

OPINION 6
CIVILISATIONAL
HERITAGE

WORLD 5
BRITISH PM TO UNVEIL
NEW BREXIT STRATEGY

MONEY 10
GHOSN AWAITS FATE AFTER VOWING
TO STAY IN JAPAN IF BAILED

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN

City Vol. 8 Issue 21
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



SERENA BEATS
HALEP TO ENTER
AUS OPEN LAST 8
12 SPORT

Govt plans panacea for farmers' woes

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



SILVER BULLET!

- The Government may combine all farm subsidies, including fertiliser costs, in the DBT.
- The additional cost will be limited to ₹70,000 crore (\$9.8 billion) annually after a full rollout of the programme
- One proposal is to transfer ₹4,000 per acre to farmers, including small or marginal farmers who are farm labourers.
- The direct income support scheme, farmers would be entitled to a periodic payment.
- The other step being considered is doubling collateral-free loans under Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to ₹2 lakh and changes in the PM crop insurance scheme to enhance coverage and ensure faster settlement of claims and schemes.

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

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

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

simultaneously rework some subsidies being given to farmers such as that on fertilisers and crop loans," sources added.

Subsidies to the agriculture sector include power subsidy, fertiliser subsidy, agriculture loan at lower rate of interest, irrigation subsidy, and insurance cover for farmers at lower premium rates. The power

subsidy alone stands at over ₹90,000 crore followed by fertiliser subsidy at ₹75,000 crore. The Government has already rolled out fertiliser subsidy to companies under DBT.

In order to keep the credit flow to the farm sector robust, the Centre is also planning to raise the Budget outlay for interest subvention for agriculture loans to ₹23,000 crore

in 2019-20, a huge jump from ₹15,000 crore budgeted for the current fiscal. The other step being considered is doubling collateral-free loans under Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to ₹2 lakh and changes in the PM crop insurance scheme to enhance coverage and ensure faster settlement of claims and schemes.

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

After electoral debacle in three major States — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan — in the last year Assembly polls, the Narendra Modi Government has realised that its existing policies have failed to reach the farmers. The Modi Government, which is seeking a second term, has to win over disaffected farmers before the election. They have been hit by falling crop prices and rising input costs, prompting thousands of them to protest in the street to seek debt waivers.

At the same time, the Opposition Congress has raised pressure on the Government to act after it waived farm loans following victories against the BJP in three States last month.

Cong suspends MLA booked for murder attempt

PNS ■ BENGALURU

K'TAKA CRISIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAPSULE



PRASAD BHARATIYA DIVAS
External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration ceremony of the Youth Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (YPBD) at Deen Dayal Trade Facilitation Centre in Varanasi on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas on Tuesday PTI

HINDU MAN AMONG 21 BANGLADESHI DEPORTED
New Delhi: Twenty-one Bangladeshi nationals, including a Hindu, who had entered Assam illegally, were deported to their country on Monday.

CBI ROW: CJI GOGOI RESCUES HIMSELF
New Delhi: CJI Ranjan Gogoi on Monday rescued himself from hearing a plea challenging the appointment of M Nageshwar Rao as the interim CBI director.

PAUSH PURNIMA: OVER 1 CR TAKE HOLY DIP
Allahabad: Braving intense chill, over 1.07 crore devotees took a dip in the Ganga river here on Monday on the occasion of Paush Purnima — the second auspicious bathing day of the Kumbh Mela.

Delhi put spoke in Metro Ph-IV wheel, says Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The controversy surrounding Delhi Metro's phase-IV refuses to die down. Fresh tussle is brewing between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) and the Delhi Government over it.

The HUA Ministry said certain financial conditions imposed by the Delhi Government have jeopardised the metro phase IV projects, leading to substantial delay and inconvenience to people as conditions are contravention to the metro phase III and Metro Rail Policy 2017 passed by Parliament.

The project is under appraisal of independent agency as certain changes have been made by the State Government in the revised detailed project reports of six corridors.

Sources said the proposal cannot be passed with the financial conditions imposed by the Delhi Government.

Phase-IV was approved by the Delhi Government on December 21 after hanging fire for almost two years.

The two conditions imposed by the Delhi Government are: Operational



losses will be equally shared by the Centre and the State, and that the Delhi Government will not bear any liability of external loan if the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) fails to pay back.

An official said the Delhi Government had also put a condition in its approval that it will not have any liability on loan provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to fund the project is the violation of the Metro Rail Policy 2017 wherein operational losses are to be borne by the Delhi Government.

Officials said the metro rail policy 2017 is applicable for all States and Union Territories and it cannot be changed for the sake of the Delhi Government.

Sources said the Delhi Government in 2016 had not

"conveyed financial commitments in their in-principle approval of the Phase-IV". The DMRC on January 10 this year had submitted the Phase-IV detailed project report comprising six corridors with revised costs, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Government spokesperson countered the allegation, saying, the city Government has already cleared the project from its side and any delay that is now happening is from the Centre's side.

"The Phase-IV project was cleared in December and we had made conditions quite clear. We will respond further as and when we receive any communication from the Centre," the spokesperson said.

The Delhi Metro on January 24, 2017 had submitted the proposal without com-

City Govt insists on freedom from liability on loan provided by Japan

mitment of sharing of 50 per cent subordinate debt towards central taxes by the Delhi Government as it did not approve of it.

This was "contrary to the existing practice being followed for all 50:50 joint venture metro rail projects", including earlier phases of the Delhi Metro, the official claimed.

The HUA officials recently had said it is examining the condition that the Centre equally share any operational loss with the AAP Government, while asserting that it was a State subject and that other States might raise similar demands.

Sources said demonetisation and implementation of Goods and Service Tax (GST) has helped the Delhi Government to reduce the cost of the Metro phase IV six corridors from ₹55,000 crore to ₹46,845 crore. Among the projects chosen under the Phase-IV are Rithala-Narela (21.73 km), Janakpuri West-R K Ashram (28.92 km), Mukundpur-Maujpur (12.54 km), Inderlok-Indraprastha (12.58 km), Tughlakabad-Aerocity (20.20 km), and Lajpat Nagar-Saket G-Block (7.96 km).

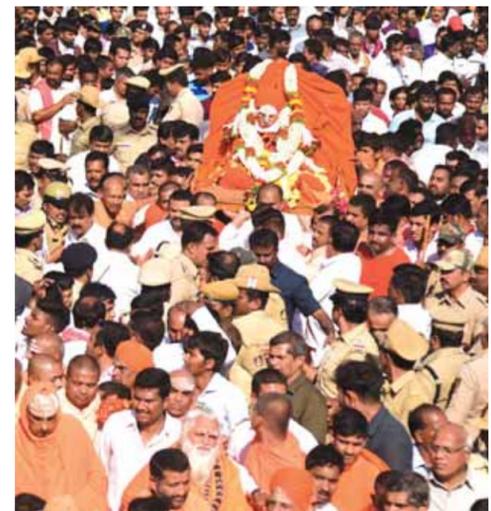
'Walking God' Siddaganga leaves for heavenly abode

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Azadi-Ke-Diwane to salute Netaji at Red Fort

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



visitors as well as students of history.

For instance, scenes have

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

od that the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) could gather from various sources.

Bose's army INA trials were held inside the precincts of the historic monument. Several officers of the INA were court martialled here in November and December 1945, said an ASI official.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fugitive Choksi gives up Indian citizenship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

EC rejects cyber expert's claim of EVM tempering

Says it's mulling legal action against expert

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

dakiya bheja gaya hai," he asserted.

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

"It is being separately examined as to what legal action can and should be taken in the matter," it said even as it went to point out that the EVMs are manufactured in Bharat Electronics Ltd. & Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. under very strict supervisory and security conditions.

"There are rigorous Standard Operating Procedures observed under supervision of a Committee of technical experts constituted in 2010," it pointed out.

Mega rally gave Modi shivers: Sena, Cong

Jaitley, Rajanth say Opp fears PM's popularity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition's show of unity led by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last week has sparked a fresh war of words with the BJP's estranged ally Shiv Sena and Opposition Congress claiming it has given Prime Minister Narendra Modi the "shivers" ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Hitting back, Union Ministers Arun Jaitley and Rajnath Singh said it is only the "fear" of Modi's popularity and a "certain comeback" and BJP's successes that is bringing multiple disparate forces to come together against the Prime Minister.

Referring to the Opposition's show of unity at a rally organised by Banerjee in Kolkata on Saturday, the Sena, in an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Saamna', asked Modi not to live in an illusion that his Government is "immortal". The Sena said the Trinamool



Congress (TMC) supremo was taking the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah combine head-on.

"Most of the leaders who attended the rally, including Banerjee, were once allies of the BJP under Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership and there is no need to ridicule them. Modi's Government is not an enemy of the country but he should not live in an illusion that his Government is 'amar' (immortal). Why did Modi get shivers from the coming together of 22 Opposition parties," it wondered," it added.

Banerjee had invited Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray to the rally. "All those present on Banerjee's platform were secularists. The Sena is not pseudo-secularist. Our ideology is 'hindutva' and we are firm on our stand on the issues of Ram temple and uniform civil code. The Kolkata rally could not

have digested Shiv Sena's stand," it added.

Modi on Sunday dismissed the "mahagathbandhan" (grand alliance) of Opposition parties, alleging it was an alliance of "corruption, negativity and instability" and one created by those affected by his fight against graft.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley who is abroad for a treatment as per media reports, said its going to be advantage BJP in the general elections as an aspirational society will not commit a "collective suicide" by voting for a short-lived political alliance. Jaitley said the Opposition rally in Kolkata became significantly "a non-Rahul Gandhi rally" by his conspicuous absence.

Dismissing the Opposition 'Mahagathbandhan' as unviable and unworkable, Jaitley said India has moved ahead of 1971 and the aspirational society will not commit a "collective suicide" in the upcoming general elections.

BJP had described the Kolkata rally as a gathering of "opportunistic elements" with the sole agenda of removing Modi without any roadmap for the country's future. The two-fold strategy of the Opposition

parties for the general elections is to pursue anti-Modi agenda and take advantage of the electoral arithmetic, he said in a Facebook post titled 'Agenda for 2019 — Modi Vs Chaos'.

Recalling the 1971 General Elections, Jaitley said the Opposition had formed a 'Grand Alliance' or the 'Mahagathbandhan' teaming up against the then prime minister Indira Gandhi but remained unsuccessful. His cabinet colleague Home Minister Rajnath Singh said it was the fear of BJP's successes that made the Opposition parties come together. "They (mahagathbandhan parties) are afraid that BJP will form government again..," Singh told reporters in Greater Noida.

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel said Modi's recent remarks about the Opposition's 'mahagathbandhan' and his body language "proved" he was "afraid" of its unity. Patel said the coming together of Opposition parties is guided by a "common objective" to defend and protect the Constitution. "Only those who have undermined and tried to sabotage the Constitution seem to be extremely perturbed by Opposition unity," said Patel.

CBI seeks sanction to prosecute PC in INX Media case

New Delhi:

The CBI has sought the sanction of the Central Government to prosecute former Finance Minister P



Chidambaram in the INX Media case, officials said Monday.

The CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017 against alleged irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance to INX Media for receiving overseas funds to the tune of ₹305 crore in 2007 when Chidambaram was finance minister.

Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram was arrested in the matter for allegedly receiving funds to the tune of Rs 10 lakh.

The other accused in the case include then directors of the INX Media company, Indrani Mukerjea and Peter Mukerjea. PTI

Shah calls for change in Didi land like Tripura

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday claimed that in a way similar to Tripura, which voted for the party, people of West Bengal would also back it and bring about a political change even as it alleged that the TMC-led State Government was "crushing democratic rights" of the party and not allowing its public meetings and rallies in the State.

Addressing a Press conference here, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Piyush Goyal said party president Amit Shah who is to address a public rally at Malda on Tuesday is not being allowed to land in a given helipad. Shah will be in the West Bengal for two days and address public rallies in Malda and Jhargram. He claimed that the BJP was growing "rapidly" in

west Bengal which is indicated by Trinamool Congress's attempts to put road blocks in BJP's move in not allowing it exercise its democratic rights.

He said the bike rally of 'Yuva BJP' was denied for no visible reasons as the state witnessed killing of 36 BJP workers in the last 'Panchayat' polls, he alleged and claimed that the law and order in the state has gone out of control of the TMC Government. "The Opposition alliance partners are not saying a word about the deteriorating law & Order in the state as BJP's democratic rights are being crushed", he alleged. Stating that government was not allowing "Durga puja" or "Saraswati puja", he said "this is height of intolerance which is not being questioned by Congress and others parties."

₹13K cr-PNB-scam accused fugitive Choksi gives up India citizenship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Since dual citizenship is not allowed as per Indian law, Choksi surrendered his passports after acquiring foreign nationality. The Government has also revoked his passport last year. India will continue to

pursue Choksi's return with the government of Antigua through diplomatic and legal channels in order to make him face the law, sources said.

In August 2018, India gave Antigua a request for Choksi's extradition. A team from India was also sent to Antigua to pursue the request where the fugitive has been taking refuge for over a year.

Choksi is wanted in India by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate in separate cases of fraud and money laundering in connection with the PNB scam, which has been the biggest in the banking sector.

Choksi, 59, has deposited his Indian passport number Z-3396732 to the Indian High Commission in Antigua. Officials said he has also deposited the mandatory \$177 for relinquishing Indian citizenship to become a citizen of Antigua and has given his new address as Jolly Harbour, Antigua.

The Ministry of External Affairs had earlier said that Choksi, who had been granted citizenship by Antigua Government, could not have dual citizenship. He was granted citizenship there under an "investment criterion" that allows businessmen to avail citizenship of the Caribbean island in exchange for investments. Citizenship is up for sale in some of these countries and the authorities offer citizenship for nearly ₹1.75 crore.

Choksi had fled India in January last year along with Nirav, his wife Ami Modi and brother Nishal Modi, and was granted Antiguan citizenship in November 2017 after extensive vetting and he took the oath of citizenship on January 15, 2018.



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses during a condolence meeting for RSS thinker Devendra Swaroop in New Delhi on Monday PTI

Doval's son accuses Caravan, Jairam Ramesh of defamation, moves court

New Delhi: Vivek Doval, son of National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, filed a criminal defamation complaint on Monday against a news magazine for allegedly publishing a defamatory article.

Besides the magazine and the author of the article, Kaushal Shroff, Vivek has also filed the complaint against Congress leader Jairam Ramesh for holding a Press conference on January 17 reiterating the "baseless and unfounded facts" as narrated in the article.

The article claimed that Vivek was running a hedge fund whose promoters are of dubious antecedents.

He has claimed that the magazine was "deliberately maligning and defaming" him to "settle scores with his father".

The Caravan, had in its January 16 online journal titled, "The D Companies" had said that Vivek, "runs a hedge fund in the Cayman Islands" which is "an established tax haven" and was "registered merely 13 days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government demonetised all existing Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes, in 2016".

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal is likely to hear the matter on Tuesday.

Vivek has alleged that the contents of the article present "no illegality" on his part, but the entire narration has been presented in a manner, which suggests "wrongdoings" to the readers.

"The very arrangement of the paragraphs and the inter-

perspersion of random paragraphs, has been done with the very purpose of confusing the reader and leaving him with the belief that there is a larger conspiracy at play, being spear-headed by the Complainant," said the complaint.

It also said that the social media tweets put out by the magazine's handle gave snippets from the article, which makes it clear that it is merely a targeted attempt to malign and tarnish reputation of Vivek and his family, in order to gain "political credit in light of the upcoming general election".

"The title of the article itself is scandalous to say the least... Creating a prejudice in the minds of the readers against the Complainant and his family," the complaint said. PTI

VVIP chopper case: Court dismisses Tihar's plea against Michel

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday dismissed Tihar Central Jail's plea seeking to reduce the time limit given to alleged middleman Christian Michel, arrested in the Agusta Westland VVIP chopper case, to make phone calls to his family members and lawyers abroad.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar, who had granted 15 minutes a week to Michel to make international calls, junked the plea filed by the jail authorities, saying there was no ground to curtail the relief granted to the accused.

The jail superintendent had approached the court, saying the time limit was not as per the jail-manual and the time duration should be

decreased. Michel, extradited from Dubai, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on December 22 last year.

The court had earlier imposed restrictions on Michel meeting his lawyers while he was in the ED's custody, after the agency had said he was misusing the legal access by passing chits to his lawyers, asking them how to tackle questions on "Mrs Gandhi".

ED counsels, D P Singh and N K Matta, had also claimed that during the questioning, Michel had spoken about the "son of an Italian lady" and how he was going to become the next Prime Minister of the country. PTI

India to talk with B'desh on 31 Rohingyas detained in Tripura

New Delhi: India is likely to hold talks with Bangladesh to send back 31 Rohingya Muslims, who were detained by the Border Security Force (BSF) while attempting to cross over into Tripura, officials said.

The Rohingya Muslims are stuck in no-man's land, beyond the barbed wire fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura since Friday.

The local commandant of the BSF is in touch with his Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) counterpart, and the Ministry of External Affairs is expected to hold talks with the Bangladesh government for their safe return, a home ministry official said.

The top brass of the BSF has briefed senior officials of

the Home Ministry, which in turn is in regular touch with the Ministry of External Affairs.

All the Myanmar-origin Rohingya Muslims were given "comfortable" temporary accommodation at Raymura, where they were detained, about 15 km from Agartala, in West Tripura district, the official said.

The 31 detained Rohingyas include six men, nine women and 16 children. They are currently at 'Zero Line', beyond the border fence.

The barbed wire fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border is 300 feet inside the Indian territory.

The BGB has been stressing that the detained Rohingyas were from India, while the

BSF has been claiming that they were from Bangladesh, another official said.

The Indian government had informed Parliament in 2017 that over 14,000 Rohingya Muslims, registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stay in India.

However, aid agencies estimate there are about 40,000 Rohingya people in the country, many of them suspected to have arrived through Bangladesh.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims, described by the UN as the most persecuted minority in the world, fled their homes last year to escape an alleged crackdown by the Myanmar military. PTI

Don't use single-use plastic for LS poll campaign: Min

New Delhi: Ahead of the 2019 parliamentary elections, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has asked all States and Union Territories (UTs) not to use single-use plastic for poll preparations and to encourage use of alternative materials for election campaign.

The ministry also laid down standard guidelines to be adopted for minimising production and use of single-use plastic.

C K Mishra, Secretary, MoEFCC, has written to all the states and UTs reiterating that single-use plastics need to be completely phased out from the country by 2020 so they should switch to alternate options for election campaign.

"You are aware about India's commitment to phase out single-use plastic by 2020. The ill-impacts of plastic

waste, which are not recyclable or bio-degradable, are well known. I had earlier written to you with a request to phase out single-use plastic in offices. I am again reiterating the request, particularly with reference to the upcoming general elections," Mishra said in his letter.

The secretary, in his letter to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of all the states and UTs on Monday, said all government offices must completely ban all types of plastic carry bags, thermo-col disposable cutlery and discourage the use of artificial banners, flags, flowers, water bottles, plastic folders, etc.

"All events organised by or sponsored by the government shall be single-use plastic free," he said, adding that awareness campaigns should be organised to discourage single-use plastic.

Single-use plastic is often

referred to as disposable plastics, commonly used for packaging and items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away.

The ministry suggested alternative options to plastic in campaigning material such as natural fabrics and recycled paper material which have a lesser environmental impact.

"Such materials need to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice. The upcoming general elections present an excellent opportunity to introduce a behavioural change in election campaigning and to promote sustainable practices.

"In this background, I would like to request you to impress upon all concerned to take up sustainable practices and try using alternative options to single-use plastic. This will go a long way in fulfilling India's commitment of

phasing out single-use plastic as well as protecting human health and environment," he said.

The ministry has laid down standard guidelines to be followed by the states and UTs regarding single-use plastics to avoid ambiguity and maintain parity among action at state-level.

"I invite you to adopt these guidelines in your state/UT and hope that actions suggested therein would be useful for effective management of plastic waste in your state/UT. We would also urge the states/UTs to come up with innovative ideas to minimise single-use plastic and improve upon these guidelines in their states," Mishra said.

Expressing concern over the rise in the amount of plastic entering oceans and seas, the secretary said marine litter is harmful for marine ecosystem, bio-diversity and

potentially human health and there was need for a strategic approach to manage plastic waste.

Under the Plastic Waste Management Rules (PWMR) 2016 notified by the ministry to manage plastic in an environmentally sound manner throughout their life cycle, 15 states and four union territories have issued notifications completely banning plastic carry bags and single-use plastic items like food packaging, cutlery etc., the ministry said.

The ministry also suggested the states to invest heavily in segregation of waste.

"States/UTs may focus on improving last mile delivery of collection and transportation services. The focus should also be placed on improving collection and transportation infrastructure and ensuring segregated waste is collected," it said. PTI



A view of used plastic tumblers seen strewn around Ramlila Maidan after Sunday's BJP Yuva Vijay Samkalp Rally in New Delhi on Monday PTI

C'garh Govt to develop its own e-procurement portal



STAFF REPORTER ■ ATAL NAGAR

The State Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal for making material procurements from Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC) instead of Central Government's e-Marketing portal (GeM). The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister

Bhupesh Baghel also took a decision to amend the Chhattisgarh Store Purchase Rules 2002 to start material procurements from CSIDC. The CSIDC will create a new portal for online procurements within six months, Water Resources Minister Ravindra Choubey informed while addressing a press conference here. It was informed in the

meeting that the State had set a target of 75 lakh metric tonnes of paddy for the current Kharif season out of which 71 lakh metric tonnes of paddy had been procured, he said. The deadline for paddy procurement is January 31, 2019 and the government is targeting to procure around 88 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, Choubey said. The State government will



also write a letter to the Central government to make quantity of rice weighing 32 lakh metric tonnes from the Central pool for Chhattisgarh from 24 lakh metric tones, he said. The target for rice procurement from the Central pool was 24 lakh metric tonnes and after sending rice in the Central and State pools, the State will utilise 6.85 lakh metric tonnes of rice through Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation, Choubey said.

The Cabinet also decided to increase by two years to period of recruitment in district cadre of employees in Surguja and Bastar division and Korba district of Class III and IV employees, he said. Just for the record, a total of 14 agriculture mandis in Chhattisgarh had been linked to e-market (e-NAM) platform so far, the Central Government had informed earlier. In the entire country, 585 wholesale regulated markets/

Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Markets have been so far integrated with e-market (e-NAM) platform in 16 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs), who have carried out requisite reforms in their State Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act (APMC Act). States desirous of linking their mandis with e-NAM are required to carry out three marketing reforms in their APMC Act i.e. Single point levy of mandi fee, Unified trade

license valid across all mandis of State and Provision of e-auction. After carrying out reforms, States are required to propose their wholesale regulated markets for integration with e-NAM platform based on States priorities, which are then considered by Government of India for integration, it informed. States / UTs, which either do not have marketing regulation or have one which is not in force, must identify Institution with legally enforce-

able guidelines, which will develop the appropriate physical infrastructure and put in place facilitatory provisions required for e-trading on e-NAM platform including registration of traders/farmers. Therefore, mandi integration with e-NAM platform is an ongoing process. The Central Government is pursuing with rest of States/Union Territories to propose their market integration after completing requisite provisions, it informed.



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel meets the medal winners of 24th All India Forest Games at the Mantralaya in Atal Nagar on Monday. Forest Minister Mohammed Akbar is also present on the occasion

Wanted Maoist held in Dantewada

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Security forces on Monday nabbed a Maoist carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head from Bade G u d r a Surnar jungles of Dantewada district of Bastar, police said. The Maoist identified as L a x m a n Kartami alias Panda is CNM President and was wanted for a number of crimes.



The Maoist was active for a long time in the Katekalyan Area Committee and was nabbed by security forces after he was encircled in the Kuakonda police station limits. The accused was reported to be involved in Melwada blast which led to martyrdom of seven CRPF jawans.

LS poll tickets to only 'winnable' candidates: Punia

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh In-charge of All India Congress Committee (AICC) P L Punia on Monday chaired a meeting of all the frontal organizations, Morchas and Prakoshthas at the party's State Headquarters Rajiv Bhawan here.



During the meeting, Punia exhorted the activists to get ready for repeating the performance of recently held assembly polls in the State in upcoming Lok Sabha polls. It was the vision of AICC Chief Rahul Gandhi which helped the Congress party form government in the State and now it is time to make him our

Prime Minister, he said. Punia in the meeting made it clear that only winnable candidates would be given the party tickets for the Lok Sabha polls. The organization is also executing a survey to choose candidates and names would be finalized only after they are sought from the block and booth level, he said.

C'garh got ₹200 crore in aid for LWE hit distts this fiscal: Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Under 'Special Central Assistance for the most LWE affected districts', eight districts of Chhattisgarh are included and an amount of Rs. 200 crore has been released to Chhattisgarh for these districts till now this financial year, the Central Government has informed. To deal with Left Wing Extremism, the Central Government has approved National Policy and Action Plan in 2015 which contain a multi-pronged approach envisaging security related interventions, developmental measures, ensuring rights and entitlements of the local communities etc. A number of significant initiatives have been taken on the developmental front in the LWE affected States, including Chhattisgarh, for road connectivity, skill development, installation of mobile towers, financial inclusion and education etc, it informed. A new Scheme, namely 'Special Central Assistance for the most LWE affected districts' has been launched in 2017-18 for filling up the critical gaps in Public Infrastructure and Services with an outlay of Rs. 3000 crore @ Rs. 1000 crore per annum.

Meanwhile, the Central Government in September last year had informed that Chhattisgarh being the most affected State receives a substantial share of the resources committed by the Centre for combating Left Wing Extremism. The success of the strategy is evident in reducing security vacuum and increasing reach of governance to interior areas, it had informed. The Central Government assists the State Governments in every manner possible. The Government has a multi-pronged strategy in place to deal with the LWE menace. The strategy involves security related measures, developmental interventions and ensuring rights & entitlements of local communities etc. Security related measures include assistance to LWE affected States by providing CAPF Battalions, helicopters, UAVs, construction of fortified police stations, funds for modernization of State Police forces, arms and equipment, training assistance, sharing of intelligence etc. On development side, apart from flagship schemes of the Central Government in infrastructure, education, skill development etc, several ini-



tiatives have been taken specifically for development of LWE affected areas. These include focussed schemes for development of

roads, installation of mobile towers, skill development, improving network of banks and post offices and education facilities, particularly in the 35

worst affected districts. Recently the Central Government had approved the Special Central Assistance Scheme which envisages an

outlay of Rs 1000 crore per annum for three years for the 35 worst affected LWE districts to cover gaps in critical infrastructure and services.

Quality of education in remote schools will be upgraded: CM

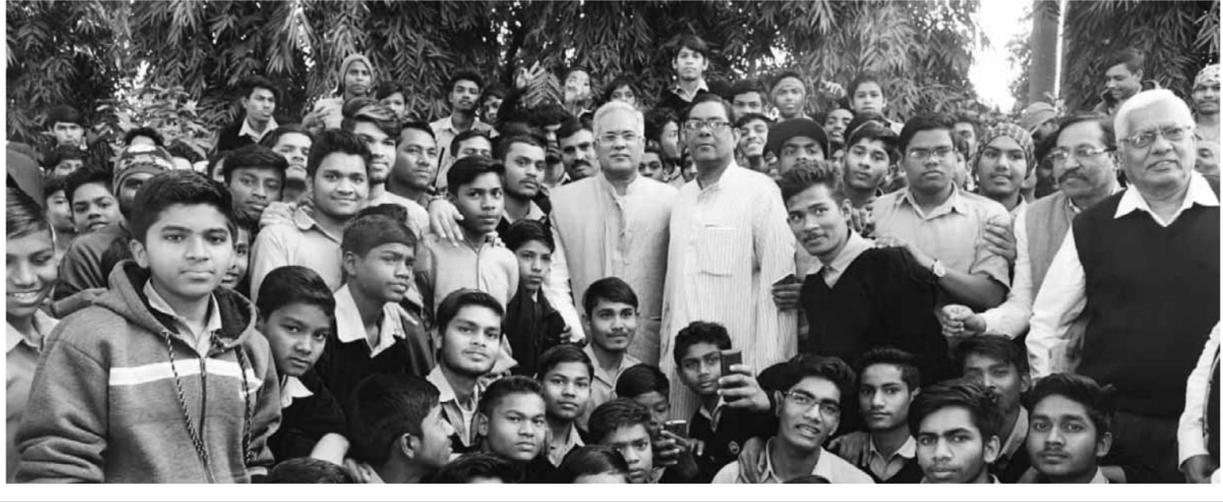
STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Special efforts will be made to improve quality of education so that even students from government schools in remote pockets of the State can also compete equally in all competitions like private school students, said Chief Minister Bhubesh Baghel on Monday.

He was addressing Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary event organised at Kota based Vivekananda Vidyaapeeth here.

Recalling the contribution of Ramakrishna Mission at Narayanpur and Raipur, he said, "The Mission has been successful in serving humanity and is continuing with its work with same dedication over the years."

"Swami Vivekananda



Recalling the contribution of Ramakrishna Mission at Narayanpur and Raipur, CM said, "The Mission has been successful in serving humanity and is continuing with its work with same dedication over the years

in House to name Raipur Airport as Swami Vivekananda Airport, no one opposed it," Baghel said. Swami Satyaswaroopanand, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda Ashram, Raipur said, "Today youth are utilising the personality for progress but the quality of dedication should be utilised for overall development of personality. The energy should be utilised to serve the Motherland so that once again India retains its past glory."

Vidyapeeth Secretary Dr Omprakash Verma placed the report pointing out that due to Finance Department's restriction, the 19 posts sanctioned could not be filled, to which the Chief Minister who also holds the Finance portfolio provided the financial sanction.

stayed for longer period at Raipur after Kolkata. To retain his memories, when a private bill was tabled

Dr Puneet Gupta removed as DKS Hosp Superintendent

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The State Government on Monday transferred Dr Puneet Gupta, Superintendent and Academic In-charge of DKS Hospital as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Raipur.

Dr Gupta is the son-in-law of former State Chief Minister Raman Singh. The Government in place of Dr Gupta appointed Prof. Dr



Kamal Kishore Sahare as Superintendent of the Hospital.

Baliyanala landslide continues to pose risk to Nainital

AFZAL FAUJI ■ NAINITAL

The problem of landslide at Baliyanala in Nainital has continued for decades now. Geologists have pointed out various aspects of the problem after recently inspecting the site.

Recently, geologists Prithvi Singh and BN Fuljhare from the Geological Survey of India along with municipal staff inspected the Baliyanala landslide affected area.

The geologists pointed out that buildings situated along the Baliyanala on the right side of nala number 54 are at risk while buildings on the left side above the nala are comparatively secure. The geologists and officials inspected

about four dozen buildings checking the buildings affected by land subsidence and cracks. In the past too, scientists and officials including those from Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee and the disaster management department had inspected the site and warned of danger.

It should be mentioned here that at present, the Irrigation Department is undertaking work costing ₹44 crore to stop the landslide. However, considering past experience, the locals are skeptical about whether the treatment work will effectively stop the landslide.

Many crores of rupees have been spent on treatment since 1980 without much success. The landslide poses a

major threat to Nainital town. Due to the landslide which has continued sporadically for about three decades, settlements in Harinagar, Malla Krishnapur, Kailakhan, Raees Hotel, Nai Basti and other areas are under threat.

People in the Raees Hotel area have been relocated in the past by the authorities while more than 26 families in various threatened sites are yet to be relocated.

According to geologist professor Bahadur Singh Kotliya, the main boundary thrust passes under the area from Baliyanala to Chopda due to which seismic activity further fuels landslide here.

'LS polls to be fought under leadership of State BJP Chief'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament from Chhattisgarh and Senior BJP leader Saroj Pandey on Monday said that the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the State would be fought under leadership of state BJP President Dharamlal Kaushik.

In a statement, Pandey said that the poll would be fought nationally under leadership of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP National President Amit Shah.

Heavy rain, snow likely to lash various places across U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Meteorological Centre has forecast heavy rainfall and snowfall for a large swathe of Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Dehradun, Nainital and Pithoragarh districts of the State on Tuesday. Besides, hail is also likely to lash many places like Pauri, Haridwar, Nainital and Dehradun. Overall, forecast for the State indicates generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain and snow is likely to occur at most places across the State.

Bikram Singh, director of the State Meteorological Centre, said, "There is a possibility of a good measure of snow and rain in various areas of the State on January 22. A majority of the places are also likely to experience either rain or snow on the day." For Dehradun, the climate is going to be generally cloudy with the possibility of rain and thunderstorm, accompanied by hail lashing some areas of the district. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be 20 degree Celsius and 10 degree Celsius respectively on the day, as per the Met depart-



ment. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various towns of the State on Monday was 22.4 degree Celsius and 10.1 degree Celsius in Dehradun, 22.2 degree Celsius and 9.5 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 14.6 degree Celsius and 5.7 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar, 13.4 degree

Celsius and 8.0 degree Celsius in New Tehri respectively.

SCHOOLS OF 5 DISTRICTS TO BE CLOSED TODAY

Dehradun: As per the forecast by the State Met Centre of heavy rain and snowfall in various areas of the State, hol-

iday has been announced for the schools from class one to class 12 based in some districts on Tuesday. The announcement of the closure of schools has been made so far in five districts of the State- Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh, and Dehradun.

Punjab opens 'One Stop Centres' for ensuring protection of women's rights

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/GURDASPUR

To ensure protection of women's rights, the Punjab Government is setting up 'One Stop Centres' in every district of the state.

The centres would be established across the state at a cost of Rs 35 lakh where the efforts would be made to protect needy women from domestic violence, said the state Social Security, Women and Child Development and Transport Minister Aruna Chaudhary on Monday while participating in the state-level function for celebrating 'Dhiyan Di Lohri'.

Chaudhary, along with Gurdaspur MP and Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, listed out the various steps initiated by Capt Amarinder Singh led Punjab Government to ensure protection of women's rights, including reserving 50 percent seats in Zila Parishads and the Panchayats "which has con-

"Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, opportunities to the girls at par with the boys are being provided throughout the state in accordance with the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'"

tributed to the increase in stature of women in society".

"Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, opportunities to the girls at par with the boys are being provided throughout the state in accordance with the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', she said.

Chaudhary announced that she would soon be meeting the Chief Minister to demand reservation of seats in the buses for women, besides

school and college going girls to make sure that they face no difficulty.

"It is indicative of the positive thinking of the Punjab Government that 'Dhiyan Di Lohri' is observed at the state level," she said while congratulating the mothers of newly-born girls as well as the sarpanches of 20 Gram Panchayats emphasizing to accord equal opportunities to the girls.

Chaudhary said that state's 11 districts have seen considerable improvement in the female sex ratio. In Ferozepur, the ratio is 916 girls after 1000 boys which is commendable.

She added that as per Mai Bhago Scheme, free cycles would be provided in the state to 1,38,066 girls, and the initiative has been kicked off today with distribution to 65 girls in Gurdaspur. Furthermore, cycles are also being distributed to 9,597 girls of Class XI and XII in Gurdaspur district.

Khaira takes dig at Mann's never to drink again promise

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Taking a dig at AAP leader Bhagwant Mann's announcement at a rally in Barnala, former party leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira said Monday the gathering appeared to have been called only to declare that Mann had quit drinking.

"I was upset over the AAP rally as no serious discussion related to Punjab took place. The rally seemed to be 'Sharab Chhaddao' rally of Bhagwant Mann," Khaira told reporters here.

"If any announcement was to be made on giving up liquor (by Mann), that's a personal decision and such an announcement is not made in presence of thousands of people. It should not be meant to seek votes," he said.

Mann revealed on Sunday that he had given up drinking on his mother's advice.

Jind bypoll becomes a high stake battle

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

The Indian National Lok Dal, Haryana's main opposition party and fledgling outfit, Jannayak Janta Party will be fighting for their stature in the state politics in Jind bypoll, scheduled to be held on January 28.

While the bypoll is a prestige issue for the national parties -ruling BJP and Congress -ahead of general election 2019, the stakes are also high for the regional parties-INLD and the JJP -as the results would be an indicative of their prominence in the politics of Haryana state, where assembly polls are also due to be held later this year.

Leader of opposition in Haryana Assembly and INLD's senior leader Abhay Singh Chautala may have edged out his elder brother Ajay Chautala and his sons, thereby assuming full control of the INLD but this triumph of his will have a little meaning if JJP's candidate and his nephew Digvijay Chautala manages to secure a victory or even gets more votes than the INLD in the bypolls.

The closely watched high-stake bypoll battle have Congress' heavyweight MLA Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jannayak Janta Party's Digvijay Chautala, great grandson of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, BJP's Krishan Middha, son of late INLD MLA Hari Chand Middha and INLD's low profile candi-

date Umed Singh Redhu. Making his electoral debut, Digvijay is contesting as an independent backed by the JJP, which is yet to receive certificate of registration from the Election Commission. JJP was formed in December last by OP Chautala's elder son Ajay Chautala and his two sons, Hisar MP Dushyant Chautala and Digvijay Chautala.

The bye-election to Jind, considered as the political heartland of the state, was necessitated following the demise of Hari Chand Middha in August last year. INLD's Hari Chand Middha had represented the Jind assembly seat for two consecutive terms in 2009 and 2014.

The bypoll has already generated national interest and the ruling BJP's candidate Krishan Middha, Congress' nominee, sitting MLA from Kaithal, Randeep Surjewala, a popular Jat face and the JJP's Digvijay Chautala, who comes from Haryana's influential Chautala family, are seen as strong contenders in the electoral battle.

The INLD, on the other hand, is struggling to retain its Jind assembly seat, won by late MLA Hari Chand Middha, by defeating BJP's candidate with a small margin of 2,257 votes in 2014 assembly polls.

battle has gotten worse for the INLD, with the new entrant Aam Aadmi Party on Monday announcing its support to JJP's Digvijay Chautala.

According to the political

observers, as caste factor is a key to victory in Jind, the BJP is eyeing consolidation of the non-Jat votes in the assembly constituency, while the Jat votes are likely to split between the Congress, the INLD and the JJP, all these political parties having fielded Jat candidates.

The INLD is known to have a strong voter base in the Jat community which constitutes around 28 percent of Haryana's population. However, the JJP, its splinter group is likely to eat into INLD's Jat vote bank now.

The INLD, founded in October 1996 by Choudhary Devi Lal, father of current party chief OP Chautala had split last November following a power struggle between brothers Abhay Chautala and Ajay Chautala.

With the split, the political fortunes of the INLD are set to take a hit during the current Jind bypoll and also, upcoming general elections, feel political analysts.

In the past elections, INLD's Hari Chand Middha is believed to have managed two consecutive victories due to voting by Jats, core supporters of the INLD and the Punjabi community in the constituency. However this time, with Hari Chand Middha's son Krishan Middha becoming BJP's nominee and many Jind leaders deserting the INLD to join the JJP, INLD was left with little choice against the JJP's Digvijay Chautala and fielded a low profile candidate, Umed

Singh Redhu. The Jind assembly segment has more than 1.7 lakh voters including over 1.07 lakh urban voters and nearly 62,500 living in villages.

Jind, predominantly an urban constituency, will witness caste combinations playing a key role in bye-election.

The assembly segment has a concentration of Bania voters, followed by Jats and Brahmins. The constituency also has a number of voters belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward and Other Backward Castes communities.

Political analysts believe that in current scenario, the INLD, which has an alliance with the BSP, is hoping for consolidation of Jat and dalit vote bank in Jind.

While a victory in Jind seems an uphill task for the INLD, the party will certainly be content with staying ahead of another regional opponent, JJP in the bypoll.

Ajay Chautala's party JJP will test political waters for the first time.

And, a positive outcome or more vote percentage for the JJP as compared to the INLD in Jind, would be a major morale booster for it ahead of general elections 2019 and assembly polls later this year in Haryana, say political experts.

Having lost three consecutive assembly elections in the state, the INLD has been trying for a comeback in the state after being out of power

since 2005. The INLD was reduced from its tally of 31 seats out of total 90 in the 2009 assembly polls to just 19 seats in 2014 in the 90-member Haryana Assembly while it won two Lok Sabha seats out of 10 in last general elections.

INLD's tally has already fallen to 17 in the Haryana Assembly following the demise of its Pehowa MLA Jaswinder Singh Sandhu on Saturday. In the absence of party's patriarch OP Chautala who is serving a 10-year jail term since 2013 in a teachers' recruitment scam, the INLD led by his younger son Abhay Chautala is finding it difficult to keep its flock together.

INLD's MLA Naina, wife of Ajay Chautala and mother of MP Dushyant Chautala and other two party MLAs have already lent their support to the JJP. Both Naina and Dushyant are also intensively campaigning for Digvijay.

However, INLD's senior leader Abhay Chautala has claimed that the candidature of Digvijay in the elections will not impact the INLD's political fortunes.

Abhay, while campaigning for the INLD's candidate on Monday said that Digvijay is an "outsider". People will not vote for Digvijay who has insulted INLD's chief OP Chautala. It is better to vote for INLD-BSP candidate rather than voting for those who are lairs and selfish, he added while attacking his nephew.

Dushyant Chautala, on

No move to hand over rural health centres to pvt players in Punjab: Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as the opposition parties in Punjab lashed out at the Congress Government's alleged move to hand over education and health services to the private operators, the State Government on Monday clarified that there was "no such move".

The state Health and Family Welfare Minister Brahm Mohindra, taking cognizance of reports that the State Government has decided to hand over health institutions especially Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) situated in rural areas to private parties in PPP mode, made it clear that there is no such move to hand over these institutions to private parties.

He said that the intent of the present government is to strengthen the public health system.

"Due to shortage of the specialists and because of various reasons, the State Governments across India are not able to attract adequate number of specialists. The Department has been getting requests from doctors, NGOs and others for giving them an opportunity to provide services in the government health insti-

tutions. Three offers are already under consideration - one each from cardiologist for SBS Nagar and Patiala, and one for providing service in Community Health Centre in Ludhiana," he said.

Mohindra said that the Central Government has also issued guidelines for co-locating private players for treatment of diseases in the government institutions.

"They can be engaged for a particular service for government hospitals. Centre is also prepared to extend financial help in this regard. The Health Department is attempting to formulate a policy after hearing all the stakeholders," he added.

The Minister said that it was in this context that an advertisement was given in the newspapers inviting expression of interest from the private NGOs, doctors or others for providing services in the Government Hospitals and running of health institutions situated in difficult areas.

"Inviting expression of interest is to get ideas on how the government can provide all healthcare services even in remote areas where we have dearth of manpower, that is doctors and para-medics," he said.

British PM to unveil new Brexit strategy

AFP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May unveils her Brexit "Plan B" to parliament on Monday after MPs shredded her EU divorce deal, deepening the political gridlock 10 weeks from departure day.

Britain will crash out of the European Union on March 29 unless MPs can force a delay or come up with an alternative plan that Brussels is also happy with, before the deadline.

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

EU leaders have signalled they could alter the agreement if May dropped some of her negotiating "red lines" but British media on Monday reported that she would instead attempt to negotiate some changes to the existing agreement.

The reports were met with scepticism in Europe.

"I don't think it can be saved by marginal adjustments in the current plan. I don't think she can convince MPs by presenting the same thing to them with slight tweaks," Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said in Brussels.

"It therefore has to present something substantially different."

Asked if he would change the Brexit deal, Slovakia's



Miroslav Lajcak said: "Why? So you want the UK to be a bigger loser than the EU? Is this what you really want? This is a fair deal that 27 members strongly support so I would really not touch," he said.

After surviving a Commons confidence vote on Wednesday, May last week reached out to opposition parties to seek a compromise solution but the talks appear to have fallen through.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party stayed away, saying that a "no-deal" departure must be ruled out first — something May says is impossible.

After May sets out her plans for the way ahead, lawmakers are set to table a series of amendments, to be voted upon on January 29.

At least two groups of MPs are planning to table amendments to enable backbenchers to delay Brexit and prevent Britain leaving the EU with no agreement.

One of the proposals would enable MPs to debate and vote on Brexit issues, giving them far greater influence

'I don't think it can be saved by marginal adjustments in the current plan. I don't think she can convince MPs by presenting the same thing to them with slight tweaks' — Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell

over government strategy. May's Downing Street office has called them "extremely concerning".

"You've got a Leave population and a Remain parliament," International Trade Secretary Liam Fox, one of the senior Brexiters in May's cabinet, said on Sunday.

"Parliament has not got the right to hijack the Brexit process... And in fact steal the result from the people," he told BBC television.

Britain voted by a 52-48 margin in favour of leaving the EU in a referendum in 2016 that exposed deep divisions in British society.

One of the most problematic areas of the divorce deal is the so-called backstop on the Irish border — a legal guarantee that the frontier would remain free-flowing if Britain and the EU cannot agree a long-term free trade pact.

Changes in the backstop could help win over Conservative eurosceptics, and the party's Democratic Unionist allies that May counts upon for a majority in parliament.

Taliban attack kills at least 100 in central Afghanistan

AFP ■ GHAZNI

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

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

However other sources claimed 100 people died in the attack. At least three gunmen stormed the base following the explosion, igniting a firefight with Afghan security forces. All three gunmen were later killed in the exchange, according to a provincial official.

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

"The Taliban used a Humvee vehicle to hit the compound," Taheri added. Provincial health director Mohammad Salim Ashgharkhail confirmed the toll.

"Some wounded people were taken to hospitals in Kabul for further treatment as they were in critical condition," said Ashgharkhail.

Provincial governor spokesman Abdul Rahman Mangal said the huge blast

'Some wounded people were taken to hospitals in Kabul for further treatment as they were in critical condition'

had also partially damaged the base.

The Taliban — who have been waging a 17-year war against the Western-backed Afghan Government — later claimed responsibility for the assault.

The attack comes a day after a Taliban suicide bomber targeted the convoy of Logar province's governor, killing at least seven security guards.

Fights between security forces and Taliban fighters have continued to intensify across the country during the frigid Afghan winter, which traditionally experiences a lull in fighting.

The recent Taliban attacks come as Washington is stepping up efforts for a peace deal that could pave the way for the Taliban's participation in the next government, with the US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad visiting regional powers this month after meeting Taliban representatives in December.

Khalilzad ended his visit to neighbouring Pakistan Sunday after meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan last week to discuss ongoing peace efforts.

31 Rohingya in limbo on B'desh-India border

Dhaka

Thirty-one Rohingya Muslims including 17 children remained stranded on the India-Bangladesh border after three days, Dhaka officials said on Monday, as both sides refuse to accept them. As many as 1,300 Rohingya Muslims have crossed into Bangladesh from India in recent weeks as fears of deportation to Myanmar spark an exodus.

The latest group crossed barbed-wire fences along the Indian part of the border, but Bangladesh border guards stopped them from entering their territory. "They are now living in two tents provided by Indian border forces on the border's zero line," Mannan Jahangir, a local government official at the Bangladeshi border town of Kasba, told AFP.

Lieutenant Colonel Golam Kabir, a Bangladesh border guard commander, said the group first arrived at the border from the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir on January 18. Senior officials from both sides held a meeting on Sunday, with Dh-

Chinese accuse McDonald's of supporting Taiwan independence

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese nationalists are accusing a McDonald's advertisement in Taiwan of supporting independence for the self-ruled island.

The advertisement for a breakfast sandwich, broadcast only in Taiwan, shows a two-second glimpse of a woman's identity card that lists her nationality as "Taiwan."

Comments on internet bulletin boards accused McDonald's of violating Chinese law by supporting independence for Taiwan, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

Some called for a boycott. Others said McDonald's, whose mainland franchises are owned by a group that includes the Chinese Cabinet's investment arm, should be expelled from China.

"McDonald's this is what you want to do? Help Taiwan independence?" said a posting on the Sina.Com portal signed "Good Knife Still."

GLOBE TROTTER

GERMANY SANCTIONS IRAN AIRLINE ON REGIME LINKS
Berlin: Germany said Monday it had banned Iranian airline Mahan Air from its airports, in an escalation of sanctions adopted by the European Union against Tehran over attacks on opponents in the bloc. The move was necessary to protect Germany's "foreign and security policy interests", foreign ministry spokesman Christopher Burger told reporters at a regular Berlin press conference.

CAMBODIA'S HUN SEN MEETS XI JINPING
Beijing: Cambodian PM Hun Sen met Chinese President Xi Jinping during a visit to Beijing that reinforces ties between China and its closest ally in Southeast Asia. Hun Sen also is to meet Premier Li Keqiang and other leaders during his visit, which started on Monday.

PRINCE PHILIP CRASH: DEBRIS FOR SALE ON EBAY
London: Debris, said to be from a horrendous crash involving 97-year-old Prince Philip, has been put up for sale on eBay with all the money promised for cancer research, a media report said on Monday.

लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग
Tender Notice No. MNA-11/2018-19
National Competitive Bidding
(Trough e-procurement mode on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या MNA-11/2018-19 जिसका PR No. 11048(PHED) 2018-19 है को इस तक संशोधित समझा जाए ।

दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित / शुद्धिपत्र संशोधित समझा जाए

1. Period of Sale (downloading) of tender Bid Documents	From 12.11.2018 to 27.11.2018 up till 17:00 Hrs through (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)	From 01.02.2019 to 08.02.2019 up till 17:00 Hrs through (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
2. Date, time & Place of Prebid Meeting	22.11.2018 at 15:00 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer of concerned P.H.Division	04.02.2019 at 15:00 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer, P.H.Division, Begusarai
3. Last, Date & Time of receipt (uploading) of tender	29.11.2018 up till 17:00 Hrs on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in	09.02.2019 up till 17:00 Hrs on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
4. Last date and time of submission of hard copy of EMD & document charges	01.12.2018 at 15:00 Hrs in the Office of (A) Executive Engineer of Concerned P.H.Division (B) Superintending Engineer of Concern P.H.Circle (C) Zonal Chief Engineer of concerned Zone	11.02.2019 at 15:00 Hrs in the Office of (A) Executive Engineer, P.H.Division, Begusarai (B) Superintending Engineer, P.H.Circle, Begusarai (C) Zonal Chief Engineer of Bhagalpur Zone
5. Date and time of opening of technical bid	03.12.2018 at 16:00 Hrs on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in	12.02.2019 at 16:00 Hrs on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

पूर्व में किये गये कार्यों के अनुसार निविदा में अंकित वार्ड की संख्या घट बढ़ सकती है । कार्य आवश्यकतानुसार ही करायी जायेगी । जिसके फलस्वरूप ठपसस व फर्नदपजल घट बढ़ सकती है । शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे । विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए www.prdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, देगूसराय
PR.15518 (PHED) 2018-19
14 साल की विटिया है, लगवाओ न तुम फेरे, कौनों पर बस्ता दे दो, जाणगी स्कूल सुबह-सवेरे

ABHEY OSWAL GREENTECH
Oswal Greentech Limited
(Formerly known as Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.)
CIN: L24129PB9199100099
Regd. Office: Near Jan Colony, Vijay Inder Nagar, Daba Road, Ludhiana-141 003 (Punjab) Ph: 0161-2544238
Corporate Office: 7th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan 22, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001, Ph. No. 011-23715242, Fax No. 011-23716276
Website: www.oswalgreentech.com
Email id: oswal@oswalgreentech.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 33 and 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, February 05, 2019** inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended **31st December, 2018**. This information is also available on Company's website at www.oswalgreentech.com and on Stock Exchanges' website at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

For Oswal Greentech Limited
Date : 21-01-2019
Place : New Delhi

Anil Bhalha
Managing Director

SUPRA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LTD.
805, E-block, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place New Delhi-110019
Phone: 011-26423911, 26423912
Website: www.supraindustrialresources.in
Email: supraexchange@gmail.com
CIN: L65999DL1985PLC019987

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday the 31st January, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. at its Registered Office at 805, E-Block, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 inter alia to consider and take on records Un-audited Quarterly Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended 31st December, 2018 and to consider other businesses, if any. Pursuant to this, the Company has decided that the closing of trading window for the insiders covered under the Company's "Code of Conduct to Regulate, Monitor and Report Trading by Insiders" would commence from 9:00 a.m. on 24th January, 2019 and ends after 48 hours of the results are made public i.e. at 5:00 p.m. on 2nd February, 2019 (Both dates inclusive).

By Order of the Board
For Supra Industrial Resources Limited
Date: 21.01.2019
Place: New Delhi (Rajat Agarwal)
Director

Kamala Harris announces her 2020 US presidential bid

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris, the first Indian-origin Senator, Monday officially launched her campaign for the US presidential election in 2020 to take on President Donald Trump, saying she was "honoured" to announce her bid on a day when Americans celebrated Martin Luther King Jr who sought inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi.

A rising party star and vocal critic of President Trump, Harris, 54, is the fourth Democrat to join the battle for the party's nomination in the 2020 election.

"I am running for president," Harris said in a tweet along with a simultaneously released video message.

"Kamala Harris: For the People" is the theme of her campaign.

If elected, she would be the



first woman and woman of colour to be the president of the United States. "I love my country. This is a moment in time that I feel a sense of responsibility to stand up and fight for the best of who we are," she told the ABC News.

Explaining the significance of announcing her presidential bid on Martin Luther King Jr Day, Harris said the icon of American civil rights movement, who sought inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, has always inspired her.

Gabbard defends her meeting with Bashar al-Assad

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential aspirant Tulsi Gabbard has defended her controversial decision to meet with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in 2017, saying that American leaders must meet with foreign leaders "if we are serious about the pursuit of peace and securing our country."

Gabbard, 37, the first Hindu elected to US Congress and a four-time Democratic lawmaker, earlier this month announced she will run for President in 2020.

Gabbard had met Assad during a trip to Syria in January 2017. The Syrian leader is believed to be responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians.

"No, I think that it is, it continues to be very important for any leader in this country to be willing to meet with others, whether they be friends or adversaries or potential adversaries if we are serious about the pursuit of peace and securing our country," Gabbard, who represents Hawaii, said in an interview to CNN when asked if she regrets the meeting.

"...You often acknowledge and bring to the forefront the cost of war and our troops and who pays the price," she continued.

"I have seen this cost of war firsthand, which is why I fight so hard for peace. And that's the reality of the situation that we're facing here."

HDFC BANK Department for Special Operations, 1st floor, Indian Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMovable PROPERTY)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 09.03.2018 calling upon the borrower M/s Amcon Engineers, through its Proprietor/Guarantors/Mortgagors Mr. Mukesh Kumar Laad, Ms. Aruna Laad and M/s Amcon Engineers Pvt Ltd to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2,80,56,596.54 (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six and Paise Fifty Four Only) thereon w.e.f. 01.03.2018 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of January, 2019 at, Kosi Kalan Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower(s)/Mortgagor, in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with this property and any dealings with this property will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 2,80,56,596.54 (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six and Paise Fifty Four Only) and interest thereon w.e.f. 01.03.2018 as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Description of Immovable Property	Date & Time of Possession
RR 3 AND RR 4 Brindavan Garden Retreat (Magson Colony) Highway, KosiKalan, Boundaries Municipal No:56/57 of MVDA map No.99-K-2000-2001(part of Khassa No 252, Village Dautana, Tehsil Chhatta District Mathura (As per Sale Deed) North East: Other Property South East: Plot No.RR2 & RR3 Plot No:55 & 56 vide Map No:99K-2000-2001 North West: Plot No. RR4 & PP-10 Plot No 57 & 58 vide Map No.99K-2000-2001 South West: Road	19.01.2019 11.00 AM onwards

Entire Basement Floor, part of property J-54, Saket, New Delhi

These properties are cross-collateralised with M/s Amcon Engineers Pvt Ltd and M/s Amcon Engineers whose Partner's are Mr. Prakash Laad, and Mr Aditya Laad.

Note: The above notice be also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9 of the Act.

Date: 19.01.2019 Place: Kosi Kalan, Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi- 110055

A notice is hereby given that the following borrowers/ have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA) The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Surendra Singh Rawat, Anoop Rawat, IID-37A, Sector 2, Vaishali, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad A/C No-LBDEL00001515215	Commercial Office No. 201, Second Floor, Nipun Plaza, Commercial Plot No. 2, Sector-1 Vaishali, Ghaziabad	06-Dec-2018, 477341/-	31/05/2018

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : 22-01-2019
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

CORPORATE MERCHANT BANKERS LIMITED

Regd. Off: UG-24, Vishwadeep Tower, District Centre, JanakPuri, New Delhi-110058
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061107
Email ID: cmbdelhi@gmail.com
Ph. No. 91-11-65382244, Website: www.cmbco.in

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 & Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Corporate Merchant Bankers Limited will be held on Monday 28th January 2019 at Regd Office at 2.00 P.m., inter-alia to consider and approve Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended 31st December, 2018. Further details will be available on the website of the Company i.e. at www.cmbco.in and also on the website of BSE Limited & MSEI Limited i.e. at <http://www.bseindia.com>, & www.msei.in where the Company's shares are listed.

For Corporate Merchant Bankers Ltd.
Sd/-
Parne Venkateshwar Raddy
Director
Place: New Delhi
Date: 22.01.2019

SHO
P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-29052304, 29051917, 8750870830
DP/5217/SD/19

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following sub-broker are no longer affiliated as sub-broker of M/s Vogue Commercial Co. Ltd. & SEBI Reg. No. INB230882038 trading member of National Stock Exchange Ltd. having the registered office at 1st Floor, 40 Hanuman Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Any person henceforth dealing with below mentioned sub-broker should do so at their own risk. M/s Vogue Commercial Co. Ltd. shall not be liable for any dealings with them.
Sub-broker Trade Name: M/s. Singla Associates
SEBI Registration No.: INS231367223
Registration Date: 10.07.2002
Address of sub-broker: V-13, Green Park Main, Delhi-16

By Order of Director
Vogue Commercial Co. Ltd.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridged Tender No. : 09-DCE-CON-ROB-SDAH-18-19 e-tendering (Open tender in single packet system), dated 15.01.2019. E-tender is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/ROB, Eastern Railway, Sealdah for the following work. **Name of Work :** Construction of OH tank and other ancillary works at CPOH, Kancharapara. **Approx Value :** ₹ 1,07,41,414.91. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,03,700/- **Date of Opening :** 04.02.2019. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.
Siddhartha CON-105/2018-19
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.ireps.gov.in

BID [TENDER] NO.NHP/BHR(GW)/07/2018-19/A1.2.02
RE-TENDRING
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
(FOR ITEM RATE/ CONTRACTS IN CIVIL WORKS)

NAME OF WORK : Construction of 40 no. of Piezometers at different locations of Bihar under NHP

Date of N.I.T : Date 21.01.2019

PERIOD OF SALE OF BID DOCUMENTS : Date 24.01.2019 to 05.03.2019 upto 15.00 Hr (System Server Time)

TIME AND DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE : Date- 11.02.2019 at 12.30 Hours

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS : Date – 06.03.2019 at 15.00 Hours (System Server Time)

TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF BIDS : Date – 06.03.2019 at 15.30 Hours (System Server Time)

PLACE OF OPENING OF BIDS : Executive Engineer cum Project Monitor (NHP) MWRD Patna

E mail id : nhpmwr1@gmail.com

OFFICER INVITING BID : Executive Engineer cum Project Monitor (NHP) MWRD Patna

E mail id : nhpmwr1@gmail.com

1. Bids shall be received online only at the website of <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>

2. The RFP document can be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal The RFP document can be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/> BELTRON Bidders have to register themselves on e-bid formats have to be downloaded from e-Procurement Portal and the Tender Document fee has to paid online.

3. Tender processing Fee (TPF) to be paid through e-payment mode (I.e.,NEFT/RTGS, Net Banking, Credit/Debit Card) only – Cost of BOQ to be paid through e-payment mode (I.e.,NEFT/ RTGS, Net Banking, Credit/Debit Card) only.

4. For Support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address e-Procurement HELP DESK First Floor, M/22, Bank of India Bank of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, and Patna-800001, Ph. No-0612-2523006, Mob-7542028164

Executive Engineer
For and on behalf of the govt of Bihar
PR No. 15590 (MWR) 2018-19
अविध शसव एव मादक द्रव्य के संबंध में थिकारत टोल फ्री नं. 18003456268 वा 15545 पर करें

Farce in Karnataka

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



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

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

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

Wealth inequality

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



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

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

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

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

Civilisational heritage

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



SANDHYA JAIN

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Syama Prasad Mukherjee resigned from the Cabinet on April 1, 1950, in protest against Nehru's failure to take Pakistan to task for the continued suffering of his people. At a Cabinet meeting the same day, Mukherjee said, "What do you care for us Bengali Hindus? What do you care for the criminal assaults on our women?" (*Soundings in Modern South Asian History*, ed. DA Low)

Enraged at the renewed exodus of Hindus, which he viewed as deliberate, he suggested an exchange of populations, which Nehru rejected vehemently. The need to stem the flow of refugees on both sides of the borders and avert international opprobrium led to the Nehru-Liaquat Pact (April 8, 1950), wherein each side pledged to secure its minorities and give equality of citizenship regardless of religion. Both sides promised to help recover

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

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

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

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

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

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

What has the political and civil leadership of each State done to preserve their respective ethnic, social, cultural and linguistic identities? No women in modern Indian history have been so brutalised as the Hindu women of Bengal. Syama Prasad Mukherjee fought for and died in Kashmir. His daughters have a right to solace in their original motherland.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

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



Karnataka Chief Minister —H D Kumaraswamy

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



External Affairs Minister —Sushma Swaraj

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



Actor —Kareena Kapoor Khan

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



Union Home Minister —Rajnath Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Start-up flaws

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

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

Varun SD Bengaluru

A great show of grand unity but what next?

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

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



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

TK Nandanam Chennai

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

Ashutosh Garg New Delhi

Emerging story

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

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

Anna Mary Yvonne Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Innovation is not exploitation

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a freelance journalist)

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

—BJP LEADER SADHANA SINGH



THE REMARK SMACKS OF DESPERATION AND NERVOUSNESS AMONG BJP LEADERS AND IS AN AFFRONT TO ALL WOMEN.

—SP CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV

Test of a United India

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



AMITABH SHUKLA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Political economy of tribal development

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



VK BAHUGUNA

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

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

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

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



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

Let us first examine the implementation

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a retired civil servant)

1 cr take dip on Paush Purnima in Prayagraj



PTI ■ ALLAHABAD An aerial view shows devotees take a holy dip on the occasion of Paush Purnima in Allahabad on Monday

Braving intense chill, over 1.07 crore devotees took a dip in the Ganga river here on Monday on the occasion of Paush Purnima — the second auspicious bathing day of the Kumbh Mela.

From Sunday night itself, the Sangam area was buzzing with activity as devotees started arriving even as security forces maintained a close watch on the movement of pilgrims and visitors at the mela venue. Even before the sunrise, devotees were seen coming out from the ghats after taking the dip. "Over 1.07 crore devotees have taken a dip so far on the occasion of Paush Purnima. Drone cameras are being used to keep a watch and maintain vigil over the mela area," Mela adhiikaari Vijay Anand told reporters here.

Officials repeatedly made announcements requesting devotees not to venture into deep waters and also keep an eye over suspicious elements in their vicinity and report it to the police.

The full moon was at its splendid best over Sangam before the break of dawn and devotional songs greeted visitors in the area. Fog too was seen before the sunrise at various places in the Sangam area. However, it failed to dampen the mood of devotees, who turned up in large numbers for the Paush Purnima bath. As the day progressed, the number of devotees coming to take the holy dip increased. The Purnima or full moon day will also mark the beginning of Kalpas (the period of austerity) at Kumbh Mela. Elaborating on the significance of Paush Purnima, Swami Adhokshanand said, "Paush Purnima is a significant day for Hindus which falls on the full moon day of Paush in the Hindu calendar. On this day, devotees from different parts of the country assemble at Sangam to take a holy dip." "Even Lord Krishna had said in the Hindu calendar, he represents the month of Paush,"



Foreign devotees take a holy dip at Sangam on Monday

he said. Satish Shukla, who came from Kanpur for the holy dip, said, "Various facilities at the mela venue have improved significantly. The Ganga river looks a lot cleaner now as compared to earlier times."

On Sunday, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had greeted people on the eve of Paush Purnima.

In a statement issued in Lucknow, Adityanath said, "Paush Purnima, which is sym-

Kinnar Akhara to build ashram in Allahabad

New Delhi: Kinnar Akhara, a group of transgender saints in Prayagraj Kumbh, announced on Monday it will set up an ashram in the city, according to a statement issued here by the Ministry of Culture. The group, which had attended the Ujjain Kumbh in 2016, have been taking part in the holy baths at the Kumbh Mela this year along with the other akhara. "Transgenders were badly exploited in the society and even their parents were forced to live a disgraceful life. Transgenders have been part of Sanatan Dharm and they have been given respectful status in religious epics and books of Hindu mythology. Akhara has provided forum to transgenders to pursue dignified life with religious rituals," Acharya Mahamandaleswar Lakshmi Narayanan Tripathi, chief of Kinnar Akhara said. PTI

PM to inaugurate 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

PTI ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on Tuesday in this temple town and hold talks with his Mauritian counterpart Pravid Jugnauth after the inaugural session. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on Monday, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and said the Indian diaspora has dramatically changed the world's perception of Indians and India.

Mauritian Premier Jugnauth arrived here in the afternoon and was received by Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh. Later, Swaraj called on the Mauritian PM and exchanged views on a range of issues, including strengthening bilateral cooperation.

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

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

Varanasi is Modi's parliamentary constituency. Jugnauth will be the chief guest of the convention, while Himanshu Gulati, member of Parliament of Norway, will be the special guest.

Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, member of Parliament of New Zealand, will be the guest of honour. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the concluding function on January 23.

Over 4,000 NRI delegates from about 85 countries are attending the event and many of them will be staying in the tent city, built specially for them. After Pravasi Divas, the guests will be taken for a visit to the Kumbh Mela on January

24 where also a tent city has been set up.

A cultural village has been developed in Prayagraj, showing the history from the Indus Valley Civilisation. The 'pravasi' will be taken to New Delhi on the night of January 24 and will have a "Delhi darshan" the next day.

They will also witness the Republic Day Parade on January 26. Uttar Pradesh is the partner state for the event and a novel feature this year is the concept of 'Varanasi hospitality' under which local people are hosting the Indians living

MJ Akbar on booklet; MEA says nothing to do with Pravasi Divas

Varanasi: A booklet featuring MJ Akbar, who resigned as Minister of State for External Affairs following allegations of sexual misconduct by several women, was distributed to delegates at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas here, triggering a controversy with the Congress attacking the Government over it.

Sources in the Ministry said Akbar is not at all associated with the event and that the booklet was published in May last year, months before he quit

as Minister. The booklet highlighted achievements of the MEA in the last four years and all the ministers in the MEA featured in it. "The booklet was published months before Akbar quit as a Minister," said a Government official. PTI

Sushma: Countries like US, Japan, China ageing, India getting younger

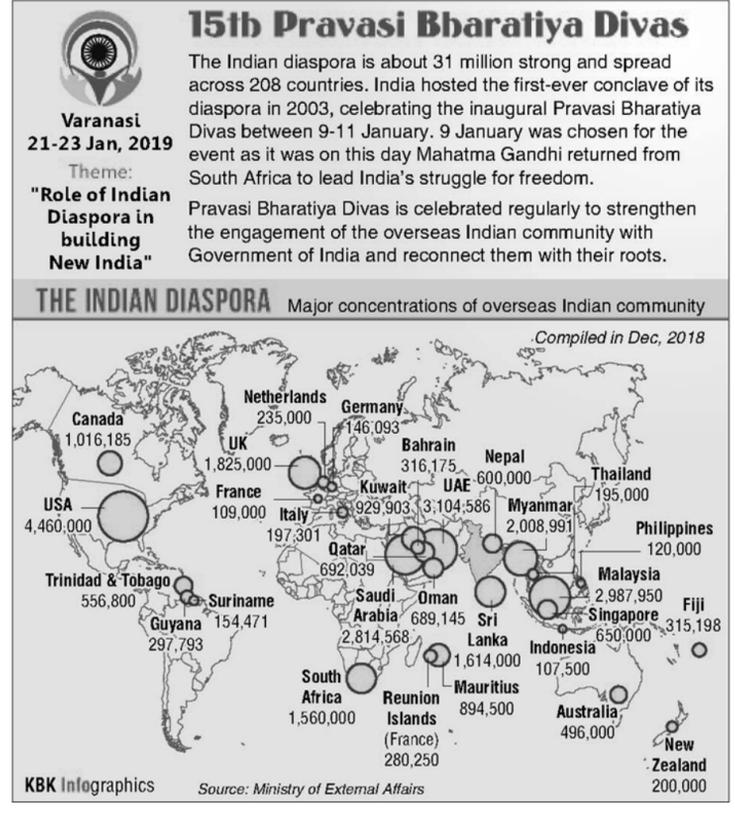
PTI ■ VARANASI

Underlining that countries such as the US, Japan and China are ageing rapidly, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Monday said India is getting younger and this demographic perspective offers it an "unprecedented edge" that will help in building a "New Young India" by 2022.

Sushma, in her inaugural address at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, said the Indian diaspora has dramatically changed the world's perception of Indians and our country.

"India has the largest diaspora in the world, at almost 31 million, which is spread throughout the globe. However, what marks all of you is the shared common identity — of Indianness — and a shared common origin — India, land of your forefathers," Sushma added.

The Youth PBD marked the start of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and was attended by Swaraj, Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh, among others.



'Ram Naam Bank' at Kumbh for devotees seeking solace

Allahabad: For almost a century, people from different religions have been writing the name of Lord Ram in a booklet and depositing it in the 'Ram Naam Bank' in search of solace and peace. It is a unique bank with neither ATMs, nor cheque books and its only 'currency' is Lord Ram. Ashutosh Varshney, who manages the bank's affairs, is carrying on the legacy of his grandfather who had set up the organisation in early part of the 20th century. "This bank was started by my grandfather, Ishwar Chandra, who was a businessman. Now, there are over one lakh account holders from different age groups and religions," said Ashutosh Varshney, who has set up its camp at Sector 6 of the Kumbh

Mela. "It runs under a social organisation, Ram Naam Sewa Sansthan, and has witnessed at least nine Kumbhs," he said. The bank has no monetary transactions. Its members have a booklet of 30 pages, containing 108 columns in which they write 'Ram Naam' 108 times everyday. This booklet is deposited in the individual's account. He said the name of Lord Ram should be written in red ink as it is the colour of love. "The divine name of Lord Ram is credited in the account of account holder. A passbook is issued like other banks," said Gunjan Varshney, the president of the bank which is situated at Civil Lines here. "All these services are provided free of cost. Ram Naam Bank has ledgers and pass-

books like any other bank, and maintains the records of its 'depositors'. The only currency that works in this bank is the name of Lord Ram," she said. Gunjan Varshney said the size of one's account was determined by the number of times one was able to write the name of the Lord and deposit it in the bank. She said writing Ram Naam is called 'Likhita Jaap', and it comes in the category of writing meditation. "This gives one a complete sense of surrender to an inner conscience and peace while writing the golden words. All the senses are engaged in the service of Lord," she said. Ashutosh Varshney said people are not bound to worship Lord Ram to be members of the bank. They are free to worship Gods of their religions, he added. PTI

Bulls gore to death 2 persons in Jallikkattu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

An attempt by a Minister in the Edappadi Palaniswami Government to create a world record in Jallikkattu in his home district ended up in a tragedy on Sunday as two spectators were gored to death by bulls while 40 people were injured in the mele.

The incident happened within minutes of Chief Minister Palaniswami who inaugurated the event at Viralmalai in Puthukotta district declaring that Jallikkattu was Tamil Nadu's sport of valour.

A Ramu, a 32-year-old spectator and G Satish (35), a bull owner were gored to death. The event was organised by the controversial Health Minister C Vijaya Baskar, who hails from the district and who also owns costly bulls. It may be remembered that the home and offices of Vijaya Baskar were raided twice by the Income Tax department in the run up to the April 2017 RK Nagar by-poll and had seized unaccounted cash worth crores of rupees and incriminating documents.

"The Income Tax authorities have informed that several complaints were received recently indicating that Dr C Vijaya Baskar is the main person involved in bribing the voters in RK Nagar Assembly constituency which is going to bypolls on April 12, 2017. Some loose sheets were found with his accountant Mr Srinivasan indicating distribution of Rs 89 crore to a number of politicians for further distribution among the voters," said the Election Commission of India order issued to announce the rescinding the bypoll in April 2017.

Vijaya Baskar announced on Sunday that the Viralmalai Jallikkattu would be a regular feature in Tamil Nadu's sporting calendar. A record number of 1,353 bulls and 700 tamers took part in the event. More than 300 persons had been injured in various jallikkattu events which commenced after the Pongal festivities of this year. These are the first fatalities of the 2019 Jallikkattu season which is expected to last up to September. The year 2018 saw 32 persons getting gorrred to death by bulls (unofficial figures put that fatalities as 68 dead). More than 20 bulls got killed in last year's event.



Jallikkattu stands out as a symbol of Tamil's valour. By conducting such a grand event Viralmalai has grabbed a place in the list of Jallikkattu famed places like Alanganallur, Palamedu and Avaniyapuram," said the Chief Minister while inaugurating the event.

Antony Rubin, an animal rights activist who has been waging a legal battle against the Jallikkattu pointed out that the exact number of persons killed in bull taming event would never be known. "We saw two persons getting killed at Viralmalai. The fate of those persons who have been admitted to hospitals would never be known as these events take place in remote villages. The attention of the media as well as the officials shift to the next location and Viralmalai id forgotten," said Rubin. Supreme Court is hearing a batch of petitions filed by animal rights activist pleading for

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Building Division South-East (M-421), PWD (GNCTD), Police Colony, Hauz Khas, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India (percentage/ item rate tender in two bid condition for following work(s):-

- NIT No. 97/South-East(B)/M/New Delhi/2018-19. Name of Work: Installation of Rain Water Harvesting System in SBV, Tughlakabad Extn.- (School ID-1925056). New Delhi/2018-19. Estimated Cost: Rs. 11,25,440/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 22,509/- drawn in favour of EE, CBMD M-421, PWD, New Delhi, time of completion of work 02 Months, The Last date & time for receipt of Tenders through e-procurement is 28.01.2019 upto 15.00 Hours & Tender ID No 2019_PWD_165861_1.
- NIT No. 101/South-East(B)/M/New Delhi/2018-19. Name of Work: EOR to Thyagraj Stadium at Thyagraj Nagar New Delhi during 2018-19 (SH: Renovation of GF, FF & SF toilets and urgent repairing works.). Estimated Cost: Rs. 29,31,652/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 58,633/- drawn in favour of EE, CBMD M-421, PWD, New Delhi, time of completion of work 03 Months, The Last date & time for receipt of Tenders through e-procurement is 28.01.2019 upto 15.00 Hours & Tender ID No 2019_PWD_165877_1.
- NIT No. 102/South-East(B)/M/New Delhi/2018-19. Name of Work: A/R & M/O Non Residential Building under PWD South-East(Bldg/M), during 2018-19. (SH: Hiring of inspecting vehicle for South-East(Bldg/M, Division Office). Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,36,255/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 10,725/- drawn in favour of EE, CBMD M-421, PWD, New Delhi, time of completion of work 12 Months, The Last date & time for receipt of Tenders through e-procurement is 25.01.2019 upto 15.00 Hours & Tender ID No 2019_PWD_165881_1.
- NIT No. 103/South-East(B)/M/New Delhi/2018-19. Name of Work: Misc. work for repair of boundary wall with grit finishing and concertina coil, External finishing and at development at Govt. Girl S. Sec. School Jogabai, Batla House, Okhla, New Delhi School ID: 1925049, Building ID: 19251152. EOR ID: 20152129. (Misc. Additional renovation work at GGSSS Jogabai new building at NFC premises). Estimated Cost: Rs. 7,89,075/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 15,782/- drawn in favour of EE, CBMD M-421, PWD, New Delhi, time of completion of work 01 Month, The Last date & time for receipt of Tenders through e-procurement is 28.01.2019 upto 15.00 Hours & Tender ID No 2019_PWD_165882_1.

Further details of the tender can be had from: <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/nicge/app>

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	REPAIR & MTC. OF YARD TRENCH COVER AT 220KV S/STN.HVPNL KAITHAL DURING THE F.Y 2018-19	CLOSING 31.01.2019	13500	https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No: 47/GE-50/2018-19/Vol-II, 11.01.2019, 111311	0172-2583789 pro@hvpnl.org.in
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	SURVET & INVESTIGATION FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS IN MASTER STORM WATER DRAINS & ARTERIAL DRAINS WITHIN GURUGRAM HARYANA	18.01.2019 24.01.2019	10000	https://mcrurgaon.haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No: 112232	ee6@mca.gov.in
3	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ROHTAK	HIRING OF VEHICLES FOR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ROHTAK	19.01.2019 28.01.2019	NIL	www.mcrohtak.haryanaprocurement.gov.in	commissionermcr@gmail.com
4	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	P/L OF RMC M-20 GRADE ON VARIOUS STREETS I.E MAIN ROAD TEE POINT NEAR NARAYAN SINGH,ZILE SINGH HOUSE WALLI GALI	19.01.2019 14.02.2019	215.64 LACS	https://mcfbd.haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No: 112314	9818643725 shyamsingh.anurag@gmail.com
5	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	P/L OF RMC M-20 GRADE ON VARIOUS STREETS I.E NEAR BILLU PEHALWAN HOUSE,MATA MOD TO MAIN BAZZAR WALLI GALLI,RAJBIR WALLI GALLI,SUNDER JI WALLI GALI	19.01.2019 14.02.2019	127.90 LACS	https://mcfbd.haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No: 112317	9818643725 shyamsingh.anurag@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	DRILLING,BORING AND INSTALLATION OF 1 NOS TUBEWELL WITH (REVERSE ROTATORY METHOD) IN JHARBER GOGA JI PRACHIN MANDIR.WARD NO.28 + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 30.01.2019	29.85 LACS	http://mcrurgaon.haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No:EE-III/MCG/F-6/2019/2882, 112311	9821395203 ee3@mca.gov.in
7	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	TENDER FOR SUPPLY,INSTALLATION AND 3 YEARS OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE PROCESSING PLANT OF 400MTPD CAPACITY	31.12.2018 08.02.2019	11.50 LACS	https://mcrurgaon.haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No: 107730	ee6@mca.gov.in
8	HSAMB FATEHABAD	CONST. OF ROAD FROM VILLAGE, KHANORA TO BHODIA KHERA(M.C.TOHANA) (C.M ANNOUNCEMENT23718) + 2 OTHER WORKS	18.01.2019 07.02.2019	2.21 CRORE	https://hsamb.haryanaprocurement.gov.in Tender No: 112110 to 112112	94163-97518 xehsambfatehabad@gmail.com
9	HSAMB REWARI	Mar-19	18.01.2019 31.01.2019	NIL	www.hsamb.org.in	01274-224187 xenrwar2018@gmail.com
10	HSAMB YAMUNA NAGAR	S/R OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS(GROUP-B) IN SADHAURA CONSTITUENCY(ROAD I.D2813,2824,2829,2830,2834,2844,2899&2901) + 9 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 07.02.2019	4.44 CRORE	www.hsamb.org.in Tender No: 112069.02/2019 to 112072	07132-237825 xenrwar2018@gmail.com
11	VITA	PEST CONTROL SERVICE	22.01.2019 11.02.2019	3 LACS	https://vitaindia.org.in	0171-2540614
12	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJANA PARISHAD	TENDER FOR PRINTING & SUPPLY OF MODULES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS UNDER PROJECT SANKALP (FOR CLASS IX & X) FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2019-20	19.01.2019 04.02.2019	30 LACS	www.hsspp.in Tender No: 254/2018-19/TBS/HSSPP	0172-2590505 tbssahspp@gmail.com
13	DHBN	RATE CONTRACT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF M.S STEEL ITEMS	09.01.2019 08.02.2019	15 LACS FOR 1 YEAR	www.dhbn.org.in	9416310766 coshdhbn7@gmail.com
14	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION KARNAL	FELLING OF TREES FROM FOREST AND NON-FOREST AREAS WITH EXTRACTION OF STUMPS, CARRIAGE,UNLOADING & STACKING	19.01.2019 28.01.2019	49 LACS	hfdc.gov.in Tender No: GM/HFDC/XN/17/2018-19	0184-2241545 gm.karnal@hfdc.gov.in
15	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION KARNAL	FELLING OF TREES FROM FOREST AND NON-FOREST AREAS WITH EXTRACTION OF STUMPS, CONVERSION,MEASUREMENT,RECORDING,LOADING,CARRIAGE	19.01.2019 28.01.2019	49 LACS	hfdc.gov.in Tender No: GM/HFDC/XN/16/2018-19	0184-2241545 gm.karnal@hfdc.gov.in

Send team to check fish quality: AP CM to Nitish

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eight drowned as boat capsizes in Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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



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

operations.

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

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

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



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

BJP cancels Modi's Feb 8 Brigade rally

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

the BSF helipad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India's first all-women's party launched, to contest Lok Sabha polls

Mumbai: India's first-ever all-women political party — the National Women's Party (NWP) — was launched on Monday in Mumbai and it will contest half — 283 — of the 545 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 elections. The NWP, described as "a party of mothers", has been founded by a medico and social activist, (Dr) Shwetha Shetty, and will strive for 50 per cent reservation for women in the lower House.

"This party is a historic step in our mission to ensure equal representation for women in Parliament. Our ideology is to remove gender disparity in politics and thus create equal importance for females in the patriarchal Indian society," Shetty told the media persons at the formal kick-start here.

She pointed out that the battle to get reservations in Parliament is now over two decades old, but the fact is that we continue in a society where most political decisions are taken by males, with females not having an equal say in Parliament, thus diminishing the possibility of "women empowerment".

During occult rituals, newborn buried alive in UP to save family members

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

A newborn was buried alive during occult rituals in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district, officials said on Monday.

After hearing cries from under a pit, locals informed police and rescued the one-month-old girl. She has been admitted to a nearby hospital, the officials said.

The incident happened on Friday near Puraina village under Jalalabad police station area of the district.

The father of the girl, during probe, said as she was not keeping well a relative took him to an occultist who advised him to bury her in order to save other family members, ASP (rural) Sudhakar Chandra Shakya said.

The father, the occultist and the girl's aunt have been arrested, he said.

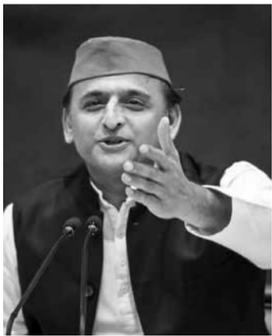
Not in race for PM post: Akhilesh

Lucknow: The country is looking for a new Prime Minister and the BJP needs to come out with a new face, if it has one, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said Monday while making it clear that he is not in the race for the top post.

"As far as leadership issue is concerned, it is actually the people who decide it...You will see, in time to come, how many choices we have," he told reporters here when asked as to who would be the leader of opposition parties against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He, however, made it clear that he was "not in the prime ministerial race". "But, one thing is totally clear that the country is waiting for a new Prime Minister...If the BJP, which is so concerned about us, has a new PM, they should tell the people," Yadav, who recently shared platform with opposition leaders in Kolkata, said.

To a question, the SP president said the SP and the BSP have taken a decision on most of the seats and an announcement in this regard



will be made soon.

"As far as SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav is concerned, the party will field him from the seat of his choice," he said.

Asked whether his wife and Kannauj MP Dimple Yadav will contest polls again, Akhilesh said, "We are liberal people...If you say she will contest. If you say we are practis-

ing 'pariwarwad', she will not." On the controversy over BJP MLA Sadhana Singh's remarks against BSP president Mayawati, he said the language being used by ruling party leaders is the result of their frustration.

"Since the BJP did nothing during its tenure, how will its leaders talk about work...Now that the elections are nearing, there will be a lot of more things as well," he said.

On reports that the Yogi Adityanath Government was preparing to give pension to seers, Yadav said they should get at least Rs 20,000 per month as pension.

"Those reciting Ramayana and other such persons should be given at least Rs 20,000 monthly pension. Those playing roles of Ram, Lakshman and Sita should also be given pension. Yash Bharti awards should also be re-started," he said.

He also called for restarting the Samajwadi Pension scheme and the one for Yash Bharti awardees which was given by the previous Government.

लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग
Tender Notice No. MNA-13/2018-19
National Competitive Bidding
(Trough e-procurement mode on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या MNA-13/2018-19 जिसका PR No. 11591(PHED) 2018-19 है को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाए ।

दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित / शुद्धिपत्र	संशोधित समझा जाए
1. Period of Sale (downloading) of tender Bid Documents	From 04.12.2018 to 15.12.2018 up till 17:00 Hrs through (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
2. Date, time & Place of Prebid Meeting	10.12.2018 at 15:00 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer of concerned P.H.Division
3. Last, Date & Time of receipt (uploading) of tender	17.12.2018 up till 17:00 Hrs on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
4. Last date and time of submission of hard copy of EMD & document charges	18.12.2018 at 15:00 Hrs in the Office of the (A) Executive Engineer of Concerned P.H.Division (B) Superintending Engineer of Concern P.H.Circle (C) Zonal Chief Engineer of concerned Zone
5. Date and time of opening of technical bid	19.12.2018 at 16:00 Hrs on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

पूर्व में किये गये कार्यों के अनुसार निविदा में अंकित वार्ड की संख्या घट बढ़ सकती है । कार्य आवश्यकतानुसार ही करायी जायेगी । जिसके फलस्वरूप Bill of Quantity घट बढ़ सकती है । शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, बेगूसराय
PR.15422 (PHED) 2018-19
बेटी है एक बरदान। दहेज देकर मत करो अपमान।।

Mumbai Mayor moves to new home – in Mumbai Zoo

Mumbai: Mumbai's first citizen, Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, on Monday shifted to an unusual neighbourhood — the Veermata Jijabai Bhosle Udyan and Zoo complex, paving the way for the long-planned memorial to Shiv Sena's founder-patriarch Bal Thackeray at the official Arabian Sea-facing Mayor's Bungalow at Shivaji Park.

A spokesperson for BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Vijay Khabale, said that the traditional puja ceremonies were performed by the Mayor and his family members before formally shifting into the new premises this afternoon.

"This will be a temporary official accommodation for the Mayor. The BMC is already constructing another official bungalow at Shivaji Park, close to the existing bungalow. It is expected to be ready within three years," Khabale said.

3 terrorists killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: Three unidentified terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday, the Army said.

A cordon-and-search operation was launched in Hapatnaar area following information about the presence of terrorists in the area, an official said.

The search operation turned into a gun battle after the terrorists opened fire on the security forces. Three militants were killed in the operation, the official said, adding that the identity and affiliation of them were being ascertained.

Reports of stone-pelting were received from some parts of Budgam and Pulwama districts, while authorities suspended Internet connection in some areas as a precautionary measure.

Surat couple makes Rafale-themed wedding card!

Surat: A Gujarat couple has earned praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for designing their wedding invitation card with a dedicated page justifying the NDA Government's decision to buy Rafale fighter jets.

In a letter sent to the Surat-based couple — Yuvraj Pokharna and bride-to-be Sakshi Agrawal — Modi described the content of the card as "ingenious" and asserted that it had inspired him to work even harder for the country.

The couple will be tying the knot on January 22. Talking to media on Monday, Pokharna said he received Modi's letter, which is addressed to his mother Babita Prakash Pokharna, on January 17 through e-mail.

"Heartiest Congratulations to Pokharna family on the joyous occasion of the marriage of Yuvraj and Sakshi. I noticed a unique feature of the marriage invitation card sent to the guests," read the letter signed and sent by Modi.

"The ingenuity of its content reflects your abiding concern and love for the nation. This also inspires me to keep working harder for our

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (प.ग.)
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur- 492 099 (CG) (www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)

Advt. No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect./CS/Pub./2019/677, Date: 21-01-2019
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, Gol, invites e-tender for following:

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

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

CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Palka Kendra, NEW DELHI-110001

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No. 2018_NDMC_163467_3
Sub Head: C/O Community Toilet at Rajiv Gandhi Camp near Police Compound Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi, (MLA LAD Fund)
Estimated Cost: Rs. 10,42,561.00
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 18.01.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 28.01.2019 at 4:00 P.M.
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with the underlying system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (RIP)

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

HDFC BANK Department for Special Operations, 11nd floor, Indian Express Building, We understand your world 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 09.03.2018 calling upon the borrower M/s Amcon Engineers, through its Partner(s)/Guarantors/Mortgagors Mr. Prakhhar Laad, Mr. Aditya Laad, Ms. Aruna Laad, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Laad and M/s Amcon Engineers Pvt Ltd to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,12,41,520.91 (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakh Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty & Paise Ninety One Only) thereon w.e.f. 28.02.2018 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of January, 2019 at, Kosi Kalan Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower(s)/Mortgagor, in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with this property and any dealings with this property will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 1,12,41,520.91 (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakh Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty & Paise Ninety One Only) and interest thereon w.e.f. 01.03.2018 as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	Date & Time of Possession
RR 3 AND RR 4, Brindavan Garden Retreat sanctioned by MVD(A) (Magson Colony) Highway, Kosi Kalan. Boundaries Municipal No.56/57 of MVD(A) map No.99-K-2000-2001 part of Kharsa No. 252, Village Dautana, Tehsil Chhatta District Mathura (As per Sale Deed)	19.01.2019 11.00 AM onwards
North East: Other Property South East: Plot No.RR2 & RR 3 Plot No.55 & 56 vide Map No.99K-2000-2001 North West: Plot No. RR 4 & PP-10 Plot No 57 & 58 vide Map No.99K-2000-2001 South West: Road	
Entire Basement Floor, part of property J-54, Saket, New Delhi	

These properties are cross-collateralised with M/s Amcon Engineers whose Proprietor is Mr. Mukesh Kumar Laad, and M/s Amcon Engineers Pvt Ltd.
Note: The above notice is also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9 of the Act.
Date : 19.01.2019 Place: Kosi Kalan, Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi Authorised Officer HDFC Bank Ltd

Govt may cut customs duty on some medical devices



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medical devices include any instrument, apparatus, appliance, implant, material or other article, whether used

alone or in combination, including the software intended by its manufacturer to be used specially for human beings or animals for one or more of the specific purposes.

India has achieved a major global position in the pharmaceutical sector. However, the same has not been replicated in the medical devices industry.

Currently, 100 per cent FDI is allowed under the automatic route in the medical devices sector to encourage manufacturing of equipment.

The Government would present the Budget on February 1.

Sensex jumps 192 pts on strong Q3 earnings; RIL shares surge 4%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex continued its winning run for the fifth straight session on Monday, rallying 192 points, and the NSE Nifty inched toward the 11,000 mark, riding on strong Q3 earnings by some bluechip companies, coupled with positive global cues.

Sensex went past the 36,700-mark to scale a high of 36,701.03 (intra-day) on the back of widespread gains.

Finally, the 30-share index settled at 36,578.96, up 192.35 points, or 0.53 per cent. It touched a low of 36,351.77. The gauge had risen 533.05 points in the previous four sessions.

The Nifty touched the session high (intra-day) of 10,987.45; and finally closed the session with a rise of 54.90 points, or 0.50 per cent, at 10,961.85.

"After opening in the green, market remained in the positive territory buoyed by positive global sentiments amid signs that the US and China were closing in on a trade truce," said Paras Bothra, President, Equity Research, Ashika Group.

Both benchmark indices were driven by strong gains in IT, tech, oil and gas, pharma and banking shares amid earnings optimism.

Sentiment remained upbeat after Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and few others posted better-than-expected Q3 numbers last week, traders said.

Among Sensex components, the oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries zoomed 4.36 per cent to its highest in two months in its second session of gains after reporting record quarterly earnings.

Shares of HDFC Bank jumped 0.72 per cent after the private sector lender reported 20 per cent rise in net profit in December 2018 quarter.

Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management said, "It is clearly morphing into a market where strong earnings are being rewarded. Capital continues to seek growth at reasonable prices."

As we move forward this year, the macro factors remain favourable, but stock performance is increasingly likely to be driven by earnings and fundamentals at the security level, he added.

Shares of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries rose 1.94 per cent in opening trade after it sought intervention from market regulator Sebi, alleging unfair business practices against the company.

This is the first uptick in the counter after two successive sessions of beating, wherein the stock lost as much as 13.80 per cent. Others which supported the key indices were Kotak Bank (2.42 per cent), Bajaj Finance (1.89 per cent), Infosys (1.61 per cent), Asian Paint (1.33 per cent), TCS (0.28 per cent), HUL (0.26 per cent), Tata Steel (0.22 per cent) and Vedanta (0.13 per cent).

ONGC share buyback to open Jan 29, closes Feb 11

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp's (ONGC) ₹4,022 crore share buyback programme will open on January 29 and close on February 11, the company said in its offer letter to shareholders.

ONGC's board had on December 20 approved buyback of 25.29 crore shares for ₹159 apiece as part of the Government plan to get cash-rich PSUs to part with their surplus.

The Government, which holds 65.64 per cent stake in the company, stands to gain about Rs 2,640 crore from tendering some of its shares in the buyback programme.

"The funds for the buyback will be met out of internally generated cash resources of the company," it said.

ONGC said buyback is the acquisition by a company of its own shares. A buyback is an efficient form of returning surplus cash to the members holding equity shares of the company.

After considering the mutual benefits to the company and the equity shareholders, "the board decided to recommend buyback of not exceeding 25.29 crore equity shares representing 1.97 per cent of the total number of equity shares in the paid-up share capital of the company at a price of ₹159 per share for an aggregate consideration of not exceeding ₹4,022 crore," it said.

Business Corner



Among all State and Central Public Sector Enterprises, BHEL has been adjudged as the Best PSE in Strategic Performance by an independent jury for the Governance Now PSU Award 2019. The award was received by Atul Sobti, CMD, BHEL, from Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament, at a function in New Delhi.



Chief of Naval Staff with cadets during his visit to NCC Republic Day Parade Camp 2019, Delhi Cantt



Surina Rajan, DG, BIS in her inaugural address mentioned that as a part of the expansion of auditor base for Management System Certification, BIS is inviting qualified auditors to join BIS for the empanelment as BIS Auditors. While releasing the Auditor Book, which is a concise ready reckoner based on various procedures, guidelines and practices of BIS Management System Certification, DG, BIS mentioned that auditor book will be very useful to all the existing auditors as well as to aspiring auditor applicants



MP Narayanan, former CMD, NLCIL and Coal India Ltd, Rakesh Kumar CMD and Functional Directors of NLCIL after releasing an e-Souvenir during the inaugural function of NLCIL organised two day national seminar on "Sustainable Coal/Lignite Mining Scenario, Technology, Issues and Approach" at L&DC, Neyveli.

Bajaj Auto launches new brand identity 'The World's Favourite Indian'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Auto Ltd released its new brand identity on Monday — "The World's Favourite Indian" to announce its dramatic transition from a domestic scooter maker to a global motorcycle maker.

Commenting on company's journey, Rajiv Bajaj, Managing Director, said, "Our international performance is validation of our strategy of focus and differentiation. Our unwavering commitment towards building the best motorcycles in the world through design, technology, quality and customer satisfaction have made us a truly global brand. Bajaj brand is not only The World's Favourite Indian, but also perhaps the most illustrious ambassador for Make in India initiative of the Indian Government."

IAA to host World Congress in Kochi from Feb 20 to 22

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The International Advertising Association (IAA) will be hosting the IAA World Congress at the Grand Hyatt Lulu International Convention Centre between 20th and 22nd February 2019.

Pradeep Guha Chairman Steering Committee IAA World Congress, said, "This is being planned as the most significant event covering marketing, communications and related technology areas in the world. We have assembled a stellar array of 35 speakers, each one a global leader in their own rights. The topics would appeal to professionals in the areas of marketing, advertising, media and technology, as well as academics and students. We even have a great line-up of inspirational speakers to make this convention really complete. Our unique theme Brand Dharma addresses the growing need for Brands to have a higher purpose."

India's richest 1% get richer by 39 pc in 2018: Oxfam

Just 3% rise for bottom-half

PTI ■ DAVOS

Indian billionaires saw their fortunes swell by ₹2,200 crore a day last year, with the top 1 per cent of the country's richest getting richer by 39 per cent as against just 3 per cent increase in wealth for the bottom-half of the population, an Oxfam study said on Monday.

Globally, billionaires' fortunes rose by 12 per cent or \$2.5 billion a day in 2018, whereas the poorest half of the world's population saw their wealth decline by 11 per cent, the international rights group said in its annual study released before the start of the five-day World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in this Swiss ski resort town.

Oxfam further said that 13.6 crore Indians, who make up the poorest 10 per cent of

the country, continued to remain in debt since 2004.

Asking the political and business leaders who have gathered in Davos for the annual jamboree of the rich and powerful of the world to take urgent steps to tackle the growing rich-poor divide, Oxfam said this increasing inequality is undermining the fight against poverty, damaging economies and fuelling public anger across the globe.

Oxfam International Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, one of the key participants at the WEF summit, said it is "morally outrageous" that a few wealthy individuals are amassing a growing share of India's wealth, while the poor are struggling to eat their next meal or pay for their child's medicines.

"If this obscene inequality between the top 1 per cent and the rest of India continues then it will lead to a complete collapse of the social and democratic structure of this country," she added.

Noting that wealth is becoming even more concentrated, Oxfam said 26 people now own the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity, down from 44 people last year.

The world's richest man Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, saw his fortune increase to \$112 billion and just 1 per cent of his fortune is equivalent to the whole health budget for Ethiopia, a country of 115 million people.

"India's top 10 per cent of the population holds 77.4 per cent of the total national wealth. The contrast is even sharper for the top 1 per cent that holds 51.53 per cent of the national wealth.

"The bottom 60 per cent, the majority of the population, own merely 4.8 per cent of the national wealth. Wealth of top 9 billionaires is equivalent to the wealth of the bottom 50 per cent of the population," Oxfam said while noting that high level of wealth disparity subverts democracy.

Between 2018 and 2022, India is estimated to produce 70 new dollar millionaires every day, Oxfam said.

"It (the survey) reveals how Governments are exacerbating inequality by underfunding public services, such as healthcare and education, on the one hand, while under taxing corporations and the wealthy, and failing to clamp down on tax dodging on the other," Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar said.

The survey also shows that women and girls are hardest hit by rising economic inequality, he added.

"The size of one's bank account should not dictate how many years your children spend in school, or how long you live — yet this is the reality in too many countries across the globe. While corporations and the super-rich enjoy low tax bills, millions of girls are denied a decent education and women are dying for lack of maternity care," Byanyima said.

Ghoshn awaits fate after vowing to stay in Japan if bailed

AFP ■ TOKYO

Carlos Ghosn will learn his fate on Monday as a Tokyo court rules on his bail request after he vowed to remain in Japan if released and offered to provide more collateral.

The ousted Nissan boss has pleaded for bail after languishing in custody for 64 days as he fights charges of financial misconduct that he strenuously denies.

In a statement released earlier on Monday, he sought to change the court's previous judgement that he represents a flight risk and might attempt to tamper with evidence.

"As the court considers my bail application, I want to emphasise that I will reside in Japan and respect any and all bail conditions the Court concludes are warranted," Ghosn said in a statement released by his US-based representatives.

He vowed to attend any subsequent trial "not only because I am legally obligated to do so, but because I am eager to finally have the opportunity to defend myself."

"I am not guilty of the charges against me and I look forward to defending my reputation in the courtroom," concluded the statement.

The court has already rejected previous attempts at securing his freedom on bail and even his own lead lawyer has indicated it could be six months before he is released for a trial.

A spokeswoman for Ghosn, Devon Spurgeon, said

his family had already rented an apartment in Tokyo where he promised to reside while awaiting trial.

He has also promised to hand over his passports, refrain from contacting people connected with the case and pay for security guards approved by prosecutors to monitor his movements, according to Spurgeon.

She added that Ghosn has also offered a higher bail fee by stumping up Nissan stock as collateral and promised to wear an electronic tracking bracelet paid for by himself.

However, an official at the Japanese justice ministry told AFP: "There is no system in Japan in which a person accused in a criminal case can be released with such a tracking bracelet."

"The court sets the bail sum and can also add appropriate conditions such as limitations on where the accused should stay," added the official.

The case of Ghosn, a once-revered auto kingpin credited with turning around struggling Nissan, has gripped Japan and the business world since his arrest out of the blue on November 19 as his private jet at a Tokyo airport.

Since then, he has been seen in public only once, in a dramatic court appearance where the much thinner executive pleaded his innocence in a packed courtroom. His wife Carole has appealed to Human Rights Watch, claiming he is being held in "harsh" conditions and subjected to round-the-clock interrogations intended to extract a confession.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K, JAMMU
Phone/Fax No: 9194-2443031/2443031, 0191-2459029/2459025 (Jammu), Website: www.jkpolice.gov.in, Email: phq@jkpolice.gov.in

NIT NO: 03 OF 2019
DATED: 17.01.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are hereby invited from registered OEM's or their authorized dealers to quote against this e-tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Cold Storage in FSL J&K as indicated in the detailed SBD & BOCs. The download of the NIT shall start on 17.01.2019 from 1600 hours. Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in upto 04.02.2019 before 1800 hours. Two Samples each shall be submitted at Police Central Stores, Gulshan Ground Jammu before closing date of submission of e-tender. Samples received after the prescribed date/time shall not be accepted.

The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened on-line on 06.02.2019 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters J&K, Gulshan Ground Jammu. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day.

A Pre-bid conference shall be held at PHQ J&K Gulshan Ground Jammu on 24.01.2019 at 1600 hours intending firms can participate in this conference to clarify any issue related to instant tender enquiry.

Detailed tender documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending tenderers may visit this portal site for detailed information.

Sd/- Mubassir Latifi JKPS
(AIG Provision/Transport)
For Director General of Police, J&K- Jammu

No: DIP/J- 4781-P/18
Dated: 19.01.2019

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a female namely **Jyoti D/o Vinod R/o H.No. 30/92, Gali No.7, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi** has been missing since 03.01.2019 from the area of PS Farsh Bazar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 02A dated 04.01.2019** has been registered at PS, Farsh Bazar, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Jyoti, Father's Name : Vinod, Age : 22 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Fair, Built : Normal, Face : Round, Wearing: Blue Top and Black Jeans.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/896/SHD/19

SHO P.S., Farsh Bazar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22072761
7065036027

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pankaj Sharma / Monika Sharma / LBGUR00002370762	Flat No. 109, Type S Hig- 2, First Floor, Mahagun Mansion, On Plot No. 1/4, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad And / Or Flat No.109, Block Milano, Type S, Hig 2, Mahagun Mansion, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad/ January 15, 2019	August 31, 2018 / Rs. 92,96,235/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date : 22-01-2019
Place: DELHI/NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ABHEY OSWAL
Oswal Agro Mills Limited

CIN L15319PB1979PLC012267
Regd. Office: Near Jain Colony, Vijay Inder Nagar, Daba Road, Ludhiana-141 003 (Punjab) Ph.: 0161-2544313
Head Office: 7th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan 22, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110 001, Ph. No. 011-23753652, Fax No.011-23716276
Website: www.oswalagro.com
Email ID: oswal@oswalagro.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 33 and 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 05, 2019 inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 31st December, 2018.

This information is also available on Company's website at www.oswalagro.com and on Stock Exchanges' website at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

For Oswal Agro Mills Limited
Sd/-
Anil Bhalla
Director

Date : 21-01-2019
Place : New Delhi

HDFC BANK Department for Special Operations, 11nd Floor, Indian Express Building, We understand your world 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 30.06.2018 calling upon the borrower M/s Amcon Engineers Pvt Ltd, through its Director/Quarantors/Mortgagors Mr. Mukesh Kumar Laad, Ms. Aruna Laad and Mr. Atul Kumar Saxena to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,11,94,405.16 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred Five & Paise Sixteen only) thereon w.e.f. 31.05.2018 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 19th day of January, 2019 at, Kosi Kalan Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower(s)/Mortgagor, in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with this property and any dealings with this property will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 1,11,94,405.16 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred Five & Paise Sixteen only) and interest thereon w.e.f. 01.06.2018 as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	Date & Time of Possession
RR 3 AND RR 4, Brindavan Garden Retreat (Magson Colony) Highway, Kosi Kalan. Boundaries Municipal No: 56/57 of MVD/Map No. 99-1K-2000-2001 (As per Sale Deed)	19.01.2019 11.00 AM onwards
North East: Agriculture Land South East: Plot No. RR2 North West: Plot No. PP 10 South West: 9 mt wide Road	
Entire Floor, part of property J-54, Saket, New Delhi Basement	

These properties are cross-collateralised with M/s Amcon Engineers whose Proprietor is Mr. Mukesh Kumar Laad, and M/s Amcon Engineers whose Partner's are Mr. Prakash Laad, Mr. Aditya Laad.

Note: The above notice is also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9 of the Act.

Date : 19.01.2019 Place: Kosi Kalan, Uttar Pradesh and New Delhi
Authorized Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd

Corrigendum-1, Tender Notice No.18/ TSYNR/2018-19 Dated: 04-01-2019

HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan Panchkula, CIN: U4010HR1997SGC033683

The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 30-01-2019. Detail NIT and Tender Document is available at website: <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>, <https://www.hvppn.gov.in>.

(Sd) Executive Engineer, TS Division HVPNL, Yamuna Nagar

RO NO. 74942 Dt. 21-01-2019

'India will win badminton Gold at Tokyo'

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



remembered for men's singles players, whether it is Nandu Natekar, Suresh Goel, Prakash (Padukone) Sir or Syed Modi. "It is how that whole thing was. The change to that (perception) happened (and for that) Saina (Nehwal) was important. "We needed somebody with that kind of push, hunger, will to win, because (being) the first person to come out and win is very difficult," the veteran shuttler said.

He heaped praise on Sindhu, saying the 2016 Rio Olympics Silver medalist has at least two more Olympics left. "It is great to see what Sindhu achieved — World Championship medal, Olympic medal and all other medals — and you can still look at her and say she has two Olympics to go at least, and that is something fantastic," he noted.

Gopichand said he was able to pass on the formula for winning to his students at an early age. "I won the All England (Championship) at 27 and all my life I wish I had won All England at 20, then I would have had so many more years of experience. "When we were starting off (with coaching), it was my mom's statement — 'if you had won early, or if your kids (students) will win early, they will have enough

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

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

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

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

"Fantastic, I would say. The sport has jumped in all parameters. Prakash (Padukone) Sir played leagues in Denmark, Vimal (Kumar) played in UK, I have played in Germany and today we host the biggest league in the world (Premier Badminton League). "Things have changed. We have (Carolina) Marin coming here to play, Viktor (Axelsson) coming here to play.

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

SINGLES



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

WARNER TO UNDERGO ELBOW SURGERY

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

KI SUNG RULED OUT OF ASIAN CUP

AL-AIN: South Korea's Asian Cup hopes have suffered a blow after Premier League midfielder Ki Sung-yueng was ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury. The 29-year-old Newcastle United man played less than an hour at the tournament before being taken off during South Korea's opening win over the Philippines in Dubai. Ki's withdrawal was announced as South Korea, two-time winners of the tournament and the 2015 runners-up, prepare to take on Bahrain in the round of 16 on Tuesday. The pull-out has prompted speculation that Ki may announce his international retirement, after clocking up more than 100 appearances since making his debut in 2008.

ANAND BEATS MAMEDYAROV

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

AUS CALL UP PATTERSON FOR SL TESTS

SYDNEY: In-form Kurtis Patterson was added to Australia's squad on Monday for the upcoming Tests against Sri Lanka as selectors try to fix a batting line-up that failed to fire during the home Tests against India. The 25-year-old New South Wales batsman scored back-to-back centuries for a Cricket Australia XI in Hobart last week. National selector Trevor Hohns said Patterson had been "pushing his case for selection for some time". "We have been asking batters around the country to score hundreds if they want to be considered for selection," Hohns added in a statement. "Given Kurtis' consistent performances for NSW and his two unbeaten centuries in last week's tour match against our upcoming opponent, Sri Lanka, we believe he deserves to be added to the Test squad." The first Test — a day-nighter — starts Thursday in Brisbane. The second will be played in Canberra. **Agencies**

Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth to compete at Indonesia Masters

PTI ■ JAKARTA

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

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

After the engagements of Premier Badminton League (PBL), Sindhu decided to skip last week's Malaysia Masters and she will begin her campaign against former Olympic Gold medalist China's Li Xuerui on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old from Hyderabad is expected to clash with reigning Olympic



champion Carolina Marin at the quarterfinals.

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

The London Olympic Bronze medalist will take on a qualifier in the opening round and faces the prospect of meeting Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, seeded fourth, at the quarters.

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

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

Sameer had enjoyed a good run last season, winning titles at Swiss Open, Hyderabad Open and Syed Modi International. He also qualified for the World Tour Finals at the last moment and secured at a creditable semifinal finish.

Praneeth also had a forgettable 2018 but dished out some good performances at the PBL and would look to translate the confidence in the international circuit.

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

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

In men's doubles, it will be a clash between two Indian combination with Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty taking on Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy.

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

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

'Shouldn't get too caught up with Kohli'

PTI ■ NAPIER

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

I WILL BE FIT BEFORE IPL: SHAW

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

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

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

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

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

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



Messi rescues Barca against Leganes

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Ousmane Dembele gave Barcelona a glimpse into the future but Barcelona still needed Lionel Messi to beat Leganes 3-1 and restore their five-point lead at the top of La Liga.

Messi had started on the bench, rested by coach Ernesto Valverde, and for just over an hour at the Camp Nou, Dembele filled the void by scoring the opening goal in a sparkling individual display.

The 21-year-old, however, limped off with a sprained ankle in the 69th minute, shortly after Leganes had equalised through Martin Braithwaite and Valverde responded by introducing Messi.

He needed only seven minutes to make an impact as his bending shot was followed up by Luis Suarez, who poked the ball in ahead of Leganes goalkeeper Pichu Cuellar. Messi then rounded off the win by scoring himself in injury-time.

Leganes had protested against Suarez's finish, convinced that Pichu had been



fouled by a high foot. "It was a clear foul," coach Mauricio Pellegrino said.

"Barca don't need these kind of decisions to help them."

But VAR disagreed and Barca advanced to what was, in truth, a fully deserved victory. It means they regain their hefty advantage over Atletico Madrid at the top of the table, with the difference ahead of Real Madrid also back to 10 points.

Leganes had beaten Barcelona at home in September but that remains the high point of their season. They stay 14th.

NAPOLI BEAT LAZIO TO KEEP SIGHT OF JUVE

AFP ■ MILAN

Napoli beat 10-man Lazio 2-1 to close the gap on leaders Juventus to six points and consolidate second place in Serie A.

First-half goals from Jose Callejon and Arkadiusz Milik ensured all three points for the southerners. Napoli have 47 points from 20 games and are now seven ahead of third-placed Inter Milan who were held to a goalless draw at home by Sassuolo on Saturday.

But it was a damaging defeat for Lazio who drop out of the Champions League places into fifth at the expense of city rivals Roma.

Eusebio Di Francesco's Roma are one point ahead of Lazio who host seven-time reigning champions Juventus next weekend.

Napoli was without suspended defender Kalidou Koulibaly, captain Marek Hamsik and forward Lorenzo Insigne.

Don't mind being called arrogant: Vinesh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

But would she call it a virtue, to be steadfast even if wrong? "If someone explains with love and proves that my thought process is wrong and I also start to realise that, then I concede and step back," she said.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The significance of getting a nomination for the prestigious Laureus awards has still not dawned on the Haryana grappler. "Honestly I still don't know what this nomination is about. I just know that my name has been put for voting. I had not even heard of Laureus. And if no Indian athlete has been nominated before, I can only be proud of it.

"...It's definitely huge for wrestling in India because it is still struggling for recognition," said Vinesh, who is competing for the Mumbai Maharathi in the ongoing edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL). The winner of multiple international medals says her comeback from a career-threatening injury, sometimes has even her amazed.

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

Will she not give credit to her own hard work?

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

Serena muscled past Simona

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

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

three against the world's top-ranked player.

Halep did better early in the second set, and when the American did break her in the third game she immediately broke back.

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

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

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

UPBEAT DESPITE LOSS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DJOKOVIC INCHES CLOSER TO HISTORY

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

Victory at this year's Australian Open would be the Serb's 15th in Grand Slams, putting him third on the all-time winner list — one ahead of American great Pete Sampras, but behind Rafael Nadal's 17 titles and Federer's 20.

It would be his third major in a row after winning Wimbledon and the US Open and set him up for a crack at the "Novak Slam".

The French Open comes next and victory at Roland Garros would mean he holds all four majors.

Earlier, Japanese fighter Kei Nishikori recovered from two sets down to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals with an epic win over Pablo Carreno Busta 6-7 (8/10), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 7-6 (10/8).

It was Nishikori's third five-setter of the tournament and the second time the never-say-die eighth seed had recovered from two sets behind.

His win over the 23rd seeded Spaniard took a marathon 5hr 5min after an opening set that alone lasted 76 minutes.

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

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

OSAKA SETS UP SVITOLINA CLASH

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Japanese US Open champion Naomi Osaka ground her way into quarter-final with sixth seed Elina Svitolina on Monday.

As the second week of the opening Grand Slam of the year got underway, fourth seed Osaka was still standing after emerging from an error-strewn first set against crafty Latvian Anastasija Sevastova to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The victory left the bubbly 21-year-old with a last-eight clash against ambitious Ukrainian Svitolina, who battled past American Madison Keys 6-2, 1-6, 6-1.

It will be a new experience for whoever wins that showdown, with neither of them going beyond the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park before.

Osaka beat Williams to clinch the title at Flushing Meadows in 2018. It propelled her to stardom, but she has been far from convincing at her first major since.

"I didn't give up, she was playing really well and I wasn't really sure what to do at a certain point, but I just tried to stick in there," she said.

"I was watching all these kids winning. Last night (Stefanos) Tsitsipas beat (Roger) Federer and I was like, whoa, and I decided I wanted to do well too."

Svitolina needed to dig deep to overcome 17th seeded Keys, a US Open finalist in 2017. The turning point was a marathon 16-minute game early in the



Naomi Osaka makes a backhand return in 4th round AP

deciding set that went to deuce 11 times as Keys chased a decisive break.

But the American's resolve crumbled when Svitolina held off five break points then gained an advantage in the next game.

"I had to put my level up, I'm glad I handled the pressure," said Svitolina, who scored her biggest career win at the WTA Finals in Singapore last October.

"It was very hard because the sun was burning my eyes when I was tossing the ball, so I was very happy to win."

Svitolina was a quarter-finalist last year and has set her sights high after her breakthrough in Singapore, targeting a Grand Slam win and world number one.

'It made me feel better', says racquet-smasher Zverev

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Furious fourth seed Alexander Zverev crashed out of the Australian Open on Monday but said he "felt better" after smashing his racquet to pieces in frustration.

Zverev erupted in the second set of a 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) fourth-round humiliation by Canadian 16th seed Milos Raonic, hammering his racquet into the ground eight times to leave it a mangled mess.

"Yeah, it made me feel better. I was very angry, so I let my anger out," he told reporters.

And the volatile German was surprised when asked if he had done it before. "You never watched my matches? You should watch my matches," he smiled.

Zverev was tipped as a future Grand Slam champion after a breakthrough 2018 that saw him win the ATP Tour Finals, beating Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer in the process.

Instead it was a familiar tale of woe as he failed to make the last-eight of a major for the 14th time in 15 majors.

The world number four broke former world number three Raonic's formidable serve at the



Alexander Zverev smashes his racket in frustration during his fourth round match AP

start of the match but then imploded to lose nine straight games in an error-strewn disaster.

"I mean, I played bad. The first two sets especially I played horrible," admitted Zverev, who committed eight double faults and 16 unforced errors against eight winners in the

63-minute duration of the first two sets.

"Yeah, I mean, it's just tough to name one thing (I did well). I didn't serve well, didn't play well from the baseline. Against a quality player like him, it's tough to come back from that."

Zverev left the court to cool off and at least was competitive when he returned for the third set which he took to a tiebreak.

"I obviously tried to come back and obviously in the third set I started to play a little bit better, but you know, it was a little bit too late already." But the 21-year-old, widely regarded as the flag-bearer for the next generation, said he would not let another early Slam exit get him down.

"Now I'm not happy, but I'm not depressed, either. It's fine. It's a tennis match. I have learned to take tennis matches as tennis matches and not the end of the world," he said.

"If I would think it's the end of the world every time I lose a tennis match, I would be very depressed about 15 to 20 times a year. So I'm not going to do that."

Barty fired up for Kvitova re-match

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Hometown hope Ashleigh Barty faces a tough battle against Czech veteran Petra Kvitova for a spot in the semi-finals on Tuesday but will have the entire host nation cheering her on.

The other contest for a final four berth pits the unseeded pairing of Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Danielle Collins against one another, with both players seeking Grand Slam breakthroughs.

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

She has already downed five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova and is on a red-hot run of form, winning seven of her eight matches this year.

But against the eighth-seeded Kvitova, Barty is up against one of the few players on tour who can boast a richer vein of 2019 form.

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



Petra Kvitova reacts after defeating Amanda Anisimova in fourth round match AP

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

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

Australian looks imposing.

But Barty, whose best showing at a major is the US Open fourth round last year, has welcomed the pressure, saying this year's career plan was always to "go deep into Slams".

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

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

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

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

Her opponent was a largely unknown quality after playing much of her tennis on the US college circuit, but grabbed the tennis world's attention with a 6-0, 6-2 drubbing of second seed Angelique Kerber in the fourth round.

World number 35 Collins had never won a match at a Grand Slam in five previous attempts before arriving in Melbourne and putting three seeds to the sword on the way to the fourth round.

Nadal faces Tiafoe; Tsitsipas eyes s/f

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Relentless Rafael Nadal will aim to snuff out the challenge of young giant-killer Frances Tiafoe on Tuesday, while young Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas has eyes on a maiden semi-final after knocking out Roger Federer.

The tournament hits the quarter-final stage in Melbourne with 17-time Grand Slam winner Nadal emerging as a strong title favourite.

The Spaniard has not dropped a set and demolished former world number four Tomas Berdych 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) in the fourth round in an awesome display.

Lying in his path is American Tiafoe who has already accounted for the fifth seed Kevin Anderson and become a fans' favourite with his exuberant LeBron James style celebrations and inspiring life story.

The son of immigrants from Sierra Leone, Tiafoe turned 21 on Sunday and celebrated his birthday by beating 20th seed Grigor Dimitrov to reach a Slam quarter-final for the first time.

"I'm so excited to play Rafa. We're going to have some fun, going to have some long rallies."

Nadal said he was aware of the young world number 39, and would be on his guard against a man he had never played.

"He has everything. He's quick. He serves well. Very quick forehand," said the 2009 champion who is aiming to become the only man in the Open era to win all



Rafael Nadal makes a backhand return to Alex de Minaur during their third round match in Melbourne AP

four Grand Slams at least twice.

'HE'S DANGEROUS'

"He's a very dynamic player, aggressive one. Of course, he's dangerous. He's in quarter-finals."

Tsitsipas was thrust into the global spotlight after ending double defending champion Federer's quest for a record seventh title.

The gifted 20-year-old has already secured his place in history as the first Greek to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final.

He held off 12 break points before flummoxing the Swiss master in four sets.

He faces another Spaniard, the inform Roberto Bautista Agut.

On his way to the title in Doha earlier this month before ending Andy Murray's hopes, and possibly his career, in the first round in Melbourne.

Bautista Agut is looking to extend his 2019 win streak to 10 matches and a potential all-Spanish semi-final against Nadal.