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STEROIDS
CAN HARM:
SALMAN KHAN
13 VIVACITY

JNU protesters jolt Delhi to a halt

Students marching to Parliament detained, later released; HRD Ministry forms panel on hostel fee hike

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Traffic in parts of Lutyens' Delhi was hit as students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) carrying placards and chanting slogans marched towards Parliament on the first day of the Winter Session on Monday demanding the roll-back of the proposed hostel fee hike. But they were stopped by the Delhi Police on the road outside the Safdarjung Tomb.

The protesters sat on the road leading to jam on Aurobindo Marg and choking arterial roads with the cascading impact felt till C-hexagon, the Indian Gate roundabout. Vehicles on Nelson Mandela Marg, Aurobindo Marg and Baba Gang Nath Marg moved at a snail's pace, a senior police officer said. The Delhi Metro closed entry and exit points of three stations near Parliament for a few hours due to the protest.

Many commuters took to Twitter to vent their ire as they got stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic for hours due to protest. Around 100 JNU students, including students union president Aishe Ghosh, were detained and released later. Devesh Srivastva, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Southern eastern range, said that the protest ended around 7.30 pm after talks following which students moved towards their campus. Following the students' protest, the Ministry of

Human Resource Development on Monday appointed a three-member committee to recommend ways to restore normal functioning of JNU. The panel includes former UGC Chairman VS Chauhan, AICTE chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe and UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain.

"With a view to restore the normal functioning of JNU through dialogue with all stakeholders and to advise the university administration for resolution of contentious issues, the Government has appointed a three-member high power committee," HRD Secretary R Subrahmanyam said. "The committee will initiate dialogue with the students and varsity administration immediately and submit recommendations. The UGC will provide required support for functioning of the committee," Subrahmanyam said.

Senior Delhi Police officers kept on appealing the agitating students to maintain law and order and return to hostel in the JNU campus but students dug in their heels. Despite the adamant students, police officers kept them engaged and finally succeeded in persuading them to leave for their respective destinations. When asked whether the students could return on Tuesday to press for their demands, Srivastva said there is no information about this but they remain vigilant to ensure that no untoward incident takes place in the city.



Jawaharlal Nehru University students during a protest march towards Parliament, on the first day of the Winter Session in New Delhi on Monday. The protesting students sat on a road leading to jam on Aurobindo Marg and choking several arterial roads. The students have been protesting for nearly three weeks against the proposed hostel fee hike, a dress code and curfew timings

Maha Pawar play: Talks with Sonia yield no results

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited meeting between NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday did not throw up a decisive word on the future of a Government in Maharashtra involving them and the Shiv Sena, which continues to wait in anxiety having staked everything in a bid to corner the Chief Minister's post.

In an interesting turn of events, just ahead of Pawar-Sonia meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday utilised his address during the 250th session of the Rajya Sabha to praise the NCP for discipline in the House. "Today, I want to appreciate two parties, the NCP and the BJD. These parties have wonderfully adhered to parliamentary norms. They have never gone into the Well of the House (to protest). Yet, they have made their points very effectively. Every political party, including my party, should learn from them," Modi said.

While efforts are on for the Shiv Sena, the Congress and the NCP to come together, there has been a buzz also about the BJP and the NCP exploring an alternative possibility for Government formation in Maharashtra.

The formation of a Government in Maharashtra

Modi reaches out to NCP, praises it for decorum on Parliament floors



NCP chief Sharad Pawar addresses a Press conference after a meeting with Congress president Sonia Gandhi to discuss Government formation in Maharashtra on Monday

will take some more time to become a reality as both the Congress and the NCP decided to hold talks with their allies in Maharashtra before taking a final decision.

But the BJP, the Congress and the NCP have all opted out of fray for the November 22 mayoral poll in the BMC, India's richest civic body.

While Sena retaining the mayor and deputy mayor's post is thus a mere formality, it has increased Sena's importance and also the suspense over who will it eventually ally with.

Kamal Hasan meets Naveen, seeks 'advice'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Veteran actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) party founder-president Kamal Haasan called on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Naveen Niwas on Monday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the MNM leader said he met the Chief Minister as a fan of his and also to seek his advice on politics.

Praising Patnaik for delivering good governance, Haasan said the former had initially faced criticism for being a newcomer in politics, but later he achieved a lot more than those who were aware of politics.

"He (Patnaik) has been delivering good new schemes for people, some of which are pioneering ones at the all-



India level. His disaster management has been very good. Since there is a lot to learn from him, I met him and got some advice," he said.

Patnaik said, "I am delighted that Kamal Haasan is here in Bhubaneswar. We talked about his political career and prospects and also about films he is doing."

Haasan is in the city for certain other engagements too.

Helpline for children launched



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With an aim to help children in distress, the State Government launched toll-free helpline number 1098 on Monday.

In a statement, the Government said, "This is an excellent initiative that we should all know and make others aware of."

During the launch of the Childline helpline number, child activists also tied bands to Commissioner of Police (CP) Sudhansu Sarangi and Additional CP Sanjay Kumar Singh at the Police Commissionerate building here.

State targets ₹4,600-cro excise revenue



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has set a target of collecting Rs 4,600 crore of excise revenue from sale of alcoholic beverages, informed Excise Minister Niranjan Pujari in the State Assembly on Monday while replying to a query.

Pujari said the Government had collected Rs 3,925 crore towards excise revenue in financial year 2018-19;

and now, it has set a Rs 4,600-crore target for this fiscal ending March 2020.

Notably, the Government had surpassed the target of Rs 3,800 crore last financial year. It has already collected Rs 970.50 crore by June-end this year.

All this indicates an ever-rising trend of consumption of beverages like India-made foreign liquor (IMFL), beer and country spirit.

SIT to probe Kunduli rape case

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Monday directed the State Government to conduct a fresh probe into the Kunduli gangrape and suicide case by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising police officers of the DIG rank.

While the State Crime Branch has submitted the closure report of this case to the High Court, the victim's mother and several others had prayed to the court for a CBI investigation into the case.

Hearing the pleas of all the parties, Chief Justice KS Jhaveri in his ruling said, "A CBI probe

into the case is not necessary as the court would monitor the investigation by the SIT, which would have three DIGs of the Odisha police. The team would submit its report to the court after a thorough investigation."

The court would take up the matter in its next hearing on December 16.

CAPSULE

4 JAWANS DEAD IN SIACHEN AVALANCHE

New Delhi: Four of the eight soldiers of the Indian Army trapped in an avalanche in the Siachen Glacier in Ladakh were found dead on Monday.

JUSTICE SHARAD ARVIND BOBDE TAKES OATH AS CJI

New Delhi: Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, who was part of the historic Ayodhya verdict earlier this month, was on Monday administered oath as the 47th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind.

OPP DEMAND FAROOQ BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND LS

New Delhi: Attacking the Government over the detention of Lok Sabha member Farooq Abdullah, Opposition members on Monday termed the National Conference leader's detention as illegal and demanded that he be allowed to attend the House.

NO NEED FOR ODD-EVEN SCHEME NOW: KEJRIWAL

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday there is no need for the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme as the pollution levels in the city have come down.

Paddy procurement delay rocks Assembly

BJD, millers hands in glove for benefit out of distress sale: Cong

Govt may make statement, says Speaker

PABITRA SENAPATY ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as pandemonium prevailed in the State Assembly over the issue of delay in paddy procurement in western Odisha, Congress and BJD members expressed concern over various problems being faced by farmers in the State.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the Centre's non-response to the Assembly Committee on the low amount of minimum support price (MSP) being paid to peasants, the members demanded that the Centre raise the MSP to Rs 2,930 as per unanimous resolution passed in the House a few years back. As the House met,

Congress MLAs, including Suresh Routray, Santosh Singh Saluja and Tara Prasad Bahinipati, rushed to the Well of the House and shouted anti-Government slogans alleging that farmers of western Odisha have suffered a lot and taken to the streets as the Government has not yet procured paddy from them.

They alleged that though the paddy procurement was supposed to begin on November 15, it was yet to take off due to the online token system, which was recently introduced by the Government.

Unable to run the pro-

ceedings, Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro adjourned the House at 10.34 am till 3 pm.

During afternoon hours, Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra alleged that thousands of quintals of paddy have been damaged in western Odisha due to non-procurement from farmers.

"Farmers have already harvest paddy and they have no space to store them. Mandis are not taking paddy from them. They have been bound to sell them to millers and local traders at lesser prices than the MSP. The ruling party and the

millers are hand in glove to get benefit out of distress sale of paddy," alleged Mishra.

He too criticised the Union Government for not raising the MSP of paddy up to Rs 2,930 as per the unanimous resolution passed in the Assembly in recent years.

Santosh Singh Saluja, Suresh Routray and Tara Prasad Bahinipati too severely criticised both the Union and State Governments for the sufferings of the farmers.

The Opposition members demanded that the Government procure paddy from all farmers and provide Rs 500 as bonus to farmers per quintal of paddy over the MSP.

BJD members Prafulla Samal and Anant Das slammed the Centre for not considering the Assembly Committee's proposal for increasing MSP as per the unanimous resolution. In his ruling, the Speaker said the Government, if it wishes, can come out with a statement in the House regarding procurement of paddy.



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Har Pal Aapke Saath

BJP MLAs withdraw dharna after 3 days

Raise PEO death issue again

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
After three days of protest, BJP members finally withdrew their dharna from the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the State Assembly premises on the request of Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro on Monday afternoon.

Notably, they had sat on the dharna protesting "denial of permission to them" to raise voice against alleged killing of Jajpur district's Haridashpur PEO Smitarani Biswal since Saturday morning.

They didn't participate in any of proceedings held in the House on Saturday and on Monday till afternoon.

The members came to the house only at about 4.30 pm after a team comprising Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari and Government Chief Whip Pramila Mallick, sent by the Speaker, went to them and requested them to come back to the House for a fourth time.

Even as Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik raised the alleged Smitarani killing case, the Speaker asked not to raise the issue as the Minister has already presented a statement in the House. He, however, asked him to raise the issue at another time. Then, he adjourned the House at 4.50 pm till Tuesday.

Smita death: BJP MLAs seek Gov's intervention

REITERATE CBI PROBE DEMAND

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP MLAs on Monday met Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal over the death of Haridashpur in-charge Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO) Smitarani Biswal and demanded that the case be investigated by the CBI.

The MLAs led by Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik alleged that although they have been trying to seek the Government's attention for a discussion over the issue since the commencement of the Assembly's current session, they have not been allowed to speak.

"Names of four persons involved in the woman PEO's death have been booked under Section 302 and a CBI probe be initiated into the case," he added.

"We demand all the accused be booked under Section 302 and a CBI probe be initiated into the case," he added.

Among others, Bishnu Sethi, Mohan Majhi and other party MLAs



in the House," alleged Naik.

were present.

Vig cases against 6,817 officials: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A total of 6,817 officials have been booked by the Vigilance police in the State for alleged corrupt practices till September 30, 2019, informed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the State Assembly on Monday. In a written reply to BJD member Sudhir Kumar Samal, Patnaik said the Vigilance cases have been registered against 895 Group-A officers, 798 Group-B officers, 3,535 Group-C officials, 193 Group-D officials and 1,396 other Government employees.

The corrupt officials are under trials at various courts, he said. The Chief Minister said the Government has appointed Prosecution Liaison officers at Vigilance Courts to expedite the corruption cases against the officials.

Youth blackmails fruit shop owner in city, held

After senior citizen files police case

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Monday arrested a youth on the charge of blackmailing a senior citizen of Baramunda under the Khandagiri police station.

The accused was identified as Badal Sahoo (25), a resident of Puri district. He allegedly threatened and extorted money from a former Government employee.

A former Forest Department official, Madan Mohan Mishra runs a fruit shop at Baramunda. Badal was his regular customer.

On November 7 night, the youth came with a woman to

the fruit store and introduced her as his wife. Then, Badal requested Mishra to give them lift on his motorcycle to Khandagiri.

After Mishra crossed Baramunda flyover, suddenly Badal accused him of misbehaving with his wife and demanded Rs 10,000. Mishra fearing public humiliation transferred the money to Badal's bank account. Later, he shelled out Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000 on November 12 and 14, respectively.

On November 16, the youth again tried to threaten Mishra and demanded Rs 25,000. Finding no other option, Mishra lodged a case with the Khandagiri police.

Based on the complaint, police arrested Badal and produced him before a local court on Sunday. As his bail plea was rejected, he was sent to Jharpada jail in the city.

PM hails BJD parliamentary conduct

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday praised two of regional parties, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), for following the parliamentary norms and maintaining discipline in Parliament.

Modi was speaking at Rajya Sabha. He also had all praise for these two parties on his Twitter handle.

These parties have wonderfully adhered to Parliamentary norms. They have never ventured into the well. Yet, they have made their points very effectively, he opined, adding that much can be learnt from these practices.

Very often, Modi has praised Odisha's ruling BJD on many occasions for its policies and developmental projects in the State.

OLA driver held for mowing down puppies in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An OLA cab driver was arrested by the Chandrasekhar police on Monday on the charge of mowing down four dogs at Sailashree Vihar here on Sunday.

The People for Animals (PFA) had filed a complaint with police which led to arrest of the taxi driver.

Following the complaint, a case was registered under Sections 279, 429 of IPC r/w 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and 184 of MV Act.

Killing of dogs is illegal under Section 428 (mischief

of killing and maiming animal) which is punishable both imprisonment and fine. This is also violation of 279 of IPC and 184 of Motor Vehicle Act. It is also violation of Section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act 1960, said PFA secretary Jiban B Das in the complaint seeking action against the accused.

When the incident took place in front of the Highland Residence apartment at Sailashree Vihar, the security guard of the apartment tried to stop the driver, but the latter fled from the spot. All the four puppies died on the spot.

337 dowry death cases reported in year 2018

MOLESTATION CASES NUMBER 7,706

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As many as 7,706 molestation cases and 337 dowry death cases have been registered at different police stations in the State during the current year by September-end against 10,019 molestation cases and 501 dowry death cases reported in 2018.

Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra informed this in the State

Assembly in response to a question of BJD member Soumya Ranjan Patnaik on Monday.

As wanted by the questioner, the Minister informed that Odisha doesn't stand first in the women disrobing case and fourth in the dowry death case in the country as per the recently-published NCRB report.

"In compared to other States, crime scenario is satisfactorily under control in Odisha. All sensitive criminal cases are being investigated promptly and accused involved in them are being arrested as early as possible," mentioned the Minister.

₹10,489-cr mining revenue collected

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government collected mining revenue of Rs 10,479.18 crore in 2018-19 compared to Rs 6,130.97 crore in the preceding financial year.

Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick informed this in the State Assembly in response to a question of Congress MLA Suresh Routray on Monday.

According to the data furnished by the Minister, while mining revenue of Rs 3,330.37



crore had been collected in 2010-11, Rs 4,586.65 crore in 2011-12, Rs 5,679.35 crore in 2012-13, Rs 5,519.58 crore in 2013-14, Rs 5,335.05 crore in 2014-15, Rs 5,797.79 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 4,925.66 crore.

'Min misled Assembly on KALIA beneficiaries'

1,72,908 ineligible beneficiaries in 10 dists alone: Cong

No such data with me, says Minister Sahoo

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Monday alleged that the ruling BJD is using the KALIA scheme for political mileage and the Government is misleading people by presenting wrong facts about the scheme's beneficiaries in the State Assembly.

Party State spokesperson

Satya Prakash Nayak, at a Press conference at the Congress Bhawan here, slammed Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo for sharing wrong facts in the Assembly thereby violating the dignity of the House.

Nayak urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take action against the Minister. "The Minister tried to hide the genuine number of beneficiaries while replying to a question raised by MLA Aswini Kumar Patra. As per information obtained through RTI, there are 1,72,908 ineligible KALIA beneficiaries in 10 districts. But the Minister stated that there are only 45,965 ineligible beneficiaries," Nayak said.

Quoting RTI figures,

Nayak detailed that there are 15,255 ineligible beneficiaries in Koraput district, 18,552 in Khordha, 19,980 in Ganjam, 14,017 in Mayurbhanj, 37,759 in Subranapur, 20,010 in Cuttack, 9,852 in Malkangiri, 11,542 in Sundargarh, 10,050 in Sambalpur and 15,891 in Jagatsinghpur.

"The Congress will bring a complete data of ineligible beneficiaries in all 30 districts



soon," he added. In response, Agriculture Minister Sahoo said, "I do not have any such data what the Congress is talking about. I will comment on the matter once I receive it."

Toilet Day in BBSR

Rally by women, transgenders, PwDs held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A rally was flagged off by Housing and Urban Development Secretary G Mathivathanan and well-known actor Nikunj Chaudhury of the television serial Sindhu-Bindu on the occasion of World Toilet Day on Monday. The rally participated by 200 women veered to Rajmahal Square and culminated at IDCOL Square.

This was one of the many events organised by Centre for Advocacy and Research supported by many partner organisations such as Sakah,



Swabhiman, Helpage, Centre for Youth and Social

Development and the Community Management Committee and Single Window Forum members from across 32 slums of Bhubaneswar

While marking the World Toilet Day, as many as 20 community champions representing transgenders, persons with disabilities, eight leading representatives of civil society organizations were felicitated by Minister of Housing and Urban Development Pratap Jena, Mission Director, SBM Sangramjit Nayak and Mathivathanan.

Minister Jena administered the pledge on "Toilet for All."

'Let students focus on 5Es to achieve success'

DSBM holds mgmt fest 'Genesis 2k19'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The DAV School of Business Management (DSBM) organised a State-level management event DSBM 'Genesis 2k19' here on Saturday where young participants from different higher secondary schools across Odisha participated.

Nalco Director (Finance) Sridhar Patra attended as guest and spoke about 5Es, namely, Education, Environment, Experience, Efficiency and Effort, to achieve success.

DSBM Principal Dr DN Mishra educated the young minds about four different challenges of 21st century that the present students are facing, namely, artificial intelligence, digital platform, technology and automation and volatile job market and suggested Balance Score Card Model as mitigation strategy.

JSW Utkal Steel Ltd Senior



VP (Project) ND Rao congratulating the winners emphasised on optimal utilisation of resources, positive thinking and seeking opportunities out of problems.

The Mothers Public School, Bhubaneswar emerged as the champions whereas the DAV, Chandrasekharpur bagged the runners-up trophy

for business quiz. In paper presentation, the DAV, Kalinga Nagar clinched the winner's trophy whereas the DAV, Kansbahal bagged the 1st runners-up trophy and DAV, Rourkela bagged the 2nd runners-up trophy.

The winner of Ad-Mad Show was the DAV, Rourkela and the Loyola School stoopt 1st

runners-up followed by the DAV, Chandrasekharpur as the 2nd runners-up.

Among others, DAV Institutions, Zone-I, Odisha Regional Officer Dr KC Satapathy, DSBM President Madan Mohan Panda and DAV (Unit-8) Principal Ipsita Das were present.

Seminar on 'MCA Progressive Reforms' held

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI), Bhubaneswar Chapter organised a seminar on "MCA Progressive Reforms - Ease of Doing Business in India" at the CMA Bhawan here on Sunday.

More than 150 Cost and Management Accountants and its stakeholders attended and interacted with the experts on the occasion.

Ananta Kumar Sethi, ICLS, ROC-cum-Official Liquidator, Odisha, Cuttack inaugurated graced as chief guest and keynote speaker. He highlighted in brief about the Ease of Doing Business in India. Dr Mania Alpesh D, ICLS, Asst ROC-cum-Asst Official Liquidator, Odisha, Cuttack graced as special guest and resource person.



Among others, Er Rajen Padhi, Commercial Director, B-One Business House Pvt Ltd, Bhubaneswar and Debasis Das, General Manager (Investment Promotion), IPICOL,

Bhubaneswar also spoke. CMA Saktidhar Singh, Chairman of the Chapter, delivered welcome and key note address. CMA Mukesh Chaubey, Chairman, Professional Development

Committee of the Chapter, facilitated the seminar and CMA Ajay Kumar Samal, Member of MC and PD Committee of the Chapter, extended formal vote of thanks.

Agitating farmers, cops scuffle at Sambalpur



As protestors demanding rollback of token system in paddy procurement barge into DM office Photo | The Pioneer

Similar protests staged in Bargarh, Padampur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR/BARGARH/ATTABIRA

A scuffle ensued between agitating farmers demanding rollback of the token system in paddy procurement and police during a former's protest in front of the office of Sambalpur Collector on Monday. While protesters were trying to barge into the premises

of the Collectorate, the police prevented them leading to the melee.

Earlier in the day, the farmers had given an ultimatum till 12 PM to withdraw the decision on the token system.

They alleged that only a limited quantity of paddy can be sold under the token system introduced by the State Government. "But this year bumper crop has been harvested. We are in a dilemma where to sell the rest of the paddy," a farmer said ruefully.

The agitators parked paddy laden tractors in front of the Collectorate gates leading to a

traffic jam on three main roads. Similar protest was observed by farmers in Bargarh.

They locked up the Sub Collector office after a discussion with the officials failed on Monday. Farmers in Padampur also expressed resentment against the token system.

The paddy procurement has begun in Sambalpur, Bargarh and Balangir from November 15, but farmers are unwilling to sell their paddy under the token system and are demanding streamlining of the paddy purchase process, keeping in view the interest of the farmers.

Paddy procurement delay worries K'handi farmers

Paddy was to be procured from November 1. But no PACS were opened till Sunday

BIKASH KHEMKA ■ BHAWANI-PATNA

Farmers of Kalahandi are worried over a delay in paddy procurement. The district administration has fixed a target to procure 26 lakh quintals of paddy during the kharif marketing season (KMS), 2019-20.

Paddy was to be procured from November 1. But no PACS were opened till Sunday which put the farmers in a dilemma.

The farmers will sell the produce at 74 PACs, 17 SHGs where 71 millers have been entrusted to tag the procurement.

The Chhattisgarh Government on Sunday seized

1, 795 quintals paddy at the check point of Debbhog which was being transported to sell the farmers' produce.

Feeling the overburden in its own State, the CG Government has now decided to seal 11 check points through which paddy is transported. The CG is procuring paddy at Rs 2, 500 a quintal in its own State.

Collector (Kalahandi), Gavali Parag Harshad said that farmers can sell paddy at any point but middlemen should not be allowed while trading. "We have multiple reasons for delay in procurement. Millers had not deposited the security money with us. Soon all the mandis will be opened," the Collector said.

A farmer of Jaipatna, Prabeen Behera alleged that the delay in procurement is the regular process in Odisha for which middlemen have been active in every district.

"Some farmers sold their produce at Rs 1, 100 to Rs 1,300 fearing loss in the Bulbul effect. They did not have any storage facility which forced them to

sell in lower prices," Behera said.

While the MSP for common variety in Odisha is set at Rs 1,815 per quintal, it is Rs 1,835 per quintal for Grade A variety.

Another farmer Shankarshan Behera of Kalampur allegedly said the district administration is aware of all the troubles being faced by the farmers but they remain silent and knowingly delay the procurement.

Sheshadev Behera, a farmer of Dharmagarh, said the administration never tried to understand the farmers' woes. The Government policy always harassed the farmers, he added. Civil Supplies Officer of Kalahandi, Siba Prasad Dora said the online system in registration by the farmers has delayed the procurement.

"Token is provided to farmers online which is passed from Bhubanewar based office after registering in Kalahandi. At present, we have opened 10 mandis and soon all the PACs will be opened," the CSO said.

DAV Pokhariput celebrates Grandparents' Day



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tiny tots of the DAV Public School, Pokhariput here celebrated the Grandparents' Day 'Dharohar' on Saturday.

School Managing Committee Chairman Madan Mohan Panda and DAV Public School Baleswar Principal Naba Kishore Pradhan attended as guests and encouraged the blooming buds.

The jubilant little champs in colourful attires performed dance, drama and group song before their grandparents in a cultural programme to express

their love and respect for the grandparents. There were competitions for both children and the grandparents like authentic Pitha and Curry, Rangoli, Music Chair, Sola Srigaar imbued with moral values and the winners were awarded.

School Principal Dr Sujata said, "This type of event should be organised in all schools to bridge the generation gap and to restore our value system."

The celebration was organised under the guidance of supervisor Sanghamitra Satapathy and the team of teachers of primary section.

British couple relieves childhood memories

Visits Koraput after 69 years!

PNS ■ KORAPUT

A British couple got a rousing welcome in Koraput district from the locals for their close connection with the tribal district.

Richard Gold and Jenifer visited the place after about seven decades to recall nostalgic memories of their childhood days. Their parents had immense contribution to Koraput district's Machkund hydroelectric power project, which had started before India's Independence.

The then British Government in India had hired

a host of skilled engineers from London and Germany for completion of the plant.

Chief Engineer George Gold, father of Richard, and Assistant Engineer Rubber Neugold, father of Jenifer, from London were among the team of engineers for the project. Along with their families, the two engineers had reached Machkund in the year 1950.

Richard and Jenifer were only 4-5 years old when they temporarily shifted to Koraput with their parents. After spending a few years there, they went back to their country. As the two children



grew together, they chose each other to live together and tied the knot.

On their visit to Koraput, they were overwhelmed to see the place and meeting vil-

lagers. They shared their stories and photographs with the locals. They video-graphed Koraput's beauty and told the villagers that they would show it to their relatives in London.

B'swar CPCc functioning in papers only: Survey

30th anniv of UNCRC celebrated in Baleswar

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

The Child Protection Committees (CPCc) formed in gram panchayats under the District Protection Officer are functioning in papers only, revealed a survey conducted by the Odisha Alliance for Child rights (OACR) and the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPR) in three randomly-selected GPs in rural area and wards under urban areas.

The report was unveiled at a district-level interface work-

shop on 'Child Rights' here on Friday last.

The survey, conducted by the trained children through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on four core issues, i.e., protection, nutrition, education and sanitation, is being conducted across the globe by the United Nation Child Rights Convention (UNCRC) to observe its 30 years of establishment.

As per guidelines, a committee comprising Sarpanch, ICDS Supervisor, ANM, Anganwadi Worker, two children, a member from civil society and an eminent person of the locality should be formed at the GP level for protection of children.

During the survey it was revealed that although these

committees exist as per the record of the District Child Protection Office, interestingly neither the Sarpanchs know about the CPCs nor do the other members know of such committees. Most importantly, no name of children representatives was found.

Similarly, in schools, School Management Committees (SMCs) should have two students as members in the committee but in none of the schools the children knew that they were members of the committee although their names were maintained.

It was also seen that most of the Anganwadi Centres do not have proper and adequate environment. In rural area (Remuna in Baleswar district)

survey, out of 16 Anganwadi Centres while seven have their own buildings but rest don't have.

Similarly in the Baleswar Municipality out of 13 Centres while three have own buildings rest are under rented arrangements. Most of these Centres lack basic amenities such as toilets, the report cited.

Among others, District Welfare Officer Kusum Mala Mishra, District Child Protection Officer Jubak Majhi, District Child Welfare Committee Chairman Bhagirathi Barik and CWC members Ashish Ghosh and Padmalochan Dutta and OACR district coordinator Ubachak Mohanty were present.

JSW project's public hearing opposed

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Supreme Court lawyer and All India Congress Committee (AICC) Legal and Human Rights Cell Odisha coordinator Susant Kumar Kanungo has opposed the proposed Sajan Jindal-led JSW project in Erasama block in Jagatsinghpur district.

Kanungo has petitioned Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking fulfillment of 10-point charter of demands before the proposed project's public hearing scheduled to be held on November 22.

In the petition Kanungo stated that the project is pro-



posed to come up on land which was previously acquired for the Posco project. After South Korean steel major relinquished its proposed project, the acquired land was brought under land bank scheme of the State Government.

According to the rules if no project is set up in the acquisition land within five years, the land should be returned to the land owners.

But violating the rules, the State Government has transferred the same land to the JSW Utkal Steel Limited, which is unsustainable in the eyes of the law, the petitioner alleged.

Local residents of Dhinkia, Govindapur, Nuagaon and Balitutha areas in the district have decided to oppose the JSW project claiming that it would jeopardise their livelihoods, and trigger serious environmental degradation. The locals have demanded immediate cancellation of the company's public hearing scheduled to be held on November 22, stated Kanungo.

'Ramayana first recorded history of Bharat'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Academy of Yoga and Oriental Studies (AYOS) organised a lecture entitled "Rama, Ramayana and Ramajnamahumi" here on Sunday. The meeting was chaired by AYOS president Sudarsan Nayak and AYOS director Dr Indulata Das was the speaker of the occasion.

Dr Das said "Ramayana is not a fiction but is the first recorded history of Bharat. Ramayana is the life story of

Rama, the noblest of the noble human being ever born on the surface of the earth. Ramayana is crowned with the epithet 'Adikavya' and sage Valmiki is famous by the name 'Adikavi'.

Ramayana is full of noble characters Sita, Bharata, Laskmana, Jatayu, Sravanakumar. Rama's goodness has surpassed the limits of all human imaginations. Ayodhya, the birth place of Rama, was the capital of Kosala kingdom and was at the top of prosperity under the reign of the monarchs of the

solar dynasty. A regular study of Ramayana contributes to the moral uplift of a man to the highest stature."

There was a question-answer session after the lecture in which many scholars participated. Sudarsan Nayak, in his presidential address, described the state of Ayodhya in the modern time and enumerated the developments which led to the happy ending of a great dispute. Ayodhya would resume its past glory and prosperity in no time, he added.

Odisha awarded for Fani health intervention

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government's effort on emergency response for the distressed people being faced with natural disasters has been recognised in a national forum.

Odisha has bagged the third prize in poster presentation for "ASHA and Gaon Kalyan Samiti (GKS) led community activities during Cyclone Fani at the 6th National Summit on Good & Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare System in India.

The award was received by Mission Director, the National Health Mission (NHM) Shalini Pandit and Managing Director Odisha State Medical Corporation (OSMC) Yamini Sarangi.

Depicting success story through poster presentation, Pandit has pointed out how awareness was generated among the Fani-devastated people, who were in distress.

Emergency response for cyclone FANI in Odisha was prepared before the super storm struck Odisha coast on May 3. The entire team of Health Odisha was in readiness led by Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Pramod

Kumar Meherda and MD NHM Pandit.

Pre and post storm strategies were chalked out and people were made aware about the steps to be taken and the ASHA and GKS were given training about the strategies.

Over 15 Lakh people were shifted to safer zones and that is why lakhs of people were saved. During cyclone all emergency services were alerted and healthcare was given utmost importance by the authorities.

Emergency Response for healthcare was of the top agenda of the State Government, which was monitored by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik regularly. The Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), the flagship healthcare scheme of Odisha also received kudos at the summit.

While Odisha opted out of Ayushman Bharat and innovated the BSKY, eyebrows were raised. However with effective implementation of the scheme, BSKY stands out as a milestone under Sustainable Development Goal in achieving universal health coverage (UHC).

Odisha, which faced several challenges towards achieving UHC, faced shortage of



human resources, gaps in infrastructure and out-of-pocket spending (OOPS) by the patients, pointed out NHM MD Pandit.

Towards achieving UHC, the State Government introduced several reforms for making healthcare accessible, affordable and equitable, while assuring quality, she said during making a presentation at the summit.

For improving healthcare service in difficult areas provision of alternative transportation system was organized and mobile health units were arranged in tribal blocks and maternity waiting homes for expectant mother from notified difficult villages.

The State Government in order to attract and retain doctors, place based incentives were provided for doctors, spe-

cialists, and others. 44 per cent improvement was found in availability of Medical Officers in KBK and KBK plus districts. 197 private hospitals were empanelled for provisioning free healthcare services to economically vulnerable families.

Free healthcare services for all public health facilities up to medical colleges under BSKY with waiving off all user fees; hot cooked meal for patient attendants at AAHAR centers; strategic purchasing of services in PPP mode for critical care and high-end diagnostic services were roped in.

Special assistance for cashless services at empanelled private hospitals were made available for 70 lakh families. Annually more than Rs 1,712.76 crore are being spent under State Budget schemes excluding NHM Budget.

State not in favour of M'nadi-Godavari interlinking

As air yet to be cleared on deficit water

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the Mahanadi basin water continuing to be deficit, the State Government is not in a mood to agreeing to the proposal of the Government of India on interlinking of the river with the Godavari.

Surface water balance of Mahanadi basin up to Barmul at 75 per cent dependability is assessed to be deficit by 18, 718 million cubic meter (MCM) and there may not be any spills to arrive at the desired success rate of the link project, reveals the latest report on river Mahanadi.

The State Government has pointed out these facts to the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and National Water Development Agency (NWDA), which is taking up river inter linking, said sources. The officials admit that Mahanadi basin is a deficit basin if the actual demand of Mahanadi delta and environ-

mental and ecological flow requirement as per norms of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) guidelines and surface water generation as per norms of the Task Force for Inter Linking of Rivers are considered.

Inter basin water transfer is considered as one of the long term options to correct the natural imbalances in the availability of water among various regions of the country. Mahanadi was to be interlinked with river Godavari and accordingly a feasibility report was prepared by the NWDA.

The link canal of 301km length was proposed to take off from right of Manibhadra reservoir, which was to traverse through Nayagarh, Khordha, Ganjam and Gajapati. And the link canal was to outfall into river Godavari at Dowlaiswaram barrage in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh after traversing a total distance of 828 km in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The Odisha Government has earlier objected to such a proposal as reservoir Manibhadra on Mahanadi river will involve large scale displacement and submergence of huge forest land.

Later, it was changed to Barmul. However with a deficit situation, the Government of Odisha is not in favour of interlinking.

But then, the NWDA is not agreeing to such observations and says water balance at Barmul satisfies the requirement.

The State Government not satisfied with the NWDA contention has again asked if the NWDA has tested the success of Hirakud dam project for the demands contemplated in Detailed Project Report (DPR) of 1947.

That DPR includes future demands, considering all the ultimate demands of upstream State of Chhattisgarh and other basin States while conducting the water balance study of Mahanadi basin up to Barmul. Similarly, what quantity of

water transfer has been planned from the Himalayan rivers to Mahanadi is not clear till date. So questions are raised in this regard as the Government of India is saying there will be transfer of water from the Himalayan rivers to Mahanadi.

Unless these questions are cleared, there would be confusion over the matter and river interlinking would not be a feasible proposition, pointed out an expert.



₹10.692-crore revenue uncollected for court cases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Industrial water rate, mining revenue, commercial tax and power dues together of Rs 10,692.44 crore is lying uncollected from different companies due to cases pending at different courts by March 31, 2019. Finance Minister informed this in the State Assembly in response to a question of BJD MLA Prashant Behera on Monday. The uncollected revenues include mining revenue of Rs 1,856 crore, industrial water rate of Rs 677.59 crore, commercial tax of Rs 5997.44 crore and electricity dues of Rs 2063.27 crore. While highest industrial water rate of Rs 331.48 crore is lying uncollected from the MCL, highest electricity dues of Rs 504.08 crore is lying uncollected from the IMFA.

5 students swept away to sea in B'swar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Five college students were swept away by strong currents while they were taking bath near Dagara beach under the Baliapal police station in the district on Monday. While four students were rescued by locals and fishermen another is still missing. The missing student was identified as Anubhav Mohanty of Asti village. The mishap occurred when five students of the LN College at Jamsuli had gone to beach for taking bath in the sea. Search operation by ODRAF and Fire Service personnel was still underway to trace Mohanty, by the time of filing the report. The rescued students were admitted to the local Community Health Centre and their condition is stated to be stable.

₹1.5-cr ganja seized from water tanker

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

Even as police have intensified their drive against illegal ganja trade in the district, the traders are looking for innovative ways to carry on their trade. In an example, police on Sunday seized a huge cache of ganja which was being smuggled in a water tanker in Mathili area. Acting on a tipoff, the Mathili police laid a trap and intercepted the vehicle, in which the contraband item was being transported to Uttar Pradesh. The cops during frisking of the vehicle seized 1,443 kgs of ganja worth over Rs 1.5 crore. The cops arrested one person in this connection and also seized the vehicle. While the accused is being interrogated, a case has been registered against him under relevant Sections of the IPC, police said.

Red Cross first aid service at 'Suravi'



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Volunteers of the Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch under the guidance of its Secretary CTM Suguna provided first aid service at the State-level Shisu Mahotsav "Suravi" held at the

Unit-IX Boys High School here for three days. Junior Red Cross Officer Laxman Swain coordinated the camp. Thousands of students who participated in the programme were felicitated on different social issues at the camp. Among others, volunteers

Pitabas Samartha, Chandan Kumar Swain, Deepak Pradhan, Prakash Parida, Alibha Dash, Himansu Sethi, Priyambada Nayak, Debaki Sa, Yasoda Nayak, Chintamani Swain, MT Usmashree, Ananya Biswal and Sweetie Salony Das were present.

BRIEFS

55 CASES SETTLED IN B'PUR PENSION ADALAT



Brahmapur: A district-level Pension Adalat was held at the district Education Office here on Sunday wherein different pension cases of School and Mass Education Department employees were heard. A total of 55 cases were disposed off including cases of 49 retired employees and six employees, who are going to retire soon. District Education Officer (DEO) Sanatan Panda, ADEO Binita Senapaty and other senior officials were present.

SCIENCE PARK INAUGURATED AT PHULBANI

Phulbani: A long-awaited Science Park was inaugurated here on Monday in the presence of Phulbani MLA Angad Kanhar, Kandhamal Zilla Parishad President Akankhya Pradhan, Collector Dr Brunda D and Phulbani Municipality Executive Officer Baladeb Behera. The park work was done by a Chennai company at a cost of about Rs one crore spent by the municipality. Various facilities are available at the park, where a guide is also appointed for visiting students. Entry fee is Rs 8 and monthly fee is Rs 100. People can do jogging at the park. The Swati organisation will look after its maintenance.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP HELD AT PARADIP COLLEGE

Paradip: The Paradip Rotary Club, Paradip College NCC Wing, NSS and Red Cross jointly organised a blood donation camp at the Paradip College on Saturday. College Principal Dr Suprima Kanungo inaugurated the camp in which as many as 60 units of blood were collected. Among others, Club president Dr Durga Prasad Sethy, Captain Alekh Chandra Sahoo, Dipak Saranghi, Dr Prasanta Mohapatra and Lt Commander Akshya Mishra were present.

BOOK FAIR AT OP JINDAL SCHOOL ENDS

Angul: A two-day 5th Book Fair conducted at the OP Jindal School here concluded on Sunday. The fair was inaugurated by JSPL HR and ES VP Alok Malhotra in presence of school Principal Chhanda Charana Das. In the fair, galleries of books of different tastes were put on display by the publishing agencies along with blow pen and puzzles for children. Visitors, teachers, guardians and bibliophiles having a passion for book reading made their mark with their ceremonious visit during the fair.

PPL, Unicef joint project launched

PNS ■ PARADIP

PPL COO Ranjit Singh Chugh and Unicef Odisha chief Monika Nielsen announced a joint pilot initiative of PPL, Unicef and HARSHA Trust called "Navratna Balya Gruha". The announcement was at the event organized by PPL to inaugurate the new building of Ama Anganwadi Kendra, constructed as part of the CSR initiatives of PPL at Bagadia gram panchayat. Unicef has first of its kind programme with any corporate in the State. With the launch of "Navratna Balya Gruha" initiative, the PPL will be extending CSR initiatives to cover another 25 Anganwadi Centers to address malnutrition and ensure



better health in project villages. The initiative will develop 25 WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) compliant Anganwadi Centers in four panchayats

(Bagadia, Mangrajpur, Fatepur, Kothi) of Kujang Block of Jagatsinghpur district. The collaboration will strengthen the capacities of

ICDS frontline functionaries and support improvement in access to functional WASH infrastructure and hygiene promotion activities.

Ex-Min Singh, AJSU's Mahto file nomination

PNS ■ BERMO

Former Minister Rajendra Prasad Singh and AJSU candidate Lambodar Mahto filed their nominations papers from Bermo and Gomia seats respectively. Singh accompanied by former Union Minister RPN Singh, Forest minister of MP, Umang Singhar alongwith his son JaiMangal Singh, Gaurav Singh, OPLal, Yogendra Giri, Pramod Singh, several trade union leaders with family friends and around 10,000 supporters submitted two sets of nominations papers at civil SDO office at Tenughat on Monday afternoon. Singh, who had represent-

ed Bermo in Assembly seat five times, filed his nomination paper along with senior leaders of grand alliance displaying unity and strength. The entire route through which local Congress leader took out a road show to reach to the office of the returning Officer for filing nomination and the vehicle on which Singh was travelling got covered with flowers. Later, the Congress leader held a public meeting at Jaina More referral hospital ground. Speaking at the meeting, the senior Congress leader from State attacked the NDA Government at Centre and State for people misery.

S'garh bonded youth drowns in Mangalore

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A poor orphan youth of Balishankara block of the district, Laba Kujur, who had gone to work as a bonded labour at Mangalore in Karnataka, died after drowning in the sea there. The body of the youth is yet to be brought back to his native place in Sundargarh for cremation. After coming to know about the youth's death Talsara MLA BS Bhoi spoke to the Sundargarh Collector on Monday afternoon for providing support to bring his body to his village. Reports said the district administration is making necessary arrangements to bring Kujur's body to his village. Collector Nikhil Kalyan said the administration would provide all the required support. If required an ambulance would be sent from here to bring back the youth's body to his village.

3-day National Music Fest in city from today

SHYAMHARI CHAKRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Showcasing three major Indian classical music traditions, the stage is set for a three-day annual National Music Festival at the Rabindra Mandap here commencing on Tuesday. The event, one of the very few music festivals of its kind in Odisha, is being hosted by the six-decade-old Bhubaneswar Music Circle (BMC). "For the past 25 years, the BMC has been hosting monthly and annual music concerts regularly for the public in the city and our annual festival happens to be the most awaited affair by the music connoisseurs of the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. A galaxy of stalwarts of Indian music have performed in our festivals over the years. Besides Hindustani and Carnatic music, we have offered thrust on propagation of Odishi music as a unique Indian classical music tradition. Hence, Odishi music has been a regular feature in our festivals every year," elaborated BMC general secretary Khirad Patnaik. The inaugural evening would feature two veteran vocalists from Kolkata - Pandit Tushar Dutta and Vidushi Anjana Nath. A top-grade artiste of All India Radio, Tushar Dutta, who has performed in several music conferences in India and abroad, has over 50 recorded discs to his credit. Besides, he has lent his voice as a playback singer for Bengali cinema and television serials. Similarly, Anjana Nath, whose thumri, dadra and semi-classical musical genres have been in demand, is a



well-known artiste of the Patiala Gharana which owes its origin to Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. She was trained by some of the stalwarts like Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty and was a scholar at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy in Kolkata. The second evening would showcase two fabulous duet concerts by four young and dynamic artistes of India. The first pair would be of Odisha's accomplished instrumentalists - Sandip Rout and Jabahar Mishra in a jugalbandi of sarod and flute in Hindustani music

segment. Both serving as faculty members of the Department of Music at Utkal University of Culture, Sandip is known as a popular tabla player who has equal mastery over sarod. Jabahar is acknowledged as a soloist and as an accompanying artiste to a number of stalwarts of Odishi dance. The second presentation of the evening would be by Chennai-based Carnatic vocalists Anahita and Apoorva Ravindran who have made a niche for themselves in music circles. The third and final evening of the event would feature solo Odishi vocal recital by Achyuta Moharana of Puri followed by Hindustani vocal recital by Vidushi Kalapini Komkali, widely recognized as one of the finest classical vocalists of the younger generation. She is the daughter and disciple of legendary Pandit Kumar Gandharva while her mother has been veteran musician Vidushi Vasundhara Komkali. Committed to the cause of music, she hosts music festivals in her hometown of Dewas in Madhya Pradesh.

Tribals protest bid to dilute forest rights laws

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A collective of gram sabhas of tribals and forest dwellers from 26 districts along with the Campaign for Survival and Dignity (CSD), Odisha and the Bhumi Adhikar Andolan joined a three-days dharana here, which began on Monday. They opposed the anti-tribal forest dwellers agenda of the Central and State Governments who are allegedly trying to trample their rights and privileges by diluting existing laws to serve the interest of corporates. "For last six years serious attempt has been made for dilution of the most progressive and historic the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

enacted by Parliament to recognize, protect and secure the resource tenure of tribal and other forest dwellers over their land and forests to ensure their livelihoods and forests environment. Instead recognizing the rights of forest dwellers both Central and State Governments are working for corporates and companies' interests. To oppose and destroy FRA 2006, several counter policy and legislations have been taken by the Central Government such as Land Acquisition ordinances, enactment of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016, Draft National Forest Policy, 2018, Amendment proposal for Indian Forest Act, 1927, MoEFCC orders on diversion of forestland for linear project and non-applicability of FRA in sanctuary and

national parks among others," the protestors alleged. They urged the Central Government to strongly fight a case for withdrawal of February 13 Supreme Court Order for eviction of the tribal and traditional forest dwellers whose claims have been (wrongly) rejected. Besides, they demanded a review of all rejected claims through gram sabha to start demarcation of claimed forest land afresh, strong action against officials discouraging OTFDs to file their individual claim, support gram sabha in verification of claims providing human resource, maps, RoR, etc., without influencing its decision and resolution and sa halt to correction of ROR of forest lands issued under IFR without ground demarcation.

'Talk to Centre on DGFT office shifting'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro on Monday directed the Industries Minister to take up the matter of shifting of the DG, Foreign Trade (DGFD) office from Cuttack to Kolkata with the Union Government and make all efforts that the office is not shifted. The Speaker gave this ruling after BJD member Pritiranjan Ghadai brought the matter to his notice during afternoon hours in the House. "The State's seafood exports have crossed Rs 3,000 crore per annum. Exports of seafood, minerals, iron and filigree together have reached Rs 40,000 crore mark. Under this situation, if the DG, Foreign Trade office from Cuttack is shifted, the State will suffer a lot," he said.

'Provide protection to journalists'

CONG, BJD MEMBERS DEMAND IN ASSEMBLY

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Congress and BJP members on Monday demanded in the State Assembly that the Government provide adequate protection and monetary incentive to working journalists and pension to retired ones. Raising the issue during afternoon hours, Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingh Mishra urged the Speaker to direct the Government to enact laws in lines with Maharashtra and other States to provide adequate protection to working

journalists. "Journalists are not safe. They are being assaulted and misbehaved by public representatives. Laws should be enacted in lines with the Maharashtra State for protection of the scribes," he said. Another Congress member Santosh Singh Saluja demanded that the Government should raise journalists' insurance provision to Rs 5 lakh and they be paid a certain amount of monthly incentive by enacting a required legislation. BJD MLA Prafulla Samal also urged the Government to raise insurance coverage of journalists from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Congress MLA Suresh Routray too demanded incentive of Rs 8,000 per month for each working journalist and protection to them.

IIT BBS team visits Singapore varsities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar Director Prof RV Raja Kumar along with some of the Deans recently visited Singapore to establish collaborating connections with well-reputed institutions there. The delegation visited the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and National University of Singapore (NUS) and the highly acclaimed research institutions under A*STAR to study the faculty hiring and recruitment processes, basic infrastructure, teaching programmes, research environment prevailing in those institutions. After returning, Prof Kumar said that the visit was fruitful on multiple fronts including in getting bright

applications for faculty positions, forging collaborations for course sharing, joint research, mutual learning of best practices. He also felt that the infrastructure being created at the IIT BBS is going to be of comparable standards to those universities and added that the institute would send faculties to those institutions to carry on collaborative work in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR-VR). The Director had meetings with NTU President Prof Subra Suresh, Strategy and Partnerships Associate VP Prof Subodh Mhaisalkar and Nanyang Technological University (NTU)-India Global Connect Director Prof BVR Chowdhury for establishing long-term coordination in education and research.

Khordha Sadar SI held talking bribe

PNS ■ KHORDHA

The Vigilance police on Monday caught Khordha Sadar police station Sub-Inspector (SI) Kedarswar Nanda red-handed for demanding and accepting an

illegal gratification of Rs 2,000. He was caught taking the bribe from one Sushant Sahu, who had gone to the police station to release his seized motorcycle. Earlier, Nanda has demanded Rs 5,000 for releasing Sahu's bike but when he

refused to pay the same amount, Nanda finalised a deal of Rs 2,000. Later, Sahu informed the Vigilance police about the matter and accordingly a trap was laid and Nanda was caught with the bribe money.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue and DM Department have facilitated online payment of land revenue w.e.f. 15th August 2019 as one of the initiatives under 5T action plan. Citizens can pay current year's (2019-20) demand of Rent and Cess by accessing e-Pauti Portal (<http://odishalandrevenue.nic.in/>) from anywhere at any time. Citizens need not have to visit the local RI office for the purpose.

(Issued in Public Interest)

Sd/-
Principal Secretary to Government
Revenue and Disaster Management Department
Government of Odisha

24001/11/0286/1920

250TH SESSION OF HOUSE

RS should have greater say in creating States, UTs: Manmohan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Without mentioning J&K, which was recently bifurcated into Union Territories, Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said as a Council of States, the Rajya Sabha should have a greater say in legislations dealing with redrawing boundaries of States. Participating in the discussion on the "Role of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity and Need for Reform" on the first day of the 250th session of the House, Singh said, "On some matters, this House should be given greater respect by the executive, that is not the case now. For example, important issues like redrawing the boundaries of a State. Converting them into Union territories, is such a far-reaching proposal or legislation, this House, a Council of States, should be given more powers to deal with these issues."



Senior Congress leader and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh speaks in the Rajya Sabha on the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday

In 16th Lok Sabha, only 25% of the Bills introduced were referred to committees, much lesser than 71% and 60% in 15th and 14th Lok Sabha respectively

"The Government should consult with the council of States much more effectively before such drastic measures can be considered by the House as a whole," he added. On the issue of scrutiny of bills by parliamentary committees, Singh said, "For our chamber (Rajya Sabha) to fully function, it is required that we scrutinise the bills more thoroughly in (parliamentary) committees, where not only the members can apply their mind, even the opinion of stakeholders can be solicited."

were referred to the committees, much lesser than the 71 per cent and the 60 per cent in the 15th and 14th Lok Sabha respectively. "I would assert that regardless of what the other House does, it is crucial for our House to form select committees to ensure that the bills receive the detailed scrutiny that they deserve," the Congress leader said. The Rajya Sabha committees had done a commendable job of improving legislations, he said, adding, "I would urge that we should follow this practice for all the bills which

come before this august House." On the misuse of the provisions of money bills, Singh said, "Article 110 allows precedence of Lok Sabha over the matters in money bills. In the recent past, we have seen instances of misuse of money bills' provisions by the executive, leading to bypassing the Rajya Sabha." "Today, as we celebrate the 250th session of the Rajya Sabha, it is appropriate for us to reflect on whether we lived up to the expectations of the framers of our Constitution," he said.

Opp terms Farooq's detention illegal, asks Centre to let him attend House

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Protesting over the continued detention of sitting National Conference MP Farooq Abdullah in J&K, Opposition members on Monday described it as illegal and demanded that he be allowed to attend the House even as the Congress raised the issue of removal of Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover for its president and his family.

Congress was upfront from the word go with its members in good strength moving to the well of the house and charging the Government with attacking the opposition and foisting false cases against it.

Their protests continued until end of the question hour when Speaker Om Birla allowed Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to make his comments on the detention of Abdullah.

Opposition leaders also raised the issue of MPs not being allowed to visit Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of its special status under article 370 whereas parliamentarians from Europe allowed to go there. Chowdhury described the EU delegation as "bhade ke tattu" (hirelings). "Our leader Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to visit (J&K),

several MPs were sent back. Whereas bhade ke tattu from Europe were being taken there. Isn't it an insult to all MPs. I want to ask MPs of ruling alliance don't they think it was their insult," Chowdhury said. On the detention of Abdullah, he said the NC supremo has been under detention for 106 days and it is his constitutional right to attend the House.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Chowdhury said it was an "atrocious" not to allow the former J&K Chief Minister to attend Lok Sabha proceedings. Giving an account of sequence of events, the Speaker said when Home Minister Amit Shah informed the House in the previous session that Abdullah was not under detention, he was then correct. The written information of his detention was received later by the Lok Sabha secretary, he said.

He said now he has written information that Abdullah is under detention. DMK leader TR Baalu sought Birla's intervention in the matter, saying the speaker is the custodian of the House and should ensure that members are allowed to attend the House. "What has happened with Farooq is illegal. You are custodian of the House. You have to make intervention," Baalu

said. The DMK leader also said that same is the case with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and noted that her daughter has said that the PDP leader has been manhandled. National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi said the former Chief Minister was under preventive custody not under judicial custody and it can be revoked by the Speaker's order. "Farooq Sahab represents Srinagar and it is right of the 20 lakh people of Srinagar that their voice be heard in the House. I have proof that he is not in judicial custody, he is in preventive custody. Your one order can revoke it," Masoodi said while addressing the Chair. Similar sentiments on Abdullah's arrest were made by TMC leaders as well. The issue was also raised by RSP leader N K Premachandran when he was given a chance to ask a supplementary question related to the Finance Ministry.

Chowdhury also raised the issue of withdrawal of SPG cover of Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the Gandhi family. He said as Former Prime Minister, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee remained under SPG protection.

PM Modi praises NCP, BJD for adhering to parliamentary norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday utilised his address during the 250th session of the Rajya Sabha to call for a disruption-free House proceedings and also, perhaps, to reach out to NCP chief Sharad Pawar just ahead of the latter's meeting with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi over the issue of Govt formation in Maharashtra.

"Today, I want to appreciate two parties, NCP and BJD. These parties have wonderfully adhered to parliamentary norms. They have never gone into the well of the house (to protest). Yet, they have made their points very effectively. Every political party, including my party, should learn from them," Modi said.

His remarks came just hours before Pawar was scheduled to meet Sonia in view of the Maharashtra impasse, which has brought the ideologically-opposite Shiv Sena and Congress along with the NCP on one platform to explore the possibility of forming a Govt in Maha.

While efforts are on for the Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP to come together, there has been a buzz also about the BJP and the NCP exploring an alternative possibility for government formation. As for disruptions in Rajya

Sabha in the past hindering passage of crucial legislations, Modi said a distinction needs to be drawn between checking and clogging. "The Rajya Sabha is about checks and balances. This is absolutely essential for our democracy. Debates have to be many and effective. But, there is also a difference between checking and clogging (and between) balance and blocking," he said. With some within the ruling party questioning the effectiveness of Rajya Sabha as crucial legislative work got stalled because NDA lacked majority in the House, Modi recalled the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's words that the Upper House "may be the second house but no one should think of it as a secondary house."

"Today, I echo the sentiments of Atal Ji and add that the Rajya Sabha must be a vibrant supportive House for national progress," he said, adding makers of the Constitution envisioned a bicameral legislative framework and this vision has enriched the democracy. He, however, wanted the House to function and not disrupt work. "Our Constitution inspires us to work for a Welfare State. It also motivates us to work for the welfare of states. The Rajya Sabha, as the Council of States, enables us to further the spirit of cooperative federalism," he said.

Curbing pollution in Delhi: Lax officials to face action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Intensifying its steps to ensure clean air in smog-hit Delhi, the Government on Monday said concerned officials found guilty of any kind of deliberate omission or negligence in controlling pollution in Delhi will be held responsible and punished.

This was decided at a high-level meeting on air pollution chaired by Union Environment Ministry CK Mishra and attended by Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh besides representatives of Central Pollution Control Board and other stakeholders.

"We will act decisively. The officials found deliberately neglecting action to check the pollution will be held responsible and penalize. Also violators will be punished. In the next fifteen days we will intensify the crackdown on violators, illegal constructions and action will be taken to reduce emissions. New technology is also being worked upon," Mishra told reporters after the meeting.

The northern States have been witnessing severe air pollution since last month, with the air quality even touching the 'emergency' mark, triggering anger among citizens.

The air pollution in the national capital was so toxic after Diwali that the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) had declared a public health emergency in the Delhi-NCR and had advised people, especially chil-



Sprinkling of water has been advised in many parts of Delhi to ensure dust settles

dren and the aged, to refrain from venturing outside their homes. Also, a meeting of a parliamentary standing committee to discuss the rising levels of air pollution in the national capital was postponed as most participants, including Member of Parliament from East Delhi, Gautam Gambhir, skipped the meeting. The Delhi Government had urged the Centre numerous times to take steps to deal with the air pollution as it has blamed the stubble burning in

the neighbouring states for the deteriorating air quality here.

A few days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's principal secretary PK Mishra had reviewed the air situation in Delhi and other parts of north India wherein it was decided that the chief secretaries of the affected States will monitor the situation round-the-clock and take steps to tackle the menace.

The Environment Ministry official said sprinkling of water has been advised in many parts of Delhi to ensure dust settles. Punitive action will be taken over construction activities and Delhi has been asked to stop all waste burning in industrial areas, he added.

Mishra said he will be personally monitoring the situation on the daily basis. We discussed accepted air pollution plan while within the next fortnight, we will intensify our anti-pollution measure and review the situation as directed by the Supreme Court.

Don't turn Lok Sabha into West Bengal Assembly: Birla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Irked with the frequent face-off between the BJP and TMC MPs from West Bengal, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday warned the members not to turn the Lok Sabha into West Bengal Assembly. The war of words between the MPs started during the debate on the Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill. "Don't turn the Lok Sabha into the West Bengal Assembly," warned Birla.

The war of words broke out when BJP member Locket Chatterjee alleged that the "entire TMC is involved in chit fund irregularities, duping gullible investors of their hard-earned money". She alleged that the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was protecting those who had run away with poor people's money. Chatterjee also alleged that 40 per cent of the money collected by the various chit funds in West Bengal had gone to agents, who were members of the TMC.

Hitting back at Chatterjee, Kalyan Banerjee of the TMC rejected her allegations and soon started again arguments and shouting by the MPs. This led to the Chair to intervene and urge them against making personal remarks.

The Bill was moved by MoS Finance Anurag Thakur. The Bill proposes to amend certain definitions to enable the increased investment in Chit Funds.

Shiv Sena raises farmers' plight, stage protest in Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking its new role as an 'Opposition party' seriously after its recent break-up with its NDA ally, the BJP, in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena on Monday raised issues relating to farmers in the State in the Lok Sabha, staged protest inside Parliament premises and sought the 'Bharat Ratna' for social reformer Jyotiba Phule.

RSP MP Premchandran raised the death of an IIT-Chennai Girl-student in a suspicious circumstances and sought a judicial inquiry into it as he said name of professor was doing round for humiliating her.

While Congress-led opposition protested against the detention of the house member Farooq Abdullah in J&K, members of the Shiv Sena, the oldest ally of the BJP which has snapped its ties with the ruling party, also raised slogans and demanded relief for farmers in Maharashtra and later walked out of the House. Shiv Sena members were seen sitting in the opposition benches after their party broke ties with the BJP with one of its member in the Modi-Cabinet already putting-in his papers.

One of the Shiv Sena MPs during the zero hour sought 'Bharat Ratna' for famous social reformer Jyotiba Phule who had worked for the upliftment of dalits and did pioneering work for the girl education. Shiv Sena MPs also

protested inside the Parliament premises demanding that the Government declare unseasonal rains in Maharashtra as natural calamity. MPs Sanjay Raut, Arvind Sawant and others were present at the protest which comes on the first day of the Parliament's Winter Session, which will end on December 13.

Unseasonal rains in Maharashtra have damaged crops on 70 lakh hectares of land, State Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar had said a couple of days earlier.

According to Government officials, the loss could be to the tune of over ₹5,000 crore across 30 of the state's 36 districts.

Navneet Rana, an Independent MP from Maharashtra, however, went hammer and tong against Sena for what she said giving 'lip sympathy' to farmers while not allowing a stable Government in the state.

Four members -- Prince Raj (LJP), Himadri Singh (BJP), Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil (NCP) and D M Kathir Anand (DMK) -- took oath as Lok Sabha commenced its proceedings for the day. The House paid tributes to 10 members, including from the Rajya Sabha, who passed away recently.

They included former Union ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and Ram Jethmalani. The House also stood in silence as a mark of respect for the departed souls.

Chidambaram moves bail application in apex court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed Former Finance and Home Minister P Chidambaram on Monday moved a bail application in the Supreme Court. The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde where senior advocate Kapil Sibal sought urgent listing of the plea. Sibal told the bench that Chidambaram has been in jail for around 90 days.

"We will see," the bench told Sibal, adding that the bail plea would come up for hearing either on Tuesday or Wednesday. Meanwhile in the afternoon the Delhi High Court clarified that the facts of another case mentioned in the order denying bail to Chidambaram are only for reference. Justice Suresh Kait said it was nowhere mentioned in the November 15 order that the observations made in a particular paragraph are of Chidambaram's case. The court's clarification came while taking up the matter suo motu (on its own) following news articles that there is 'cut and paste' work in the judgement. The High Court Ordered Chief Editors of 'Indian Express' and 'The Hindu' to publish clarification on Tuesday itself.

Earlier, the Enforcement Directorate approached the Delhi High Court seeking rectification of an "inadvertent" error in the order denying bail to Chidambaram in the INX Media money laundering case.

INBRIEF

UNIV PANEL TO EXAMINE IF CITY HAD 'ANCIENT NAME'
Agra: An Uttar Pradesh department has set in motion an exercise to examine if this city was known by any other name in ancient times, triggering speculation that the Yogi Adityanath Government is planning to rename Agra. Agra's Bhm Rao Ambedkar University has now constituted a committee to go into the issue, following a letter from the local administration, Vice Chancellor Arvind Dixit said

J&K MPS PROTEST AGAINST SCRAPPING OF ARTICLE 370
New Delhi: PDP Rajya Sabha members Mir Fayaz and Nazir Ahmed Laway held a protest inside the Parliament premises on Monday against scrapping of special status to the erstwhile State of J&K. "Bring back normalcy in Kashmir. UT status not acceptable," one of the placards read while another said "detentions are no solution".

950 CASES OF CFVS ALONG LOC BETWEEN AUG-OCT
New Delhi: There were 950 cases of ceasefire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control (LoC) from August to October this year in which three security forces personnel lost their lives, Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Defence said on Monday.

R BANUMATHI NEW MEMBER OF SC COLLEGIUM
New Delhi: The Supreme Court collegium, which comprises five senior-most judges, will now have Justice R Banumathi as a new member after Justice Ranjan Gogoi demitted office as the CJI. Justice Banumathi will be the second-ever woman to be part of the collegium after Justice Ruma Pal in the last 13 years.

In a first, elders pay tributes to 5 late RS members

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a departure from convention, the Rajya Sabha on Monday allowed leaders of various political parties to speak and pay tributes to five late members, Arun Jaitley, Ram Jethmalani, Jagannath Mishra, Gurudas Dasgupta and Sukhdev Libra, instead of just the Chairman making obituary references.

Usually, the chair in the Upper House reads out obituary references before members rise as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed. The House adjourns proceedings if a sitting member passes away and takes up listed agenda soon after the mourning in case of former members. But since the obituary was of Jaitley - a man who had per-

sonally touched political lives of many leaders across the political spectrum, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu allowed members to speak. Once leaders had spoken, Naidu adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm as a mark of respect to Jaitley and Ram Jethmalani, both sitting members.

In his obituary reference, Naidu described Jaitley as a "quintessential politician" and a "man of impeccable integrity" whose stellar contribution is a matter of record.

An advocate by profession and a member of the Upper House since April 2000, Jaitley passed away on August 24 at the age of 66, he said. Jaitley, he said, left an indelible mark on all Ministries he headed and was the force behind

Naidu described Jaitley as a "quintessential politician" and a "man of impeccable integrity" whose stellar contribution is a matter of record

many landmark legislations including the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Benami Act and the merger of Rail Budget with General Budget. Naidu also mentioned passing away of Jethmalani on September 8 at the age of 95 as well as former member

Jagannath Mishra (82) on August 19, Sukhdev Singh Libra (86) on September 6 and Gurudas Dasgupta (82) on October 31.

While Leader of the House Thaawarchand Gehlot said Jaitley's death was a personal loss to him, Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the personal relationship that the deceased member shared with other members turned political bitterness into sweetness on most tense issues.

"We haven't seen such a media savvy minister and leader," he said, adding Jaitley did not stop meeting media personnel and friends even when he was ill during his last days. Derek O'Brien (TMC) said

Jaitley was a mentor to many of the new entrants in Parliament despite having diagonally opposite political ideology. He recalled how Jaitley had taken positively his comment on him being a "plantation manager who planted stories" in media sitting in Parliament. Azad described Jethmalani as perhaps the only practising lawyer and a player in his mid-90s.

Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) recalled the contribution of Dasgupta and termed him as "sharp leader".

Senior NCP leader Sharad Pawar recalled the contribution of Jaitley to sports. He said Jaitley often used to discuss issues related to cricket with him. The House observed silence as mark of respect to the late leaders.

Sharad Arvind Bobde takes oath as 47th CJI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, who was part of the historic Ayodhya verdict earlier this month, was on Monday administered oath as the 47th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind and started holding court at 11:30 am. Bobde, 63, succeeds Justice Ranjan Gogoi who demitted office on Sunday.

He took oath in English in the name of God at a brief ceremony held at the Durbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice Bobde will have a tenure of over 17 months as the CJI and is due to retire on April 23, 2021. Soon after taking the oath, he sought the blessings of



President Ram Nath Kovind shakes hands with Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde after he takes oath as the 47th CJI at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Monday

his mother by touching her feet. She was brought to the president house on a stretcher. VP M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Senior Ministers

were present at the oath-taking ceremony. Former Vice President Hamid Ansari and Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh were also there.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

BJP's trap to target Bengalis, cries Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Like she did during the implementation of National Register for Citizens in Assam, Mamata Banerjee on Monday cried out against the proposed Citizen's Amendment Bill calling it a "trap" laid down by the BJP to target the Bengali-speaking population — Hindus and Muslims — and implicated All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin chief Asauddin Owaisi for conspiring with the saffron outfit to vitiate the political climate of Bengal.

Like it did in Assam where it implemented NRC to throw out lakhs of Bengalis from that State the Centre was planning to introduce CAB as a "trap" which it would use against the Bengali people, she said.

Addressing a meeting at North Bengal town of Coochbehar bordering Assam, Banerjee said, "Let me tell you that the Centre is bringing Citizen's Amendment Bill which is another trap like NRC to cast out the Bengalis from



the list of legal citizens and make them refugees in their own country."

She asked, "Where is a need of granting new citizenship to people when there are enough documents like land deeds, voter cards, ration cards, driving license, birth certificates, Kanyashree and other government documents," asking the people to remain alert and united against the BJP's nefarious designs.

The Centre proposes to bring the CAB in the Winter Session of Parliament. The Bill proposes to grant citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis and Christians who had migrated from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh provided they have already spent seven years in India.

In the wake of alleged faulty implementation of NRC in Assam that omitted the names of more than 19 lakh people from citizenship register a possible implementation of NRC in Bengal had created a panic claiming 11 lives in the state during the past two months.

Though she would not name any Hyderabad leader openly Banerjee apparently opened a new battle front against All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin chief and MP Asauddin Owaisi calling his party an "agent" of the BJP that had conspired with the saffron outfit to destroy the healthy political climate of Bengal.

Aware that the MIM was expanding its activities in the State which has about 30 Muslim votes, Banerjee said, "some minority groups from Hyderabad are taking money from the BJP with an offer to protect them. But I ask you not to fall in their trap because they are coming here to divide you and help the BJP"

Protests were held in the north-eastern States on Monday opposing the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were burnt in Assam.

The protest rallies coincided with the first day of the winter session of Parliament during which the bill is proposed to be introduced.

Sit-ins were also launched in various places of Guwahati and effigies of Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal were burnt by youth organisation AJYCP in different parts of the state as a mark of protest against the CAB.

The protests were held by the North East Students Organisation (NESO), the region's umbrella organisation of students unions, its constituents, farmers' body Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, youth body Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and Left-Democratic Mancha, Assam among others.

NESO submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah against CAB through the governors of the north eastern States.

The NESO and AASU along with other organisations took out a large rally to his headquarters at Uzan Bazar in Guwahati to the Raj Bhawan shouting slogans and waving banners and placards against the CAB.

Stir in NE States, Modi's effigy burnt

PTI ■ GUWAHATI/SHILLONG/AIZAWL/ITANAGAR

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Activists of North East Students Organisation (NESO), along with All Assam Students' Union (AASU), hold placards as they take out a protest rally against Citizenship Amendment Bill, in Guwahati on Monday PTI

ards against the CAB.

"Assam and the north east are not dumping grounds for illegal Bangladeshis. As per the Assam Accord we have already accepted all Bangladeshis - both Hindu and Muslims who entered Assam illegally upto 1971. We will not accept those who entered Assam after that year," NESO and AASU chief advisor Samujjal Bhattacharyya said.

"The Central Government is trying to impose on Assam all the illegal Bangladeshis who entered the country in the next 43 years by fixing the cut off year as 1971. We won't accept that. We

oppose it," he iterated.

"This movement in Assam and the north east region will continue", he asserted. Commenting on the contention of Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other BJP leaders that a lot of problems will be solved if the CAB is enacted, Bhattacharyya said "The Bill will safeguard the vote bank of BJP. They (BJP) want the votes of illegal Bangladeshis. They have the numbers in Delhi (Parliament) and they will impose the CAB on us.

"We will not accept CAB and that is why we have launched our agitation against the Bill," he added.

AASU president Dipanka Nath said, "The CAB is the death knell for the Assamese community. It will make the Assamese people extinct. It will open the door for more Bangladeshis to enter Assam."

Claiming that Assam has rejected the CAB, Nath said "We will oppose till our death this Bill, which is harmful to the existence of the Assamese community".

AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi said that Assam and Tripura have taken the largest burden of illegal Bangladeshis.

"Imposition of CAB in the north east is unacceptable to its people as their sentiments have been ignored despite the public rejecting the bill," he added.

In neighbouring Meghalaya Khasi Students Union, an influential students body in the State, held a sit-in near the third secretariat here protesting against the contentious bill, which it said, will have a negative impact on the people of the entire region.

A group of anti-CAB protesters will launch a stay off the road protest from 7 pm on Monday till 6 am Tuesday.

State Chief Minister Conrad Sangma had met Shah last week and urged the Centre to consider withholding passing of the CAB in its current form.

A rally was taken out in Aizawl by the Mizoram apex students body Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZIP) on Monday in protest against the CAB.

Expect Mamata to brief me about Bulbul losses, says upset Guv

Siliguri (WB): Expressing anguish over West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee not informing him about the losses incurred by the State due to cyclone 'Bulbul', Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday said he expects the CM to brief him on it within a few days.

Dhankhar said as per the Constitution, it is the duty of the Chief Minister to brief the State's governor on important developments.

"And, 'Bulbul' is certainly an important development which calls for the Chief Minister to keep the governor abreast of developments with regard to it," he told reporters here. "I am sure she will brief me within a few days," the governor said.

In a report to the visiting central team, the West Bengal Government on Saturday said the State incurred a loss of

₹ 23,811 crore in the devastations caused by 'Bulbul' that has affected around 35 lakh people in three districts.

Dhankhar also noted that there have been several important developments in the state in the over 100 days since he took over as governor on July 30, but Banerjee "has not briefed him" on any of these, despite Constitutional obligations.

The governor reiterated his denial of the Trinamool Congress chief's accusation that he is running a parallel Government in the State. "The CM has never written to me that the governor has exceeded his powers".

The TMC had recently slammed the governor for allegedly exceeding his brief and wondered whether he understood his "constitutional bindings".

Nirmohi Akhara wants to be part of Ram Temple trust, to meet PM this week

PTI ■ AYODHYA

The Nirmohi Akhara, a main litigant in the Ayodhya case, has decided to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week over its demand to be part of a trust for the Ram Temple construction here, the organisation has said.

In its judgment in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi title case, the Supreme Court on November 9 had cleared the way for the construction of the temple at the disputed site here, and directed the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.

It had also said the mosque should be constructed at a "prominent site" and a trust should be formed within three months for the construction of the temple at the site many Hindus believe Lord Ram was born.

The akhara's chief seers and members of the executive body met here on Sunday and decided to



meet the Prime Minister this week over its demand for "important" posts in the trust's management, its counsel and spokesman Ranjeet Lal Varma said.

These posts may be that of president or secretary, he said, adding the akhara also demands that the right to worship the deity Ram Lalla be given to the Ramanandiya Vaishno Sect, to

which the akhara belongs.

Varma said hence, the right to worship the deity historically remains with the akhara.

"The Nirmohi Akhara will meet the Prime Minister and after meeting the PM, its executive body will again be meeting in Ayodhya to discuss whether we have been given appropriate place as mentioned in the verdict," he said.

₹2,600 cr EPF scam: UPPCL employees boycott work

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) employees on Monday began their 48-hour work boycott against the provident fund scam and sought a Government guarantee for the safe return of their money invested in the DHFL.

Over ₹ 2,600 crore of the State power employees' provident fund (PF) was reportedly invested in the scam-hit Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL), prompting the State Government to order a CBI probe.

However, the units generating power have been exempted from the protest to prevent grid failure.

Led by Vidyut Karamchari Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti (VKSSS), a joint forum of power employees and engineers, about 45,000 employees of the power department began their protest at 8 am on Monday for 48 hours, its convener Shailendra Dubey said.

The employees are demanding issuance of a notification by the

Government taking responsibility for safe return of their money, invested in DHFL by the Uttar Pradesh Power Sector Employees' Trust.

The employees are also demanding arrest of the former chairman of the corporation and other IAS officers responsible for the scam, Dubey said, adding that they converged at the Shakti Bhawan in Lucknow while in other districts also they held protest meetings.

The State's Power Minister Shrikant Sharma, while terming the work boycott as politically motivated, said that Government was taking full care of the employees.

"The employees are like a family for us. We are taking full care of them to ensure that they do not face any problems. The work boycott is politically motivated," Sharma said.

The home department has also directed all district magistrates and police chiefs to ensure proper security of all employees who are not taking part in the work boycott and vital installations in their areas.

Centre should take steps to control deteriorating economy: Gehlot

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday asked the Centre to take steps to control the "deteriorating economic condition" in the country.

He alleged that the Union Government did not implement the Goods and Services Tax (GST) properly, resulting in reduction in revenue collection of the Centre and States were facing its repercussions.

"The economic condition of the country is deteriorating. Both the Centre and States are heading towards a crisis situation. The Centre should take steps to control this in time," Gehlot told reporters in Ajmer.

"They are being arrogant that

everything is going well. Their thought is that when people are travelling by air, in cars, paying toll tax, where is the economic slowdown. But our thought is that the economy is suffering.

"Economists are saying this too. Even the husband of the Union finance minister is saying that the Government has no understanding of the economy," the Chief Minister said. He reiterated that the Government should follow the economic policies of former prime ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

Expressing concern over the issue of adulteration in the State, he assured that his Government will look into what can be done.

Botulism kills 17K migratory birds in Raj's Sambhar Lake

Jaipur: Nearly 17,000 migratory birds have died so far at the country's largest inland water saltwater lake near Jaipur due to botulism, a serious and fatal illness that affects the nerves, a forest official said on Monday.

The deaths were reported in Jaipur, Nagaur and Ajmer districts of Rajasthan, he said.

"The death toll has increased to nearly 17,000," Chief Wildlife Warden of the Forest Department, Arindam Tomar, said.

Jaipur collector Jagroop Singh Yadav informed that carcasses have been disposed.

Nearly 8,500 birds have died so far in Jaipur itself, Yadav said. Initially, it was suspected that the birds died due to avian flu but the report from a laboratory in Bhopal has ruled this out.

On November 10, thousands of birds, including Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Shelduck, Plovers, Avocets, were found dead in the 5-7 km area around Sambhar Lake.

This was the second such incident in the State within a week.

On November 7, 37 demiselle cranes were found dead in Jodhpur's Khinchana area.



Migratory birds fly over the Ganga river on a cold, foggy morning in Prayagraj on Monday PTI

Shrine receives ₹3.30 cr as revenue on opening day

PTI ■ SABARIMALA

The Lord Ayyappa temple here received over ₹ 3.30 crore as revenue on the first day when it opened on Saturday as compared to the ₹ 2.04 crore last season which was marred by protests by a section of devotees and right-wing outfits over the women's entry issue.

Over 70,000 devotees have offered prayers at the hill shrine since the temple opened on November 16 evening for the two-month long Mandala-Makkarvilakku puja. Travancore Devaswom Board President N Vasu on Monday said there was an increase of over 50 per cent in the revenue when compared to last year and the pilgrimage season this year has been going well.

"There is a huge increase in the number of devotees this year. We got ₹ 3.32 crore revenue on the first day compared to ₹ 2.04 crore last year. The devotees who visited this year are satisfied with the



facilities we have arranged," Vasu told the media.

Unlike last year when the temple complex witnessed violent protests after the State Government decided to implement the September 28, 2018 verdict of the apex court allowing women of all ages to enter

the shrine, this year the devotees expressed happiness as there were no restrictions.

Vasu also said 'Annadanam' for around 40,000 people have been arranged.

Annadanam is offering of food for the devotees. "We have stored enough drinking

water to cater to the needs of the devotees. We aim to make Sabarimala plastic free pilgrim centre.

We have started a campaign to avoid plastic from the irumudikettu (sacred bundle containing offerings to Ayyappa)," Vasu said.

Though the apex court did not stay its September 2018 order allowing entry of women into the Ayyappa temple, the LDF Government in Kerala this time said the shrine was not a ground for activism and made it clear it would not encourage women who want to visit the temple for publicity.

A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court had on November 14 in a 3:2 verdict decided to refer to a larger bench to re-examine religious issues including those arising out of its 2018 verdict lifting a centuries-old ban on women of menstruating age visiting the shrine.

The TDB, which administers the shrine, and the temple itself suffered huge loss last season due to the protests by the right-wing outfits.

The shrine and adjacent areas, including Pamba and Nilackal, were on high-alert last year due to the Supreme Court order on women's entry.

Hospitalised leaders of RTC employees continue fast

Hyderabad: Leaders of striking employees of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) continued their fast in a State-run hospital here on Monday even as doctors advised them to end their protest in view of their health condition.

Aswathama Reddy and Raji Reddy, both hypertensive and diabetic, were developing ketone bodies, and have been advised to call off their fast as its continuance may lead to health complications, the hospital sources said.

On Sunday, police up Aswathama Reddy from his house and shifted him to the Osmania General Hospital for treatment, where Reddy said he would continue with the fast.

Ashwathama Reddy began the hunger strike on Saturday. Similarly, another TSRTC Joint Action Committee leader Raji Reddy was also taken into cus-



tody from his house on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the indefinite strike by the RTC employees over various demands entered the 45th day on Monday.

The employees began their strike on October 5, and have since been making various demands, including merger of the corporation with Government, pay revision and recruitment to various posts.

The employees unions have recently announced that

they are ready to set aside their main demand of merger with the Government.

The unions demanded that the Government hold talks with them to resolve the issue.

The State Government had earlier said the employees' stir was illegal as they caused immense inconvenience to the public.

The Government has engaged the services of temporary drivers and conductors to operate buses.

AMMK weakens as workers on leaving spree

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Dynamics of Tamil Nadu politics are undergoing changes on a weekly basis with homecomings and deserts by one time loyalists of party supremos. The last to join the bandwagon of cadre deserting the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) an outfit launched by TTV Dhinakaran, nephew of the jailed V K Sasikala, is V Pugazhendi, a close associate of the former.

Pugazhendi declared on Sunday that he would join the AIADMK, his parent organization, once deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam returns from a foreign tour. Last week saw Former Minister Patchaimal and loyalists who were with the AMMK staging a homecoming by rejoining the AIADMK.

But what has surprised political commentators in Tamil Nadu is his announcement that Sasikala, who is serving a jail term in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in Bangalore in connection with



the Disproportionate Asset Case too would re-join the AIADMK once she completes her imprisonment which is expected to end in 2020.

"Having been part of the AIADMK for more than 30 years, Sasikala will take a decision on rejoining the party herself," Pugazhendi told reporters at Thanjavur. He was all praise for Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami whom he described as "Hero of Tamil Nadu".

The AMMK has been jolted by the number of senior leaders ditching the party to join the parent body. Only one leader, Thanga Tamilchelvan,

Pugazhendi declared on Sunday that he would join the AIADMK, his parent organisation, once deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam returns from a foreign tour

author and columnist. Ramakrishnan, who has been a keen observer and analyst of the Dravidian politics for more than three decades said it was difficult to say something about the future of the AIADMK. "It all depends on how OPS and EPS handle the situations as they unfold," he said.

Though he said that Tamil Nadu is doing well in economy, particularly in agriculture, tax mobilization and realization, and inviting investment for rapid industrialisation, it was not an indication that the AIADMK would win the next Assembly election due in May 2021.

"That depends on how the AIADMK succeeds in patching up an effective electoral alliance at the time of the Assembly

election. We may be able to say something only after the local body polls due next month," he said.

Veteran commentators are of the view that any kind of cohesion and unity seen in the AIADMK will not be in the interest of the DMK, which is having a dream run by winning the Lok Sabha polls and majority of the by-polls held in April 2019. "There is no doubt that the AIADMK Government is doing some good work for the farmers in the State by helping them with the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme and strengthening of irrigation projects. But that need not lead them to an electoral victory," said Kattumannarkoil Kannan, farmers leader and author.

Ramakrishnan said the possibilities of Dhinakaran joining hands with the DMK could not be ruled out. "Vaiko who was the number one enemy of Stalin had no qualms in joining hands with the latter. A similar situation may emerge in course of time," he said.

Pak violates ceasefire along LoC in Rajouri & Poonch



PNS ■ JAMMU

heavily armed group of infiltrators to sneak inside the Indian territory, official sources said.

In Jammu, Defence PRO Lt-Col Devender Anand said, "The Pakistan Army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri around 4.15 p.m." He said, "The Pakistan Army fired mortar shells in the forward areas." "The Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively," he added.

Late evening, the Pakistan Army also targeted forward areas of Shahpur and Kirni in Poonch sector.

According to ground reports, Pakistan army was indulging in intense mortar shelling in the area till the time last reports came in.

Search op launched to track down suspected ultras in Poonch

Jammu: Security forces have launched a search operation on the basis of a tip-off about the movement of suspected militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Monday.

The Army and police launched a search operation on Sunday following the information provided by some villagers about the suspicious movement in a forest area of Surankote, they added.

The operation is on to track down the suspected militants, they added. **PTI**

Kaiga Nuclear power plant expansion sparks stir

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

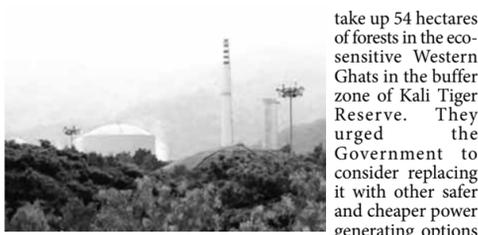
Hundreds of people have thronged in Mallapura, a tiny town on the river Kali valley in Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka to protest against the expansion of Kaiga Nuclear power plant in the sensitive western ghats on Sunday. Mallapura is an adjacent town near the nuclear plant.

The protest was led by powerful religious pontiffs in the area which include Vishwesha Theertha Swamiji of the pejar mutt in Udipi. Addressing the huge gathering he called on the people to resist the expansion plans of the Kaiga Nuclear plant. He said "Scientists have explained what

will happen here and we must resist the expansion of this power station."

Environmental activists, religious leaders, community leaders, political activists have demanded government to stop its expansion of Kaiga nuclear plant on the banks of river Kali which flows in the eco sensitive region of the Western Ghats.

The Kaiga plant had started commercial operations in November 2000, after being commissioned in 1989. The plant set up 56 km away from Karwar, currently has four functional units generating 220 MW of power. 33% of the power generated is reserved for Karnataka. This protest was organised after the authorities got all environmental regula-



take up 54 hectares of forests in the eco-sensitive Western Ghats in the buffer zone of Kali Tiger Reserve. They urged the Government to consider replacing it with other safer and cheaper power generating options like solar and wind energy. They also fear with lack of safety protocol the project will put the lives of the people surrounding villages in danger.

According to Shankar Sharma a power policy expert this would lead to over dependency on water and has always the danger of contamination. According to him these units

once commissioned will consume 7500 cubic metres of water per hour which is sufficient for the livelihood of 15 lakh people.

The protesters refer a Tata Memorial Centre report in 2010 had said there was a spurt in cases of cancer over the past two decades in Kaiga. Experts insist that this is because of the radioactive pollution caused by the nuclear power plant.

The Government has neither acknowledged such reports, nor has it carried out any assessment. TV Ramachandra, an expert in water management from IISc, a premier Scientific research Institute in Bengaluru, who

took part in the protest said "Today, science, spirituality and the culture of this region has come together because we have not received a response from the Indian government."

In December 2018, local environmental groups — Uttara Kannada Zilla Praisara Samrakshana Samiti, Bedti Aghanashini Kolla Samiti and Vruksha Laksha and residents of the area — had also opposed the expansion of the power plant during the mandated public consultation process. Recently, even Gangadharendra Saraswati Swamiji, the seer of Sonda Swarnavalli Mutt, had also opposed the nuclear plant's expansion.

Bypoll outcome will not bring stability to BJP Govt in K'taka: KPCC chief

Bengaluru: Asserting that Congress would win two-thirds of the 15 Assembly seats going to bypolls on December 5, state party President Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday claimed the outcome would not bring stability to the BJP Government in the State.

He also said the Congress was prepared to face a mid-term poll if the situation arose, adding none of the parties, however, wanted a snap election to the Assembly.

Rao claimed BJP would get only lesser number of seats in the bypolls and the outcome would make the Government unstable while expressing confidence that Congress would win 10-12 seats.

"You (BJP) destabilise a Government and then you want to form a stable

Government, it is not going to be possible. There will be no stability in this Government," he told **PTI**.

The Congress and JDS have accused the BJP of engineering the rebellion by 17 of their MLAs that led to the fall of the Government headed by H D Kumaraswamy in July.

The BJP, which came to power following the fall of the Congress-JDS coalition Ministry, needs to win at least six of the 15 Assembly seats in the bypolls, necessitated by the disqualification of the 17 MLAs, to keep its majority in tact. In a democracy, when no stable government can be formed, ultimately we will have to go back to the people. Let us see what happens after the bypoll results, how things works, what all happens, Rao added. **PTI**

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Foundation Day Celebrations
18 - 24 November, 2019
Inauguration on 19 November 2019, 6:00 PM
By
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (IC)
Govt. of India
Venue - IGNC Auditorium, Janpath, New Delhi
All are Cordially invited
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The Superintending Engineer, University Works Department, GGSIPU, Sector 16 C, Dwarka invites on behalf of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Item rate tenders for following work(s):-
Name of Work : ARMO GGSIP University, Dwarka Campus, New Delhi
Sub Head : Annual Comprehensive maintenance of inbuilt RO System in Boys and Girls Hostels (2019-20)
NIT No. : 22/SE/UWD/Civil/2019-20 (Second Call)
Estimated Cost : Rs. 8,66,250/-, Time of completion : 12 months
EMD : Rs. 17,325/-
The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and www.ipu.ac.in Last date of submission of bids is 20/11/2019.

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Letter no.-2536, Date - 18.11.2019 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Sena set to retain Mayor's post, BJP opts out

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With the BJP backing out of the contest, the Shiv Sena was on Monday poised to retain power in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the country's richest civic body, after its victory in the mayoral and deputy mayoral elections became a foregone conclusion.

While Shiv Sena's Kishori Pednekar was set to get elected unopposed as the Mumbai Mayor at the elections scheduled for November 22, while the election of Sena's Suhas Wadkar as the Mumbai's deputy Mayor became a mere formality.

Pednekar and Wadkar were the only candidates who had filed nominations for the November 22 Mayoral and deputy Mayoral elections respectively, when the deadline for nominations ended on Monday.

The BJP, which has a



Shiv Sena's Kishori Pedekar set to be Mumbai's new Mayor

strength of 83 corporators as against the Shiv Sena's strength of 94 corporators in the 227-member BMC, pulled out of the prestigious mayoral race, saying that it did not have the sufficient numbers to bag the prestigious post. Similarly, the BJP did not put up any candidate for the deputy mayoral poll.

Interestingly, the changed political equations in the state have had a fallout on the BMC Mayoral elections. In the previous polls to the posts of

Mayor and deputy Mayor held in 2017, the BJP had thrown its weight behind the Shiv Sena, the Raj Thackeray-led MNS (with then seven members) had boycotted the polls and 16 corporators — including 15 of those belonging to NCP and Samjawadi Party had chosen to remain neutral in the polls.

However, this time around, the BJP — with having snapped its ties with its oldest ally at the state level — is not supporting the Shiv Sena in the BMC's Mayoral and deputy mayoral polls.

The Congress — which had put up candidates against the Shiv Sena nominees in the mayoral and deputy mayoral polls in 2017 — has chosen not to field candidates for the twin polls, thus making matters easy for the Shiv Sena.

The Congress, which has a strength of 29 corporators in

the BMC, will be indirectly supporting the Shiv Sena in the twin polls of November 22. The Congress' decision to extend covert support to the Shiv Sena stems from its growing proximity with the Congress at the state-level.

Ahead of the expiry of the deadline for the filing of nominations to the November 22 polls, BJP's former Mumbai unit president and minister Ashish Shelar said:

"We don't have the required numbers in the BMC. We do not to enter into an illegitimate alliance with opposing ideologies. But, in 2022, we shall win the Mumbai Mayor post on our strength and numbers".

It may be recalled that the BMC polls held in 2017 had thrown up a hung house. The Shiv Sena had emerged as the single largest party with 84 seats in the 227-member BMC, followed by BJP- 82, Congress- 31, NCP- 9, MNS- 7 and others - 14.

Leh freezes at minus 6.7°C, rain likely in J&K, Ladakh

Jammu: Light to moderate snow and rain are likely to hit the Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh on Thursday evening, the meteorological department said.

The mercury marked a decline in Jammu and Ladakh regions, while it continued an upward trend in the Kashmir Valley, a weather department official said. **PTI**

Army patrol hit by Siachen avalanche, four killed



PNS ■ JAMMU

Patrolling party of the Indian Army, guarding the highest battlefield in Northern Siachen Glacier in Ladakh region, was stuck under snow after an avalanche hit an Army post, at an altitude of over 19000 feet, late Monday afternoon.

According to initial reports, at least 8 Army personnel were part of the patrol party which was hit by an avalanche around 3.30 pm of which four died.

The Indian Army had immediately launched search and rescue operations with sophisticated equipment to track down the foot prints of the soldiers.

On February 3, 2016, 10 soldiers were swept away by an

noida **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)

S.No.	Job No/Work Name	Amount
1.	48/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2019-20, M/o Park (Jalvayu Vihar) in Sector-25 with two year maintenance.	Cost ₹ 27.32 Lacs
2.	72/ D(H)/DD(H)-I/2019-20, M/o Park, (Sh:P/F Open gym) Sector-73 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost ₹ 28.79 Lacs
3.	01/ D(H)/DD(H)-II/2019-20, M/o Green belt (Const. of Fountain and repair of Damage boundary wall) near B-53 Plot Sector-43.	Cost ₹ 41.03 Lacs
4.	26/ D(H)/DD(H)-III/2019-20, M/o Park (C/o Gazebo Huts) in Super MIG diffrents parks Sector-93.	Cost ₹ 41.78 Lacs
5.	125/ D(H)/DD(H)-III/18-19, D/o Park (C/o Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park, SH: Bronze Statue) in Sector-150.	Cost ₹ 34.96 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 25/11/2019 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 26/11/2019 at 11:00 AM.

(B)

S.No.	Job No/Work Name	Amount
1	190/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2018-19, D/o RSP (Central Verge Sector-71 to underpass Sector-61 and MP-II Elevated Road Left side NTPC Choraha Piller No.-54 to 44 with one year maintenance.	Cost ₹ 33.18 Lacs
2	45/ D(H)/DD(H)-III/2019-20, M/o Park (C/o Kaccha Pathway) in Express View Park Sector-93.	Cost ₹ 26.07 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 02/12/2019 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 03/12/2019 at 11:00 AM.

Office: Sector-39, Noida **Director (Hort.) Noida**

Amba...
Rainbow memories
21 beautiful years.
We've been blessed to have your Laughter
And your wonderful, loving presence
Every precious moment
You are Always in our hearts
Gun Nidhi & Manju Kapur Dalmia
Agastya, Katyayani & Maya
Amba's friends and family
19.5.1980 - 19.11.2001

Dealing with a new Lanka

India has to amp up its strategic engagement and economic presence to neutralise Gotabaya's pro-China tilt



In a multi-polar world that's grunting through protectionism and a slow economy and where every nation is trying to steer its course, each has been unanimously electing a muscular leadership to helm its destiny. In that sense, the victory of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the nationalist strongman of the Sri Lankan People's Party (SLPP) and the brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, in the island nation's elections does not come as a surprise. Particularly in the aftermath of the Easter bombings, which showed how scattered IS modules were choosing virgin targets, the Sinhalese Buddhist majority consolidation has been complete. And from the citizens' perspective, they elected a militarist who was responsible for the clean-up of the Tamil movement and its fighters earlier and whom they believe can tackle terrorism as well as execute what's best for them. At the same time in a revisionist throwback, they have entrusted their collective fate to the Rajapaksa clan. For with Gotabaya as President, he is sure to bring in brother Mahinda as Prime Minister (he has been President before but can still be PM) and as is their wont, the power structures are expected to be concentrated in a family that has been punishing to Tamils, worrying for India and benevolent to Chinese strategic interests and investment. Going by India's troubled relationship with Mahinda and the Tamil wipeout, there are stressors no doubt and apprehensions about Gotabaya. Apart from taking down Tamils, Mahinda sought to reduce dependence on India by aggressively pursuing the Chinese, accusing New Delhi of intervening in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka by propping up his own protege Maithripala Sirisena against him and ensuring he lost the elections. Sirisena's SLFP and ally UNP, whose leader Ranil Wickremesinghe became Prime Minister, formed a coalition Government which was pro-India. The Indian establishment was also too overt rather than being covert about its interventions. So a hurt Mahinda never settled down, his party scoring in local elections till he forced a coup last October, subduing Sirisena, getting him to sack Wickremesinghe and becoming Prime Minister for 51 days. Gotabaya took charge of Defence and Security, kept the Tamil-majority areas under strict military vigil and put Indian diplomats under surveillance. It is this distrust that needs to be healed now for geo-strategic reasons if we don't want China to run far ahead.

Of course, India's latest diplomacy in the neighbourhood has factored in the pragmatism by smaller neighbours, who have successfully played on its anxieties with China and are negotiating the best of both worlds given the competitive muscle-flexing by two Asian majors. Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are all happily walking the trajectory of "trade ties" with China and "historical linkage" with India to buttonhole both nations into giving concessions. Gotabaya, too, has seized the PR advantage by calling India "our relative" soon after his win and holding his oath ceremony at Anuradhapura, the city born out of our historical linkages. The Modi Government has changed tack over the last year and is pushing proactive participation over historical assumptions in its Lanka policy. The Chinese are way ahead here and we cannot be immune to their growing footprints. They have a 99-year lease on the Hambantota port after Sri Lanka's failure to repay loans and are using it to enhance their military arc in the Indian Ocean region all the way to east Africa. The Chinese have even created an island off Colombo, a new financial hotspot and a key conduit to east Africa, besides securing hold of the island nation's infrastructure sector, hospitality and supply chains. And while we may be debating about the adoption of Huawei's 5G technology in the country, Sri Lanka has made it abundantly clear that it has no security fears about the new-generation mobile telephony technology. India has, therefore, got to do a very tightrope act with Lanka if it wants to protect its strategic interests amid a Chinese swamp. That, too, without compromising too much on Tamil and minority interests. Economics is a good starting point. We need to work on investment and project partnerships, encourage soft diplomacy via people-to-people contacts and strengthen an institution like BIMSTEC to ensure a more multi-layered communication. Thankfully, Gotabaya has good personal equations in the power corridors of Delhi and will be amenable to negotiations. But for a win-win, India has to be a respected stakeholder, not appear like an exploitative neighbour.

Perilous for pedestrians

The number of walkers killed on India's roads has nearly doubled in four years. What can be done to reduce that?



According to statistics released by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the number of pedestrians killed on India's roads climbed from 12,330 in 2014 to 22,656 in 2018 — an increase of 84 per cent in just four years. Many things can be extrapolated from these numbers. The first, of course, is the dramatic expansion in the country's road network. The other quite obviously is the total lack of pedestrian safety in the country. There are no pavements or sidewalks left beyond central Delhi and select other

Government zones in other cities, which have not been occupied by hawkers and parked cars. There are a few crosswalks or an alternative method to cross major thoroughfares. The traffic police and transport authorities, in their desperation to make traffic flows smoother, have also done little to chalk out a plan for pedestrians, who come last in their scheme of things.

However, blaming the authorities and the rash driving habits of Indian drivers is a valid criticism. While studying pedestrian deaths, there should be far more planning to ensure their safety, including in vehicle and road design. Pedestrians themselves should share a lot of the blame. Even when there are overpasses, underpasses and traffic lights to cross roads safely, they blithely ignore these and cross the roads in the face of oncoming traffic just sticking their hands out. With little or no understanding about how much faster vehicles have become, pedestrians often take their lives into their own hands. Crossing a road, even at a traffic light in one's favour while staring down at a phone, is downright dangerous. Driving down any of the new high-speed expressways, you will find pedestrians without a care in the world crossing the road while cars zoom by at speeds well over 100 km per hour. With such blatant disregard of road use and behaviour, no matter what is done, pedestrians will still die. And the number of deaths can easily be brought down. One method is to teach schoolchildren the basics of road safety, both as pedestrians and drivers. The other is to build proper methods for people to cross the roads and stop encroaching them. India's roads are horribly bloody as it is and far too many people die on our roads every single day. In any other country this would be a national emergency. In India, this is barely given a second thought. That needs to change urgently.

Drowning cacophony

It's unfortunate that while key players in the Ayodhya case are keen for closure, Asaduddin Owaisi has struck a discordant note by saying that Muslims don't need charity



A SURYA PRAKASH

The unanimous verdict of the Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi case, which has brought conclusion to a vexed issue that has disturbed communal harmony for early five centuries, as also the responsibility and Constitutional correctness displayed by Hindu and Muslim leaders in the aftermath of the judgment, will certainly make November 2019 a memorable month in the history of democratic India. That all of this is happening at a time when the nation gears itself up to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its Constitution this month, is indeed a happy coincidence and augurs well for our democracy.

The judgment has been well-received across the country in a spirit of harmony and universal brotherhood. In fact, while both sides were apprehensive before the verdict was delivered, they committed themselves to accepting the order, whatever the outcome. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people to accept the apex court's verdict, irrespective of which way it went. Union Home Minister Amit Shah sent out a similar appeal and supervised the extensive preparatory work to ensure peace after the verdict. A day after the judgment, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval invited the top leaders of both communities for a discussion at his residence and secured their unflinching commitment to the maintenance of peace and communal harmony. All of them swore by the Constitution and said that the November 9 verdict of the apex court must lay the foundations for a new India built on harmony and universal brotherhood.

Though the one billion-strong Hindu community finally got the plot of land, which it so deeply reveres as the birthplace of Lord Ram, it conducted itself with utmost sensibility and level-headedness. Similarly, although the Muslims lost their case, they remained committed to the pre-judgment resolve that they would accept the outcome, whichever way it went.

There can be no doubt that this was the result of a close coordination between the Union Government and the leaders of the two communities in the weeks before the order. Can there be a better example of good governance in the most diverse nation in the world? In fact, India's response to the Ayodhya verdict should be a lesson in democracy for nations around the world.

The post-verdict scenario has left the doom-sayers — especially the international media and some of their cousins in our country — totally flummoxed.

The general acceptance of the verdict had a lot to do with the way the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court examined the issues before it and its reasoning *vis-a-vis* its verdict. For example, while the Hindus have been asserting that it is a matter of faith, the court made it clear that this was a dispute over immovable property and that it does not decide title on the basis of faith or belief but



on the basis of evidence. It said in deciding title to a disputed property, it applies principles of evidence.

After weighing the evidence, it held that "on the balance of probabilities, there is clear evidence to indicate that the worship by the Hindus in the outer courtyard continued unimpeded despite of the setting up of a grill-brick wall in 1857. Their possession of the outer courtyard stands established together with the incidents attaching to their control over it." Further, the court held that in the inner courtyard, "there is evidence on the preponderance of probabilities to establish worship by the Hindus prior to the annexation of Oudh by the British in 1857."

These two conclusions of the court, coupled with the fact that the Muslims offered "no evidence" to indicate that they were in exclusive possession of the inner structure prior to 1857 since the date of the construction of the mosque in the 16th century, weighed heavily in determining the outcome of this litigation.

While holding that the suit filed on behalf of the deity was maintainable, the court directed that a trust be constituted for the construction of a temple and to deal with related issues and the allotment of an alternate land to the Muslims for the

construction of a mosque and associated activities.

Significantly, it observed that the allotment of the land to the Muslims was necessary because "though on a balance of probabilities, the evidence of the possessory claim of the Hindus to the composite whole of the disputed property stands on a better footing than the evidence adduced by the Muslims", the fact remained that the Muslims were dispossessed following desecration of the mosque in December 1949, and later because it was destroyed on December 6, 1992. In other words, the court noted that there was no abandonment of the mosque by the Muslims.

In view of these facts, the court said it would exercise its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to ensure that a wrong committed is remedied. It said, "Justice would not prevail if the court were to overlook the entitlement of the Muslims who have been deprived of the structure of the mosque through means which should not have been employed in a secular nation committed to the rule of law. The Constitution postulates the equality of all faiths. Tolerance and mutual co-existence nourish the secular commitment of our nation and its people."

Therefore, in order to provide restitution to the Muslim

community, the court used its powers under Article 142 and directed that they be granted five acres of land within the city of Ayodhya. This Article empowers the court to pass a decree or order "for doing complete justice" in any cause or matter pending before it. It can provide relief where there is "palpable injustice." In fact, the court has held in the past that it is advisable to leave the power undefined so that it has the elasticity to mould the relief.

This is a power that is used sparingly and is indicative of the court's desire to go the extra mile to ensure balance. While several key players in this litigation are keen to apply the closure, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has decided to file a review petition. This is a legitimate move because the court's procedure provides for it.

However, it is unfortunate to hear Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM chief and MP from Hyderabad say that the Muslims do not want this "charity" of five acres of land. Fortunately, such discordant notes in the post-judgment phase are far and few. That is why the symphony of democracy and constitutionalism across the country has completely drowned the attempts at cacophony by a few disruptors.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal.)

“
IN ORDER TO PROVIDE RESTITUTION TO THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, THE COURT USED ITS POWERS UNDER ARTICLE 142 AND DIRECTED THAT THEY BE GRANTED FIVE ACRES OF LAND WITHIN AYODHYA. THIS IS A POWER THAT IS USED SPARINGLY AND IS INDICATIVE OF THE COURT'S DESIRE TO GO THE EXTRA MILE TO ENSURE BALANCE
 ”

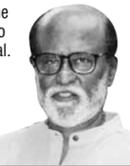
SOUNDBITE

Our patriotic Government will not allow anybody to encroach on even an inch of Nepal's territory. India should withdraw its forces from Kalapani area.



Nepal Prime Minister
—KP Sharma Oli

There is no other actor in the history of world cinema who is as accomplished as Kamal. That's why he's *Ulagu Nayagan* (Universal Hero).



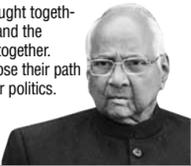
Actor
—Rajinikanth

Improvements in the Indian health system have been significant. There are specific disease programmes and vaccine coverage has improved.



Microsoft co-founder
—Bill Gates

BJP-Shiv Sena fought together, we (the NCP) and the Congress fought together. They have to choose their path and we will do our politics.



NCP chief
—Sharad Pawar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Task cut out

Sir — Gotabaya Rajapaksa's presidential win was pretty convincing. As for Sajith Premadasa's defeat, it is no doubt painful for him as it would be for any presidential hopeful. But there may be some consolation for him with the fact that he can now forget about his election promises, which he would have been required to fulfil if had he been elected.

Gotabaya played his cards well. In times when Sri Lanka is faced with several problems, including the state of the economy, fears set off by the Easter Sunday bombings and not to forget the revulsion towards corruption, he refrained from taking on his opponents, especially Premadasa, and conducted himself in a business-like manner. This approach came as a breath of fresh air in the electoral politics that is generally vitiated by effrontery and name-calling. Thus, he must have endeared himself to the voters, who were fed up with the present state of affairs.

Finally, winning the executive presidency is one thing and living up to the expectations of

The quest for equality continues

The Supreme Court's decision to refer the review pleas made in the Sabarimala case to a larger seven-judge Bench elicited a mixed reaction. One is inevitably led to ask if the apex court lost its earlier conviction to look kindly on the review petitions and not dismiss them even in the face of no "apparent error" in its original historic judgment. Nevertheless, it was some solace that it did not reverse or stay its judgment allowing the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple.

Even though women in the 10-50 age group can still legally enter the temple, the prospect of them being allowed to have Ayyappa *darshan* looks bleak. Belligerent opponents of women's entry seem to be determined to put blockades to prevent women in the menstruating age from entering the temple "to preserve the sanctity" of the temple. Last time, frenzied attacks and "purification rituals" made headlines. It is not clear when the original ruling stands, why the State Government now deems it right to ask women to get Supreme Court's order for "protection." The Left Government seems to have developed cold feet for fear that it will have to face a political backlash from "true Ayyappa devotees."

The top court's decision to bracket women's entry



with other issues of gender inequality and refer it to a larger Bench "to consider all issues" pertaining to faith *vis-a-vis* women's rights and gender equality is certainly amenable to be interpreted as a dilution from its earlier position. Parsi and Muslim women, too, should be able to enter their places of worship; it is not clear why the present case should be mixed up with the denial of rights to those women.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

the people is another. Politics in Sri Lanka is characterised by the lack of military precision. The biggest challenge before Gotabaya or for that matter any politician — be it in Sri Lanka or India — is to bring order out of

chaos in the public sector if they have to carry out their plans. Gotabaya is known for his China tilt and hardline views. He should allay India's fears here.
 JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Politics of convenience

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Three men in a boat" (November 18). The editorial lucidly lays bare the dire existen-

tial needs of the three parties — Shiv Sena, Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) — who have come together to forge a strange, new alliance.

Anybody will agree with the fact that between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiv Sena, it was the latter which had shown a greater and stronger commitment to the concept of Hindutva and Hindu nationalism.

Meanwhile, the Congress had always been critical of the Sena's ideology, dubbing it as "extremist", "fascist" and "chauvinist." The Shiv Sena on its part treated the grand old party as its most serious opponent. Yet, both parties have instantly shed every inhibition, resentment, repugnance and ideologies to form a Government.

Such forsaking of whatever they stood for to share power and pelf is business as usual for political parties. But the least one expects is that they do not loftily pretend that it is all *pro bono publico* (for public good). This will be tantamount to "hypocrisy."
 NS Rajan
Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Equal education, equal chances

Stakeholders really need to understand the essence of the National Education Policy, 2019 and the challenges connected with it



MADHURI DHARIWAL

“We are our choices,” said Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher, political activist and literary critic. Most people don’t realise how big a privilege it is to have the freedom of choice. I teach students ranging from five to 26 years, none of whom got to choose whether to work or study in a regular school. Eight-year-old Preeti is always hungry and 17-year-old Vijay seeks to escape a drunken father’s beatings, while fending for his siblings. Both were at a standard one learning level. However, I also had students who were receiving quality education, free of cost and guaranteed until class VIII and this was possible due to the Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, is the legislation which provides free schooling to kids aged 6-14 years. A section of the Act, linked to the aspect of school “choice”, is Section 12(1)(c), which made it mandatory for all private, unaided, non-minority schools to reserve 25 per cent seats for children from a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background. This gives parents an opportunity to apply to schools they had hitherto lacked access to. The spirit of the Act, was to foster an environment of social inclusion, along with developing empathy for marginalised communities. However, there were many challenges, including clarity on the letter of the policy that had to be addressed first. Across the country, over 20 lakh seats must be reserved per year in private schools, according to the provision of the Act and there have been over 41 lakh admissions until 2018. The Draft National Education Policy (NEP), 2019, presents certain recommendations and challenges with respect to Section 12(1)(c). The recommendations are mainly centred around uniform technology usage for transparency and accountability; funding to be received on time; correct reporting of numbers; no discrimination in schools and extra support to students falling behind. An NGO working in this space, has come up with a Sustainability Benchmark, based on its experience of operations over the last six years. If implemented, it would address the recommendations/challenges mentioned in the NEP Draft, 2019 as well. States can be classified into three categories, based on their implementation standards — Mature, Maturing, and Nascent. This is not an attempt to rank States in an order, rather, a self-evaluation for them, to seek areas of improvement. Another motive of the benchmark is to highlight the bright spots in implementation in States that are doing well, in different aspects of the policy. The current scenario in the country and criticism around this policy is linked to multiple factors: A competition between Government and private schools; perceived discriminatory behaviour in private schools; low self-confidence among children enrolling through RTE due to the vast socio-economic differences; schools wrongfully claiming minority status to avoid 12(1)(c) admissions and delays in private schools receiving reimbursements, among others. However, there are many studies that highlight factors such as high self-efficacy in girls, more pro-social, generous and egalitarian behaviour in “richer” students with “poorer” classmates and also, how a lack of integrated classrooms will lead to a further segregated society. There needs to be a better system of monitoring and regulation of private schools, as there are concerns being raised about their quality. This is linked to parents making less-informed choices while selecting schools. However, a Bright Spots Report, 2019, based on its survey, shows that the top five factors affecting school choice are proximity to home; quality; transportation provision; board of education; results — in that order, thus showing that school quality is an important factor in parents’ choice.

Another current issue raging in the country, with respect to 12(1)(c) is the judgment by the Karnataka High Court in May, which accepted the petition, to read down the provision, thereby making admissions in private schools conditional upon the non-existence of Government or Government-aided schools in the neighborhood (i.e. Government schools be filled before parents can choose to send their wards to private ones). With over 6.5 lakh children studying under the provision in the State in 2018-19 and having received around 88 per cent of its reimbursement for the same year, as claimed from the Centre, it is a massive setback to the State and by extension to the nation, to see a State like Karnataka reduce the number of 12(1)(c) seats from 1.52 lakh to about 17,000 per year. The judgment was challenged in the Supreme Court (SC), through a Special Leave Petition. The SC has issued a notice to the Karnataka Government to reply and the verdict is pending. With the current version of the NEP 2019, which was released at the end of October, the stance on 12(1)(c) is lacking clarity. There are no details on implementation of the policy and hopefully the Winter Session of the Parliament will provide more lucidity. Stakeholders really need to understand the essence of the policy and the challenges connected with it, by engaging in constructive dialogue about the practical implications of the policy and how it affects lives and giving fact-based rationale for the same. It is for stakeholders to think about the choices they are making, as it impacts the right to choose, for millions of children in our country. (The writer is Leader, Operations at a social organisation working on the implementation of the RTE Act.)

KEJRIWAL IS GIVING POISON TO DELHIITES IN THE NAME OF FREE WATER. DELHI WATER WAS FOUND TO BE THE MOST POISONOUS IN A SURVEY OF 20 CITIES.

—UNION HEALTH MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



SIR, YOU ARE A DOCTOR. YOU KNOW THIS REPORT IS FALSE AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. A PERSON LIKE YOU SHOULD NOT BECOME A PART OF DIRTY POLITICS.

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Hello Minister! Can you hear me?

While no country has reconciled regulation with free enterprise, it is imperative to find a way out. One parameter in our ease of doing business that needs tweaking is dispute resolution, particularly in telecom



BINDU DALMIA

When the big boys of India Inc. are pushed to the wall in a market slugfest of the kind that’s playing out in the telecom sector since three years, it’s an area angels fear to tread. And, only a collective call by the Government comprising a cross-section of stakeholders from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the high-powered Committee of Secretaries (CoS) has the power to intervene in a timely and judicious way. Because it is already a case of “too little, too late” to salvage the near-collapse of an erstwhile profitable sector, now laden with debt of over ₹7 lakh crore.

Telecom as a sector is “too big to (let) fail”, a theory that asserted when certain behemoths that comprise a sector “are so large and interconnected, their failure would be disastrous to the greater economic system and that they therefore must be supported by the Government when faced with potential failure.”

With increasing teledensity and internet penetration, telecom services are today consumer essentials, much like FMCG or pharma goods, and are consumed by every section of society. And like power, telecom and internet are deemed essential utilities and the vehicles forwarding the digital revolution.

India is currently the world’s second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.20 billion and is amongst the top five employment generators in the country. Which is why there is cause for alarm with the second quarter losses posted by listed telecom companies after the October Supreme Court (SC) order crossing unsustainable levels of ₹1 lakh crore in debt, with Vodafone-Idea, RCom, Airtel and TATA Te being the worst-hit in a descending order.

One shares the Prime Minister’s optimism to aim for a \$5 trillion economy, as much as one lauds the Finance Minister’s interactive-resolution modus, which is a refreshing departure from her predecessors in not procrastinating decision-making till the annual Budget to address the industry’s pain points. And pain points abound, from the beleaguered banking, automobile, realty, power and aviation sectors, with the latest crisis in telecom having overtaken all others.

While India’s improved ranking in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business index (EODB) is an outcome of the Modi regime’s commitment to reforms, one parameter in the EODB that requires improvement is dispute resolution, particularly in the crippled telecom industry. Resolution and relief are very much within the Centre’s discretion, as they are the winners in this case and need to make concessions in the overall interests of the sector. Regulatory uncertainties in the distressed sector are casting negative ripple effects on the already subdued business sentiments within the country. While Indian business has been reluctant to commit to fresh capital expenditure (CapEx) investments, we can ill-afford a negative perception amongst foreign direct investors. The National Digital Communications Policy 2018 envisaged attracting investments worth \$100 billion in the telecommunications sector by 2022, which is only possible in an enabling environment, where time is spent on growth instead of fighting fires. Given that the beneficiaries of the trade diversion from the US-China trade wars have been Vietnam and

“ IDEALLY, THE GOVERNMENT AIMS AT THREE NON-STATE PLAYERS, PLUS ONE PUBLIC SECTOR TELCO IN THE MARKET, BECAUSE INDIA NEEDS MULTIPLE CARRIERS TO RIDE THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION FORWARD. THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN FAVOUR OF A MONOPOLY IS A DECISION IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BUT TO AVERT MONOPOLISTIC CONDITIONS, OR EVEN A DUOPOLY, INTENT MUST BE FOLLOWED THROUGH BY SUPPORTIVE ACTION ”



Taiwan in preference to India, for the country to make a global impact, we need a more facilitatory approach so that multinational corporations (MNCs) view it as a potential centre for making profits.

To attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), “India needs to salvage even the recent entrants like Flipkarts from making losses that are giving nightmares to Walmart, the Paytms to Alibaba and the Vodafones giving nightmares to its UK parent.”

Vodafone is the largest foreign direct investor in the country and its year-old joint venture with Idea Cellular is the worst hit, with net losses at ₹50,922 crore. This is unfairly the second setback for Vodafone after the UPA-2 had amended its tax laws with retrospective effect with claims of \$2 billion in taxes. The entire sector is today at risk of lowered credit ratings, jeopardising the asset quality of banks that have an exposure of ₹1 lakh crore. This will further deepen the existing Non-Performing Assets (NPA) crisis, as borrowers become unable to service debt due to contingent liabilities.

The distress in telecom is largely attributed to Reliance Jio’s entry three years ago that disrupted the economics of the sector. Jio’s hyper-competitive pricing triggered massive consumer attrition, giving it a vantage particularly in rural areas and eroding average revenue per user and user-counts of competitors. The problems of the industry have been compounded by the SC judgment that favoured the Government in the dispute between DoT and telcos. The Government’s demand to include non-core items while computing Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) has had a crippling effect on 15 telcos asked to shell out a staggering ₹1.3 lakh crore.

Let’s remember that “the Supreme Court is fair, but not infallible.”

Besides, the Indian telecom market, which is the second-largest in the world in terms of data consumption, is too large to be held hostage by either erstwhile cartels, or the likely emergence of a duopolistic scenario, or the eventual equality of allowing single-player dominance. Which is where we are headed if the Government fails to salvage existential issues facing two out of the three private players, Vodafone-Idea and Bharti Airtel.

Ideally, the Government aims at three non-State players, plus one public sector telco in the market, because India needs multiple carriers to ride the digital revolution forward. That the Government is not in favour of a monopoly is a decision in the right direction. But to avert monopolistic conditions, or even a duopoly, intent must be followed through by supportive action.

So what are the relief measures sought by the industry? They hope for positive recommendations from the CoS committee to restore the health of the sector by the regulator setting minimum floor tariffs for mobile calls and data; a moratorium on spectrum payments/a longer tenure to pay up spectrum liabilities through staggered payments; a waiver on interest and penalties on the AGR-related dues; lowering of taxes and levies; freeing up of ₹7,000 crore of blocked Goods and Services Tax (GST) input credits; a favourable review of the SC ruling, failing which they plan a curative petition before a five-judge Bench that may deliver a better judgment than the one on October 24, and lastly that TRAI restore its credibility by playing neutral.

Empirical evidence in economic

history points to signs of distress showing up much before a cancer turns full blown and incurable. Even the global economic crisis of 2008 was preceded by symptoms like bubbles in asset value of stocks and real estate. Nations, sectors or corporates don’t collapse overnight but show symptoms of malaise much ahead of an impending crisis.

Governments play an important role in gauging the declining health of sectors ahead of time by assessing risks, whether they are caused due to corporate misgovernance, faulty policies, or bought on by cyclical market conditions, or a slowdown caused by de-globalisation. A case in point is the timely intervention by the Union Minister for Commerce when he recently chided e-commerce companies indulging in predatory pricing which adversely impacted small retailers, a regulatory role TRAI should have played three years ago by setting a floor price. Because predatory pricing is as damaging as surge-pricing.

India’s private sector players are capable of delivering quantum “Winning Leap solutions” if regulators, courts and Government policies make it easy to do business. While no country has struck the perfect balance between regulation and free enterprise, it is imperative to find a way out of the impasse, as all interlinkages in the modern industrial supply chain get affected and risks that beset one sector cascade through the rest of the economy. And if unresolved, the disruptions could extend for years, destroying value for all involved.

(The writer is an author, columnist, Chairperson for the National Committee of Financial Inclusion at Niti Aayog and member of RSS Ladies Intellectual cell.)

Big ticket privatisation move welcome

With a Government that is looking at the sale of PSU assets including under-utilised plants and land, it makes sense to look at rapid denationalisation, thereby creating a vibrant space for the private sector



KARAN BHASIN

The Finance Minister has indicated that BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited) and Air India are likely to be privatised by March 2020. This is an extremely significant development as India hasn’t seen big ticket privatisation since the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government between 1999-2004. Although, there were attempts to privatise Air India in the previous tenure of the Narendra Modi Government, however, the terms didn’t generate adequate interest. Things have changed since then and we’ve seen many investors express interest in acquiring Air India. Privatisation of Air India is not just

about freeing critical taxpayer resources that are deployed to keep the debt-ridden airline alive but it is more about a signal to the world, that the Indian Government is finally back on track to gradually move out from businesses. This implies a greater role for the private sector in the Indian economy — a welcome sign for the rest of the world that is looking at India as the next driver of global growth.

The fact that we’re looking at privatisation should not come as a surprise given that Modi himself mentioned how the Government has no business to be in business. Therefore, a mandate of 303 gives him the necessary political capital to denationalise many of our public sector assets. The sale of BPCL is perhaps more significant as unlike other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), it is not exactly a loss-making enterprise funded by taxpayer largesse.

However, its operations in an oligopolistic setting mean it is yet one

of the least-efficient companies in the sector. Therefore, clearly, the new rule for privatisation is not just about getting rid of loss-making PSUs but instead getting rid of any inefficient unit that can be better operationalised in the hands of the private sector.

This renewed approach towards privatisation is indeed required in order to transform the Indian economy and therefore, while political opposition may persist to the move, the potential benefits from such a move will overshadow any such resistance. It is important to recognise that a major share of wealth created in India happened post-1991 reforms where the Indian Government removed the policy of licensing.

In fact, ever since such requirements began to be muted in the 1980s, we see a sharp increase in India’s growth rates. All of this reveals an undeniable fact that India’s growth has accelerated ever since we embraced private capital. Therefore,

getting rid of these companies will result in an overall value creation, not just for these firms but also for the rest of the economy.

The biggest advantage of privatisation over disinvestment is that it facilitates the change in management of these PSUs. A major reason why the PSUs are not as efficient as the private sector is their management and the lack of an incentive structure that focuses on economic efficiency and generation of private profits.

Therefore, while disinvestments would result in non-tax revenues for the Government, the management remains largely the same. However, the management remains largely the same. Therefore, there are limited implications for broader wealth creation for these companies through disinvestment.

The timing of privatisation is also critical as it comes at a juncture when our growth has slowed down. Therefore, privatisation will have two positive implications for the

economy. First, it will revive the sentiment and since economics is about self-fulfilling prophecies, a positive sentiment is critical towards accelerating the process of growth recovery. The second aspect is more transactional as it is to do with public finances.

During an economic slowdown, a Government’s tax revenues don’t grow as per expectation. We see some of this in the current financial year as there’s a major revenue shortfall which is likely to affect the financials of the Government. The other aspect is that since deficit is reported as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), slow growth will amplify the amount of deficit during slow growth years.

However, privatisation can bridge the deficit through non-tax revenues and its positive impact on sentiment will also have a muted, yet important second order effect on growth rates. Just as the Government is looking to privatise Air India and BPCL, it is also

looking to revive BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited). The plan to introduce a voluntary retirement scheme and to merge these two enterprises is good. However, it will succeed only if we scale down their operations significantly. That is, the Government should downsize the merged entity and retain only the strategic operations of the company while the rest of it and its assets can be sold off to private players.

With a Government that is looking at the sale of PSU assets including under-utilised plants and land, it makes sense to look at rapid privatisation, thereby creating a vibrant space for the private sector. The exit of the Government from production will free up critical resources that it can then devote to enhancing State capacity and provisioning of the public goods and services.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based public policy researcher)



FOREIGN EYE



POLITICIANS MUST WAKE UP TO CRISIS

Germany’s economic pre-eminence means that its response carries a special weight within Europe. It has narrowly avoided going into recession. Its economy remains strong but the boom has ended and German politics will have to respond with more expansionary strategies. Stability has long been the dogma in Berlin, but 60 years after the legacy of Marx and Engels was discreetly put to one side by the SPD, revisionism is in the air again. (The Guardian editorial)

NITI mulls healthcare system for middle class

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog is mulling building up a healthcare system for the middle class which is still not covered under any public healthcare system, the Government think-tank said on Monday.

The healthcare system would exclude those covered under the newly-launched Ayushman Bharat scheme that mainly caters to the bottom 40 per cent population of the country.

India has low level and very fragmented risk pooling, with household out-of-pocket funding at 64 per cent of total expenses dominating the overall system financing, NITI Aayog said at the launch 'Health System for a New India: Building Blocks — Potential Pathways to Reform' report.

The report was released by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar in the presence of Bill Gates, the co-chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The healthcare system would exclude those covered under the newly-launched Ayushman Bharat scheme that mainly caters to the bottom 40 per cent population of the country

NITI Aayog Adviser (Health) Alok Kumar said the report intends to prepare the road-map to build a health system in the medium — to long-term for those belonging to middle class as the poor have been taken care of now through Ayushman Bharat while those in the top have the capacity to bear their medical exigencies. "So nearly 50 per cent are still not covered under any public healthcare system and the idea is to pool their risk assets which will cater to the health care needs of the mid-

dle class," Kumar said.

Kumar opined that people falling under the middle class will not bother if they have to pay nominal ₹200 or ₹300 towards building a good public healthcare system in the country and the plan looks feasible.

Bill Gates said India's future is very bright because of its young population, and highlighted that human capital of any country is the sum total of its healthcare, educational and nutritional investment for its citizens.

"Our vision for a healthy India and quality health for all requires us to holistically transform the delivery of healthcare services in both the public and private sectors across all levels of care," said Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.

Under the PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the bottom 40 per cent of the population gets ₹5 lakh cover for secondary and tertiary care against nearly 1,350 disease conditions.

Sensex ends 72 pts lower

Yes Bank drops 4%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark Sensex dropped by 72 points to close at 40,284.19 on Monday due to losses in private banks, IT and energy stocks amid concerns over the economic slowdown.

The 30-share index had opened on a firm note but turned negative in afternoon session due to profit booking in IT, banking and oil and gas stocks.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 10.95 points, or 0.09 per cent, to end at 11,884.50. As many as 29 of its constituents advanced while 20 dropped.

Yes Bank was among the top losers in the Sensex pack, falling up to 4.08 per cent, followed by Bajaj Auto, M&M, Hero MotoCorp, HDFC Bank, ONGC and TCS which declined up to 2.05 per cent.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, SBI, Vedanta and Tata Motors rose up to 4.60 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and

smallcap indices outperformed benchmarks, rising up to 0.44 per cent.

Despite positive cues from global markets, sentiment in the domestic market was subdued on account of multiple reports suggesting that the pace of India's economic growth may falter further, traders said.

"Post Q2 results, market seems to have entered an indecisive period of trade having rallied well in the last two months and lack of major data releases this week. Globally, investors are awaiting triggers on resolution of US-China trade tension and future interest rate trajectory of US central bank. In the short-term volatility may stay but banks are expected to do well given a new life to distressed asset," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Markets remained flat throughout the day as investors were cautious, Paras Bothra, President of Equity Research, Ashika Stock Broking said.

Sectorally, BSE capital goods, auto, energy, FMCG, IT and industrials indices fell up to 0.68 per cent. While BSE telecom, metal,

basic materials, healthcare and utilities indices rose up to 3.42 per cent.

Metal stocks closed higher as the sentiment turned positive for base metals with the news that US and China are progressing gradually and in a more constructive manner on trade tariff front, Kotak Securities Senior Vice-President, Equity Technical Research, Shrikant Chouhan said.

NSE Metal index rose by 1.79 per cent, led by gains in Tata Steel (4.41 per cent), Hindalco (3.33 per cent) and SAIL (2.75 per cent).

Market breadth was negative as 1,404 stocks declined while 1,154 gained on BSE.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai settled on a positive note amid optimism about US-China trade talks while those in Seoul ended in the red. European equities were trading on a mixed note in their respective early deals.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee depreciated marginally to 71.79 against the US dollar intra-day.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.09 per cent to \$63.36 per barrel.

BUSINESS CORNER

CLW'S TRAINING PROGRAMME CONCLUDES

Chittaranjan: A three day long training on & quot; Public procurement & quot; for Group C staff of CLW stores department in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works concluded on 16th November 2019. The programme, commenced on 14th November 2019, and was attended by 30 staff. It was organised by CLW in Association with Indian Railway Institute of Logistics and Material management (IRIL MM), New Delhi. Bhaskar Narang, Director General, IRILMM and ex-PED RS(P)/Railway Board and Shri Gajanan Prasad, ED/IRILMM & ex-PCM/NWR/Railway conducted the training. The training covered various facets of stores functioning in Indian Railways including work related problems.



LIC EXTENDS SPECIAL REVIVAL CAMPAIGN

New Delhi: LIC has launched a Special Revival Campaign for its policyholders to help them revive their lapsed policies wherein special benefits and rebate on interest is being allowed. The campaign was great success and surpassed expectations. In view of the good response, LIC has now announced extension of this campaign upto 30th November 2019, so as to benefit maximum of its customers with lapsed policies. This extension of campaign is a golden opportunity specially to those policyholders who have bought policies after 31.12.2013 and would now like to revive their lapsed policies. Earlier they could revive their lapsed policies only up to a period of two years from first unpaid premium. LIC is now granting extension of this revival period upto 5 years for non linked policies and up to 3 years for linked policies. This is a unique chance for such policyholders to revive their lapsed LIC policies at concessional rates.



LIC, Zonal Manager, North Zone, Anoop Kumar inaugurating LIC Stall at 39th India International Trade Fair, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

Festive demand led to 0.3% growth in passenger vehicle sales, says Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said a total of 11.7 million vehicles of all categories were sold this year as against 14.1 million units in the April-September 2018 period, but festive demand this year led to a 0.3 per cent growth in the passenger vehicles segment. "There are cyclical slowdowns in many economies. 11.7 million vehicles (all categories) were sold in this year as against 14.1 million vehicles during April-September of 2018. But the festive demand has shown year-on-year growth at 0.3 per cent in the passenger vehicle segment," Javadekar said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Indra Nooyi inducted into Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American former PepsiCo head Indra Nooyi and Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos have been inducted into the prestigious Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery for their accomplishments and positive impact on America's shared history, development and culture. Founded by Congress in 1962, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery tell the story of America by portraying the people who have made significant contributions to the history, development, and culture of the people of the US. Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the Portrait Gallery presents poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives form America's national identity.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs

1. ARVIND KUMAR in C.S. Comm. No.: 16/18 (206/18)

Description of Asset: Make: CHEVROLET SAIL Reg No: UP14FT6569

Manuf Yr: 2016

2. SACHAN PRAMOD in CS No. 2/1121/2016

Description of Asset: Make: MAHINDRA QUANTO Reg No: UP14CL9072

Manuf Yr: 2015

3. AMIT SOLANKI in CS No. 62/0851/16

Description of Asset: Make: BMW 320D Reg No: HR26BB3508

Manuf Yr: 2010

Date and Time of Auction: December 9, 11.00 am to 1:00 pm.

Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Katarina Chok, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrati, Gurugram - 122022.

Contact person: Rajeev Ranjan, Mobile No: 8584878409.

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. The interested bidders required to deposit EMD through DD/PO in favour of ICICI Bank limited, payable at Delhi.

Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi- 110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothesized vehicle.

IT firms may shed 30,000-40,000 mid-level staff: Mohandas Pai

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's information technology services companies may shed 30,000 to 40,000 middle-level employees this year as growth slows down, IT industry veteran TV Mohandas Pai said Monday.

The former Chief Financial Officer of IT major Infosys Ltd termed these job losses as once-in-five-years normal phenomenon with maturing of the industry.

"As in all sectors in the West, in India too when a sector matures so many people will be there in the middle level who will not be adding value to the salary they get," Pai told PTI.

Promotions are okay when companies are growing fast but when it slows down, people getting fat salaries will aggregate at the higher level, prompting companies to periodically reset their pyramids, and shedding people, he said.

"It's going to happen again and again and again every five years," said Pai, Chairman of Aarin Capital and Manipl Global Education Services.

"Nobody is entitled to a fat salary and high-paying job unless you perform, right? You have to deliver value."

"All across industry, may be 30,000 to 40,000 in a year..." he said when asked about the number of middle-level staff who would lose their jobs.

Indians studying in US increased by nearly 3%, says report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The number of Indians studying in the United States increased by almost three per cent to over 2 lakh in the 2018-19 academic year, according to a report.

Indians make up over 18 per cent of all international students in the US and the number of foreign students is at an all-time high in 2018-19, the fourth consecutive year with more than 10 lakh international students, according to the 2019 Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange. The Open Doors report, conducted by the US-based Institute of International Education (IIE), is an annual survey of foreign students and scholars studying in the country and American students studying abroad in credit-bearing courses.

"Student exchanges between our two countries help strengthen the foundation upon which our strategic partnership is built," Charisse Phillips, US Embassy minister counsellor for consular affairs, said at the launch of the report in Delhi on Monday.

"Indian students are looking for a great education and the United States offers the best return on this investment," Phillips said.

According to the report, data from the US Department of Commerce stated that international students contributed \$ 44.7 billion to the economy in 2018, an increase of 5.5 per cent from the previous year.

Vodafone Idea to raise mobile services rates from Dec 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Monday said it will raise mobile services rates from December 1 in the wake of ongoing financial stress.

"To ensure that its customers continue to enjoy world class digital experiences, Vodafone Idea will suitably increase the prices of its tariffs effective December 1, 2019," Vodafone Idea said in a statement.

Vodafone Idea did not disclose the quantum of hike in tariff it is planning from December 1. The company at present provides monthly

mobile services at starting price of Rs 24 without data, and plans with data service starts from Rs 33 onward. Vodafone Idea last week reported consolidated loss of Rs 50,921 crore - highest ever loss posted by any Indian corporate - for the second quarter ended September 30, on account of liability arising out of the Supreme Court order in the adjusted gross revenue case.

The Supreme Court last month ruled in favour of the government and directed telecom companies, including Vodafone Idea, to pay dues as demanded by the Department of Telecom. Vodafone Idea said

that its ability to continue business will depend on reliefs sought from the government and positive outcome of the legal option it has.

"The acute financial stress in the telecom sector has been acknowledged by all stakeholders and a high level Committee of Secretaries (CoS) headed by the Cabinet Secretary is looking into providing appropriate relief," the statement said.

Both Vodafone Idea and Idea Cellular merged their telecom business to handle the tariff war in the sector, triggered by the new entrant Reliance Jio in 2016.

No 5% slump; India continues to be fastest growing eco: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is not facing 5 per cent economic slowdown and continues to be the fastest growing economy in the world, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said in Lok Sabha on Monday.

During Question Hour, Thakur also said that a number of steps are being taken by the government to strengthen the economy that includes merger of banks and tax concessions to industries.

"There is no 5 per cent slump. Where did you get the figure. Show us," he countered when Aam Aadmi Party MP Bhagwant Mann said the country is facing slump in the economy.

The Union minister of state for finance said India continues to the fastest growing economy in the world even though many countries in the world are facing economic slowdown.

"By 2025, India will be a five trillion dollars economy," he said.

Highlighting series of steps taken by the government to strengthen the economy, Thakur said tax concessions have been given to industries, foreign direct investments and MSME sector.

The minister said several banks have been merged with bigger banks and ultimate aim of the government is to keep four strong banks with solid footing and ensure increased economic activities.

India ranks 59 on IMD World Talent Ranking Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has slipped 6 places to 59 rank on a global annual list of 63 countries, due to low quality of life and expenditure on education, according to the latest edition of IMD World Talent Ranking, which was topped by Switzerland.

The ranking, which is based on the performance in three main categories — investment and development, appeal and readiness, noted that India is also lagging behind fellow BRICs countries — China ranked 42nd on the list, Russia (47th) and South Africa (50th).

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: approx 50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Wearing: White with blue coloured checked Shirt, Black colour pajama & Red with blue coloured Slipper was found dead on 08.11.2019 at on Footpath Subway near Chhoti Masjid, Inderlok, Delhi. In this regard a FIR/DD No.11-PP, dated 08.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.



SHO P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Ph.: 011-23691106, 23693611 DP/623/N/19 Mob.: 8750870133

OJSWI TRADES INVESTMENT AND FINANCE LIMITED

Kh. No. 300, Gopi Ram Building, Sultanpur Village, New Delhi-110030 Tel. No:- 09810836602, Fax No:- 0124-4699333 CIN:- L67120DL1990PLC042059 Website:- www.ojswi.in; Email Id:- corporate.ojswi@gmail.com

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Sl. No.	Particulars	(Rs. in lacs except earning per share)		
		Quarter Ended September 30, 2019	Half Year Ended September 30, 2019	Quarter Ended September 30, 2018
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	89.29	159.97	66.90
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(11.80)	(44.49)	(20.40)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(11.80)	(44.49)	(20.40)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(11.80)	(44.49)	(20.40)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(11.80)	(44.49)	(20.40)
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 10/- Per Share)	675	675	675
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	(a) Basic	(0.02)	(0.66)	(0.30)
	(b) Diluted	(0.02)	(0.66)	(0.30)

Notes:- (1) The above results for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and Approved by the Board of Directors at their Meeting held on November 16, 2019. The Statutory auditors have carried out a "Limited Review" of above results. (2) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Results filed with the Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited (MSEI) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the said Quarterly Results is available on the Stock Exchange website www.msei.in and on the company's website www.ojswi.in

For and on behalf of Board of Directors Sd/- SandeepGarg Director Place:- New Delhi Date:- November 16, 2019 (DIN: 00021295)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Chemsford Road near New Delhi Railway Station, Pahar Ganj, Delhi on 26.10.2019. In this regard a DD No. 39-A, Dated 26.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hairs: White & Black, Wearing: White Shirt & Black Pant. Dead body preserved at Lady Harding Hospital Mortuary. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi Ph.: 011-23524746, 23520787 DP/6739/CD/19



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 35 years, Height: 5' 6", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White Shirt, who was found dead at Underpass Jamuna Bazar, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 12-A dated 04.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos. Sd/- SHO P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi Tel. No. 011-23967889 DP/629/N/19



RBI plans to set up college of supervisors: Das

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank is in the process of setting up a "college of supervisors" to augment the supervisory skills of its key personnel, governor Shaktikanta Das has said. The development can be attributed as a response to the massive scam at Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, which for three years hoodwinked the regulator with cooked up books-something the annual inspection by the RBI supervisors could not notice and take preventive action.

The RBI has already created a unified department of supervision and a unified department of regulation from November 1 this year, which will strengthen the oversight of commercial banks, cooperative banks and NBFCs, Das has said.

The governor was addressing a closed-door conference on "50 years of bank nationalisation" organised by Ahmedabad University over the weekend. "It is our endeavour to update the knowledge and skill levels of supervisors on a continuous basis. We are adopting a multi-pronged approach in this aspect. We are in the process of setting up a college of supervisors to augment and reinforce supervisory skills among regulatory and supervisory staff," Das was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Ahmedabad University. PTI

HEALTH

BlameGene

Researchers have identified new mutations in a gene commonly associated with non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy, a disease that weakens the heart muscle, making it more difficult to adequately circulate blood to meet the body's needs



DOCYARD
DR SMIT SRIVASTAVA
DM Cardiology, HOD



CARDIOLOGY ADVANCEMENT CARDIAC
INSTITUTE MEDICAL COLLEGE RAIPUR



Take care of irregular beat

If you have an irregular pulse, experience palpitations, shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, and weakness, you could be suffering from a heart disease called atrial fibrillation (AF). Studies have reported AF is a growing epidemic with an expected doubling of its prevalence in India by 2030.

It is a condition that involves irregular beating of the left atrium (upper chamber) of the heart that increases a person's risk for stroke by four to five times when compared with the people who do not suffer from it. As stroke remains one of the leading causes of death and disability in India, scientists have introduced new methods of evaluating irregular heart beats that have outperformed the approach that has been used conventionally in stroke units.

Therapies like patent foramen ovale (PFO) and left atrial appendage (LAA) closure are performed to close the hole or defect in the heart of patients suffering from cryptogenic & non-valvular atrial fibrillation respectively. The therapies are a breakthrough that could lead to better treatment and outcomes for patients with cryptogenic and non-valvular atrial fibrillation.

Digital innovations are revolutionising healthcare and technology in medicine is paving the way for better treatment. When suffering from this condition, blood clots are most commonly formed in LAA. Closing the LAA is an effective way of reducing stroke risk in people with atrial fibrillation and that is what the new technology does. A nail like device called occluder is implanted inside the heart that permanently closes LAA and keeps blood clots from escaping.

LAA and PFO implants have proven to reduce strokes in patients. It can also reduce the risk of bleeding associated with long term use of blood thinners

The AF causes 15 to 20 per cent of ischemic strokes, which occur when blood flow to the brain is blocked by a clot or by fatty deposits called plaque. Within a few hours atrial fibrillation there onset of a stroke, treatment with drugs or devices that dissolve or break up the clot, can restore blood flow to the brain and lead to a better recovery. Taking a blood thinner, such as warfarin reduces the risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation.

If you take a blood thinner for AF, you are probably aware of the bleeding risks that come with it. Most people can take blood thinner for years without a risk. But because they help prevent blood clots by thinning the blood, even tiny cuts or bruises will bleed a lot more because of the daily consumption of these drugs. Also, there is a need of getting frequent blood tests done to make sure the patient takes the right amount of medication.

PFO and LAA closure therapies are performed to close the hole or defect in the heart. These procedures do not require open-heart surgery. A permanent device that doesn't have to be replaced and can't be seen outside the body is used. To implant the device, the doctor makes a small cut in the upper leg and inserts a needle stick, as done in a standard stent procedure. The doctor then guides the device into the LAA or PFO as per the treatment area. They are done under general anesthesia and take about an hour. Patients stay in the hospital overnight and leave the next day.

LAA and PFO implants have proven to reduce strokes in patients. It can also reduce the risk of bleeding associated with long term use of blood thinners that have been used conventionally.

Stroke is becoming a major cause of death in low-income and middle-income countries like India. To prevent AF and stroke, there should be a focus on early diagnoses, public awareness and capacity building at different levels of health care. It's important to live a heart-healthy lifestyle — eating a healthy diet, increasing physical activity, avoiding smoking, limiting or avoiding alcohol and reducing stress.

WARMFOODS

SAFFRON: The saffron is a spice derived from the flower saffron crocus. The vivid crimson stigma and styles, called threads, are collected and dried to be used mainly as a seasoning and colouring agent in food. Saffron has long been the world's most costly spice by weight.

Saffron is rich in antioxidants mainly crocin and

picrocrocin that help fight against oxidative stress and free radicals in the body.

It is also hailed for its anti-inflammatory properties. Take a pinch of saffron add it to a cup of warm milk and drink. You may also add turmeric. This will help in reducing muscle cramps and body aches. It also helps in fighting common cold, flu and even asthma.

Saffron contain more than 150 volatile compounds that is good for the overall well-being of the body.



EYE SUGAR LEVELS

According to the International Diabetes Federation, people with Diabetes are expected to develop some form of eye disease, leading to reduced vision or blindness. DR ARINDAM DEY tells you how to keep the disease at bay

The risks associated with Diabetes are becoming increasingly evident. Consistently high blood sugar levels can lead to serious health problems, such as negative effect on heart and blood vessels, kidneys, nerves, coupled with higher risk of developing infections. While many of these are traditional complications associated with diabetes, a serious complication is blindness, as a result of Diabetic retinopathy formation.

It is critical to increase the level of awareness of Diabetic retinopathy amongst individuals with diabetes mellitus for early diagnosis and management.

Evidently, Diabetes is the primary cause of blindness in adults between the ages of 20 to 74 worldwide. With approximately 72 million of people in India suffering with diabetes, it accounts for nearly 7.1 per cent of the country's adult population. According to International Diabetes Federation, people with diabetes are expected to develop some form of eye disease (retinopathy), leading to reduced vision or blindness. Consistently high levels of blood glucose, blood pressure and high cholesterol, are the main causes of retinopathy.

All Diabetes patents — both Type I and Type II — are at risk of Diabetic retinopathy. The longer someone has Diabetes, the more likely they are to develop Diabetic retinopathy. People with Diabetic retinopathy have damaged blood vessels in their retinal layer; a light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye.

WHILE THERE IS NO CURE FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY; EARLY DETECTION AND TIMELY TREATMENT IS OFTEN EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING, DELAYING OR REDUCING VISION LOSS

Prolonged high blood sugar levels in Diabetics can cause damage or swelling to the small blood vessels in the retina. Retina is the light-sensitive tissue at the back of your eye and one needs a healthy retina to have a clear vision. Diabetic retinopathy damages the tiny blood vessels inside the retina that might lead to complete loss of vision if left untreated.

Diabetic retinopathy can be managed through regular eye check-ups. Many Diabetics are unaware that



chronically high blood sugar may result in eye damage. Diabetes is still majorly associated with kidney failure and cardiovascular problems. It is time to raise the awareness levels and encourage diabetes patients to go for periodic eye consultations.

Symptoms: Ideally, Diabetic retinopathy does not cause noticeable symptoms until significant damage has occurred. It usually affects both eyes and complications that indicate the onset of Diabetic retinopathy. Few symptoms are:

- Blurred or distorted vision, or difficulty in reading
- Floaters, which are dark objects that float across the field of vision
- Distorted colour vision
- Partial or total loss of vision

Prevention: While there is no

cure for diabetic retinopathy; early detection and timely treatment is often effective in preventing, delaying or reducing vision loss. Further, Diabetic patients should make dietary changes to control their glucose and lipid levels.

Diabetic retinopathy can be a big problem for pregnant women who have Diabetes. To protect vision, women at risk should have a comprehensive dilated eye examination upon confirmation of pregnancy, as well as additional medical tests as recommended by the doctor.

Adolescent Diabetics must have their eyes examined at least once a year after the age of 12 years, as diabetic retinopathy is rarely known to occur before puberty.

The writer is Head-CDMA, Alcon India

SAY NO TO DULL HAIR



DR NIRANJANA RAJ shares tips that can help to maintain the tresses

It feels great to run fingers through soft hair but due to various factors, our hair aren't as silky and smooth as we want them to be. Shiny, healthy, and tangle free strands are what everyone desire. On the other hand if you like to style your hair with hot tools, experiment different products, and also color it regularly; then silkiness seems only a dream. It feels great to run fingers through soft hair but due to factors like hair type, hair damage and environmental factors, at times our hair aren't as silky and smooth as we'd like them to be. Fortunately, with the some tips and tricks, we can improve the quality of our hair in just few weeks. The condition of our hair depends mainly on our health and condition of the cuticle which is the outside layer of our hair.

Be mindful when shampooing
When shampooing, we usually pile our hair on top of our head and wash the entire length of the hair. This method not only forms tangles but also dry the ends of the hair which already lack moisture especially in curly hair. In naturally straight hair the oil goes from scalp to the end of the roots very quickly because gravity pulls it down but when it comes to curly hair, the oil travels around the coiled shaft and therefore the oil doesn't go to the roots as quickly.

This means that people with curly hair do not need to shampoo their hair as often. While washing curly hair consider using cleansing conditioner than the regular shampoo which strips the hair of its necessary natural oils.

Comb when wet, brush when dry
It has been observed that most people do not brush their hair gently, which impedes hair from looking its best. The best way to detangle hair is using a wide toothed comb when your hair is wet or can use a brush specially designed for wet hair or to brush when hair completely get dry. Detangling of hair is best done from ends to root of hair rather than root to tip.

Use T-shirt instead of a towel to dry your hair

We always knew the basic method to dry our hair was rough drying that is by rubbing a towel back and forth; touching it but the fact is that we have wrongly learned it. This method generates friction which fluffs up the outer cellular layer of the hair. And then they catch on one another which are the reason of breakage and knots, and result in frizz. The key to have smooth and silky hair is no friction. Super tangly hair is the result of the open cuticle. The snuggler the outer cellular layer of the hair, the more unaffected is the openings and the smoother the hair will be. So, switch your towel with a smoother cotton T-shirt. Also, try not to rub your head and instead wrap the ends of the hair in the shirt and squeeze out all the water.

Always finish blow dry with a blast of cold air

It sounds little time taking step, but the fact is after the hair is dry the key for locking the amount of volume, movement of your hair and direction of your style is finishing a blow out with cold air. It also helps close the outer cellular layer of the hair. Always make sure to use a concentrator or nozzle as it directs the air to go from roots to the ends and helps in closing the outer cellular layer of the hair rather than roughing it up. Use your fingers to comb your hair.

The writer is Dermatologist, Dermatologist, Joint Managing Director-YCCD

DadiKaKehna

It is time for important exams like CAT, end semester and Classes X and XII Boards. ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that can help students to stay sharp and focused



With many important exams to take place in the coming months, it is necessary to stay sharp and focused. One also has to remember what one has studied. There are several natural ways in which one can increase one's concentration.

Eat foods that don't have sugar. A diet that has lots of sugar can lead to poor memory and reduced brain volume. Also, avoid eating cakes, cereal, cookies, white rice and white bread.

While drinking coffee may keep many people awake throughout the night, the fact is that certain compounds in coffee stimulate the brain's anti-oxidant

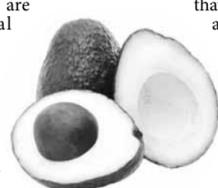
system. Eat dark chocolate. Not milk chocolate since dark chocolate has less sugar.

Eat avocados. They are one of the healthiest fruits that you can eat. It is also considered as one of the foods that improve brain function.

While most people don't like to eat broccoli, the truth is that this vegetable is one of the best power foods for the brain.

Certain essential nutrients and Vitamin K helps in keeping your memory sharp and make it one of the best foods for brain health.

Eat eggs as they are rich in Vitamin D, which help improve the brain's cognitive skills.



TIPTOP

If you are taking Omega-3 pills or relish two-three servings of Omega-3 rich fish a week, you can continue with those, without worrying about its potential prostate cancer risk that some previous research with preliminary findings have reported in the past.

The researchers at the Intermountain Healthcare Heart Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah, US who continue to research the potential benefits and risks of this popular fish oil supplement especially when it comes to prostate cancer risk and heart health have found no link between the two.

Viet T Le from Intermountain Healthcare Heart Institute said they undertook this study in light of findings from a 2013 paper from the journal of the National Cancer Institute that suggested a possible link between higher Omega-3 plasma levels and the development of prostate cancer, one that has been debated since publication. "If I'm recommending Omega-3 for my patients to save their hearts, I want to make sure I'm not putting them at risk for prostate cancer. Our study found no evidence of a link between the two," Le said.

SLIMLINE

The Himalaya Drug Company brings its flagship initiative — Muskaan to West Bengal. Championing the cause of treating cleft for children in need, Himalaya Lip Care launched its campaign 'Ek Mutho Hanshi' in Kolkata on November 18, 2019 in collaboration with Smile Train, the world's largest cleft charity, to provide free life-saving cleft surgeries to children.

Rajesh Krishnamurthy, Business Director-Consumer Products Division, The Himalaya

Drug Company, kickstarted the event with great fervor. "This year, with our campaign we are committed to raising awareness in West Bengal about cleft and the importance of early intervention to help children with clefts lead a happy and fulfilling life. Through this initiative, more than 550 children have received cleft surgery till date. Our endeavour is to continue transforming the lives of many more children with clefts and help them achieve their dreams," he said.

While a seeming association between higher plasma Omega-3 levels and the findings of severe heart disease upon initial angiogram might raise alarms that Omega-3 isn't beneficial, "they did live to see a doctor and get diagnosed," Le added. — IANS

According to the researchers, some parents might be overestimating their ability to recognise depression in the mood and behaviour of their own child. An over-confident parent may fail to pick up on the subtle signals that something is amiss.

The poll also suggests that the topic of depression is all too familiar for middle and high school students.

One in four parents say their child knows a peer or classmate with depression, and one in 10 say their child knows a peer or classmate who has died by suicide. This level of familiarity with depression and suicide is consistent with recent statistics showing a dramatic increase in suicide among US youth over the past decade.

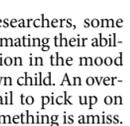
STUDYCENTRE

Telling the difference between a teen's normal ups and downs or something bigger is among the top challenges parents face while identifying depression among the youth, says a new study. Forty per cent of parents struggle to differentiate between normal mood swings and signs of depression, while 30 per cent are tricked as their child hides his feelings well, according to a new national poll in the US.

According to the researchers, some parents might be overestimating their ability to recognise depression in the mood and behaviour of their own child. An over-confident parent may fail to pick up on the subtle signals that something is amiss.

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OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001
SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE

R. C. No. 406/2015
ICICI BANK VS MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI
PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993

CD#1 Mr. Harish Kumar Goswami, H/ No. 410/0, Punjab Line Railway Colony, Ghaziabad-200001.
Also At: Mr. Harish Kumar Goswami, House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Village Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001.
CD#2 Ms. Asha Devi Goswami, H/No. 410/0, Punjab Line Railway Colony Ghaziabad-200001.
Also At: Ms. Asha Devi Goswami, House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Village Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001

Whereas as per Recovery Certificate No. 406/2015 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II mentioning a sum of **Rs. 11,15,124/- (Rs. Eleven Lacs Fifteen Thousand One Hundred And Twenty Four Only)**, CDs are jointly and / or severally liable to pay the amount of **Rs. 11,01,124/- (Rs. Eleven Lacs One Thousand One Hundred And Twenty Four Only)** alongwith future interest @9.75% p.a. from the date of filing of the OA, i.e. 05.01.2015 until recovery with cost.

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.

3. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by **e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.bankauctions.com on 18.12.2019 between 03:00p.m to 04:00 p.m.** with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 12 noon, if required.

4. The sale shall be of the property of the CD(s) above-named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

5. The property shall be put up for the sale as specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale will also be stopped, if before auction is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proofs given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned).

6. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

7. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Serond Schedule to the income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions:

7.1 The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the intormation of the under signed, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis statement or omission in this proclamation.

7.2 The reserve price below which the properties shall not be sold and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) are as under:

Description of property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	9,23,000/-	92,300/-

7.3 The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price, alongwith documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof, etc., and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, latest by **16.12.2019 before 4.00 PM** in the Office of the Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from **03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 18.12.2019**. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

7.4 The bidder(s) shall improve their offer in multiples of **Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**.

7.5 The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the **Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi** immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.

7.6 The Successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015 by next bank working day i.e. by **04.00 PM** with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

7.7 The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

7.8 In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

8. The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"**.

9. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found Lunreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims. If any, which have been put forward to the property Other known partitur bearing on its nature and value
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	Not known	Not known	Not known

Given under my hand and seal on **26.10.2019**.

(Awinesh Chandra)
Recovery Officer-II,
DRT-II, Delhi

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

RC 406/2015
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
ICICI BANK VS MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI
"ORDER"
Dated: 26.10.2019

As per my order dated **26.10.2019**, the under mentioned properties will be sold by public auction sale on **18.12.2019** in the said Recovery Certificate:
The auction sale will be "online e-Auctioning" through website www.bankauctions.com
Date and Time of Auction: 18.12.2019 between 03.00 pm and 04.00 pm (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Description of property	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	9,23,000/-	92,300/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" through website portal: **www.bankauctions.com**.

2. The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/c R.C. No. 406/2015". The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, **must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 16.12.2019 before 4.00 PM**. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.

3. The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc., should be super-scribed **"RC No. 406/2015"**.

4. The property is being sold on **"as is where is basis"**.

5. The bidders are advised to go through the portal **www.bankauctions.com** for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact **Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Videcom Tower, Ihandewatan Exten. Delhi. Mobile no. 9650957770. Email ID: mohit.chadhaa@icicibank.com**.

6. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email id: delhi@clindia.com and support@bankauctions.com**.

7. The interested bidders may avail online training on e-auction, after deposit JEEMD from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan. Mobile no. 9813887931 Email id: delhi@clindia.com and support@bankauctions.com**.

8. Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line auction.

9. The prospective buyer may inspect the site on **09.12.2019 and 10.12.2019 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM**.

10. The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by **16.12.2019** in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi shall be eliable to participate in the e-auction to be held from **03.00 PM to 04.00 PM on 18.12.2019**. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

11. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiples of **Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**.

12. The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the **Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi** immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.

13. The Successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer-II DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015 by next bank working day i.e. by **04.00 PM** with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

14. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 406/2015, the balance 75% on the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses at the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sun for which it may subsequently be sold.

15 CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dasti suced post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat ut drum in its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal

16 Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in vernacular language, having adequately wide circulation in the area.

17 CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs of the publication be filed before next date of hearing.

18. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims. It any, which have been put forward to the property Other known partitur bearing on its nature and value
House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204 NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001	Not known	Not known	Not known

Matter be listed on **29.11.2019** for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proots of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of - auction.

(Awinesh Chandra)
Recovery Officer-II,
DRT-II, Delhi

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
R. C. No. 406/2015 / ICICI BANK V/S MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI

Item No.10
Dated Present: 26.10.2019
Present: Sh. Anuj Kumar, Proxy counsel for Sh. Gautam Singhal, Counsel for the CH Bank
Proxy counsel for the CH Bank submitted that the sale 09.09.2019 has not been published as the officer of the CH Bank Sh. Mukesh Sharma has been transferred and Sh. Mohit Chadhaa has taken his charge. He requested to issue a sale proclamation notice after incorporation of the name of the Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager (Mobile No. 9650957770).
Request allowed.
Direction
1. Let the property bearing House No. 1007, Khasra No. 204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001 be put on sale through E-auction on earlier reserve price and sale proclamation qua the same be issued.
2. CH Bank is directed to serve the same through all prescribed modes and file service report on or before the next date of herring. The CH Bank is also directed to serve sale proclamation notice upon the concerned e-auction service provider well in time.
3. The detailed order of E-auction be seen on the separate order sheet.
4. CH Bank is also directed to file on affidavit memo of cost giving details of all expenses incurred in connection with the auction including publication of advertisement after completion of auction proceedings.
Let a copy of this order be given dasti to the CH Bank for compliance.
Let this matter be listed on **29.11.2019**

(Awinesh Chandra)
Recovery Officer-II,
DRT-II, Delhi

Fire holds off Hong Kong Police at protest campus

Hong Kong: A large fire held off an apparent police advance on the Hong Kong campus where hundreds of pro-democracy protesters were holed up on early Monday, hours after officers warned they may use "live rounds" if confronted by deadly weapons in a dangerous escalation of the near six-month crisis engulfing the city.

Protests have rocked the global financial hub since June, with many in the city of 7.5 million people venting fury at eroding freedoms under Chinese rule.

China has repeatedly warned that it will not tolerate the dissent, and there have been concerns that Beijing could send in troops to put an end to the spiralling unrest.

Several loud blasts were heard around dawn on Monday before a wall of fire lit up an entrance to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), AFP reporters said, as what appeared to be a police attempt to enter the campus was repelled by protesters determined to hold their ground.

Police said they had fired three live rounds in the early hours of Monday at a protest site near the university but that no one appeared to have been hit.

Intense clashes throughout Sunday, which saw a police officer struck in the leg by an arrow and protesters meet

police tear gas with volleys of petrol bombs, rolled overnight across the Kowloon district, as a call went out to defend the besieged campus.

There, protesters had hunkered down under umbrellas from occasional fire from police water cannon and hurled Molotov cocktails at an armoured vehicle, leaving it ablaze on a flyover near the campus.

Police declared the campus a "riot" scene — rioting is punishable by up to 10 years in jail — and blocked exits as spokesman Louis Lau issued a stark warning in a Facebook live broadcast.

"I hereby warn rioters not to use petrol bombs, arrows, cars or any deadly weapons to attack police officers," he said. **AFP**

Dozens of HK protesters escape campus siege, picked up by bikes

Hong Kong: Dozens of Hong Kong protesters escaped a besieged university campus on Monday by lowering themselves on a rope from a foot-bridge to a highway, AFP video showed. Once on the road they were seen being picked up by waiting motorcyclists.

The democracy protesters have been holed up for two days at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and police have threatened to use deadly force to dislodge them. **AFP**

Trump says will 'strongly consider' testifying in impeachment prob

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Monday said he is "strongly" considering answering a challenge from opposition Democrats to testify in his own impeachment investigation.

After the speaker of the lower house, Nancy Pelosi, upped the ante by suggesting that Trump come forward to tell the "truth," the Republican president said he was keen.

Pelosi suggested "that I testify about the phony Impeachment Witch Hunt. She

also said I could do it in writing," Trump tweeted.

"Even though I did nothing wrong, and don't like giving credibility to this No Due Process Hoax, I like the idea & will, in order to get Congress focused again, strongly consider it!"

New SL Prez says will remain neutral on foreign policy

Colombo: After swearing-in as the seventh Executive President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya Rajapaksa stressed that Sri Lanka wants to stay out of conflicts among the world powers and would remain neutral in its foreign policy.

"We will maintain friendly and cordial relationship with all the nations and we don't want to be caught between power struggles of international politics among different nations," Rajapaksa said after he took oath at the historic

Sinhala Buddhist city of Anuradhapura.

"In maintaining relationships with us, we urge all nations to respect our sovereignty," he added.

Rajapaksa announced he would soon form a new Government to implement his policies.

Former Defence Secretary-turned President had selected Ruwanveli Mahaseya, a massive temple built by valiant king Dutugemunu in north-central city of Anuradhapura, situated

200 km from capital Colombo. He was sworn in besides the statue of King Dutugemunu (161 BC-137 BC). According to historical chronicle Mahawamsa, the King unified the country overthrowing Tamil prince Ellalan from Chola Kingdom.

"I was able to address the nation as the President in front of the statue of one of the greatest kings of Sri Lankan kingdom Dutugemunu because of the historical mandate given by the people," said Rajapaksa. **IANS**

Emirates announces \$16 billion deal to buy 50 Airbus 350

AFP ■ DUBAI

Emirates Airline said Monday it would buy 50 Airbus 350-900 widebody aircraft in a deal worth \$16 billion, with delivery to begin in May 2023.

"I am happy to announce we are purchasing 50 Airbus 350 for \$16 billion," the carrier's chairman and CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum told reporters at the Dubai Airshow.

Emirates serves a global network spanning over 158 destinations in 84 countries. Its fleet stands at 267 large aircraft, including more than 100 Airbus 380 superjumbos.

Its move earlier this year to reduce its total A380 orders triggered Airbus to pull the plug on the costly plane, which airlines have struggled to fill to its capacity of 500-850 people.

At the time, Airbus said it would buy smaller A330 and A350 models instead.

Stop flexing muscles in South China Sea, China urges US

Bangkok: China on Monday urged the US military to "stop flexing muscles" in the disputed South China Sea, a point of persistent friction in a relationship both sides said was generally improving.

A spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Defense, Col. Wu Qian, told reporters in Bangkok that the South China Sea was among numerous issues discussed earlier in the day when US Defense Secretary Mark Esper held his first face-to-

face meeting with the Chinese defense minister, Gen. Wei Fenghe. They met for more than half an hour on the margins of a broader Asia defense officials' conference.

"We agreed to keep talking and engaging frequently," Esper told reporters afterward in a brief exchange. "We continue to make progress on any number of issues." The South China Sea for years has been a major point of contention between Beijing and Washington. **AP**

Pakistan tests Shaheen-1 missile

Islamabad: Pakistan on Monday successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 650 kilometres, bringing many Indian cities under its range. The test-firing of the Shaheen-1 missile by the Pakistani military took place amidst Indo-Pak tensions over New Delhi revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The Shaheen-1 missile is capable of delivering all types of warheads up to range of 650 KMs, ISPR tweeted. **PTI**

Libyan officials: Airstrike kills 7 workers in Tripoli

Cairo: An airstrike slammed into a biscuit factory in the capital, Tripoli, on Monday killing at least seven workers including five foreign nationals and two Libyans, health authorities said.

Tripoli has been the scene of fighting since April between the self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, and an array of militias loosely allied with the UN-supported but weak government which holds the capital.

The Tripoli-based health ministry said the airstrike took place in the capital's Wadi el-Rabie neighborhood, the south of the city center where fighting has been raging for months.

Malek Mersert, a spokesman with the ministry, told The Associated Press that the dead included five workers from Bangladesh, and two Libyan nationals.

The airstrike also wounded at least 15 foreign workers, mostly from Niger and Bangladesh, who were taken to nearby hospitals for urgent treatment. **AP**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client Dina Nathi Smt. Shri Shankar Lal, R/O:- Hatus No-99, Vign Garden Extension, North Block, Road-17, New Delhi-59, has ejected his elder son sani varma, age about 26 years and the wife of sani varma Smt. Shilpi, age about 29 years, from his properties due to any behavior toward my client Sh. Dinarath (Mother & Father of Sani Varma). San Varma/Smt. Shilpi wants to capture/occupy the movable and immovable property of the family/ father and mother.

If any person has make any transaction with Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi, the family/father and mother will not be responsible for any transactions and for any act. No person can claim from family/father and mother about the transactions or act of Sani Varma & Smt. Shilpi.

Any act of Sani Varma & Smt. Shilpi, only Sani Varma/ Shilpi are responsible for any act. The family/father and mother will not be responsible for any act of Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi.

This Notice is published on behalf of my client, Dinarath to inform and warn the general people not to make any transaction with Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi; if any person does his that only person and Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi shall be responsible.

Manoranjan Sharma (Advocate)
M. 9853790427

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my Client Dr. Kiran Pal Singh S/o Late Majnu Singh R/o Flat No. 60732/GF, D-6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi and S-11/03, DLF Phase-3, Gurgaon declare that Mrs. Purnima was residing with my client for some duration in intervals. She was provided separate special flat i.e. Flat No. 103/FF-Yes Residency, F-Block, Rajender Park at Gurugram under Court settlement order dt. 09/2017 in terms of DVC-Mediation- Settlement. Mrs. Purnima against the terms of said order/settlement entered into the property of DLF, Phase-3 on 18/4/2019 without permission of property owners (my client) which amounts to trespassing, for which my client is taking appropriate legal steps. My client will not be responsible for her misconduct and misdeeds etc. since my client is not aware regarding whereabouts her movements and there is no Communication since 22/4/2019 whatsoever with her etc. Therefore my client is not responsible for any acts, misdeeds etc, and my client should not be targeted in any manner. The matters are pending adjudication with Concerned court of law for Divorce/Malicious Prosecution/ Injunction etc. Any person(s) dealing with her in any manner whatsoever will be on his own risk, costs and responsibility. This is for information to general public only.

AJIT SINGH ADVOCATE
246, Lawyer's Chambers, Delhi High Court New Delhi-110003

Conservative candidates vow to back Brexit deal: UK PM

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has revealed that every Conservative Party candidate standing in the country's general election on December 12 has personally pledged to back his Brexit deal.

In his first major newspaper interview of the election campaign, Johnson told the Sunday Telegraph that he has asked all 635 of his candidates to sign up to a pledge to back his Brexit Withdrawal Agreement in the House of Commons.

"If we get a majority Conservative government, we can deliver and there will be no more wrangling or dither or delay," Johnson said, Xinhua news agency reported.

He said he plans to end Britain's membership of the European Union (EU) in January if he wins a majority that

keeps him at 10 Downing Street.

"Of course there will be many who voted Remain, many who voted Leave, people with different views, and they will come together to get it done, and come together in the interests of the whole country."

The Telegraph commented that highly unusual decision by Johnson is designed to help convince voters who support Britain leaving the EU that the Conservatives will deliver Brexit if they return to government.

Meanwhile the newspaper reported the latest opinion poll, carried out by Savanta ComRes, puts the Conservatives on 41 per cent, the highest level in one of the poll company's surveys since the last general election. Labour remains eight points behind, but has risen to 33 per cent, its highest level since April. **IANS**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution), Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Electric Division, Kathua
Email:- xenmrekathua123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
e-NIT No. KED/15 of 2019 Dated: 14-11-2019

For and on behalf of Govt. of UT of J&K, e-tenders, are here by invited from Contractors/Self Help Groups having valid A- Class Electrical Contractors License issued by Govt. Of J&K and having sufficient experience/other relevant job and meeting qualification Criteria as per e-NIT for fixing of Rate Contract for Improvement /Maintenance/Emergent works of HT/LT Distribution Network including 11/433KV Sub Stations in Sub Division Kathua of Electric Division, Kathua(JPDC) on Turkey basis.

S.No.1, Name of Work :- Fixing of Rate Contract for Improvement /Maintenance/Emergent works of HT/LT Distribution Network including 11/433KV Sub Stations in Sub Division Kathua of Electric Division, Kathua(JPDC).

Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.) :- 1000/-, Earnest Money/ Security Deposit (in Rs.):- 50000/-, Date and time of Downloading of Bidding documents :- 16-11-2019 (10.00 A.M.), Last date and time of e-Bid submission :- 29-11-2019 (02.00P.M), Date and Time of opening of e-Bids :- 30-11-2019 (02.00PM)

The tender document consisting of terms and conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be downloaded from <http://jtenders.gov.in>.

No. DIP/J-9192/19 Dated : 16-11-2019

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Distribution) JPDC, Electric Division Kathua

Trend Glazer

Aamir unveils his new look

Superstar **AAMIR KHAN** unveiled his look from *Laal Singh Chaddha*. He shared his look on Twitter while introducing himself as, "Sat Sri Akaal ji, myself Laal Singh Chaddha."

The actor wears a pink and grey-checked shirt and grey trousers with a powder pink turban. He can also be seen sporting a long beard.

The film is an adaptation of *Forrest Gump*, Robert Zemeckis' multiple Oscar-winning film which was released in 1994 and starred Tom Hanks with Robin Wright.

The actor is set to co-produce the Hindi adaptation along with Viacom18 Motion Pictures.

Aamir has lost 20 kg to play the younger version of his role.



'Nowadays, there is a trend of taking steroids but it's a very wrong thing to do. I feel

no one should use steroids. In fact, a lot of people misuse them, which could be bad for one's body as it can damage the liver and kidney. There are a lot of people who have died doing exercises in the gym because of heart failure. A body made from steroids cannot last long.' —Salman Khan



Actor **NEHA DHUPIA** has an adorable birthday wish for her daughter Mehr, who turned one on Monday.

The actor took to Twitter to share a couple of photos. Neha wrote, "Happy first birthday our little angel. My heart is so full of love. I don't know what I am capable of giving you but you gave me the best gift of my life, the gift of motherhood. May god bless you. Guru 'Mehr' Karein."

Kylie sells stake in beauty brand

Reality TV star **KYLIE JENNER** is selling a stake of her beauty brand to Coty, the owner of CoverGirl makeup.

Coty Inc. will pay \$600 million for a 51 per cent stake in Kylie Cosmetics, valuing it at about \$1.2 billion. Coty says it plans to launch more products under the Kylie brand and sell them in more countries around the world.

Jenner, part of the *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* reality show family, founded her company four years ago, relying on her hundreds of millions of social media followers to promote the brand, which includes her popular lip liner. Last year she struck a deal to sell her goods in 1,100 Ulta Beauty stores.

Coty says Jenner will still be the face of the brand and be involved in creating new products.

What makes one a true gentleman? Do the likes of a certain Mr Darcy or Rhett Butler come to your mind? Or is it the more contemporary take by actor Ayushmann Khurrana who points out the gender stereotypes that men are bogged down by even today? In the latest ad by the grooming brand, The Man Company, the actor makes the point that in recent times, being called a 'gentleman' has less to do with the last name or profession and more with the mindset and attitude. The narration of the video goes on like... *Mard ka ek stereotype hai. Woh ghar chalayega, woh ladki ko bi bachayega, woh royega nahi, weak nahi hoga... Lekin jisko dard hota hai asal mein vahi mard hota hai* (Man has been stereotyped with cliches like he runs the house, saves the girl, doesn't cry or fall weak... But the one who feels the pain is the actual man.) He then breaks this mould through his own life and aspirations by saying that he wanted to be a man who is true, one who could sing and cry and if he could, save someone too. He mentions that a man can like anything from the colour pink to the rock band Pink Floyd. The ad breaks the age-old notions about masculinity in a patriarchal society and conveys a message that being 'soft' doesn't necessarily stand in contradiction to masculinity rather strengthens it. He believes that men and women are different but that should not form the basis of differentiating between the two.

Advertisements in India have increasingly become focussed on gender roles, family hierarchy and traditional marriage practices now. International Men's Day is a good occasion to analyse how ads are evolving with time and normalising men breaking gender stereotypes now.

The Ariel ad made one question the assumption that household chores are a woman's domain. It opened with an older man sitting and observing his daughter performing all the household tasks along with a call from work while her husband sits and watches the television, asking her to prepare his evening tea. Her father's off-screen voice reads a 'Dear Daughter' letter in Hindi as he is stunned to see the pressure his 'girl' is facing. He admits later that he is sorry for having provided her with a wrong role model. It simply talks about how we are conditioned into believing that some chores are only for women, while



Better half

Advertisements are increasingly turning gender roles on their head and projecting a man who is not defined by stereotypes. **AYUSHI SHARMA** maps changing perspectives on International Men's Day

others are confined to men.

Remember the Airtel ad where a strict and stern female boss ordered two male colleagues to get an assignment done, with one of them protesting its feasibility? The boss still demands that they should manage. Later, in the evening, only one man is seen working over-time. He receives a call from his wife (who also happens to be his boss) asking what he wants to have for dinner and requesting him to come early. The ad clearly portrays the strong female boss at work, on one hand, and a caring wife on the other. The roles have been reversed and yet the man seems to be comfortable with it. No display of affronted



male egos here.

Next comes the Havell's #HawaBadlegi advertisement where a couple goes to a marriage

registrar's office. The husband chooses to take the wife's last name, making the official do a double take. A brilliant yet another

simple take to shatter the ceilings. The campaign portrays how men are changing their attitude towards the women in their lives.

A commercial of Biba too normalises how men could be on the other side of the so-called gender divide. The ad showcases the father of a girl who demands that the boy should also learn to cook for his wife to take care of his daughter in the future. He asks, 'Beta, khaana bana lete ho?' (Can you cook?), presenting a situation, where usually the opposite happens. The boy responds by inviting his in-laws to come over for dinner for 10 days. It projects the man who is more accommodating and not helmed in by watertight ideas of gender roles

while making the arranged marriage set-up fair to both genders.

With more marketers and advertisers understanding the importance of gender equality today, brands are understanding the responsibility that they have towards the public in how they choose to market their products. It works for the cash registers as well as 65 per cent of youth, who are more likely to purchase products on how they perceive the brand, as per Vice Media. A Nielsen report also shows that 65 per cent of total sales of consumer goods measured globally are generated by "brands whose marketing conveyed commitment to social or environmental value." Cheers to a more progressive advertising!

THE FAUX EFFECT

Blending materials on a single tile makes for interesting floor layouts

People have been surfacing floors and walls in tile for hundreds of years. It's one of our oldest materials but the industry keeps reinventing the product. Digital printing and fabricating advances can now realistically replicate wood, metal, textile, leather, brick and paper in a sustainably made, durable tile form.

"Tile companies have made great strides in suspending my disbelief that these aren't actual stone or other real materials," says New York-based designer Daniel VanHall. "A lot of the really imaginative designs are like theatre in tile form. It's pretty exciting."

MATERIALS MATCH-UP

The blending of materials on a single tile makes for interesting floor layouts. Today's iterations of wood-look tile are almost indistinguishable from the real deal, since realistic hues and textures can be printed onto slab, plank or square tiles.

The tech is also being used to marry disparate materials into cool new versions: pieces of wood paired with slivers of metal, say, or wood embedded in stone. The juxtapositions are intriguing and easier both to install and walk on than if real wood, real metal and concrete were fused together. Sant-Agostino's Timewood has a geometric pattern of wood-look strips in a cement-look matrix; Provenza's Alter takes the look of shards and panels of reclaimed oak and blends it seamlessly with a ceramic base to create a kicky, midcentury modern design.

Antique silks were the inspiration for Florim's Filati di Rex collection, comprised of floral, jacquard, baroque and geometric patterns drawn from the renowned Italian fabric house Rubelli. Tile designers are also using antique rugs and tapestries as inspiration.

VINTAGE MODERN

Nancy Epstein of Artistic Tile sees a resurgence in age-old techniques like encaustic tile, where the



pattern is made with pigmented cement rather than painted on.

"We're finding that people are much more open to colour and pattern than they've been for years," she says.

This year, at both Cersaie, Italy's international tile fair held in Bologna, and Cevisama, Spain's version held in Valencia, there were nostalgic nods to both countries' renowned ceramic history. Matte-finish tiles were printed with motifs referencing centuries-old intarsia and majolica patterns, and designers liked the idea of using them in contemporary spaces.

Cle Tile, based in San Rafael, California, has several artists' collections of handmade encaustic tile, ranging from modern takes on Old West patterns, to midcentury graphics. Erica Tanov has translated some of her vintage textile archive into cool cement tile

designs, in on-trend hues of cream, charcoal, federal blue and soft pink. Los Angeles-based graphic designer Joy Cho has created a playful collection inspired by bubbles, streamers and confetti.

BOLD BOTANICALS

Katie Michael-Battaglia, design director for Nemo Tile and Stone in New York, says another trend builds on a kind of pattern that's been growing for the past few seasons: flower, leaf and tree motifs.

"What's interesting now is to see the explosion of botanicals, typically seen on fabrics and wallpapers, but now moved to porcelain tile," he says.

And again, the wow factor is how accurately new printing techniques can reproduce leaves, grass or even pebbles. With some of the exceptional versions, like Casalgrande's Padana Limpha ivy-look tile slabs, there's an almost 3-

D effect of a 'living wall.' The Casalgrande tiles are even treated so when they're exposed to sunlight, air pollutants and dirt don't adhere as readily, making them easier to clean.

But the hand of the artisan can also be appealing. At Artistic Tile, Michael Aram's Orchid collection features carefully crafted 3-D flowers on a black or white background; a panel of the tiles would make striking wall art. And at Tilebar, there are copper-glazed tiles that look like embossed or braided leather.

Michael-Battaglia mentions one other major tile trend, which is also capitalizing on fabricating advancements. "Designs are pushing the boundaries on imitating natural stone," he says. "Terrazzo is a great example of this; companies are playing with scale and color with almost cartoonish liberties. Manufacturers have started elevating designs to mimic exotic stone like onyx and gemstones. They've moved away from just the imitation of classic stone — marbles, limestone and quartzes — and are creating their own mashups, a stone you don't see in nature."

Giant slabs of onyx-look tile are cladding bathrooms from floor to ceiling, including vanities and tub aprons. Companies are offering marble-look tile in unexpected hues like magenta and green, or with veining in gold or copper. And there are imaginative takes on terrazzo with pink, blue or green backgrounds and exploded, oversize patterns.

As VanHall says, "I can do a whole room in porcelain tile, yet it can all look different."

'UPSET ABOUT HOW government treats artists'

Bollywood veteran Rishi Kapoor is upset because he feels the government does not treat the artists' community well. He feels artistes are not honoured enough in India, the way it happens abroad.

"I really am upset when I think about how our government treats our artistes. We are the nation that is known worldwide for cinema, music and culture. But look at how our icons are treated. Does the government recognise our icons as much as other nations? All the new roads, flyovers, airports are so far named after politicians. Why not name these after artistes?" Rishi said. He added, "We have icons like Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Allah Rakha, Lata (Mangeshkar) ji. I am not saying this because they are my family but can you overlook the contribution of Raj Kapoor and Prithviraj Kapoor in the business of entertainment? They are celebrated worldwide but not in my country. Why so?"

Kapoor, who came back from the US after a year, observed how artistes are getting recognition abroad and the young generation is well versed with their cultural history. "In the US, there are places named after Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and many more artistes and young generation is

well aware of their contribution. Here, everything is named after politicians. We have achievers like astronaut Kalpana Chawla. She is an inspiration for many youngsters. How well versed are our kids about her? Politicians are only changing names with an agenda. Our artists are not honoured enough in their lifetime," said the actor, who has received several awards including the National Award as Best Child Actor for his debut role in *Mera Naam Joker* (1970). He was also conferred an award by the Union Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for his contribution to the Hindi film industry.

"Unless we make these names popular and put them on public places like airport, roads, school, colleges, how will the next generation understand the contribution of these icons in their respective filed?" questioned the icon who is known for roles in films like *Bobby*, *Karz*, *Kapoor & Sons*, *102 Not Out*, and *Mulk* to name a few.

Currently, he is gearing up for his forthcoming film *The Body*, directed by Jeethu Joseph and co-starring Emraan Hashmi and Vedhika. The film releases on December 13.



An Indo-French exhibition, drawn from the archives of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and the city's National Museum, opens a historical window into the linkages that existed between 1750-1850. By SAKSHI SHARMA

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST



role of French speaking officers serving the Indian rulers. I then proposed to extend the theme to the cultural exchanges triggered by those officers." From there he got the idea to use this opportunity to reveal the Indian treasures in the French collections. The Bibliothèque Nationale de France has more than 3,000 manuscripts — 2,000 in Sanskrit and Prakrit from all over

India and 1,000 in modern regional languages including 600 in Tamil. There are at least 50 painting albums which contain around 3,000 pieces from different regions and schools which were largely untapped by researchers. "I spent innumerable hours consulting with researchers and scholars such as Jérôme Petit to compose the text. It was also important to understand what the images

tell us about the Indo-French relationship of that time, and how it evolved," he adds. The second part shows a wide collection of Indian sacred texts preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale. Apart from the ones which centered around different aspects of Hinduism, the collection also has those related to Islam, Buddhism, Tantrism, Jainism and the ancient religion of the Parsis.

The exhibition's third leg points towards the rich and complex theme of *firangee* paintings where the subjects are essentially French. It answers how foreigners projected themselves during their sojourn in the East, and how they were represented by indigenous miniature artists. There are paintings of French-speaking travellers such as François Malherbe, Manucci, Bernier or Tavernier too.

The show also displays European themes in Indian court paintings. This took place as many western images circulated in Indian court and local painters were inspired by them and adapted their works to these. There were also books on Indian culture (botany, history and numismatic) commissioned by French and painted by Indian artists for a French readership.

The display also spans Indian paintings representing Indian divinities and communities commissioned by French administrators to Indian painters of the Tanjore tradition.

Very little is known about the artists of these works. When asked if Samuel had met someone who recalls any incident related to any of the paintings he says, "Roger Faligot, a French writer came to me few years back for his research on François Malherbe, the first European, possibly the first person in the world, to travel across the world, by sea and land. He was a merchant, who had to change or adapt his identities many times and had accumulated a lot of knowledge on the way. He was also welcomed in the court of Akbar." Through a careful study of his dress, painter Roger Faligot identified him in two early 17th century miniatures from the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Interestingly, during the 19th century scholars such as Burnouf or Max Muller studied India in the libraries and built a knowledge of the world on the basis of the materials collected. It changed the way we look at the world history. Such paintings are of an immense aesthetic value. But since it was impossible to exhibit them as preservation is not an easy task, they remained unknown.

Transporting them is often impossible as given their antiquity, these are fragile and also expensive. Besides, one can exhibit only one image per album, while some of them contain hundreds of pictures.

"So we have digitalised it as it becomes easier to consult the documents, and also to exhibit them. It will enrich our knowledge about the past and have a more accurate understanding of the present," says Samuel.

(The exhibition is on till December 7 at Delhi's National Museum.)



Emerge, reappear and rebuild

Dr SURYASNATA MOHANTY portrays the abstracts of city architecture and impressionist imagery of ancient temples that form vantage points of human realities

The knife work and occasional brush work on the background is what a viewer witnesses as they enter the exhibition — *Submergence and Emergence: The Continuum of Structures and Being* by Dr Suryasnata Mohanty at India Habitat Centre. It portrays the abstracts of city architecture and impressionist imagery of ancient temples that form vantage points of human realities.

The chronicles of this everlasting survival are quintessentially the tales of submerged beliefs, faith and struggles that may temporarily go beneath the visible. But they emerge, reappear and rebuild themselves over time. This forms the philosophy of artist Suryasnata's works.

Vilay-the Impermanence is an abstract work of a partially submerged citadel with a flight of steps carved in dark brown. It leads to a ruined multi-storeyed monumental structure against a white and grey background. It symbolises the fate of all structures, material or non-material things, reiterating that nothing is permanent.

On the other side is *Tales of Cities*, an abstract work with a backdrop of earth-brown shades. It reasserts the continuity of civilisational existence that life continues in new shapes and no destruction is permanent.

"The origin and continuities of life is a complex narrative, which continues in cycles. Numerous vantage points that construct human reality merge, overlap and occasionally blur out in the paintings of Suryasnata Mohanty," describes Avijna Bhattacharya, art curator.

Her upbringing in Bhubaneswar inspires her current works on surviving temples and continuities of faith.

Artist Shobha Broota also vis-



ited the exhibition and appreciated the subject and techniques Suryasnata uses to mix various colours and depict the complexities of the subject.

Swapna Drishti — A Journey in Dream is curious mix of colours with a blue background, which showcases ancient temples, depicting the vision of a lost city.

Another painting, *Emergence in Submergence* portrays a temple which is half submerged in water and half in sky, with a few stones at the corner.

The thread of *moli* shown as a rope to hang the temple bell in the painting — *The Calling Bell* — presents a unique thought and application of symbol, imagery and colour. "Bold treatment of colours and confident strokes bring out the maturity of Suryasnata's works that are not only thoughtful but also a visual treat," Broota remarked.

Sculptor and the current director general of National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Adwait Gadanayak also viewed the works such as *The Lone Hope and End is the Beginning*. While the former has a silhouette of a temple placed against the evening sky, the latter is an abstract work depicting a curious blend of black, bluish-green brick walls along with a threaded loop of pathways.



Multiple human faces

ARUN PANDIT, through his sculptures, shows mirror images of bulls and humans emerging out of a cocoon, says UMA NAIR

Arun Pandit, Lalit Kala National Award winner for sculpture in 2010, could well have been overlooked at the ICCR gallery in Kolkata. He is one of the great discoveries of the curator/collector Amal Allana who found him after a long journey of struggles. Pandit's bronze sculptures have taken on the look of granite and rock rather than metal. Asserting strongly the three dimensionality of his figures, Pandit, through his sculptures, shows bulls and humans emerging out of the cast, as if from a cocoon. He creates repeated mirror images and multiple reflections of the same figures.

Elegiac elegance *Resonance in Time* has a series of quaint sculptures by Pandit that echo the elegiac elegance of his thoughts, the brilliance of his conception and compositions that keep man at the centre of his universe. "I found that he had poetry, spirituality, irony and humour in his works," says Allana, the daughter of the connoisseur Ebrahim Alkazi who set up Art Heritage many moons ago. Allana discovered Pandit at the solo show *Power and Pathos* at the Lalit Kala Akademi in 2016. Pandit's bronze and fibre glass sculptures talk to us about the power of man as much as the uniqueness of creating an



alchemy of realist as well as cubist elements to bring forth a synergy that is at once unique and deeply resonant in its rhythms. It evocatively echoes our own thoughts.

Half world, half material Nationally known to Tirupathi devotees for his *Garuda* installation, Pandit considers Picasso, Moore and Brancusi as his role models. Today, in our country, Pandit

is the only one who creates an amalgam of mould and bronze casting in his sculptures to give it a rare half world, half material chemistry that showcase life's leanings as much as it reflects the inner deeper instincts of man's many dichotomies. His *Couples* point to the resilience and beauty of the institution of marriage. His *Musicians* is a work that brings forth the cubist brilliance of angularities and the magic of antiquity in vintage realism.

Tensile tenors

Pandit works with bronze to create his own islands of reflection "to see how much continuity and depth there is in one single material." In many other works, I saw the split mirror images of a single face which add poise to the idea of repetition and multiplication in a techno-crazy age. Each sculpture becomes a project on its own. Pass your eyes over this brilliantly designed and installed show and you'll see that it's not just bronze but each element which fights silently for dominance. In his works, Pandit is more interest-

ed in continuity and conversations that the viewer can interpret as he tries to do something different with each composition — having a different response to each facet.

Ways of seeing

"Not all of my sculptures are beautiful. Many are challenging and awkward — the viewer has to move around to find the moments or facets of the gestures I use. But once you decide how to look at something, you can apply that to everything," said he.

Pandit's interest in ways of seeing things stems from his childhood in Patna where he studied the creative practices of life and the architectural symbolism of housing as well as observed people. Known for having created public works in the city these sculptures tell us that a thought is a physical thing which is subtle but at the same time very real in this world. We understand that there's an intellectual as well as an aesthetic dimension to that.

The beauty of Pandit's sculptures is his passionate sense of perfection not just in his figurative creations but the tinge of spirituality that he

weaves into his work. There is an amalgamation of different moods, myriad responses and reflective contemplation.

All the world's a stage

This is perhaps a rare brand of syncretism. It has its own melancholic quietude. It amalgamates spirituality and illusionism, pervading every aspect of his work. "When you put something on a pedestal, you're saying that we can play with the idea of space and different dimensions that change over passage of time. When you change the position of the pedestal, it's like you're bringing back a perspective of your own idea of reality. Ultimately, it's all in our minds. And the most important thing is that we create works that give us a certain identity. Sculpture, for me, is about creating my own language within the beauty of the gravity of bronze. And the human figure is my elixir. It is the substance on which I contemplate the contexts of life's hidden drama as all the world's a stage."

(*Resonance in Time opens tomorrow at Art Heritage, Triveni, and is on till January 4.*)

WATCH OUT



The Art, Culture and Language Department of the Delhi government presents *Delhi Classical Music Festival* which celebrates the Hindustani classical music. Many eminent classical musicians like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Bidushi Kaushiki Chakravorty will perform at the event. TIME: 6 pm onwards WHEN: November 23 to 25 WHERE: Sunder Nursery, Hazrat Nizamuddin.



Gallery 1000A presents *Notions of Neverland*, which takes us through an unplanned and uncharted terrain of innocent explorations. TIME: 6 pm to 8 pm WHEN: Till December 16 WHERE: Gallery 1000A, Lado Sarai.

IIC presents an exhibition by Siddhartha Das Studio — *Interpreting Temples: Lingaraj and Puri Temples*. It showcases the exquisite objects being fashioned



over a hundred years, from miniaturised stone models of architectural frieses to wooden models that make the sacred architecture of the temples apparent, with photographs and films. WHEN: November 23 to December 6 TIME: 11 am to 7 pm WHERE: Kamladevi Complex, IIC.

Delhi Collage of Art presents outdoor sketching sessions under the guidance of fine art Guru Ashwani Kumar Prithviwasi. The concept helps the students to learn live sketches, freehand drawing and important key-points, with the use of water colours, crayons and other mediums. WHEN: November 24 to December 1 TIME: 11 am onwards WHERE: National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Jaipur House, India Gate.



My Art Galleries presents *Lotus*, a group exhibition of paintings by 150 artists. The works convey the deep connection of lotus in people's lives because of its ability to grow and thrive in impurity. WHEN: Till November 24 TIME: 11 am to 8 pm WHERE: My Art Galleries, Uttam Nagar.

SINGLES

INDIA TO MEET PAKISTAN IN SEMIFINAL

SAVAR: Chinmay Sutar and Shubham Sharma starred in India's comprehensive 120-run win over Hong Kong in the ACC Emerging Teams Cup on Monday. India will now clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in the semifinals. Sutar smashed an unbeaten 104 off 85 balls and Sharma an unbeaten 65 off 55 balls as India amassed 322 for five in 50 overs. Opener and wicketkeeper B R Sharath too made a valuable contribution with 90 off 93 balls. Sharma also contributed with the ball taking four wickets for 32 runs in 10 overs as India bowled out Hong Kong for 202 in 47.3 overs. Shahid Wasif top-scored for Hong Kong with 68 off 84 balls. India take on Pakistan in Dhaka tomorrow while other semifinal will be played between hosts Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The final too will be played in Dhaka on November 23.

BOPANNA PULLS OUT OF DAVIS CUP TIE

NEW DELHI: Senior player Rohan Bopanna pulled out of India's upcoming tie against Pakistan due to a shoulder injury, paving the way for Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan's inclusion in the playing squad. Bopanna, who underwent an MRI scan on Monday, communicated his unavailability to non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal. The 39-year-old was expected to be paired with veteran Leander Paes for the doubles rubber of the November 29-30 tie. "It's disappointing not to have Rohan in the side. But we want him to protect his shoulder. He needs shots (injection) for treatment. We have an able replacement in Jeevan. He has done well on the Tour and we will have a good left-right combination," Rajpal said.

MURALI VIJAY OUT OF MUSHTAQ ALI

CHENNAI: Experienced opener Murali Vijay will miss the Super League and Knockout matches of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament to be played in Surat from November 21 due to an ankle injury. Vijay has done well in the recent Vijay Hazare Trophy (50 overs) and Mushtaq Ali Trophy making 284 runs (8 matches, 1 century) and 127 runs (from 6 matches) respectively. He will be replaced by left-arm spinner M Siddharth in the squad, a press release from Tamil Nadu Cricket Association said. Tamil Nadu chief selector M Senthilnathan said Siddharth was picked as it was felt there were enough batsmen in the squad and as a back-up spinner.

VJENDER TO FACE ADAMU IN DUBAI

DUBAI: Indian boxing star Vijender Singh will square off against two-time former Commonwealth super middle-weight champion Charles Adamu of Ghana in his next professional bout here on November 22. Vijender, managed by Top Rank Promotions and IOS Boxing, made his US debut earlier this year in July, recording an 11th successive win, beating Mike Snider. WBO Asia Pacific & Oriental super middleweight champion, will take on the 42-year-old Adamu in a 10-round fight. Adamu is a veteran of 47 fights with a record of 33-14-0, including 26 knockouts. He completed most recently in Feb this year, winning via a Technical Knockout to end losing streak.

Now is the time

Struggling India face Oman in do-or-die World Cup qualifying round away match

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Winless in four games so far in an increasingly disappointing campaign, the Indian football team faces higher-ranked Oman in a do-or-die World Cup qualifying round match here today.

A first half strike from Sunil Chhetri gave India hopes of beating Oman in the first leg in Guwahati in September but it ultimately turned out to be so-near-yet-so-far as the Gulf nation struck twice in the final 10 minutes to outwit the home side.

Oman are coming into this match after an emphatic (4-1) win over Bangladesh on November 14.

India, on the other hand, are struggling after an impressive goal-less draw against Asian champions Qatar as they needed late equalisers in their identical 1-1 draws against lower-ranked Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

After three draws and a defeat, India are fourth in the Group E table with three points while Oman are second with nine points from four matches. Qatar are on top with 10 points from four matches.

An upset win over Oman will certainly keep Igor Stimac's side in the hunt for a next round berth but a loss will virtually send India out of reckoning as far as the 2022 World Cup qualification is concerned.

If India lose, they will trail Oman by nine points and have only three matches — maximum nine points — left to play in this second round of the qualifiers.

Even the runner-up sides from the eight groups are not guaranteed an automatic spot in the third round of the qualifiers.

A draw against Oman will also make it difficult for India to qualify for the next round. Their last three matches — all to be played next year — are against Qatar (at home on March 26), Bangladesh (away, June 4) and Afghanistan (at home, June 9).

But getting a least a point against Oman may prove crucial as it will make it easier for India to get an automatic third round berth for the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers.

This campaign is also a joint qualifying round for the 2023 Asian Cup and the third-placed teams and the best four fourth placed teams from the eight groups automatically get a spot in the third round of the qualifiers of the continental championships.

Stimac's side has struggled not just in defence but four matches into this campaign, it is also clear that its offence is also not in the best of form.

India is no longer dependent on only Chhetri to score the goals but the inability to convert the chances has cost the team dear.

Stimac has no illusion about who is the favourite today but he is also hoping that his players will convert the chances which



Indian coach Igor Stimac shake hands with his Oman counterpart before the start of pre-match press conference in Muscat on Monday

Indian Football/Twitter

come their way and score goals.

"Oman are much better now than the team we played against in Guwahati. They are the favourites. We know for a fact that match is going to be very difficult for us," the high profile Croatian coach said.

Historically too, India are the underdogs, having not won any of the 11 matches they have played against Oman who have emerged victorious on eight occasions.

Before the Guwahati match in September, the two sides played out a 0-0 draw in the run-up to the 2019 Asian Cup in the UAE. In the two legs of the 2018 World Cup qualifiers played in 2015, India had lost to Oman 0-3 in Muscat before a 1-2 defeat in Bangalore.

India will still be without senior central defender Anas Edathodika as he returned home before the Afghanistan match due to a family emergency, dealing a further blow to a team which has lost the services of Sandesh Jhingan, Rowling Borges and Amarjit Singh due to injuries.

Oman vs India
Live from 8:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



Indian coach Igor Stimac during team's practice session

Indian Football/Twitter

Points not revenge on Chhetri's mind

MUSCAT: India are not looking at revenge but full points against Oman, skipper Sunil Chhetri said on Monday as they gear up to take on the hosts.

Oman had beaten India 2-1 in Guwahati in September but Chhetri dismissed talks about India gunning for a revenge.

"We won't think about revenge or anything closer to that, absolutely not. At the end of the day, the points matter. It's not a derby as they are not our neighbours," Chhetri said during a training session.

"These are the qualifiers and we have only one thing in our mind, to go out and give everything that we have and take the result. I mean the important point is to go and play well, especially in the away matches."

Oman striker Al Mandhar has already scored four goals in four matches during the qualifiers but Pritam Kotal felt everyone should be dealt with equally to come out with a favourable result.

"It's not only Al Mandhar, other attackers like Al Alwai, Al Ghassani everyone can impose equal danger to a defence line. They are quick, they switch positions fast and can score from long. We have to be extra cautious of their long-range shots," Kotal opined.

Custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu picked that staying unbeaten on the road is the priority now and Oman is going to be a difficult opponent to play against.

"It's always difficult playing away from home and we recognise the threats (from Oman) given their ability and strength. We have to make sure we deal with them well." PTI



Cristiano Ronaldo, left, celebrates with his teammate Diogo Jota after he scored Portugal's second goal

AFP ■ PARIS

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as reigning champions Portugal secured their place at the Euro 2020 finals with a 2-0 victory away to Luxembourg, while France ended their qualifying campaign with victory.

Bruno Fernandes struck the opening goal on 39 minutes on Sunday before Ronaldo tapped in a scrappy second late on to clinch second place in Group B behind winners Ukraine, who drew 2-2 in Serbia.

Iranian striker Ali Daei holds the world record with 109 international goals scored in 149 appearances between 1993 and 2006.

"All records must be broken and I will beat that record," said Ronaldo.

Portugal became the 17th nation to qualify for next year's multi-host tournament, which kicks off in Rome on June 12, joining the likes of world champions France, Spain, Italy and England.

"We can't give the match high marks for style," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos, who admitted the heavy pitch made life challenging for his team.

"I'm very happy for my players because the qualifying campaign has been more difficult than we expected.



99 not out

Ronaldo scores 99th Portugal goal as holders seal Euro 2020 spot

"We're through to the finals of a major tournament for an 11th straight time. You've got to believe in these players."

Portugal knew they would book their place at Euro 2020 with a win or by matching Serbia's result from their game in Belgrade.

But they were made to work hard by a Luxembourg team ranked 96th in the world that notably held France to a 0-0 draw in 2018 World Cup qualifying.

Sporting Lisbon midfielder Fernandes broke the deadlock before half-time, controlling Bernardo Silva's pinpoint pass expertly before lashing in from 20 yards.

Ronaldo, who smacked in a hat-trick in Thursday's 6-0 thrashing of Lithuania, moved to the brink of his international century four minutes from time.

Silva's far-post cross was forced towards goal by Diogo Jota, with Luxembourg goalkeeper Anthony Moris getting a hand to the ball before Ronaldo turned in from the goalline.

FRANCE SIGN OFF

Later on Sunday, world champions France wrapped up top spot in Group H as goals from Corentin Tolisso and Antoine Griezmann sealed a 2-0 win over Albania in Tirana.

"I'm very dependent on the players," French World Cup-winning coach Didier Deschamps said after his 100th game in charge.

"It's a personal pride. But it's good to see what the players do together. At times, it can be a bit more difficult with changes to the players, injured players, but the spirit is there."

The visitors made a quick start on the pitch, though, as Bayern Munich midfielder Tolisso headed Griezmann's free-kick into the bottom corner.

The Barcelona star slotted in the second himself on the half-hour mark, before the dead rubber petered out in the second period, with Olivier Giroud going closest to a third by striking the post.

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Max Verstappen underlined his potential as a champion of the future on Sunday with a commanding victory for Red Bull in an astonishing and crash-hit Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos.

The 22-year-old Dutchman twice passed newly-crowned six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton in a thrilling contest that had two safety car interventions and saw the Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clash and retire, before clinching the eighth victory of his career.

His third win this season also made up for his disappointment in last year's race in Brazil when he looked certain to win before a late accident wrecked his hopes of victory.

He made the most of pole position and finished a dominant winner ahead of his former Red Bull teammate Pierre Gasly, now with Toro Rosso, as they delivered a Honda-powered one-two for the Japanese company for the first time since the heyday of local hero Ayrton Senna.

Frenchman Gasly came home 0.062 seconds ahead of Hamilton, who finished third for Mercedes but was demoted to seventh following a post-race stewards' investigation after crashing with luckless Thai driver Alexander Albon, the man who replaced Gasly at Red Bull, in the final laps.

Hamilton's demotion gifted McLaren's Carlos Sainz his first Formula One podium, subject to several other stewards' inquiries.

"Lewis was very quick," said Verstappen. "So I had to keep pushing all the time. He pitted early so we

MAX BENEFIT

Verstappen wins crazy Brazilian GP as both Ferraris crash out



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after winning the Brazilian GP

had to be on top of our pit-stops and we had a good move on him.

"I could control the race with the tyres I had, so, for me, it was unbelievable. It was a lot of fun out there and great to win the race."

VETTEL, LECLERC SUMMONED

Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto has called drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc to a clear-the-air meeting after their collision wrecked the team's hopes in Sao Paulo.

The pair, who collided while fighting for fourth place, were forced to retire from the race, leaving Ferrari embarrassed and pointless and the drivers arguing about who was to blame. "There will be time (for us all) together at Maranello to understand what happened," said Binotto.

"It's not for me to blame them, it's for them to recognise it."

Both cars were damaged and forced to retire in the incident, which came after a Safety Car restart when Vettel 'closed the door' on a challenging Leclerc.

It resulted in Ferrari's first scoreless race since the 2017 Singapore Grand Prix and refocused criticism on the team's habit of generating self-inflicted damage — and the fractious relationship between their drivers.

"I have not reviewed yet, I don't want to do it yet," insisted Binotto. "I think doing things in the heat of the moment, we may have the wrong conclusion."

"I heard both drivers, but they will come as well together to discuss again what happened and there will be time for the team to analyse all the video and the data."

"Whatever will be the judgement, more important is we are disappointed and sorry for the team."

"But first, the two drivers should be sorry for the team — as it has been a very small crash with big consequences..."

"They are silly things that should not happen."

Reid to focus on individual improvement

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

With no international assignment till next year, the Indian men's hockey side will focus on individual improvement rather than team tactics during the ongoing national camp, chief coach Graham Reid said on Monday.

After securing a 2020 Olympics berth in the qualifiers against Russia, the team is currently undergoing a three-week training and conditioning camp which will conclude on December 8.

"Given there is no tournament immediately following the three-week camp in



Bhubaneswar, it is a perfect opportunity for us to change focus from team tactics to more about individual improvement," Reid said as

detailed analysis and review from our performances last season including the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Odisha. This will provide a good road-map for us in our quest to squeeze as much improvement as we can in the next nine months," the 53-year-old Australian added.

The Indian team recently secured its place at the 2020 Olympic Games by defeating Russia 11-3 on aggregate at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers here.

India's next assignment will be the twin home leg matches of the FIH Pro League against the Netherlands in January next

year. Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar will host India's home matches during the 2020 Hockey Pro League, the sport's governing body announced on Monday.

The first team that India will host is the Netherlands on January 18. The Pro League will feature 144 matches in the coming season.

Australia's home matches will be played in Perth and Sydney, while England will be playing its share in London.

The first match will feature the Netherlands and China on January 11, 2020 at the Wujin Hockey Stadium in Changzhou.

NEW KING OF LONDON

Tsitsipas topples Thiem to become first Greek player to win ATP Finals title

AFP ■ LONDON

Stefanos Tsitsipas battled back from a set down against Dominic Thiem to win the ATP Finals title on Sunday night, emphatically staking his claim as the leader of the next generation of aspiring global superstars.

The Greek 21-year-old, who won, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) is the youngest champion since Lleyton Hewitt in 2001 and the fourth first-time champion at the season-ending event in as many years.

It is Tsitsipas's third title of the season and comes a year after he was crowned champion at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan.

He has charmed the crowd at London's O2 Arena all week and earned his place in the final with an impressive straight-sets win against six-time champion Roger Federer.

"I can't sum up my emotions right now," said Tsitsipas. "It's amazing to be remembered as the 2019 champion. It is a dream come true and the best way to end this match."

"I did get nervous at some points in the match but I managed to forget about how I felt and I had momentum in the tie-break which was really tight.

"My fighting spirit and me constantly trying to push myself to do better got me there in the end."

Defeat is a bitter disappointment for Thiem, who won five titles this year, including the Indian Wells Masters, and reached a second successive French Open final.

There was little to choose between sixth-seed Tsitsipas and Austria's world number five Thiem in the first set as a total of five break points went begging.

Both players had impressed on serve during the tournament, with Tsitsipas's figures especially striking — 44 service games won out of 47 leading into the final.

In an inevitable tie-break Tsitsipas saved a set point at 5/6 but



Stefanos Tsitsipas, right, and Dominic Thiem pose for the media with their trophies after the final of the ATP World Finals match

Thiem clinched his second set point with a powerful serve that the Greek returned into the net.

TSITSIPAS BREAKS

But Tsitsipas regrouped and within minutes Thiem, who beat his opponent in three sets in the Beijing final last month, was under pressure, spraying a forehand wide to concede first break of the match.

Tsitsipas held with ease and then produced a forehand down the line to break again, with Thiem threatening to unravel. Tsitsipas had won 12 out of 14 points in the set.

Thiem, who like Tsitsipas plays with a single-handed backhand, stemmed the tide but could make little impression on his opponent's serve and lost the set 6-2.

Thiem was rocking again at the start of the deciding set. He saved two break points in the first game but looked increasingly shaky and was broken to trail 1-2.

The Greek was now well on top but out of nowhere Thiem moved at 3-3 after Tsitsipas put a backhand wide.

The Austrian was now playing with much more confidence, unleashing a series of blistering winners and edged ahead 5-4 after another service hold but the rest of the set went with serve.

In the deciding set tie-break Tsitsipas took a 4-2 lead but was pegged back to 4/4.

But on the next point Tsitsipas earned a mini-break, giving him the chance to serve out for the

match and he made no mistake, closing out the biggest victory of his career.

Tsitsipas has competition among his peers as the new generation attempt to dislodge Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, who have dominated the men's game for the past 15 years.

World number four Daniil Medvedev won two Masters titles this year and reached the US Open final while Alexander Zverev was in London defending the title he won last year.

But Tsitsipas, who has beaten every member of the "Big Three" in 2019, will go into the new season with the belief he can take the next step towards the apex of the men's game.

Murray will do 'great job' at Davis Cup



AFP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray will do a "great job" when he continues his comeback from injury at next week's inaugural Davis Cup Finals in Madrid, British captain Leon Smith said on Sunday.

Murray, who inspired Britain to the 2015 Davis Cup title, will line up alongside his older brother Jamie, Dan Evans, Kyle Edmund and Neal Skupski at the Caja Magica.

"Andy feels great," said Smith. "He's obviously extremely happy to be back in tennis."

"He's training unbelievably hard to get back to his best position, with great focus."

"If he's picked to play, then I know he will do a great job on the court. That's not ego, that's confidence of course."

"He's still a very good tennis player, he's pushing (the other) guys ahead. And at the same time, you realise what he's gone through."

Britain, who were handed a wildcard for the first tournament since the old World Group was scrapped, will be favourites to progress from a Group E.

Nadal ends as No 1

AFP ■ LONDON

Rafael Nadal was confirmed as the year-end world number one for the fifth time after the ATP released its season-closing rankings on Monday.

The Spaniard did not make it beyond the group stage of last week's ATP Finals in London but Novak Djokovic's failure to reach the semi-finals meant Nadal closed the year with 9,985 points, 840 clear of the Serb.

Nadal draws level with rivals Djokovic and Roger Federer, who have also finished the year in top spot five times, and moves one behind six-time end-of-year number one Pete Sampras.

Nadal and Djokovic have been this year's two dominant players after winning two Majors each.

Djokovic won the

TOP 10 PLAYERS		
1.	Rafael Nadal (ESP)	9,985 pts
2.	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	9,145
3.	Roger Federer (SUI)	6,590
4.	Dominic Thiem (AUT)	5,825 (+1)
5.	Daniil Medvedev (RUS)	5,705 (-1)
6.	Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	5,300
7.	Alexander Zverev (GER)	3,345
8.	Matteo Berrettini (ITA)	2,870
9.	Roberto Bautista (ESP)	2,540
10.	Gael Monfils (FRA)	2,530
126.	Andy Murray (GBR)	442

Australian Open and Wimbledon with Nadal cleaning up at Roland Garros and the US Open.

Federer ends the season at number three for the second year running. The Swiss, who turned 38 in August, has cut down his Tour commitments to focus on events around Grand Slams.

He reached the semi-finals of the French Open where he lost

to Nadal and the last eight at Flushing Meadows where he lost in five sets to world number 20 Gregor Dimitrov.

In between he lost an epic Wimbledon final against Djokovic, the first to be decided by a tie-break in the fifth set, suggesting that he still has hopes of a 21st major title in 2020.

Dominic Thiem, who took a set off Nadal in the final of the French Open, moves up to number four.

The 21-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas closes the year at number six, just behind Daniil Medvedev, after his triumph in London.

Former world number one Andy Murray began the year ranked at 240 and the prospect of retirement.

As he struggled with surgery on a hip injury and the subsequent recuperation he had slipped to 503 in September before a dramatic return to the courts, which produced a remarkable victory at the European Open in Antwerp, lifted him to a year-end 126.



Eves continue to dominate WI Spinners shine as India win 4th T20 by 5 runs

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

The series already in their pocket, India women continued their domination over the West Indies women by notching up a five-run win in the rain-truncated fourth T20 International in Guyana.

India women now lead the five-match series 4-0 after sealing the series in the third game here.

In the rain-marred fourth T20 International which was reduced to a nine-over-a-side affair, India women made 50 for the loss of seven wickets after being sent into bat.

Pooja Vastrakar (10) was the lone

Indian to reach double digit score.

Hayley Mathews (3/13) scalped three wickets for the hosts, while Afy Fletcher (2/2) and Sheneta Grimmond (2/10) picked up two wickets apiece.

The Indians then bowled and fielded with discipline to restrict the West Indies women to 45 for five in their nine overs.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur completely relied on her spinners and they did not disappoint her as off-spinner Anuja Patil (2/8), Deepti Sharma (1/8) and Radha Yadav (1/8) kept the Windies on a tight leash throughout to ensure the win.

Mathews (11) and Chinelle Henry (11) top-scored for the home team.

The fifth and final T20 of the series will be played here on Thursday.



Kidambi Srikanth in action during Denmark Open tournament

PTI ■ GWANGJU

Back in form after a string of below-par performances, Kidambi Srikanth would look for another good outing while Saina Nehwal pulled out of the Korea Masters World Tour Super 300 tournament, which starts with the qualifiers here today.

After going through a tough

phase since his final finish at India Open this year, Srikanth boosted his confidence with a semifinal appearance at the Hong Kong Open last week.

It was his first appearance at the last four stage since the India Open and the Indian ace would look to continue the good run when he opens against Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent in the men's singles.

The wicketkeeper-batsman was removed as captain and dropped from

Paine drops retirement hint

Test skipper says that he's not sure, but Australian summer could be his last

IANS ■ BRISBANE

Australia captain Tim Paine on Monday said the upcoming Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand could be the last time he leads the side at home.

"It might be (my last summer), I'm not too sure," Paine told reporters. "But... I'm enjoying doing it. I feel good physically (and) mentally. So while that continues, I'm scoring enough runs and keeping well enough, then I'd like to continue."

"I know when you get to my age that can change really quickly. I'm really looking forward to this summer, beyond that I haven't looked too far. I know what I want to do and what I want to achieve."

Wicketkeeper Paine, 34, took over the reins after former skipper Steve Smith was handed a one-year suspension last year for his role in the ball tampering



Tim Paine celebrates with Aus teammates

scandal.

There have been talks of restoring Smith as captain as his exceptional performance at the Ashes where he amassed 774 runs.

Asked about his aim as skipper, Paine said Australia's top priority is to reclaim top spot in ICC test rankings and win the World Test Championship (WTC) where they are right now placed fifth in the points table.

"Our goal is to get back to that number one ranking and we want to win that 'Test Championship'," he added. "To do that we're going to have to be good enough to win in India and we're going to have to be good enough to beat everyone, everywhere."

"It's the only way we're going to get to where we want to get to. It's an exciting period and I'm looking forward to being part of the start of that and there is no end point at the moment!"

Delhi qualify for Super League



Harshal Patel in action during Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament

PTI ■ SURAT

All-rounder Lalit Yadav claimed three wickets with his off-breaks as Delhi notched up a comprehensive 20-run win over Odisha in their final Group E match to qualify for the Super League of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Monday.

Elected to bat, Delhi posted 149 for six and then returned to dismiss Odisha for 129 in 18.1 overs to complete the win and top Group E with 22 points from seven matches.

Going through a rough patch, Shikhar Dhawan top-scored with a 33-ball 35 which comprised three fours and a six. However his struggle was apparent against an unfancied Odisha attack. He failed to get going.

Earlier, Delhi batsmen, including opener Hiten Dalal (20) and first-down Dhruv Shorey (26), got starts but none could convert them into big scores but they did enough to help the team post a decent score on board.

For Odisha, Abhishek Raut (2/21) took two wickets, while Govinda Poddar (1/18), Suryakant Pradhan (1/31), Pappu Roy (1/35) and Subham Nayak (1/29) accounted for one wicket each.

Defending the total, Yadav returned with impressive figures of 3.1-1-10-3 and he was ably supported by Pawan Negi (2/38) and Nitish Rana (2/6) as the trio derailed Odisha's chase.

Odisha had a disastrous start and were looking down the

barrel at 36 for 5 in 7.2 overs.

Down the order, Suryakant Pradhan smashed a 20-ball 48 laced with six hits to the fence but it was not enough.

In another Group E match, Chintan Gaja (4/15) snapped four wickets before Kshitij Patel blasted a 36-ball 44 as Gujarat thrashed Jammu and Kashmir by 8 wickets.

Sent to bat, J & K folded for a paltry 101 in 18.3 overs, thanks to Gaja and Hardik Patel (3/17), who shared seven wickets between them.

Piyush Chawla (2/19) and Axar Patel (1/23) also contributed with the ball.

Chasing the total, Kshitij top-scored with an unbeaten 44 off 36 balls, while Chirag Gandhi (32) and Urvil Patel (22) chipped in with useful contributions as Gujarat scored 102 for 2 in 13.3 overs.

HARYANA MAUL MECHALAYA MUMBAI: Powered by an all-round show by Harshal Patel, Haryana ended their league stage campaign on a high with a 99-run win against Meghalaya in a Group D match.

Put into bat at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in the suburbs, Haryana rode on a quick fire 82 off 40 balls by opener Patel to amass a competitive 202/6.

The chase was an uphill task for Meghalaya, who struggled to get going and were restricted to 103/9.

Patel, a right-arm medium pacer, then shone with the ball to return with fine figures of 3/22.

Sarfraz should focus on domestic cricket: Pak PM

KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan has advised sacked Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed to focus on domestic cricket to get back to the national team.

Khan, the patron-in-chief of Pakistan Cricket Board and a former captain, also backed the appointment of Misbah-ul-Haq as head coach and chief selector.

"I don't think the performance and form of a player should be judged by T20 cricket but through Test and One-day cricket. He can come back to the national team, he should focus on domestic cricket," Khan said when asked about Sarfraz.

The wicketkeeper-batsman was removed as captain and dropped from

the team in all three formats by the PCB last month after Pakistan were whitewashed 0-3 in a T20 series at home.

Regarding the appointment of Misbah as head coach and chief selector, Khan said, "It is a constructive move to appoint Misbah as he is an honest and unbiased personality who has loads of experience behind him."

"I think Misbah will turn out to be a good choice and Pakistan will improve and do well in Test and ODI cricket under him. He has this talent in him that he can groom the players and also improve their performance," he added.

Khan also supported the new domestic first-class season in which only six provincial teams are competing on home and away basis and said eventually this will lead to a better cricket system in the country.

He noted that there was already some improvement in domestic cricket and hoped it will get better.

"If our domestic cricket improves, then Pakistan cricket will also move forward."

PTI