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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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MY WORST
CRITIC: ANIL
14 VIVACITY

Sena fails to show numbers, Guv invites NCP

Political musical chairs in Maharashtra continue

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a new twist to the ongoing game of political musical chairs in Maharashtra, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Monday night eliminated the Shiv Sena from the Government formation exercise after it staked a claim to form a Government but failed to submit letters of support from the NCP and the Congress.

Late in the night, the Governor called a delegation of NCP leaders for consultations. During the meeting, the Governor handed a letter to the NCP leaders asking their party to indicate its "willingness and ability" to form the next Government in the State by 8.30 pm on Tuesday.

Talking to media persons after meeting the Governor, State NCP president Jayant Patil said, "As per the procedure, the Governor has given us a letter being the third single largest party in Maharashtra. We have suggested to him that we will have to talk to our alliance partner. We have assured him that we will get back to him as early as possible."

NCP president Sharad Pawar and central Congress leaders will hold talks on Tuesday on the Governor's letter. Given that the combined strength of the two parties is 98 MLAs and they are 47 MLAs short of the magic majority figure of 145 in the 288-member



Shiv Sena leaders Aadiya Thackeray and Eknath Shinde, along with party leaders, address a Press conference after meeting Maharashtra Governor BS Koshyari in Mumbai on Monday evening

Assembly, the two parties cannot on their own stake a claim to form a Government.

It remains to be seen if the NCP and the Congress will seek the support of the Shiv Sena to form a Government. If the two parties do approach the Sena, will the Sena extend its support to the NCP and the Congress? Lending support to the NCP-Congress means the Sena forfeiting its much-discussed claim on the Chief Minister's post, a post for which the Sena sacrificed its 30-year-long (albeit of an interrupted nature in 2014) alliance with the BJP.

Secondly, the Sena will have to play the second fiddle to the NCP-Congress alliance if it chooses to be a part of the three-party Government. Will the NCP-Congress alliance take

the risk of running a Government with an aggressive Sena, which is ideologically different from the two parties?

On his part, the Governor is going through with the motions of exhausting Constitutional options before him. Once he is through with the process, will he recommend President's rule in the State? This is a question that is bothering all the political parties in the State.

Despite indicating that they would extend their support to the Sena to form a Government, the NCP and Congress remained non-committal on the issue till late in the evening.

Though Pawar held several rounds of talks with his party leaders, he refrained from saying anything on extending sup-

Sena plans exit from NDA for survival

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The steady national dominance of the BJP since 2014 has seemingly squeezed the space and whittled the influence of allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the rippling impact of what is now being felt even by its oldest "ideological partner" Shiv Sena which after making common cause with the former for 25 years, is, interestingly, set to end the alliance and hug the political opponents it fought against till as recently as in the last month's Assembly polls in Maharashtra.

Sena, which had experimented with the Congress or

port to the Sena all through the day. The NCP's refrain was that it was waiting for an official word from the Congress leadership.

After a Sena delegation met the Governor for staking claim to form a Government, the Congress issue a brief Press release which said, "The Congress Working Committee met this morning and had a detailed discussion on the situation in Maharashtra, after which a consultation was held with Maharashtra Congress leaders. The Congress president Sonia Gandhi has spoken to Sharad Pawar. The party will have further discussions with the NCP."

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briefly even with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Maharashtra before launching itself with the BJP in 1989 touting "saffron brotherhood", was all through two decades a

"big-brother" in the western State as the BJP willingly played a second-fiddle in the State.

The Shah-Modi politics reversed the equation in the State as was evident when the two allies contested polls separately in 2014. In 2019, too, the two bitterly fought for greater share of seats before joining hands at the last minute in the Assembly polls that last month did not deliver the "expected" majority for the BJP, giving it 17 less seats than it collected in 2014.

The taciturn Sena was feeling the pressure from the BJP and suspected it of usurping its urban turf and gradually marginalising it in the State politics.

The rules of games had changed and the BJP was now playing big brother in Maharashtra even as it was already at the Centre. And as they say when the shove came to the push, Sena, which was constantly sniping at the BJP and attacking Modi-Shah and at times even praising former Congress president Rahul Gandhi at the cost of the duo, bolted and joined one-time foes the Congress and the NCP to try forming a second Government after Manohar Joshi first helmed the affairs in 1995 to become the first non-Congress Chief Minister in Maharashtra.

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1,500 winged guests found dead around Sambhar Lake

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Hundreds of migratory birds of over a dozen species have been found dead in Sambhar lake area near Jaipur. Water contamination is suspected to be the cause behind the birds' death, said officials, adding, the exact reason, however, would be clear only after testing their viscera.

The birds, numbering around 1,500, were found dead on Sunday in over five to seven square km area, which is a well-known wetland of international importance and is visited by tens of thousands of migratory birds during winter.

After receiving the information about dead birds from local residents, a team of revenue, forest and veterinary officials visited the area and found around 1,500 carcasses of 15 species, including those of Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Shelduck, Plovers, Avocets and others.

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Sena's Minister quits Modi Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fulfilling the NCP's condition that the Shiv Sena should quit the Modi Government, its Heavy Industries Minister Arvind Sawant on Monday announced his resignation from the Union Cabinet, saying there is no trust left and it would not be proper to continue as Minister when a new Government is being formed in Maharashtra. "I have resigned as Union Minister," the Shiv Sena leader said.

Cong's Catch-22 situation spoils Shiv Sena's chance

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Should we, shouldn't we? This question rattled the Congress brass throughout Monday as it held two separate brainstorming sessions in a bid to reach a conclusion on whether to back the ideologically-opposite Shiv Sena to form a Government in Maharashtra. And if it did, in what form would it be?

By the end of the day, the Congress house remained divided on the issue and the question continued to trouble partymen who decided to take a final call on the matter on Tuesday after its Central and State leaders talk to NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who shares a good rapport with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray.

In the meantime, as a section of the media said the Congress and the NCP have faxed their letters of support to the Sena to the Maharashtra



Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge with Maharashtra unit leaders at 10 Janpath in New Delhi

Governor, Congress' State incharge Mallikarjun Kharge categorically denied having done so.

A statement issued by party general secretary KC Venugopal after the meeting said, "The Congress president has spoken to Sharad Pawar. The party will have further discussions with the NCP"

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Govt sets in motion formation of trust to build Ram Mandir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the Supreme Court judgment to set up a trust for the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the Centre has started the process, with a team of officers from the Ministries of Home, Law and Culture to study the SC order threadbare to ensure that the trust is constituted in three months as per the SC verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.

The opinion of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General will be taken on how to proceed, said senior officials. The Ministry of Home Affairs or Ministry of Culture will be expected to be the nodal Ministry in creation of the trust, said officials, adding that consultations will also soon start with the Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard.

In a unanimous verdict on



Saturday, a five-judge constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi cleared the way for the construction of a

Ram temple at the 2.77-acre disputed site in Ayodhya and directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot at an "alternate but prominent" location to the Sunni Central Waqf Board for building a mosque.

"The Central Government shall within a period of three months from the date of this judgment, formulate a scheme under the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993. The scheme shall envisage the setting up of a trust with a board of trustees or any other appropriate body...," said the judgment. It is understood that the Centre will task the Uttar Pradesh Government to find the five acre for the construction of the new mosque in consultation with the Sunni Waqf Board. The apex court has directed either the Centre or the State Government to hand over the five acre to the Sunni Waqf Board.

AIMPLB meeting on Nov 17

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The all important meeting of the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) to discuss the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit will be held here on November 17.

The meeting of the AIMPLB executive committee will be held at Nadwatul Ulama at 1000 hours on Sunday, said Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, executive member of the Muslim Personal Law Board, here on Monday.

Senior lawyers who represented the Muslim side in the Ayodhya case in the apex court would also attend the meeting. All-India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi and Babri Masjid Action Committee convener and senior lawyer Zafaryab Jilani will be present in the meeting.

The meeting will take a decision on whether the Muslim side should go for a review petition and agree to take 5-acre land for a mosque as granted by the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, the main petitioner in the Ayodhya title suit, will meet in Lucknow on November 26 to take a decision on the same issues.

UP govt thanks people for keeping peace

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday thanked people of the state for maintaining communal harmony in the wake of the Supreme Court's verdict on vexed Ayodhya issue. The government thanked people during a Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the government's spokesperson Shrikant Sharma and Siddharth Nath Singh told reporters.

Ayodhya verdict all-inclusive, says Kalyan Singh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kalyan Singh, who was chief minister of Uttar Pradesh when the Babri Masjid was demolished and is an accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case, has welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court in the Ayodhya issue, saying the verdict has satisfied all sections of society and it should not be seen as anyone's victory or defeat. He said the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute verdict was "all-inclusive" and it had brought the curtains down on the 500-year-old dispute.

Kalyan Singh also said that along with construction of a grand Ram temple, Ayodhya should also be developed as the best tourist hub in the country so that the local people could get livelihood.

He added that the present Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had already launched several development projects in



Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh addressing mediapersons in Lucknow on Monday

Ayodhya. The former Governor of Rajasthan said Ram should be linked with roti and now the biggest work was to make Ayodhya a developed city where everyone had a job.

Singh said he would visit Ayodhya very soon to have a darshan of Ram Lalla.

Refusing to accept that the BJP would now lose political

sheen after the apex court judgement giving approval to the Ram temple, Singh said, "Ram temple movement was never a political issue. It can be linked to culture and faith of the countrymen but not politics," he said, addressing a press conference here on Monday.

Singh, who has been charge-sheeted by the CBI in the Babri Masjid demolition case and is on

bail, said, "I am a Ram bhakt and from day one I am dreaming for a grand Ram temple."

When asked, whether he would lay the foundation stone of the Ram temple, the BJP leader said there was no dispute on who would lay the foundation stone. "It could be Yogi Adityanath or Prime Minister. But let the names of the people in the Trust come up, then you will know who will lay the foundation," he said.

When asked about the case related to demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992 in which he is an accused along with LK Advani, MM Joshi, Uma Bharati, Vinay Katiyar and others, Singh said the trial was underway in the CBI court in Lucknow and just seven out of the 39 witnesses had disposed on his case so far. "I don't know how much the case will linger on. But I will place my point and defend myself in the court only and will not disclose anything before the media," he said.

Min stuck for 6 hrs in JNU hostel fee hike stir

HRD Minister assures help

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The hostel fee hike, "curfew timings" and dress code proposed by the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration have not gone down well with the students who held a protest in front of the university gate on Monday and clashed with police, leaving HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" stranded for over six hours at the venue of the varsity's convocation.

The students wanted to march towards the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), around 3 kilometres from the JNU campus where Vice President Venkaiah Naidu was addressing the university's convocation with HRD Minister at an auditorium, but were stopped a few meters back by the Delhi Police and Central Reserve Police Force. Police used water cannon to disperse the protesters.

"...the situation has been handled. A student delegation, including the JNUSU president had met the Minister and they have been given assurance that their demands will be addressed," said a senior HRD Ministry official. The HRD Minister left the AICTE premises around 4.15 pm and had to cancel two events scheduled at Shastrji Bhawan.

Police also detained several students who were released after a few hours. The police personnel also formed a 'human chain' in order to facilitate the safe exit of the students attending convocation.

The protests started in the morning around 11:30 am and escalated as the day progressed with hundreds of students jostling with the police personnel. The protesters also toppled barricades and hurled shoes at the police and CRPF personnel when they were not allowed to march towards the convocation venue.

Police said that barricades were placed outside the north and west gates of the JNU campus, as well as on the route between the AICTE auditorium and the university at Baba Balaknath Marg and in nearby areas.

The angry students raised slogans such as "Delhi Police Go Back" and called Vice Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar Mamidala a 'thief'. The students are demanding withdrawal of the draft hostel manual, which they



claimed has provisions for fee hike, dress code and curfew timings. Top brass of police including Special Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) South Zone, R S Krishna, Joint CP (Central range) Anand Mohan, Devendra Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South West and Mandeep Singh Randhawa, the DCP, Central district were pressed into service to handle the situation.

Traffic came to a standstill around the area. The gates of the AICTE were locked and security personnel were stationed in and outside the premises. Even Union HRD Minister was not able to come out of the auditorium for over six hours, following which the police requested the students to let him go. Police requested the protesters to move from the gate, but the protesting students refused. A varsity official said JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh and vice president Saket Moon, along with other students, met Union HRD Minister who assured them that their demands would be looked into. "They, however, were not able to meet the VC and raised slogans following which they started chanting "we want V-C" at the venue," said the official.

"The V-C is destroying the varsity. We have made several attempts to meet him in campus, but there has been no fruitful result," Ghosh said.

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House, water and sewage taxes to be levied in semi-urban areas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to increase revenue, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to impose house tax, water tax and sewage tax on the properties in nagar palika and nagar panchayat limits in the semi-urban areas of the state in the next six months for which it will amend the Nagar Palika Act.

This decision was taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The meeting approved the proposal to amend the Nagar Palika Act.

"The draft notification of the new transparent and simple tax system on properties, including house tax, water tax and sewage tax, will be issued within one month and after inviting objections from the people and disposing them, of the tax regime will be implemented in the next six months," UP government spokesperson and Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma said here on Monday.

The tax system will be similar to the tax being charged in nagar nigams, he said. In another decision, the government has approved power transmission lines from Meerut to Simbhauli and from Rampur to Sambhal, to be laid on public-private partnership (PPP) model by 2021. It will benefit over 13 districts of western UP.

Contract to lay the transmission lines has been awarded to public sector Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) after competitive bidding.

While the Meerut-Simbhauli line will cost around ₹115.90 crore, the Rampur-Sambhal transmission line will cost ₹102.97 crore.

UP government will not spend any money on the laying of the transmission line but will pay for its use for next 35 years. STAMPS: The UP government has approved a proposal to allow traditional vendors selling stamps to sell e-stamps and lifted the cap of ₹15,000.

NAME: The state cabinet has also changed the name of Ambedkar Special Job Scheme run by the UP government to Baba Saheb Dr BR Ambedkar Special Job Scheme. It will be controlled by the Rural Development department in place of Agriculture department.

Govt approves bids for two expressways

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday approved the bids for two ambitious expressway projects — Bundelkhand Expressway linking Bundelkhand with Delhi via Agra-Lucknow Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway linking eastern UP with the national capital via Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

The financial bids for the two expressways were opened on October 25 and the state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave its approval to them on Monday. Government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh, who is state Khadi Minister, said both the expressways were expected to be completed within 36 months after the signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the construction companies. He said if these companies completed their work in 30 months, they would get an incentive of 5 per cent. The minister said both the expressways would generate 60,000 additional jobs.

"Both the expressways would be constructed under EPC. The cost of the Bundelkhand Expressway would include ₹7,786.81 crore for construction work and ₹2202.38 crore for land acquisition. The total cost of Gorakhpur Link Expressway is estimated at ₹3,024.10 crore for construction work and ₹1,563.90 crore for purchasing land," Singh said. He said the foundation stones of both the expressways would be laid very soon.

The Bundelkhand Expressway has been divided into six packages and 17 financial bids were received for the project. The lowest bid for the



Government spokesmen and state ministers Shrikant Sharma and Sidharth Nath Singh addressing media persons in Lucknow on Monday

project was found to be 12.72 per cent less than the cost estimated by the UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority and this resulted in a net saving of ₹1,131.74 crore.

The companies awarded the contract for the Bundelkhand Expressway are Apco Infratech Private Limited, Ashoka Buildcon Limited, Gawar Constructions Limited and Dilip Buildcon Limited. Apco Infratech Private Ltd has been given packages one and two, Ashoka Buildcon Limited package three, Gawar Constructions Limited packages 4 and 5 and Dilip Buildcon Ltd given the sixth package.

The Bundelkhand Expressway will commence from Chitrakoot district near Bharatmilap and pass through Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun and Auraiya to link with the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Etawah. It will be a 4-lane expressway expandable to six lanes in future. The total length of the expressway will be 297 kilometres. With the comple-

tion of this expressway, Bundelkhand regions will be linked with the national capital, opening new avenues of development for the economically backward region.

Similarly, the Gorakhpur Link Expressway project has been divided into two packages and 12 bids were received for it. The price quoted by the lowest bidder is 3.12 per cent less than the cost estimated by the UPEIDA, resulting in saving of Rs 97.44 crore. The total saving in both the projects is Rs 1,229 crore, Singh said.

Of the two packages of this expressway, the first one has been awarded to Apco Infratech Pvt Ltd and the second to Dilip Buildcon Ltd. The Gorakhpur Link Expressway commencing from Gorakhpur will pass through Sant Kabir Nagar and Ambedkarnagar and link with the Purvanchal Expressway in Azamgarh district. This will also be a four-lane expressway expandable to six lanes. The length of the link expressway is estimated to be 91.35 km.

ment. MADRASAs: The government has approved a scheme to provide quality education in madrasas (SPQEM) in the state for which the Centre will be giving 60 per cent grant. A total of ₹213 crore will be spent on this scheme in this fiscal. A total of 7,442 govern-

ment recognised madrasas will be eligible benefited by the scheme.

UNIVERSITY: The government has also decided to set up Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh. The colleges of Aligarh, Kasganj, Hathras and Etah districts will come under

its jurisdiction. However, till the university is set up, the colleges of these districts will be affiliated with Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar University in Agra. The government has also approved a fund of ₹23.45 crore for constructing a new municipal corporation building in Gorakhpur.

Saints demand temporary temple for Ram Lalla

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With experts claiming that it will take at least five years to complete construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, saints in the temple town have demanded that a temporary temple be constructed and Ram Lalla be shifted there.

Mahant Raju Das of the famous Hanumangarhi temple said on Monday that since 1992, Ram Lalla was 'staying' in a tent. "As construction of a grand temple is likely to take five years' time, as a temporary arrangement, a small temple should be built so that devotees coming for darshan of Ram Lalla do not face any difficulty," he said.

"After the Supreme Court judgement, Ram bhakts will not accept Ram Lalla still staying



Replica of the proposed Ram Mandir on display at Karsewakpuram, in Ayodhya PTI

under the tent," he added. Mahant Ramchandra Das of Nishkam Seva Trust also supported the views of shifting Ram Lalla to any other place so that pilgrim could have easy darshan and puja could be done as per the rituals. Another saint, Santram

Bhushan Kripalu, said that Ram bhakts had sacrificed their lives in the Ram Janmabhoomi struggle and now it would not be prudent to keep them waiting to offer puja.

Meanwhile, the number of devotees coming to the makeshift temple to pay obe-

sance to Ram Lalla is increasing day by day. On Sunday, over 5,500 people prayed in the temple against 2,500 on Saturday when the apex court judgement came on the title suit. On Monday, the number of devotees crossed the 6,000-mark. On normal days, the number of devotees coming for darshan of Ram Lalla is around 10,000 and during festivals this number crosses the 50,000-mark.

The Patna-based Mahaveer Seva Trust headed by former IPS officer Acharya Kishore Kunal has announced to give Rs 10 crore for the Ram temple. It said Rs 2 crore would be given every year for the next five years. "We are ready go give more funds if required. Besides, our Trust will run a Ram rasoi to offer free food to the pilgrims at the Ram Janmabhoomi," he said.

Yogi thanks people for maintaining peace and communal harmony

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday thanked the people of Uttar Pradesh for maintaining peace and communal harmony after the Supreme Court pronounced its judgement on the vexed Ayodhya issue on Saturday.

The Chief Minister, while interacting with his ministerial colleagues in the cabinet meeting on Monday, said the people of the state should be appreciated for maintaining law and order in the wake of the Ayodhya verdict.

The cabinet ministers also lauded the role of the Chief Minister in taking pains to monitor the law and order and himself making all efforts to keep a tab on the situation the day the Supreme Court delivered the judgement," state government spokesperson and Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma



said here. Sharma said some of the ministers also spoke on the issue and appreciated how the Chief Minister himself went to the police control room in Lucknow to take stock of the situation. The government on Monday held its first cabinet meeting after the Ayodhya verdict was pronounced.

Elaborate arrangements in Ayodhya for Kartik Purnima snan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With lakhs of devotees thronging Ayodhya for a dip in the Sarayu on Kartik Purnima and darshan of Ram Lalla on Tuesday, the first major gathering after the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, security in the temple town has been further strengthened along with other communally sensitive districts.

ADG (Prosecution) Ashutosh Pandey, the officer specially designated for supervising security in Ayodhya in the wake of the apex court's judgement, said all arrangements had been made to ensure peaceful holy dip in Sarayu and later darshan of Ram Lalla on the occasion of Kartik Purnima snan on Tuesday.

"Over five lakh devotees are likely to take a dip on the occasion of Kartik Purnima in Ayodhya, Ayodhya District Magistrate Anuj Kumar Jha said.

He said the situation was absolutely normal around the Ram Janmabhoomi area.

For the devotees, arrangements have been made at the river banks, the main ghat being Ram Ki Paidi, Naya Ghat and Guptar Ghat, where water level is sufficient, Deputy Director of Information, Ayodhya Division, Murlidhar Singh said.

The nearly 4-km stretch from the symbolic Ayodhya Dwar bordering Faizabad town

to the main Ayodhya city still remains under tight watch with no public transport being allowed to go beyond that point from the Faizabad side. "About 13 mobile toilets, besides other sanitation facilities and 18 ambulances have been installed, buildings on ghats have been illuminated to add to the festive spirit," Singh said.

The senior official said, besides police force on high alert in the city, units of paramilitary forces, home guards had also been deployed.

"We have marked danger zones and 200 divers would also be on standby to avert any mishap," he said.

Even for private vehicles, hardly any four-wheeler can be seen beyond the gate while two-wheeler riders are allowed to go towards Ayodhya side only after proper checking of identity cards.

Meanwhile, praising the job of the men in khaki for maintaining peace after the judgement on Ayodhya issue on Saturday and later during celebration of Barawafat on Sunday, Director General of Police OP Singh on Monday issued fresh advisory to strengthen security on the occasion of Kartik Purnima bathing, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Deva Deepawali on Tuesday.

Singh asked the district police chiefs to ensure adequate deployment of force at all the sensitive places especially where functions would be held on Tuesday.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD ABSENTEE NOTICE

Address : Shri Chandra Jeet S/o Shri Ganga Prasad Vill. : Bajni Post : Nedula Tahsil : Handiya Dist. : Prayagraj Pin : 212401, U.P.

Shri Chandra Jeet S/o Shri Ganga Prasad is unauthorized absent from duty since 16.03.2017 sf-5 was issued by ADEN/NYN and Shri Devendra Prasad appointed as Enquiry officer as per Shri Chandra Jeet is not participating in enquiry.

Therefore he is being given last opportunity to represent his case within a week from publishing of this notice otherwise ex party decision will be leaved by the Railways administration.

Asstt. Divisional Engineer North Central Railway, Naini

North central railway @ CPRONGR 1617/19(K)

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), Northern Railway, Lucknow acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 13.12.2019 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Date of release of tender on e-procurement system	Last Date/Time for receipt of tender through e-procurement system
1.	Provision and up gradation of forty eight numbers Divyang toilets of various stations under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II, Sr. DEN-V and DEN-I over Lucknow Division.	1 Rs. 1,29,01,269.34	11.11.2019 at 17:00 hours onwards	18.11.2019 upto 15:00 hours
2.	Pre and Post attention work in connection with working of BCM at various location over Lucknow Division (40 KM) under Sr. DEN-III/LKO	2 Rs. 95,44,473.60	11.11.2019 at 17:00 hours onwards	18.11.2019 upto 15:00 hours
3.	Approximate Cost	1 Rs. 1,29,01,269.34		
4.	Earnest Money	1 Rs. 2,14,500.00		
		2 Rs. 1,90,900.00		
5.	Period of completion		06 months from date of issue of LOA	
6.	Bidding Start Date		29.11.2019	
7.	Tender Closing Date and Time		13.12.2019 at 15:00 hrs.	
8.	Website		www.ireps.gov.in	

Note:- Other details of these works are available at above website. 3610/2019 Serving Customers with a Smile

3 women suffer serious burns in acid attack

Bhadohi: A 45-year-old woman and her two daughters suffered serious burn injuries when two of their relatives allegedly threw acid on them after barging into their house at Gyanpur here on late Sunday night, when they were sleeping, said police.

Victims Sheela Devi and her daughters Jyoti, 20, and Arti, 18, were rushed to a Varanasi Trauma Centre for treatment, police said on Monday.

Sheela Devi's husband Rajendra Prasad told police in his complaint that his relatives Vimlesh and Sandeep threw acid on his wife and daughters hours after quarrelling with them over a petty issue of washing utensils on a roadside water tap. PTI

Tourism dept to develop Buddhist circuit Maitreya Project scrapped

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday scrapped the Maitreya Project agreement to develop Kushinagar as an international Buddhist religious and handed over the project to Tourism department.

This decision was taken in the UP cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Monday.

Talking to media persons here on Monday, UP's Tourism Minister Neelkanth Tiwari said the Maitreya Trust was set up in 2003 to develop an integrated Buddhist circuit that included a tall Buddha statue, hospital, meditation centre, Bauddh Vihar, guest house and a pond in Kushinagar for which the government had given 195 acres of land free of cost in 2014.

"When the Yogi Adityanath government

assumed office, it issued notices to the Maitreya Trust but the trust did not submit the detailed project report (DPR) despite repeated notices. After waiting for more than two years, the government has decided to scrap the old project and go ahead with a project financed by the state government," the minister said.

The Maitreya Project is an international organisation and it planned to install a 152-metre (500 feet) colossal statue of Lord Buddha in Kushinagar.

The previous Akhilesh Yadav government had handed over land for the site of the Maitreya Project in Kushinagar. The land is adjacent to the Parinirvana Temple at the place where Shakyamuni Buddha passed into parinirvana, and the Rambhar Stupa which marks the holy site of Buddha's cremation.

2 cops commit suicide

Lucknow (PNS): Two cops, including one attached with the Special Operation Group of Bulandshahr police, allegedly committed suicide on Monday morning.

Sher Singh Ghama, a resident of Baghat presently attached with the SOG of Bulandshahr police, shot himself in his quarter on Monday morning. He celebrated the birthday of his cousin in the same room on Sunday night. A pistol was recovered from the spot. Police said the sister of the cop had eloped with some boy on October 21 following which he was very depressed.

In Bahrach, Ramesh, a sub-inspector of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) attached with Sujauli post on Indo-Nepal border in Bahrach, ended his life by firing at himself on Monday morning.

He was rushed to hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival.

A case has been registered and investigations are on to confirm reason behind the suicide.

'5-acre land must be allotted in acquired 67-acre area'

Ayodhya: The five acres of land to be allocated for building a mosque under the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute should be within the 67 acres of acquired land in Ayodhya, Iqbal Ansari, a main litigant in the case, has demanded along with several other local Muslim leaders. The Central government had acquired the land including the disputed site in 1991.

"If they want to give us the land, they must give us according to our convenience

and only in that acquired land of 67 acres. Then we will take it. Otherwise we will reject the offer, as people are saying 'Go out of Chaudah Kos and construct Masjid there'. This is not fair," Ansari said.

Maulana Jalal Ashraf, a local cleric, said Muslims can buy land on their own to build a mosque are not dependent on the Government for it. "If the court or the government wants to pacify our sentiments to some extent, the five acre land must be given to in the acquired area as many graveyards

and Dargaah including that of 18th century Sufi saint Qazi Qudwah are in that area," he said. Khaliq Ahmad Khan, general secretary of All-India Milli Council, expressed similar views. Haji Mahboob, who was also a litigant from Muslim side, said, "We will not accept this lollypop. They must make clear that where they want to give us the land." Haji Asad Ahmad, corporator of Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, said the community does not want any land in lieu of Babri Masjid.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)DR.XI

ROOM NO. 308, VARUNALAYA PHASE-1, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005

Telefax:- 011-23554487 / Email:- eecdr11.djb@nic.in

Short NIT No. 02 (2019-20) (PRESS TENDER)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Date of release of tender on e-procurement system	Last Date/Time for receipt of tender through e-procurement system
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1. Face lifting / renovation of A wing gallery and lift lobby at First Floor, Varunalya Phase-II

25,15,268/- 11.11.2019 at 17:00 hours onwards Tender ID: 2019_DJB_183670_1

Further details, in this regard, can be seen on Delhi Government web-site https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. Any further corrigendum / addendum / clarification, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt.No./J.S.V.521/2019-20 Sd/EE(C)DR.XI

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not have any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

'Turn failures into stepping stones'

Army chief General Bipin Rawat tells students at BBAU convocation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat exhorted the students to never be disheartened but get inspired by failures to make them stepping stones and keep working till they achieve success. He also recited a poem which, he said, has been his source of inspiration. "Asafalta ek chunauti hai, isse sweekar karo tum, kahan kamiyan reh gayin, iss par vichar karo tum, mehnat or lagan ke saath age badhe chalo tum, phir kabhi peeche mat dekho, aur har nayi choti par parcham lehraye chalo tum."

Gen Rawat was the chief guest at the eighth convocation of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow on Monday.

Addressing the large gathering of graduating students, he said it was a proud moment for him and he considered himself lucky to be a part of the event.

"Standing in front of you, I realise how the country is moving on the path of progress since Independence and the credit for this goes to the policies of our nation, including unity in diversity, secularism and treating all alike. The special inspiration for all this is your university," he said.

Congratulating the medal winners, he said they should remember that there will be several challenges ahead. "I want to tell you all that whenever you face failures, get inspired by them and move forward to achieve success," he added.

He said that the kind of example which BBAU has set will also inspire other universities. "You have motivated youths and I am happy to have



Army chief General Bipin Rawat meeting medal winners at BBAU convocation on Monday

learnt that all kinds of subjects are taught here," Gen Rawat said.

"I can say with confidence that the products of this university will guide the nation on the path of progress. Our Prime Minister has decided that the economy of the country will be \$5 trillion in the next five years, you will contribute towards it," he added.

Earlier, the convocation ceremony kicked off with a welcome address by Vice-Chancellor Acharya Sanjay Singh. He talked about academic

activities and achievements of the university, MOUs signed with various institutions to elevate BBAU's educational standards. He also talked about the various courses offered by the university.

Rohit Verma of History department from School of Ambedkar Studies for the year 2019 and Mungmuri Kranthi Kumar of School of Ambedkar Studies for the year 2018 were given away the RD Sonkar Award.

Gold medals were awarded to Dharmendra Yadav of BA

(Hons) in Public Administration from School for Ambedkar Studies, Razauddin of MSc (Agriculture) in Horticulture from School for Engineering and Technology, Harsh Joshi of Integrated BSc-MSc (Basic Sciences) from School for Environment Sciences, Mansi Mandal of MSc (Food Science and Technology) from School for Home Science, Rashmi Dixit of Master of Computer Applications from School for Information Science and Technology, Kumari Sonam

Tomar of MA (Hindi) from School for Language and Literature, Aman Deep of BBA LLB (Hons) 2014-2019 from School for Legal Studies, Niharika Tiwari of Bachelor of Business Administration from School for Management Studies, Ayushi Shrivastava of MSc (Applied Mathematics) from School for Physical Sciences, Kumari Pooja of Bachelor of Education from School of Education, Kumari Amrita Singh of BCA from Centre for Vocational and Integral Studies Satellite Campus.

The medals awarded for the year 2018 included Sanjeev Dubey of MA (Economics) from School of Ambedkar Studies, Akash Shukla of MSc (Agriculture) Horticulture from School of Biosciences and Biotechnology, Tanushri of BTech (Electronics and Communication Engineering) from School of Engineering and Technology, Shubham Mishra of BSc (Hons) in Geology from School for Environmental Sciences, Shivani Singh of MSc (HD & FS) from School for Home Science, Himanshu Agarwal of MTech (Software Engineering) from School for Information Science and Technology, Atul Pandey of MA (Hons) from School for Languages and Literature, Prashant Tripathi, One Year LLM from School for Legal Studies, Anika Upadhyay of BCom (Hons.) from School for Management Studies, Zubi Siddiqui of MSc (Applied Mathematics) from School for Physical Sciences, Fariyal Ali of BEd from School of Education and Vikas Kumar Singh of Center for Vocational Studies.

Dalit entrepreneur awarded honours causa

Lucknow (PNS): Padmashree Milind Prahlad Kamble, a Dalit entrepreneur who has established the Dalit Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the honorary degree at the BBAU convocation on Monday. Addressing the students, Kamble, who comes from Maharashtra, said UP is an important state as far as agricultural activities are concerned. He told the students that he came from the land of BR Ambedkar.

"I have come from Maharashtra which is the land of Babasaheb, Mahatma Phule and Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj. The university, named after Babasaheb is making pioneering contribution in the field of education. The reason why I have been awarded the degree is that I am a great follower of BR Ambedkar and have always thought in terms of how his work can be carried forward. I know Ambedkar was a great economist and it is an aspect which has not been highlighted as much as it should have been. I decided to work for economic empowerment of the SC/STs and since 2005, I have been doing it," he added. He pointed out that when Ambedkar wrote the Constitution, he thought that apart from constitutional democracy, economic democracy would come to the country.

"The SC/STs form 22.5 per cent of the population. Sixty-five per cent of this population are youths who need to be brought into the area of economic leadership," he said. Emphasising that Dalit youths also have aspirations, he said he completed the ecosystem

by establishing the Dalit Chamber of Commerce. "This has branched out in all parts of the country and seven of these branches are in countries abroad. Two of these units are closely working with the municipal corporations in UK," he pointed out.

India Post भारतीय डाक

Office of The Chief Postmaster General
UP Circle, Lucknow-226001

DAK ADALAT

A Dak Adalat is being organized in the office of the Chief Postmaster General, UP Circle Lucknow in the chamber of Chief PMG at 12.00 hrs. on 20.12.2019 to settle the complaints of the customers.

The complaints of the speed post, Parcel, Registered letters, Value Payables, Money Orders, Saving Bank and Postal Life Insurance etc. will be heard and efforts will be made to settle them on the spot.

Grievances in respect of above services may be sent to the Assistant Director (PG), Office of the Chief Postmaster General, UP Circle Lucknow - 226001 up to 11.12.2019. The complaint received after this date will not be considered in the aforesaid Dak Adalat.

Only those complaints should be submitted in which no response has been received from the concerned Postmaster General/Sr. Suptd. of Post Offices / Supt. Of Post Offices of the Circle. A proof of preferring such complaints before the Dak Adalat to concerned PMGs/Divisional Heads be sent along with the complaints being made for consideration in the above Dak Adalat.

Words "FOR DAK ADALAT" should be scribbled on the top of envelope and complaints.

Assistant Director (PG)
O/o CPMG Officer, UP Circle,
Lucknow-226001

Medal winners raring to go



Medal winners in a group picture (top), and pose for a selfie (above)

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The BBAU gold medalists are raring to go and do something for the country. In a chat with *The Pioneer*, they said it was hard work which helped them achieve success.

Razauddin, who won the gold medal in MSc (Horticulture), said he was earlier preparing for the banking services but has now decided to contribute to the nation as a scientist and contribute towards the welfare of the nation. He said that coming from Kanpur, he had earlier opted for the banking services because his family was facing financial problems. "But I believe that the farmers of our country need a lot of helping hand where I can contribute as a scientist," he added.

Dharmendra Yadav, who won the gold medal in BA (Public Administration) said he wanted to give civil services examination a shot or join the Army. He is currently pursuing Masters in Public Administration from Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. "I have already applied for Combined Defence Services and qualified the written examination. I will be appearing for the interview in March," he said. A student of Army Public School and son of a retired Captain, he said he had a dream of eradicating corruption and red-tapism in admin-

istration. About his success mantra, he said it was hard work and patience.

Vikas Kumar Singh of Varanasi, who received a gold medal in Law, said he was posted as a trade mark examiner in the Trade Mark Office in Mumbai. "My success mantra is focus on goals," he said. He added that he would be happy doing social work.

Fariyal Ali, who received a gold medal in BEd, has done schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya (RDSO), said she was pursuing MED from Lucknow University. "Hard work is the key to success," she pointed out. She said she wanted to be an educationist because she felt primary education is the most important which needs to be strengthened and that will form the basis of the country," said Fariyal.

Ankita Upadhyay, who won the gold medal in BCom (Hons), is currently pursuing MBA in HR from BBAU. "I want to become an HR professional and see myself at a global level. I want to be an iconic woman and bigger than all those women who have made a mark in the corporate sector so that people can idolise me," she said. She added that her success mantra was facing the challenges and believing in your own self. Coming from Jharkhand, she said she chose to study in Lucknow because her father believed that she

should study in the state where she was born.

Prashant Tripathi, who belongs to Lucknow, said he got the gold medal for one-year LLM and is pursuing PhD in Human Rights. He said he was working in the area of artificial intelligence. He said he wanted to be become an academician.

Form No. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir,
Lucknow-226007

(Jurisdiction-Part of U.P.)
Summons for filing Reply & Appearance
by Publication.

O. A. No. 320 of 2019 **Date : 26.10.2019**
(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to the Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules, 1993).
Union Bank of India, Alambagh Branch Lucknow
.....Applicant
Vs.
M/s Jai Trading Company and Others ...Defendants
To,
Defendant No. 3:
Anoop Kumar Gupta S/o Late Umesh Chandra Gupta
r/o 545/SA/03, Laxman Vihar, Para Road, Near Para crossing Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits, (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 23.01.2020 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

United Bank of India **Possession Notice**
Head Office : 11, Hemant Basu Sarani, Kolkata-700 001
Lucknow Regional Office : 4A, Habibullah Estate, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001
(For immovable property) Rule-8(1)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of United Bank of India, Lucknow Region, 4A, Habibullah Estate, Hazratganj, Lucknow (U.P.) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) borrower calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice (S) within 60 days from the date of said notices(S). The borrower having failed to repay the amount, the notice is hereby given to the Borrower(S) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule (8) of the said rules on the date mentioned below against their names. The borrower(S) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the United Bank of India for the amount(S) plus interest thereon.

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

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers, Co-obligants & Guarantors	Amount Outstanding	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice Possession taken
1.	Borrower: (1) M/s New Delhi Tyre Sole, (Prop: Shri Rehan Mohd. Khan), Add: 12 BN Road, Nr Jai Hind Comolex, Lalbagh, Lucknow, U.P.-226001, (2) Shri Rehan Mohd. Kan, (Prop: of M/s New Delhi Tyre Sole), Add: 12 BN Road, Nr Jai Hind Comolex, Lalbagh, Lucknow, U.P.-226001, (3) Shri Tanveer Haider (Guarantor in the A/c of M/s New Delhi Tyre Sole), Add: 476/371, Purani Bans Mandi, Sitapur Road, Puckka Pul, Lucknow-226020.	Rs.19,89,773.00 + Interest & Other Expenses	Equitable Mortgage of one kita residential Plot, Minzumla Khasra no. 996, 997, 998 and 999 total rakba 15 biswa ka Juj bhag, Area: 43.68 sq. Mtr. Situated at Old Bans Mandi, Ward - Kadamrasul, Lucknow, Owner: Shri Tanvir Haider Boundary: East: 10 Foot Wide Road, West: Kuchha House, North: Puckka House Digar, South: Arazi Digar.	02.08.2019 08.11.2019
2.	Borrower: (1) M/s Awasthi Electricals, (Prop: Shri Nagendra Pratap Awasthi), Add: (A) Plot No-4, Girja City, Nahar Road, Tiwari Chauraha, Jankipuram, U.P.-226021, (B) 70/1, Saria Tola, Plot No. 27, Shanti Nagar, Madiyaon Gaon, Jankipuram Pratham, U.P.-226024, (2) Shri Nagendra Pratap Awasthi, (Prop: of M/s Awasthi Electricals), Add: (A) Plot No-4, Girja City, Nahar Road, Tiwari Chauraha, Jankipuram, U.P.-226021, (B) 70/1, Saria Tola, Plot No. 27, Shanti Nagar, Madiyaon Gaon, Jankipuram Pratham, U.P.-226024, (3) Tej Partap Awasthi (Guarantor in the A/c of M/s Awasthi Electricals), Add: 70/1, Saria Tola, Plot No. 27, Shanti Nagar, Madiyaon Gaon, Jankipuram Pratham, U.P.-226024, (4) Shri Udai Partap Awasthi (Guarantor in the A/c of M/s Awasthi Electricals), Add: 70/1, Saria Tola, Plot No. 27, Shanti Nagar, Madiyaon Gaon, Jankipuram Pratham, U.P.-226024	Rs.10,30,462.00 + Interest & Other Expenses	Equitable Mortgage of Plot No 3, which is Minzumla of Gata No. 810, Area: 139.405 sq. Mtr. Situated at Village- Navikot Nandna, Pargana- Mahona, Owner: Tej Partap Awasthi and Shri Nagendra Pratap Awasthi. Boundary: East: Khet Raj Kumar Nirmal, West: 25 Feet wide Road, North: Khet Chaterpal Parjapati, South: Khet Raj Kumar Nirmal.	17.07.2019 08.11.2019

Date: 12.11.2019 **Place: Lucknow** **Authorised Officer, United Bank of India**

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ
ਮਿਟੀ ਧੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।

(With the emergence of Satguru Nanak,
the mist cleared and the light scattered all around)

Heartiest Greetings to All on 550th Prakash Purb
of
Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

May his messages of
Kirat Karo, Vand Chako, Naam Japo
(Work hard and honestly, share with the needy, always remember the God)
continue to enlighten the humanity

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India

dayp_22202/13/001/14/1920

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD. OBRA THERMAL POWER STATION OBRA-SONEBHADRA- 231219 E-TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK : For the Break down maintenance works of dual belt gravimetric raw coal feeder (Type-NFPA 85, 24, heli-worm drives) of BHEL make for unit No. 09, 10 & 11 of 3x200MW BTPS Obra. **TENDER NO. :** T-22/SE O and MMC-IBTPS/BMD(B)-II/2019-2020 **ESTIMATED COST OF WORK :** Rs.11.74 Lakh Approx. **LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF e-BIDS (TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL) AT E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE :** <https://etender.up.nic.in>, 05.12.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. **LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF HARD COPY ALONG WITH SCANNED COPY OF UTR SLIP TENDER FEE AND EARNEST MONEY WILL BE DEPOSITED IN THE OFFICE :** 06.12.2019 up to 17:00 Hrs. **UNDERSIGNED DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** 06.12.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. **PLACE OF OPENING OF E-BIDS :** Office of Superintending Engineer, Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I, 'B' Thermal Power Station, Obra, Sonebhadra **ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION :** Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-I, BTPS, Obra-Sonebhadra, U.P.-231219 **E-MAIL ADDRESS :** se.ommc_btpsohra@uprvtl.org **BID DOCUMENT COST :** Rs. 1000.00+180.00 (18% GST) **EARNEST MONEY :** Rs. 23,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Three Thousand Only) **NOTE:** The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Tender will be accepted online only. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum, if any will be uploaded only on website www.etender.up.nic.in. The Bidders are advised to visit the regular basis in order to keep themselves update. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&MMC-I, BTPS, OBRA-SONEBHADRA** **E-TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK :** Work of Jacketing of coal Pipe, Bends and elbows of unit no.-9, 10 & 11, 3X200MW, BTPS, Obra. **TENDER NO. :** T-10/SE-IBTPS/BMD-II/2019-20 **ESTIMATED COST OF WORK :** Rs. 4.93 Lakh (Rs. Four Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Only) **Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website :** <http://etender.up.nic.in>, 30.11.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. **Last Date and Time For Submission of uploaded Requisite Hardcopy of Tender Fee, Earnest Moeny and Tender Documents in the Undersign Office :** 02.12.2019 up to 17:00 Hrs. **Date And Time Of Opening of e-Bids :** 03.12.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. **Place of Opening of e-Bids :** Office of Superintending Engineer, Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I, 'B' Thermal Power Station, Obra-Sonebhadra. **Address for Communication :** SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&MMC-I, BTPS, OBRA, SONEBHADRA, U.P. 231219 **E-mail Address :** se.ommc_btpsohra@uprvtl.org **Bid Document Cost :** Rs. 500.00+90.00(GST)=Rs. 590.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) **NOTE :** The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Tender will be accepted online only. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&MMC-I, BTPS, OBRA.** **Notice Inviting e-Bid Tender No. T-24 SE-V/AHD-II(0) BTPS 2019-20 Online e-Bids are invited for the "Providing Assistance/support in shift for the operation or ash evacuation system of unit no.12 of ash handling system, 'B' TPS, Obra." The following detail given as:-** **S.N. 1. Description :** E-tender has been uploaded on UP Govt. e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> **Date :** 05/11/2019 **Time :** 09:00 Hrs. **S.N. 2. Description :** Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website: **Date :** 03/12/2019 **Time :** 18:00 Hrs. **S.N. 3. Description :** Last Date and Time For Submission of Hardcopy of: Requisite Documents in the Office of Undersigned **Date :** 04/12/2019 **Time :** 17:00 Hrs. **S.N. 4. Description :** Date And Time Of Opening Of e-Bids **Part-I:-** To be announced later **Time :** 16:00 Hrs. **S.N. 5. Description :** Estimated Cost of work will be Rs.14,42,215.00 (Rs. Fourteen lakh Forty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen only) **S.N. 6. Description :** Earnest Money, Rs. 28000.00 (Rs. Twenty Eight Thousand only) **S.N. 7. Description :** Bid Document Cost (Tender Cost), Rs.590.00 (Rs. Five Hundred Ninety only. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves update. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&MMC-V** **E-TENDER NOTICE 1. NAME OF WORK :** Annual running maintenance of hydraulic coupling R-16K/R-17K of unit no. 12th & 13th i.e. Inpection/Replacement of hearing of hydraulic coupling, O/H of hydraulic coupling, alignment of hydraulic coupling with BFP motor and replacement of MOP & AOP BTPS Obra 2. **E-TENDER NO. :** 25/O&MMC-V/TMD/BTPS/2019-20 3. **ESTD. COST OF WORK :** Rs. 2.44 Lac (Rs. Two Lac Forty Four Only) 4. **Last Date and Time For Submission Of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website :** <http://etender.up.nic.in> : 07.12.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. 5. **Last Date and Time For Submission Of Hardcopy of: Bid Requisite Documents in the Office of Undersigned :** 09.12.2019 up to 16:00Hrs 6. **Date And Time Of Opening Of e-Bids :** 11.12.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. 7. **Place of Opening Of e-Bids :** Office of Superintending Engineer O&MMC-V, OTPS, BORA 8. **Address for Communication :** SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-V, BTPS, OBRA, SONEBHADRA U.P. 231219 **E-mail Address :** rajrgupta66@gmail.com 9. **Bid Document Cost (Tender Cost) :** Rs. 590.00 (Rs. Five Hundred Ninety only.) 10. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 5,000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand only) **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-V, BTPS, OBRA-SONEBHADRA** **Notice Inviting e-Bid Tender No. CT-1402/(MMC-II)/CPD-IBTPS/19 Online e-Bids are invited for the Supply of "Stationary Items" for Obra Thermal Power Station E-tender has been uploaded on 25.10.2019 at 09:00 hr on UP Govt. e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Technical Bid (Part-I) (Commercial and Terms & conditions) will be opened on 09.12.2019 at 18:00 Hours. Estimated Cost of material is approximately Rs 1.50 Lac only. Tender Cost Rs. 236.00 and E.M.D for e-bid submission is Rs. 3,000.00. Total Quantity of supply, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum, if any shall be uploaded only on website www.etender.up.nic.in. The Bidders are advised to visit the regular basis in order to keep themselves update. Last date of submission bid up to 07.12.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. (SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MMC-II) **Notice Inviting e-Bid Tender No. CT-1402/(MMC-II)/CPD-IBTPS/19 Online e-Bids are invited for the Supply of "Pumps Spares" for Obra Thermal Power Station, Obra E-tender has been uploaded on 25.10.2019 at 09:00 hr on UP Govt. e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> Technical Bid (Part-I) (Commercial and Terms & conditions) will be opened on 09.12.2019 at 18:00 Hours. Estimated Cost of material is approximately Rs 9.00 Lac only. Tender Cost Rs. 590.00 and END for e-bid submission is Rs. 18,000.00. Total Quantity of supply, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum, if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves update. Last date of submission bid up to 07.12.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. (SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MMC-II) **No.-280 Date 11.11.2019 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.******

Woman deprived of ₹5,000 by thieves

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW
A woman was deprived of Rs 5,000 by thieves in Ghazipur on Monday morning. The woman, identified as Preeti of Indira Nagar, boarded a bus from Polytechnic crossing. Soon afterwards, she checked her purse and came to know about the theft. She cried for help and asked the driver to stop the bus. She called her family members who reached the scene and later complained to the police. However, a police spokesman said the woman did not give any complaint in writing. "She was traveling to Brahrait but aborted her journey following the incident," he said. Meanwhile, thieves sneaked into a house in Indira Nagar and made off with cash and ornaments. The house owner is in Mumbai where his



wife is under treatment at a hospital. House owner Rajeev Sharma is in Mumbai along with his wife Anjali Sharma while the keys of the house are with Anjali's sister Shivani Dubey. Shivani said she called Anjali's maid Puja and gave her the keys, asking her to clean the house which was locked for several days. "Puja called me and said that the central lock of the house was lying broken and articles were lying strewn across

the floor in different rooms," Shivani told the police.

YOUTH KILLED IN MISHAP

Recklessness by a mixer driver claimed the life of a youth in Chinhat on Monday afternoon. Commuters alleged that the police took time in responding to their call which resulted in excessive blood loss and the youth was declared brought dead at hospital. According to the Chinhat SHO, Vivek (22) of Kanpur Dehat was in Lucknow in search of a job and was staying in a locality at Deva Road in Chinhat. "His scooter was hit by the mixer when he reached Kapda Koti locality in Chinhat around 4.45 pm," the SHO said. He said the identity of the victim was ascertained on the basis of his Aadhaar card.

Climate change a cause of concern: Prof Ayyappan



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of colleges and we must all work together to protect environment and eradicate poverty and hunger. Climate change is real and a cause of concern. These views were expressed by Chancellor of Central Agriculture University (Imphal) S Ayyappan while speaking at the 11th convocation of Integral University on Monday. Climatic change and national economy were the focused factors in the addresses given by the delegates. Ayyappan boosted the enthusiasm and spirits of the students by saying, "Convocation is like a festival

in every way. Refuse to be ordinary, be an Integralite."

UP Assembly Speaker Hridaya Narayan Dikshit addressed the students about their perspectives and duties stating, "Your attitude towards the society should not change after graduating and you must never become ignorant."

Chairperson of National Commission for Minorities Syed Ghayoor Hasan Rizvi said: "An educated person takes the whole community towards progress. We must never forget our roots." He compared Integral University with Abdullah Islamia University of Mumbai and appreciated its academic growth. Vice-Chancellor SW Akhtar congratulated the students saying, "This is a moment of pride and excellence. You have already climbed the first ladder of success and perfected the art of learning."

M.Tech students Kavita Singh (Renewable Energy Technology) and Zarka Khan (Computer Science and Technology) turned out to be the toppers scoring 91.36% and 91.14%, respectively. The total number of degrees given away were 2,500, including 54 in PhDs, 604 in PG, and 1,671 in UG. Besides, 58 diplomas were given away in Pharmacy and 17 in Elementary Education. As many as 61 gold and 62 silver medals were given away to the toppers in their respective fields.

Youth held for stalking girl

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was arrested for sexually harassing a girl and roughing up her father a week after a case was registered against him at Sarojini Nagar police station. The accused, identified as Shivam Awasthi of Banthra, is said to have a criminal past and he has served jail term for liquor smuggling.

He was arrested after the girl's father approached senior officials who instructed the cops to expedite the probe and arrest Shivam.

As per reports, the father of the girl lodged the case on November 6, alleging that Shivam used to stalk his daughter whenever she stepped out. "She complained about Shivam and so we decided to accompany her. On November 6, Shivam passed

lewd comments on my daughter. When I warned him of police action, he said he had many acquaintances in police department and that I could not harm him in any way," the complainant said.

After the incident came to light, the police tried to cover it up, but later registered a case. "The police stopped probing the case and this made us apprehensive as the stalker was moving freely. We met senior police officials who instructed the local police to speed up the probe," girl's father said.

The police said a sub-inspector was assigned the probe and initiate a legal action after the complaint was lodged. "The S-I found the charges to be genuine and a manhunt for Shivam was launched. We nabbed him from Banthra," the police said.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-कानपुर देहात।
दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, कानपुर देहात। अत्युत्कालीन निविदा सूचना (ई-निविदा) क्र.सं. 1, निविदा संख्या 54 / विविमकादे / 19-20, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-रनियां, कानपुर देहात हेतु विद्युत सामग्री की आपूर्ति। सम्पूर्ण विवरण हेतु ई-निविदा की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखें। किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु निम्न ई-मेल पर प्रेषित करें 1. seedckanpurdehat@gmail.com, मुक्त हेल्यलाइन नम्बर 1912, अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पत्रांक-0353 दिनांक-11.11.2019 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें।

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
TENDER NO. S/11/2019 DATED: 08-11-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) - www.ireps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IREPS-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get themselves registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> on time. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/air or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following Materials: Tender No. 30/18/1231/OT/025/19. Brief Description: Radiator for 1400 HP. Quantity: 8 Nos. Closing/Opening date: 28-11-2019. For PCMM

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-कानपुर देहात।
दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, कानपुर देहात। अत्युत्कालीन निविदा सूचना (ई-निविदा) क्र.सं. 1, निविदा संख्या 39 / विविमकादे / 19-20, कार्य/क्रय का विवरण कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-रनियां, कानपुर देहात के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-रनियां, रायपुर एवं जैनपुर के अन्तर्गत रनिग आधार पर सरकारी एवं जमा योजना के नये संयोजनों को निर्धारित अवधि में ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य। क्र.सं. 2, निविदा संख्या 40 / विविमकादे / 19-20, कार्य/क्रय का विवरण कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-रनियां, कानपुर देहात के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-गौसगंज, सरवनखेड़ा एवं राजने के अन्तर्गत रनिग आधार पर सरकारी एवं जमा योजना के नये संयोजनों को निर्धारित अवधि में ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य। क्र.सं. 3, निविदा संख्या 41 / विविमकादे / 19-20, कार्य/क्रय का विवरण कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-रनियां, कानपुर देहात के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-बारा, न्यू बारा एवं बनीपारा के अन्तर्गत रनिग आधार पर सरकारी एवं जमा योजना के नये संयोजनों को निर्धारित अवधि में ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य। क्र.सं. 4, निविदा संख्या 42 / विविमकादे / 19-20, कार्य/क्रय का विवरण कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-रनियां, कानपुर देहात के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेन्द्र-डेरपुर देहात एवं डेरपुर तहसील के अन्तर्गत रनिग आधार पर सरकारी एवं जमा योजना के नये संयोजनों को निर्धारित अवधि में ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य। सम्पूर्ण विवरण हेतु ई-निविदा की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखें। किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु निम्न ई-मेल पर प्रेषित करें 1. seedckanpurdehat@gmail.com, मुक्त हेल्यलाइन नम्बर 1912, अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पत्रांक-0353 दिनांक-11.11.2019 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें।



Judges of International Court of Justice, heads of renowned world peace organisations, over 290 chief justices, judges and legal experts from 71 countries participating in the 20th 'International Conference of Chief Justices of the World' were invited for dinner by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at latter's residence on Monday.

CITY BRIEFS

LU REGISTRAR TO ASSUME ADDL CHARGE AS V-C

With the term of Lucknow University Vice-Chancellor SP Singh coming to an end on Monday, Governor Anandiben Patel has directed registrar SK Shukla to assume the additional charge. An official communiqué from Raj Bhavan said since the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor will take time, the registrar will assume the additional charge as V-C for a period of six months or till further orders. Raj Bhavan had placed an advertisement inviting applications for the Vice-Chancellor's post on October 1 last. It was the first time that an advertisement was placed for the post. As many as 225 applications have been received for the post.

550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU NANAK DEV

The 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev will be celebrated by Gurudwara Naka Hindola at DAV College on Tuesday. Media manager Jasbir Singh said that a cultural evening of bhajans will be organised at the gurudwara. The last jatha of Sikh pilgrims from Lucknow left for Pakistan on November 6 after the Kartarpur Corridor was inaugurated. A total of 85 pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh left between October 2 and October 11 and the last group of 46 pilgrims that left on November 6 included four pilgrims from Lucknow. Members of Uttar Pradesh Sikh Pratidinhi Board said there was a fixed quota for the number of pilgrims to visit Pakistan.

SENA FAILS TO...

Earlier in the afternoon, Sena president Uddhav Thackeray spoke on the phone with Congress Interim president Sonia to discuss Government formation. Ud also met with Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar at a five-star hotel in Mumbai. Later in the evening, the Shiv Sena virtually forfeited an opportunity to form a Government after they failed to produce letters of support from the NCP and Congress which, it claimed, had in principle extended their support to it form a government. Much to the Sena's disappointment, the Governor declined to give three days' extension to it to submit letters of support from the NCP and Congress, thus once again plunging Maharashtra into a state of uncertainty. "A delegation of leaders of Sena met the Governor and expressed their willingness to form the Government. However, they could not submit the requisite letters of support. Further, they submitted a letter requesting for three days of extension of the deadline for submitting the letters of support. The Governor expressed his inability to give further extension," a statement issued by Raj Bhavan said. Talking to media persons after meeting the Governor and "staking a claim" to form the Government, Yuv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray said, "Yesterday evening at around 7.30 pm, our legislature party leader Eknath Shinde received

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a letter from the Governor asking us indicate its "willingness and ability" to form the next government in the state. Despite the indications from the contrary available from both the parties all through the day, the NCP and Congress did not give their letters of support either directly to the Sena or send them across to Raj Bhavan, before the Sena. But, till this afternoon, the BJP did not give us its letter of support to us. We have started talking to two other parties (NCP and Congress). The two parties have in principle agreed to support us in the larger interests of Maharashtra. The talks have begun between them as well." "Since our deadline (to get back to the Governor) was 7.30 pm, we arrived at Raj Bhavan at 6.45 pm. We told the Governor that we are willing to form the Government. We have staked our claim to form the Government. Though we were given 24 hours time to express our willingness to form the Government, we have got back to the Governor in 23 hours and submitted the letters signed by our party MLAs.

from Maharashtra are in favour of forming a Government in the State by being part of it. Some called for extending an outside support to the dispensation led by the Sena. More so, as they wanted to keep the BJP out of power in the politically and financially crucial State. Pawar made attempts to bridge the gap between Sena and a reluctant Congress and Sonia is understood to have conveyed both the parties interested in forming a Government that Congress will get back only after speaking to MLAs. Sources said Uddhav had called Sonia over phone seeking her support in Maharashtra to keep away the BJP. "We will get back to you after speaking to MLAs," Sonia reportedly told Uddhav who made several calls during the day to get past their differences to collaborate. As the Sena and NCP anticipated that Congress will extend their support by the evening, the unexpected decision of the latter to discuss "once more" put cold waters on the Sena's desire to install their Chief Minister in the State. Given the stalemate between the two former alliance partners BJP and Shiv Sena, the role of Congress with its 44 legislators and NCP with 54 MLAs is crucial. Top Congress leaders, former Maharashtra Chief Ministers Ashok Chavan, Prithviraj Chavan and Sushilkumar Shinde as well as

State unit chief Balasaheb Thorat met Sonia. Earlier in the morning, all senior members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) met at Sonia's residence. After the meeting was inconclusive, the party leadership decided to meet again. This time senior leaders A K Antony, Ahmed Patel, Kharge and KC Venugopal attended. Sonia also spoke to senior party leader from Maharashtra Nana Patole and discussed the political possibilities. Now with the Governor giving an opportunity to NCP to form a Government, Congress was caught in a catch 22 situation whether to honour its ally NCP in forming the Government which according to sources intends to back Sena in Maharashtra.

MIN STUCK...

Around 15 to 20 students who were graduating were sitting inside the auditorium main gate in solidarity with the protesters. "Historic day for us that we broke barricades, reached the convocation venue and met the minister. This could happen because we were united. This is not the end of our movement. We urged the HRD Minister to ask the V-C to have a dialogue with the students. It is due to him that things have come to be like this," said Ghosh. According to protesting students, they are opposing the new hostel man-

agement plan to implement. "The key concerns whirl around the unstructured hostel and mess fee hike, 'appropriate' dress code for students and implementation of curfew timings for hostel residents. The manual also includes clauses for individual installation of electricity and water meters for hostel rooms, revision of room rent from Rs 10 to Rs 300 per month for double seat room, Rs 20 to Rs 600 per month for single bed room in hostel and a monthly service charge of Rs 1,700, which could be hiked at a later time," said Apeksha Priyadarshni, a scholar pursuing PhD in Cinema. JNUSU said the hike and additional fees will directly hit 40 per cent of economically marginalised students in the university. "The implementation of curfew time of 11:30 pm will prevent students from studying in libraries," said the JNUSU.

1,500 WINGED...

"Samples were collected by the veterinary team and sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Disease Center, Bhopal. The result is expected in four to five days," a forest department official said. Carcasses have been disposed and the area is being thoroughly combed. This is the second incident after a similar incident in Jodhpur's Khinchan area, where thirty-seven demoiselle cranes were found dead on Thursday last week. Their viscera too have been sent for investigation and reports are awaited.

ONIONHOARDING IT Dept survey traders' premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax (IT) Department on Monday surveyed commercial premises of some Onion traders in Maharashtra and Delhi following reports of alleged hoarding of the vegetable amid its skyrocketing prices. The department is examining the onion stocks as its prices have shot up to about ₹100 a kg in various markets and there are reports of hoarding.

Onion prices have risen sharply for more than a month due to tight supply. As per the market data, onion price is ruling in range of ₹60-80 per kg in several parts of the country. Top sources said IT sleuths has raided offices of at least four big onion traders from Lasalgaon, largest market for wholesale trade of onions in the country. IT officials are checking account books of some wholesale dealers against physical stocks of the commodity and its delivery to buyers as the part of a tax evasion probe.

The highest rate of the bulb touched ₹57 per kg on Monday. The average wholesale prices at Lasalgaon market have been ruling around ₹45 per kg. Traders fear that further

- Top sources said IT sleuths has raided offices of at least four big onion traders from Lasalgaon, largest market for wholesale trade of onions in the country. IT officials are checking account books of some wholesale dealers against physical stocks of the commodity and its delivery to buyers as the part of a tax evasion probe
- Highest rate of the bulb touched ₹57/kg on Monday. Average wholesale prices at Lasalgaon market have been ruling around ₹45 per kg. Traders fear that further spike in prices due to the high amount of damaged crops because of the unseasonal November rain
- IT sources said the Marketing Intelligence Unit of the department has recorded reports of hoarding of onion by big suppliers of Delhi and Maharashtra



spike in prices due to the high amount of damaged crops because of the unseasonal November rains.

IT sources said the Marketing Intelligence Unit of the department has recorded reports of hoarding of onion by big suppliers of Delhi and Maharashtra. To get rid of skyrocketing of onion prices, the Department of Consumers Affairs on Saturday decided to import one lakh tonnes of onion to control prices. The Government is also trying to

facilitate import of onion through private traders from Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan, for which phytosanitary and fumigation norms have been liberalised till November 30.

In a related development, the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India, (MMTC), has floated two separate bids for import of 4,000 tonnes onion. While trading firm MMTC will import onions, cooperative NAFED will supply the key kitchen item

in the domestic market. The decision was taken at a meeting of committee of secretaries held on Saturday.

"The Government has taken a decision to import 1 lakh tonnes of onion to control prices," Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had said in a tweet on Saturday. Last week, Paswan had attributed the sharp rise in onion prices to 30-40 per cent fall in domestic production

According to MMTC, one tender will close on November 14, while the other will close on November 18. The first shipment of 2,000 tonnes should arrive at Indian ports immediately, while the second one can be delivered by December-end.

Bidders should quote for a minimum quantity of 500 tonnes. In case of inland container depot, the minimum bid quantity would be 250 tonnes. The exact supply order will be regulated in units of 250 tonnes, depending upon the requirement. Fresh onions can be imported from any country but the shipment should adhere to the phytosanitary and fumigation conditions, it added. MMTC did not get positive response for its earlier onion import tender for 2,000 tonnes.

CRPF takes over security of Gandhis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After withdrawal of the 28 year long elite SPG cover, the CRPF has taken over the security duties of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her children Rahul and Priyanka on Monday. A contingent of commandos of the Central paramilitary force armed with Israeli X-95, AK series and MP-5 guns took over the task at Sonia Gandhi's residence of 10, Janpath, said officials.

A similar squad has been placed at the residence of former Congress president Rahul Gandhi at Tughlaq Lane and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's house in Lodhi Estate. The CRPF's VVIP security unit is overseeing the protection of the family, which is now graded in Z-Plus level security.

As per the authorisation approved by the Union Home Ministry, the new CRPF cover provides for an advanced security liaison (ASL) drill for the three VVIPs that will enable the commandos to conduct an advance reconnaissance of the venues and area to be visited by them.

The squad will have a canine component with them and they will also guard the premises of the three Congress leaders, said the officials. For some days, they said, the SPG will CRPF help the CRPF in the



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now the only person to be protected by about 4,000-personnel-strong SPG

task and after that the CRPF VVIP security team will provide the protection independently with assistance of Delhi Police in the national capital and various police forces in the States.

When the leaders visit other areas, the CRPF team will work in association with the State police. The CRPF, the designated

lead force for conducting anti-Naxal operations and internal security tasks in the country, has about 52 other VVIPs under its cover, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now the only person to be protected by about 4,000-personnel-strong SPG.

INSHORT

INDIA WELCOMES RIYADH AGREEMENT

New Delhi: India on Monday welcomed signing of an agreement between the Yemeni Government and southern separatists, and hoped it will lead to an early settlement of conflict, resulting in peace, progress and prosperity for the people of that country. In response to a media query on India's position on the Riyadh Agreement, the Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "India welcomes the signing of Riyadh Agreement between the Yemeni Government and the South Transitional Council on November 5 in Riyadh."

PM TO ATTEND 11TH BRICS SUMMIT IN BRAZIL



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Brazil on November 13 and 14 to attend the 11th BRICS summit, the theme of which is "economic growth for an innovative future". This will be the sixth time Modi will be participating in the BRICS summit, his first being at Fortaleza, also in Brazil in 2014, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said. Sources said he would leave for Brasilia, Brazil on Tuesday afternoon.

IFFI TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SILENT FILM VIEWING

New Delhi: 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be paying tribute to the lost form of silent film viewing in a specially curated section where three movies by master filmmakers Alfred Hitchcock, Sergei M Eisenstein and GW Pabst will be screened. The films are "Battleship Potemkin" by Russian pioneer of montage editing Eisenstein, "Pandora's Box" by German expressionist master Pabst and Hitchcock's "Blackmail".

IGNCA ORGANISES FOUR DAY MUSIC FEST

New Delhi: Much to the delight of music lovers and art connoisseurs, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is organising a four-day musical extravaganza alongwith a wide variety of programmes including classical and folk music programmes, overnight concert, film festival, exhibitions, seminars, artists camp, books & DVD release lined up for its annual day celebrations from November 18-November 24.

Rajnath stresses on speedy self-reliance in Defence sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stressing the need for speedy self-reliance in the Defence sector, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday emphasised on the importance of 'Ideation, Innovation and Incubation' in cutting edge technologies to achieve the goal of indigenisation.

Making this point here while addressing the inaugural session of 'DefConnect 2019' organised by the Ministry to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, he said, "India is leading in the fields of technology and peace-keeping throughout the world. As a major power, it is equally important for us to strengthen our Defence manufacturing and research & development."

Singh also exuded confidence that India will become a USD 10 trillion economy in the next 10 to 15 years adding



that iDEX is emerging as a suitable platform for linking knowledge & power and tapping the energy of the youth.

The Minister hoped that this confluence will strengthen the Government's efforts to create a strong India which will further help in safeguarding the interests of the people as well as respond effectively to any misadventures.

Termining research, development and manufacturing as collaborative process, Singh called for building cohesion between public and private sector. He assured the Government's full support in the indigenisation of the Defence industry and nation building. Speaking on the occasion, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said there never had been dearth of innovators in the country. However, iDEX has provided them with an opportunity to give the country cutting-edge technologies for the future.

SC to deliver verdict on pleas of disqualified K'taka MLAs tomorrow

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on November 13 its verdict on the pleas of 17 disqualified Congress-JD(S) MLAs of Karnataka challenging the orders of the then Assembly speaker KR Ramesh Kumar to disqualify them.

A three-judge Bench of justices NV Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari had on October 25 reserved its verdict on the petitions filed by these disqualified MLAs.

Kumar had disqualified these 17 MLAs of ruling the Congress-JD(S) coalition ahead of a trust vote in July.

Then Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy had resigned after losing the trust vote, which paved the way for the BJP-led Government in the

State under BS Yediyurappa. Bypolls to 15 out of these 17 Assembly seats which fell vacant following the disqualification of MLAs are scheduled on December 5 and candidates are required to file their nomination papers between November 11 and November 18.

These disqualified MLAs have recently approached the apex court seeking a direction to the Election Commission to postpone the Assembly bypolls for these 15 seats till the pronouncement of verdict in the matter.

Some of these disqualified MLAs had argued in the apex court that they have an "indefeasible right" to resign as members of the Assembly and the decision by the then Speaker to disqualify them smacks of "vengeance" and "mala fide".

Centre justifies Art 370 decision in SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre justified in the Supreme Court on Monday the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir, saying the militants and separatist elements, with the support of foreign forces inimical to India, were taking advantage of the situation.

A five-judge Bench of Justice NV Ramana, Justice SK Kaul, Justice R Subhash Reddy, Justice BR Gavai and Justice Surya Kant is scheduled to take up for hearing a batch of petitions challenging abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and Article 35A on Nov 14.

In its reply to the batch of petitions, the Centre said that Article 370, in its original form, was constitutionally described as a temporary provision with respect to Jammu & Kashmir, formed a part of the

Constitution of India as adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. The Centre's affidavit said it was observed over the years that the existing regime under Article 370 of the Constitution, and the exceptions/modifications carried out to other provisions of the Constitution of India by Presidential Orders issued under Article 370(1)(d), were impeding, rather than enabling or facilitating, the full integration of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of the country which was neither in the national interest nor in the interest of Jammu & Kashmir.

Naidu nominates Manmohan Singh for Parliamentary panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has nominated former Prime Minister and senior Congress leader Manmohan Singh to the parliamentary standing committee on finance in place of party colleague Digvijay Singh, who has now been nominated to the parliamentary standing committee on urban development by the chairman of the Upper House.

"The Rajya Sabha chairman has nominated Manmohan Singh, member, Rajya Sabha, to be a member of the committee on finance in place of Digvijay Singh. The chairman has also nominated Digvijay Singh, member, Rajya Sabha, to be a member of the committee on urban development," the bulletin reads. According to sources



Digvijay Singh resigned from the parliamentary standing committee on finance to make way for the former Prime Minister. Manmohan Singh, who was the country's Finance Minister between 1991 and 1996, was a member of the panel from September 2014 to May 2019 before his tenure in the Upper House ended in June this year. In August, he was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

Carbon emissions from world's 20 biggest economies rising: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Carbon emissions from the world's 20 biggest economies, including India, are rising, and the countries have to increase their emission targets that will put them on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a report by Climate Transparency, a global research body has cautioned.

To keep the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degrees goal within reach, G20 countries will have to increase their 2030 emission targets by 2020 and significantly scale up mitigation, adaptation and finance over the next decade, said the report 'New Brown to Green Report 2019' which was released on Monday.

It also said that none of the G20 countries have plans that will help them achieve the target even as 82 per cent of energy supply in these economies still comes from fossil fuels.

The report is the most comprehensive review of G20



countries' climate performance, mapping achievements and drawbacks in their efforts to reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts and green the financial system.

Many of the current 2030 climate targets under the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs) are too weak, with about half of the G20 countries projected to meet or over-achieve their inadequate NDCs. Among the G20 countries, India has the most ambitious NDC. However, it still needs real action now to prepare the different sectors for stringent emission reductions,"

The Energy and Resources Institute (ERI) Programme Director (Earth Science and Climate Change) RR Rashmi said.

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in G20 countries shot up by 1.8 per cent in 2018 due to rising energy demand, the report said.

Clearly, energy supply is not getting cleaner; despite a more than five per cent rise in G20 total renewable energy supply in 2018, the share of fossil fuels in the G20 energy mix remains at 82 per cent.

In 2018, G20 emissions in the power sector increased by 1.6 per cent. While renewables now account for 25.5 per cent of power generation, this is not sufficient to outweigh the growth of emissions from fossil fuel sources. Coal needs to be phased out by 2030 in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and by 2040 globally, said the report.

Wheat cultivation lowers by 37% in ongoing season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The cultivation of wheat is lowered by 37 per cent at 9.69 lakh hectare till last week of the ongoing rabi (winter) season of the 2019-20 crop year. Total acreage under all rabi crops was down by 15 per cent at 95.35 lakh hectare till last week of this season, as against 112.24 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.

An Agriculture Ministry official said the prospects of rabi sowing looks bright because of better soil moisture on account of good monsoon and reservoirs are also full. "Water levels in as many as 97 reservoirs are more than 80 per cent. This will ensure we have an excellent rabi crop this year," the official said. He also noted that rabi crops are mostly grown in irrigated area.

As per the agriculture Ministry's latest data released on Monday, farmers have planted wheat in an area of 9.69 lakh hectare till last week of this

WHEAT ACREAGE WAS LAGGING AT 74,000 HECTARE IN MP TILL LAST WEEK

season, compared with 15.35 lakh hectare a year ago. Sowing of wheat and other rabi crops begins from October, while harvesting from April onwards. Wheat is the main rabi crop.

Wheat acreage was lagging at 74,000 hectare in Madhya Pradesh till last week of this season, when compared with 6 lakh hectares in the year-ago period. In Punjab, farmers planted wheat in 4.20 lakh hectare as against 4.68 lakh hectare a year ago, while that in Haryana in 1.16 lakh hectare as against 1.19 lakh hectare in the said period.

Wheat planting, however, in Uttar Pradesh was covered in more area at 1.73 lakh

hectare till last week of this season as against 94,000 hectare a year ago, the data showed.

The lower wheat acreage, farm experts said, was due to late harvesting of 2019 kharif crops that has delayed sowing in some states, especially Madhya Pradesh. The curbs on stubble burning has also delayed land preparation.

Among other rabi crops, area sown to pulses also remained lower at 27.85 lakh hectare till last week of this rabi season, as against 39.93 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.

Coarse cereals were also planted in lesser area at 12.39 lakh hectare as against 13.54 lakh hectare in the said period. However, the planting of oilseeds was undertaken in more area at 41.24 lakh hectare till last week of this rabi season as against 39.65 lakh hectare a year ago.

Rice planting area remained similar to the previous year's level of 5.77 lakh hectare in the said period.

Marine cleanliness drive begins for 50 beaches

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI



cleanliness drive to regain the beauty of its 50 beaches in coastal States/Union Territories like Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Maharashtra.

Under the 'Swachhchh - Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan,' the Government is hoping to clean up the beaches and create awareness among citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems. The campaign from November 11-17 will in total cleanup 50 beaches in the ten States. These include Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The beaches have

been identified after consultations with the States/UTs, said a senior official from the Union Environment Ministry.

To ensure that the drive is taken up as a mass movement, school/college students who are part of eco-clubs, district administration, institutions, volunteers, local communities and other stakeholders have been involved.

The two-hour duration drive aims to cover a minimum of one kilometre stretch of the identified beach daily. Sand cleaning machines will be deployed at about 15 beaches,

the official added.

He said coastal debris includes plastic and other non-biodegradable synthetic materials discarded intentionally or unintentionally that enter the marine system. "This waste finds its way to the sea, does not undergo degradation and remains suspended in the water and often gets washed ashore as litter all along the coast. As high as 6.4 million tonnes of marine litter gets dumped into the seas annually," he added.

It is predicted that soon there will be more plastic than

the fish in sea. A study by National Centre of Coastal Research (NCCR) last year too pointed out that plastic litter from tourism alone accounted for 40 per cent-96 per cent of all beach litter.

It pointed out that at Chennai's Elliott's Beach, for instance, plastics like plastic bottles, cutlery and thermocool left by tourists accounted for 40 per cent of all the litter, while at Gopalpur in Odisha, it was as high as 96 per cent. As for the other four beaches, plastics formed 66 per cent of the overall litter on Fort Kochi

Beach, 60 per cent at Karnataka's Karwar beach, 87 per cent at Visakhapatnam's RK Beach, and 81 per cent at Andaman Island's Rangachang beach.

After tourism, fishing was the next biggest source of litter. MV Ramana Murthy, Director, NCCR, has called for a national marine litter policy to control and manage waste on land and prevent its entry into the marine environment.

"Other than the plastic litter dropped by tourists, similar waste from creeks and inlets made its way into the sea in the monsoon," he said. A 2016 study has found that all seven species of turtles

are known to ingest or get entangled in plastic debris in the sea, while more than 700 species of marine organisms are in danger of extinction.

This is for first time that the Centre has taken up marine garbage cleaning in such a large scale. So far just private companies or individuals have been engaged in mission.

For instance, lawyer Afroz Shah from Mumbai is known to inspire more than 2,00,000 volunteers to join him in clean up of Versova Beach while PepsiCo India has joined hands with Project Mumbai, an NGO, to participate in "Jalosh-Clean Coasts", biggest clean-up of nine Mumbai beaches and Mithi river.

CYCLONE BULBUL

Didi announces ₹2L to kin of deceased

PTI ■ KAKDWIP (WB)

Lauding the administration in South 24 Parganas district for its initiatives to minimise the impact of Cyclone 'Bulbul', West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh for the families of those killed in the storm.

Banerjee also constituted a task force to look into the relief and restoration work.

She urged people to "stay positive" and stand beside those who have been affected by the cyclone.

Cyclone 'Bulbul', which made landfall between Sagar Islands in South 24 Parganas and Khepupara in Bangladesh, claimed at least 10 lives and affected six lakh people in different parts of Bengal.

As many as 1.78 lakh people have been shifted to 471 relief camps set up in the state.

The CM, following an aerial survey of the cyclone-ravaged areas of Namkhana and Bakkhali, held an administrative meeting here to review the work being undertaken in the aftermath of the disaster.

"My administration did a commendable job. The devastation, otherwise, could have been far more... If they (officials) had not rescued 1.78 lakh people, I cannot say what would have happened. They



will be rewarded. Even the central government applauded (the efforts)," she said.

Stressing that restoration of power supply, provisions for clean drinking water and medicines were the need of the hour, Banerjee asked officials to reach out to people and ensure that the aid was evenly distributed without affecting peace in the region.

She appointed Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha as the head of the task force — which, she said, would be reviewing the ongoing relief work every 48 hours.

Taking note of the damage caused to beetle leaf cultivation and paddy in the district, the TMC supremo directed departments of irrigation, forest and power to work in tandem for

restoring normalcy.

The Trinamool Congress supremo also advised the officials to take help of civic volunteers of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDR) to speed up the relief operations.

A total of 323 kitchens have been opened to cater to the cyclone-hit families and 94 boats employed to aid in the restoration work, the CM said.

"As of now, reports suggest that six lakh people have been affected by the cyclone. The number might increase in the days to come," she added.

Banerjee is set to visit cyclone-affected areas of Basirhat in North 24-Parganas on Wednesday.

Power services in cyclone-hit areas of Odisha, Bengal restored; phones soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power services in cyclone 'Bulbul' hit areas in West Bengal and Odisha have been restored on Monday, while telecommunication links are expected to be back soon.

This was conveyed at a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), chaired by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, which took stock of the relief and restoration works in the aftermath of the cyclone over West Bengal and Odisha. West Bengal reported seven human casualties, damages to about one lakh houses and standing crops, an official statement said.

While electricity has been restored, telecom services are expected to be restored shortly. Though no human casualty was reported from Odisha, there has been extensive damage to standing crops in over two lakhs hectares. Power and water supplies have been restored barring a few areas where services are expected to be resumed by Tuesday, the statement said.

The NCMC assured all central assistance in terms of additional stocks of food items,

drinking water, health services as well as restoration of telecom and power services. Central teams would be visiting the affected areas in both the states within this week to take stock of the damages.

Both the states indicated that they are carrying out detailed assessment after which they may seek specific central assistance, if required.

It may be recalled that IMD had provided regular and timely alerts on a sustained basis about the cyclone to the states. Concerned central agencies including National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Coast Guard etc have been fully involved in rescue and relief operations, the statement said.

Senior officers of the ministries of Home, Defence, Power, Telecommunications, Agriculture and Cooperation, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Food Processing Industries, Health and Family Welfare, as well as those from NDRF and National Disaster Management Authority attended the meeting.

Senior officers from West Bengal and Odisha participated in the meeting through video conference.

Bodies of 4 fishermen missing in capsized trawler recovered

Kolkata: Bodies of four out of the nine fishermen who went missing after their trawler capsized off Mousuni Island in West Bengal under the impact of Cyclone Bulbul were recovered in a joint operation by the Indian Coast Guard and the NDRF, a senior Coast Guard officer said Monday.

The trawler had capsized on Saturday midnight 50 metre off the island when it was caught in the severe cyclone, which made its landfall between Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas and Khepupara in Bangladesh.

The four bodies were recovered after sustained hunt, Commander of Coast Guard, West Bengal and Deputy Inspector General S R Dash told.

The bodies have been handed over to the district administration, he said.

Dash said the search operation will resume Tuesday to locate the other missing fishermen who were onboard the trawler when it capsized off Mousuni Island in South 24 Parganas district under the impact of the high-speed cyclone.

Coast Guard and NDRF teams have been engaged in the rescue operation since the mishap.

Cyclone 'Bulbul' after its landfall on Saturday midnight



had hurtled northeastwards into neighbouring Bangladesh over the Sunderban delta.

Commandant of NDRF 2nd Battalion, Nitish Upadhyay told on Monday that deep divers of the force are searching the sea to locate the missing fishermen as time runs short for the hapless men.

Dash said the Coast Guard has pressed two hovercraft in the search operation. Each hovercraft comprises a pilot, a co-pilot and eight crew men and they are conducting sorties from Fraserganj coast.

Commandant Deepak Singh of Coast Guard, Haldia is commanding the hovercrafts.

According to other sources there were 13 fishermen in the trawler and four of them had swum to safety. The where-

abouts of the rest nine were not known before the four bodies were found.

Dash said the Coast Guard has been bracing for the cyclone situation since November 6 and its personnel had sensitised people of all the coastal villages.

Nadia-based NDRF 2nd Battalion commandant said a total 10 teams of the force have been engaged in three West Bengal districts — North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and East Medinipur before the cyclonic storm made its landfall.

Upadhyay said the NDRF teams are rendering assistance to district administration post-cyclone to remove uprooted trees and in restoration work. **PTI**

Make Bengali, other languages as JEE exam medium: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress has once again demanded inclusion of Bengali as a medium in the All-India Joint Entrance Examinations (Mains) decriing Central Government's "arbitrary" decision to do the same favour to Gujarati leaving aside all the other recognised languages of the country.

All-India examinations are normally conducted in Hindi and English only.

Addressing a rally against the Centre's "unprecedented decision to provide special status to Gujarati language," he said "we will make a demand to include Bengali too for JEE exams and if our demand is not met then we will snatch our demand from Delhi," the Diamond Harbour MP who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

Circuitously attacking Union Minister Babul Supriyo for justifying the Centre's decision to exclude all other languages in favour of Gujarati senior Bengal BJP president Mukherjee said "a young BJP Minister is trying to befool the people of Bengal saying Gujarati was chosen as a medium because Gujarat had made an application for it to be included...either he is befooling the people or he himself had no knowledge of how things function."

approach of the Centre will not be tolerated."

Mukherjee said, "such decisions are not taken merely upon an application but upon a policy decision taken by the Government," adding the "Centre should immediately apologise to all other States for this grossly unconstitutional and anti-federal step and introduce all the recognized regional languages as medium of examination."

Earlier the Chief Minister had suddenly taken a detour to Singur while returning from Shantiniketan before entering office of Block Development Officer where he took information and progress report of various schemes.

"I have read Constitution with great care and have found it unprecedented for a Governor barging into a BDO office to take administrative information without informing the State Government. It does not behave a person sitting on that post."

with Bengali sentiments in order to get votes, he maintained.

Elsewhere the ongoing tiff between the State Government and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar reached a new height with the ruling Trinamool Congress severely criticizing his decision to visit administrative units in the districts without informing State Government.

The Governor on Monday had suddenly taken a detour to Singur while returning from Shantiniketan before entering office of Block Development Officer where he took information and progress report of various schemes.

"I have read Constitution with great care and have found it unprecedented for a Governor barging into a BDO office to take administrative information without informing the State Government. It does not behave a person sitting on that post."

Kerala to begin preventive drive against Nipah virus: Health Min

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala would begin a comprehensive preventive drive against the outbreak of Nipah virus next month to equip the State health machinery to fight the deadly virus, Health Minister KK Shylaja said on Monday.

A year after two north Kerala districts were hit by the deadly Nipah that claimed 17 lives, the virus had re-surfaced in the southern State in June this year with a 23-year-old student here being infected.

The Ernakulam-based youth was discharged from the hospital after 53 days of treatment and surveillance.



Detailing the initiatives under the preventive drive, Shylaja informed the State assembly that surveillance would be intensified and mock-drills would be held. "This year's

last time through such coordinated efforts," the minister said during question hour.

Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of the Nipah virus. Nipah virus can be transmitted to humans from animals (such as bats or pigs), or contaminated food and can also be transmitted directly from human-to-human.

According to the WHO, Nipah virus is a newly emerging disease that can be transmitted from its reservoir (natural wildlife host), the flying foxes (fruit bats), to both animals and humans. **PTI**

Lata Mangeshkar in ICU, sister Usha says she is recovering

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in the early hours of Monday after she complained of breathing problems, hospital sources said. The singer, who turned 90 on September 28, is in a critical condition, they said.

"She was brought to hospital at about 2 am. She is critical and in the ICU," a hospital insider told. Mangeshkar's younger sister Usha said the singer had a viral infection and should be discharged by Tuesday.

"Lata Didi is still in hospital. She is under observation. She is doing absolutely well and is stable. We will be discharged by tomorrow. "We thought it's better to treat her at a hospital because of the viral infection so she is there for today," Usha



Mangeshkar told amid reports that the musical icon had already been discharged and was recuperating at home.

In a career spanning over seven decades, the Indore-born Mangeshkar has lent her voice to thousands of songs in over 1,000 Hindi films as well as in various regional and foreign languages. The indefatigable Mangeshkar recorded her last song this year. "Saugandh mujhe is mitti ki" was released on March 30 as a

tribute to the Indian Army.

Her last full album was "Veer-Zaara". She started her journey as a playback singer in 1942 with Vasant Joglekar's Marathi movie "Kiti Hasaal". Her first song to release was "Natali Chaitraachi Navalai" from "Pahili Mangalagau". She also acted in the movie. Mangeshkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour in the country, in 2001. She was given the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1989. **PTI**

Over 180 head constables made ASI in Jammu

PTI ■ JAMMU

Over 180 head constables of Jammu & Kashmir Police have been promoted to the rank of Assistant Sub Inspector in Jammu region, a police spokesperson said.

Extending greetings to all the ranks on the eve of Gaurpurab, Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh on Monday issued the formal promotion orders to 187 head constables.

Singh lauded the efforts of these officers in earning their due promotion well in time. He further expressed hope that they shall rededicate themselves towards their work with more zeal and enthusiasm to make the department and society feel proud. **PTI**

Train services in Kashmir Valley to begin from Tuesday: Rlys

New Delhi: Train services in the Kashmir Valley, which were disrupted since August 3 ahead of the abrogation of provisions of Article 370, will resume on Tuesday, a Northern Railway official said. The valley

had been under restrictions after August 5. "After appropriate action and assurance by GRP J&K regarding safe operation of train in Kashmir Valley between 10 AM and 3

PM, the Ferozpur Division will commence a limited passenger service of running two pair of trains between Srinagar-Baramulla-Srinagar with effect from November 12," an official said. **PTI**

DHFL National Office Address : DHFL, HDIL Towers, B-Wing, 6th & 8th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.
Regional Office : Office No. 211 and 212 'Titanium' Shalimar Corporate Park, Vibhuti Khand, Gombi Nagar, Lucknow-226010

Contact Nos :- 1.DHFL AO name and Mobile Nos. - Mr. Sorabh Pahwa- 9216986668 2. Auction Service Provider (ASP) Name and Mobile Nos.-NexXen Solutions Private Limited: +91 124 4 233 933 Mr. Amarnath Kumar - 7376762939

E-Auction Sale Notice-Subsequent Sale

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount In(Rs.)	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP) In (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) In(Rs.)	Total Loan Outstanding (As on 11-11-2019) In(Rs.)
(Loan Code No. 00003547 / Lucknow Branch) Deep Mishra (Borrower) Khushali Awasthi (Co-Borrower)	24-10-2018 Rs. 10,30,571/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot No-102, Khasra No. 184, mohari Kala Khurd Mohanlalganj, Lucknow, Lucknow-226020	Rs. 10,91,000/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Ninety One Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,09,100/- (Rupees One Lacs Nine Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs. 11,66,360/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lacs Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Only)
(Loan Code No. 00003716 / Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Alok Kumar Srivastava (Borrower) Praneeta Srivastava (Co-Borrower)	24-10-2018 Rs. 28,32,873/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot No 14 & 31 Khasra No 350 Situated At Lalai Pargana Teh Dist Lucknow, Lucknow, Lucknow-226020	Rs. 21,47,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Forty Seven Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,14,700/- (Rupees Two Lacs Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	Rs. 32,18,554/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lacs Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four Only)
(Loan Code No. 00043127 / Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Madhwan Agarwal (Borrower) Devi Dayal Agarwal (Co-Borrower)	24-10-2018 Rs. 36,04,758/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot No 109, Part Of Khasra No 284, Singhia Residency, Vill-Bhuhara, Dewa The-nawabganj, Barabanki, Barabanki-225001	Rs. 33,21,000/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lacs Twenty One Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,32,100/- (Rupees Three Lacs Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs. 40,58,582/- (Rupees Forty Lacs Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two Only)
(Loan Code No. 00044204 / Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Kuldeep Kumar (Borrower) Ram Sahare (Co-Borrower)	26-11-2018 Rs. 8,24,513/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot No 168 On Kh No 268 Ka Minj Vill Semrapeerupur Khijauli Bazar The Mohanlalganj Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020	Rs. 2,98,000/- (Rupees Two Lacs Ninety Eight Thousand Only)	Rs. 29,800/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	Rs. 9,12,180/- (Rupees Nine Lacs Twelve Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only)
(Loan Code No. 00003027 / Lucknow Branch) Rama Kant (Borrower) Mrs Shahi kala (Co-Borrower)	30-08-2017 Rs. 8,16,656/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. Plot No. 05, Survey No. 89, situated at Village- Tedwa Chilaula, Pargana- Khairabad Tehsil & District- Sitapur Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 4,50,000/- (Rupees Four Lacs Fifty Thousand Only)	Rs. 45,000/- (Rupees Forty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 10,75,707/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seven Only)
(Loan Code No. 00003387 / Lucknow Branch) Ajay Kumar Singh (Borrower) Mrs Poonam Singh (Co-Borrower)	24-02-2018 Rs. 15,51,561/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. Plot No 60-D, Part Of Khasra No 2437, Village-Bijnour, Lucknow, Lucknow-226020, Uttar Pradesh.	Rs. 10,50,000/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Fifty Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,05,000/- (Rupees One Lacs Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 19,09,275/- (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five Only)
(Loan Code No. 00008533 / Lucknow Branch) Sagar Verma (Borrower) Julie Rastogi (Co-Borrower)	27-12-2018 Rs. 11,35,725/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot On Khasra No. 370 Minj, At Village- Malhapur, Ward- Halderganj Tehsil & District Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020	Rs. 11,42,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Forty Two Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,14,200/- (Rupees One Lacs Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Only)	Rs. 11,57,265/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Only)
(Loan Code No. 00044009 / Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Priyank (Borrower) Ritu Gupta (Co-Borrower)	26-11-2018 Rs. 10,85,325/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. Plot No D 33 Part Of Kh No 188 Std At Hasemau Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020	Rs. 12,02,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs Two Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,20,200/- (Rupees One Lacs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Only)	Rs. 12,07,655/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only)
(Loan Code No. LUK32018 / Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) WEALTH MANTRA PROPERTIES LIMITED (Borrower) Sanjeev Agarwal, Sunita Agarwal (Co-Borrower)	27-12-2018 Rs. 71,50,527/-	All that part and parcel of the property bearing No. PLOT NO. A/1/0002, SUSHANT GOLF CITY, SECTOR. A, POCKET 1, LUCKNOW, Lucknow-226025	Rs. 1,63,58,000/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Three Lacs Fifty Eight Thousand Only)	Rs. 16,35,800/- (Rupees Sixteen Lacs Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	Rs. 80,18,182/- (Rupees Eighty Lacs Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty Two Only)

The Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction are as under:

- E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", and "WHATEVER IS THERE IS BASIS" and will be conducted "Online". The Auction will be conducted through the DHFL approved auction service provider "NexXen Solutions Private Limited"
- Last Date of Submission of Tender/Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 28.11.2019 up to 6:00 PM at the Zonal/Branch Office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
- Date of E-Auction for Property is 29.11.2019 at the web portal <https://disposalhub.com> from 10.30 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each.
- The Tender/Sealed Bid/Offer will be opened in the presence of the Authorized Officer.
- Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is on 19.11.2019 between 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM.
- The tenderer/online bidder hereby agrees that once he/she has formally registered a qualified tender before authorized officer will have to express their interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting this document. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login id and password from auction service provider
- Further interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.
- The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of terms and Conditions of Sale.
- Since In above mentioned cases wherein Sale Notice was issued/published earlier also therefore, the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 (as per the revised guidelines in the Gazette of India notification dated 03/11/2016) to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
- The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mentioned National/Zonal/Branch office.
- The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer/Bidder in E-Auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding with minimum Bid increment amount. The Property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
- The Tenderer(s) / Offerer(s) / Prospective Bidder(s) / Purchaser(s) are hereby notified that the secured asset will be sold with the Encumbrances and dues payable to Statutory Authority (if any) and are also requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the above and other relevant details pertaining to the above mentioned secured asset before submitting the tenders.
- DHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.
- The Total Loan Outstanding amount is not the loan foreclosure amount. All other charges (if any) shall be calculated at the time of closure of the loan.
- The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of 'Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited' or 'DHFL' Only.
- Wherever applicable, its responsibility of auction purchaser to deduct Tax at Source (TDS) @ 1% of the total sale consideration on behalf of the resident owner on the transfer of immovable property having consideration equal to ₹ 50 lacs and above and deposit the same with appropriate authority u/s 194 IA of Income Tax act.
- For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Sd/- Mr. Sorabh Pahwa (Authorized Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

HYDERABAD TRAIN ACCIDENT

16 injured, ex-gratia announced

Hyderabad/New Delhi: Two slow-moving trains collided at Kacheguda Railway station here on Monday, leaving 16 people injured, including a driver who was trapped in his badly mangled cabin for eight hours, officials said.



The Lingampalli-Falaknuma multi-modal transport system (MMTS) apparently overshot the signal and collided with the Kurnool-Secunderabad Hundry Intercity Express (17028) at 10.41 am, South Central Railway officials said.

The driver of the MMTS train, who sustained serious injuries, was initially trapped in his cabin, which was badly mangled, but was rescued after a couple of hours, officials said.

Oxygen and other life-saving medical aid were provided to him during the operation, they said adding he has suffered severe leg injuries. He was rushed to a private hospital, where his condition is stated to

be stable.

Commissioner Railway Safety, Southern Central Circle Secunderabad, Ram Kripal will conduct an inquiry into the accident.

The Railway Ministry has announced ex-gratia of ₹5,000 each to passengers with minor injuries and ₹25,000 each to passengers having grievous injuries.

"Due to collision, 16 passengers were injured and they were immediately rushed to the hospital. Nine of the injured were immediately discharged," a railway release said, adding five coaches of the MMTS service and three coaches of the

Goyal tweeted: "Received the tragic news of the train accident in Hyderabad & immediate instructions have been given to the authorities for assistance & monitoring."

"Railway administration is extending assistance & have made arrangements for the treatment of the injured at the accident site."

Several train services were cancelled either fully or partially due to the incident.

Railways said that it had taken the accident very seriously and Member (Traction), Additional Member (Signal & Telecom) and Executive Director, Safety, Railway Board will visit the site.

A high-level inquiry at the level of Commissioner, Railway Safety, South Central circle, has been ordered to investigate into the reasons for the incident, a railway release said.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy visited the spot and made enquiries with the officials. PTI

Seshan had brilliant career as civil servant

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI



Thirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan, popularly known as T N Seshan, who passed away late Sunday due to old age related problems was given a tearful farewell on Monday at Basanth Nagar crematorium in Chennai by thousands of citizens who had gathered to bid au revoir.

The 1955 batch IAS officer breathed his last late Sunday night and had desired to be cremated at Chennai itself, where his wife too has the last resting place. Seshan who shot into international fame with his six year stint as Chief Election Commissioner was known for his no-nonsense approach to the job in his hands.

After retirement from the post of CEC, Seshan used to tell the people that his final wish was to see the Government of India funding the election process in the country.

When he was appointed as the CEC, the general Election and Assembly Election in the country were manipulated and

muzzled by mafia dons and anti social elements who threatened the voters with dire consequences if they do not vote for the candidates picked by the former.

"Appavukku Charayam, Ammavukku Sari and namma verpalarkku vote" was the catchword of the political masters, Seshan used to tell. It meant, alcohol for the family head, sari for the women and vote for the candidate picked up by the local ruffian. But with Seshan assuming office in the Nirvachan Sadan things underwent a drastic change.

Both the DMK and the AIADMK shivered from head to toe at the mention of his name. But don't be under the impression that it was as CEC

he earned the reputation. That started long back, in 1960s when he worked as the district collector of Madurai which saw unprecedented riots as part of anti Hindi agitation. "My officers were beaten up by rioters in a village. Many government officials were set ablaze and were killed. I went to the village with a police force who cordoned off the area. I had a stick with me and ordered all the villagers to line up outside their houses. I told them if they do not reveal the names of the rioters responsible for the gruesome incident, I would beat them to pulp. The woman began to sing and the men spilled the beans," Seshan had told in an interview.

He led various departments in the Government of Tamil Nadu during his tenure in the State. When drivers of the State Transport Corporation submitted a memorandum to him listing their grievances in driving the dilapidated buses, Seshan himself took to the wheels of the buses to get a first-hand experience of the difficulties faced by the

employees and asked the government to replace the buses which was done in hours!

Delivering a lecture in Kochi in 1993 about the economic liberalization initiated by the then Narasimha Rao government, Seshan said there was nothing innovative in the opening up of the Indian economy. "This was what C.Rajagopalachari had told them in 1950 itself. But it fell in deaf ears as Rajaji (pet name of Rajagopalachari) had dark Salem skin. Since it has come from a fair skinned person, it has been accepted now. Let's see whether they would be able to break the logjam and save the Indian economy," Seshan had said.

The uniqueness of Seshan is that each person who had met him has a different story to tell. All good things only. Behind the façade of that roughness and arrogance (which people loved) there was a soft spoken Seshan too. He used to explain his name as Tough Nut Seshan!! Yet another titan has walked away to meet his maker.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar greets Justice Sanjay Karol after taking oath as the 43rd Chief Justice of Patna High Court at Rajbhawan, in Patna, Monday PTI

12 injured as trains collide in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (PTI): As many as 12 people were injured when two slow-moving trains collided at Kacheguda Railway station here on Monday, South Central Railway officials said. The Lingampalli-Falaknuma multi-modal transport system (MMTS) and the Kurnool-Secunderabad Hundry Intercity Express (17028) collided, resulting in injuries to the 12, they said.

The pilot of the MMTS train was trapped in his cabin, which was badly mangled, and efforts were on to rescue him, they said. He sustained severe injuries, and oxygen and other life-saving medical aid were being provided to him. A senior official of the SCR said they were using cutters to rescue the driver. The accident occurred as the MMTS train apparently overshot the signal, they said.

"Six coaches of the MMTS service and three coaches of the Hundry Express have been damaged. The 12 passengers were rushed to Osmania General Hospital, of whom two were discharged," the SCR said in a press release. Senior officials of the SCR, along with medical and accident relief vans, undertook relief and restoration work, it said.

Following the accident, one train was cancelled and another was diverted while five more have been partially cancelled.

Padmavathy, a woman passenger of the MMTS, said the commuters felt a big jolt as the train was nearing Kacheguda station.

"Several passengers hit their heads and knees with the opposite seats resulting in bleeding," she said. A high-level inquiry into the accident would be held, the SCR said.

Goa BJP to get new chief by Dec 15: CM Sawant

Panaji: The Goa BJP will elect a new State unit president by December 15, chief minister Pramod Sawant said on Monday.

Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar is the current state unit chief and has been on the post for two terms since 2012.

Sawant on Monday evening chaired a meeting of party MLAs and office bearers to finalise its organisational election process. Speaking to reporters post the meeting, Sawant said, "The BJP has to elect its new state president by December 15. PTI

Expedite pending cases relating to SC & ST: Nitish

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday asserted that pending cases relating to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) need to be expedited and the law department should appoint special public prosecutors in different special courts for the purpose.

Training and orientation programme should be held regularly for officials concerned to

keep them abreast of changes that have been incorporated in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules and Act and its provisions over time, Kumar said.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a meeting here convened to review the State-level monitoring and vigilance committee constituted under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities)

Rules 1995 and Amendment Rules 2016.

"The law department should appoint special public prosecutors in different special courts (constituted under SC and ST Act, 1989). Eligible and committed lawyers should be given the responsibility and inefficient special public prosecutors should be relieved so that pending cases (relating to SC and ST) can be expedited," Kumar was quoted as

saying in an official release.

The director general of police should carry out police station wise review of all the cases, he said adding that the meeting of district-level monitoring and vigilance committee should be held regularly.

Kumar said land for habitation should be made available to all the landless families belonging to SC and ST apart from Mahadalits.

Ayodhya: MP woman set to call off 27-year-old fruit-milk fast

Jabalpur (MP) (PTI): An 81-year-old former Sanskrit teacher in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur having only milk and fruits since 1992 wishing for a resolution to the Ayodhya dispute now plans to resume a regular diet, her son said. Happy with Saturday's Supreme Court order which paved the way for a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, as well as a mosque on a 5-acre plot, Urmila Chaturvedi wants her kin to write a letter of thanks to Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, he said. The Supreme Court on Saturday cleared the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot a 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.

In one of the most important and most anticipated judgements in India's history, a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi put an end to the more than a century old dispute that has torn the social fabric of the nation. "My mother was on a fruit and milk diet for the past 27 years. She was 54 at the time when she started this. She is very happy with the Supreme Court verdict," her son Amit Chaturvedi told PTI.

"She has asked me to write a letter of thanks to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. My mother is an ardent devotee of Lord Ram and was waiting for a solution to the Ayodhya dispute," he added. He said his mother, a Sanskrit teacher at private institutions,

was very upset over the violence that engulfed the nation after the Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992. The site was occupied by the 16th century Babri mosque, built by Mughal empire's founder Babur, which was destroyed by Hindu kar sevaks on December 6, 1992.

"Thereafter she resolved to observe a partial fast, limiting her diet to milk and fruits, till the Ayodhya dispute was resolved. She stood by it despite relatives requesting her several times to call it off," Amit said. He said the family will soon organise "Udayapan", a ceremony to conclude the fast, as her wish has been fulfilled. He added that his mother was not associated to any political or religious outfit.

Tribunal upholds ban on LTTE

New Delhi (PTI): The five-year ban imposed by the Centre on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been confirmed by a tribunal set up by the government to examine whether the prohibitions on the terror organisation should continue. According to sources in the Delhi High Court, the tribunal headed by Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal confirmed the ban on the LTTE on November 7 and the confirmation order has been sent to the government, in a sealed cover, for notification.

The tribunal arrived at its decision after hearing all stakeholders, including Marumalarchi Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vaiko. Vaiko is a LTTE sympathiser. The tribunal, set up under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), had held hearings in Delhi and Chennai after it was constituted on May 27. India had banned the LTTE after the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. Since then, the ban imposed on the group has been extended after every five years. The terror organisation had suffered a military defeat in May 2009 in Sri Lanka. The MHA had on May 14 extended for five more years the ban on LTTE.

Kerala cop sheds long tresses for cancer patients

PTI ■ KOCHI

In a noble deed, a 44-year old Kerala woman police officer has donated her impossibly long hair for the cause of cancer patients, with her gesture inspiring many, particularly college-going girls wishing to emulate her. Senior civil police officer Aparna Lavakumar says she had her head tonsured not for a change but for changing the lives of children fighting cancer.



Aparna tonsured her head at a beauty parlour in Thrissur district two months ago and donated her long tresses to a cancer research centre in Thrissur where wigs for poor cancer patients are made and given free of cost.

She said the wigs made from natural hair are unaffordable for poor cancer patients who are faced with hair loss from radiation or

chemotherapy treatment. The artificial wigs are allergic to many. "So I decided to give up my hair after seeing a cancer afflicted child in a school who was struggling to cope with the loss of his hair due to chemo treatment," said Aparna, a mother of two.

She took permission from her superiors to shed her 70-centimetres long hair. A video of Aparna tonsuring her head

was caught on a mobile phone camera by someone in the beauty parlour run by her friend and was widely circulated on the social media. The police official, who was widowed early, said she chose to shed her hair to change a poor cancer patient's life. "I am not wealthy. That was the only possible way for me to bring a smile on the faces of poor cancer patients," she added.

The widely circulated video has now inspired many girls to do something for a noble cause, Aparna said on Sunday. The woman police officer's advice to them is that there is no need to "imitate" her act but do something for the poor and needy.

"I am getting calls from young college going girls. They are inspired by it. My message to them is that... no need to imitate my act. Do anything possible to help the poor and needy in society," Aparna, who is posted at the all-women police station in Irinjalkkuda in Thrissur, told PTI. She says her act garnered public attention as she was a police official.

"It is the best job to help poor," says Aparna, who gets invitations from college and school authorities in the neighbourhood to create awareness among girl children on various issues. Office-bearers of

Canserve, a charitable society run by cancer survivors and a group of volunteers in Ernakulam, said they had earlier conducted a campaign for donating hair for cancer patients. Many girl students had come forward to donate their hair when such a campaign was organised at Ernakulam St Theresa's College in 2016, recalled an office-bearer of Canserve, which is helping cancer patients in their fight against the disease and to spread awareness about cancer.

Ambika Chandrakumar, an office-bearer of the society, said now such a campaign is not organised as making of wigs using natural hair is very expensive. "But we collect hair of those people who are willing to donate and give it to Amala Cancer Research Centre, Thrissur, where wigs are made for poor patients," she said.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE KANPUR
Address :- 117/K-19, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur
Phone :- 0512-2500459, E-mail :- sereedkanpur@gmail.com

E-Procurement Notice(3rd Call)
Letter No :- 1221/RED/Tender/Bond Clerk/2019-20 dated : 06.11.2019

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

2. Name of work as per table.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Work	Total estimated cost excluding GST (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of Bid including GST (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Kanpur Nagar	बन्द रोस्टर आजार कृषि एवं पशुधनिक विद्यालय, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र, दलीपनगर में विभिन्न निर्माण / सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	49.86	1.00	3500.00	04 Month

3. Date of availability of Bid documents on website:- 15.11.2019 to 22.11.2019
4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 22.11.2019 up to 12.00 Noon
5. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement: 22.11.2019 at 12.30 pm
6. The Employer has right to issue addendum / corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit tender portal regularly.
For further details please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and download the bid document.
U.P.: 145389, Date : 08.11.2019
सिग्नल वेबसाइट www.up.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT KANPUR CIRCLE, KANPUR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 19/22 Dated: 08.11.2019
On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Allahabad (An ISO 9001: 2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

SN	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	501950148	FIXED IP DAY/NIGHT COLOUR CAMERA	01 Nos.	25.11.2019
2	50195020B	CRD ANALYSIS SOFTWARE (ADVIK CDR ANALYSER V.4.1) or SIMILAR	01 Nos.	02.12.2019
3	30194291	Head Stock Assembly	38 nos	18.11.2019

Note:- 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tenders are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III. digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 1628/19(K)

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 20/P-69/2019-20/TMC/HQ/NCR/ALD Dated: 07.11.2019
OPEN TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Central Railway, Subedarganj, Allahabad-211015 invites the following E-Procurement Tenders: (The complete information along with tender document of this E-Procurement Tender are available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> upto 15:00 hrs. of the due date of tender opening).

S	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Value	Earnest Money
1	TMC 00851920	Hydraulic Double Pump and Motor. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser, Veljan-Denison only]	As per Section IV of tender document.	1,62,587/-	(Exempted)
2	TMC 00861920	Various types of Hydraulic Pump. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser, Veljan-Denison only]	-Do-	48,51,084/-	97,100/-
3	TMC 00871920	Contacter 30.0 HPIEC. Details of description, make and quantity as per section IV of tender document. [Acceptable Make: Loram, Allen Bradley, Suitable for RGM (RGI-6) only]	30 Nos	2,43,552/-	(Exempted)
4	TMC 00881920	Encoder optical. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Loram, BEI Sensor, only]	01 No.	1,26,236/-	(Exempted)
5	TMC 00891920	Various types of Valve Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser, Bosch Rexroth IMP, Star Servo valve control (for developmental order), Star Hydraulic (U.K.) only]	As per Section IV of tender document	1,82,44,943/-	3,64,900/-
6	TMC 00901920	Various types of Hydraulic Motors. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser, Veljan-Denison, Danfoss, Rexroth only]	-Do-	71,08,627/-	1,42,200/-
7	TMC 00911920	Printed circuit board, Motor, Monitor 15ZOLL Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. [Acceptable Make: Plasser Imported]	-Do-	19,53,220/-	39,100/-

Date of opening: 13.12.2019 for each tender. Note:- 1. The complete information along with Tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available on website <https://ireps.gov.in>. Up to 15:00 hrs. On the due date of tender opening. 2. Following condition has been included in Tender Document vide Railway Board letter No. 2001/RS(g)/779/7 Pt I Dated: 29.06.2017 "Whenever tender is floated with purchase restriction from sources approved by nominated authorities and there exists a suspected cartel situation by approved sources or the rates available from approved/sources are adjudged unreasonably high, despite fair efforts as permissible, the purchaser reserves the right to place order on firms outside the approved vendors list, without any restrictions". 3. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III. digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 4. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 5. Allocation for Security deposit and Earnest Money is "Deposit Misc stores 00844523. 6. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1628/19(K)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Mahabharata of power

The Cong-NCP-Sena alliance for a Government is based on a seasonal hatred of the BJP. Can numbers work?



Maharashtra is no Karnataka, where a hung verdict had led to political machinations and a power surge of convenience. Yet in a shape-shifting scenario of permutations and combinations, Government formation is turning out to be a bizarre prospect despite a decisive electoral verdict. The Congress was desperate then, seized the advantage, was one up on the BJP but could not last even with like-minded partners in a

coalition arrangement. It is still desperate for regaining a State that was its stronghold but in Maharashtra is faced between the devil and the deep sea. It cannot afford to settle with its enemy's enemy, namely the Sena, and put its credibility on the line by supporting the latter's Government from the outside. Nor can it afford to lose the heft of its ally, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and play second fiddle to it, now that the latter has been invited by the Governor to stake a claim, and concede to its chief Sharad Pawar's acceptability among both the BJP and Sena. Predicted to be even more unstable than Karnataka, one hopes the Congress' decision doesn't give more ammunition to the BJP's charge that it is better to be *mukt* of it and a single party rule is the only way forward, be it in Lok Sabha or the States. The pre-poll alliance of the BJP-Shiv Sena, which has crumbled under the destabilising weight of egoistic turf wars, has put a question mark on the efficacy of alliance politics that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has so far prided itself in. Particularly, when it loses a 30-year-old ally, that too one which has significantly helped in pushing a core Hindutva plank and Ayodhya. For all talk of development, the granularity of the BJP's fundamental ideology was left to the Sena to manage while the bigger party could bask in the benevolence of the idea of a grand Bharat Parv. In that sense, Sena was the fall guy for doing things with a fringe, parochial mindset and taking the blame for them with a vision limited to Jai Maharashtra. Now that the BJP has appropriated its only comfort zone and relegated it to secondary space, the Sena is making a desperate lunge to be seen and heard, relevant as it still is as a counterweight. With the election of Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray's grandson Aaditya, it now feels it can indeed roar like a tiger than be the whimpering sidekick at a neighbourhood park. The BJP, with its Chief Minister-worthy leader in Devendra Fadnavis, the man who even has the RSS' blessings, knows people trust it for providing a stable leadership. It knows the nakedly ambitious Sena could go around with a shopping bag but would not have a natural proximity, nor the leadership, compromised as it would be by the Congress-NCP conditions. In fact, it is sitting back to expose the Sena as a spoiler. And it wants to reap the spoils knowing that a new anti-BJP coalition could be wobbly without mutual convergence of interests.

The Congress is upon its worst moment of reconciliation, one that threatens its ideological consistency even if it were to support the Sena Government from outside, cede ground to the NCP and insist upon a common agenda of governance. How could it have justified itself supporting a Hindutva-driven aggression to its minority votebank or even accepted Sena's chief ministership? Aligning with the Sena would mean drawing attention to its own uncharitable history of using Thackeray to undercut its own dissidents and State leaders. Besides, it has worked with the Sena to get support on its contentious issues like the Emergency. Using the Sena to keep the BJP out, therefore, would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Staying in would be more problematic than staying out. As for Pawar himself, everybody was surprised about the return of the true Marathi warrior, who held on despite BJP-engineered defections and is justifiably angry with the national party despite supporting it in 2014. But by going with the Sena, he would look just like any other greedy regional satrap though the NCP has made support conditional on Sena snapping ties with the BJP. Pawar has always enjoyed being kingmaker but does that mean he won't have a say as a king even with the Congress behind him? That's another ego battle at work. The only thing holding him and the Sena together is their seasonal hatred of the BJP. Maharashtra has anyway proved that arithmetic does not matter. The coalition of convenience may find it difficult to get stability considering the BJP will have the ammunition to stall them at each step and insist one Fadnavis was better than a hydra-headed king. Sad for a State which is dealing with a serious farm crisis. Sadder for a people whose choices do not matter anymore.

Go for success

Shafali Verma's rapidfire 50 is evidence that the Indian cricket board needs to promote the women's game more



Purists might argue that it is a bit unfair to compare men's and women's sport even in the same game. But the recent achievement by teenage sensation Shafali Verma, who at two months short of 16 years struck an international 50 in a T20 international against the West Indies, is quite an achievement. Alongside the spectacular success of the Indian women's team in the last cricket world cup as well as the achievements of various members of the team, maybe it is

pertinent to pose the question to the new boss of Indian cricket, Sourav Ganguly, on whether it is time for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) or whatever new name that he wishes to give that organisation, to hold a professional Indian Premier League (IPL)-style contest for the women's game.

Critics might argue that the pool of talent in the women's game is far more limited. For the time being, this is a valid argument but only if there is a eight-team tournament for the IPL. A smaller, four-team tournament with additional slots for international talent may easily meet the competitive marks needed by any such competition. Evidence of the success of the short form of the women's game is seen in Australia, where the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), which is played alongside the Australian T20 league, the BBL, has been a huge success and has made superstars out of players like Ellyse Perry and Alyssa Healy. Its inaugural games unearthed a 16-year-old gem in Phoebe Litchfield. The tournament has dramatically expanded Australia's women's cricket talent pool and with Cricket Australia committing to pay all its cricketers equally, they have taken the lead when it comes to equal opportunities. It will take a man to change the dynamics between men's and women's cricket in India and bring them to some level of parity. Sourav Ganguly can easily be the one. He was the visionary leader who laid the foundations of the success that Virat Kohli and his men enjoy today, over a decade after he retired. No Indian cricket fan doubts his dynamism and leadership abilities. Now, freed of the burden of the Committee of Administrators, Ganguly can effect lasting change. Change that can mean that girls like Shafali Verma can become superstars for every single Indian, much like the man whose record she broke, Sachin Tendulkar.

Historical reconstruction

The Supreme Court's landmark judgment on the disputed site in Ayodhya rests on historical evidence; the gains of which are civilisational



SANDHYA JAIN

A learned member of the five-judge Bench (not Constitution Bench) wisely collated the evidence regarding Sri Ram's birth-place and appended it to the Supreme Court's verdict of November 9, granting the disputed site to Ram Lalla Virajman. The 116-page addendum highlights the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) gigantic efforts to collect every scrap of evidence to legally establish Hindu belief in the birth-place of Vishnu's avatar. The evidence is compelling. Critics, who allege that the judgment privileged one community, have not read the 1,045-page document.

As the dispute centres on the destruction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple at Ayodhya by Babur's general, Mir Baiq, evidence proving the sacredness of the shrine prior to 1528 is critical. The *Janma Sakhis* (biographies) of Guru Nanak Dev show he visited Ayodhya in 1510-1511 AD, before Babar's invasion of India. Later, Guru Tegh Bahadur and his son, Guru Govind Singh, also visited the temple at Ayodhya. Though the *Janma Sakhis* do not identify the exact place of the Janmabhoomi, Guru Nanak's visit shows that pilgrims were visiting Ayodhya prior to the temple's destruction. Thus, the faith and belief of Hindus regarding the location of Lord Ram's birth-place, as asserted in scriptures and sacred books, including *Valmiki Ramayana* and *Skanda Purana*, is not groundless.

During emperor Akbar's reign (1556-1605), Tulsidas composed the *Ramcharitmanas* (1574-75). The *Balakanda* shows Brahma urging Vishnu to save the gods, sages, *gandharvas* and Earth from Ravana's terror; Vishnu promises: "Fear not, O sages, Siddhas and Indra; for your sake I will assume the form of a human being. In the glorious solar race, I shall be born as a human being along with my part manifestations." (Doha 186-7) Vishnu grants a boon to sage Kasyapa and his wife Aditi to be born in Ayodhya as Dasaratha and Kausalya; Vishnu would take birth in the form of four brothers, "the ornament of Raghu's line."

Akbar's biography, *Ain-i-Akbari*, mentions Ayodhya as the residence of Ramachandra and one of the holiest places of antiquity. Traveller William Finch visited India from 1607 to 1611 AD and mentioned the ruins of Ramachandra's castle.

Father Joseph Tieffenthaler visited India between 1766 and 1771 AD and found in Oudh (Awadh) a famous place called Sita Rasoi on a mud hill. Emperor Aurangzeb got the fortress called Ramcot (Ramkot) demolished and a Muslim mosque, with triple domes, constructed at the same place. Tieffenthaler recounts that some said the masjid was constructed by "Babor" (Babur) and 14 black stone pillars of five span high from the fortress are visible there; 12 support the interior arcades of the mosque. He describes the *bedi* (cradle) of Ram and says Aurangzeb or Babur razed the temple "to deny the noble people, the opportunity of practicing their superstitions." However, the people "go around three times and prostrate on the floor." This is clear evidence that Hindus at the time of Tieffenthaler were worshipping the *janamsthan* as a deity.



The East India Gazetteer of Walter Hamilton (1828) notes that pilgrimage to Oudh are chiefly by the Ramata sect. Montgomery Martin in *History, Antiquities, Topography and Statistics of Eastern India* (1838), mentions the glory of Ayodhya. Edward Thornton's *Gazetteer of India* (1854) and *Gazetteer of the Territories under the Government of the East Indies Company of the native States on the Continent of India* (1858) gives details of Oudh.

Mirza Jaan's *Hadith-e-Sehba* (1856) states, "The above mentioned place is called seat of father of Lord Rama. Places of idol worshiping situated here were demolished... The place of worship is called the birthplace of Lord Rama and the place which is adjacent to it is called "Sita Ki Rasoi"... At that place, Babar Shah got constructed a very big masjid under the supervision of Sayyad Musha Ashiqan in the year 923 Hijri and its history is still maintained. Today, the above-mentioned "Sita Ki Rasoi" is called the "masjid." The learned judge observed, "The book candidly accepts that at the *janamsthan* of Lord Ram, (a) mosque was constructed by Babar."

In 1858, the British Government annexed Awadh, after which all official reports, correspondences and orders cite the "Mosque" as "Mosque Janma Sthan." The *Historical Sketch of Tehsil Fyzabad, Zillah Fyzabad* by P Carnegie, Officiating Commissioner and Settlement Officer of Ayodhya and Fyzabad (1870), states that Ayodhya is to Hindus what Mecca is to the Mohammedans and Jerusalem to the Jews. Carnegie categorically stated that at the place of *janamsthan*, emperor Babar built a Mosque, which still bears his name, in AD 1528. These facts are repeated in several subsequent Gazetteers.

“AKBAR'S BIOGRAPHY, AIN-I-AKBARI, MENTIONS AYODHYA AS THE RESIDENCE OF RAMACHANDRA AND ONE OF THE HOLIEST PLACES OF ANTIQUITY. TRAVELLER WILLIAM FINCH VISITED INDIA FROM 1607 TO 1611 AD AND MENTIONED THE RUINS OF RAMACHANDRA'S CASTLE”

The report of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of North West Provinces and Oudh (1889) states, "The old temple of Ramachandra at *janamsthanam* must have been a very fine one, for many of its columns have been used by the *Muslimans* in the construction of Babar's masjid." Alois Anton Fuhrer's report of the ASI (1889), *The Sharqi Architecture of Jaunpur; with Notes on Zafarabad, Sahet-Mahet and other places in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, states that Babar's Masjid at Ayodhya was built on the very spot where the old temple *janamsthan* of Ramachandra was standing. Fuhrer reiterates this in *Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh* (1891). Obviously, Prof BB Lal's excavations followed ASI precedents.

The *Gazetteer of Bara Banki*, Vol 48 (1921), mentions that in 1853, the Bairagis seized the *janamsthan* temple land (pg 169), prompting Muslims led by Amir Ali, to march towards Ayodhya. They were intercepted by Col Barlow of the First Regiment of Oudh; the regiment was wiped out and Amir Ali and many others were killed.

On November 30, 1858, Syed Mohammed Khatib Moazzim of the Babri Mosque complained that one Nihang Singh had constructed an earth *chabutra* (platform), written "Ram Ram" inside the mosque, and was conducting *havan* (rituals) there. There are several pleas by mosque officials for the removal of the *chabutra*. In 1866, Bairagis placed an idol inside the premises. In 1877, the Deputy Commissioner, Ayodhya, granted permission to Khem Das, Mahant, *janamsthan*, to open the door in the mosque's northern wall to give Hindus a separate route to the site. In 1934, a dome was damaged in a riot, which the administration got repaired.

These accounts prove that Hindus continuously struggled to access and worship the site; hence the Sunni Wakf Board could not establish possessory rights over it. The judgment rests on historical evidence; the gains are civilisational. (The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

India was once known as *Vishwaguru*. The time has come for the country to once again emerge as a global hub of learning.



Vice President — M Venkaiah Naidu

If I have any claim to the word 'icon' it's only because I was on an iconic show, with an iconic cast, and an iconic haircut. *Friends* was the gift of a lifetime.



Actor — Jennifer Aniston

We welcome the opening of the Kartarpur corridor and hope that both sides continue to show goodwill to resolve differences through dialogue.



Chinese official — Geng Shuang

If Babri Masjid was illegal, then why is Advani being tried for its demolition and if it was legal then why is Advani getting the land?



AJMM leader — Asaduddin Owaisi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accepting the verdict

Sir — This refers to the report, "Ram gets back his birthplace" (November 10). The historic Ayodhya verdict and the grace with which it was accepted by the people proved the maturity of the Indian democracy, its judiciary and citizens. All apprehensions of post-verdict tension proved wrong as not a single untoward incident was reported. Indeed, there could have been no better solution to the 492-year-old dispute.

The construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya had been on the BJP's poll agenda for long, which helped it consolidate its supporters. On the other hand, Opposition parties left no opportunity to accuse the saffron party for not fulfilling its promise.

BJP president LK Advani's rath yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya played a major role in the party's ascent to power. After the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya, it is now expected that party leaders will refrain from politicising this issue and instead concentrate on more serious issues plaguing the nation.

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Welcoming Kartarpur

During Partition, Shakargarh, a *tehsil* on the right bank of Ravi River where Kartarpur is located, went to Pakistan and Gurdaspur, a *tehsil* on the left bank of Ravi River, remained with India. The opening of the much-awaited corridor, connecting Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab with Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan, was a long-cherished dream for the Sikh Panth. Kartarpur Sahib, where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanakji, spent almost 18 years of his life teaching and preaching and which was his final resting abode, is what Mecca is for the Muslims. The new corridor will allow Sikh pilgrims holding a special permit to freely visit the shrine.

Immediately after assuming power, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan made a promise to construct the Kartarpur corridor before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanakji, a gesture that found immediate traction with the Sikh community. The BJP-Akalis combine, which seemed rather unconcerned initially, reversed its position quickly, sensing a possible Sikh backlash. As is common these days, a section of the electronic media indulged in continuous double-speak on Pakistan and the architects of the corridor, in line with the mood of



the ruling party. Fortunately, Sikhs are sensible and are difficult to sway. Punjab exhibited extraordinary resilience to the mischievous representations unleashed in Pakistan and kept its peace. The Kartarpur passage has within it the spark to convert itself into a "corridor of peace" in the region.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

A true legend

Sir — As the Chief Election Commissioner, TN Seshan not only ushered in strict electoral reforms for the enforcement of the Moral Code of Conduct but he gave the Election Commission

of India (ECI) the much-needed spine. He took the electoral body to greater heights of authority, credibility and visibility. It is testimony to his strong character and personality that people can relate with him when it comes to elections.

We may not remember him

as the first man to become the Election Commissioner but for his strong character. He took charge in an era of booth capturing and rigging but literally transformed the way elections are now conducted in our country.

Bal Govind
Noida

Stupendous victory

Sir — Kudos to team India for accomplishing an exceptional victory in the third T20 international match played against Bangladesh. The middle order batsmen must be commended for playing responsible knocks in the series decider. After early dismissal of Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan, the need was for a composed partnership between the two batsmen to accelerate the team to a massive total. KL Rahul's scintillating 52 and Shreyas Iyer's outrageous 62 proved to be the one.

Being asked to bowl in the second innings by the toss winning team, especially at a time when there is dew on the ground, it seemed like a strenuous task for Indian bowlers. But Deepak Chahar accomplished the best bowling figures in T20 internationals, taking six wickets for just seven runs in a spell of 3.2 overs. He did something one would never have anticipated.

Tushar Anand
Patna

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Not a coup, just a big blunder

If you are going to rig the vote, do it from the start. Don't wait until the count shows that your candidate is not doing well and then intervene



GWYNNE DYER

Democracy is in danger in Bolivia as the result of legitimate pressures from the poor. We cannot generate economic growth and well-being for a few and then expect that the large majorities that are excluded will watch silently and patiently. A recent President of Bolivia said that, but it wasn't Evo Morales (who has just quit, plunging the country into chaos). It was Carlos Mesa, the man whom Morales tried to cheat out of the presidency in last month's election. Mesa said it in 2005, the last time he was President, just before he quit and Morales won a landslide victory in the election triggered by the former's resignation.

Most outside commentators used to stick to a simple script when talking about Bolivia. Evo Morales was the good guy, because he was the country's first indigenous President (he grew up speaking Aymara, and only learned Spanish as a young adult) and because he looked like and seemed to care about the poor majority of Bolivians.

On the other hand, Carlos Mesa belongs to the privileged white minority (15 per cent of the population) who have always controlled both the politics and the wealth, so he must be the bad guy. But his face doesn't fit the frame: He is an historian and television journalist and he resigned from the presidency in 2005 after trying and failing to nationalise the country's gas industry.

Evo Morales took his place, and he did better. Morales nationalised not only oil and gas but the tin and zinc mines and key utilities as well. He got away with it, where Mesa couldn't, because he paid out good compensation to the owners — and he could do that because Bolivia was riding a commodities boom that tripled the country's Gross Domestic Product in 15 years.

The boom has been over for a while now and a more cunning politician than Morales might have decided to let Mesa win this election. Then, as the country's income dropped further, Mesa would have got the blame for downsizing the welfare State Morales built, and Morales could return to power triumphantly in five years, claiming that Mesa had betrayed the poor. Morales' mistake was to believe that he was the indispensable man. He clung to office too long, and now he is toast. He will retain enough of a following to be a permanent political nuisance but he has embarrassed his country and he's unlikely ever to hold high office again. Under the new constitution of 2009, promulgated by Morales himself, a Bolivian President is entitled to only two five-year terms. But as he got closer to the 2019 deadline, Morales changed his mind and in 2016 he held a referendum that proposed to allow the President any number of terms. He lost. So Morales went to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which is dominated by his own party. Unsurprisingly, the tribunal agreed that the two-term constitutional limit violated his 'human rights' — so there he was last month, seeking a fourth term as President in a race with eight other candidates.

Everybody knew that Morales would lead and Mesa would be the runner-up in the first round of voting. Many suspected that Mesa would pick up more votes and overtake Morales in the second round — so his advisers decided that he had to win in the first round. He could do that only if he were ahead of Mesa by at least 10 per cent of the votes cast.

On October 20, the 'fast count' of the national vote went smoothly until 84 per cent of all the votes had been counted — at which point it became clear that Morales was not going to have a big enough lead over Mesa. So suddenly the counting stopped, and did not resume for 24 hours. It then showed Morales with a 10.1 per cent lead over Mesa, so no second round was needed. All hail Morales's fourth term!

But the vote-rigging was just too blatant and for almost three weeks the protesters have been in the streets. By last weekend even the police were refusing to defend Morales. When the election monitors from the Organisation of American States delivered their verdict on Sunday, saying that there were "serious security flaws" in the computer systems and "clear manipulation" of the count, Morales resigned. The election results were cancelled and it's pretty clear that he will not be a candidate when the re-run happens.

How much damage has all this done? Not much. Bolivia used to hold the world record for military coups, but everybody behaved reasonably well this time. Most of the good things Morales did, like entrenching the rights of indigenous communities in the constitution, will survive him. Carlos Mesa, who will almost certainly be the next President, has a very different style, but he is not hostile to most of Morales's goals. And here's a take-away for everybody in politics: If you are going to rig the vote, do it from the start. Don't wait until the count shows that your candidate is not doing well and only then intervene to fix it. Amateurs!

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE MANDATE WAS FOR A BJP-SENA ALLIANCE. IF THE SENNA WANTS TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE CONGRESS AND THE NCP, WE WISH THEM GOOD LUCK.
 —MAHARASHTRA BJP CHIEF
 CHANDRAKANT PATIL



WHERE WAS THEIR IDEOLOGY WHEN THEY FORMED THE GOVERNMENT IN J&K WITH THE PDP, WITH MAYAWATI IN UP AND WITH NITISH KUMAR IN BIHAR?
 —SHIV SENNA MP
 ARVIND SAWANT

Time to secure South Asia

Regional economic integration remains the only option for addressing the long-standing, protracted interstate tensions in South Asia



M ASHRAF HAIDARI

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a conference on "Regional Economic Integration: A Catalyst for Socioeconomic Prosperity in South Asia."

I welcomed this timely forum. Afghanistan, a country-participant and member-State of SAARC, has long been advocating for an acceleration of region-wide efforts to jump-start the process of regional economic integration. Doing so can indeed be a catalyst for the sustainable development of all South Asian nations, which hold so much promise in terms of both natural and human resources that should be harnessed for lifting the whole region out of poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and other challenges that directly feed terrorism, extremism and criminality in the region.

At the same time, regional economic integration remains the only option for addressing the long-standing, protracted interstate tensions in South Asia. We know this from the bitter experiences of Europe during the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, where the pursuit of zero-sum foreign policies and militarism eventually led to the utter destruction of the whole continent in the two world wars.

But, in the wake of World War-II, Europeans realised that what unfortunately remains the status quo in South Asia would no longer serve their shared best, long-term national security and economic interests.

That is why they gradually but steadily moved toward long-term economic integration, which they understood could help address their short and long-term human and protective security needs, which were increasingly intertwined. Those needs could no longer be ensured by the pursuit of the same zero-sum approaches that caused two devastating wars.

These harsh experiences and Western Europe's resulting adoption of a common economic market soon, began inspiring other regions of the world to form such regional groupings as the SAARC, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the African Union (AU), and the Union of South American Nations (USAN), to name a few.

As we know, however, not all these regional groupings have achieved their dream of meaningful economic integration on a par with Europe's associations. SAARC stands out in having lagged far behind others because two of its key member-States remain hostile to each other. This continues to hinder efforts by the other member-States, including Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, to make steady progress toward regional economic integration, which underpinned the vision and mission of SAARC when it was established in 1985.

As we continue advocating for cooperation against confrontation among our neighbours, Afghanistan has consistently pursued a foreign policy that promotes regional economic cooperation against zero-sum hedging strategies.

We strongly believe that the replacement of confrontational policies at the regional level,

“ SAARC STANDS OUT IN HAVING LAGGED FAR BEHIND OTHERS BECAUSE TWO OF ITS KEY MEMBER-STATES REMAIN HOSTILE TO EACH OTHER. THIS CONTINUES TO HINDER EFFORTS BY THE OTHER MEMBER-STATES, INCLUDING AFGHANISTAN AND SRI LANKA, TO MAKE STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, WHICH UNDERPINNED THE VISION AND MISSION OF SAARC WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 ”



with those of cooperative, win-win partnerships would gradually minimise the existing interstate tensions in South Asia. And this would enable SAARC to realise its vision, knowing that South Asia is an extremely young and naturally-endowed region where our youths demand jobs and a secure future in a common, interdependent neighbourhood.

Indeed, this won't come to pass unless South Asian Governments learn relevant lessons from pre and post-war Europe, that would encourage them to make tough but necessary policy choices against the status quo for achieving shared peace and prosperity across the region through economic integration.

The Government of Afghanistan has done its part and continues to do so. Despite the imposed security challenges the nation is facing, Afghanistan has put forth a strategic solution for adoption and implementation by its near and far neighbours: The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HOA-IP) on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA). These Afghanistan-led processes were established to help secure regional cooperation for Afghanistan's stabilisation and sustainable development, thereby ensuring region-wide stability and prosperity, which SAARC strives to accomplish.

Even though HOA-IP and RECCA remain underutilised so far, it is in the best short and long-term interests of the countries — including India and Pakistan — that participate

in the two processes, to achieve the shared goals of the two platforms. Of course, every tangible step they take to utilise these interconnected processes will help minimise their own and other nations' security and socio-economic vulnerabilities against the terrorist-extremist-criminal nexus that victimises Afghanistan more than any other country in the region.

This constructive thinking underpins our growing ties with the friendly Government and people of Sri Lanka, with whom Afghanistan shares an ancient civilisation.

Since I took up my assignment as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Sri Lanka last year, we have worked to further expand our bilateral relations with a focus on promoting full-spectrum connectivity that builds deeper economic, defence, cultural, and people-to-people ties between Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the rest of South Asia.

In this light, we have met with numerous businesses, including members of Sri Lanka's chambers of commerce, to discuss the vast bilateral trade potential that needs to be realised.

More recently, high-powered Afghan delegations have met with the representatives of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; the Colombo Chamber of Commerce; the National Chamber of Commerce as well as the International Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka to discuss the formation of an Afghanistan-Sri Lanka Business Council to promote exchange of trade teams, business-to-business meetings and business match-making conferences, which should facilitate bilat-

eral investment between the two nations. To this end, we look forward to finalising and signing with Sri Lanka a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on trade and investment promotion and protection.

This step, together with our bilateral air services agreement, should facilitate the establishment of a direct passenger and cargo flight between Kabul and Colombo. When this happens as one of the country's key goals, Afghans and Sri Lankans should be able to reconnect with their shared heritage through tourism, trade, investment, education and cultural exchange.

Indeed, the achievement of this bilateral goal will help South Asia as a least connected region, make a giant leap forward towards regional economic integration — effectively connecting SAARC's northernmost member-State, Afghanistan, with its southernmost counterpart, Sri Lanka.

And this necessary connectivity will undoubtedly benefit the rest of South Asia where the challenges that face our nations and the opportunities that we must exploit to our shared advantage are increasingly intertwined. That is why others in the SAARC should consider doing away with the prevailing zero-sum approaches and join Afghanistan and Sri Lanka to operationalise the vision of SAARC for the common economic benefit of all of its member-States with increased interdependencies.

(The writer is the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, as well as a Senior International Security Fellow at the New America in Washington-DC)

Indians voted for reforms in 2019 LS polls

The Finance Minister has indicated that a lot of the market rectifications or some of the other structural changes often on the list of economists are well on the cards, as a mandate of 303 makes them possible



KARAN BHASIN

The year 2019 will go down in Indian history as a critical juncture that changed the country's trajectory. With a switch in our direction, it is evident that we're going to change our eventual destiny. For the first time in 48 years of the country's political history, India elected a second term, full-majority Government in 2019.

It was also for the first time in the country's history that Indians voted for a reformist Government, thereby signalling a new dawn in the nation's politics. The electoral results broke the myth of the citizens voting against reforms, which prevailed in academic discussions for many years. Any analysis of the

developments of different events in 2019 cannot be without a detailed discussion on the significance of 303 seats.

The subsequent full majority Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes with the backdrop of improved numbers for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha and a long list of States where the saffron party is currently in power. All of this opens interesting opportunities for some of the long-standing politically-sensitive, yet important economic reforms. More importantly, it gives the BJP the necessary political capital to take tough decisions.

Be it the issue of triple talaq or of Article 370, we see an unflinching commitment by the Government to its manifesto. Especially the so-called 'core' agenda of the BJP such as the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Article 370 and the issue of construction of the Ram Temple. The way things stand, in 2019 at least two of these core promises have been delivered, one by the BJP and the other by the Supreme Court. It is important to

recognise the significance of both these achievements, as these were extremely challenging and contentious issues with severe political and social repercussions. The handling of both these issues has been with utmost care and this shows the level of empathy by our executive, judicial and legislative bodies. The Prime Minister's address after the judgment is extremely important as he welcomed the verdict and gave a call for the creation of a 'New India'. The theme of 'New India' seems to be consistent with Modi's agenda to build a more inclusive, dynamic and equitable society.

The focus is on creation of equal opportunities to ensure upward mobility in the nation's economy. The Government has drastically pivoted India's welfare programmes away from the leaky socialist ones. Smart welfare in the form of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) must be viewed as a tool that aims at creating a basic and decent standard of living for all. This is also the year when India initiated one of the boldest corporate tax cuts in its history.

In fact, the reductions were one of the largest tax cuts in the 21st century. Their significance is difficult to fathom for many commentators, but the fact that it makes our tax rates competitive amongst other East Asian countries after a really long time, illustrates the importance of the same.

The Finance Minister too indicated that a lot of the market reforms or some of the other structural reforms often on the list of economists are well on the cards, as a mandate of 303 makes them possible. Recall the land ordinance during Modi 1.0, which became a problem because of the lack of numbers in the Rajya Sabha. Now there is no such problem and therefore, critical reforms such as land reforms can become a reality sooner rather than later.

The fact that growth is slower in 2019 is also an important thing that many have ignored. With the slow-down coming early in the term of Modi 2.0, we are likely to see a lot of reforms to address some of the long-standing issues that affect the

economy. A bulk of these reforms have become necessary and urgent such as the corporate tax cuts. As it is often said, one should never miss an opportunity for reforms and certainly Modi 2.0 is not a Government to shy away from them. The significance of it all is that as the BJP delivers on its core agenda, Modi has created a new agenda of developing a 'New India'.

This implies an unflinching commitment towards economic growth and development for the next couple of years, which will likely result in a transformation of the country's economy and society.

The manifesto of the BJP seems to have become a form of social contract between the party and the people. It is this form of social contract that has enabled the growth of the party across the country, giving it further political capital to fulfil its promises.

It is interesting to also point out that just as the BJP is expanding, old allies like the Shiv Sena have parted ways. The power struggle between the two old partners over

the issue of rotational chief ministership and the subsequent falling out have plunged the State into a crisis of governance till the vexed *kissa kursi ka* (who will rule) Maharashtra is settled.

Clearly, none of the political parties in the country have learnt their lessons from the Karnataka debacle or the unsuccessful Jammu & Kashmir experience, which showed very clearly that unnatural alliances only result in misgovernance and political instability does more damage to institutions over a period, than anything else.

In the future, when fresh elections are held in Maharashtra, the people of the State will definitely ask all these political parties some tough questions. They will ask why their mandate to the saffron alliance was not respected and why governance in Maharashtra was put on hold for many days after the people had given their verdict.

At the end of the day, politics and economics are always intertwined and that is precisely why one needs to watch out and learn vital

lessons from such developments.

No matter, what the result of the political games and machinations in Maharashtra, the fact remains that the sooner the reins of the State come into responsible hands, the faster the beleaguered State that has been reeling under a farm and water crisis, can head on the path of economic development.

More importantly, no matter how one looks at 2019, one finds significant political, social and cultural developments that are likely to have significant consequences for the future of the Indian economy. The BJP has an unflinching commitment to its social contract, which is resulting in further consolidation of its power.

With just another month and a half before 2019 ends, nobody knows what more is likely to happen, but one thing is for sure, Indian politics and the country are likely to have transformed into something better by the end of the year.

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

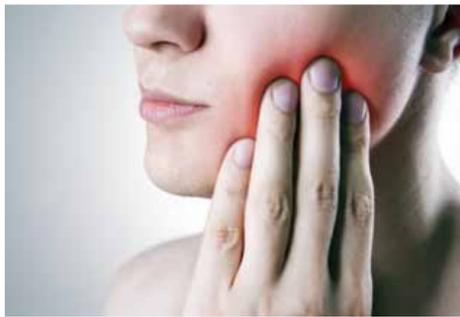


ClockIt

Researchers have found that stress hormone, and not neurons, manage the fixed circadian rhythm that controls everything from sleep needs to body temperature. This means that we have two systems — the nervous and the hormonal system that communicate perfectly and influence one another, all in the course of a reasonably tight 24-hour programme



DOCYARD
DR AMITABH GUPTA
HOD Neurosurgery
BATRA HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI



The unnerving dilemma

Pain in the face, jaw and the nose area can be devastating, and such symptoms should seldom be ignored. This intense, stabbing, electric shock-like pain can be an underlying cause of some major complication in the head. The pain typically involves the lower face and jaw, although sometimes it affects the area around the nose and above the eye and is caused by irritation of the trigeminal nerve, which sends branches to the forehead, cheek and lower jaw. It usually is limited to one side of the face. The trigeminal nerve is the fifth of 12 pairs of cranial nerves in the head. It is the nerve responsible for providing sensation to the face. One trigeminal nerve runs to the right side of the head, while the other runs to the left. Each of these nerves has three distinct branches. After the trigeminal nerve leaves the brain and travels inside the skull, it divides into three smaller branches, controlling sensations throughout the face. Trigeminal Neuralgia — Prevalence: While the disorder can occur at any age, it is most common in people over the age of 50. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke notes that trigeminal neuralgia is more common in women than in men. Additionally, there is evidence that the disorder runs in families, likely as a result of an inherited blood vessel formation. Hypertension and multiple sclerosis also are risk factors. The most commonly reported cause of jaw pain is temporomandibular joint disorder (TMD). The condition affects up to 12 per cent of people. Nearly 5 per cent seek medical treatment due to the severity of the problem. Women of childbearing age are most commonly affected by TMD.

While Trigeminal Neuralgia can occur at any age, it is most common in people over the age of 50. Hypertension and multiple sclerosis are some of the risk factors

Pain can also be caused by lifestyle-related factors, including emotional stress, sleep disturbances, a lack of certain nutrients, or tiredness. The cause of the pain usually is due to contact between a healthy artery or vein and the trigeminal nerve at the base of the brain. This places pressure on the nerve as it enters the brain and causes the nerve to misfire.

Lifestyle strategies to reduce jaw pain long-term:
Stress reduction: Try stress-relieving techniques to reduce jaw clenching like yoga, meditation and journaling.
Avoid chewy foods.

Avoid caffeine: Avoiding large amounts of caffeinated coffee and tea may help reduce your jaw pain over time, but you may initially feel muscle tension from caffeine withdrawal when cutting it out of your diet.
Medical treatment: Most doctors will first recommend non-invasive treatment methods for your jaw pain. If you still have jaw pain after trying these methods, you should talk to your dentist. You may need further interventions to find relief for your pain.

Mouthguard: A mouthguard is a plastic dental protector worn on your upper or lower teeth that's custom-fitted for your mouth. Although you can purchase one at a pharmacy, a dentist will make you one that may fit better and last longer. Wearing one at bedtime can help stop you from unconsciously grinding your teeth.
Jaw surgery: In very rare instances, a doctor will recommend jaw surgery to correct TMD problems. This treatment is usually reserved for people with severe pain and pain that's due to structural problems in the jaw joint.

The following tests may help them to find out more about the cause of jaw pain, including:
Physical exam, including assessment of the nerves, neck bones, jaw, mouth and muscles.
Certain laboratory tests, such as an erythrocyte sedimentation rate blood test, used in the diagnosis of conditions involving pain.

WARMFOODS

CHILI: Chili, commonly known as chili pepper are widely used in many cuisines as a spice to add heat to dishes. Capsaicin, the chemical in chili peppers that makes them hot, is used as an analgesic in topical ointments, nasal sprays, and dermal patches to relieve pain. It also aids the circulatory system and prevents heart disease by lowering blood serum cholesterol and reduces lipid deposits, and therefore, reverses excessive blood clotting. It also dilates the blood vessels to aid in blood flow. Hot peppers are full of beta carotene and antioxidants that support your immune system and will aid in fighting off colds and flu. Research has found that nasal sprays containing capsaicin reduce congestion. Increased body temperature from the ingestion of hot peppers triggers the immune system into action in fighting the norovirus (cold) and flu viruses. Consumption of peppers fights against 16 fungal strains by reducing fungal pathogens.

NOT A SWEET DEAL

According to the International Diabetes Federation Atlas 2015, 69.2 million Indians are Diabetic. DR ANURAG BANSAL tells you how to keep the disease in check

Diabetes is a metabolic disease which is caused due to high sugar in the blood. The hormone insulin transfers sugar from the blood to the cells which is stored and used as energy. With Diabetes, the body either doesn't reproduce enough insulin or can't effectively utilise the insulin to its optimal. Untreated high blood sugar from Diabetes can damage your kidneys, eyes, nerves and other organs.

Symptoms: Diabetes symptoms are caused due to rising blood sugar:
Increased hunger
Increased thirst
Weight loss
Frequent urination
Blurry vision
Extreme fatigue
Sores that doesn't heal

Causes: Multiple causes are associated with different types of Diabetes. Type I Diabetes: The causes of type 1 diabetes are still not very well known. For some reason, the immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. Genes may play a role in some people.

Type II Diabetes: Type II Diabetes stems from a combination of genetics and lifestyle factors. Being overweight or obese increases your risk too. Carrying extra weight makes the cells more resistant to the effects of insulin in your blood sugar. This condition runs in families. Family members share genes that make them more likely to get Type II Diabetes and to be overweight.

Anyone who has symptoms of diabetes or is at risk for the disease are suggested to get themselves tested. Women are routinely tested for gestational diabetes during their second or third trimesters of pregnancy. Doctors use the following blood tests to diagnose pre-diabetes and diabetes:
The fasting plasma glucose (FPG) test measures your blood sugar after you've fasted for eight hours.
The HbA1C test provides a snapshot of your blood sugar levels over the previous three months.
HbA1c is a test which is generally offered to diabetic people to evaluate their average blood glucose levels over a period of two-three months. Although it has also been recognised as a diagnostic test of Diabetes mellitus but its prime importance is to see the compliance of the patient and long term control over glucose levels.
Glycosylation is an enzymatic reaction in which glucose molecule attached non-covalently to the Hemoglobin molecule. Generally the per-

centage of glycosylated hemoglobin remains less than 5 per cent of total hemoglobin in normal population. In diabetic people, as the glucose level increases, percentage of glycosylated Hb rises in a linear fashion. Since the RBCs have a life span of around 120 days so HbA1c stays in the blood till old RBCs are replaced by new one. So HbA1c will give us an approximate idea of blood glu-

Diagnosis



ucose levels maintained by patient in past few months. Unlike blood glucose levels which keep on fluctuating all the day, HbA1c does not get affected by the last meal and therefore serves a good marker for long term glucose control. To diagnose gestational diabetes, your doctor will test your blood sugar levels between the 24th and 28th weeks of your pregnancy. During the glucose challenge test, your blood sugar is checked an hour after you drink a sugary liquid. During the three-hour glucose tolerance test, the blood sugar is being checked after an overnight fasting and breaking the fast with consumption of a sugary liquid. The earlier you get diagnosed with diabetes, the sooner you can start treatment. Find out whether you should get tested, and get more information on tests your doctor might perform.

With today's fast paced lifestyle, stress has become a part and parcel of everyone's life and can affect people differently. According to the International Diabetes Federation Atlas 2015, an estimated 69.2 million Indians are Diabetic, which as per the WHO assessment stood at 63 million in the year 2013. There are lot of evidences which suggest that stress hormones in the body may directly affect glucose levels which can affect Diabetes Mellitus Type II in terms of both onset and exacerbation. There are various stressors which can increase a person's risk of developing diabetes, including:
Stressful life events or disturbing experiences

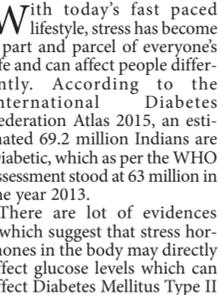
Prevention



Type I Diabetes isn't preventable as it occurs due to the problem in the immune system. Some causes of Type II Diabetes, such as your genes or age, aren't under your control either. Yet many other risk factors are controllable. Making simple adjustments to the diet and fitness routine can accelerate the prevention strategies. If you've been diagnosed with

prediabetes, here are a few things you can do to delay or prevent Type II Diabetes:
Get at least 150 minutes per week of aerobic exercise, such as walking or cycling.
Cut saturated and trans fats, along with refined carbohydrates, out of your diet.
Eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
Eat smaller portions.

Don't stress out



Anger
Work stress
Distressed sleep
The writer is Technical head N&E and Director — Lab Operations (Gurugram Reference Lab), SRL Diagnostics

DadiKaKehna

Those living in Delhi are constantly inhaling impure air due to vehicular pollution. But the air quality worsens during November. However, a few simple home remedies can minimise the ill-effects, says ROSHANI DEVI



Those living in Delhi are well-aware of the ill-effects of living with poor Air Quality Index. During this time several things combine together to make the air poisonous. But a few simple home remedies can help reduce the ill-effects. Here's what one can do: We all know the benefits of neem when it comes to treating skin problems. But did you know that the leaf can also be used to reduce the effects. Boil neem leaves in water. Take a bath with this. It will help to wash off the pollutants that stick to your skin and hair. Though the leaf is bitter to taste, try eating four-five leaves daily after washing them properly. Tulsi is another leaf that can come to your rescue. If you

don't have a plant buy it today, it absorbs pollution. Also, drink 10 ml of tulsi juice. Eat garlic and onions. You can cook your veggies with it to help you boost immunity. Include ginger in your diet. Add grated ginger to your cup of tea or chew a fresh piece with a pinch of salt. Eat plenty of citrus fruits like oranges. The Vitamin C not only helps boost immunity, it lessens the effects of air pollution as well.

TIPTOP

Ageing is a process where over time an individual experience a decline in performance, productivity and health. Problems of senior citizen usually appear after the age of 60 years and above. At this age, elder citizens face medical, economic, social and psychological problems. A common set of health issues in the elderly population are degenerative diseases like dementia, alzheimer's, osteoarthritis, parkinson's disease and eye diseases like age related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD is one of the important causes of severe visual loss in the elderly population and constitutes 8.7 per cent of blindness in the world. Age-related Macular Degeneration is a disease where abnormal blood vessels grow in the macula (centre part of retina) causing damage to the centre vision. However, early diagnosis and timely

treatment of AMD can help prevent depression and vision loss and quality of life of the patients. Dr Rajvardhan Azad, Senior Consultant Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Former Chief, Dr R P Centre, AIIMS New Delhi, President of ALL India Collegium of Ophthalmology says: "The common symptoms of retinal disorders like AMD include blurred or distorted vision, dark spots in central vision or straight lines appearing wavy. Retinal diseases are often underdiagnosed as the symptoms as there is no pain and the other eye compensates for the poor eye. Only when profound loss of eye sight or the patient closes one eye it gets noticed therefore it is imperative to understand the symptoms and seek expert advice as early diagnosis can help prevent loss of vision."

SLIMLINE

Spanish health authorities confirmed last week (November 9, 2019) a case of a man spreading dengue through sex, a world first for a virus which until recently was thought to be transmitted only by mosquitoes. The case concerns a 41-year-old man from Madrid who contracted dengue after having sex with his male partner who picked up the virus from a mosquito bite during a

trip to Cuba. His dengue infection was confirmed in September and it puzzled doctors because he had not travelled to a country where the disease, which causes severe flu-like symptoms such as high fever and body aches, is common. His partner presented the same symptoms and had previously visited Cuba and the Dominican Republic. —AFP

TIPS FOR YOUTHFUL SKIN



Skin ageing has become a common phenomenon. DR AJAY RANA tells you how one can achieve a perfect young look naturally

Skin ageing has become a common problem today. Be it men or women, the problem is faced by ample number of people. The unhealthy and processed food is one of main cause of skin ageing. Processed foods contain all type of ingredients which body doesn't recognise and that leads to skin ageing and a weakened immune system. Skin ageing is characterised by features such as rough-textured appearance, wrinkling and loss of elasticity. However, age and skin aging processes have been considered complex even with different factors. The conventional ageing mostly depends upon the individual genes, proteins, and other intrinsic in isolation. But, the processes of ageing involve the interaction of physical, biological, psychological, social and cultural aspects as well. Ageing also is affected by personal habits, diet and living environments beside medical issues. The effects of physical exercise, drugs, vitamins, hormones and antioxidants may have an impact on longevity. Skin is the hurdle that set apart the body from the outer environment. Besides protecting the body from water loss and infections, it has an important cosmetic role. However, exposure to sunlight is the one of the biggest culprit in ageing skin. Over time, the sun's ultraviolet light damages certain fibers produced in the skin called elastin. The breakdown of elastin fibers causes stretch, skin to sag, and lose its ability to restore back after stretching.

As a society, we value beauty and strive to look young and that leads us to the companies which exploit these desires, knowing that we will try anything in our search for a miracle cure for ageing and using skin care products that sting or burn that leaves your skin irritated which damages the skin and as a result, the natural oils found on face surface go rancid, which breaks down collagen and speeds ageing. One of the most important ways you can prevent your skin from ageing is to make sure you're not dousing it with harmful chemicals. There are few ways which can help you slow-down your ageing. Try drinking two-three liters of water per day. Hydrating keeps one's skin looking young, bright and glowing. Exercising regularly decreases the chance for persistent disease, depression and cognitive decline, and can keep your skin looking younger. Use fish oils. These supplements are rich in the essential omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA and enhance cardiovascular, vision health; strengthen skin, hair, and nails, and memory skills. Glutathione is the master antioxidant in the body and also known for one of the most powerful supplements for slowing down the ageing process. Alpha Lipoic Acid (ALA) is a potent, versatile antioxidant that helps to fend off inflammation, balances blood sugar and protect skin's collagen. Stop Smoking. It greatly speeds up your skin ages. It causes wrinkles and a dull, sallow complexion. Regular exercise can improve circulation and boost the immune system. This, may give the skin a more-youthful appearance. Apply a facial moisturiser on a daily basis. Moisturiser keeps water in our skin, giving it a more youthful appearance. Stem cell transplantation is a promising therapy for the treatment of skin ageing. Adipose tissue transplantation could improve skin quality and also contribute to the regeneration of skin during ageing. The writer is Founder-Director, ILAMED

STUDYCENTRE

Weight-loss or bariatric surgeries are not usually performed in people above the age of 65. But researchers, including Indian-origin, have now found that these procedures could lead to successful weight loss and better Diabetes control in older adults. The study, presented at the Society for Endocrinology annual conference in Brighton, UK, indicates that elderly patients treated with bariatric surgery (gastric bypass or gastric sleeve) can recover well and have a reduced risk of obesity-related complications, including heart disease and diabetes. "Although based on a small number of patients, our data suggest that successful weight loss and improved diabetes control can be safely achieved with surgery in older patients, which could have real benefits for their longevity and quality of life," said study researcher Nader Lessan from the Abu Dhabi-based Imperial College London Diabetes Centre. The only adverse effects reported during the two year period were iron and Vitamin D deficiencies, which happen in younger patients too. "Management of obesity and diabetes in old age is challenging. There is a lot of scepticism around conducting weight-loss surgery in patients over 65," Lessan said. The study suggests these procedures could be considered in older adults as an effective intervention to aid weight loss and associated complications. —IANS

Benchmark indices clock marginal gains; weak global cues weigh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Monday managed to close in the green after a choppy session, with banking stocks saving the day for the indices which were otherwise battered by weak global sentiment.

For a better part of the session, the Indian market was engulfed by bouts of volatility triggered by a sharp fall in Asian equities amid escalating political issues in Hong Kong and uncertainty over US-China trade deal.

After swinging 266 points during the day, the 30-share Sensex ended 21.47 points, or 0.05 per cent, higher at 40,345.08.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty closed with a gain of mere 5.30 points, or 0.04 per cent, at 11,913.45.

Yes Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack rising 5.80 per cent, followed by Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Kotak Bank and Tata Steel.

On the other hand, Hero MotoCorp, Vedanta, TCS, RIL, Asian Paints, Maruti and M&M fell up to 2 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE bankex, oil and gas, telecom, finance and realty indices rose up to 1.22 per cent.

Industrial production contracts

New Delhi (PTI): Industrial production contracted 4.3 per cent in September, mainly due to poor performance in the manufacturing sector, according to official data released on Monday.

Factory output, as measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded 4.6 per cent in September 2018.

A slowdown was witnessed in the manufacturing sector, which declined by 3.9 per cent in September as compared to 4.8 per cent growth a year ago.

The power generation sector output dipped 2.6 per cent in September, compared to 8.2 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

Mining output too fell by 8.5 per cent in the month under review as against 0.1 per cent growth in the corresponding period last fiscal.

While, BSE IT, FMCG, energy, auto, teck and capital goods indices fell up to 0.67 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and

smallcap indices ended up to 0.29 per cent higher.

"Market was range-bound as investors stand sidelined from expensive large-caps while mid and small caps saw some buying interest based on Q2 results and reasonable valuation. Continued poor performance from automobiles and fresh doubts over US-China trade deal is likely to navigate a consolidation in the short-term," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services Ltd, said.

He further said that investors are keen on CPI inflation data to be released on Tuesday. "Consensus is showing further rise to 4.35 per cent due to increasing vegetable prices which may impact RBI's next policy outcome," Nair added. Analysts also said that India's rating outlook downgrade by Moody's Investors Services last week too played in the minds of investors, who turned extra cautious.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul settled up to 2.62 per cent lower as investors got spooked by violent protests in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said he has not agreed to roll back tariffs on Chinese imports, dampening recent optimism for a major de-escalation in the US-China

Gold rises on global cues

New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices on Monday rallied by ₹ 118 to ₹ 38,678 per 10 gram in the national capital helped by a recovery in global prices and sharp rupee depreciation against the dollar, according to HDFC Securities.

On Saturday, the precious metal had closed at ₹ 38,560 per 10 gram.

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said spot gold prices for 24 Karat in Delhi were trading up by ₹ 118 with recovery in global gold prices and sharp rupee depreciation.

trading war. Exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in their respective early deals.

In the forex market, the Indian rupee depreciated by 18 paise to ₹ 71.47 against the US dollar. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.04 per cent to USD 61.87 per barrel. Indian financial market will remain closed on Tuesday for "Guru Nanak Jayanti".

Business confidence declines across industry: NCAER survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Business confidence across the industry declined in the September quarter over the previous three months due to an all-pervasive worsening of business sentiment, said a survey by economic think tank NCAER on Monday.

NCAER's Business Confidence Index (BCI), an indicator of business sentiment across Indian industry, stood at 103.1 in the second quarter of 2019-20, falling 15.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter, despite a small reprieve in July 2019.

As compared to the year-

ago period, the BCI fell 22.5 per cent during the second quarter.

This is based on the 110th Round of the Business Expectations Survey (BES) carried out by NCAER, said the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

"The numbers suggest a deep and all-pervasive worsening of business sentiments" it said.

The survey focused on four components which have equal weightage in the BCI.

The steepest decline was for the component, 'the overall economic conditions will improve in next six months',

where the share of positive responses fell from 58.9 per cent in June 2019 quarter to 46.3 per cent in September 2019 quarter.

"The percentage of respondents expecting that 'the financial position of firms will improve in the next six months' decreased from 48.8 per cent in June 2019 to 39.3 per cent in September 2019," the think tank said.

The muted business sentiment was further reinforced by the barely 32.5 per cent of the respondents who believed that 'the present investment climate is positive compared with six months ago'.

The component of 'present capacity utilisation is close to or above optimal level' dropped 86.2 per cent to an all-time low since July 2009.

All five sectors covered by NCAER's BES — consumer non-durables, consumer durables, intermediate goods, capital goods and services — showed a deterioration of business sentiment.

The BCI of each of the sectors registered double-digit decline of 11.4 per cent, 11.4 per cent, 21.4 per cent, 18.3 per cent and 13.1 per cent, respectively in September quarter as against the previous three months.

Nearly 70,000 BSNL employees opt for VRS so far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 70,000 employees of BSNL have already opted for the VRS scheme which was launched last week, Chairman and MD of the state-owned telecom corporation P K Purwar said on Monday.

In all, nearly one lakh BSNL employees are eligible for the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) out of its total strength of about 1.50 lakh. BSNL has pegged its internal

target for VRS at 77,000 employees, and the effective date of voluntary retirement under the present scheme is January 31, 2020. "The number of employees who have opted for VRS so far has reached about 70,000. The response has been strong across the board," Purwar told PTI. The corporation has also been asked by the telecom department to urgently consider measures to ensure smooth operations and business continuity, especially with

regard to the telephone exchanges in rural areas, following launch of the VRS scheme, which is set to bring down its staff strength by nearly half.

"BSNL Voluntary Retirement Scheme - 2019" that was rolled out last week will remain open till December 3. BSNL is looking at savings of about ₹ 7,000 crore in wage bill, if 70,000-80,000 personnel opt for the scheme.

According to the scheme,

all regular and permanent employees of BSNL including those on deputation to other organisations or posted outside the corporation on deputation basis, who attended the age of 50 years or above are eligible to seek voluntary retirement under the scheme.

The amount of ex-gratia for any eligible employee will be equal to 35 days salary for each completed year of service and 25 days salary for every year of service left until superannuation.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11879.20	11932.65	11853.95	11913.45	5.30
ZEE	289.25	307.90	285.45	305.20	17.70
YESBANK	70.00	73.55	69.15	72.90	3.95
BPC	506.65	519.50	499.00	516.90	14.15
GAIL	126.90	130.80	125.00	130.20	3.15
TATAMOTORS	169.20	172.90	169.05	171.95	2.90
ICICIBANK	488.00	499.00	484.40	497.25	7.80
INDUSINDBK	1416.00	1454.90	1407.40	1445.00	22.20
INFRATEL	218.30	222.00	213.50	221.30	3.00
BAJAJFINSV	8799.00	8925.00	8775.00	8925.00	106.15
KOTAKBANK	1594.90	1619.40	1592.00	1619.00	18.75
AXISBANK	723.40	735.50	721.20	733.70	8.20
IOC	134.30	135.95	133.70	135.40	1.35
SBIN	314.70	319.65	313.10	318.85	2.85
TATASTEEL	395.50	403.75	394.00	401.00	3.05
HDFCBANK	1252.55	1268.50	1250.50	1265.30	9.70
BHARTIARTL	371.25	373.95	368.25	371.70	2.55
JSWSTEEL	249.10	253.25	248.05	251.60	2.60
ADANIPOR	386.15	389.15	382.50	388.20	1.05
NTPC	118.95	121.75	117.65	118.00	0.60
ONGC	138.40	139.75	136.65	138.85	0.55
COALINDIA	208.85	210.80	205.75	209.70	0.45
BAJFINANCE	4160.00	4188.00	4142.90	4167.00	7.55
HDFC	2228.00	2239.80	2216.00	2236.15	2.95
POWERGRID	191.65	193.10	190.35	191.80	0.15
WIPRO	257.20	257.50	253.40	256.50	0.10
BAJAJ-AUTO	3230.00	3254.00	3220.00	3239.80	-5.75
TITAN	1156.75	1163.75	1137.65	1153.65	-3.10
ULTRACEMCO	4133.00	4180.00	4108.00	4136.20	-11.05
TECHM	769.95	774.50	768.05	769.00	-2.35
HINDUNILVR	2081.30	2100.05	2068.05	2080.00	-6.40
IT	1419.20	1430.75	1408.05	1418.45	-4.55
DRREDDY	2812.35	2827.35	2795.00	2812.85	-9.25
SUNPHARMA	415.00	423.30	407.10	420.50	-1.50
HCLTECH	1150.00	1153.70	1130.20	1145.95	-4.15
ITC	260.60	262.35	258.80	259.05	-1.45
M&M	581.70	586.95	570.00	576.15	-3.85
INFY	698.70	707.20	698.00	703.10	-5.05
UPL	555.00	561.00	541.25	551.00	-4.85
BRITANNIA	3150.00	3195.00	3110.00	3125.00	-33.00
MARUTI	7160.00	7237.45	7074.00	7121.30	-79.25
ASIANPAINT	1789.95	1793.95	1768.00	1773.75	-21.10
RELIANCE	1439.10	1444.25	1422.55	1427.80	-17.70
TCS	2135.00	2139.00	2091.00	2100.90	-29.05
GRASIM	770.00	771.75	755.25	762.90	-11.10
EICHERMOT	21640.00	21817.65	21310.55	21340.55	-349.10
CIPLA	454.00	459.40	451.75	454.40	-8.10
VEDL	155.35	156.25	152.20	152.50	-3.00
HINDALCO	203.95	203.95	199.50	199.55	-4.30
HEROMOTOCO	2655.00	2656.95	2585.65	2590.90	-56.05
NESTLEIND	14490.00	14599.90	14051.10	14128.00	-343.30

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28323.90	28560.75	28296.00	28451.15	63.9
IDEA	3.8	4.00	3.75	3.95	0.2
HDFCAMC	3205.00	3260.00	3199.95	3254.00	162.45
NIACL	146	153.14	144.2	153.75	7.25
ASHOKLEY	71	79.95	71	79.2	2.65
GICRE	274	291	270.45	282.75	9.1
MOTHERSUMI	128.3	135.5	127	133.4	4.15
BANKBARODA	94	98.9	94	96.75	2.95
LUPIN	723	739.85	721.05	736.95	18.2
DLF	200	208.65	199.05	208	4.9
CONCOR	573.6	586.65	562.85	582.95	12.05
ICICIGI	1320.00	1348.00	1320.00	1344.55	24.1
PFC	110.5	113.4	109.85	113.05	2
SIEMENS	1647.00	1684.80	1640.00	1677.75	29.25
HINDPETRO	293.4	300.85	292.2	298.8	4.85
ICICIPRULI	520	527	519.3	524.55	5.1
DIVISLAB	1700.00	1719.00	1691.95	1715.00	15.05
LIPTON	1575.65	1611.75	1575.65	1592.15	12.5
DABUR	474.4	480.6	472.1	477.15	3.5
SRTANSFIN	1114.70	1146.50	1112.20	1123.00	6.65
PNB	1750.05	1800.00	1736.20	1787.00	10.45
REL	61.3	62.15	61.1	61.8	0.35
OFSS	3126.10	3187.80	3101.50	3142.00	15.9
HDFCLIFE	569.95	584	565	570.55	2.65
MARICO	370.9	375	366.95	372	1.4
PETRONET	282.6	284.45	281.8	284	0.6
GODREJCP	736.35	744.85	721.3	736	1.5
ACC	1501.90	1518.00	1490.00	1506.60	0.2
NMDC	104.3	106.4	103	103.65	-0.1
HINDZINC	211.5	211.5	208	210.5	-0.3
BANDHANBANK	551.95	564.8	534.05	549.9	-0.9
NHPC	23.35	23.55	23.25	23.3	-0.05
DMRT	1965.00	1983.95	1951.00	1964.00	-4.85
BERGEPAINT	485.4	488.35	478.85	484.2	-1.2
UBL	1250.00	1273.30	1237.30	1252.00	-3.4
L&T	99.45	100.95	98.2	99.15	-0.4
BOSCHLT	15299.95	15391.90	15069.25	15272.00	-81.85
AUROPHARMA	437	443.9	431.3	437.55	-2.4
CADILAC	232.95	234.8	229.5	230.75	-1.65
MCDOWELL-N	632	638.7	623.35	628.2	-4.8
AMBUJACEM	200	201.95	198.75	200.2	-2.05
BIOCON	262.1	267.5	262.1	262.25	-2.75
SHREECEM	19870.00	19967.00	19615.5	19760.00	-225.95
IBULHSGFN	982	982	968.45	970.25	-11.95
PAGEIND	24350.00	24399.65	23803.10	23985.00	-418.1
PGH	11430.00	11450.00	11130.00	11170.00	-209.9
BAJAJHLING	3792.00	3792.00	3705.10	3706.10	-7
HAVELLS	703.5	708.7	690.1	693.55	-13.95
PIDILITIND	1360.00	1361.05	1318.00	1321.00	-33.15
INDIGO	1524.00	1524.80	1470.10	1481.00	-49

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	BANDHANBANK	557.00	564.75	534.60	549.35	GSKCONS	8949.00	9021.65	8850.00	8910.00	6525.00	6629.40	6482.40	6619.95
YESBANK	69.90	73.55	69.20	73.00	AIANG	1674.50	1727.00	1669.50	1704.35	DRREDDY	2825.00	2826.50	2796.40	2811.60	1230.00	1296.65	1192.20	1290.75
IBULHSGFN	243.95	253.30	235.00	238.35														

Hong Kong police shoot protester as flashmob rallies target rush hour

AFP ■ HONG KONG

A Hong Kong police officer shot at masked protesters on Monday morning, hitting at least one in the torso, as anger sparked by the recent death of a student spilled into the rush hour commute.

The shooting, which was broadcast live on Facebook, is the latest escalation in more than five months of seething pro-democracy protests that have engulfed the international financial hub and battered its reputation.

Footage showed a police officer drawing his sidearm in the district of Sai Wan Ho as he tried to detain a masked person at a junction that had been blocked by protesters.

Another masked individual then approached the officer and was shot in the chest area, quickly falling to the ground, clutching their left side.

Seconds later, two more

live rounds were fired by the officer during a scuffle and another masked protester went to ground, although the footage was less clear as to whether he was struck.

Police then detained the two people on the ground.

A pool of blood could be seen near the first individual whose body initially appeared limp, although the person was later filmed conscious and even trying to make a run for it.

The second man was conscious, shouting his name to reporters as he was handcuffed.

A police source, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed to AFP that live rounds were fired at more than one protester in Sai Wan Ho and that a statement would be issued.

Hospital authorities said three people were admitted from the incident, one with a gunshot wound.

HK police investigating videos of man set alight

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong police said Monday they are investigating reports that a man was set alight following a heated argument on a day of widespread protests across the city, as videos of the purported attack surfaced online.

Three videos were posted on messaging channels used by protesters showing a man in a green t-shirt arguing with people on a footbridge, reportedly in the northern district of Ma On Shan. A masked man dressed in black then throws a liquid over the man and sets him ablaze as crowds scatter and the victim frantically tries to remove his t-shirt. A spokeswoman for the Hospital Authority said a man with burns had been admitted to Prince Wales Hospital, the closest facility to Ma On Shan.

"He's in critical condition," the spokeswoman said.

A police spokeswoman told AFP that they had received a report on the incident and were investigating.

The videos have not been verified by AFP, but the footage was picked up by Chinese state media.

The Global Times tabloid uploaded one of the videos to Twitter, a social media platform banned on the mainland, with the caption: "Black-clad rioters in #HongKong set a resident on fire in Ma On Shan on Monday,

days of violent protests since Alex Chow's death as well as tens of thousands attending peaceful mass vigils.

Using online messaging forums, activists had called for a general strike on Monday morning.

Flashmob protests sprung up in multiple districts during the commuter period, with small groups of masked protesters targeting subway stations and building barricades on road junctions.

Even before the shooting in Sai Wan Ho, tear gas had

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Hong Kong police confirmed with the Global Times.

"Black-clad rioters" is a phrase commonly used by Chinese media to describe pro-democracy protesters.

What sparked the argument is unclear, but the explosive-laden conversation shows the man in green criticising people sympathetic to Hong Kong's democracy movement, and his opponents berating him back. At one point the man in green can be heard saying "none of you are Chinese."

One of his opponents shouts "Go back to the Greater Bay Area", the name for a nearby region of the Chinese mainland across the border from Hong Kong.



A protester is detained in Central district of Hong Kong on Monday. A Hong Kong protester was shot by police Monday in a dramatic scene caught on video as demonstrators blocked train lines and roads during the morning commute. AP



A man takes a photo of blood stains at the scene of a police shooting in Hong Kong on Monday. AP

Iran underground lab helps produce more low-enriched uranium

AP ■ TEHRAN

The head of Iran's nuclear program told The Associated Press on Monday that the country is now producing more low-enriched uranium daily, after restarting an underground lab.

Ali Akbar Salehi of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran made the comments as Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also called on hard-liners to support the country's troubled nuclear deal, saying it could open up international arms sales for the Islamic Republic next year.

Iran has broken out of the accord's limits since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord between Tehran and world powers over a year ago.

Salehi told AP journalists in Tehran that the country is now producing at least 5.5 kilograms daily (12 pounds). That's compared to what Tehran had been producing — about 450 grams (1 pound) of low-enriched uranium per day.

Salehi said that's due in part to restarting enrichment at Iran's underground Fordo nuclear facility.

"I believe (that) in total, 5.5 kilograms is the daily volume of uranium enrichment in Natanz and Fordo," Salehi told the AP, mentioning Iran's other nuclear facility at Natanz.

Iran currently enriches uranium to up to 4.5%, far below weapons-grade levels of 90%.



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani speaks in a public gathering at the city of Yazd, some 410 miles southeast of the capital Tehran, Iran. AP

However, the more uranium it enriches over time will begin to narrow the so-called "breakout period" Iran would need to have enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb — should it choose to build one. Analysts had put that time at a year, under the restrictions of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran maintains its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. However, Western nations pushed for the nuclear deal over its concerns about the program.

Rouhani spoke on Monday in the city of Rafsanjan in Iran's southwest Kerman province, as part of a provincial tour ahead of planned parliamentary elections in February.

The day before, in Yazd, he faced some heckling from a

crowd of hard-liners, despite announcing the discovery of a 53-billion-barrel oil field in the country.

On Monday, he made a point to stress that "by continuing the nuclear deal, we will reach a huge political, defensive and security goal."

"If we save the nuclear deal, Iran's arms embargo will be lifted and we can buy weapons or sell our weapons to the world. This is one of the deal's significant impacts," Rouhani said.

The end of the weapons embargo, imposed by the United Nations, already worries the Trump administration.

Under the terms of the deal, a United Nations-imposed arms embargo on Iran is slated to be lifted in October 2020,

Iran prez's new pitch: arm sales

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's president is making a new pitch to hard-liners to stay in the country's unraveling 2015 nuclear deal with world powers: the chance to buy and sell weapons abroad next year.

President Hassan Rouhani made the comments in a speech Monday in Rafsanjan in Iran's southwest Kerman province.

Rouhani said: "If we save the nuclear deal, Iran's arms embargo will be lifted and we can buy weapons or sell our weapons to the world. This is one of the deal's significant impacts." The end of the weapons embargo, imposed by the United Nations, already worries the Trump administration.

All this comes a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal. In the time since, Iran has begun breaking limits imposed by the deal to pressure Europe.

five years after the accord's adoption.

However, it remains unclear whether the UN would allow the ban to be lifted, given the circumstances the crumbling deal finds itself in today.

Australia state declares fire emergency after 150 homes lost

AP ■ CAN BERRA (AUSTRALIA)

Australia's most populous state declared a fire emergency on Monday with worsening conditions expected after wildfires have already claimed three lives and more than 150 homes.

New South Wales state Emergency Services Minister David Elliott said residents were facing what "could be the most dangerous bushfire week this nation has ever seen." Fires in the state's northeast have razed more than 850,000

hectares (3,300 square miles) of forest and farmland since Friday.

Fire conditions are forecast to be worse on Tuesday than they were at the peak of the current fire emergency on Friday.

"The catastrophic weather conditions mean that things can change very quickly," Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters in Sydney.

"You might think you're OK and a few minutes later you won't be. Please heed all the messages you receive.

Tomorrow (Tuesday) is not the day to be complacent," she added.

Catastrophic fire danger has been declared for Sydney and the Hunter Valley region to the north on Tuesday with severe and extreme danger across vast parts of the rest of the state.

"Catastrophic is off the conventional scale," Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said.

The weeklong declaration of a state of emergency gives the Rural Fire Service sweeping

powers to direct any government agency to conduct or refrain from conducting any of its functions.

It can order the immediate shutdown of essential utilities including gas and electricity in fire-declared areas and can close roads and take possession of any property in the course of an emergency response.

The annual Australian fire season, which peaks during the Southern Hemisphere summer, has started early after an unusually warm and dry winter.



Firefighters work to contain a bushfire along Old Bar road in Old Bar. Wildfires razing Australia's drought-stricken east coast have left two people dead and several missing, more than 30 injured and over 150 homes destroyed, officials said. AP

How Trump's impeachment will unroll

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The start of open hearings in the impeachment investigation into President Donald Trump on Wednesday will give the American public their first chance to witness live the explosive showdown between Democrats and Republicans over the US leader's future.

The hearing before the House Intelligence Committee marks the second phase of the impeachment investigation into allegations that Trump abused his powers by seeking help for his 2020 reelection campaign from Ukraine.

Trump is under threat of becoming only the third president in US history to be impeached — formally charged with violating his duties as president or committing crimes, and placed on trial in the Senate.

With Democrats in control of the House of Representatives, impeachment appears highly likely, as soon as the end of 2019.



In this Nov. 11, 2018, photo provided by the US Embassy in Kyiv, Energy Secretary Rick Perry talks with Michael Bleyzer (left) and then-US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch as Perry prepares to place flowers at the Heavenly Hundred Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine. Bleyzer and Alex Cranberg, two political supporters of Perry secured a potentially lucrative oil-and-gas exploration deal from the Ukrainian government soon after Perry proposed one of the men as an adviser to the country's new president. AP

But the Republicans hold a majority in the Senate, a bulwark against him being convicted and removed from office — unless they turn against him.

There is still much to do, but analysts believe the entire process could be completed before the end of January.

On Wednesday, the House Intelligence Committee takes the impeachment investigation public after six weeks of closed-door depositions from White House, State Department and other officials.

Those depositions have already painted a fairly complete picture of how Trump and aides, including personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, pressured Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to open investigations that could conceivably find political dirt against the Democrats and Trump's possible 2020 election rival Joe Biden.

Some of the witnesses who already testified privately will be recalled to face the public panel, starting with

Ambassador William Taylor, Washington's top diplomat in Ukraine, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent on Wednesday, and former Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch on Friday.

The aim is to further compile the evidence against the president, or, for Republicans, in his support.

Democrats chose all the witnesses for the initial private depositions phase.

In the open hearings, both parties can propose and subpoena witnesses — although Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff will be able to prevent Republicans from inviting witnesses who have no relation to the core allegations or who simply seek to stall the proceedings.

The next step is hearings by the Judiciary Committee, under Chairmen Jerry Nadler, a longtime Trump nemesis, to decide whether the evidence is strong enough to support formal charges, or articles of impeachment.

Trump and his lawyers will be able to appear, cross-examine witnesses, and submit evidence in their favour.

At the end of those hearings, the Democratic-controlled committee will vote on specific articles of impeachment, based on the US Constitution's standard of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors," and whether Trump's actions constituted abuse of presidential power.

Currently, the charges are expected to be abuse of power and obstruction of the investigation.

The Judiciary Committee then sends the articles of impeachment to the entire House for a vote.

Only a basic majority of the 435 member House is required to approve impeachment. Democrats currently hold a solid majority, 233 seats to 197 for Republicans, with four seats currently vacant and one held by an independent.

That suggests that, if the

evidence is strong enough, Democrats will easily pass the impeachment resolution.

The resolution would then go to the Senate, where Trump would stand trial, with the 100 senators his jury.

Democrats from the House would act as the prosecuting team, while Trump's lawyers would defend him, and Trump could argue in his own favor. Both sides can call witnesses and present testimony.

Presiding over the trial would likely be Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who was appointed to the court by Republican President George W. Bush in 2005.

A trial could take a few weeks.

The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton in 1999 lasted five weeks, and ultimately ended in his acquittal: while Republicans had a majority in the Senate, Clinton had enough support among Democrats to easily beat the required two-thirds majority to convict.

China's Xi holds talks in Greece en route to BRICS summit

AFP ■ ATHENS

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday holds talks in Greece, where he is eagerly awaited by the new pro-business government.

Xi touched down in Athens on Sunday at the start of a three-day visit aimed at deepening cooperation with Greece across the board.

"It is our duty to steadily upgrade our cooperation in all sectors, by delving deeply into existing fields and expanding the range of investments", the Chinese president said in an article published in "Kathimerini" newspaper on Sunday.

Xi is due to meet Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during the trip, with the two countries set to sign cooperation documents on education, shipping and energy.

According to the Chinese foreign ministry, the visit to Athens will have "historical significance" for the development of China-Greece relations, and will also "inject new impetus" into the development of China-EU relations and Beijing's "Belt and Road" initiative.

Greece is one of the backers of the plan for a massive network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks spanning Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe that will see trillions invested in new infrastructure across 126 countries.

"Relations with Greece are a priority for China," Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias told Thema radio on Thursday.

"They came and invested in Greece when others stayed



China's President Xi Jinping (right) and his Greek counterpart Prokopis Pavlopoulos (left) shake hands prior to their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Athens on Monday.

away" during the economic crisis, Dendias said.

Xi's visit comes on the heels of a four-day trip to Shanghai by Greece's new conservative Prime Minister Mitsotakis earlier this week at the head of a delegation of more than 60 businessmen.

Elected in July, Mitsotakis has made foreign investment and privatisation a linchpin of his administration's policy to restore Greece's sluggish economy to growth after a gruelling 10-year crisis.

"I want the first words by Greek authorities to those who come to invest to be 'how can I help you?'" said Mitsotakis, who plans to visit China again in April.

Greece has been building progressively closer trade relations with China for more than a decade, spearheaded by

a 2008 deal by a previous conservative government to cede container terminals at the main port of Piraeus to Chinese shipping giant Cosco.

Cosco has already invested some 600 million euros (USD 660 million) in Piraeus, creating 3,000 jobs, and its overall footprint could reach one billion euros, Mitsotakis said during his Shanghai visit.

According to the Greek government, Greek shipowners have also built more than 1,000 vessels worth over USD 50 billion (45 billion euros) in China in the past 15 years.

Greece expects 500,000 Chinese visitors over the next two years, compared to under 200,000 in 2019, Mitsotakis said during his trip.

Over 5,000 Chinese have purchased property in Greece, taking advantage of a five-year

'Golden Visa' residence programme launched in 2013.

Cosco in 2008 acquired Piraeus' two main container terminals on a 35-year lease.

In 2016 it also took over the Piraeus port authority — and the third remaining container terminal — until 2052.

Greece has also signed up to China's new "Belt and Road" project, a USD 1 trillion global investment programme aiming to forward Chinese goods to markets further afield.

The BRICS summit takes place in Brasilia from November 13 to 14.

Xi will attend the closing ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum, the closed-door meeting of leaders from hosts Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa, as well as a public meeting, and issue a joint declaration.

Far right surges amid Socialist win in Spain

AP ■ MADRID

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialists won Spain's national election on Sunday but large gains by the upstart far-right Vox party appear certain to widen the political deadlock in the European Union's fifth-largest economy.

After a fourth national ballot in as many years and the second in less than seven months, the left-wing Socialists held on as the leading power in the national parliament.

With 99.9 per cent of the votes counted, the Socialists captured 120 seats, down three seats from the last election in April and still far from the absolute majority of 176 needed to form a government alone.

The big political shift came as right-wing voters flocked to Vox, which only had broken into Parliament in the spring for the first time.

Sunday's outcome means there will be no immediate end to the stalemate between forces on the right and the left in Spain, suggesting the country could go many more weeks or even months without a new government.

The far-right party led by 43-year-old Santiago Abascal, who speaks of "reconquering" Spain in terms that echo the medieval wars between Christian and Moorish forces, rocketed from 24 to 52 seats.

That will make Vox the third leading party in the Congress of Deputies, giving it much more leverage in forming a government and crafting legislation.

The party has vowed to be

much tougher on both Catalan separatists and migrants.

Abascal called his party's success "the greatest political feat seen in Spain."

"Just 11 months ago, we weren't even in any regional legislature in Spain."

Today we are the third-largest party in Spain and the party that has grown the most

his impressive work "is already bearing fruit after only a few years."

In Italy, Matteo Salvini of the right-wing League party tweeted a picture of himself next to Abascal with the words "Congratulations to Vox!" above Spanish and Italian flags.

And in the Netherlands, anti-Islam Dutch lawmaker

a historic low.

The far-left United We Can, which had rejected an offer to help the Socialists form a left-wing government over the summer, lost some ground to get 35 seats.

The night's undisputed loser was the center-right Citizens party, which collapsed to 10 seats from 57 in April after its leader Albert Rivera refused to help the Socialists form a government and tried to copy some of Vox's hard-line positions.

Sánchez's chances of staying in power still hinges on ultimately winning over the United We Can party and several regional parties, a complicated maneuver that he has failed to pull off in recent months.

Sánchez called on opponents to be "responsible" and "generous" by allowing a Socialist-led government to remain in charge.

"We extend this call to all the political parties except for those who self-exclude themselves ... and plant the seeds of hate in our democracy," he added, an apparent allusion to far-right and also possibly to separatist Catalan parties.

United We Can leader Pablo Iglesias extended an offer of support to Sánchez.

"These elections have only served for the right to grow stronger and for Spain to have one of the strongest far-right parties in Europe," Iglesias said. "The only way to stop the far-right in Spain is to have a stable government."

Pablo Casado, the leader of the Popular Party, also pledged to work to end months of political instability.



Spain's caretaker Prime Minister and socialist candidate Pedro Sanchez applauds socialist followers during a general election campaign rally in Pamplona, northern Spain. Sanchez's Socialists won Spain's national election on Sunday but large gains by the upstart far-right Vox party appear certain to widen the political deadlock in the European Union's fifth-largest economy.

in votes and seats," said Abascal, who promised to battle the "progressive dictatorship."

Right-wing populist and anti-migrant leaders across Europe celebrated Vox's strong showing.

Marine Le Pen, who heads France's National Rally party, congratulated Abascal, saying

Malaysian ex-PM Najib's first trial to proceed

AFP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian ex-leader Najib Razak's first trial linked to the 1MDB scandal will proceed after a judge ruled Monday prosecutors had made a sufficient case, boosting efforts to bring him to justice over the mammoth fraud.

The former prime minister will take the stand next month when his defence begins, in the case related to the theft of billions of dollars from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

His coalition was ousted at the polls last year after six decades in power, largely due to the scandal, and he has since been arrested and hit with dozens of charges linked to the looting of the investment vehicle.

The 66-year-old went on trial for the first time in April over the controversy, in a case centring on the transfer of 42 million ringgit (USD 10.1 million) from a former 1MDB unit into his bank account. Najib denies any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors finished presenting their evidence in August, and on Monday High Court judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali ruled the case was strong enough to go forward and Najib should enter his defence.

"The accused had enormous and overarching influ-

ence" over the 1MDB unit, SRC International, the judge told the court, adding the prosecution had established Najib has a case to answer for all seven charges he is facing.

"It was under the control of the accused from day one. The accused wielded considerable power."

The alternative would have been to strike out the charges in the case — although Najib is still facing several other cases linked to 1MDB, with his biggest trial over the scandal having opened in August.

Monday's decision will be a relief for Malaysia's government and 94-year-old Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who came to power partly on a pledge to get to the bottom of the 1MDB scandal and bring those involved to justice.

Lawyers for Najib, who is free on bail, said he would take the stand when the defence stage of proceedings gets underway on December 3.

"I am calm and cool," the blue-blooded former leader, whose father and uncle were both prime ministers, told AFP after the ruling, giving a smile.

But his lead lawyer, Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, said that Najib was "shocked" by the court's decision, adding the ex-PM had been confident of being cleared.

And he indicated the legal

saga may have some time to run, saying that appeals could push the case beyond Malaysia's next election — due by 2023 at the latest.

Najib is facing four charges of corruption and three money-laundering counts in the trial.

Each charge of corruption carries a maximum jail term of 20 years, and each money-laundering count is punishable by a term of up to 15 years.

The amounts involved in Najib's first trial are small, however, compared to those in his second and most significant one, which centres on allegations he illicitly obtained over USD 500 million from 1MDB.

US authorities, who are investigating the fund as money was allegedly laundered through the American financial system, believe \$4.5 billion was looted from 1MDB.

It was allegedly used to fuel a worldwide spending spree by Najib and his inner circle — including suspected mastermind, fugitive financier Jho Low — with looted cash spent on items ranging from a super-yacht to high-end real estate.

Following the election, police discovered valuables, including cash, jewellery and luxury handbags, worth up to USD 273 million in properties linked to Najib and his widely reviled wife, Rosmah Mansor.

US urges early Iraq elections, halt to violence

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States on Sunday urged Iraqi authorities to hold early polls and carry out electoral reforms, and called for an end to the violence against protesters that has left hundreds dead. Washington wants "the Iraqi government to halt the violence against protesters and fulfill President (Barham) Saleh's promise to pass electoral reform and hold early elections," the White House said in a statement.

"The United States is seriously concerned by continued attacks against protestors, civic activists, and the media, as well as restrictions on internet access, in Iraq," it said.

Mass rallies calling for an overhaul of the ruling system have rocked the capital Baghdad and the Shiite-majority south since October 1, but political forces closed ranks this week to defend the government.

The consensus among the elite seems to have paved the way for a crackdown.

Parliament's human rights committee says that 319 people have been killed since protests first erupted, including demonstrators and security forces.

The committee said snipers were active near protest sites and hunting rifles were used against demonstrators as well.

Danger to Sharif's health increasing due to delay in his travel abroad: Party

PTI ■ LAHORE

The danger to Nawaz Sharif's health is increasing due to a delay in his travel abroad for treatment, his party has said, as the ailing former Pakistan prime minister awaits removal of his name from the no fly-list.

The 69-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme agreed on Friday to go to the UK for the treatment, heeding doctors' advice and accepting his family's request. He was scheduled to leave for London on a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight on Sunday morning.

Sharif is suffering from multiple health complications, including erratic platelet count, and is currently being taken care at his residence near Lahore where an ICU has been set up. The government could not remove Sharif's name from the no fly-list (Exist Control List-ECL) as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman, Javed Iqbal was not available to issue a no objection certificate in the case.

According to doctors, Sharif's departure process needs to be speeded up. PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb tweeted.

Aurangzeb said that doctors had given the former prime minister a heavy dose of steroids to prepare him for his travel abroad.

She said that it will become almost impossible to shift Sharif overseas for treatment in case of a medical emergency.

"Nawaz Sharif's treatment abroad is being delayed by the delay in taking his name off the ECL," Geo News quoted Aurangzeb as saying said. "Doctors have said that he cannot be given heavy doses of steroids time and again."

"Doctors have said that Sharif needs to be shifted abroad immediately," she said. "A delay in his travel is increasing dangers to his health," she tweeted.

She said that doctors were doing their best to increase the platelet count of the former prime minister to ensure his health does not deteriorate

when he travels.

Firdous Ashiq Awan, the government's spokesperson, said the decision to remove Sharif from the ECL would be taken after recommendations from the NAB and doctors.

"The government itself does not place any individual's name on the ECL," she said.

"Names are placed on the ECL on the recommendations given by the NAB and the court. Now that an application has been filed for the name to be removed, the same process is being followed," she also said. Awan further said the delay was caused as government needed recommendations from a board of government doctors and not from Sharif's private physicians.

She said that the government was expecting to receive the NAB's recommendations soon and take action accordingly.

Punjab health minister Yasmin Rashid told the media in Lahore that a special medical board would meet on Monday to prepare a report in

response to a letter by the Ministry of Interior about Sharif's health.

The Sharif family approached the ministry, requesting the removal of Sharif's name from the ECL to pave way for the three-time prime minister to fly abroad for medical treatment.

On Saturday, Sharif's platelet count was over 20,000. The Pakistan government decided to let Sharif go abroad for treatment due to his critical medical conditions.

Earlier, Maryam said, "Mian sahib's condition is very critical and he must go abroad for diagnosis of his disease and treatment. Doctors of the government and private medical boards have exhausted all options and they have unanimously recommended his treatment abroad."

"I wanted to stay with my father during his treatment (in London), but my passport is with the court. My thoughts and prayers will be with my father when he gets treatment," she said.

Alibaba's Singles' Day sales hit USD 10 bn in less than 30 min

PTI ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

E-commerce giant Alibaba's Singles' Day sales on Monday hit USD 10 billion in less than 30 minutes of the event going live.

The Alibaba Group's various shopping platforms' total gross merchandise value (GMV) exceeded USD 10 billion in only 29 minutes and 45 seconds, while it took just 1 minute and 8 seconds to achieve a total GMV of USD 1 billion, after the Chinese e-commerce behemoth kicked off its 11.11 Global Shopping Festival.

Within the first two hours, the total GMV exceeded 120.7 billion renminbi (USD 17.24 billion), surpassing the total GMV of 2016 11.11.

In the first 14 hours and 30 minutes, the total GMV for Alibaba Global Shopping Festival stood at USD 28.63 billion.

The sales began at 0000 hours on Monday as per Chinese time.

Some of the top countries selling to China by GMV included Japan, United States, South Korea, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom and France.

According to Alibaba, the number of orders created at the peak of the 2019 11.11 Global Shopping Festival reached 5,44,000 orders per second, which is 1,360 times that of the first edition of the festival in 2009.

The shopping festival, also known as Double 11, will draw to a close at midnight.

Talking about the evolution of 11.11 Global Shopping Festival, Chris Tung CMO of Alibaba Group said the event has evolved from a promotional event into a global event.

This is a platform that began to support brands from the world including small and medium enterprises to engage with their online customers, Tung said.

"As it gets bigger and bigger it becomes more effective for brands to do so (engage with their customers) and I think for the customers also the benefits have evolved," Tung told reporters here.

The event is also referred to as Singles' Day because of its date, 11/11 (November 11) consists of four 'ones', representing four singles, has emerged as the world's biggest shopping festival.

Last year, it raked in a record USD 30.8 billion in GMV, eclipsing the Cyber Monday sales of USD 7.9 billion and Black Friday sales at USD 6.22 billion.

The 11.11 Global Shopping Festival Gala Celebration saw performance by Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter Taylor Swift and a host of other international and local celebrities.

More than 2 lakh brands from 78 countries and regions participated in 11.11 this year, with one million new products on offer.

The event began in 2009 with a total of USD 7.8 million in GMV.

Bolivia's Morales says there is a warrant for his arrest

AP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand's government on Monday proposed legislation to ban certain criminals from being anywhere near guns even if they don't own them, a measure that politicians acknowledge has significant human rights implications.

The proposed law would make it illegal for some criminals to live or visit a house where a gun is present or to travel in a car that has a gun inside.

It could also prevent them from being around guns at other places including at work, on a farm or at a clubroom.

The proposal is the latest gun-control measure introduced by the government since Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in March vowed to overhaul gun laws in the days after a gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques.

Since then, the government has banned assault weapons such as AR-15-style rifles and has introduced a bill that would create a gun registry to track all guns in the coun-

New Zealand could ban some criminals from being near guns

try.

The government launched a buyback scheme that runs until December to compensate gun owners for the newly outlawed semi-automatics, and has so far collected 36,000 banned weapons and 132,000 banned parts.

The new measure would likely allow police to conduct warrantless searches and also raises questions about other human rights enshrined in New Zealand law, including the freedom to associate with other people and the right to be presumed innocent.

Unlike in the US, there are no constitutional protections

around owning guns and Ardern has said gun ownership in New Zealand is a privilege, not a right. The government has invited people to have their say on the proposed law before the details are finalised.

Police Minister Stuart Nash said it would be aimed at the most violent offenders, who would be issued with a Firearms Prohibition Order.

"There are human rights concerns and I think we have been very open about that," Nash said. "And hence the reason why we are putting this out to consultation."

So far, there has been little opposition. Nicole McKee, the secretary for the Council of Licenced Firearms Owners, said the lobby group wasn't opposed in principle, although it would want to ensure there were no unintended consequences for law-abiding gun owners.

"It's pleasing to hear that the government is looking for some thorough consultation," she said. The public have until January to weigh in before the government crafts a bill.

Trend Slazer

I am always my worst critic: Anil

After four decades in Bollywood, actor ANIL KAPOOR feels he needs to learn how to go easy on himself, and that is his biggest challenge. The actor says he has always been his worst critic.

"I've always been hard on myself and I'm always my own worst critic. So my biggest challenge continues to learn to go easy on myself and to let go when I need to," Anil said.

He says his career goals continue to be the same as they were all those years ago, when he was starting out.

"Strangely enough, my goals haven't changed much! I'm a simple man with a simple plan — to be better than I was yesterday. So that's what I continue to strive towards," said he.



My character in House Arrest belongs to a well to do family. He somehow has not come out of his house for the last nine months. The story starts at that point. He is not trapped. He is not psycho or a murderer. It's a voluntary house arrest and there are interesting reasons behind this, which is what the film is all about. The film is an out and out comedy.

—Ali Fazal

Veteran actor-director AMOL PALEKAR will be returning to the stage after 25 years with a Hindi play *Kusur*.

Palekar will be performing on the stage as retired ACP Dandavate.

"The fast pace story whirled us through the twists and turns disturbing our complacency and overturning our assumptions. The deep subtext will linger in our minds beyond the curtain drop," Palekar said.

"As an actor, the role poses an enormous challenge, demanding tremendous emotional and physical energy at my age," added Palekar.



I am because of Friends: Aniston

Actor JENNIFER ANISTON, who won the People's Icon Award at the 2019 E! People's Choice Awards this year, says she has earned the title of being an icon because of her fans and the still popular sitcom *Friends*.

Aniston said, "This town doles out a lot of awards but the People's Choice, this was always something special to me. As actors, we don't do this for the critics or for each other or to make our families proud, we do this for the money."

"I am kidding... we do it for you guys. Come on seriously, we really do," she added.



Diabetes, a lifestyle disease, has been regarded as an incurable and chronic ailment which requires lifelong management through medication and insulin, till now. Only a few people are aware that it is curable.

A recent concept called Diabetes Reversal means that people with type 2 diabetes (when your body cells are not able to respond to insulin the way they should) are able to regulate the disease by changing their lifestyle or food patterns without taking medication. This is also known as putting diabetes into remission.

Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-DOC Centre of Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology says, "As lifestyle improves, medication can slow down the progression of diabetes and prevent complications. Being obese and overweight are the biggest risk factors among Indians. But if we begin to ensure dietary restrictions, the rate of diabetic occurrence will decrease profoundly. Adopting a sustainable healthy diet that is low in carbohydrates and high in proteins and vegetables can help one to control and reverse diabetes." However, this must be done keeping in mind the weight of the patient and their Body Mass Index (BMI). Another intervention which can help in a diabetes diagnosis is to exercise every day as it boosts metabolism.

Akansh Khurana, CEO and co-founder at THB India also attributes lifestyle modification and balanced diet to diagnose and reverse diabetes. "Reversing impaired blood sugar control in diabetes is particularly troublesome when it remains undiagnosed and untreated for a long

SWEET NO MORE

Diabetes has almost taken on the proportion of an epidemic in the country. On the occasion of World Diabetes Day on November 14, experts tell SAKSHI SHARMA about the practicalities, implications and the role of technology in diabetes reversal

time. It remains asymptomatic for longer durations before any clinical signs and symptoms manifest due to impaired glucose levels or associated complications. In such a case regular blood glucose monitoring is, therefore, necessary," says he. There are several technological interventions — smart devices, health apps and digital monitors which are increasingly playing an important role in empowering diabetes patients. They provide patients with real-time access to their data — blood glucose status, dietary habits, physical activity, and diabetes-related information which help in promoting a more personalised therapy and encourages patient's active participation in the overall disease management.

Daivam Wellness in collaboration with Eternity Medicine has launched its *Diabetes Reversal Programme*. With the

help of their diabetes mobile app, they monitor the patient's health and continuously tailor the programme to cater to their varying needs. This is like a coach sitting next to you when you learn driving, to make sure that you make no mistake.

The 360-degree approach of the programme ensures that after a detailed counselling from their experts, their advice is followed and discrepancies are reported. "Through their continuous glucose monitoring device, they observe the blood sugar levels for days and suggest a personalised treatment according to their expert observations," says Dr Alok Chopra, founder and medical director, Daivam Wellness.

Another important aspect of the programme is its two-way communication. The digital platform enables patients to put their concerns and experts revert within a set timeframe.



This interactive feature further helps to modify the programme as per the needs of the patients, therefore getting better and quicker results.

With the country reeling under 49 per cent of the world's diabetes burden and expecting to be home to 134 million diabetics by 2025, a holistic approach towards diabetes prevention is certainly important.

"Data suggests that one in every four people under 25 in India has adult-onset diabetes, a condition more usually seen at the age of 40-50. This is mainly because of a sedentary lifestyle and weight management issues that completely spin their metabolism. Such a large number of people suffering from the disease which causes further health complications, will be a huge socio-economic burden on the country. It is high time that medical fraternity should come up with more innovative solutions and help to prevent this epidemic," adds Dr Chopra.

However, there are many doctors who feel that the concept of diabetes reversal is flawed and is a myth. Dr SK Wangnoo, senior consultant-endocrinology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital says, "It's not permanent. You can reverse

diabetes for a year or two by strict diet control but not more than that."

He adds that a trial is underway in UK which investigates whether offering an intensive programme for weight loss and its maintenance would be advantageous for people with type 2 diabetes. It recruited patients who were given a fixed diet of around 800 calories per day. And it was supervised by medical practitioners. They showed two years interim data where most of the patients had lost liver and pancreatic fat and had lost more than 10-15 kgs of weight, which means that they could reverse the diabetes. But the approach did not work for everyone. So the study is continuing to understand the biology underlying remission and find ways to make it a reality. A short term reversal is usually possible but long term is not.

For people who think that you haven't reversed your diabetes until you can eat a chocolate cake or swig down a cold drink without your blood sugar rising, the concept is flawed. But for the ones who are ready to change their lifestyle under a professional supervision for a prolonged period, diabetes reversal is possible.



Scorsese's superhero film snub unfortunate: Feige

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige has opened up on filmmaker Martin Scorsese's criticism of Marvel's superhero films, saying the remarks were unfortunate. Last month, Scorsese spoke with *Empire* magazine about his views towards the Marvel films, expressing that he regards them as "not cinema" and likens them to "theme parks". Since his initial remarks, Scorsese repeated the "theme parks" analogy at the BFI London Film Festival.

In conversation with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Feige, Marvel Chief Creative Officer and the architect of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, opened up about the remarks in public for the first time. "I think that's not true. I think it's unfortunate," Feige says when asked about the notion that superhero films are a negative for cinema.

"I think myself and everyone who works on these films loves cinema, loves films, loves to watch a communal experience in a film theatre full of people," he added.

Since launching with 2008's *Iron Man*, Marvel Studios has reshaped the theatrical landscape. Four of the top 10 highest-grossing films of all time come from the Disney-owned studio, including *Avengers: Endgame*, which in July surpassed *Avatar* to become the highest-grossing film of all time.

In a New York Times op-ed, Scorsese went back to his comments and added, "What's not there is revelation, mystery or genuine emotional danger. Nothing is at risk. The pictures are made to satisfy a specific set of demands and they are designed as variations on a finite number of themes."

In response to Scorsese, Feige brought up more recent examples of the risks the studio has taken, saying that Marvel hasn't made an *Iron Man* film since 2013 and instead pitted Robert Downey Jr's Tony Stark against Chris Evans' Captain America in 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*.

"We did *Civil War*. We had our two most popular characters get into a very serious theological and physical altercation," Feige said, adding, "We killed half of our characters at the end of a film (*Avengers: Infinity War*). I think it's fun for us to take our success and use it to take risks and go in different places."

Feige, who does not personally know Scorsese, notes that art is a subjective thing. He said, "Everybody has a different definition of cinema. Everybody has a different definition of art. Everybody has a different definition of risk. Some people don't think it's cinema. Everybody is entitled to their opinion. Everyone is entitled to repeat that opinion. Everyone is entitled to write op-eds about that opinion and I look forward to what will happen next. But in the meantime, we're going to keep making films."

—IANS

How much are you willing to give?

Here is what to do if your parents need financial help

Multiple surveys have found that most parents provide some sort of financial support to their adult children. But often, financial aid goes the other way.

A 2015 survey by TD Ameritrade found 13 per cent of adults provided financial support to a parent. Millennials were far more likely than older generations to report they were helping their folks. Of people born between 1981 and 1996, 19 per cent helped their parents, compared with 13 per cent of Gen Xers (1965 to 1980) and 8 per cent of baby boomers (1946 to 1964).

Sometimes the money is provided happily or at least without resentment, by those following cultural norms or personal conviction that they owe it to their parents. Other times, financial aid to parents is a source of tension — between parent and adult child, among siblings and between partners.

Certified financial planner Austin A. Frye had no idea when he married his wife four decades ago that they would one day support her parents. The older couple, now in their 80s, cover their day-to-day expenses with a union pension and social security. Frye and his wife cover unexpected expenses and travel for her parents, Frye says, and also pay \$15,000 a year for a long-term care policy. Frye says that though he's



happy to be in a position to help his in-laws, he still wishes they had saved money for their retirement. "They just spent what they made. They didn't really plan," Frye says. Certified financial planner Kashif A Ahmed, on the other hand, comes from a culture where younger people get into arguments about who will have the honour of caring for an older relative. Ahmed said he needed a spreadsheet to coordinate the

dozens of relatives who volunteered to help his great-grandparents in their final illnesses. Ahmed invited his mother to move in with him after his father died in 2001. His wife, Simona, an economist who grew up with similar values in Romania, supported the move, and Ahmed's mother is helping to raise their four daughters, ages 6 to 16. Ahmed says financial advisers from other cultures often have

trouble grasping the deep sense of obligation. He's heard peers criticize clients who aren't saving enough for retirement or are neglecting other goals while supporting parents, saying the clients don't "get it." "I'll say, 'No. You don't get it,'" Ahmed says. Balancing competing goals is what financial planning is all about. If you're supporting a parent or think you may in the future, the following steps could

help make the balancing act a bit easier."

TALK TO YOUR PARTNER

If you're married or in a committed relationship, it helps to get on the same page about how much you're willing and able to give. Brainstorm different scenarios, such as emergency expenses (how much can you give, and what constitutes an emergency?) or long-term care (can you provide

care in your home or help pay for in-home or nursing care?). If you're not clear what you can afford, a consultation with a financial planner could help. If you don't have a partner, talking to a trusted friend or a financial planner can help you clarify what you can offer and when.

TALK TO YOUR PARENTS

Just over half of the people supporting parents in the TD Ameritrade survey had ever talked with them about it. Financial planners say that understanding the parents' financial situation can help you prepare, and might also provide an opportunity for you to reduce their need for your help. You could help them budget, give them a session with a financial planner. You also can let them know how much help you can afford to provide.

ROPE IN YOUR SIBLINGS

Even if they can't contribute financially, they may be able to help in other ways — running errands, taking parents to the doctor, handling bill paying and other paperwork, or providing respite care.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

You may have to delay retirement, buying a house or having kids to support your parents. Many people do, according to the survey. But you should have a plan to eventually reach your own goals. Unlike your parents, you may have only yourself to rely on when you're older.

—AP

India leave for World Cup qualifiers

To win more games, we need to score more: Gurpreet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Indian players train during practice session ahead of FIFA World Cup qualifier against Bangladesh at Salt Lake stadium in Kolkata

PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He saved India the blushes against Bangladesh and centre-back Adil Khan said on Monday Afghanistan also can pose the Blue Tigers a "heavy challenge" in their upcoming FIFA World Cup qualifier.

Khan, whose last-gasp equaliser salvaged a draw for India against Bangladesh in their last qualifier, said that he'll be happy "scoring a few more goals" for the Blue Tigers

in the future.

The team is leaving for its upcoming World Cup qualifying assignments against Afghanistan and Oman. "Afghanistan beat Bangladesh in their only home game so far and they are a respectable side. They can impose a heavy challenge on us," Khan said.

Recalling his strike, he said, "It was the moment of truth for us, and thankfully, I could contribute. It could have been anyone actually. Now, I don't want to look back and

reminisce about the goal. I would rather like to score a few more for India."

India are scheduled to clash swords with Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on November 14, before flying to Muscat where Oman will host the Blue Tigers five days later.

On being asked how challenging would the tie against Afghanistan be, he said: "Very tough actually. Afghanistan has always been a juggernaut for us. We

have to be very cautious and stay on our toes throughout to garner a positive result against them.

"We have heard from Sunilbhai, Gurpreet-bhai and others how gruelling and taxing it was in the SAFF Tournament final in 2016.

"As I heard, a few Afghani players ply their trade in different European leagues and it underlines how threatening their players can be."

Adil had made his debut for the

Blue Tigers in 2012 before making a comeback seven years later under Igor Stimac in the King's Cup 2019.

"It's a dream-come-true occasion for any footballer to represent his country and I'm no different. I still remember my first match back in 2012 and again getting the national team call-up in 2019 was something like my reincarnation as a footballer."

India will have a session in Dubai before flying to Dushanbe, and Stimac said it will "immense-

ly benefit the squad".

"We wanted to fasten the recovery process. The morning session in Dubai will also help us in a way or two before reaching Dushanbe," Stimac said prior to departure from the capital.

Sunil Chhetri, the talismanic striker felt, "A good sleep, proper diet and recovery are very important to stay in the right shape before we face Afghanistan on 14th. The rest in Dubai will help all shrug off the fatigue."

SINGLES

TONALI REPLACES VERRATTI IN ITALY SIDE

ROME: Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti, AS Roma defender Leonardo Spinazzola and Sassuolo striker Domenico Berardi have all been ruled out of Italy's final Euro 2020 qualifiers, the country's football federation (FIGC) confirmed on Monday. Brescia's 19-year-old midfielder Sandro Tonali comes in for Verratti, but Spinazzola and Berardi have not been replaced. Italy, who have already qualified for next year's European Championship, face Bosnia and Herzegovina on November 15 before hosting Armenia three days later.

SUNDAR DEFENDS WORLD TITLE IN JAVELIN

DUBAI: Sundar Singh Gurjar overcame a shoulder injury to defend his World Para Athletics Championships title in the men's F46 javelin throw event while also securing Tokyo Paralympic Games quota, along with the Bronze winner Ajeet Singh and Rinku. Gurjar came up with his season's best effort of 61.22m to claim the top spot. Singh sent the spear to a distance of 59.46m to clinch the Bronze while Rinku finished fourth. Under International Paralympic Committee rules, the top four ranked athletes at the 2019 World Para Athletics Championships in each of the individual medal events on the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Programme (excluding Marathon) will each obtain one qualification slot for their respective country.

PAES DROPS OUT OF TOP-100 BRACKET

NEW DELHI: Veteran tennis star Leander Paes on Monday dropped out of the top-100 bracket for the first time in 19 years, slipping to 101 after losing five places in the ATP doubles chart. With 856 points, Paes is now fourth-highest ranked Indian player behind Rohan Bopanna (38), Divij Sharan (46) and Purav Raja, who re-entered the top-100 by jumping eight places to 93. The last time the 46-year-old Paes was placed outside top-100 was in October 2000 when he was ranked 118. Meanwhile, in the singles, Prajnesh Gunneswaran continues to be India's top-ranked singles player though the Chennai left-hander dropped a rung to 95 and was followed by Sumit Nagal (127, +2), Ramkumar Ramanathan (190, +9), Sasi Kumar Mukund (250, +2) and Saketh Myneni (267, -1).

NAVAS OUT FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Keylor Navas has been ruled out of action for at least two weeks with a thigh injury, the Costa Rican football federation (FEDEFUT) announced on Sunday. The former Real Madrid number one pulled out of PSG's 2-1 win at Brest on Saturday after injuring himself during the warm-up. The problem will rule him out of Costa Rica's upcoming CONCACAF Nations League games against Curacao and Haiti, on November 15 and 18, and faces a race to be fit in time for PSG's Champions League match at Real Madrid on November 26. PSG coach Thomas Tuchel has an extremely lengthy injury list, with Navas joining Kylian Mbappe, Neymar, Ander Herrera, Thomas Meunier and Thilo Kehrer on the sidelines.

GHOSAL IN LAST 16 AT PSA WORLD C'SHIP

DOHA: India's Saurav Ghosal put up a fine performance to get past seasoned Frenchman Lucas Serme 11-8, 11-5, 11-5 and enter the pre-quarterfinals of the PSA Men's World Squash Championship. The Indian No 1 controlled everything from rallies to strokes and subdued Serme in the Qatari capital on Sunday night. He saved one game ball in the first game but was outplayed in the next. Having grabbed the first two games, Ghosal won the first five points in the third game to extend his dominance and seal it in his favour. In the pre-quarterfinals today, the tenth seeded Ghosal will face Egyptian world No 2 and top seed Mohamed El Shorbagy.

AGENCIES

Dybala keeps Juve at summit



Paulo Dybala celebrates after scoring Juventus only goal against AC Milan on Sunday AP

AFP ■ TURIN

Paulo Dybala struck the decisive goal in Juventus' 1-0 win over AC Milan on Sunday after replacing Cristiano Ronaldo as Juventus stayed top of Serie A.

Argentine forward Dybala hit the winner in the 77th minute in the Allianz Stadium having taken the place of Ronaldo 20 minutes earlier.

Defending champions Juventus maintain their one-

point lead over Antonio Conte's Inter Milan who had taken pole position after their 2-1 win over Verona on Saturday.

AC Milan's seventh defeat in 12 games saw Stefano Pioli's side drop to 14th position, just four points above the relegation zone.

However Milan had threatened as the former European giants chased their first win against Juventus in Turin in eight years.

Wojciech Szczesny was kept

busy in the Juventus goal, denying fellow Pole Krzysztof Piątek, Lucas Paqueta and Hakan Calhanoglu.

Blaise Matuidi missed Juventus' best chance before Dybala's winner when his powerful curling effort flew wide just after the break.

Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo, who had also been taken off during the midweek Champions League win over Lokomotiv Moscow, reportedly left the stadium before the end of the game after being substituted on 55 minutes.

Douglas Costa also came on for Federico Bernardeschi after an hour, with the two substitutions changing the game for the champions.

Gonzalo Higuain fed Dybala, who easily shook off Alessio Romagnoli to beat Donnarumma and claim his third league goal this season.

"Cristiano should be thanked because he made himself available despite not being in optimal conditions," said Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri.

"In the last month he has had this discomfort in his knee and this a little problem for him.

"It's only natural a player is going to be irritated to leave the pitch, especially when he worked so hard to be there."

Klopp hails 'focused' Liverpool after City win

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp hailed his side's "incredible goals" after they beat Manchester City 3-1 on Sunday to move nine points clear of the defending Premier League champions.

The European champions took a huge step towards a first top-flight title in 30 years by opening an eight-point lead at the top of the table, with Leicester City in second place.

Goals from Fabinho and Mohamed Salah gave Liverpool a dream start before Sadio Mane's diving header early in the second half sealed City's fate.

Bernardo Silva pulled a late goal back but a third defeat in eight league games leaves City down in fourth, nine points behind Liverpool, and with a mountain to climb if they are to claim a third straight league title.

"They (City) were good," Klopp told the BBC. "Oh they were good and we had to defend with all we had but we scored incredible goals."

"It was so tough to play, the intensity of the game was so clear. It was all worth it, really great."

"The boys were completely focused and concentrated," he added. "It was so good. It is the only way we can beat City. Maybe other teams can do it a different way but this is the only way we can beat them."

City boss Pep Guardiola said his side had shown why they were Premier League champions.

"What happened today we showed why are champion," Guardiola told Sky Sports.

"I am so proud of my team, more than ever."



Man City boss Pep Guardiola looks at match official Michael Oliver at the end of Premier League game against Liverpool PL

We can be proud of how we played against the strongest team in Europe."

"We played like back-to-back champions," he added. "We cannot deny how good Liverpool are but the way we played, the personality, it was good."

Khaka ready to battle for Arsenal place

AFP ■ LONDON

Granit Khaka may have been stripped of the Arsenal captaincy due to his public run-in with the club's fans but he says he will be staying and fighting for his place in the team.

The volatile 27-year-old Swiss international midfielder has not played since he mouthed an obscenity at a section of Arsenal fans jeering him when he was substituted in the Premier League match with Crystal Palace a fortnight ago.

However, despite manager Unai Emery deciding he could not carry on as skipper — a role he was given after a secret

ballot of the players — he told Swiss newspaper *Blick* he would not be leaving.

"You can be sure that I'll keep fighting and putting myself out there in every training session," Khaka said.

"I feel last week has been dealt with and I'm ready."

"My time at Arsenal has been very positive for a long time."

"After a difficult start, I played a lot and overall I've had a great time at Arsenal."

Khaka, who has been linked with a move to struggling Newcastle in the January transfer window, said the boos and jeers has not altered his views of the city or the club.

"I'll continue to stay positive," he said. "(To) give my all to an even greater extent and prove that I am an important part of this great team."



AFP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer faces an uphill task to qualify for the last four of the ATP Finals after defeat by Dominic Thiem on Sunday following a masterclass by Novak Djokovic.

Six-time champion Federer was beaten 7-5, 7-5 in the evening match on the opening day after Djokovic had swatted aside debutant Matteo Berrettini in the earlier Group Bjorn Borg contest in London.

Federer and Djokovic will meet later in the week in a repeat of this year's epic Wimbledon final, with two players advancing from the four-man group.

The Swiss 20-time Grand Slam winner recovered quickly from being broken in the first game of the match but the Austrian fifth seed repeated the dose in the 11th game and took the opening set 7-5.



Roger Federer shakes hands with Dominic Thiem after he lost the match during ATP World Tour Finals AP

Federer, uncharacteristically wayward, squandered an early chance to break in the second set and the games went with serve until the 11th game again, when Thiem broke to love

Federer faces threat of early exit

after the third seed dumped a forehand into the net.

The Austrian stuttered while serving for the match, forced to save two break points, but he held his nerve to take the set 7-5

and seal a deserved victory on his second match point.

"I thought Dominic saved himself real well when he had to," said Federer. "So I thought he

played a tough first-round performance today, and my game was probably just not good enough, and the start didn't help."

"It's a normal tournament from here on forward," added the 38-year-old, who may now have to beat Djokovic to progress.

"Not allowed to lose anymore for me. That's how it is every week of the year for the last 20 years, so from that standpoint there is nothing new there."

Thiem came into the match with a 4-2 winning record against his illustrious opponent but the result is still a surprise. The only time Federer has failed to progress to the knockout stages was in 2008.

"We had a good and close match, and it's always special to beat Roger, who is a legend," said Thiem, who impressed with his clean hitting.

"It's amazing to play against probably the best player of all time, but luckily I have a pretty good record against him."

Chahar happy to repay captain's faith

Given heads up to be India's No 4: Iyer



Deepak Chahar celebrates with his Indian teammates after completing his maiden five-wicket haul against Bangladesh in T20s PTI

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

It almost looked like Bangladesh would run away with the third T20I in Nagpur on Sunday and with it register their maiden series win over India as Mohammad Naim and Mohammad Mithun looked to be in cruise mode. With dew not helping matters, skipper Rohit Sharma handed the ball to pacer Deepak Chahar, hoping for the youngster to rise to the occasion. And that is exactly what he did. Chahar, who had earlier scalped for Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar, delivered instantly in the 13th over and started the collapse. The rest as they say is history. Chahar finished with figures of 6/7 — the best in T20Is — and also became the second Indian to pick a hat-trick in the format. Speaking after game, Chahar said that while everyone is talking about him picking the hat-trick and winning India the game in conditions

not suited for bowlers, it is the faith that skipper Rohit showed in him that makes him happy. "He told me I will use you as a Bumrah today. I will bowl you in the crucial overs and that was motivating for me. I love it when I am given responsibility under pressure because that makes me feel that I am being trusted. I feel bad when nobody trusts me. To get that confidence from the captain felt good at that stage of the game," he smiled. It is not often that you have players liking the fact that he is compared to a teammate, but Chahar says there is no doubting the fact that Bumrah is the No 1 bowler at present in the format and it is a matter of pride to be compared to the pacer. "Imandar hona chahiye (You should be honest)...I know where he stands and I also know where I stand. He is the No 1 bowler in the format and as a T20 bowler, he has everything, be it pace or con-

trol. He is the No 1 bowler for me and saying that is not a shame. I am not competing with him and my job is to do well. You need to focus on the game and the team should win and that has to be the priority. "When they were cruising at the end of 12 overs, I wanted to walk up to him and ask for the ball from the captain, but I didn't because I knew the captain would have his plan and give me the ball. The whole thought was that we shouldn't lose the game and the series. What matters when you play for the country is to perform and win matches," he explained. Pundits have often spoken about how he is more of a new-ball bowler, but Chahar silenced all with his performance on Sunday. And the pacer says that it was more about people assuming things because he always had variations up his sleeves. "People assumed that and didn't give me a chance to

bowl at the death. Whenever I got a chance, I bowled well. I have bowled before as well, even for my state. Generally you don't bowl those bowlers at the death who bowl at less than 130kph, but I don't have that issue. I have bowled around 135kph even in the IPL and say in CSK I wasn't used because Mahi bhai had other bowlers.

"It depends also on the captain. Team requirement is also something that you need to look into. Like on Sunday we had only two fast bowlers in Khaleel Ahmed and me. Shivam Dube isn't a proper fast bowler. So, Rohit bhaiya used me in the death. When I played before, the set-up needed me to bowl at the top," he pointed.

Every player is preparing keeping the World T20 in mind and while Chahar too wants to go ahead and represent the country in the showpiece event in Australia in 2020, he wants to keep working on his game and get better with each passing day.

"World T20 is about 11 months away and that is a long time. Obviously I have that in the mind and we are looking to win the trophy, but as a sportsman you can't think so far as there is a lot of international cricket before that as well as the IPL. I want to gain more trust from the management till then and there will be times where I will get hit and I want to still gain the trust of the team so that they support me. Performing in every match is the goal.

"I take every game as the last as the competition is very high and the fast bowling unit is doing really well. Cementing your place in this team is very tough, so I look to perform every time I get an opportunity," he signed off.



Deepak Chahar celebrates with MS Dhoni after taking wicket during IPL. IPLT20.com

'CSK stint taught me to counter dew & sweat factor'

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Countering the dew in the sultry Chennai heat has been a big part of Deepak Chahar's cricket education and he said it showed during his world record figures of 6 for 7 against Bangladesh in the series-deciding third T20.

Chahar, who also became the first male cricketer from the country to take a T20 International hat-trick, has been one of the Chennai Super Kings' successful new ball bowlers, used judiciously by franchise captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"Playing in Chennai, I have now realised how to counter dew and sweat. How to keep my hands clean. At times, rub dry soil in your hands and then bowl (so that hands don't get slippery)," the 27-year-old Rajasthan seamer said during

an interview on 'Chahal TV'. Asked what was his strategy considering that there was no nip in the air and the ball wasn't swinging a lot.

"Since the side boundaries (at VCA Stadium) were big and that was the plan that we will have to force the batsman to play shots on the sides. I also wanted to vary the pace as the ball was getting wet because of the dew and it was difficult to grip," Chahal explained.

For the 27-year-old, never even in his wildest of imaginations, he could have thought about incredible figures of 6 for 7 in 3.2 overs.

"Come to know in the end that I got a hat-trick since I got the first wicket off the last ball of previous over. Even if you sit back at home and dream, you will not think that in four overs, you will get six wickets for 7 runs," said a beaming Chahal.

DRS = 'Don't ask Rishabh System'

FIANS ■ NAGPUR

India came back strongly from their first match defeat at the hands of Bangladesh to win the three match T20I series 2-1, but there was no respite for stumper Rishabh Pant as the jeers turned into cat-calls for his gaffes behind the stumps, especially with the Decision Review System (DRS).

Pant, who was under the scanner for his wrong DRS calls in the first rubber, made similar mistakes on Sunday even.

During Bangladesh's chase, pacer Khaleel Ahmed bowled a shortish delivery to Mohammad Naim and Pant launched an appeal for caught

behind. He even convinced stand-in skipper Rohit Sharma to seek a review only for replays to show that the ball was missing the bat in a big way.

There were chants of "Dhoni, Dhoni," the former India captain known to call it right almost every time, as social media also lashed out at Pant's repeated failures.

"The DRS would never fail if captain always do the opposite of Pant's opinion," wrote a Twitter user. "DRS stands for — Don't ask Rishabh System," wrote another enthusiast drawing attention for his cheeky comment.

"Lesson for Rohit Sharma: when pant calls for DRS, don't take it," read another comment.

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The talented Shreyas Iyer has been given a "heads up" by the Indian team management that he will be the designated No 4 batsman in white-ball format after a string of impressive performances in the past few months.

India tried umpteen players at the number four spot in the lead up to the 50-over World Cup but none of them could cement their place in the team and it was used as a floating position during the mega event as the experiment with Vijay Shankar fell flat.

"For me personally, (team management) have given me a heads up that 'You'll be there at No 4. So just back yourself and believe in yourself'," Iyer, who smashed 62 off 33 balls including five sixes in the T20 series decider against Bangladesh, told media-persons after the match.

"It has been a really important last few series for me to set the benchmark at the No 4 position, which all of us are competing for at the moment," said Iyer, who scored a couple of half-centuries batting at No 5 in the ODIs against the West Indies.

Iyer will have to be one of the "finishers" in case team's top two batsmen — skipper Virat Kohli and deputy Rohit Sharma — are dismissed cheaply.

"Even if Kohli and Rohit get out, we need someone to finish the game and bat till the end. That is a No 4's role. That's what I was trying to replicate today and it worked out really well for me," said the 24-year-old, who has overcome the disappointment of missing out on ODI World Cup berth.

Asked how significant his knock was considering that team is trying out fringe players like him ahead of the World T20

next year, Iyer said: Yes, obviously there is lot of competition going in the team. I personally feel that I compete with myself. I don't want myself to be judged with anyone or when you say that this position is empty in the team.

While he will be batting at number four for some time now, Iyer is flexible and ready to bat at any position that the team wants him to.

"I am really open-minded and can bat at any number. So I just like to back myself in tough situations and today's innings showed that I can bat under pressure as well."

In the final T20, Iyer went ballistic after being cautious at the beginning. Four of his five sixes came against the spinners and his knock allowed India to put up a defensible 174 for five.

"The support staff have given me the freedom — not just me but all the batsmen — that you need to have that intent when you go in there. And you should feel very positive when you're batting. If the ball pitches in my area, I am not going to control myself. I'll bat according to my instincts."

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Deepak jumps 88 places in rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India fast bowler Deepak Chahar, who returned a world record haul of six for seven against Bangladesh on Sunday, has moved up 88 slots to 42nd in the latest ICC T20 rankings for bowlers.

The list, however, continued to be led by slow bowlers. The top five and eight of the top nine are spinners, with Mitchell Santner reaching second place — his best position since he topped the table in January 2018, behind Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.

Rohit Sharma continued to remain India's top-ranked batsman at seventh position while K L Rahul moved up a place to eighth after his half-century on Sunday.

England's Dawid Malan has made a grand re-entry to the batting chart, grabbing third position in the list led by Pakistan's Babar Azam, while Aaron Finch of Australia has taken second spot after gaining two positions.

England captain Eoin Morgan and New Zealand opener Martin Guptill have also made notable movements to take joint ninth place while Jonny Bairstow has reached a career-best 498 rating points and is in the top 40 for the first time.

Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Naim's 143 runs in three matches saw him at joint-38th position along with Bairstow.

Ashton Agar's fine performances against Sri Lanka and Pakistan have seen him move up 57 places to ninth in the bowling list.

In the all-rounders' table, Glenn Maxwell's continued absence has enabled Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi to move above him to take the top spot for the first time.

In the team rankings, Pakistan continued at the top with 270 points but Australia were only one point behind them after winning their three-match series 2-0. England, South Africa and India occupied the next three positions and were within five points of each other.

Long way to go in T20s: Mahmudullah

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah feels his team still has a long way to go in Twenty20s as it is neither learning from its mistakes nor has the big-hitters essential to the format.

Bangladesh have come close to victory on many occasions but failed to cross the line, especially against top teams like India losing the just-concluded T20 series 1-2.

"We have a long way to go in T20 cricket. We don't have big hitters. We have to be dependent on our skill hitting. So we are working on our game sense and become more consistent mentally," said Mahmudullah following the 30-run loss in the series-decider. "As a batting unit, if we



can improve then we will have more chances to win," he added. Needing 50 runs off the last 30 balls with six wickets in hand, Bangladesh were on course for a memorable series win but lost wickets in a heap to blow it all away. "I am not sure whether it

was composer or not. But if you see, we did similar kind of mistakes probably in few games in recent times. That's where I think big teams are quite good and very consistent in these situations and they can chase down this sort of total.

"Having said that, the wicket was very good to chase on. Our bowlers did a very good job to restrict them to 174. We just didn't finish well."

"If you analyse these three games, I think we played good cricket. But T20 cricket is such a format, if you lose momentum it's very hard to get it back. We were very close in this game but as we lost three-four wickets in six or seven balls and that's the crucial part of that game," said the skipper.

Shafali, Deepti power Eves to 10-wicket win

PTI ■ GROS ISLET

Tenager Shafali Verma scored her second consecutive half century after off-spinner Deepti Sharma starred with the ball as the Indian women's cricket team registered an emphatic 10-wicket win over the West Indies in the second T20I.

The 15-year-old Shafali continued her impressive run by scoring a quick-fire 69 off 35 balls alongside Smriti Mandhana (30). The duo powered India to a 2-0 lead in the five-match series on Sunday.

Shafali, who overtook the iconic Sachin Tendulkar to become the youngest Indian cricketer to score a half-century in international cricket, displayed scintillating form yet again and smashed 10 fours and two sixes.

Earlier, the Indian bowlers,



Shafali Verma chats with Smriti Mandhana during 2nd T20 against Windies BCCI

led by Deepti, who registered career-best figures of 4 for 10, managed to restrict the West Indies for a paltry 103 for seven in the stipulated 20 overs.

Deepti accounted for the four wickets in the last four overs.

Later Mandhana, who had also smashed a half-century in the series-opener, played second fiddle to Shafali in guiding the team home. The 23-year-old's innings was laced with four boundaries.

West Indies captain Anisa Mohammed had no answer to the Indian duo and used seven bowlers, including herself, with no success.

The combined effort saw India reach their target in 10.3 overs.

The third T20I will be played at Providence Stadium in Guyana on November 14.

Shooters continue medal rush



PTI ■ DOHA

Ten shooter Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the Silver medal in men's 10m air pistol event to continue India's surge at the 14th Asian Championship here on Monday.

The 17-year-old World Cup and the Asian Games Gold-medallist shot 244.5 to finish second on the podium behind North Korea's Kim Song Guk, who won the top prize with a world record 246.5.

With 583, both Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma had qualified for the final in seventh and sixth place, respectively.

However, Verma had to be satisfied with a fifth-place finish in the eight-man final, having managed 181.5. The trio of Chaudhary, Verma and Sharvan Kumar bagged the team Bronze with a total of 1740 in the qualifying, finishing behind China (1745) and Korea (1744).

Shreyas Agrawal and Dhanush Srikanth won the Gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team junior competition, while Gurnihal Garcha, Abhay Singh Sekhon and Ayush Rudraraju claimed the team Gold in the junior men's skeet.

Gurnihal Garcha also won an individual Silver with a score of 50 in the finals. Abhay Sekhon, who had topped qualification with a solid 120, was the second Indian in the final but finished fourth, narrowly missing out on a medal.

In all, India picked up eight medals on the day. India won six Olympic quotas across events from the prestigious championship, taking their total to 15.



Mumbai makes it three in a row

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic giants Mumbai continued its winning run in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy thrashing Madhya Pradesh by nine wickets on Monday.

This is Mumbai's third win on the trot after they beat Mizoram and Haryana in the first two league games of Group D.

In the game at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai rode on blistering half centuries by openers Jay Bista (68 off 36 balls) and Aditya Tare (74 not out off 48 balls) to chase the 160-run target with ease.

Electing to bat, Madhya Pradesh ride on skipper Naman Ojha (22 off 17 balls) and one down Rajat Patidar (25 off 17 balls) before two down Parth Sahani made a quick fire 47 off 36 balls.

An unbeaten 31 off 29 balls from Anand Bais and 19-ball 24 from Venkatesh Iyer helped MP

breach the 150-run mark.

For the hosts, Shams Mulani (1-17), Ranjane (1-24), Sujit Nayak (1-26) and Tushar Deshpande (1-34) were among the wickets.

Chasing 160, Bista and Tare laid the foundation stone of the win with an 111-run stand for the opening wicket.

After Bista was dismissed by Kuldeep Sen, Tare took the onus on himself to complete the match.

He in the company of in-form skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 not out off 11 balls) took the side home with 4.1 overs to spare.

In the earlier game at Wankhede, Bengal defeated Meghalaya by 55 runs.

Meanwhile, at BKC, India spinner Yuzvendra Chahal joined the Haryana squad but was rested for the game against Assam.

Assam.

DELHI THRASH NAGALAND
SURAT: A disciplined all-round effort helped Delhi thrash Nagaland by eight wickets in a Group 'E' T20 match.

Electing to field, Delhi restricted Nagaland to 75 for nine in their stipulated 20 overs before returning to overhaul the target, scoring 78 for two in 12.3 overs.

While left-arm spinner Pawan Negi claimed three wickets, Lalit Yadav, S Bhatti and Karan Dagar accounted for one wicket each.

Chasing the target, Delhi rode on some useful contributions from the top-order with skipper Dhruv Shorey top-scoring with a run-a-ball 27 and Nitish Rana scoring 20 not out.

In other Group E matches, Saurashtra registered a comfortable 57-run win over Gujarat at the Lalabhai Contractor Stadium.