consulting.

With the availability of education loan for these off-beat and non-traditional courses, this has made it more convenient for aspirants to study abroad.

Although India has a few universities and educational institutions offering some of these courses, they

are quite new and have a long way to reach global standards. There are many renowned educational institutions—Universities in Europe and the United States

Neeraj Saxena, CEO and MD, Auxilo Finserve Pvt Ltd, said: "Earlier, educational loans were available only for certain professional courses. Staying abreast with the changing trends, many loan providers provide students with an education loan for studying courses like robotics, sports management or music technology. This has led to the rise in the number of Indian students aspiring to pursue off-beat courses from international educational institutions."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence"

— Robert Frost

HEALTH PROGRAMMES

The School of Health Sciences (SOHS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) invites application for its four new skill-based health programmes. The aim is to create trained health care personnel for improving health care delivery across the country. These programmes are:

■ Certificate in General Duty Assistance (CGDA)

The short duration programme prepares the candidate in non-clinical tasks or the activities like use of assistive devices, patient care, transporting patients, general hygiene and grooming, handling of samples, drugs and after care of equipments and much more.

■ Certificate in Home Health Assistance (CHHA)

This short duration training programme focuses on the acquisition of skills necessary to provide support by undertaking non-clinical tasks.

Eligibility: Class XII pass in Science stream with Biology.

Duration: Six months to two years.

■ Certificate in Geriatric Care Assistance (CGCA)

This short duration skill based programme trains candidates to provide support to old age people or patients by undertaking non-clinical tasks such as assessment, patient positions, movements, feeding, hygiene, grooming and much more.

Eligibility: Class XII pass in Science stream with Biology.

Duration: Six months to two years.

■ Certificate in Phlebotomy Assistance (CPHA)

This short duration skill based training programme focuses on the acquisition of skills necessary to draw quality blood samples from patients, storage, transport to laboratory for medical testing and practice infection control measures.

Eligibility: Class XII pass in Science stream with Biology.

How to Apply: Application forms and brochure may be obtained from admission office of The Hotel School at 989, Near Oberoi Farm, Kapashera, New Delhi, Delhi 110037.

Deadline: February 7, 2019.





DESIGN THE FUTURE

Design is one of the most challenging, fast-moving, and visionary fields to work in and it can be financially rewarding as well, says DR SANJAY GUPTA

There's no place quite like the design industry. It's where creativity and technology meet, and where innovation thrives. Design is absolutely everywhere—from the clothes we wear to the apps we use, from the cars we drive to the chairs we sit on. As a designer, you have the power to shape the world. There are many careers that can be launched after taking a design course. Those with a passion for fashion may become retail clothing buyers, display merchandisers or fashion designers. Media jobs include magazine cover designer, photographer, design associate and layout editor. Then there are marketing opportunities like graphic designer, packaging developer, concept and design technician or production manager. The retail industry careers include showroom design consultant, store designer, display coordinator and visual merchandiser.

Design is one of the most challenging, fast-moving, and visionary fields to work in and it can be financially rewarding, too. Below are five high-paid fields.

DIGITAL DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION

One can choose to be animators, graphic designers, illustrators, game developers, game artists, designers, creative directors, web artists, art directors, installation designers, eBook illustrators, storyboard artists, instructors, professors, or freelance artists. This field is slightly different from pure design. It teaches the artists the use of a wide range of software, artistic and technical techniques to create art. Digital design and illustration programmes prepare students for

careers in the world of digital design and art by combining traditional painting and drawing skills with new media digital applications and output strategies. Digital designers and illustrators get to work in diverse industries like advertising, multimedia, gaming, graphic design, film and video, architecture, automotive, the medical industry and even in criminal investigations as forensics.

TRANSPORTATION DESIGN

Professionals who work in transportation design are known as industrial designers. They produce designs for automobiles, aircraft, watercraft, mass transit systems and two-wheeled vehicles, taking into consideration aesthetics, ergonomics, manufacturing, marketing, safety and economics. They also specialise in areas like hybrid vehicle, recreational vehicle or aircraft interior design. Transportation designers usually start their careers with a bachelor's degree in industrial design, and many go on to earn a master's degree. Learning how to take a product concept and design a producible item is the focus of a transportation designer. Transportation designers can specialise in an industry, such as aviation or mass transit, or a specific transportation type, such as hybrid or electric transport. A bachelor's in industrial design programme provides the training in CAD software and in product design needed by these professionals.

PRODUCT DESIGN

This is all about creating 3-D products through an efficient process of idea generation, development and evaluation. Product designers have an understanding of the relationship between art, science and technology, and have the ability to exploit each of these things in different ways to create new products.

A designer's role in an organisation involves envisioning, imagining, conceptualising and creating products that people can use and cherish in their daily life. Product design or industrial design being a gentle mix of art and technology can help elevate human life experience by providing effective solutions to the identified consumer needs. A product designer works towards improving the novelty, usability, functionality and aesthetics of a product. Studying product design provides a broad theoretical knowledge and practical skill set as one would require using production methods and materials creatively.

GAME DESIGN

The industry has witnessed tremendous growth over the last 10 years. With the market touching the ₹1,300 crore mark in 2012, it has encouraged various international animation companies to outsource work to India. A game designer is someone who has a vision of what the game is as it goes through iterations during its development cycle. Besides computer and console gaming, mobile games are a new part of the gaming sector. Established jobs for a game designer include working with game developers or game publishing companies. These can range from small to large-sized companies producing games for other vendors.

One career path to game design could be starting as a game tester and then gradually moving on to game designing. This can offer a good grounding in the industry and enable insights into different areas, since employers seek some experience for mid-level positions.

DESIGN MANAGEMENT

This is all about the business side of design. It encompasses the ongoing processes, business decisions, and strategies that enable innovation and creation of effectively-designed products, services, communications, environments, and brands. At a deeper level, design management links design, innovation, technology, management and customers to provide competitive advantage for organisational success.

Earlier, design management was seen as limited to the management of design projects. Over time, it has evolved to other aspects of the organisation on a functional and strategic level. Design management professionals can work in various industries, including advertising and marketing, architecture, graphic design or motion pictures. Entry-level design management professionals can work as marketing assistants, production assistants and project management assistants. More experienced design management professionals can seek employment as brand strategists, advertising executives, product developers, project managers, marketing managers and business directors.

The writer is Vice-chancellor at World University of Design

'Upskilling will be focus for HR'

HR teams will excel at technologically advanced smart hiring and overcoming the past challenges will be easier in 2019, says ABHIJIT KASHYAPE

The global human resources industry witnessed massive disruption in 2018. With technological innovation at its peak, job roles and hiring practices transformed at a remarkable pace. On the back of this deluge of innovation, the sector is projected to reach a whopping \$30 billion by 2025.

Across the globe, HR teams adopted technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning and Data Analytics in order to streamline work and make the hiring process more efficient. Recruiters utilized the power of AI to carry out job-candidate matching, a process that is a leg up from traditional, commoditised hiring practices. Through job-candidate matching, the skillsets demanded by a particular job role are meticulously matched with the skills possessed by candidates, leading to smarter hiring decisions.

Recruiters can therefore cast a wider net while searching for candidates and rest assured that only the best and most suitable ones will finally appear for face-to-face interviews.

The HR managers gave higher importance to candidate experience in the entire hiring process. This ensured that the right talent was not lost to competitors due to poor engagement or lack of timely feedback. In order to amplify the recruiting experience for candidates, HR managers began using automated chatbots to provide feedback post interviews. Through Natural Language Processing and machine learning, AI allowed HR managers to assess everything from the cultural fit to the skills of candidates almost instantaneously. With neutral assessment being a key point while getting the perfect fit, Monjin, video interviewing and assessment platform has established a network of elite interviewers, a unique on its own. Lastly, recruiters also took to social media, online classifieds and video-based hiring platforms to further optimise the entire hiring process.

While innovative technologies disrupted industries, HR faced a unique challenge in 2018. Technology created several new jobs across industries, but there exists a lack of skilled professionals that can take up these roles.

In 2019, upskilling and reskilling will be one of the key focus areas for HR teams. HR managers will adopt a continuous learning culture within workspaces to motivate employees and ensure definitive career growth. Retention is also a major challenge for recruiters who struggle with attrition month after month. A greater focus on candidate and employee satisfaction, and communication with existing employees can help HR managers overcome this challenge. Further, company culture and regular incentives can also give a significant boost to employee retention.

Greater focus will be laid on employee development across all parameters from technological to soft skills. Further, HR teams will focus on hiring candidates who possess relevant skills and have a vigor to continue learning.

Additionally, HR teams will need to become technologically adept in order to stay abreast with the rapidly changing job landscape. While people skills will remain at the heart of all HR roles, managers will need to adopt skills in AI, data analytics and automation to further augment HR practices. Technologically advanced HR teams will excel at technologically advanced smart hiring, and overcoming the past challenges will be easier.

Life is a sea-saw and it is very rightly observed that the ever balancing act to maintain equilibrium calls for some introspection. The most debatable topic persisting since ages is — which should get more importance? Sometimes the extreme imbalance causes lot of anxiety and stress at both the fronts hence it is pertinent to know the mantra of successful professional life backed with a healthy personal front for students.

The real task of balance takes place on a weekly and daily basis, even from hour to hour. Commonly cited pro-work factors include potential income, career continuity and advancement, workplace intellectual and social stimulation, enriched

childcare social environment for kids, etc. Adverse factors include reduced time spent with family, fatigue, weekends dominated by domestic chores, chronic crisis coping, etc. Hence one should be very focussed as to achieve a perfect "sea-saw" euphoria. Few tips which will help reduce this stress!

Tips to attain balance between work-life :
Identify your support system: Find out who can be counted on to help when help is needed? Categorise people and write the names of people who could be counted on if necessary. Then Identify at least two support system of your life who can provide you neutral guidance at the time of ambiguity in life.

Be realistic: One should not set

expectations that can't be achieved. For example one should question our mind — Is 20 hours of study realistic pattern? Always set practical boundaries for your daily to do list to make it a success.

Plan ahead: Spending time working away from home means that there will be fewer hours available in the day to accomplish the same number of jobs around the house.

Don't procrastinate: Delaying things may lead to piling of more and more work in the end. Another disadvantage of

procrastination is that it only keeps adding more stress at the top of daily work load.

Prioritise responsibilities at work: One should make a mental chart of tasks of high importance, medium importance and least importance. This will help cope up with the essentials first as to reduce mental stress of laying off things.

Try not to bring work at home: Unless in extreme cases like board meetings or crisis at work one should never carry work at home. This acts like de-catalysis in family life. Hence one should try best to achieve

official goals at work only.

Stick to your schedule, do not divert: The reason for that is that when you plan things, then you always stay informed. It means you know when you will be able to finish a particular assignment or college project. You can always include breaks or a small outing as part of the schedule. It will work as an incentive to stick to schedule, knowing when to do what; otherwise, you may end up with a pile up of work, including new stuff that you were not aware of because you didn't schedule. Write things up, make notes, plan well, and you will find it much easier to balance your life between study, work, and personal life.

Manage stress levels: Stress is an

inevitable part of being a student and a worker, so learn how to keep it in check. Take regular breaks, get enough sleep, stay physically active, get out into the great outdoors and let yourself enjoy some of what life has to offer.

Watch for signs of burn-out: If your job performance or academic results begins to flag, take action. Falling asleep in class, drinking excessive amounts of caffeine, losing interest in your job or studies or becoming irritable are warning signs. A balance is easier to achieve when you make a sincere effort towards it.

The writer is Pallavi Prakash, Motivational Speaker and Founder-CEO of Knowledge Seed Learning Centre

MIND IT

MARKETING AT IDBI FEDERAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Location: Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurugram, Noida

Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63583

Application deadline: January 29, 2019

CONTENT WRITING AT SOLUTIONVALLEY

Location: Delhi, Noida

Stipend: ₹12,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63584

Application deadline: January 31, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT RAO IIT

Location: Delhi

Stipend: ₹21,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63585

Application deadline: February 1, 2019

LAW/ LEGAL AT JINDAL & COMPANY

Location: Delhi

Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63586

Application deadline: February 1, 2019

HR AT EVELYN LEARNING SYSTEMS

Location: Delhi, Noida

Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63587

Application deadline: February 1, 2019

CA AT HP INCORPORATION

Location: Bengaluru

Stipend: ₹35,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63588

Application deadline: February 13, 2019

DATA ENTRY AT CEAT

Location: Work From Home

Stipend: ₹5,000-₹8,000 per month

Link: internshala.com/i/63589

Application deadline: February 3, 2019

IN BRIEF

MODULE ON COLOUR AND DESIGN

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Asian Paints and Pearl Academy to launch a new module on trends and techniques in colour. This alliance gives students the opportunity to gain expertise in colour techniques through a series of structured modules across levels.

As part of the alliance, every year, experts from Asian Paints will engage with

students to strengthen their knowledge on the theory of colours and additionally, students would be utilising data from trend reports from Asian Paints.

Understanding the critical role of colour in any form of design and art, the alliance focuses on creating individuals who will become leaders in their understanding of colour with respect to space design, interior styling, art direction and personal home space, designed to specific client needs.

The topics will range from disruptive technologies like AI and its impact on mobility, education and skill development and their impact on the youth, as well as entrepreneurship and economic growth specially in a year that is politically critical in this region.

The forum will bring together over 60 speakers and 240 delegates that will focus on conversations around a connected and disruptive globe.

The topics will range from disruptive technologies like AI and its impact on mobility, education and skill development and their impact on the youth, as well as entrepreneurship and economic growth specially in a year that is politically critical in this region.

The forum will also explore themes around the biggest elections in South-east Asia involving a huge youth population, with 133 million new voters.

The topics will range from disruptive technologies like AI and its impact on mobility, education and skill development and their impact on the youth, as well as entrepreneurship and economic growth specially in a year that is politically critical in this region.

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Exporters may get boost under new FTP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Exporters are likely to get incentives based on parameters like research and development, product-specific clusters and production pattern under a five-year foreign trade policy (FTP) to be released later this year, an official said.

The commerce ministry is working on recasting the existing export incentive schemes in line with the global trade norms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"We are recasting our export incentive schemes. In the new FTP, they would be in compliance with the global trade rules. The new incentives could focus on R&D activities, production parameters, product-specific clusters. Rebate

can also be given on state levies," the official added.

The last FTP was released in 2015 for five years. It provided guidelines for enhancing exports with an overall objective of pushing economic growth and job creation.

Under an FTP, the government announces incentives for exporters. Currently, duty benefits are provided under merchandise export from India scheme (MEIS) and services export from India scheme (SEIS).

Currently, maximum incentives are cornered by automobile and pharmaceutical companies under MEIS. In this scheme, the government provides duty benefits depending on product and country.

"Ideally, the scheme should target MSMEs," the official added. For the new FTP, the commerce ministry is engaged with all commodity boards and ministries concerned for identifying the support measures compliant with global trade rules.

Recasting of the existing support measures assumes significance as the US has challenged these schemes under the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO. America has alleged that these incentives are harming American compa-

nies.

The official said there are several product-specific clusters in sectors such as automobile, textiles and leather and providing direct incentives to them would help boost manufacturing and exports.

The new scheme should help boost the country's exports," FIEO President Ganesh Gupta said.

Since 2011-12, India's exports have been hovering at around USD 300 billion.

During 2017-18, the shipments grew about 10 per cent to USD 303 billion. Promoting exports helps a country create jobs, boost manufacturing and earn more foreign exchange.

During April-December 2018-19, the country's total merchandise exports grew 10.18 per cent to USD 245.44 billion.

According to Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the new scheme should include refund of indirect taxes like on oil and power; state levies such as mandi tax.

Insurance sector to see strong growth: Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service Tuesday said India's insurance and reinsurance sectors will grow strongly driven by strong economic growth and evolving regulatory regime.

It said robust GDP expansion, coupled with current low insurance penetration, should support double digit growth for the non-life sector over the next 3-4 years. During fiscal 2018, total gross premiums for the non-life and life insurance sectors grew 11.5 per cent to Rs 6.1 lakh crore (USD 94 billion), bringing the 5-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) to 11 per cent. India's strong economy and evolving regulatory regime continue to support growth for its insurance and reinsurance sectors," Moody's said in a report titled Insurance — India: Continued regulatory evolution is credit positive for India's insurance sector.

Moody's said it expects India's real GDP to expand by 7.4 per cent and 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2019 and 2020, making the Indian economy one of the world's fastest-growing.

"The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is proactively introducing regulations that will support insurers' balance sheets and improve their access to capital, a credit positive," Moody's Assistant VP and Analyst Mohammed Londe said. Liberalisation of the reinsurance sector — with the admission of foreign reinsurers since 2017 and IRDAI's steps to ensure that they can compete with incumbents — will specifically benefit the non-life sector. Regulatory reforms will also improve the sector's capital strength, Moody's said. "In 2015, IRDAI raised the ceiling on foreign ownership of Indian insurers to 49 per cent from 26 per cent, encouraging global players to buy holdings in local entities."

Besides, the government's launch of a new program in 2018 to provide health insurance for 100 million families is credit positive as it will help grow health premiums and provide insurers with cross-selling opportunities, it noted.

BUSINESS CORNER

NISSAN WHEELS IN KICKS SUV AT ₹9.55 LAKH



New Delhi:

Japanese automaker Nissan Tuesday launched its new SUV model Kicks in India, priced between ₹9.55 lakh and ₹14.65 lakh (ex-showroom). The new model, designed specifically for the Indian market, will be available in petrol and diesel fuel options powered by 1.5 litre engines. Kicks will compete with the likes of Hyundai Creta and S-Cross from Maruti Suzuki, which are priced in the range of ₹8.85 lakh and ₹15.1 lakh. Commenting on the new model launch, Nissan Motor Co Senior Vice President and Chairman of management committee for Africa, Middle East and India Peyman Kargar said the vehicle reflects company's commitment to bring the best of Nissan global products and technology to India. "Our research and development (R&D) and design teams in India developed the SUV in collaboration with our teams in Japan, America and Brazil," he added. Nissan India Operations President Thomas Kuehl said, with its progressive design, the Kicks will stand out in the competitive SUV segment in India. As per the company, the model would deliver a fuel efficiency of 14.23 km per litre for petrol variants and 20.45 km per litre for diesel trims. The petrol versions are priced at ₹9.55 lakh and ₹10.95 lakh, while the diesel variants are priced at ₹10.85 lakh, ₹12.49 lakh, ₹13.65 lakh and ₹14.65 lakh.

MARUTI STARTS BOOKING FOR UPDATED BAILEN

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Tuesday said it has commenced bookings for updated version of its premium hatchback Baleno. The new Baleno can be booked with an initial payment of Rs 11,000, MSI said in a statement. The company expects to launch the model later this month or early next month. Giving details about the model, MSI said the updated Baleno will come with new and aggressive front design. The model will offer additional safety features like speed alert system, co-driver seat belt reminder and rear parking assist sensors, it added. These features are over and above the standard dual airbags, child seat restraint system (ISOFIX), pre-tensioner and force limiter seat belts and ABS with EBD. Since 2016, Baleno has featured among India's top selling cars. With 14 per cent growth in first nine months of 2018-19 over last year, Baleno holds the industry record of fastest 5 lakh sales milestone within a record time of 38 months. The company has sold over 5.2 lakh units of the model cumulatively till date.

Jindal's daughter-in-law launches MFI Svamaan

PTI ■ MUMBAI

J SW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal's daughter-in-law Anushree on Tuesday announced a micro-lending venture to help uplift the under-served segments.

Her husband Parth Jindal is the chairman of Svamaan Financial Services, the newly-launched entity. "This is a for-profit entity registered as an NBFC-MFI. I always wanted to do something for the society, hence this," Anushree told PTI

over the phone. Anushree has a background in accounting and finance and the idea of starting a microfinance occurred while doing a course on rethinking financial inclusion at the Harvard Business School last year. The company was incorporated last year and after getting regulatory approvals made its first loan disbursal on January 14, she said, adding the immediate goal is to reach 1 lakh borrowers by 2021. Initially, the venture will concentrate on livelihood loans of up to ₹25,000

and will branch out into lending up to ₹3 lakh to micro-enterprises soon, she said.

She said family money has been put into the business as initial capital, which is as per the regulatory norms. Reserve Bank regulations require NBFC-MFIs to have ₹5 crore in net owned funds. The venture will initially be focusing on Maharashtra and Karnataka and has plans to enter Odisha and Chhattisgarh by 2020. Anushree said and maintains that it is good business to be in, pointing out to

data on growth achieved by the industry in the last few years.

After achieving the initial target of 1 lakh borrowers, Anushree said, the company will be taking a call on further capital infusion.

Dinner table talk on finance is, however, limited as there are so many businesses ranging from steel to new-age initiatives like electric vehicles spearheaded by her husband or her mother-in-law's CSR activities that also have to be spoken about, she said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIPT	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10949.80	10949.80	10864.15	10922.75	-39.10

SUNPHARMA	411.00	423.50	409.40	417.40	-19.10
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WIPRO	336.80	349.60	336.00	348.25	10.45
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TITAN	962.15	986.40	958.70	981.90	-19.75
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KOTAKBANK	1279.00	1307.95	1273.10	1291.50	-23.90
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DRREDDY	2599.10	2645.00	2589.95	2629.20	-39.40
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SUNPHARMA	2795.00	2835.00	2742.50	2823.00	-7.75
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BAJFINANCE	2585.00	2635.00	2575.00	2620.50	-26.30
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YESBANK	191.50	193.80	187.40	193.55	-1.60
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BAJAJFINSV	6377.00	6447.05	6350.00	6428.95	-45.30
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HINDPETRO	238.90	243.45	238.35	240.15	-1.50
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ULTRACEMCO	328.00	336.00	325.05	332.75	-2.75
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HEROMOTOCO	2795.00	2835.00	2742.50	2823.00	-7.75
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YESBANK	191.50	193.80	187.40	193.55	-1.60
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BAJAJ-AUTO	685.00	695.00	680.60	695.45	-4.95
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ITC	147.25	149.00	134.00	147.00	-2.00
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ASIANPAINT	135.95	137.30	135.35	136.00	-0.35
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BPLC	351.50	357.60	351.05	352.45	-0.90
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TECHM	714.00	720.00	701.80	715.65	-1.75
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HINDUNILVR	1746.00	1755.00	1741.25	1751.00	-4.10
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BAJAJ-AUTO	685.00	695.00	680.60	695.45	-4.95
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ITC	288.95	291.00	285.15	290.30	-4.05
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INFRATEL	278.75	280.70	274.50	277.95	-0.15
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AXISBANK	656.35	663.60	653.85	659.40	-0.80
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ONGC	145.50	146.00	144.05	144.30	-0.40
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EICHERMOT	2001.00	2030.00	1990.00	1998.00	-6.00
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TATAMOTORS	181.50	181.30	175.95	180.75	-5.70
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RELIANCE	1232.85	1246.95	1219.60	1232.00	-5.70
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JIAPASSOCIAT	7.05	7.15	6.91	7.04	-0.15
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PAGEIND	2250.10	2299.00	2205.50	2251.10	-2.50
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SUNPHARMA	408.60	422.75	408.60	418.05	-1.45
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RELAX	1234.00	1246.25	1219.40	1234.75	-4.95
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YESBANK	191.90	193.90	187.50	192.10	-2.20
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SPARC	177.85	187.00	170.00	176.70	-9.15
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JUSTDIAL	482.25	489.80	465.45	480.60	-7.20
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TVSMOTOR	535.00	559.90	520.60	553.85	-2.15
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JETAIRWAYS	274.80	278.90	268.60	273.10	-1.50
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ASHOKLEY	89.65	89.65	86.55	88.00	-2.45
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TATATEEL	471.00</td
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RUTHLESS RAFA ENTERS SEMIS

World No 2 Spaniard thrashes Tiafoe in straight sets to set semifinal clash against Tsitsipas

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Rafael Nadal continued his relentless march towards an 18th major title on Tuesday as an emotional Petra Kvitova swept into her first Grand Slam semi-final since a terrifying knife attack almost ended her career.

On day nine of the Australian Open, the fairytale runs of Stefanos Tsitsipas and Danielle Collins were also extended as they too swept into the last four.

Second seed Nadal inched closer to winning an event he has only claimed once before when he trounced unseeded American Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in another ruthless display from a man who has not dropped a set so far.

Tiafoe had announced himself by beating fifth seed Kevin Anderson, but was no match for a player at the peak of his powers as he attempts to become only the third man to win all four Slams twice and the first to do so in the Open era.

"I had some trouble at this event all my career, so I'm very happy with the way I played tonight," said the Spaniard, who faces another young gun Tsitsipas in the semi-finals.

"I feel lucky to be where I am."

Greek sensation Tsitsipas powered into the last four with a measured 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) win over Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut.

The 20-year-old, who ended Swiss great Roger Federer's tournament, became the youngest man to reach the semis at Melbourne Park since Andy Roddick in 2003 and the first player from Greece —man or woman — to get so far at Grand Slam.

"I'm just living the dream, living what I've been working hard for," said the 14th seed, who lives in Cyprus but trains at the academy of Serena Williams' coach Patrick Mouratoglou in France.



"I feel a bit emotional but not too much — I know I really worked hard to get here, playing in semis of a Grand Slam."

Czech Kvitova had not gone past the last eight at a major since a burglar slashed her left hand in December 2016, forcing her out of the game for six months and leaving her with lasting nerve damage in the fingers of her racquet hand.

But the eighth seed has bounced back and is on a sensational 10-match unbeaten streak after claiming the Sydney International warm-up title.



PAES-STOSUR CRASH OUT IN MIXED DOUBLES

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Veteran Leander Paes and his partner Samantha Stosur suffered a second round defeat in the mixed doubles event, ending India's campaign at the season's first Grand Slam on Tuesday. The unseeded pair of Paes and Stosur won the first set 6-4 against Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Robert Farah but conceded the second set with the same scoreline.

The third set went into tiebreak with the fifth

She proved too much for Ashleigh Barty, crushing the local hope 6-1, 6-4, and was in tears afterwards as she reflected on her long journey back to the top.

"Really, I didn't imagine to be back on this great stadium and play with the best," the two-time Wimbledon champion said.

"I'm calling it as my second career. So it's the first semi-final of the second career. I'm really enjoying it."

Kvitova will face unseeded American Collins in the semi-final on Thursday and she desperately wants to reach Saturday's decider.

"I want it bad, that's right," she said.

Collins, the world number 35, had never won a Grand Slam match before entering this

year's tournament but she stunned three-time major champion and second seed Angelique Kerber in round four.

And the 25-year-old from Florida continued her Cinderella run by bouncing back spectacularly to down Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the quarter-finals.

Collins, who has spent long stretches of her career playing small tournaments to build up her ranking points, was in big trouble after losing the first set to the world number 44.

But she fearlessly battled back into the match to again stamp her mark on the tournament. "This has all been a really incredible experience," she said.

Serena W vs K Pliskova
Live from 7:30am IST
SONY SIX & TEN 2

AO
australian open



LOCAL EVENTS

LAXMAN, LAXMIBAI AWARDS

On the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Diwas, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will give away Laxman and Rani Laxmibai awards to the sportspersons, who brought laurels to the state by winning medals at the national and international level. The awardees will get Rs 3,11,000 along with the certification of appreciation and a bronze statue.

THE AWARDEES:

LAXMAN AWARD: Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (Hockey), Sandeep Tomar (Wrestling), Shardul Vihana (Shooting), Vijay Kumar Yadav (Judo), Ajay Kumar Yadav (Athletics), Ashish Kumar (Gymnastics); (**Veteran**) Abdul Aziz (Hockey), Amrit Singh (Athletics)

RAMA LAXMIBAI AWARD: Divya Kakraan (Wrestling), Swati Singh (Weightlifting), Ritika Singh (Archery), Annu Rani (Athletics), Namita Sethi (Soft Tennis), Vishakha Malik (Wushu), Tejaswani Singh (Handball); (**Veteran**) Manju Bisht (Hockey).

STATE VOLLEYBALL

Lucknow women's team won all its matches on the opening day of State-Level Senior Women's Kabaddi Tournament at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Tuesday. The host defeated Kanpur (18-5), Bareilly (22-4) and Faizabad (29-13). Earlier, director (sports) RP Singh inaugurated the event.

RESULTS:

Women's: Saharanpur bt Moradabad 44-15, Varanasi bt Prayagraj 32-18, Meerut bt Azamgarh 18-02, Varanasi bt Mirzapur 38-10, Meerut bt Gorakhpur 32-8, Saharanpur bt Banda 17-5, Varanasi bt Jhansi 16-4.

Men's: Saharanpur bt Agra 30-06, Meerut bt Gorakhpur 44-8, Moradabad bt Aligarh 33-13, Varanasi bt Lucknow 40-30, Mirzapur bt Devipatan 26-9, Saharanpur bt Faizabad 30-5, Meerut bt Jhansi 31-7, Moradabad bt Banda 29-9, Varanasi bt Basti 27-12, Kanpur bt Bareilly 22-17, Kanpur bt Basti 22-17, Saharanpur bt Azamgarh 27-10, Meerut bt Allahabad 28-12, Moradabad bt Kanpur 30-17, Varanasi bt Mirzapur 22-21.

HOCKEY

KD Singh 'Babu' Society is organising the 30th All-India Sub-Junior Prizemoney Hockey Tournament at KD Singbhabu Stadium from January 25.

NITIN SLAMS TON

Nitin Yadav's unbeaten 116 runs helped St Ann's Academy beat UP Rangers by seven wickets in a league match of BBD 'C' Division League at DAV ground on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Charminar Cricket Club defeated BBD University by 36 runs in 'B' Division League.

BRIEF SCORES:

UPR: 198 (Rakesh Singh 71, Nitin 31, Rishikesh 25; Kuldeep 17/2)

St Ann's: 199 (Nitin 116, Shubham 25; Harendra 42/1)

CCC: 142 (Lakhan 31, Anuj 16; Ashutosh 25/4, Mayank 14/2)

BBD: 106 (Abhishek 33; Akshat 20/3, Wahabul 26/3)

REPL CRUSADERS ENTER FINAL

REPL Crusaders beat Rudrash Cricket Club by 45 runs to enter the final of the 15th Shamshul Hasan Shamsi Trophy at Chowk Stadium on Tuesday.

BRIEF SCORES:

REPL: 160 (Priyanshu 54, Abhishek 51; Parnav 17/3, Deependar 26/2)

RCC: 115 (Aman Razi 30, Shivam 29; Abhishek 13/4, Anan 27/3, Sarfaraz 16/2)

JUVENTUS EASE PAST CHIEVO

AFP ■ MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty but Italian league leaders Juventus eased past bottom club Chievo 3-0 to pull nine points clear on top of Serie A as AC Milan returned to the Champions League berths with a 2-0 win in Genoa.

Portuguese superstar Ronaldo had sealed Juventus' first title of the season — a record eighth Italian Super Cup trophy against AC Milan last Wednesday in Saudi Arabia.

But the 33-year-old was off-form in the first league game after a three-week winter break and on the eve of his return to Madrid where he will appear in court for tax fraud charges dating back to his time with Real Madrid.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed numerous chances with Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino denying Ronaldo, who has scored 14 times in the league, a first goal from the spot this season.

But Juventus were never worried by Chievo with Douglas Costa and Emre Can scoring in the first half and Daniele Rugani heading



in a third six minutes from time.

Brazilian winger Costa got Juventus off the mark with a stunning solo run from midfield after 13 minutes.

Paulo Dybala set up Can for the German international's first goal since moving from Liverpool last summer just before the break.

Juventus were awarded a penalty for a Mattia Bani handball with 39-year-old Sorrentino clearing having also earlier denied Alex Sandro's close-range header.

Ronaldo missed two more chances before Rugani headed in a Federico Bernardeschi free kick to keep unbeaten Juventus, with 56 points from 20 games, on track for an eighth consecutive Scudetto.

England begin crucial year with Windies tour

AFP ■ BRIDGETOWN

England is solid favourites although history is on the side of the underdog West Indies ahead of the first Test of the three-match series starting on Wednesday at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

Riding a wave of five consecutive victories — eight in nine matches going back to the last English summer — which includes series wins over top-ranked India and an historic sweep in Sri Lanka, the tourists appear supremely confident of overturning the disappointments of their last two Caribbean campaigns.

England have only won one Test series in the West Indies in the past 50 years, a 3-0 triumph in 2004, and failed to live up to expectations in 2009, when they lost 1-0, and again in 2015 when five-wicket triumph inside three days by the unfancied hosts at the same Kensington Oval venue resulted in a shared series.

While the weight of expectation will be on the visitors' shoulders, West Indies face a daunting task to halt a run of four consecutive defeats, all within three days, on a disastrous Asian tour late last year which saw them being brushed aside by both India and Bangladesh in two-Test series.

England have a settled look to their team and took the weekend off training following two satisfactory two-day matches against a Cricket West Indies XI at the 3Ws Oval just outside Bridgetown. By contrast the West Indies squad reflects both a lack of continuity



in selection and the parlous state of the domestic game.

John Campbell looks certain to make his Test debut opening the batting alongside the established Kraigg Brathwaite. However the 25-year-old's first-class average of 30 suggests he will face a stern challenge

from England senior pace spearheads Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad, who need just two more wickets to lift their combined tally of Test victims to 1,000.

RAVON BACK AFTER LENGTHY EXILE

Another newcomer in the West Indies squad of 13, 30-year-old middle-order batsman Shammar Brooks who averages 33 but has endured a poor season so far in the inter-territorial first-class competition, is unlikely to

make the final 11 especially given the return to Test duty of Darren Bravo after more than two years out of the team.

Bravo's Test average of 40 and elegant left-handed style would normally make him an automatic selection except that a Twitter tirade against CWL president Dave Cameron in November of 2016 led to his alienation from the team until now.

England's build-up to the series has been serene by comparison although in a year which includes their hosting of the World Cup, where they are expected to be one of the favourites, followed by the Ashes series against arch-rivals Australia, they can ill afford to stumble so early against a team they will be expected to defeat comfortably.

On a Kensington Oval pitch expected to offer assistance to the faster bowlers, the tourists are likely to go into the opening Test with one specialist spinner in Moeen Ali while seam bowling all-rounders Ben Stokes and Sam Curran should provide ample support to Anderson and Broad.

TEAMS (PROBABLE)

West Indies— Jason Holder (captain), Kraigg Brathwaite, John Campbell, Darren Bravo, Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer, Roston Chase, Shane Dowrich (wicketkeeper), Kemar Roach, Alzarri Joseph, Shannon Gabriel.

England— Joe Root (captain), Keaton Jennings, Rory Burns, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, Ben Foakes (wicketkeeper), Moeen Ali, Sam Curran, Stuart Broad, Jimmy Anderson.

LANGER CALLS ON BATSMEN TO STEP UP AGAINST SL

AFP ■ BRISBANE

Coach Justin Langer on Tuesday said senior batsmen Usman Khawaja must convert solid starts into hundreds, as Australia look to bounce back from a crushing loss to India when they face Sri Lanka



this week.

Australia axed Aaron Finch, Peter Handscomb and the Marsh brothers, Shaun and Mitch, after the India humbling. But Khawaja survived and Langer is looking for fireworks from his number three.

"I had a good hit with him yesterday actually in the nets up here at Allan Border Field in Brisbane," Langer told SEN radio of Khawaja, who has a top score of just 72 this summer across Tests and ODIs.

"He admitted he's been frustrated.

"But he seems fine. He's in the best physical condition of his life, he's training hard, he's playing well, but that's often the way in Test cricket.

"We need him to stand up. He knows that he's our most senior batsman. He needs and we need him to turn some of those great starts into hundreds for us.

But they face competition from Matt Renshaw, who has been handed another opportunity despite misfiring in the domestic Sheffield Shield this season.

Australia play two Tests against Sri Lanka, starting under lights and with a pink ball at the Gabba on Thursday, with all their batsmen under pressure to do better against the sixth-ranked team in the world

Young batting prodigy Will Pucovski was the surprise pick for the series and is widely tipped to make his debut this week.

Langer wouldn't reveal whether the 20-year-old would be in the starting XI, but said he watched him in the nets on Tuesday and "he's a very, very good-looking player".

"There are always those considerations (whether Pucovski is ready for Test cricket) ... Probably the toughest part of the job is selection and you weigh it up and that's all that's on your mind really," said Langer.

"But he's a terrific young bloke. Regardless of if he plays or not, it's a great learning experience for him at the moment."

Despite the 2-1 India series loss, selectors kept faith with their pace attack of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, with veteran Peter Siddle also included.

But Hazlewood has since been ruled out of the series with a back injury, opening the door for Jhye Richardson, who impressed in the one-day series against India.

Hazlewood and Mitch Marsh were co-captains of Australia and with both now missing, Travis Head and Cummins were elevated to the roles on Tuesday.

"It is a fitting reward for their professionalism and dedication to drive the elite standards of the Australian men's Test team

Kohli sweeps ICC awards

Virat becomes the first cricketer to win Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, ODI and Test Player of the Year awards in a single calendar year

PTI ■ DUBAI

The peerless Virat Kohli on Tuesday became the first cricketer to make a clean-sweep of the ICC's annual individual awards and was also named captain of the world body's Test and ODI teams of the year, line-ups which were dominated by Indian players.

Kohli became the first player in history to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, his second consecutive, the ICC Test and the ODI Player of the Year awards following an extraordinary 2018. Besides, the rapidly-rising wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant claimed the ICC's Emerging Cricketer of the Year award.

"Not only is Kohli the first player to win these three major ICC awards together but he has also been named the captain of the ICC Test and ODI teams of the year for a fabulous run in international cricket," the ICC said in a statement.

Kohli scored 1,322 runs at an average of 55.08 in 13 Tests with five hundreds during the calendar year while in 14 ODIs he amassed 1202 runs at an astonishing average of 133.55 with six centuries. He also scored 211 runs in 10 T20Is.

"It's a reward for all the hard work that you do throughout the calendar year. Having recognition at the global level from the ICC is something you feel proud of as a cricketer because you understand that there are many players playing the game," Kohli was quoted as saying by the world body in a release.

"... Obviously a very proud moment for me and something that gives you more motivation to keep repeating the same things because you have to keep the standard of cricket up and keep bringing in consistent performances," he added.

Three players each from India and New Zealand featured in the ICC's Test team of the year, while four each from India and England are part of the ODI side of the year 2018.

The Test team included Pant, in just his



KOHLI SCORED 1,322 RUNS AT AN AVERAGE OF 55.08 IN 13 TESTS WITH FIVE HUNDREDS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR WHILE IN 14 ODIES HE AMASSED 1202 RUNS AT AN ASTONISHING AVERAGE OF 133.55 WITH SIX CENTURIES. HE ALSO SCORED 211 RUNS IN 10 T20IS

breakthrough Test year, and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who was the only player apart from Kohli to be named in both the sides.

The ODI team has opener Rohit Sharma, spinner Kuldeep Yadav and Bumrah from India along with Kohli, while England are represented by Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes.

The 30-year-old Kohli, who first came into limelight when he led India to victory at the ICC Under-19 World Cup in Malaysia in 2008, finished the year as the top-ranked batsman in Tests and ODIs.

The highest scorer in both forms of the game in 2018, he was one of only two batsmen to score more than 1,000 runs in Tests

and only among three to do so in ODI cricket.

Kohli was the unanimous choice of the voting academy for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy with South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada coming in second to him for both this award and the Test Player of the Year honour.

"This is well-deserved recognition for an extraordinary talent. His regard for the game and particularly for Test cricket is also recognized and appreciated," ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said.

"He is passionate in his support of the longest form of the game and its continued importance... Virat has become a great ambassador for our sport," he added.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was runner up to Kohli for the ICC ODI Player of the Year award.

India won six Tests and lost seven during the voting period that ran from January 1 to December 31, 2018. In ODIs, Kohli led India to nine victories, with four losses and one tied match.

This was also Kohli's second successive ODI Player of the Year award.

In other awards, the Indian under-19 team's World Cup triumph in New Zealand was declared the Fans Moment of the Year with 48 per cent of votes.

Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena was voted Umpire of the Year by international captains and the ICC match referees, winning the David Shepherd Trophy for

a second time. The ICC Spirit of Cricket Award went to New Zealand captain Kane Williamson for "continuing to be a shining role model of how our game should be played, his behaviour setting an outstanding example on and off the field."

THE AWARDEES

ICC Cricketer of the Year: Virat Kohli

ICC Test Cricketer of the Year: Virat Kohli

ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year: Virat Kohli

ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year: Rishabh Pant

ICC Men's Test Team of the Year: Tom Latham (New Zealand), Dimuth Karunaratne (Sri Lanka), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Virat Kohli (India) (capt), Henry Nicholls (New Zealand), Rishabh Pant (India) (wk), Jason Holder (Windies), Kagiso Rabada (South Africa), Nathan Lyon (Australia), Jasprit Bumrah (India), Mohammad Abbas (Pakistan)

ICC Men's ODI team of the year: Rohit Sharma (India), Jonny Bairstow (England), Virat Kohli (India) (capt), Joe Root (England), Ross Taylor (New Zealand), Jos Buttler (England) (wk), Ben Stokes (England), Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), Rashid Khan (Afghanistan), Kuldeep Yadav (India), Jasprit Bumrah (India).

INDIA start favourites against in-form KIWIS

PTI ■ NAPIER

On a high after a defining tour of Australia, the Virat Kohli-led Indian team faces a trickier challenge when it locks horns with an ever-so-sprightly New Zealand in a five-match ODI series starting on Wednesday.

The Indian team, which has shifted its focus entirely on World Cup preparations, is still searching for the right middle-order combination despite their first-ever bilateral ODI series win on Australian soil.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's hat-trick of half-centuries has brought joy to the dressing room but the smaller grounds in New Zealand against a better seam attack comprising the wily Trent Boult, the talented Lockie Ferguson and the relentless Tim Southee will be a different test altogether for the 'Men in Blue'.

New Zealand in their own backyard have always been a force to reckon with and the touring Indian teams over the years will testify that, having won only 10 out of the 35 ODIs, including a 0-4 drubbing during the last series in 2014.

The first match at McLean Park, however, will be played in sultry conditions of around 30 degrees.

Skipper Kohli is well aware that the Black Caps, with some quality players in their ranks, can be very competitive.



IND-NZ ODI ENCOUNTERS					
Venue	Played	Ind	NZ	Tied	N/R
In India	35	26	8	—	1
In New Zealand	34	10	21	1	2
Total:	101	51	44	1	5
Last 5 matches	5	3	2	—	—
D/N matches	42	20	18	1	3

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS					
India:	392-4 in 50 overs at Christchurch	08-03-2009			
NZ:	349-9 in 50 overs at Rajkot	05-11-1999			

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES					
India:	186* Sachin Tendulkar at Hyderabad	08-11-1999			
NZ:	120 Nathan Astle at Rajkot	05-11-1999			

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCE					
India:	5-18 Amit Mishra at Visakhapatnam	29-10-2016			
NZ:	6-19 Shane Bond at Bulawayo	26-08-2005			

'We are forced to play third pacer in Hardik's absence'

PTI ■ NAPIER

India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday stressed on the importance of all-rounder Hardik Pandya's presence in the ODI side in order to get the ideal bowling combination for the World Cup.

Pandya has been suspended pending inquiry after his sexist comments on a TV chat show and already the Indian team has had issues with their third specialist pacer ahead of the five-match ODI against New Zealand starting on Wednesday.

Rookiez Khaleel Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj both got a fair amount of stick against Australia in the first two ODIs before Hardik's replace-

ment Vijay Shankar bowled a steady spell of six overs in the series decider in Melbourne.

When asked if there can be an ideal

bowling combination, the skipper said: "Depends on the all-rounder to be honest. If you see the strongest sides in the world, they have two all-rounders at the least, some sides have three, so that gives you a lot of bowling options."

For Kohli, a third fast bowler is an option only when a specialist all-rounder is unavailable.

"Only if someone like a Vijay Shankar or a Hardik doesn't play, then (only) three fast bowlers makes sense. Because if an all-rounder can chip in with a few overs of seam up, then you don't necessarily need a guy bowling 140kmph as the third bowler along with the two fast bowlers," Kohli said ahead of the first ODI at McLean Park.

Kohli indicated that a few players

could be tried here and there, raising hopes of young Shubman Gill getting an opportunity during the series.

"Also to try a few players here and there and see how they react to different situations or different positions in the team. We are open to doing that as well."

"You don't want to be too rigid because you want to be flexible in your mind and in your preparation to be able to competitive during a big tournament like the World Cup," the skipper explained.

"I think we need a good balance of both even if we back a few players to play at some stage, the idea is still to win the games and not just think of it as an experiment," he set priorities right.

I have moved on: Mithali on spat with Powar

PTI ■ NAPIER

Asserting that her dispute with former coach Ramesh Powar and CoA member Diana Edulji is a thing of past, Indian women's ODI captain Mithali Raj on Tuesday said that cricket has helped her deal with the adversities of life.

The Indian women's team was at the centre of a huge controversy after India's semi-final exit in the T20 World Cup in the West Indies, with Raj accusing Powar of bias and Edulji of trying to finish her career.

"What has happened has happened, I have moved on. Cricket has taught me to move on whether it's scoring a hundred or getting out on zero you have to be prepared for the next game, you need to tune in for the next day," Mithali said ahead of the series against New Zealand.

"As professional cricketers everyone understands what it takes to play international level, we are here to represent the country and want the team to play as a unit and get the best result," she added.

The Indian team's New Zealand tour begins on Thursday with the first ODI at McLean Park. The women will play three ODIs and as many T20 internationals.

Mithali emphasised on the need to bring the focus back on cricket and said winning in New Zealand would help in that direction.



"This is what as international athletes and cricketers we look forward to, and I'm looking forward to the series because it is very important to get back the focus on the sport and on the team performance and this is a great opportunity."

Asked how the team will deal with foreign conditions, Mithali said the side has prepared well.

"Most of the team might be inexperienced to the New Zealand condition but otherwise we are an experienced lot that has been together for 4-5 years. So I don't think we are a troubled tourists but yes we look forward to acclimatising with the conditions."

PTI ■ NAPIER

Expressing his admiration for Virat Kohli, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Tuesday said that they will be primarily focussed on how to "best combat" his Indian counterpart in the limited overs series, starting here from Wednesday. Returning the compliment, the Indian run-machine also lauded the prolific Williamson, calling him one of the best in the world.

Williamson said, "Someone like Virat is certainly a player I admire and enjoy watching and he's pushing the boundaries of the game so that's brilliant," said Williamson on the eve of first ODI of the five-match series.

He said Kohli was a passionate and world class cricketer.

"He's a respectful guy and I've known him for a very long time but as a player, obviously, word class and our focus is more about that and his cricketing ability and how we can combat him as best as we can," Williamson said.

Williamson felt that the passion with which Kohli approaches his cricket has made him a crowd puller around the world.

"He's always going to be a solid player for NZ purely because of what all he has done over the years in all three formats."

Kohli picked Williamson and Ross Taylor as batsmen his team would look to dismiss cheaply.

"He more or less makes the team win when he is scoring

runs, so that tells you about his awareness about the game and hence he is leading the side and guiding it in the right direction. So Kane will be a factor but at the same time Rosco (Taylor) and other guys as well."

"You can't take anyone for granted and their batting revolves around Kane and Ross in ODIs especially, the other guys bat around them and we are aware of that and working on our plans," Kohli said.

Williamson believed the pitch at McLean Park could aid batsmen.

"...So it's important the batting group puts together a plan that is good but, at the same time, the bowlers have a massive role in that in trying to nullify the strengths in both oppositions."



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Big data shows B&R cooperation yields win-win results

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held successfully in May 2017. Thanks to joint efforts from all parties, the Belt and Road (B&R) construction has yielded fruitful achievements

The Big Data Report on Trade Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative 2018, compiled by the national big data center of B&R Initiative under the State Information Center and the Dalian Infobank Co., was released officially on May 6.

Tong Youjun, director of the B&R foreign trade big data research center and chairman of Dalian Infobank Co., made an analysis on the report.

China's foreign trade with countries along the B&R routes has seen rapid growth, with import growth exceeding export growth for the first time. In 2017, the total import and export volume of China and the B&R countries reached 1440.32

billion U.S. dollars, up 13.4 percent year on year, which was 5.9 percentage points higher than China's overall foreign trade growth rate, and accounting for 36.2 percent of the country's total import and export trade volume.

In terms of countries, China's trade volume with Asia and Oceania accounted for more than 50 percent, of which China's trade with Central Asia saw the fastest growth. The Republic of Korea (ROK), Vietnam, Malaysia, India and Russia ranked the top five by foreign trade volume with China.

In terms of domestic regions, east China saw the total value of imports and

exports in 2017 with the B&R countries accounted for nearly 80 percent of China's foreign trade with those countries. Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong and Shanghai were the top five by foreign trade with the B&R countries last year.

In terms of commodity structure, mechanical and electrical products were the key commodities that China exported to the B&R countries, while electrical machinery and mineral fuels belonged to the key commodities that China imported from those countries.

In terms of trade body, private enterprises were the main forces, while

state-owned enterprises' trade volume with the B&R countries stood at 619.98 billion U.S. dollars, accounting for 43.0 percent of China's total trade volume with those countries. State-owned enterprises saw the growth of imports and exports volume with the B&R countries grow the fastest, up 24.5 percent from that in 2016.

By Zhang Yuan

Further reading:
The Belt and Road Fo-

rum for International Cooperation was held successfully in May 2017. Thanks to joint efforts from all parties, the Belt and Road (B&R) construction has yielded fruitful achievements.

The concept of "extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits" upheld by the B&R has gained widely recognition in the global arena. The B&R Initiative has shown promising future.

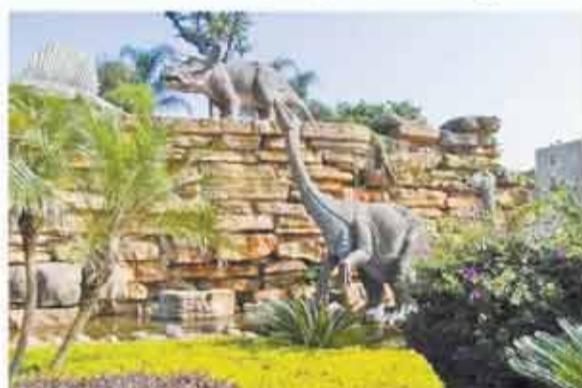
By far, China has signed 103 cooperation agreements with 88 countries and international organizations under the B&R Initiative. Of the 279 items in the outcome list released at the B&R Forum for International

Cooperation held last year, 255 have been converted into normalized work and 24 have been advanced in an orderly way.

Statistics show that more than 8,000 China-Europe freight trains have been dispatched to 14 European countries and 42 cities. Goods traded between China and related countries have exceeded 5 trillion U.S. dollars. Silk Road Fund has supported 19 B&R projects involving 80 billion U.S. dollars. China has signed cultural agreements with over 60 countries under the International Coalition for Green Development on the B&R. (Xinhua Silk Road Information Service)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Rural tourism helps fight poverty in Lufeng County



Located in the center of Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Lufeng County was once a less-developed area. By giving full play to its resource superiority in recent years, the locals have become better off and the county is enjoying new prospects.

Depending on the location advantages and rich land resources, villagers in Lufeng's Tuguan Township are encouraged to plant peach trees. Besides selling peaches, they also hold a Peach Cultural and Tourism Festival every year, which has drawn tens of thousands of tourists from other cities and prefectures of Yunnan.

With the help of the World Dinosaur Valley scenic spot, Lufeng developed a tourism village featuring local delicacies, folk culture and sightseeing tours. Villagers sell specialties like preserved meat, free-range chickens, honey and walnuts as souvenirs. In nine months, more than 40 groups and 9,600 visitors have paid study tours to the village.

To lift more people out of poverty, a number of scientific and technical corporations and biotechnology companies have been introduced to the county to set up branches in an agricultural industry park. Many families have become raw material suppliers for these companies which also provide jobs for the locals.

(Cxwlvv wechat account)

China-Myanmar Culture Week opens

In order to deepen traditional friendship between China and Myanmar and strengthen cultural exchanges between the two countries, a culture-week activities were held in Naypyidaw, Yangon, Mandalay and other cities on January 16 to 20, 2019.

The event focused on the theme of "renewing paukphaw friendship and building a new silk road together", including a series of cultural exchange activities such as the 2019 China-Myanmar Spring Festival Gala, exhibition of "pursuing a better life – China's achievement in poverty alleviation", China TV show, China-Myanmar Media Tea Party, China-Myanmar profound paukphaw friendship photos, calligraphy and painting exhibition, and Yunnan Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition and so on.

Paukphaw is translated

By YDPG



COOPERATION

Yunnan foreign trade up by 24.7% in 2018

Yunnan's foreign trade volume in 2018 amounted to 197.3 billion yuan (around 29.22 billion U.S. dollars), a year-on-year increase of 24.7%.

According to Kunming Customs, Yunnan export value last year reached 84.77 billion yuan, up by 9.4%. Meanwhile, imports of the province added up to 112.53 billion yuan, an increase of 39.3%.

In 2018, the trade volume between Yunnan and ASEAN accounted for 46.1% of the province's foreign trade. Within ASEAN, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand are major trading partners

of Yunnan. Crude oil imports greatly increased the province's trade volume with Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other Middle-East countries.

The provincial trade with the U.S. reached 4.96 billion yuan, an increase of 15%.

And trade between Yunnan and the Belt and Road countries recorded a 30.3% growth in 2018, with a total value of 133.16 billion yuan. These countries accounted for a 67.5% lion's market share in the province's foreign trade.

Yunnan mainly exported produce, elec-

tromechanical products, fertilizers and labor-intensive products, while importing crude oil, nat-

ural gas, metal minerals, sulfur and others from its trading partners.

By Liu Ziyu



60,000 ears of corns add happiness to Chinese New Year



"The big red lantern means good luck in China and corn symbolizes the harvest. With the approach of The Spring Festival, Daguan Commercial City is decorated in a new way to provide a good shopping environment for local people," a person in charge said. Recently, when passing by Qingfeng Street in Daguan Commercial City, citizens were attracted by corn and lanterns hanging on the wall and stopped to take photos. It is reported that 60,000 ears of corns were used to decorate Qingfeng Street for an agricultural art display, which not only imply the joy of harvest but also enable Kunming people to closely experience the agricultural culture.

Photo by Yang Zheng

EXCHANGES

Yoga school to expand training across China

The China-India Yoga College plans to expand its training beyond Kunming, the capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, as yoga gains popularity in China as a healthy lifestyle choice.

The college opened its first branch on Dec 24 at Yunnan University in the city of Lijiang as part of its nationwide partnership with universities.

A total of 50 branches will be set up to boost yoga education and teacher train-

ing, according to Chen Luyan, dean of the China-India Yoga College.

Nearly 100 yoga teaching and training centers will also be built to provide teacher training courses, yoga workshops and non-profit courses, according to Chen.

The China-India Yoga College recruits undergraduates and postgraduates at Yunnan Minzu University. It was founded in June 2015 as part of a China-India cultural exchange program.

(By Caozinan)



Students at Yunnan Minzu University are training

SCIENCE

China launches maritime silk road satellite data service

A maritime silk road satellite data service center has opened in Fuzhou, east China's Fujian Province, according to the website of State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

The data service center, providing standard data products, value-added products and satellite remote sensing application system,

will be widely used in areas including land, forestry, environmental protection, water resources, agriculture, disaster alleviation, weather and oceans.

By the end of 2018, the center had been able to receive, store, process and distribute real-time remote sensing data from 26 domestic satellites.

(Xinhua)

CULTURE

Yunnan lady collects 600-plus pieces of Qipao in 20 years

With an impressive collection of more than 600 pieces of Qipao (or cheongsam), a stylish traditional Chinese dress for ladies, Jin Mei from Kunming, Yunnan Province enjoys a widespread reputation in the collection circle.

When Jin Mei was a child, she once saw photos of her grandmother and mother wearing Qipao and became immediately fascinated by the elegance of the dress. Later, she studied in Yunnan University as a postgraduate major in museum studies, which had laid foundation for her future collection.

In twenty years, Jin Mei has spent more than one million yuan in collecting

Qipao, the oldest of which has a history of 100 years. She is increasingly well-known in the circle and visited by thousands of artists and collectors from all over the world. She even held a Qipao show in Kunming. As her collection continues to grow, Jin Mei began to consider how to pass on the Qipao art.

In 2016, Jin Mei quit her job and set up a study institute in Songming County of Kunming. She also opened a workshop at the foot of the city's West Mountain, in which eight dressmakers engage in making Qipao in traditional ways and restore its classic charm.

From the "Travel in Yunnan" app

Jiaozi Snow Mountain, a winter gem in Yunnan



Jiaozi Snow Mountain, which is 4,247 meters high in altitude and 120 kilometers away from Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, draws tourists from around the country for its gorgeous winter scenery, especially after a snowfall. The name jiaozi, which literally means "sedan chair", was inspired by the mountain's shape, as it resembles a traditional bridal sedan chair.

Lijiang honored as China Charm Tourism City



Lijiang, Southwest China's Yunnan province, was named "China Charm Tourism City" at the grand ceremony for the 2018 China Lijiang NetEase Attitude City and the NetEase Global City Partner Conference held on Jan 11 in Lijiang.

Judges stated that Lijiang embodies the wisdom of ancient civilizations and of people of all ethnicities. Its greatness lies in its harmonious mixture of natural and manmade beauty.

Lijiang has 20 A-level tourist sites, of which five are 5A-level and seven are 4A-level. In recent years, Lijiang has been strengthening order and supervision within its tourism market in an attempt to improve the quality and level of tourism services

in the city.

Lijiang currently has a complete tourism industry that involves food, housing, travel, shopping and entertainment, making it an extremely attractive destination for tourists in Yunnan and across China.

The Snow Mountain Academy lecture series of the Old Town of Lijiang, submitted by Lijiang, was awarded the City Attitude Political Energy Award.

In addition, Yulong Snow Mountain Scenic Area, the InterContinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort and the tourism development committee of Lijiang won the awards for Most Popular Scenic Spot in Yunnan, Best Yunnan Hotel and Yunnan Development Contribution, respectively.

(Chinadaily)