

OPINION 8
FALSE DATA
MECHANISM

WORLD 11
16 KILLED AS TRAINS
COLLIDE IN B'DESH

AVENUES 13
HOW DATA ANALYSIS IS
INFLUENCING EDUCATION

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Prez Rule in Maharashtra, parties relieved

More time for political manoeuvring to form Govt, feel parties, but Congress, NCP cry foul over Gov's haste; Sena to move SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Maharashtra was on Tuesday placed under President's Rule, which came as a major relief to all the four stakeholders who now have enough time to outdo each other in the race for Government formation in the State. The Shiv Sena and the NCP admitted this and said they were not in a hurry, while the Congress maintained it will talk to Uddhav's party after discussing threadbare with Sharad Pawar's entry to reach a common ground.

Following the Centre's move, the Shiv Sena said it is readying a petition to challenge the President's Rule decision in the Supreme Court. A final call will be taken on Wednesday, Shiv Sena's advocate said. The SC may hear the petition challenging the Governor's decision on Wednesday.

Except for the BJP, the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress all have cried foul over the Governor's role. "The way President's Rule was recommended, I condemn it. This Government has violated the SC guidelines on President's Rule on several occasions in the last 5 years," Ahmed Patel said.

Sena suffered a setback in its efforts to cobble up a non-BJP Government in Maharashtra with the Congress



Security outside Raj Bhawan in Mumbai on Tuesday after Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari recommended the imposition of President's Rule in the State in view of stalemate over Government formation PTI

at the last moment announcing its decision to hold more talks with all NCP on supporting the Shiv Sena.

Interestingly, while the BJP, which had given up its claim, appeared once again on the scene to assert it was back in the contention, the Sena still showed signs of willingness to go with its longtime NDA ally if the BJP gave it what it want-

ed — the Chief Ministership for two and half years.

"We have six months, we will sit down with the Congress and NCP," Uddhav told reporters after a meeting with his MLAs.

In a Press conference with Congress leaders, Pawar said they were in no hurry and will take a decision after holding further talks with the Congress.



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray addresses a Press conference as his son and Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray looks on in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel maintained his party will hold talks with the Sena only after its talks with the NCP culminate. But then, BJP leader Narain Rane came out to say that his party will try to form a Government and that former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis is putting in all efforts in this direction.

Patel along with KC Venugopal and Mallikarjun Kharge was dispatched by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to hold talks with Pawar to thrash out all niggling issues that could make or mar the prospective alliance with an ideologically opposite party.

The political manoeuvring

continued till late evening. Earlier, the Centre imposed President's Rule after Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari recommended it five hours before the expiry of the 8.30 pm deadline given to the NCP to express its willingness to form the Government. The Union Cabinet subsequently met and approved the recommendation before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's departure to Brazil for the BRICS Summit.

The Shiv Sena moved the SC challenging the Governor's decision to not grant it more time for the Government formation exercise.

Continued on Page 4

NCP's delayed opinion left Cong in two minds on Sena

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A reluctant Congress, which did not make its mind to back an ideologically different party in forming a Government in Maharashtra, got more confused when a day earlier its long time ally NCP chief Sharad Pawar communicated to Congress president Sonia Gandhi that "he (Pawar) will first assess the situation in joining hands with the Shiv Sena and get back to the party".

This made the grand old party send three top leaders — Ahmed Patel, Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal — to meet Pawar in Mumbai and comprehending the nitty-gritty further. The Congress has been extremely reluctant to back the Shiv Sena, given the severe ideological mismatch and the fact that the two parties fought bitterly as rivals in Mumbai and other parts of the State in the polls.

The leaders were supposed to visit early in the day to Mumbai but their plan deferred after, according to sources in AICC, Pawar conveyed that State leaders of both the parties will first discuss the "terms and conditions" of the Government formation in the State.



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress leaders Ahmed Patel and Mallikarjun Kharge during a joint Press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

Both Sonia and Pawar had spoken earlier where both are believed to have discussed on a "common minimum programme" before giving any word to the Shiv Sena. Pawar also informed the Congress central leadership that he would come to Delhi and finalise details with them during the day. When Pawar expressed his inability to visit the national Capital, the Congress decided to send the leaders to meet Pawar.

Though the meeting remained inconclusive, leaders of the two allies said further discussions would be needed to decide on the issue of Government formation in the State. Congress' distrust for

Shiv Sena apart, it also did not want to go the whole hog on the advice of the NCP chief without plugging all loopholes.

NCP leader Ajit Pawar had stopped short of blaming ally Congress for the "delay" in deciding on whether to support the Shiv Sena in a non-BJP Government in Maharashtra. And sources said his uncle, Sharad Pawar, is upset with the Congress for it.

Congress held off on sending its leaders to Mumbai early morning, asking Pawar to come to Delhi instead and speak to Sonia. But Pawar declined, citing a meeting with his party MLAs, and the two then spoke on the phone.

Continued on Page 4

Pawar angle common in all three Prez Rule

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra is witnessing President's Rule for the third time in its history with the first being in 1980 and the second in 2014. Interestingly, Pawar has always been in the mix of things on all the three occasions, the Shiv Sena being an addition this time round.

It was the Sharad Pawar-led Progressive Democratic Front Government that the Congress had dismissed first in 1980 to impose President's Rule.

In 2014, the Congress Government led by Prithvi Raj Chavan was dismissed by the Narendra Modi dispensation after it lost majority following Sharad Pawar's NCP withdrawing support to it.

The longest duration that Maharashtra was under President's Rule was for 112 days from February 17, 1980, to June 8, 1980, despite then Chief Minister Sharad Pawar enjoying majority in the House. When Indra came back to power in 1980, she dismissed all non-Congress State Governments in Bihar, Gujarat, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, besides Maharashtra. She was retaliating for the dis-

missal of eight Congress Governments by the Janata Party dispensation in 1977.

She wanted to ensure the Congress majority in the country after the collapse of the Morarji Desai-led Janata Party Government at the Centre. Pawar was leading the coalition Government in Maharashtra at that time and he had won the majority. The President's Rule came to an end when Abdul Rehman Antulay took over as the Chief Minister of the State.

President's Rule was again imposed for 32 days from September 28, 2014, to October 31, 2014, after then Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan resigned following the break-up of the 15-year-old Congress-NCP alliance. The NCP had pulled out of the alliance after blaming Congress for stalling talks over seat-sharing.

Article 356, known as President's Rule, deals with failure of constitutional machinery in the State. Under President's Rule, the Governor runs the State with the help of the Chief Secretary. But the Governor cannot take any policy decisions, which can only be taken by the Union Government with the assent of Parliament.

CJI within RTI Act ambit? SC verdict today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi will pronounce on Wednesday at 2pm its verdict on petitions challenging the Delhi High Court decision bringing the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) under the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, as per the notice on the SC's official website on Tuesday.

Other members of the bench are Justices NV Ramana, DY Chandrachud, Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna.

A five-judge Constitution Bench had on April 4 reserved its verdict on the appeals filed in 2010 by the SC secretary general and its central public information officer against the HC and the central information commission's (CIC's) orders.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

UK'S LABOUR DISOWNS CORBYN'S ANTI-J&K STAND
New Delhi/London: In a move that is surely going to embarrass Jeremy Corbyn, the Chair of the Labour Party Ian Lavery has outrightly disowned Corbyn's views on Jammu & Kashmir.

LJP TO FIGHT ON 50 SEATS IN JHARKHAND: CHIRAG
New Delhi: Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan announced on Tuesday that his party will contest 50 seats in the Jharkhand Assembly elections.

WOMAN KILLED BY MALE FRIEND IN DELHI HOTEL
New Delhi: A 33-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her male friend in a hotel room in Outer North Delhi's Alipur area.

EC'S SON UNDER SCANNER FOR FOREX VIOLATIONS
New Delhi: Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's son Abir and a firm linked to him have come on the radar of the ED for alleged violations of forex regulations.

Fani feat charms Prince Charles to IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

India will showcase its specialised meteorological skills — especially against the backdrop of the global accolades the country received for its handling of cyclone Fani, which was considered one of the strongest in the last 20 years — to Prince Charles during his two-day visit beginning November 13.

Top sources said Prince Charles will visit the regional specialised Meteorological Centre for Tropical Cyclone at India Meteorological Department (IMD) building at Lodhi Road to see the progress and models of forecast being used for cyclone prediction by India.

Prince Charles will also discuss with IMD about its accurate prediction of cyclone Fani in Odisha this year.

"Prince Charles will witness how India makes use of innovation to respond to natural disasters. What methodology and model is being adopted by it? How it is managed to coordinate with disaster management agencies during cyclone predictions and how its clean technology is



helping deal with the challenges of climate change," said the sources.

A low-pressure area is the initial stage of the formation of a cyclone. During Fani, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, collected data on rainfall, temperatures below the sea and above, wind speed and used satellite data in running the models.

"The island observatories also provided data which helped to predict accurate cyclonic storm," said officials. This year, so far India witnessed over five cyclonic storms which

include Fani, Kyarr, Titli, Vayu and Bulbul.

Recently, the UN agency for disaster reduction commended the IMD's "almost pinpoint accuracy" of early warnings that helped authorities conduct a well-targeted evacuation plan and minimise the loss of life as the extremely severe cyclonic storm Fani made landfall near the coastal city of Puri.

The powerful cyclone in Odisha had killed at least eight people, damaged properties worth hundreds of crores and displaced over 11 lakh people. Large areas in the seaside pilgrim town of Puri and other places were submerged as heavy rain battered the entire coastal belt of the State.

Last week, the accurate prediction of cyclonic storm Bulbul also helped the State Governments — West Bengal and Odisha — to minimise the damage. The IMD predicted cyclone Bulbul to intensify into "very severe cyclonic storm" and alerted the two State Governments. In the case of Bulbul, the IMD predicted accurate landfall at coastal areas of the two States.

The weather department

predicted possible damage to thatched roofs, embankments and roads in the coastal districts of north Odisha and West Bengal.

The visit by Prince Charles, heir apparent to the British throne, will be his 10th trip to India and his second in two years. Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, had visited India in 2017, as part of their 10-day tour to Asian countries, including Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

Earlier, Prince Charles' elder son Prince William and wife Kate Middleton had embarked on a visit to neighbouring Pakistan from October 14 to 18 this year.

As per schedule, Prince Charles will participate in a discussion on how to strengthen disaster resilience and tackle the effects of climate change at the IMD. He will visit a Sikh temple to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak and mark the contribution of the Sikh community in the UK. He will then attend a military service to commemorate the sacrifices of soldiers from India, the UK and across the Commonwealth in World War One and World War Two.

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सुरेश राणा
मंत्री, चीनी उद्योग एवं
गन्ना विकास विभाग, उ.प्र.

सुरेश पासी
राज्य मंत्री, चीनी उद्योग एवं
गन्ना विकास विभाग, उ.प्र.

दिनांक: 13 नवम्बर, 2019 | समय: अपराह्न 4:00 बजे

स्थान: लोकभवन ऑडिटोरियम, लखनऊ

विशेषताएं

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सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Uncertainty over site of new mosque in Ayodhya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The lack of clarity in the Supreme Court verdict on whether the five-acre land to Muslims would be given to Muslims for construction of a mosque in Ayodhya town or Ayodhya district has made many prominent Muslim leaders apprehensive. They fear that taking advantage of renaming of Faizabad to Ayodhya, the Yogi government may give the land to Muslims in the outer periphery of the temple town.

Local Muslims say the government should give the land within acquired 67-acre land of Ram Janmabhoomi Complex. One of the plaintiffs in this case, Haji Mahboob said that the government should allot a land near the old chainsaw machine within the acquired 67 acre complex as the Babri Masjid stood within that boundary.

In its landmark verdict on November 9, the Supreme Court had ruled that five acres of land should be handed over to the Sunni Central Waqf Board either from the acquired 67 acres or elsewhere in Ayodhya.

Section of Muslims wants Islamic university along with mosque

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With prominent Muslim organisations like All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and UP Sunni Central Waqf Board yet to take a decision on the Supreme Court's judgement asking the government to give 5 acres of land for construction of a new mosque, a section has demanded that an Islamic university should be set up along with the mosque.

A group of Muslim clerics, who met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, suggested setting up of an Islamic university along with the mosque in Ayodhya. The clerics also congratulated the Chief Minister for maintaining peace and harmony after the Ayodhya verdict.

The CM asked the clerics to



assist the government in maintaining communal harmony and reiterated that the government would not tolerate any nuisance. He said he would not allow any discrimination in the society and Muslims would get benefits of all the government welfare schemes.

During the meeting, Maulana Salman Hussain Nadi demanded an Islamic university along with the mosque in Ayodhya. Yogi, who has visited Ayodhya 18 times during his regime, is expected to visit the Ramjanmabhoom again soon, sources said on Tuesday.

The order says: "The land shall be allotted either by: (a) The Central

government out of the land acquired under the Ayodhya Act 1993; or (b)

The state government at a suitable prominent place in Ayodhya."

Muslims believe that as there is no clarity in the order over whether land would be given in Ayodhya town or Ayodhya district, the Yogi government may give it in some far-flung place of Ayodhya.

"Till last year, Ayodhya meant Ayodhya city, but after the Yogi government renamed Faizabad to Ayodhya, the word Ayodhya means district," Faizan Ahmad, a Muslim scholar, said. He said under this scenario, the government may give the land on the border of Ayodhya. "This is on record that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) have always said that the mosque should be built across Saryu. The Yogi government may use the SC order to act as per the VHP wishes," he said.

Advocate Zafaryab Jilani said that in SC order, the word Faizabad has been mentioned on several occasions. "We believe when it says Ayodhya, it means Ayodhya city," he said.

Meanwhile, Zafar Farooqui, chairperson of the Sunni Central Waqf Board, said: "The board will meet on November 26 to discuss the construction of a mosque and other details.

Post Ayodhya verdict, security of several leaders enhanced

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has enhanced security of several political leaders and state ministers after conducting security review post the Ayodhya verdict. The state government reviewed the security on Monday. Official sources said here on Tuesday that security of several people has been enhanced and others withdrawn on the basis of intelligence wing inputs.

UP Sugarcane Development Minister Suresh Rana's security has been raised to 'Z plus' from 'Z' while that of Sunni Waqf Board chairman Zafar Farooqui and UP Shia Central Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi enhanced to 'Y plus' from 'Y' category.

State Minority Affairs Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and BJP MLA Sangeet Som will get 'Z' category security. Besides, former UP ministers Ramveer Upadhyay and Naresh Agarwal will get 'Y plus' security. However, the government has decided to withdraw the security

cover extended to spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar, senior advocate Sriram Panchu and former apex court judge FMI Kalifulla, who were appointed as mediators for the Ayodhya case by the Supreme Court. The government has given security to some others too, but their names are yet to be disclosed.

Meanwhile, to maintain peace and communal harmony, the police are in constant alert mode in all the sensitive places while close monitoring on all social media activities has been made to quell rumours and fake messages.

The alert was sounded in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case. So far, 70 people have been arrested for rumour-mongering in the state and more than 270 social media accounts reported for further action. The vigil was also maintained to ensure peaceful celebration of Barawafat on Sunday and later 'Kartik Purnima' and 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev on Tuesday.

Yogi: More traders should be brought under tax net

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing displeasure over less tax realisation from paan masala traders, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said more traders should be brought under the tax net.

There are registrations of only 14 lakh traders dealing in paan masala. "This number should be at least 25 lakh. Increase the tax target from Rs 77,000 lakh to Rs one lakh crore next year. Considering the population and number of cities and towns in the state, this target can be easily achieved," the CM said during a review of Commercial Tax department here on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister asked officials concerned to effectively curb theft in paan masala and iron trade, and pay special attention to the borders of Nepal. The Chief Minister said that the review conducted by zonal additional commissioners every fortnight would also reach him through the additional chief secretary of the department.

He said that the Commercial Tax department must become friends with the traders and not be the oppressor.

"The department should carry out the awareness drives among the traders by taking help of Traders Welfare Board. Tell them that it is government's right to



receive and it is their duty to hand over the tax money that they are taking from customers. It is utilised in development works," Yogi said.

"If we talk about the insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh and pension scheme to be implemented in future, the number of registrations will definitely increase," he added.

Yogi held a review meeting of the zonal additional commissioners of the department at his residence in Lucknow on Tuesday.

He said that the files should not be blocked under any circumstances. "Deploy good officers in the field and regularly monitor the work of those deployed. If their work is unsatisfactory, call them

back from the field. By doing this, your registration and revenue will be increased, and traders will also get a good message about the department," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said that he will also review this department along with the administration and police during routine review meeting of the districts. Yogi said that traders are afraid of harassment and not tax payment. "We have to end this fear through our behaviour and also simplify the process of filing returns and refunds. For this, training should be imparted to traders," the CM said.

In addition, the Chief Minister also asked the officials to prepare ways to monitor the amount of GST received at the district level. "If you decentralise the system, the administration will also help you. Besides, felicitate 10 traders from each district who pay the highest GST. Also felicitate the highest tax-paying traders in the state on GST Day," the CM said.

"Make these traders advisors to others for registration and payment of taxes. This will help in conveying a good message among people," he said.

Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Additional Chief Secretary of the department Alok Sinha, and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister SP Goyal were present in the meeting.

No records of births and deaths in UP's rural areas!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Believe it or not! Births and deaths are not being registered in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh as the government has made no efforts to extend training for online registration or made any budgetary allocation in this regard, resulting in very low registration of births and deaths in the state.

What is more alarming is that seven registrars did not register any birth in their districts between 2012 and 2017 while 14 did not register any death during this period in their respective zones.

As per stats available with the government, only 62.5 per cent births were registered in the state as compared to the national average of 86 per cent. The level of registration in case of deaths is just 35.5 per cent as against the national average of 78.1 per cent. Wherever the deaths and births were registered, the chief registrar of Uttar Pradesh did not link them with important schemes and programmes of the government, thereby meaning that the schemes made by the government were merely based on estimates.

The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, in a letter to the UP government, stated that the state had made no arrangements to impart training in online registration in rural areas.

The chief registrar of UP prepared and submitted plans only for urban areas and demanded financial assistance for cities. No efforts were made to start digital registration of births and deaths in rural areas and it reflects in the total registration figure of Uttar Pradesh," the letter said.

Uttar Pradesh, home to 220 million people, is one of the most backward states of India where the quality of education and basic health facilities are poor while over 70 per cent of the population lives in villages.

That the civil registration is not on the priority list of the government is evident from the fact that there is no provision in the state budget for activities relating to the registration of births and deaths under the Registration of Birth and Death Act. Despite suggestions from the Registrar General of India, the chief registrar of UP neither prepared the plan for creation and advocacy of publicity and digitalisation of records, nor demanded funds from RGI.

As a result, the state government did not get funds to strengthen the registration of births and deaths.

Government law says that in state-run hospitals, health centres, private nursing homes and primary health centres (PHCs), the medical officers in-charge or others authorised by them are supposed to report births and deaths to the registrars concerned. In case of any irregularity, the monitoring officials, including district magistrates and chief medical officers, are supposed to take action against the erring officials. The primary purpose of registration of births and deaths is to create a legal document that is used to establish and protect rights of individuals. The secondary purpose is to create a data source for compilation of vital statistics.

"This database is also a source of statistics for understanding population dynamics for comprehensive planning for programmes and schemes for welfare of people," the letter said.

Guru Nanak Jayanti, Guru Purnima celebrated amid tight security

Lakhs of devotees take holy dip

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Guru Nanak Jayanti and Kartik Purnima celebrations passed off peacefully with several lakh devotees thronging the ghats across the state, including Ayodhya, to take a holy dip in Ganga, Saryu and Sangam in Prayagraj among other prominent rivers.

In the temple town of Ayodhya, where special security arrangements were made for the purpose, people began flocking to Saryu ghats since early morning amidst chants of 'Sita Ram' playing on loud-speakers on the streets, while many devotees who came from neighbouring districts camped near the river overnight. They all started taking holy dip since early morning and continued till late evening. This is the first big religious congregation in Ayodhya after the Supreme Court's judgement in the Ram Janmabhoomi land title dispute case. A posse of security personnel was deployed along the ghats while regular check-posts set up on the streets besides patrolling parties. The nearly four-km stretch from the symbolic Ayodhya Dwar bordering Faizabad town to the main



Earthen lamps adorn the ghats of Ganga in Varanasi to mark Dev Deepawali on Tuesday

Ayodhya city still remains under tight watch with no public transport being allowed to go beyond that from Faizabad side. Even for private vehicles, hardly any four-wheelers could be seen beyond the

gate, while two-wheeler riders were allowed to go towards Ayodhya side only after proper checking of identity cards. The ghats have been divided into four zones and about 20 sectors within each zone,

resulting in a total of 80 sectors, disclosed a senior officer. "About 13 mobile toilets, besides other sanitation facilities and 18 ambulances, have been installed and ghats have been illuminated to add to the

festive spirit," he said. The senior officer said units of paramilitary forces and home guards had also been deployed. "We have marked danger zones and 200 divers will also be on standby to avert any mishap,"

"This arrangement has been in place since Friday night, the day the verdict timing was announced. It is likely to remain for another week or so to ensure foolproof security"

he said. "This arrangement has been in place since Friday night, the day the verdict timing was announced. It is likely to remain for another week or so to ensure foolproof security," the police officer said. "Also, in view of Kartik Purnima, security forces are on extra vigil," he added.

Kartik Purnima or the night of the full moon of Kartik month of the Hindu calendar, falls 15 days after Diwali, the night of Kartik Amavasya.

Devotees in the state capital took a dip at Mankameswar ghat on the banks of the Gomti. A huge crowd also gathered on the banks of Ganga and Yamuna in Allahabad. In Varanasi, besides taking holy dip in the morning, Dev Deepawali was celebrated on the banks of Ganga in the evening. Earthen lamps were lit at all temples and banks of the Ganga on the auspicious occasion.

FORM No. - 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
(Jurisdiction-Part of U.P. Uttranchal)
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

O.A. No. 306/2019 Date: 06.11.2019
(Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

BANK OF INDIA ...APPLICANT
(Patrakarpuram Branch, 2/18, Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010, U.P.)

VERSUS

M/S MANU ENTERPRISES & OTHERS ...DEFENDANTS
To,

- M/s Manu Enterprises through its proprietor Shri Lovekesh Singh Principal places of business at 538 KA/541, Triveni Nagar-III, Beside Telephone Exchange, Sitapur Road, Lucknow 226020.
- Shri Lovekesh Singh son of Late Rakesh Singh 538 KA/541, Triveni Nagar-III, Beside Telephone Exchange, Sitapur Road, Lucknow 226020.

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 27.12.2019 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

DMI Finance Private Limited
CIN - U65929DL2008PTC182749
Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002
STATEMENT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

S. No	Particulars	in Million	
		Un-audited Half year ending September 30, 2019	Un-audited Half year end-ing September 30, 2018
1.	Total Income from Operations	2,774.25	1,581.68
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	970.41	451.62
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	970.41	451.62
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	714.24	306.13
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	751.07	269.87
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	5,667.06	3,244.18
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	18,881.69	8,028.44
8.	Net worth	24,548.74	11,272.62
9.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	9764.82	11,626.97
10.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.00	0.00
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.39	1.03
12.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)		
	1. Basic:	1.35	0.81
	2. Diluted:	1.34	0.81
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	81.21	81.21
14.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	N.A.	N.A.
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.

Notes to the Financial Results:

- The above financial results of DMI Finance Private Limited ("the Company") for the half year ended September 30, 2019 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 11, 2019. The standalone financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
- The above results is an extract of detailed format of the half yearly financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. These financial results are available on the website viz. www.dmfinance.in and on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com).
- The financial results have been prepared in accordance with requirement of Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as modified by Circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016 dated July 5, 2016 read with CI/IMD/DF/1/69/2016 dated August 10, 2016.
- For items referred in sub clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE Limited(BSE) and can be accessed on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website i.e. www.dmfinance.in
- There is no Debenture Redemption Reserve created as Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) registered with Reserve Bank of India are not required to create DRR for privately placed debentures.
- Figures for the prior year / period have been regrouped and / or reclassified wherever considered necessary.

For DMI Finance Private Limited
Sd/-
Date: November 11, 2019 Yuvraja Chanakya Singh
Place: New Delhi Joint Managing Director

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 others who do not owe 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.

Sikh gurus should be part of school curriculum: CM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing on the fact that the lives of Sikh gurus should be a part of school curriculum, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the younger generation should be made aware of their heritage so that when they associate with the past, they can create a better future and continuously move forward in this manner. The Chief Minister was speaking at the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev at the DAV College. The programme was organised by Naka Hindola Gurudwara.

Yogi said he has directed the Tourism and Cultural Department officials to identify heritage places associated with Guru Nanak and coordinate with the local gurudwara committees for their conservation. Soon after his arrival at the venue, a turban was tied on the head of the CM and before the programme officially started, he also listened to the bhajans recited on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said he was happy to have received 'Kirtan Yatra' at his residence in July earlier this year.

The CM said it was important in the light of the fact that the Sikh gurus laid their lives for saving the religion and country, and India as it exists today is because of the sacrifice of these gurus.

"Guru Nanak had given his philosophy in three points that



(Top) CM Yogi Adityanath at the Naka Hindola Gurudwara on the occasion of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. (Above) Devotees at the gurudwara

people should remember God, work hard and live in a community. Guru Nanak travelled across the country and in many countries abroad, spreading his *gyaan prakash* and removing the superstitions which people carried in their minds. He travelled in those times when there were no resources" the Chief Minister said.

In a word of praise for the Sikh community for following all the tenets of Guru Nanak Dev, the CM said: "We can find the Sikhs working wherever we go and all Sikhs make it a point to be a part of the 'kirtan' celebrations regularly at the gurudwaras no matter how busy they are. They have always distributed 'langar' and it is a very big thing that wherever there is a gurudwara, no person around can go hungry.

People from all walks of life and religions visit gurudwaras to have food offered."

"550 years down the line, the Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev still inspires us," he added.

The Chief Minister also greeted the Prime Minister at the grand event. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the initiative that Sikh pilgrims got the opportunity to go on their pilgrimage in Pakistan following the opening of Kartarpur corridor. The Sikhs got a chance to see where Guru Nanak lived and in this way, the PM made the dreams of many Sikhs come true," Yogi said. The Chief Minister said that Guru Nanak took a tour of the country so that he could remove superstitions in the minds of people. "When you

work to propagate a message, you face great challenges and he had the courage to call 'Babar' by the name of 'Jabar'. It was the time when people were concerned about how they would save the country and their women. The religion and the country as it exists today is because of these Sikh gurus who need to be revered," the Chief Minister said.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said it was the day of festivities. "We have named several gates and crossings in the city after Sikh gurus but whatever we have done is less considering the immense contribution made by these gurus," he said.

The only Sikh minister in the state government, Baldev Singh Aulak, while speaking on the occasion, said Guru Nanak was the guru of all communities and the stories associated with him are far too many.

Meanwhile, the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm at the gurudwaras across the city. At the historical Naka Hindola Gurudwara at DAV College organised a programme to celebrate the occasion. A huge pandal was tentatively decked up and the Holy Guru Granth Sahib placed in a decorated palanquin at the centre. Since early morning, devotees poured in for 'darshan' of Guru Granth Sahib.

The venue was chock-a-block with both men and women. The chants of 'Bole so nihal, Satsriakal' reverberated the air through the day.

President of Guru Singh Sabha Rajendra Singh Bagga congratulated the gathering on this occasion.

Later, members of Mata Gujari Satsang Sabha and children of Gurmat Sangeet Academy also joined the celebrations. 'Prasad' was also distributed among the devotees.

Earlier, the 'chola' of Shri Nishan Sahib was changed amongst chanting of hymns. Langar was distributed amongst thousands of people irrespective of caste and creed.

At the Alambagh Gurudwara, a blood donation camp was organised with the help of Lions Club. At least 45 people donated blood.



Dev Deepawali was celebrated in the city both at Mankameshwar Ghat and Kudia Ghat on Tuesday. The Mankameshwar Ghat lit up with over six lakh diyas. The occasion witnessed the presence of mayor Sanyukta Bhatia. Mahant of Mankameshwar Temple Devya Giri said the occasion witnessed the participation of many organisations. "There were many organisations that enjoyed the celebrations last year and wanted to be a part of the celebrations this year. So we distributed over three lakh diyas and lighted them on our own. We used ghee instead of oil so that there was less pollution," she said. At Kudia Ghat, 5,395 diyas were lighted by Shubh Sanskar Samiti. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma was present on the occasion.

Teenage couple found hanging in girl's house

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A teenage couple committed suicide just after the two were caught together by a local youth inside a room in Kaushambi. Local police registered a case in this regard and sent the bodies for autopsy.

Reports said that Nankul (20) of Udathu village under Charva police station of Kaushambi, was having an affair with Gorki (19), a resident of the same area. Gorki's father Ram Lautan and other family members were working in the field while she was alone in the house. Taking advantage of the situation, Nankul reached her house for a meeting. According to reports, Rajendra, also a residing of the same village, saw Nankul entering Gorki's house. He also reached there and bolted the doors from outside. Later, he raised an alarm. However, the couple locked the door from inside. Later, police were called and villagers broke open the doors, only to find Nankul and Gorki hanging from the ceiling.

Locals said the couple committed suicide to avoid embarrassment. Additional SP Ashok Kumar, who reached the spot, said the bodies had been sent for autopsy. He said they would take action if the family members of either Nankul or Gorki lodged a complaint and accused Rajendra for forcing the two to end their lives.

Meanwhile, in Unnao, one person died and two others sustained burns after a gas cylinder exploded in a truck parked outside a gas plant on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place outside a Hindustan Petroleum gas plant in Dahi Chowki industrial area of the district, Kotwali station house officer (SHO) Dinesh Chandra Mishra said. He said the condition of the two injured was critical. Citing eyewitness accounts, Mishra said, "On Tuesday morning, the driver and two other persons were sleeping in the truck parked outside the gas plant. There was a small gas cylinder which suddenly caught fire and soon, the truck went up in flames."

The flames were doused by fire brigade personnel, he said, adding that one man died in the incident. Police is trying to get in touch with the truck's owner while the identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained, the SHO added.

Elsewhere in Badauna, two women were killed and 12 others injured when a tractor-trolley they were travelling in fell into a gorge after being hit by a speeding bus, police said on Tuesday. According to Superintendent of Police (City) Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, the accident occurred around 11 pm on Monday on a bypass on Bisauli road. All the passengers in the tractor-trolley were from the same family and on their way to a religious function. Police and local residents rushed the injured to the district hospital. The deceased were identified as Anupam Sharma (30) and Poonam Devi (55), police said, adding that the bus driver, who tried to flee the spot, had been arrested. The condition of five of the injured is stated to be critical.

Focus now on fitness of cops: SSP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

To improve the fitness of T cops, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani has asked for volleyball and badminton courts to be constructed inside police station premises.

The SSP said efforts were being made to better the policing and fitness of the cops working at the police stations. "We are also running a cleanliness drive at the police stations these days. Two days back, the cops were asked to get the dumped vehicles in yards in the police stations premises and garbage cleaned. Now, the aim is to focus on the fitness factor as it is necessary for cops bust the stress. "They also have been asked to catalogue their records in a proper way," he said.

The SSP said fitness is an important aspect for the police as cops have to work constantly and under challenging conditions. "The cops will play volleyball and badminton in leisure. This will also improve their performance," he said.

HC lawyer ends life, female colleague accused of abetment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A High Court lawyer ended his life at his house in Jankipuram on Monday night. His wife accused a female colleague of abetment to suicide and lodged a case in this regard.

As per reports, Prashant Mishra (43) of Jankipuram Extension gated himself from the ventilator grill in the bathroom. "He went to the bathroom after he got a call and had a talk with some person. We thought he went to the bathroom to relieve himself. However, when he did not come out of the bathroom, we gave calls to him but he did not respond," his wife Sadhna told the police.

She said she sought the help of some neighbours and Prashant was taken off the noose after we broke open the doors. "We rushed him to a hospital where he was declared brought dead," she said.

The Jankipuram SHO said the police registered a case on

the complaint and further investigations were underway.

"Prashant's wife alleged that a female colleague was harassing him over some issue which forced him to end his life. We will conduct a probe into the allegations," he said.

Meanwhile, in Chinhat, a hotel employee, identified as Sachin Gauri (26) ended his life at his house after having a verbal spat with his wife on Monday night. Reports said Sachin, a native of Madhya Pradesh, was staying along with his wife and children in a house at Vidhayak crossing locality in the area. He returned home late in the evening and had a verbal spat with his wife. He later hanged himself from the ceiling.

His wife called neighbours who took him off the noose and rushed him to RML Hospital where he was declared brought dead. The hospital authorities informed the police and a team reached there. The body was sent for autopsy and further investigations were started.

Fraudster lands in police net

Lucknow (PNS): A fraudster, who had duped several persons in the name of share trading and against whom a case was registered two years back, landed in police net in Indira Nagar on Tuesday. Interestingly, the police had concluded the probe of the case only a couple of days ago. The accused, identified as Dharmendra Kumar Sharma of Ayodhya, is the owner of Ummeed Trading Company. He was arrested under the Lucknow police drive called 'Operation 420' after Shailendra Kumar of Indira Nagar lodged a case in 2017 and the police worked on the case at a snail's

pace. ASP (trans-Gomti) Rajesh Srivastava said the police got a tip-off about Dharmendra's presence at Munshipulia crossing and nabbed him later. The police recovered a mobile phone and Rs 25,000 in cash from his possession.

Interestingly, the police had no information about other victims who were defrauded by the accused when he was running the company. The ASP said the police were trying to contact the victims. "Dharmendra had done a moonlight flit after collecting cash from different investors. He used to lure the innocents to invest in the company for attractive dividends," he said.



Devotees taking a holy dip in Gomti river at Kudia Ghat on the occasion of Kartik Purnima on Tuesday

IITR to release post-monsoon ambient air quality report today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) will be releasing its post-monsoon ambient air quality report on Wednesday on the occasion of its 54th Annual Day celebrations. IITR director Alok Dhawan, while talking to *The Pioneer*, said this would be highlighting the pollution levels at KGMU this year.

"This we are doing because a request has been made by the senior officials of KGMU that this would help them know what are the existing pollution levels at the KGMU and hence they will be

able to make an effective plan to combat it," he said.

Scientists said that the monitoring by equipment was done on the KGMU campus itself. A senior scientist pointed out: "IITR undertakes research in niche areas of toxicology. Established in 1965, the institute has rendered yeoman service in the areas of human health and environment, assessing the impact of industrial and environmental chemicals on the ecosystem and environmental monitoring of pollutants in the air, water, and soil."

The celebrations will begin with the 'SH Zaidi Memorial Oration', which is

organised every year on this day as a tribute to the first director of the institute. The lecture this year, the 23rd in the series, will be delivered by director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (Hyderabad) Rakesh K Mishra. Chairman of Board of Directors, BCIL (New Delhi) and former director of CDRI VP Kamboj will preside over the function. The highlight of the day-long celebrations will be the Annual Day function at the institute. IITR's annual report will be presented by director Alok Dhawan and several scientific publications will be released on the occasion.

IITR took up the issue of air pollution seriously in 1997 and has been striving since then for creation of awareness among public, scientific community, academicians and regulatory authorities. IITR has been assessing the ambient air quality of urban areas of Lucknow during pre and post-monsoon seasons with respect to criteria pollutants namely Particulate Matter, SO₂ and NO_x since 1997. Lucknow is a fast-growing city. In 1951, the area of Lucknow was 48 sq km, which has now increased to 310 sq km in 2011. As per 2011 census, the city has a population of 28.15 lakh.

FORM No. - 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal)
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE
 BY PUBLICATION
 O.A. No. 796 of 2019 Date: 26.10.2019
 (Summons to defendant Under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
 Original Application No. 796 of 2019
BANK OF INDIA ...APPLICANT
 Aminabad Branch, Lucknow
VERSUS
M/s PARVEZ & Ors. ...DEFENDANTS
 To,
 1. M/s Parvez, Proprietor Shri Hafizur Rahman, Registered Office at C-25, Sector-E, New Housing Scheme, Aliganj, Lucknow.
 2. Shri Hafizur Rahman, S/o Late Latifur Rahman, Proprietor of M/s Parvez, C-25, Sector-E, New Housing Scheme, Aliganj, Lucknow.
 ...DEFENDANTS
 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 30.12.2019 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
REGISTRAR
 Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

FORM No. - 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
 (Areas of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE
 THROUGH PUBLICATION
 O.A. No. 1161 of 2019 Date: 10.10.2019
 (Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Procedure Rules 1993)
BANK OF INDIA ...APPLICANT
MR. SIDDHARTH GARG & OTHERS ...DEFENDANTS
 To,
 1. Shri Siddharth Garg, Son of Sri Kamlesh Narayan Shukla, resident of 11 Presidency Encalve, Shivpuri Colony, Picnic Spot road, Faridi Nagar, Lucknow.
 Also at: House No. 24 at Singla residency situated at Khasra No. 156A and 156B, Village-Hasemau, Post-Chinhat, Lucknow.
 2. M/s Shiva Enterprises, Proprietor-Siddharth Garg, 11 Presidency Encalve, Shivpuri Colony, Picnic Spot road, Faridi Nagar, Lucknow.
 3. Shiv Vikram Yadav, Son of Shri Nand Kishore Yadav, resident of House No. 3/1, Jiyamau-2, Lucknow.
 4. Shri Rajwant S/o Ayodhya Prasad, 156 Village-Bhuhera, Po. Safedabad, Barabanki, U.P.
 ...DEFENDANTS
 In the above noted application, you are required to file reply/evidence 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 15.01.2020 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
REGISTRAR
 Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

RERA concerned over unfinished LDA projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has expressed concern over the non-serious approach of Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) for not completing three projects of its housing schemes located in different places of the state capital within deadline.

On Tuesday, RERA served a notice on the LDA administration. The notice was sent to the office of LDA Vice-Chairman Tuesday being a holiday. Chief engineer IS Singh was directed to develop two parks and install fire-fighting devices in sectors J & I of Woodland Complex in Gomti Nagar Extension by November 25. Besides, RERA also directed the LDA administration to complete the construction of unfinished community service centre and sports complex in Sharda Nagar housing scheme.

RERA also warned the LDA administration of a penalty of 5 per cent of the total amount of the estimated price of the projects to Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) so that they can be completed with the help of private partners of their choice.

LDA Vice-Chairman PN Singh said RERA officials had given them 45-day time in July last to finish the projects, but the same could not be complete within the deadline due to administrative and financial reasons.

President of the Woodland Housing Complex MK Dubey had lodged a complaint with RERA on June 6 last, stating that the LDA administration ignored the terms and conditions mentioned in the brochure given at the time to submitting the application forms.

RERA senior officials had carried out inspections in the localities mentioned in the complaint and found some of the projects incomplete. On the basis of the report, RERA directed the LDA administration to complete the projects in 45 days.

Chief engineer IS Singh claimed that the projects would be completed and open for people in three weeks' time.

2 groups clash in Wazirganj

Lucknow (PNS): Two groups of men had a clash in a busy market in Wazirganj on Tuesday even as police chose to be mute spectators. However, the Wazirganj SHO said both the parties lodged a case in this connection.

As per reports, a person, identified as Rizwan of Naka, was going for some work when he was intercepted by his old rivals Mohammed Kalim of Wazirganj and his supporters on Tuesday afternoon. Rizwan

alleged in his complaint that Kalim and his men thrashed him and forced him to withdraw the case. He said his brother Affan was a partner in real estate business with Kalim, Shariq, Faakhir and they developed differences over the deal of a house in Mahanagar. "We lodged a case against the above-named persons. They attacked me and forced me to ask my brother to withdraw the case," Rizwan alleged.

However, Kalim alleged

that Rizwan, along with his brother Affan and their supporters, waylaid him when he was in the market and attacked him with the butt of a pistol. He later lodged a case with the help of his lawyer.

A police spokesman said the police were investigating the case. "We have claims and counter-claims made by both the parties and we are verifying their claims. Action will be initiated after proper verification," he said.

CISH varieties revolutionised guava industry: Director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

'Lalit', a multipurpose guava variety, has been developed by CISH (Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture). CISH director Shaileendra Rajan said the varieties developed by the institute, particularly in guava, have revolutionised the guava industry in the country.

"Juice developed from the guava fruit of 'Lalit' variety is in great demand, particularly in southern peninsula. This guava variety developed for capturing the domestic market may replace the traditional cultivars, particularly amongst the progressive growers of southern guava cultivation belt," he said.

He said the variety is selected from apple colour progeny and the fruit is medium sized with an attractive saffron-yellow colour and red blush, firm flesh and pink with good blend of sugar and acid, suitable for both table and processing purposes. "The pink colour in the beverage remains stable for more than a year in storage, jelly made has better flavour and appearance. It is a selection from half sib population of apple colour. Lalit is a variety with wide adaptability in different agro ecological zones of the country," he said.



Rajan pointed out that 'Lalit' has become popular in several parts of the country due to its high yield and pink pulp which is suitable for beverage and has potential for pulp export. "Lalit is a higher yielder and has been distributed in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh where state universities, ICAR institutions and progressive farmers have multiplied and are distributing the variety.

Major area of cultivation is in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat because there is high demand for processing. The variety has been found to be highly suitable for high-density planting because of its response to the pruning. Sometimes, due to overbearing, it produces excessive yield and this results into

reduction in fruit size," he added. He further pointed out that this variety is coming up in remote parts of the country.

"Arunachal Pradesh has a massive programme of planting it for beverage industry. Higher adaptability in different agro-ecological conditions and yield makes the variety a choice for farmers. Orchards near the processing factories get attractive fruit price at the farm gate itself. CISH is providing core planting material of the variety to nurserymen, state agricultural universities, progressive farmers and people who are interested in multiplying the plants for distribution," he added.

Hundreds of KVKs and government nurseries have included this variety in their mother blocks. Within a short period, it has become popular in most parts of the country because CISH has provided several lakh grafts to the farmers. The director said that the institute is unable to meet the rapidly growing demand for the supply of the planting material of this variety and within a short span of five years, more than 1.5 lakh grafted plants have been multiplied by CISH and about 12 lakh by other organisations who received core planting material from the institute.

CANTTWATCH

REUNION

The 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre at Lucknow celebrated its 12th reunion over three days, displaying bonhomie between officers and jawans. The Centre wore a festive look amidst various ceremonial, sports and cultural programmes organised on the occasion. Attended by nearly 150 officers and 1,500 junior commissioned officers and jawans, the celebrations were aimed at strengthening the regimental spirit and sense of duty. Addressing the gathering, Lt Gen JBS Yadav (Retd), a war veteran of 1971, delivered an inspiring talk. He was all praise for the Gorkha soldiers from Nepal and India for their contribution in upholding the traditions of the Regiment with



unparalleled valour and sacrifice. General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff and Colonel of the Regiment of 11 Gorkha Rifles and Sikkim Scouts, exhorted all officers and

jawans to continue to strive in pursuit of excellence. The gathering was also addressed by Lt Gen Anil Chauhan, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command.

CITYBRIEFS



'MISS INDIA CAMPUS PRINCESS 2020'

Asma Hussain Institute of Fashion Technology organised 'Miss India Campus Princess 2020' on Tuesday. A special beauty and grooming masterclass for people of all age groups was organised as a curtain raiser to the event on Monday. The master class was attended by 60 participants

and students of AIFT. The session was specially crafted for non-contestants who would be given opportunities later on, such as walking the ramp for designers, photo shoots, meeting celebrities etc. The event organised on Tuesday was judged by Miss Universe India 2014 Noyonita Lodh, and fashion designer Asma Hussain. Asma Hussain said:

"The institute is completing 25 years in 2020. Over the years, we have trained over 6,000 people who are now employed. This year, we formed our alumni association and organised our fashion festival and Diwali fest. We are very happy to be organising Miss India Campus



Princess for the fourth year in a row."

CELEBRATIONS

SKD Academy celebrated Guru Nanak Jayanti and Kartik Purnima at all the five branches on Tuesday. Founder-director, SKD Academy, Manish Singh greeted all the students.

'Protect interest of future generations'

Lucknow (PNS):

Presidents, prime minister, chief justices, judges, legal luminaries and other eminent persons from 71 countries of the world participating in the 20th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World have called upon all nations to get together and form a new world order in the interest of the future generations. The outcome of the five days of deliberations of the conference was released in the form of 'Lucknow Declaration' on Tuesday. Justice Dalveer Bhandari from International Court of Justice (Netherlands) released 'Lucknow Declaration' at a city hotel on behalf of all the participating judges, legal luminaries and others. Bhandari said that children have put forth only one demand that they be allowed to survive on this planet and be assured of safe-



ty and security in the coming years. "It is the responsibility of the elders and especially the judges to see that international laws are enforced to curb global problems like global warming, stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, threat of nuclear war, climate change in a peaceful manner. No single country can solve

such gigantic problems, they need to be solved by collective determinism through international law. Peace is necessary for progress," he said.

Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, the fifth President of Trinidad and Tobago, said that power leadership has no place in the world. "It must be service leadership. Do the

right thing because it is the right thing to do," he added. Former Prime Minister of Haiti Jean Henry Ceant said everyone in the world is shouting out for peace. "This conference has given us an engagement with peace, an engagement with compassion and an engagement with love," he added.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PREZ RULE IN...

Sena has sought a direction from the apex court to quash the Governor's decision of not giving it the opportunity to prove majority on the floor of the House. The party claimed it was invited to form the Government on Monday and had indicated willingness to do so on Tuesday. The Governor's decision is unconstitutional, discriminatory, unreasonable, capricious and mala fide, the party said in the plea, adding that "the Governor can't act in a manner to only suit the majority political party" at the Centre or act on the Central Government's "diktats".

President Ram Nath Kovind signed the proclamation imposing President's Rule in Maharashtra under Article 356(1) and the Assembly has been kept in suspended animation. Governor BS Koshiyari made his recommendation on the ground that "a situation has arisen that a stable Government is not possible even after 15 days of election results being declared".

NCP'S DELAYED...

Earlier, top Congress leader Ahmed Patel also reportedly spoke to Pawar to discuss possibilities of government formation. "We (NCP) waited for their (Congress) letter. But we did not receive the letter by the evening. It was not right for us to give the letter. Whatever be the decision, there should be stability," Ajit Pawar told reporters. "From morning 10 am till 7.30 pm on Monday, our leaders including Sharad Pawar, Praful Patel were waiting for their letter. They (Shiv Sena) had to submit the letter till 7.30 pm. If the Congress was not sending its letter of support, how could we give ours," Ajit Pawar disclosed.

Asked whether he was blaming the Congress for the hold-up, Ajit Pawar replied: "We fought elections together. That's why we should make the decision together. The Congress is taking its time to decide

because it didn't contest with the Shiv Sena. The Congress and NCP contested together."

CJI WITHIN RTI...

The Bench, headed by the chief justice, had wrapped up the hearing, saying nobody wants a "system of opaqueness", but the judiciary cannot be destroyed in the name of transparency. "Nobody wants to remain in the state of darkness or keep anybody in the state of darkness," it had said. "The question is drawing a line. In the name of transparency, you can't destroy the institution."

In a landmark verdict on January 10, 2010, the Delhi High Court had held that the office of the Chief Justice of India comes within the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) law, saying judicial independence was not a judge's privilege, but a responsibility cast upon him. The 88-page judgment was then seen as a personal setback to the then CJI, KG Balakrishnan, who has been opposed to disclosure of information relating to judges under the RTI Act.

The HC verdict was delivered by a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice AP Shah (since retired) and Justices Vikramjit Sen and S Muralidhar. The bench had dismissed a plea of the Supreme Court that contended bringing the CJI's office within the RTI Act would "hamper" judicial independence. Justice Sen retired as the judge of the apex court, while Justice Muralidhar is a sitting judge of the high court. The move to bring the office of the CJI under the transparency law was initiated by RTI activist SC Agrawal. His lawyer Prashant Bhushan had submitted in the top court that though the SC should not have been judging its own cause, it is hearing the appeals due to "doctrine of necessity".

The lawyer had described the reluctance of the judiciary in parting information under the RTI Act as "unfortunate" and "disturbing", asking: "Do

judges inhabit different universe?" He had submitted that the apex court has always stood for transparency in functioning of other organs of State, but it develops cold feet when its own issues require attention. Referring to the RTI provisions, Bhushan had said they also deal with exemptions and information that cannot be given to applicants, but the public interest should always "outweigh" personal interests if the person concerned is holding or about to hold a public office.

Dealing with "judicial independence", he said the National Judicial Accountability Commission Act was struck down for protecting the judiciary against interference from the executive, but this did not mean that judiciary is free from "public scrutiny". "This is not the independence from accountability. Independence of judiciary means it has to be independent from the executive and not independent from common public. People are entitled to know as to what public authorities are doing," Bhushan had said. The deliberations of the collegium in appointing and overlooking judges or lawyers should be made public and information can be parted with under RTI on case-to-case basis keeping in mind the larger public interest, the lawyer had said. The bench had said people, of late, were opting out and do not want to become judges because of the fear of negative publicity. "On interaction, the reason appears to be the possibility of the negative observations, whether rightly or wrongly, being brought into the public domain," it had observed. In such a case, besides losing judgeship and reputation, the professional and family life of the person are adversely affected, it had said. The apex court had said it had brought about changes in the functioning of the collegium system and said now members have started interacting with prospective candidates.

Farm fires, sinking mercury may plunge Delhi air to 'emergency'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Raging stubble fires in neighbouring States, fall in the temperature and wind speed pushed the national Capital's air quality in the "severe" zone on Tuesday with the Government's air quality monitor, SAFAR, forecasting that pollution levels in Delhi-NCR are expected to enter the "severe plus" or "emergency" category on Wednesday.

Meteorologists said Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 11.7 degrees Celsius, the season's lowest so far on Tuesday morning. It is two notches below normal for this time of the year. "A dip in wind speed and temperature makes the air cold and dense," leading to accumulation of pollutants in the air, said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the India Meteorological Department's regional weather forecasting centre.

According to the Central Pollution Control Bureau (CPCB), Delhi's overall air quality index (AQI) was 425 at 4 pm on Tuesday. It was 360 at 4 pm on Monday.

The levels of PM 2.5 — tiny particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter that can enter deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream — shot up to 292 micrograms per cubic metre, around five times the safe limit of 0-60 micrograms per cubic metre.



Foreign tourists wear masks to save themselves from pollution as they cross a road in New Delhi on Tuesday

The levels of PM10 increased to 436 micrograms per cubic metre, more than four times the safe limit of 100 micrograms per cubic metre. Most of the 37 air quality monitoring stations in Delhi recorded air quality in the severe category. The spike in pollution came on a day when the Delhi Government lifted restrictions under its odd-even vehicle rationing scheme in view of the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev. Bawana was the most-polluted area in the city with an AQI of 458, followed by Wazirpur (454), Rohini (454), Dwarka Sector-8 (453) and Anand Vihar (450). Faridabad (406),

Gurugram (402), Ghaziabad (453), Greater Noida (436), and Noida (440) also choked on extremely polluted air. An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe'. An AQI above 500 falls in the 'severe plus' category. The SAFAR said the share of stubble burning accounted for 25 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Tuesday, up from 18 per cent on Monday. "No sudden recovery is expected at least for the next two days and the AQI is likely to deteriorate further towards severe-plus category by tomorrow. The condition may slightly improve by November 15," it said in a report.

Preserve Tis Hazari clash footage: Court to police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court has directed Delhi Police to preserve the CCTV footage of the clashes between the police and the lawyers at Tis Hazari court premises that occurred on November 2. In his order on Tuesday, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Jitendra Singh also directed police to file a compliance report stating the action taken by them in connection with the First Information Reports (FIRs) registered after the clashes.

The order comes after an application was filed by Delhi Bar Association in which they had also sought the preservation of the CCTV footage. In its application the association also asked about the status report on the FIRs and issuance of directions for the arrest of the accused persons. In order the court stated that the investigating agency is required to preserve all the relevant CCTV footages available in and around the place of incident. "They are a crucial piece of evidence which can aid in verifying the allegations and counter-allegations of advocates and police," the court observed.

Delhi Bar Association (DBA) President N C Gupta alleged that the probe is not going on in a fair and proper way while Delhi Police had denied the claims of the petitioner and stated that a fair probe is taking



place and efforts are also being made to expedite the same.

On November 2 at the Tis Hazari Courts Complex after a parking dispute between an on-duty policeman and a lawyer erupted, at least 20 security personnel and several advocates were injured. The protests triggered more on November 4 when a police constable was attacked by a group of lawyers outside Saket District Court.

Ordering a judicial inquiry by one of its retired judges into the clash, the Delhi High court at a special sitting on November 3 suspended a police official and transferred two senior police officials during pendency of the investigations. The Delhi High Court also directed the Delhi Police commissioner to transfer Special Commissioner Sanjay Singh and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Harendra Singh during pendency of the investigation. It had also asked not to take coercive action against the lawyers for the FIRs filed in the Tis Hazari court clash.

Wanted criminal with ₹1.25-lakh bounty arrested

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Palam Vihar of the Gurugram police has arrested a wanted criminal carrying a reward of ₹1.25 lakh near Bristol Chowk on Monday night. The Delhi Police had announced a reward of ₹1 lakh while the Bihar Police had

announced ₹25,000 on him. The culprit was involved in dozens of cases of robbery, bank robbery, theft and bomb-making including the Arms Act in Gurugram, Delhi and Bihar. He was also a parole jumper in 9 cases and has been sentenced to 10 years by the court. The accused was arrested under false names in these

9 cases and has wrongly taken bail from the court. One country-made pistol and two live cartridges have been recovered from his possession. According to the police, Ahmed Raza Siddaki alias Javed (45), who hails from Darbhanga district in Bihar, was arrested during a raid conducted by Palam Vihar

Crime Unit In-charge Inspector Bijender Huda and his team on the basis of a tip-off. During the preliminary interrogation, Javed admitted his involvement in several cases which were serious in nature which he had committed along with his aids over the past 20 years in multiple states. He used to make bombs

with the help of his accomplices. He studied up to class12 and is married. "The accused was involved in dozens of cases of loot, robbery, bank robbery, house theft and bomb-making including Arms Act in Gurugram, Delhi and Bihar. He was active from the last 20 years.

ED launches inquiry against Lavasa's son

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has launched a probe under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's son Abir and a firm linked to him for alleged violation of foreign exchange regulations.

The agency has filed a case under FEMA to probe Abir Lavasa and a fund to the tune of ₹7.25 crore raised early this year by the firm Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd, linked to him.

Through the probe, the agency is seeking to ascertain if the FEMA law was violated in bringing the funds from a Mauritius-based company identified as Saama Capital, officials said.

Abir Lavasa is said to be the Director of Nourish Organic Foods Pvt. Ltd.

The fund infusion into the company is under probe and the agency recently questioned Abir about these transactions.

While Abir has been cooperative with the probe so far,



Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa

the agency has also summoned other persons connected to the case for further probe into the issue.

The trouble for Ashok Lavasa's family began a few months back when his wife, Novel Singhal Lavasa, came under the ambit of the Income Tax Department probe on charges of alleged tax evasion.

The IT Department had reportedly issued a notice asking her to explain certain details in her I-T Returns (ITR) with regard to holding directorship in about 10 companies.

After preliminary investigation, the I-T department asked her to provide more

documents related to her personal finances to ascertain if her income has escaped assessment in the past or something has been concealed from tax authorities.

Novel Singhal Lavasa's ITRs are under scrutiny for alleged tax evasion and holding of directorship in multiple firms assessment period of 2015-17. Some other family members of Lavasa are also under the scanner of the IT Department.

Ashok Lavasa was appointed as Election Commissioner on January 23, 2018, after his superannuation from service as Union Finance Secretary in the previous year.

Maha Guv made mockery of constitutional process: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday hit out at Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for recommending President's Rule in the State, alleging that he has committed a "grave travesty" and made a "mockery" of the Constitutional process. Congress Chief Spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also questioned the Governor for the "arbitrary" allotment of time to the NCP, Shiv Sena and the BJP to prove support for Government formation.

"Governor Koshiyari has committed a grave travesty of democracy and made a mockery of the Constitutional process in recommending President's Rule in Maharashtra," he said. Surjewala alleged that four grave violations of the Constitutional scheme, as expressed in the SR Bommai judgment, stand out.

Senior Congress leader and Former Union Minister Sushilkumar Shinde echoed a similar view, saying, "Once we have letters of support, the President's rule can be lifted." Another Congress leader and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said the Governor should have invited his party to indicate "willingness and ability" to form

Congress Chief Spokesperson Randeep Surjewala questioned Guv for the "arbitrary" allotment of time to NCP, Shiv Sena and BJP to prove support for Govt formation

Government.

"In absence of any single party having majority in Maharashtra, Governor should have called; 1. Single largest pre-poll alliance i.e. BJP-Shiv Sena together; Then 2. Second largest post poll alliance i.e. Congress-NCP," said Congress spokesman.

"In case Governor called individual parties, why did he not call INC. And above all why the completely arbitrary allotment of time? 48 hours to BJP, 24 hours to Sena and not even 24 hours to NCP, before the Presidents Rule," he said. This is unashamedly dishonest and politically motivated, Surjewala alleged.

Party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi also slammed the Governor for his actions, saying this is not President's rule

but the "malicious BJP's" political rule. A statement tweeted by Koshiyari's office said, "He is satisfied that the Government cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution, (and therefore) has today submitted a report as contemplated by provision of Article 356 of the Constitution."

Koshiyari, who had given the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) time till 8.30 pm on Tuesday to express its "willingness and ability" to form Government in Maharashtra and time being of the essence, has submitted a report to President Ram Nath Kovind recommending President's rule in the State.

In Mumbai, State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said, "I condemn this action which has been taken in a hurry without exhausting all options. This raises questions about the Governor's impartiality. This also raises doubt whether the Governor is acting under pressure."

Another senior Congressman Vijay Wadetiwar, who was the leader of the opposition in the 13th State Assembly, the tenure of which expired on November 9, felt that President's rule will not be a roadblock in Government formation.

BJP receives ₹356 cr donation by Tata Group during '18-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP received ₹356 crore in donations from the electoral trust controlled by the Tata Group during 2018-19. According to documents submitted by the BJP before the Election Commission on October 31, it received a total of over ₹700 crore in donations through cheques and online payments during the financial year 2018-19.

Around half the contributions - ₹356 crore - were made by the Tata-controlled Progressive Electoral Trust, India's richest trust - The Prudent Electoral Trust - gave ₹54.25 crore in donations to the party, according to the documents.

The Prudent Trust is backed by top corporate houses including Bharti Group, Hero MotoCorp, Jubilant Foodworks, Orient Cement, DLF, JK Tyres, among others.



The information provided pertains to donations of ₹20,000 and above each that were received by the party through cheques or online payments.

Donations received in the form of electoral bonds were not included in the filing. The BJP received donations from individuals, companies as well as electoral trusts, the document said.

As per the election code, political parties are mandated to disclose all donations they receive in a financial year. At present, political parties are not required to declare the names of individuals and organisations giving less than ₹20,000 or those who donate via electoral bonds.

Venkaiah to hold party leaders' meet on Nov 17

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has convened a meeting of leaders of various parties in the House on November 17, ahead of the historic 250th session of Rajya Sabha. The meeting will be held at Naidu's residence.

The ensuing session also coincides with the 70th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly and celebration of the 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

This session also follows a highly productive 249th session of Rajya Sabha, the best in last many years.

The Winter session of Parliament begins on November 18 and is to end on December 13.

Parl panel urges Govt to upgrade Tata Cancer Centre infrastructure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over 68 per cent of cancer patients dying in the country, a Parliamentary Committee has strongly urged the Government to expand and upgrade cancer treatment infrastructure for affordable and quality care by enlarging the network of Mumbai based Tata Memorial Centre.

The Department-related Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forest and Climate Change submitted its Report on "An expanded role for the Department of Atomic Energy in Cancer Treatment in India through an Enlarged Network of the Tata Memorial Centre. Chairman of the Committee, Jairam Ramesh along with other Members presented the report to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah



Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai

Naidu. Naidu complimented the committee for being the first to submit a report after re-constitution of DRSCs in September this year and also for examining and reporting on an important health-care issue.

The panel recommended setting up of a High Level Steering Committee headed by the Minister of State for Atomic Energy, the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all the States and UT's and Director of TMC as Members to

work out modalities for rolling out of Hub and Spoke Model in a time bound manner to not only contain patient migration but also to ensure state-of-the-art facilities as close as possible for cancer patients.

The Committee noted with concern the very high incidence of cancer in all North-Eastern States and recommended that Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute at Guwahati should be upgraded as a common Hub for the region.

BRICS summit will strengthen ties among 5 nation: PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Detailing his trip to Brazil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the BRICS summit will focus on strengthening ties among the world's five major economies in key areas such as digital economy, science and technology, and also build mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation. Modi, who left for Brazil in the afternoon, will be in that country on November 13-14 to attend the 11th BRICS summit.

"Look forward to exchanging views with other BRICS leaders with the aim to further strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation, particularly on the theme of the summit 'Economic growth for an innovative future'," Modi said in his departure statement.

During the summit, the five major economies of the world will aim to significantly strengthen their cooperation in science, technology and inno-

vation, he said.

The BRICS countries will also look to enhance cooperation on digital economy and build mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation within the BRICS framework, Modi said. "Our business and industry play an important role in Intra-BRICS ties. I will be addressing BRICS Business Forum and interacting with BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank," he said.

On the bilateral meeting with the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, he said Brazil and India share close and ever expanding bilateral relations, including in the spheres of defence, security, trade, agriculture, energy and space. Close cooperation between the two countries in multilateral forums has been a significant aspect of our strategic relationship, Modi said.

"BRICS summit will also provide me with the opportu-

nity to hold useful bilateral interactions with leaders of other BRICS countries," he said.

This will be the sixth time Modi will be participating in the BRICS summit, his first being at Fortaleza, also in Brazil in 2014.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to hold separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping. He would also attend the BRICS business forum closing ceremony and the 'closed' and plenary sessions of the XI BRICS Summit.

BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The grouping brings together five major emerging economies comprising 42 per cent of the world's population, having 23 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product.

INSHORT

NIA ARRESTS MAN FOR RAISING FUNDS FOR LET

New Delhi: The NIA on Monday arrested a man accused of raising funds for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) through Hawala channels to sponsor terrorist activities in the country. Javed (40) was arrested from Delhi on Sunday for his alleged role in funding LeT operative Sheikh Abdul Nayeem alias Sohail Khan who was held and chargesheeted earlier for criminal conspiracy to carry out subversive activities in the country. Javed was absconding since 2017.

PRODUCT TO TACKLE STUBBLE BURNING LAUNCHED

New Delhi: KanBiosys, an agri-biotech company has launched Speed Kompost, an eco-friendly product that tackles the problem of stubble burning. Speed Kompost is microbial formulation which consists of a unique stabilised blend of cellulose degrading, starch degrading, protein degrading bacteria and fungi. These microbes when added to the raw compost heap, germinate to produce hyphae or cells.

Govt bans 1800 NGOs to receive foreign funds

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1,800 NGOs and academic institutes found to be violating laws have been banned by the Government from receiving foreign funds this year, officials said on Tuesday.

Among those whose registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act has been banned include University of Rajasthan, Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Young Men's Christian Association, Gujarat and Swami Vivekananda Educational Society, Karnataka.

"With the cancellation of the FCRA registration, all NGOs and academic institutions were prohibited from accepting foreign contribution," a Home Ministry official said.

The FCRA registration of these organisations were cancelled mostly due to their failure to submit annual income and expenditure statement on foreign funding for up to six years despite repeated reminders.

As per FCRA guidelines, registered associations are required to submit electronically an online annual report

with scanned copies of income and expenditure statement, receipts and payment account, balance sheet, etc., for every financial year within nine months of the closure of the financial year.

Associations which do not receive foreign contribution during a particular year are also required to furnish a 'NIL' return for that financial year within the aforesaid period, read the guidelines.

Other associations whose FCRA registration has been cancelled include Institute of Pulmocare and Research, West Bengal, National Geophysical

Research Institute, Telangana, National Institute of Virology, Maharashtra, Rabindra Nath Tagore Medical College Hospital and Research, West Bengal and Baptist Christian Association, Maharashtra.

In addition to 1,807 associations, registration of one more organisation - Bengaluru-based NGO Infosys Foundation - was also cancelled this year following a "request" of the NGOs itself. Earlier, an official of the Infosys Foundation had said its de-registration from the FCRA followed a request it proactively made to the Ministry of Home

Affairs.

"This (request) was done as the Infosys Foundation does not come under the purview of the FCRA following the amendment made to the act in 2016. We had approached the ministry to consider this, and thank them for granting our request," the official had said.

Ever since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, the Ministry of Home Affairs has cancelled the FCRA registration of over 14,800 NGOs, thus banning them from receiving foreign funding.



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman lights the lamp to inaugurate 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance, organised by the NABARD, APPRACA and Government of India, in New Delhi

CSIR-CSIO develops tech to cut down pollutants

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Low-cost indigenous electrostatic spraying technology developed by the researchers from Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO), Chandigarh, might come handy for metro cities like the national capital to cut down dust and smog pollutants.

The electrostatic spray-based multipurpose dust mitigation tech is a modification of the pesticide spraying technology that the researchers had developed after intensive research spanning seven years.

This technology uses electrostatic field to generate charged spray droplets which recombine with naturally occurring oppositely charged dust and smog particles and settle down onto the ground very efficiently and effectively.

Dr Manoj K Patel, scientist and principal investigator of the project, said, "Suppression of dust is very much necessary to



Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, Chandigarh

live a healthy life and protect us from communicable diseases like Asthma, TB, and other airborne diseases. Moreover, dust also creates hindrance in the operation of machinery and industries, so it becomes inevitable to suppress the dust and foreign particles in the working environment."

The field and laboratory trials of the dust mitigation

device are in progress. Soon, the device will be deployed at field scale for commercialisation, according to an official from the Department of Science and Technology under the Science and Technology Ministry.

The pesticide spraying technology has already been well received among the scientific fraternity of the country.

For this societal innovation, Dr Patel and his team has been awarded NRDC National Societal Innovation Award 2017. He has also been awarded Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award 2016.

The researchers said pesticides spraying technology is different from the conventional spraying technologies as it can control the excessive use of pesticides by reducing the droplet size and ensuring even distribution of spray.

The tech has been transferred to Dashmesh Industries, Alwar, Rajasthan and the product is available in the market for the end user by a brand name eSPRAY, being used in India as well as overseas.

Professor RK Sinha, Director, CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh said, "The technologies developed in the field of electrostatic spraying have great socioeconomic impacts which are directly linked to our farmers and the common man."

National workshop on Ayurveda to be held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India is all set to become diabetes capital of the world, medicinal herbs besides disciplined lifestyle couple with yoga are increasingly being seen as an answer to tackle the menacing disorder caused by the absence of insulin. India is a treasure trove of over 7000 medicinal plants.

In this connection, a two-day national workshop is being held from November 14, 2019 wherein experts from across the country will come together to discuss the role of the Indian systems of medicine such as Ayurveda in tackling the lifestyle disease which is estimated to grip around 100 million Indians by 2030.

The event on November 14 (marked as World Diabetes Day) is being held at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in Delhi which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017. The institute has mandate to bring in the synergy between tradi-



The event on Nov 14 is being held at the AIIA in Delhi

tional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.

A senior official from the AIIA said that the workshop aims to create awareness as well as showcase various scientific

researches being undertaken and ongoing in the sector to prove the efficacy of the traditional medicine systems such as panchkarma and herbs in managing the 'silent killer'. For instance, some of the CSIR labs like Lucknow-based National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Institute for Medicinal Plants (CIAMP), both Lucknow based have jointly developed herbal product BGR-34.

It is a formulation of extracts of herbal plants like sadabahar, Vijayasar, gurmar,

Dharuhedi, jamun and giloy whose properties to stimulate the production of insulin is well known. Dr AKS Rawat, ex-scientist from NBRI said that the BGR-34 has been found to have antioxidant properties, enhance immunity, help repair the pancreas and increase production of insulin within the body.

In a country like India, where more than ₹500 crore rupees is spend on diabetes medicine and treatment each year, promoting researches in ayurveda is expected to have significant implications.

Experts warn that Type 2 diabetes can increase risk of complications such as high blood pressure, kidney ailments and stroke which in turn can impact the life expectancy of the patient. Today, 425 million people live with diabetes worldwide - about 1 in every 11 adults - according to the International Diabetes Federation, and the number is rising.

16 killed after vehicle skids off J&K highway

PNS ■ JAMMU

At least 16 people, including three children and four women, died when a passenger vehicle skidded off the hilly link road in Doda district on Tuesday.

According to official sources, the ill-fated passenger vehicle was on its way to Marmat from Doda when the accident occurred at Khellani around 2.45 p.m.

SSP, Doda, Mumtaz Ahmad told reporters, "the vehicle with 17 passengers on board rolled 500 feet down on main Batote-Doda highway from a link road around 2.45 pm". He said, "16 passengers including driver died in the accident".

Lone survivor was referred to the Government medical



college and hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment.

Earlier on July 1, a minibus carrying 52 passengers against seating capacity of 28 plunged into a gorge at Keshwan in adjoining Kishtwar district

killing 35 passengers and leaving 17 others injured.

Local officers claimed "often overloading, absence of crash barriers, bad roads and inadequate buses/rickety fleet account for frequent road accidents in hilly Doda region."

LeT terrorist eliminated in Ganderbal

PNS ■ JAMMU

A Pakistani terrorist of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terror outfit was eliminated by the joint team of security forces in Gund area of Ganderbal on early Tuesday morning.

The operation was launched by the security forces after receiving specific input about their presence in the area. According to police the killed terrorist has been identified as Khalid alias Zebran, a Pakistani national. Security forces also recovered arms and ammunition from the encounter site even as search operation was still going on in the area.

Earlier, on Monday, two

terrorists were killed in Bandipora after a 12-hour-long gun battle with the security forces. Both the gunmen were identified and belonged to the Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit.

Meanwhile, Pakistan army violated ceasefire agreement along the line of control in Shahpur and Kirni sectors of Poonch district. Several civilian areas were hit by Pakistan army with mortar shelling, official sources said.

Defence PRO in Jammu said, "the Pakistan Army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in Shahpur and Kirni sectors around 3.15 p.m.". He said, the Indian Army retaliated befittingly.

Day 100: Journalists in Kashmir protest against continued suspension of internet services

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Journalists in the Valley took out a protest march here against the continued suspension of internet services which completed 100 days on Tuesday since the abrogation of the Jammu & Kashmir's special status on August 5.

Scores of journalists working with different media organisations assembled at the Kashmir Press Club here and took out a protest march against the snapping of internet services in the Valley on the night of August 4, hours before the Centre revoked the State's special status under Article 370 and abrogated it into two Union Territories.

The journalists demanded immediate restoration of the services to facilitate the media persons to discharge their professional duties.

"We took out the protest against the suspension of internet services for 100 days now.



Internet is a basic tool for journalists to discharge their professional duties and we demand its immediate restoration," senior journalist Pervez Bukhari told reporters after the protest.

The Centre's August 5 decision led to an unannounced shutdown in the Valley even as authorities imposed severe restrictions, including on communication, which were later gradually eased out.

Postpaid mobile services on all networks were restored in the

Valley on October 14, 72 days after they were snapped.

However, pre-paid mobile phones and all internet services continue to remain suspended since August 5.

The Government has set up a 'Media Facilitation Centre' at a conference hall of a local hotel here for journalists to discharge their professional duties. But the media persons complain that it has not enough computers and they have to wait for hours for their turn.

Kashmir rail services resume, mini buses on roads in Valley

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Rail services in Kashmir resumed on Tuesday — over three months after being suspended due to security reasons in view of the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, officials said.

Few mini-buses also plied on the Batwara-Batamalo route through the city centre, while inter-district cabs and auto-rickshaws plied in the city and elsewhere in the Valley.

Private transport was plying unhindered. A railway official told PTI that a

in a few days after checking track safety and conducting trial runs.

The train service in the valley was suspended due to security reasons on the morning of 5 August — hours before the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and to bifurcate the erstwhile state into two Union territories.

The Centre's decision led to an unannounced shutdown in the valley — which completed 100 days on Tuesday — even as authorities imposed severe restrictions which were later gradually eased out.

Markets have been following a new pattern of functioning, opening early morning till around the noon and then downing their shutters to join the protest against abrogation of the special status of the state, officials said.

They said miscreants and militants are using fear mongering to put down any resistance to unannounced shutdown by threatening shopkeepers and businessmen.

The officials said two grenade attacks in the city's busy Goni Khan market and Kaka Sarai areas were an indication that there were concerted efforts to keep the shutdown going.

Pre-paid mobile phones and all internet services continued to remain suspended since 5 August.

Most of the top level and second rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders including two former chief ministers — Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti — have been either detained or placed under house arrest.

The government has detained former chief minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah under the controversial Public Safety Act.

2nd whistleblower fires more salvo at Infosys CEO

IANs ■ BENGALURU

Unleashing a barrage of charges against Infosys Chief Executive Officer Salil Parekh, the second whistleblower fired more salvos at him, with the allegations ranging from his unaccounted travels to grabbing the company's sponsored vantage point seats at the ATP tournaments for personal use.

"Salil Parekh keeps visiting the US every month in order to retain his Green Card status. I have also heard that he has on several occasions gone to the US but has not visited any client or our offices. Then, what is the purpose of his visits? It is evident that he is telling you a lie," said the whistleblower in an unsigned and undated letter to the compa-

ny's Chairman and co-founder Nandan Nilekani and Independent Directors on the Board.

Claiming to be an employee in the company's finance department, the whistleblower complained that he was unable to disclose his identity fearing retaliation for the damning disclosures he was making against Parekh.

"I am an employee working in the finance department. I am submitting this whistleblower complaint as the matter is so volatile that I fear retaliation if I disclose my identity. Please excuse me for the same, but matter is of grave importance," said the employee in the complaint, accessed by IANS through sources on Monday night.

In a belated response on the

second whistleblower's letter to the board, the city-based Infosys on Tuesday told IANS in an e-mail that "the undated whistleblower's complaint largely deals with allegations relating to the CEO's international travels to the US and Mumbai."

"One board member received two anonymous complaints on September 30, one dated September 20, titled 'Disturbing unethical practices' and the second undated with the title 'Whistleblower Complaint'," said the company, attributing the admission to Nilekani's statement on October 21-22.

Attacking the second non-promoter CEO after Vishal Sikka, the whistleblower alleged that Parekh was abusing his high office to endear himself to high

profile universities in the US, promising donations with a view to guaranteeing admissions to his children.

"He (Parekh) is also using the connections of the company's Global Academic Relations (GAR) team to secure seats in reputed institutions for his children," the whistleblower claimed.

As part of the industry-academia relationship, the GAR team liaises the company's links with top universities the world over, as part of InStep, its flagship internship programme.

According to the aggrieved Infoscon, a woman employee is renowned for proudly bragging internally about Parekh's academic exploits with the American universities.

"This is a gross violation and misuse of his power and Infosys finances. You may want to trigger an investigation to see all the locations visited by the CEO, institutions where Infosys has invested and why?" the complainant said.

The whistleblower also said it was shameful of Parekh to "project" his performance and grab 108 per cent bonus in April 2019, way before other subordinates who toiled and received bonus only in the range of 70-90 per cent in July/August 2019.

"How fair is that? Earlier, the founders would always ensure that all the people who worked hard would get rewarded and only then accept anything themselves. This is a huge let down," the complaint noted.

KARTIK PURNIMA



Devotees crowd the bank of the River Ganga to take dips and offer prayers during Karthik Purnima festival in Varanasi on Tuesday

10 drown, two go missing in Bihar

PTI ■ PATNA

At least 10 people, including three girls, drowned in Bihar in separate incidents and two others went missing on Tuesday when they had gone to take a dip in the river on the occasion of Kartik Purnima.

According to the disaster management department, three persons each drowned in Nawada and Nalanda, while one each died in Sitamarhi, Aurangabad, West Champaran and Saran.

In Nalanda district, three minor girls drowned while

taking bath in Sakri river near Ghosarwa village.

The deceased have been identified as Anshu Kumari (17), Sonam Kumari (15) - both siblings - and another Priti Kumari (17), a police officer said.

Their bodies were fished out by NDRF personnel and sent to sadar hospital for autopsy, the officer said.

In Nawada, two 18-year-old women were among the three who met their watery grave near a sun temple in Kawakol police station area, near Ghosarwa village.

AIMIM not in favour of five-acre land: Owaisi

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday said his party is not in favour of the five acres of land to be allocated for building a mosque under the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya issue as the fight was for a legal right and Babri Masjid.

"...I speak for my party, we do not want this 'khairat' (donation or charity). Our fight was for a legal right, for a Babri Masjid. Our fight was not for, to get this piece of

land..." he told reporters here. He was asked about the comments of some Muslim leaders that the five acre land allotted should be given within the 67 acres acquired by the government.

The whole struggle for so many years was not for a piece of land, he said.

"...Why did we have this patience so much. We went to the court, if it was a piece of land we could have accepted it somewhere else. But, from last 50 years, we have been fighting this case in a court of law with



all the patience," he said.

The RSS raised a bogey that a temple was demolished, but Supreme Court ruled otherwise, he claimed.

He reiterated his claim that

the country is going on the path of "Hindu Rashtra".

"...How attempts are being made to make Muslims in India as second class citizens. Keep watching. Political disempowerment is happening.

Nobody can deny this...Bring NRC, citizen amendment bill, what message you are giving. My regret is that all the secular parties, their mouths are shut," he said.

He asked why the Congress, NCP, BSP and others are silent and that the silence needs to be broken.

On Saturday when the apex court announced its judgment in the Ayodhya issue, Owaisi had said he personally felt that the offer of the five acre plot to the Muslim side should be rejected.

Owaisi reaffirmed that his party, which has two MLAs in Maharashtra, would not support the government led by the BJP or Shiv Sena.

Asked for his party's stance in a scenario of a NCP leader becoming Chief Minister, he said, "let marriage happen first."

Hyderabad train collision: Human error suspected, train driver booked

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The train collision that left 17 people injured here occurred due to "human error" on the part of a loco pilot, now in a critical condition in a hospital, and he has been booked on charges including endangering public safety, railway and police officials said on Tuesday.

A day after the mishap involving two slow moving



Trains at Kachegowda Railway station, a South Central Railway official said that according to the preliminary information, suspected human

error appeared to be the cause of the accident as the MMTS train had overshot the signal.

Prima facie it appears to be human error as per available evidences. The Commissioner of Railway Safety will dig deep and go into the complete details of the train operation and inspect all the available records and evidences and come to a final conclusion, the official told PTI.

Babul Supriyo to visit cyclone-hit areas of WB today

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Union Minister Babul Supriyo on Tuesday said he has been asked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the cyclone-hit areas in West Bengal on Wednesday to look into the ground level situation.

Supriyo said his visit is not an inspection of the relief work being carried out by the West Government but to find out the ground level situation as a Union Minister and MP from Bengal.

He urged the ruling TMC "not to do politics" over his visit and said that the State Government has been officially informed about his visit to coastal areas

of South 24 Parganas district which was lashed by Cyclone Bulbul.

"I have been asked by Prime Minister Narendra Modiji to visit the areas and look into the ground situation. It is not at all any sort of inspection or any other political visit to the cyclone-hit areas. It will be purely a normal visit to look into the situation post cyclone," Supriyo told PTI over phone.

Both Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday and had assured all help to the State Government, he said.

The TMC leadership when contacted declined to comment on Supriyo's visit.

Bengal Guv gets Central protection, State unhappy

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Much to the chagrin of the Mamata Banerjee Government, the Centre on Tuesday provided Z category protection for Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and sent in the first posse of Central Protection Force for the purpose.

A decision regarding the "upgradation" of the Governor's security network was taken in the month of October by the Union Home Minister amid repeated run-ins between Raj Bhavan and the Nabanna (State Secretariat) with the TMC Government accusing Dhankhar of breaching federal norms by repeatedly interfering in administrative affairs.

A posse of 28 CPF personnel on Tuesday accompanied the Governor to at SAI Stadium at Salt Lake and a religious function at Baranagar in North Kolkata where

during a short speech on Guru Nanak's message for peace he raised his voice against the ongoing political clashes which was not doing the State any good.

After Tuesday's development a separate control room of the CRPF will be set up at the Raj Bhavan sources said adding the central forces would hence forward mind the inner security ring of the Governor.

The State police will only be required to handle the outward ring and associated duty, sources said.

Bringing in the Governor under central protection only opens a new front of conflict between the Centre and the State Governments whose equations are anything but cordial, experts say.

Vide an order dated October 15, the North Block had directed



the CPF headquarters to take charge of Dhankhar's security that will be valid in all parts of the country.

Following this, the State Government urged the Home Ministry to take back its decision to entrust the security of Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to CPF saying

this would only demean the credibility of the State as also harm the federal structure.

The State's appeal was however turned down by the Centre.

According to sources in Raj Bhavan New Delhi was concerned about the repeated stand offs between the two sides that started with the Dhankhar's official car and convoy being blocked at Jadavpur University in September when he went to "rescue" Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was gheraoed

by a section of the students following an altercation with him.

Subsequently Dhankhar had been involved in repeated confrontation with the State Government locking horn with the Trinamool Congress in a war of words over a number of issues ranging from allegations that he was not accorded adequate honour during the Durga Puja carnival to his comments on the State's law and order situation.

The State Government had been critical of the Governor allegedly for his repeated interference in the administrative affair.

Meanwhile Dhankhar on Tuesday once again disapproved of the ongoing political violence saying, "political violence is not good for the society and goes against the preaching of Guru Nanak Dev Ji who preached global unity. Such violence should stop as it is not good for the State."

MAHARASHTRA IMPASSE

Will succeed, says Raut after setback over Govt formation

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Even as the Shiv Sena failed to muster numbers to stake claim for Government formation in Maharashtra, its ailing leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday quoted lines of legendary poet Hariwansh Rai Bachchan to reaffirm his party's resolve to succeed and not give up.

Raut, who on Monday underwent angioplasty at a hospital here, tweeted two lines from Bachchan's famous poem: "Lehron se dar kar nauka paar nahi hoti, himmat karne waalon ki kabhi haar nahi hoti" (the boat that quails the waves never gets across, those who dare do not lose).

The Rajya Sabha member further tweeted, "Hum hong kamyaab, zaroor hong" (we



Sanjay Raut

would succeed, definitely). The 57-year-old firebrand leader, who led the Sena's charge to seek equal share in power with the BJP after the Assembly poll results in Maharashtra, complained of chest pain on Monday following which he underwent angioplasty at the Lilavati Hospital here.

The Shiv Sena on Monday suffered a setback in its efforts to cobble up a non-BJP Government in

Maharashtra with the Congress at the last moment announcing its decision to hold more talks with ally NCP on supporting the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

While Sena leader Aadiya Thackeray said two parties (Congress and NCP) have agreed "in-principle" to support the Sena-led Government, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari refused additional time sought by his party to muster numbers.

Later, the NCP, which is the third largest party in the state, got an invite from the governor, asking it to express "willingness and ability to form Government".

With 54 MLAs, the NCP is the third largest party after the BJP (105) and the Shiv Sena (56) in the 288-member House, where the halfway mark is 145. The Congress has 44 MLAs.

Uddhav, BJP leaders visit ailing Sena leader Raut

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday met party leader Sanjay Raut, who underwent angioplasty at Lilavati Hospital here, and later said the Rajya Sabha member was recovering fast but refused to comment on the political crisis in Maharashtra.

BJP leaders Harshvardhan Patil and Ashish Shelar also met 57-year-old Raut at the hospital here following which the latter said it was a courtesy visit with "no political angle".

The visit came in the backdrop of the stalemate over Government formation continuing in the State even 19 days after the Assembly poll results were declared. Thackeray met Raut along with Patil. Later, talking to reporters, Thackeray said, "Things are taking shape, I will speak about it at the right time. I cannot comment on politics right now."

Asked about Raut's health, he said, "He is recuperating fast. He has also resumed

work as the executive editor of (Sena mouthpiece) 'Saamana'."

Former Mumbai BJP chief Shelar also met the Sena MP and later said, "Doctors have advised Raut to speak less. I met him out of courtesy. It is Maharashtra's culture, we meet unwell people irrespective of political differences."

"There was no political angle to this meet. A senior BJP office-bearer is also admitted in the same hospital, I also met him," he added.

Earlier, NCP chief Sharad Pawar also met Raut at the hospital in the morning.

Raut, who led the Sena's charge to seek equal share in power with the BJP after the Assembly poll results in Maharashtra, complained of chest pain on Monday following which he underwent angioplasty, a procedure to restore blood flow through the artery. The ailing Sena leader in the morning took to Twitter to quote lines of legendary poet Hariwansh Rai Bachchan to reaffirm his party's resolve to succeed and not give up.

Thackeray meets Sena's MLA-elects at resort

Mumbai: Even as the Congress-NCP were in a huddle over Government formation in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday met his party legislators at a suburban resort where they are staying for the last few days.

Sena legislators told Thackeray they would abide by whatever decision he takes, Bhaskar Jadhav, one of the MLA-elects, told reporters after the meeting.

Thackeray was accompanied by senior leaders and his sons Aadiya, the newly-elected MLA from Worli in central Mumbai, and Tejas. Jadhav said the NCP was given time till 8.30 pm on Tuesday to express its "ability and willingness" to stake claim to form Government in the State, but the President's rule

was imposed at 5.30 pm.

"This is surprising," he said. When Thackeray reached the resort, he was heard saying he wanted to make "some important calls" before the meeting with MLA-elects.

The Sena's newly-elected MLAs have been staying at the resort for the last few days.

In the last month's assembly election, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 105 seats followed by the Shiv Sena 56, the NCP 54 and the Congress 44.

On Monday, the Sena claimed the NCP and Congress have agreed "in-principle" to back its Government without the BJP, but failed to get letters of support from the political rivals before the deadline set by Governor B S Koshyari who rejected its plea for three more days to do so. **PTI**

No decision on backing Shiv Sena yet: Cong, NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the President's Rule was imposed in Maharashtra, the Congress and the NCP on Tuesday bought some more time in taking a decision on extending support to the Shiv Sena to form a Government in Maharashtra, on the ground that they needed certain clarifications from each other before going ahead.

On a day when Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari went ahead and recommended the President's rule more than six hours ahead of the deadline of 8.30 pm he had set for the NCP to revert to him on the Government formation issue, senior Congress leaders

Ahmed Patel, Mallikarjun Kharge and K C Venugopal held 90-minute-long discussions with NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai.

Addressing a news conference after he and his party colleagues had with NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Ahmed Patel said: "Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray formally reached out to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Me only yesterday for support to form a Government in the state. Since it involved a major decision, we need to meet our pre-poll alliance partner NCP first and seek certain clarifications on Government formation in the State. Once we are through with the discussion, we



Ahmed Patel and Sharad Pawar

will hold talks with the Shiv Sena leadership". Reiterating that the two parties had not arrived at any decision on extending the support to the Sena, Patel said that

the issues on which they needed clarifications from the NCP included formulation of a Common Minimum Programme (CMP). "We wanted to clear between ourselves

before talking to the Shiv Sena," Patel said.

Responding on similar lines, Pawar said: "After we received request from the Shiv Sena for our, we decided to discuss among ourselves first the issues relating to the government formation first before holding talks with the Sena leaders. We would like things to proceed smoothly till the formation of Government," he said.

Queried as to how the Congress and NCP had reconciled with the ideological differences with the Shiv Sena while going in for power-sharing with the Shiv Sena, Pawar

said: "When we reach the stage of holding discussions with the Shiv Sena, we will proceed in the matter while keeping our common ideology in mind".

Replying to another question, Pawar said: "The issue of power distribution is not before us at this juncture. The issue before us is whether to form a Government or not. If the government is to be formed, what should be the agenda of the Government is our immediate objective".

Alluding to the President's rule imposed in the State, Pawar said: The Governor has given us enough time to discuss all issues relating to Government formation in the coming days".

Udhav: Will work out plan for Govt formation with Cong, NCP

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray said here on Tuesday that because of the Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's recommendation for President's rule in the State, his party had sufficient time on hand to discuss all Government formation-related issues with the Congress and NCP, including the formulation of a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) which were essential for providing a stable Government to the State.

Talking to media persons after the Congress and NCP leaders addressed a joint news conference, Uddhav said: "Because of the Governor, we have enough time on hand. All three parties — Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena — will sit across and formulate CMP and sort out other issues relating to the government formation".

"Like the Congress and NCP, the Sena has also some issues on which we need clarification. We — all three parties — sit across and thrash them out before forming a government," the Sena president said.

Replying to a question, Uddhav said that it was not the Shiv Sena but the BJP finished the option of going together and forming a Government in the State. Asked if the alliance with the BJP ended fully, Uddhav told the questioner: "Why are you such a hurry?.... It is politics. The Governor has given us six months.

Stalin now all powerful in DMK

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Sixty-six-year-old MK Stalin has become the undisputed and unquestionable leader of the DMK, Tamil Nadu's principal Opposition party. This has been made possible by amending the bylaws dealing with the powers vested on the party president in the general council meeting of the party held earlier this week at Chennai.

With the new amendments enacted by the general council, Stalin need not consult the general secretary of the party to take any decision or break any logjams.

According to a member of the general council, the new rule has empowered the president to take decisions ranging from the district unit to the party head quarters. The amendments were drafted by Stalin's close confidante P Wilson, the newly elected Rajya



MK Stalin

Sabha member of the party who is also a legal luminary. The amendment has literally sidelined Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan, the general secretary of the party, who is bed ridden for quite some time now. Prior to the amendment, Stalin had to consult the general secretary for each and every decision he had to take. Anbazhagan, 97, has been the general secretary of the party since 1977 and is credited with the record for being the longest serving and oldest second-in-command of a political party in the country.

Anbazhagn, the last surviving founder-member of the party, is in a state of comatose, according to party insiders. "He has become senile and rest of the party leaders are shocked why he is not being replaced," said G. V. S. S. Satyamurthy, columnist who has been a keen observer of the DMK for the last four decades. Though the general secretary is a powerful position in the party, former president late M Karunanidhi saw to it that Anbazhagan, a trusted family loyalist was appointed to the post and ensured his continuation despite indifferent health.

But a section of leadership in the DMK is feeling that the latest move by Stalin to usurp the powers of the general secretary is an attempt to being the entire party structure under his family. "Durai Murugan, the party treasurer, has been eye-

ing the post of the general secretary for sometime and it is said that he is thoroughly disappointed with Stalin for ignoring him. It seems Stalin is keeping the post of general secretary hot for his son Udhayanidhi Stalin, the chief of the DMK youth wing," said Satyamurthy. But Murugan, 81, is also not in the best of health though he moves around the State without any physical support.

A party insider confided to The Pioneer that all was not well within the DMK. "Since the day Karunanidhi took over the reigns of the party following the death of C N Annadurai in 1969, he has gradually and systematically made it into a family enterprises," said the leader on condition of anonymity. The recent setback suffered by the DMK in the assembly by-election could be a fall out of this discontentment, say many political commentators.

TN CM says Haasan's political innings will end in a fiasco

PTI ■ SALEM (TN)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Tuesday ticked off actor-politician Kamal Haasan for "showing off" as a leader despite lack of knowledge in basic politics and claimed that his political innings will end in a fiasco.

A day after taking on superstar Rajinikanth who is expected to foray into politics, the Chief Minister targeted the Makkal Needhi Maiam chief, saying he founded a political party as he does not have suitable opportunities in Tamil cinema in view of his advancing age.

On Monday, Palaniswami hit out at Rajinikanth for his comment that there was a lead-

ership vacuum in Tamil Nadu, saying he was just an actor and not a political leader.

While no political leader claimed a vacuum, the remark came only from the actor, he had said.

A perception is prevalent among some that a vacuum exists in politics after AIADMK stalwart J Jayalalithaa and DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi died in 2016 and 2018 respectively.

Taunting Haasan, the Chief Minister said, "he is a big leader," and wondered why his MNM did not contest the recent bypolls to Vikravandi and Nanguneri Assembly constituencies. He wanted to know the votes polled by MNM in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Elections to 14 urban local bodies conclude in Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Barring a few incidents of skirmishes involving BJP and Congress workers, elections to the 14 urban local bodies in Karnataka were held peacefully on Tuesday, officials said.

The local bodies that went to polls are two major municipal corporations of Mangaluru and Davangere and six city municipal councils, three town

municipal councils and three town Panchayats in seven districts.

These ULBs comprised 418 wards where till 3 pm, 55.27 per cent polling was registered, sources in the State Election Commission said.

As many as 1,587 candidates, including 386 from Congress, 363 from BJP and 233 of JD(S), contested the polls.

There were 475 indepen-



People at a polling station

dent candidates, the sources added.

The counting of votes will take place on November 14.

There was a face-off between the BJP and Congress supporters at Kanakapura but police intervened and diffused the situation.

A similar incident was reported in Mangaluru where also security personnel brought the situation under control, police said.

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel, BJP MLA Ved Vyas Kamath and Congress veteran Shamanur Shivashankarappa are among the prominent people who exercised his franchise in Mangaluru.

Speaking to reporters in Mangaluru, Kateel expressed confidence that BJP would win Mangaluru and Davangere corporations and also in a large number of other ULBs.

Pilot: Raj Govt committed to providing maximum job opportunities to youth

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Tuesday said his Government is committed to providing maximum job opportunities to the youth in the State.

The remarks came after Pilot met some young men who had been protesting in the State for the past six days, demanding recruitments from the Government.

He also spoke to their representative Upen Yadav who was on a six-day-long hunger strike.

The Minister said the country's economy was suffer-

ing and the State was also being affected due to the policies of the Centre.

"The State Government is committed for providing maximum job opportunities to youths according to their qualification. We are going to fill the backlog in services and will ensure that youths get jobs as per their educational qualification," he told reporters.

After speaking to the deputy chief minister, Yadav ended his hunger strike and drank juice offered by Pilot.

"I have promised that the government will look into the demands of unemployed youths," the Minister added.

Gehlot reaches Jaipur resort to meet Maha Cong MLAs

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday night reached the resort where newly elected Congress MLAs of Maharashtra are staying.

Gehlot arrived here from Punjab and headed to the resort on the Delhi Road where he is meeting with the party MLAs.

AICC general secretary Avinash Pande and other leaders are also present inside the resort, sources said.

The Congress MLAs have been staying in the resort here since Friday.

Like Ayodhya, go by SC verdict on Sabarimala: Minister to BJP

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran on Tuesday asked the BJP, which has welcomed the recent Supreme Court order on Ayodhya, to also respect the apex court verdict on Sabarimala permitting women of all ages to pray at the Lord Ayyappa shrine.

Surendran, who was replying to a question posed by the lone BJP legislator O Rajagopal, also asked the saffron party not to encourage "goons and anti-socials" to go to Sabarimala.

Rajagopal had sought reply from the Devaswom Minister on the arrangements made at the hilltop shrine ahead of the

annual pilgrimage season.

The BJP member alleged that the number of devotees to the hill shrine came down last year and wondered why the Left government supported the entry of "atheists, Left activists" and others into the temple.

Countering it, the Minister said: "Please don't encourage anti-socials and goons to go to Sabarimala like last time," an apparent reference to violence during the protest against entry of young women.

"Society expects more from a personality like you (Rajagopal). Now, the Ayodhya case verdict has come, your party has welcomed it with open arms. Hope the same attitude will be there with respect

to the Sabarimala issue," Surendran said.

The Minister said facilities have been arranged for keeping the sacred offerings of around 6,500 devotees while a total of 1,161 toilets, 160 bathrooms and 150 urinals had been set up.

"Five emergency medical centres have also been readied. Three incinerators and 600 waste bins are also there," Surendran told the House. The hill shrine had witnessed protests by devotees and right outfits against the LDF Government's decision to implement the Supreme Court verdict in 2018 allowing all women, including those in the menstruating age, to offer prayers at the hill shrine.

Thousands of migratory birds die in Sambhar Lake

PTI ■ SAMBHAR

Thousands of migratory birds of about ten species were found dead around Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur, sending shock waves among locals and authorities. Officials said they suspect water contamination as

lake, leading to a possible number of over 5,000, they said.

Forest ranger Rajendra Jakhar said a possible reason could be the hailstorm that hit the area a few days back. "We estimate about 1,500 birds of about 10 species have died. We are also looking at other possibilities like toxicity of the water, bacterial or viral infec-



Dead bird found in Sambhar Lake

tion," he said. A medical team from Jaipur has collected a few carcasses and water samples are being sent to Bhopal for further examination. Ashok Rao, a veterinary doctor and part of the team, said that while the exact reason for the deaths was uncertain, he ruled out the possibility of bird flu. "At initial examination we did not find any sort of secretion from the birds, which is a giveaway in the cases of bird flu," he said.

RG Ujjwal, nodal officer, animal husbandry department, joined Rao and listed possible reasons behind the mysterious calamity. "Their could be some sort of contamination in the water. The increased salinity of the water could also be another reason, as it increases salt concentration in the blood, which can further lead to slow blood flow and the internal organs like the brain may stop working," Ujjwal said.

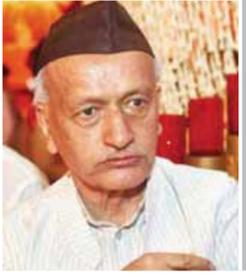
one of the reasons for the deaths but were awaiting viscera test reports. Though the official toll was 1,500, locals claimed the number of dead birds could be as high as 5,000.

"We have never seen anything like that. Over 5,000 birds died mysteriously all over the place," 25-year-old Abhinav Vaishnav, a local bird-watcher, told PTI. When Vaishnav went on a stroll along the edge of the lake on Sunday, he took the hundreds of dark lumps strewn across the marshy land for cow dung. But it didn't take him and his fellow bird watchers Kishan Meena and Pavan Modi to realise the lumps were bodies of hundreds of lifeless migratory birds.

Carcasses of hundreds of dead birds including plovers, common coot, black winged stilt, northern shovellers, ruddy shelduck, and pied avocet were scattered on the edge of 12-13 km of the catchment area of the

This is no endgame

The Maharashtra Governor has ticked off boxes rather than honouring the spirit of a federal, democratic system



As Maharashtra hurtles towards Presidential Rule, it has shown how a valid electoral verdict and ethics can be subverted by political greed of the day. Not only that, it shows how a centrist party, no matter what the verdict in States, can use the offices under its purview to turn any result in its favour. And justify its act as only following a precedent of Congress or its coalition governments at the Centre instead of correcting it. Although the BJP and Shiv Sena had worked out a pre-poll alliance, which was even endorsed by voters, the former's arrogance as the lead partner and the latter's insistence on an equal role tore it apart. The former willingly let its junior partner drift away and challenged its ability to prop up an alternative coalition. The Sena tried its best but with ideological divergences paring down its chances of forming a stable Government with the Opposition Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), it is out in the cold without the numbers. No matter how tempting the opportunity to use the electoral window to jump into governance, the Congress and the NCP are looking beyond local legislators to the larger impropriety of convenience tarnishing their national image. The BJP, which is a keen believer of one-party homogeneity across the nation, is having the last laugh as the only possible choice. So it has lost no time in overturning the ethics of the Governor's office and emulating a democratic federal structure. The Governor, while giving ample time to the BJP to stake a claim, didn't even ask for a floor test and gave in to Chief Minister-elect Devendra Fadnavis' inability to procure requisite numbers, which he ought to have done according to the rules and spirit of parliamentary democracy. While Governor BS Koshiyari ticked off the boxes on technicality, he did not give adequate time to the Opposition parties and even an adrift Sena for crystallising their adjustments before committing to furnishing letters of support. One must remember that individually none of them had the moral right to begin such exercises given the decisive nature of the verdict in favour of BJP-Sena. Yet the Sena got 48 hours to furnish proof and the NCP just 24 hours, the last a bigger travesty as reports emerged that the Governor had recommended President's Rule even before the latter's deadline expired. Constitutionally, the Governor should have insisted on floor tests in the House as according to the judgment in the Bommai vs Union of India case in 1994, "the assessment of the strength of the Ministry is not a matter of private opinion or any individual, be he the Governor or the President." The ruling is very clear about "demonstrating" strengths and not relying on subjective assessments. This has only lent credence to theories that President's Rule anyway was an extension counter of the ruling party and the State would still be at BJP's command, with or without Fadnavis. While Sena has moved the Supreme Court questioning the Governor's role, the State may appear to be in limbo but in reality, is in the BJP's kitty.

Going by latest precedents in States, the BJP has assumed power despite not emerging as the single-largest party, be it by cobbling up post-poll alliances, breaking Opposition ranks or devouring any claimants. Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya stand out as examples where the Congress was actually the single-largest party. Then there was the embarrassment of March 2016, when Congress rebels and BJP MLAs challenged the Harish Rawat-led Congress Government in Uttarakhand over the Finance Bill. The rebel MLAs were later disqualified. Governor KK Paul asked the Modi Government to impose President's Rule in the State, but Uttarakhand High Court Judge KM Joseph quashed it and Rawat proved his majority in the House. All these examples of violations prove there is an internecine plot to erode the spirit of alliance politics in general and the regional partners in particular, making them look like puppets in a shadow play, so facile that the voter changes his/her pattern in the next round of elections. As political parties hide their ambitions with the fig leaf of responsibility, Maharashtra is indeed in a crisis. It still records the most farmer suicides — more than 12,000 in the four years from 2015-2019. The largest State economy in the country is in the middle of a halting slowdown, a collapsed real estate sector, agrarian distress and loss of jobs and manufacturing. All talk of Marathi pride is actually a condensation of deeper aspirations to ride out this morass. And that surely cannot happen with an imposition of authority but stakeholdership.

Fee hike unjust

It's not that JNU students are unreasonable, it's just that due process must be followed



One wonders whether certain moves are made to malign the image of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as the premier institute of the country, knowing full well that its students won't stop questioning or give up without a fight. This time the students, led by their unions, are protesting against a slew of decisions taken by its administration, which includes a steep hike in tuition fees, enforcement of a dress code and curfew timings for hostellers. So much so that water cannons had to be used to disperse agitating protesters, some of whom were detained. The students' angst over the almost 300 per cent hike in fees is understandable as it's astronomical and insensitive, instead of being graded and phased out as all transitions to a new protocol should be. For long, JNU has come to be recognised as one of the most liberal institutions, which provides quality education at affordable rates. It has provided succour to the poorest of families, who could not afford a respectable education for their children due to the hefty fees charged by other eminent institutions, which are only getting more expensive by the day.

On the other hand, it is also a fact that JNU's fee policy had been operating under a differential regime — its fee structure was nothing when compared to its counterparts. Could one imagine staying in one of the prime locations of Delhi, paying a room rent of just ₹20 per month for a single-seater or ₹10 per month for a double seater, that, too without any utility or service charge? That's something that was unimaginable back in the decade and even now. Perhaps, this is the reason why students here over-extended their duration of degrees so that they could prolong their stay at the hostels, which is comfortable and cheap, the inexpensive food coming as an additional benefit. Some even take short-term courses while working part-time. Then there are also others, who stay on campus without permission. The accumulation of old students led to a chronic hostel shortage for newcomers. The university, too, was at ease for a lot of its budget came either from the taxpayers' money or from international donations. In this sense, it is welcome that the varsity finally woke up to the dangers of big subsidies. Yet it must be accepted that a steep hike, coming after a span of 19 years, is an injustice when not reasonably executed. No consultations were made with the stakeholders or the management council to arrive at a common ground. Dress codes or hostel timing rules for students, too, are downright silly. The students admitted to this varsity are adults and must be treated as such.

False data mechanism

GDP as a measure of human well-being and progress is flawed. A new set of metrics that can be implemented across the world is the need of the hour



RK PACHAURI

The entire focus and preoccupation on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of human progress and advancement has obviously been taken much too far. It was in 1930 that Lord Keynes came up with the statement, "For at least another 100 years, we must pretend to everyone that fair is foul and foul is fair; for foul is useful and fair is not. Avarice and usury and precaution must be our gods for a little longer still. For only they can lead us out of the tunnel of economic necessity into daylight."

It must be remembered that this was a period when the global economy was in the doldrums and, perhaps, a measure which recorded the output of goods and services would have been useful as a response to the distress that the US in particular and other parts of the world were suffering from. But perhaps Keynes never anticipated that a system, which became ingrained in the minds of every individual and which defined the systems for measuring human progress, would hardly be easy to replace after a 100 years. We know today that reliance on GDP hides a lot of negative effects and externalities and its flawed effects keep growing.

The extent of waste and the impacts on the environment, which the modern economy generates, are, unfortunately, not factored into GDP at all. Damage to the environment and the stock of natural resources should, even on the basis of common sense, be deducted from any compilation of GDP for a particular society or economic system. Further, it is a well-accepted principle that when environmental damage takes place, the polluter must pay. This, unfortunately, is not the case all across the world.

The problem of climate change is the result of Cumulative Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) since the beginning of industrialisation. The sole responsibility for this lies essentially with the industrialised countries and it is for this reason that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) clearly came up with the condition of "Common but differentiated responsibility." This was accepted and agreed on essentially because the developing countries are no doubt at a stage where their energy consumption would perhaps outstrip that of the developed world. Yet, the stock of carbon dioxide and other GHGs has been the cumulative contribution of the industrialised countries to an overwhelming extent. The developed nations are now conveniently forgetting the historical responsibility that they must accept fully.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) came out with a study earlier this year where it estimated the extent of subsidies that the world is responsible for in the pricing of fossil fuels. "Globally, subsidies remained large at \$4.7 trillion (6.3 per cent of the global GDP) in 2015 and are projected at \$5.2 trillion (6.5 per cent of GDP) in 2017."

The study further states, "About three



quarters of the global subsidies are due to domestic factors — energy pricing reform thus remains largely in countries' own national interest — while coal and petroleum together account for 85 per cent of the global subsidies. Efficient fossil fuel pricing in 2015 would have lowered global carbon emissions by 28 per cent and fossil fuel air pollution deaths by 46 per cent and increased Government revenue by 3.8 per cent of GDP."

In other words, the world, instead of reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide — the primary GHG which causes climate change — is generously rewarding the production and use of fossil fuels and, hence, of carbon dioxide. This represents a distortion, which clearly reflects the power of the fossil fuel lobby over decision-making in most countries.

It was in 2008 that the then President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, set up a commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress under the chairmanship of Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize winning economist, the report from which was submitted in September 2009. While the Stiglitz Commission analysed the flaws and shortcomings of GDP as a measure, it also came up with some recommendations, which would help modify and refine this metric. It was

“ IF WE HAVE TO OVERHAUL THE MEASURE OF GDP AND ELIMINATE ITS FLAWS, EFFORTS NEED TO BE LED BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE EFFORT SHOULD INVOLVE SETTING UP A GROUP OF EXPERTS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A ROADMAP WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS ON HOW TO ENSURE THAT THE WORLD MOVES ITS SYSTEMS TO A NEW SET OF METRICS BY 2030 ”

brought out that statistical indicators are important for designing and assessing policies aimed at advancing the progress of society as well as for assessing and influencing the functioning of economic markets.

It is well-known that what gets measured, gets managed. Hence, when we get measures that are flawed, then decisions will also be flawed or biased and we may then deviate substantially from what constitutes human welfare.

The first recommendation of the Stiglitz Commission was based on coming up with a measure reflecting material living standards, which would be closely associated with net national income, real household income and consumption. Hence, there is a large range of variables that would provide a sharp deviation between GDP and the well-being of a household or society.

Another recommendation emphasises the fact that citizens' material living standards are better followed through measures of household income and consumption. In fact, data for OECD countries show that real household income has grown quite differently from real GDP per capita and typically at a lower rate. Another recommendation relates to considering income and consumption jointly with wealth. It may be inferred

that if we were to apply this principle, we should also include estimates of natural wealth.

With the recent burning of the Amazon forest in Brazil, any measure of GDP would be over-estimated if we were to ignore the massive destruction of nature's wealth that Brazil owns. Still another recommendation highlights greater prominence be given to the distribution of income, consumption and wealth.

On a practical basis, if we have to overhaul the measure of GDP and eliminate its flaws such an effort needs to be led by the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN). The effort should involve setting up a group of experts which would provide a roadmap within a period of three months on how to ensure that the world moves its systems to a new set of metrics by 2030. This effort should then be taken up by the UN General Assembly to ensure that a new system is designed for implementation across all the countries of the world during its first phase of design and detailing during 2020 to 2022. The following eight years would then be given to full implementation and to ensure that by 2030 we give GDP a burial after a hundred years of dominant existence.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

SOUNDBITE

The Congress leadership always puts the party before the nation. Now they are giving Maharashtra on a platter to the BJP. Its moribund attitude will decimate it soon.

AAP leader —Preeti Sharma



The ability to say no is very important which I have realised. I'd never go back and disrespect my certain professional choices because at that point for me, they mattered.

Actor —Yami Gautam



India and China are a good example of the difference between the threat posed by free versus unfree Governments.

Former US Ambassador to the UN —Nikki Haley



Governor Koshiyari has committed a grave travesty of democracy and made a mockery of the Constitutional process in recommending President's Rule in Maharashtra.

Congress leader —Randeep Surjewala



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judicial reforms

Sir — This refers to the article, "Big ticket reforms need of the hour" (November 8) by VK Bahuguna. The writer must be complimented for stressing on the need for reforms in our justice system to ensure faster and efficient delivery of justice to the citizens. As the writer said, the need is to review the closed method of selection of judges to the high judiciary. But there are also many other issues that matter to the rest of us.

First, besides the enormous delay in the listing of cases, one of the prime concerns pertains to the scanty time given to the common man for hearing his/her appeal/writ petition even if they relate to some gross error committed by the lower court in reading a particular file/document.

Second, it is but natural for the common man to get frustrated when he/she finds that no reason has been cited for the dismissal of the petition, thus negating the basic premise of justice that not only must it be done; it must also be seen to be done.

A serious thought must be given to the shortcomings that

plague the judicial system of the country.

B P Srivastava Noida

Respect the police

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "For the sake of law" (November 7). Clashes between the public and the police must not

be allowed to become a trend. Policemen are servants of the Government when in uniform. On the other hand, lawyers are professionals, who, too, have protection of law while on duty.

But a lawyer is with an attire and not uniform. Any assault on a police officer in uniform is categorised in statutes — even a rough argument with him/her can attract the charge of misde-

meanour. This is built on the thesis that the men in uniform represent the face of a transferred authority by the Government, which is paramount.

Without such construct, the Government will be seen as powerless to discharge its primary remit of maintaining peace and order. While the Government must invariably sustain the authority of the uniform, the

Migratory birds need a safer world

It was sad to learn that as many as 1,500 migratory birds of over a dozen species were found dead in Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur. Officials suspect water contamination as one of the reasons for their death but are waiting for the viscera test reports. Such a large number of deaths of migratory birds is rare in recent history.

Earlier, a medical team from Jaipur had collected a few carcasses and water samples for examination. Ashok Rao, a veterinary doctor who was part of the investigation team, ruled out the possibility of bird flu saying no secretion had been found. Other possibilities like toxicity of the water and bacterial or viral infection are being looked into. A few days ago, a hail-storm had hit the area, which could also be a possibility for the cause of death. Birds form a major part of the earth's ecosystem. Migratory birds come mainly from Siberia and Europe when harsh winter season sets in there. These birds migrate to India every year



for food, breeding and nesting. After the passage of winter, when it gets hot here, they again migrate to cooler areas. Authorities must take necessary steps to make the environment clean and unpolluted to welcome these winged guests.

TK Nandanam Chennai

police has the greater onus of preserving its dignity. Else, there can be no closure to such aberrations in a democracy.

R Narayanan Navi Mumbai

Balanced verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Return of maryada" (November 11). The unanimous verdict delivered by the Supreme Court not only paved the way for the construction of Ram mandir in Ayodhya but also put an end to a decade-long dispute. It is disheartening that the issue had to drag on for far too much. The truth remains that the wheels of our judicial system runs very slow. The court's directive to the Uttar Pradesh Government to allot five acres of land within Ayodhya for the construction of a new masjid must not be viewed as charity but a recognition of their right to worship. The court's ruling is sound and balanced. People must accept the judgment wholeheartedly.

Nimai Charan Swain Bhubaneswar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Choose merit, not patronage

Civil servants, both principled and spineless, exist in the system; the former serve the country and the latter politicians and themselves



DEBASISH BHATTACHARYYA

In the administrative system, the bureaucracy plays a key role as civil servants or babus function to implement the policies of the elected Government in a rational, efficient and non-partisan manner. However, people have often experienced that when it comes to implementation and delivery, the performance is disappointing, leading to almost non-delivery or poor public services. And, one of the many factors attributed to this is the unholy nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and other vested interests. There are compelling reasons to believe that this is true. And, it is little wonder, the cost is stupefying. While many feel that the bureaucracy saps initiative, inhibits risk-taking and crushes creativity; there are others who feel that in a vast and diverse country like ours the bureaucracy is unavoidable. And, there is yet another group of people who feel colonial hangovers in bureaucracy represent an utterly frustrated scenario as it can't meet the social and economic challenges that a welfare State like India faces.

It seems worthwhile, however, to quote Queen Elizabeth-I. After making Lord William Cecil her secretary, Elizabeth advised him, "This judgement I have of you, that you will not be corrupted by any manner of gift and that you will be faithful to the state and that, without respect of my private will, you would give me that counsel which you think best." Even though policies, projects and programmes drawn up by the Government aim at the development of the country and well-being of the people, successive governments failed to appreciate the fact that leadership may change, but the engine of governance does not falter on account of having a new driver in a Government that possesses a relatively-famed bureaucracy. However, in demanding political systems, there is less pretence that the country's bureaucracies are deeply influenced by people's interests. Civil servants, both principled and spineless, exist in the system; the former serve the country and the latter politicians and themselves. Thus a section of bureaucracy appears to act as a cog in a political machine that seeks loyalty to the regime as a means to maintain its hold on power, identify solely with the rulers and the official ideology.

Incidentally, there are not many Ashok Khemka (the IAS officer transferred over 50 times in 27 years of service and still counting) who have the guts to stand up against hidden agenda, poor policies, corruption and exploitation to remain aligned with democratic ideals. Put differently, there are civil servants wishing to sail with confidence, competence, courage and commitment but are being hounded for doing their duty. Let's not lose sight of the Punjab and Haryana High Court's recent observation about Khemka who secured a grading of 9.92/10 by the Reviewing Authority: "We are of the view that a person of such professional integrity needs to be protected as the professional integrity in our political, social and administrative system is depleting very fast..." That being said, I am reminded of a statement by a retired upright IAS officer and writer and columnist whom I met at India International Centre (IIC). As I congratulated him for writing a bold article against a powerful Central Minister, he laughed in that very contagious way he had. I also gave him unsolicited advice that if he continued writing such pieces, he could not aspire to become a Governor or head a Government-appointed committee or organisation. And in response, he said, "I am not among those crafty bureaucrats who enjoy the trust of unscrupulous politicians and ministers. I was sidelined, transferred for not being politically convenient and pliable. But I never gave in to temptation."

However that may be, just a few days ago, speaking at a panel discussion on 'Has the steel frame rusted', former Chief Secretary of Delhi Government, Shailaja Chandra said, "It is easy to say that politicians have failed the IAS officers. But I feel this is not entirely correct. Those in the service need to introspect. If they do not have any extraneous interests, nothing can stop them from serving the people."

So far, the feeble accountability of public and political processes, have defined the character of public administration in India. The challenge ahead lies in finding and meeting the balance between serving citizens while upholding the rule of law without falling prey to either obstructionist and lacklustre bureaucracy or clientelism.

Nevertheless, even as we complain about red tape, paperwork and excessive bureaucratic rigmarole the fact remains that eventually people rely on it to structure our country. The NDA Government in its second term, infused churning in the Indian civil services by pushing for the lateral entry of domain experts and forced retirements of officers, but it continues to face enormous social and political challenges. In order to effectively deal with these trials we need an efficient bureaucracy. And, to find that, the Central Government has to think and act big.

Righting the country's administrative machinery steadfastly is the only way it's going to happen. Indian ethos and the laws of the land mandate an efficient bureaucracy. It is now up to lawmakers, the Ministers — whom the bureaucracy is supposed to report to — to ensure the country gets it. It's time for transition from a patronage-based to merit-based bureaucracy, with which will come accelerated progress.

(The writer is former DGM, IIC, New Delhi and GM, International Centre Goa)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

NARAYANASAMY 'SELF-APPROVED' HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE BYPASSING THE PROTOCOL OF OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.

— PUDUCHERRY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
KIRAN BEDI



I WAS A CENTRAL MINISTER AND AM FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO GET APPROVAL FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE FLYING ABROAD.

—PUDUCHERRY CHIEF MINISTER
V NARAYANASAMY

Learn from great CEOs

Their greatness lies in the fact that not only have they created profitable enterprises; they have also created brands that are etched forever in the imagination of consumers



HIMA BINDU KOTA

One can decidedly differentiate between an Ordinary Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a great one. Great CEOs are exemplary visionaries, with superlative managerial and leadership skills. They are admired by colleagues and common men alike and are considered idols by millions of young aspiring leaders dreaming of making it big in the corporate world. Their greatness lies in the fact that not only have they created profitable enterprises; they have also created brands that are etched forever in the imagination of consumers. So what are the leadership principles and management philosophies that drive these icons and enable them to take their organisations to stellar heights?

As Brad Feld, an American entrepreneur and venture capitalist, said, "Don't be afraid to have a big vision, but make sure it's a clear one", clarity of vision is one of the main traits of great CEOs.

Taking an example of Steve Jobs, an unconventional leader who demanded excellence from his staff and was controversial for his blunt delivery of criticism. However, his sheer genius; his amazing ability to articulate his vision and dexterity to take his people, investors and customers with him on his journey made him an exceptional leader. Jobs had an exceptional clarity of vision and excelled at designing minimalist devices that broke barriers in computer speeds. He created an ecosystem which could stand alone or work together in an interconnected way-like an iPod connected to a Mac connected to an iTunes store. Apple could manage vast amounts of information through division of labour among the systems. For example, the Mac controlled system administration while iTunes fetched content from cloud storage, freeing the device to concentrate on playing the music. Jobs was motivated more than anything to feel he had made a solid and positive impact on the world during his lifetime. And since he had such high expectations from himself, he was able to achieve excellence.

Jack Welch, perhaps the greatest corporate leader of the 20th century, was the youngest CEO of General Electric (GE) when he took over in 1981. He followed an incremental leadership style and during his two-decade stint, the net worth of GE improved by a whopping 4,000 per cent. He is a management theorist and strategic thinker who championed new initiatives like Six Sigma quality, differentiation and e-business.

Bill Gates, listed as the richest person on this planet for 12 consecutive years, is also a man of colossal vision. He envisioned every person on this planet to have a computer and every computer, a programme, designed by Microsoft. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to achieve his vision. In this process, he has been instrumental in the IT revolution that the world has witnessed. Great CEOs, apart from adding to the bottomline of the company contribute to the society in a big way. It would be hard to talk about the life of Bill Gates and not discuss philanthropy and humanitarianism. Heading to his mother's advice before she passed away due to breast cancer, Gates has always taken a selfless approach to his leadership, spending considerable money and time in philanthropic efforts to give to others. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has donated billions of dollars to causes all over the

GREAT CEOs, BECAUSE OF THEIR INNATE QUALITY OF PERSEVERANCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY, ENSURE STABILITY AND GROWTH OF THEIR ORGANISATIONS, MAKING THEM THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THEY LIVE BY THEIR PRINCIPLES AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE, MAKING THEM EXEMPLARY LEADERS OF THE CORPORATE WORLD



world, making significant differences in the lives of children and adults. This level of giving back illustrates Gates' character and focus on social responsibility as a global corporate citizen. It also shows that his pursuit of solutions and making life better went beyond just making a profit. Instead, it was about driving significant change in the world that would make a difference for those who need it the most.

Indra Nooyi, who is an iconic leader, consistently ranked among the 100 most powerful women, when she was the CEO of PepsiCo, the world's second largest food and beverage company in the world, and was at the helm of managing an employee strength of 30,000 and selling in around 200 countries around the world. She believed in developing two balance sheets: One was to provide return to shareholders and the other was to provide return to the environment. Under her leadership, PepsiCo focussed on people and planet in addition to profit. Nooyi had worked tirelessly to reduce the use of energy, water and packaging and simultaneously providing a great workplace for its employees and associates.

Great CEOs show that great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance. "It's not where you start out in life that matters, but where you end up".

This adage fits Ursula Burns perfectly. Born in the poor neighbourhood of Manhattan to immigrant parents and raised by a single mother, she rose to become the first female African American CEO of a Fortune 500 company, Xerox and also holds the honour of being the first woman to succeed another woman CEO, Anne Mulcahy. Having joined Xerox in 1980 as a mechanical engineering summer intern, Burns progressed through the

corporate echelons to become the CEO from 2009 to 2016. At present, she is the Chairperson and CEO of VEON, a senior advisor to Teneo, and a non-executive director of Diageo since April 2018. She is also the member of the board of directors of Uber. She worked very hard to rise above her underprivileged background and did not use her background as an excuse. She worked with perseverance to reach the top of the corporate world and worked hard to return Xerox to profitability. NR Narayan Murthy, a role model for every Indian, is an apt example of "Simple living, high thinking". He is a billionaire with net worth of about \$230 crore but still flies economy and drives around in a simple car. Murthy's life is an inspiration to all of us and gives a strong message that world-class businesses can be created based on transparency and good governance. Born in a middle class family in Sidlaghatta, Karnataka, the odds of life were no match to this brilliant and enthusiastic person, who, through his discipline and determination created a "Great Indian IT Success Story".

Infosys, today, is one of most respected IT companies in the world with footprints all across the globe and is the second-largest IT company in India by revenue. But did you know that his first entrepreneurial venture, Softronics, failed to take off? One of the initial challenges faced by Murthy was the inability to take admission in the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) even after earning a high rank and scholarship as the grant was not enough to cover his studies. Since his father was unable to fund his education, he enrolled into a local engineering college but later did his post-graduation from IIT.

Similarly, the failure of his first

entrepreneurial venture, Softronics, did not stop him from establishing Infosys and lead it to stellar heights. Murthy follows Mahatma Gandhi's policy of "practice what you preach." He has always led by example and believes that the primary responsibility of a leader is to give hope and confidence in the face of adversity.

Taking care of people is one of the biggest attributes of great CEOs. Murthy has been generous in rewarding employees with stock options. Personally, he has given away stocks worth of ₹50,000 crore to his employees. He reiterates that performance should be rewarded suitably. In Infosys, drivers, electricians and secretaries are among millionaires due to their stock options. Indra Nooyi was also a caring, humane CEO who took care of her employees by being in touch with them and understanding their concerns. She even wrote "thank you" letters to the parents of the employees to show her appreciation to them.

Similarly, Ken Chenault, the former CEO of American Express, believed in reaching out to each employee. He made it a point to answer to each and every mail he received from any of his employees. He travelled around the world to meet staff at different locations from around the globe. To further connect personally with his people, he used to run an open operation where anyone could talk to him.

Great CEOs, because of their innate quality of perseverance and contribution to society, ensure stability and growth of their organisations making them the best in the world. They live by their principles and lead by example, making them exemplary leaders of the corporate world.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

A litmus test for medical bureaucracy

The biggest problem with the CGHS is excessive red tape, harassment and too much paperwork, which bogs down the patients, the wellness centres as well as empanelled hospitals, laboratories and drug suppliers



VK BAHUGUNA

The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) is one of the largest health care systems in the country, which caters to serving and retired Central Government employees, their dependents, pensioners and also Members of Parliament. On paper and intention-wise it is one of the best welfare schemes in the country.

Present in 71 locations in the country, it caters to 35 lakh beneficiaries and the number is always increasing. Due to unplanned expansion to new cities each year, the infrastructure, manpower and other resources of the CGHS are

getting strained. In places like Dehradun more than 25,000 beneficiaries (including from distant places like Haridwar and Roorkee) through the wellness centres daily and many have to wait from 5 AM to 2 PM for their turn to be examined by the doctor. However, many have to return home without even getting to meet the doctor, as the main server in Delhi closes at 2 PM and there is no provision for manually handling the paperwork. It was complete chaos till a few months ago, when the Survey of India Dispensary was merged with it and things eased a bit. There has been a long-standing demand to improve the CGHS system by all quarters and from all over the country. The biggest problem with the CGHS is excessive red tape, harassment and too much paperwork, which bogs down the patients, the wellness centres as well as empanelled hospitals, laboratories and drug suppliers.

Taking note of the shortcomings in the CGHS, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had solicited suggestions from all stakeholders for improving the scheme and submitting these proposals latest by November 30.

To make any scheme effective, the Government needs to ensure that it can sustain the patient pressure and be innovative and patient-centric rather than procedure-centric. Today, the biggest management problem in CGHS is lack of proper infrastructure and manpower. The Health Ministry has been opening new wellness centres without proper assessment of the infrastructure and the result is the utter chaos that prevails in these new dispensaries and the endless suffering of patients. The plight of senior citizens is particularly bad as they have to wait long hours just to get treatment despite their failing health and weakened condition. The doctors and nursing staff are also under

tremendous pressure. Now the question is how to overcome this situation as it is also necessary to extend the CGHS scheme to cover new areas in the country.

The other problem relates to rates of various tests and treatment procedures for the empanelled hospitals and delay in payments to the laboratories, that is forcing many diagnostic centres to refuse patients. The third issue relates to the lack of proper and honest monitoring of private empanelled hospitals as sometimes, due to the mischief of a few, the entire scheme is put in limbo.

It is therefore, necessary to take some innovative policy decisions. To cope with the ever-growing number of CGHS centres the Government should enter into a public private partnership (PPP) mode and select private hospitals, who in turn should be allowed to have collaborative partnership with the CGHS on pre-determined

aspects and also appoint private doctors for a few hours on contract to treat the patients. At present this provision of hiring exists but it is cumbersome and the wellness centre gets caught in the web of red-tapism. There should be an upfront decision to fix the number of doctors based on the number of beneficiaries and requirement of doctors and support staff and powers should be delegated up to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) level to allow hiring on contract basis.

The rates of pathological tests and radiological procedures should not be fixed in an arbitrary manner and should be periodically revised. The payments should be made bi-monthly for which an adequate budget should be sanctioned upfront for the whole year.

Many private hospitals indulge in malpractices and there is a need for constant and transparent monitoring. If the Government innovates and ropes in private hospitals,

enhances the powers of CMOs and regional heads and involves private medical professionals, the CGHS medical bureaucracy can be used for better monitoring of these hospitals.

There are two-pronged problems faced by the patients. First, the administrative hassles at the wellness centres due to too much red-tapism and poor infrastructure. Also, many times, empanelled hospitals harass the patients with too much paperwork and deny admission or treatment on flimsy grounds.

Second, is the harassment patients face in running from the empanelled hospitals to the wellness centres, as each time one needs to endorse the expert advice. To rectify this, the Government could allow patients to directly approach the empanelled hospitals for specifically identified diseases, including chronic ones like diabetes and so on. The Government had allowed senior citizens above 75 years of age

to approach empanelled hospitals directly without referral. This provision should also be allowed for senior citizens above 60 years, to make things easier for them and reduce the pressure on doctors. The collection of medicines and distribution should also be streamlined.

Though it is a welfare scheme yet there is no involvement of the beneficiaries. This is specially necessary in cases involving cashless pensioners and the Government might consider setting up a mechanism for this as it will bring in more transparency and expertise of private hospitals and doctors.

The Prime Minister and Health Minister must take this initiative to its logical end as already, the Government is spending on an average, nearly a lakh annually on the health care of each of its employees. Fine tuning of CGHS is essential to make the scheme succeed.

(The writer is retired civil servant.)

Train crash kills 16 people in central Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

At least 16 people were killed and 60 others injured in a head-on collision between two trains in Brahmanbaria district in central Bangladesh on Tuesday, railway officials said.

A railway spokesman said the pre-dawn accident appeared to have occurred when Chittagong-bound Udayan Express was changing tracks at Mondobhag railway station in the district and the Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita coming from the opposite direction collided with it.

"The salvage campaign is nearly completed as Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan and our senior officials visited the scene to oversee the rescue drives," the spokesman said.

Hayat-ud-Dowla Khan, Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune that the accident occurred because the loco masters did not obey the signals.

According to police, 12 passengers died on the spot, while the rest succumbed to injuries as the rescue campaign was underway or after they were rushed to nearby hospitals.

Local police station chief Shayamal Kanti Das feared that the toll could rise as several passengers were still trapped under the damaged



People gather near badly damaged coaches after two speeding trains collided in Brahmanbaria district, 82 kilometres (51 miles) east of the capital, Dhaka, Bangladesh on Tuesday. AP

coaches, especially of the Udayan Express.

Railway officials said they immediately suspended the drivers and conductors of the Turna-Nishita train and formed four different committees to investigate into the crash.

The district administration also formed another committee with an additional dis-

trict magistrate as its chief.

Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Parliamentary Speaker Shirin Sharmin Choudhury condoled the loss of lives and prayed for the wounded.

The railway authorities have announced compensation to the victims and their families.

"The prime minister asked the railway authorities to properly train the locomotive drivers to evade recurrence of such tragic incidents," a premier's office spokesman said.

The Daily Star reported that train services between Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Noakhali and Chattogram-Sylhet have been suspended following the accident.

Morales leaves for Mexico, army pledges to tackle violence

AFF ■ LA PAZ

Evo Morales has left Bolivia for Mexico, which has granted him political asylum, as the armed forces agreed to help police curb violence that has erupted after the president's stunning resignation left a power vacuum.

The senator set to succeed Morales as interim president, Jeanine Anez, pledged to call fresh elections to end the political crisis.

The United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) earlier voiced fears of a breakdown in security in a country that appeared increasingly rudderless after dozens of officials and ministers resigned along with Morales, some seeking refuge in foreign embassies.

Morales called Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard on Monday to request asylum and later tweeted that he was "heading to Mexico".

Ebrard confirmed Morales had been granted asylum and late on Monday wrote on Twitter that a Mexican military plane carrying the former president had "already taken off ... with Morales aboard".

"According to international conventions, he's under Mexico's protection. His life and integrity have been saved,"

Ebrard said.

Morales thanked Mexico for protecting him and vowed to come back to his country "stronger and more energetically".

The dramatic events came a day after Morales's shock resignation after he lost the backing of the military following three weeks of street protests over his disputed re-election for an unconstitutional fourth term.

"The military command of the armed forces has arranged for joint operations with the police to prevent bloodshed and fighting amongst the Bolivian family," said General Williams Kaliman in a televised address.

Three people have died in clashes since the disputed election.

Earlier, La Paz police chief Jose Barrenechea called on Kaliman to "intervene, because the Bolivian police have been overrun." Some small police barracks around the country were torched or looted on Monday.

"We are going to call elections," Anez told reporters in La Paz, the seat of government, saying that there will be "an electoral process that reflects the will of all Bolivians."

Morales claimed on Twitter late on Monday that two of his

homes had been attacked by "vandalism groups."

That came after AFP reporters said hundreds of Morales supporters were marching on La Paz from its satellite town El Alto as opposition leader Carlos Mesa claimed on Twitter that "a violent mob" was heading for his home to attack it.

Soon afterwards came the police's plea for military help.

AFP photographers saw civilians making arrests after tussling with Morales supporters in La Paz, sometimes assisted by police. Some of those arrested were made to kneel in the street, hands behind their backs. Some were bloodied.

Shops and offices in La Paz were shuttered on Monday in the wake of looting that broke out late on Sunday in some parts of La Paz and El Alto.

The police — largely confined to barracks since riots broke out on Friday, with many units joining the protests — were returning to the streets, police chief Vladimir Yuri Calderon said.

Several of Morales' ministers and top officials resigned after his announcement — including many who sought refuge at the Mexican embassy — raising the question of who was in charge, given that vice president Alvaro Garcia Linera

also resigned.

Under the constitution, power then passes to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the lower house of Congress, in that order. But they have resigned, too.

Anez stepped in on Sunday to say she would assume the presidency, given her position as deputy senate leader.

The 52-year-old is likely to be tasked by Congress to oversee fresh elections and a transition to a new government by January 22.

Lawmakers are due to meet on Tuesday to begin the process.

The 60-year-old Morales announced his resignation in a televised address on Sunday. The streets of La Paz immediately exploded in celebration, with jubilant Bolivians waving the country's flag, but violence and vandalism later erupted overnight there and in El Alto.

Morales, a former coca farmer who was Bolivia's first indigenous president, said his opposition rivals, Mesa and Luis Fernando Camacho, "will go down in history as racists and coup plotters." US President Donald Trump hailed Morales's resignation as a "significant moment for democracy in the Western Hemisphere," and praised the role of the country's military.

Baghdadi successor in US crosshairs: Trump

AFF ■ NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump placed the Islamic State group's new chief in the crosshairs Monday as he marked Veterans' Day by celebrating the killing of the jihadists' former leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

While US presidents traditionally mark the day by laying a wreath at a vast military cemetery in Arlington, near Washington, Trump traveled to New York where he made an address ahead of the city's annual parade of veterans.

Trump was widely criticised after announcing a full withdrawal of US troops from Syria last month, with opponents and even some allies saying it could allow Islamic State to rebuild as well as leaving US-allied Kurdish fighters vulnerable to a Turkish invasion.

But the US president used his speech in New York to

claim that the IS leadership was running scared in the wake of Baghdadi's death in a raid in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib on October 26.

"Just a few weeks ago, American special forces raided the ISIS compound and brought the world's number one terrorist leader to justice," he said.

"Thanks to American warriors, al-Baghdadi is dead, his second in charge is dead, we have our eyes on number three.

"His reign of terror is over, and we have our enemies running very, very scared.

"Those who threaten our people don't stand a chance against the righteous might of the American military." After the death of Baghdadi and Islamic State's main spokesman, Abu Hassan al-Muhajir, in a raid the following day, the organization named the little known Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi as its new

leader.

Following the uproar over his announcement of a full troop withdrawal, Trump said that he would leave some troops in the region to protect valuable oil fields.

General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview at the weekend that US troop levels in northern Syria would probably stabilize around 500.

Trump got a cool reception from some in New York, a staunchly Democratic city.

In the windows of one of the glass office towers looming above Madison Square Park where he spoke, large letters were taped in the windows spelling out, one one floor, "IMPEACH," and, several floors above, "CONVICT".

Anti-Trump banners were suspended from overlooking apartment windows as he kicked off the parade and people on the street chanted "lock him up."

Afghanistan to release three senior Taliban prisoners

Kabul (AFP): Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced Tuesday that three high-ranking Taliban prisoners would be released, as talks press on to free two Western professors kidnapped by the militant group in 2016.

"We have decided to conditionally release three Taliban prisoners who were arrested outside the country with the help of our international partners and have been in Bagram prison in the custody of the Afghan government for some time," Ghani said in an announcement at the presidential palace.

While he did not specify the fate of the Western hostages — an Australian and an American — Ghani noted that "their health has been decorating while in the custody of the terrorists".

'Shameful' for UK not to publish Russia meddling probe: Clinton

AFF ■ LONDON

Hillary Clinton said Tuesday it was "shameful" that the British government had not published a delayed parliamentary report into possible Russian interference in British politics ahead of December elections.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has previously rejected claims it was suppressing the report to avoid a scandal ahead of next month's snap poll.

"Every person who votes in this country deserves to see that report before your election happens," the defeated US presidential candidate told BBC Radio 4 during a book tour.

Clinton said there was "no doubt" that Russia is "determined to try to shape the politics of western democracies".

"Not to our benefit, but to theirs," said the Democrat, who lost the 2016 US election to President Donald Trump in a race that US intelligence chiefs have said was marred by Russian interference.

"I find it inexplicable that your government will not release a government report about Russian influence. Inexplicable and shameful," she told BBC Radio 5 Live.

Britain's parliament was previously told a report by the Intelligence and Security Committee was sent to the prime

minister for approval on October 17.

The probe into suspected Russian covert actions in Britain's democratic process reportedly includes examining whether Moscow tried to interfere with the 2016 Brexit vote and the 2017 general election.

Moscow has been accused of spearheading sophisticated disinformation campaigns around the world to further its interests.

The Intelligence and Security Committee, which oversees the work of the country's intelligence agencies, submits its reports to the government before publication to avoid the inadvertent release of sensitive information.

A former head of domestic

spy agency MI5 and the committee's chairman have suggested Johnson is stalling on the release of the 50-page report with the December 12 general election looming.

Jonathan Evans, head of MI5 from 2007 to 2013, called on the government to explain the delay.

Foreign Office minister Chris Pincher has previously said that the report is going through "an intensive security review".

Pincher has also played down concerns, saying there is "no evidence" to suggest there has been any successful Russian involvement in the British electoral system.

US Congressional Caucus to convene hearing on Kashmir

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A US Congressional Caucus on human rights will hold a hearing this week on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir following India's decision to revoke its special status, but some observers have raised suspicion over its intentions saying witnesses on the panel are well known India bashers.

India on August 5 decided to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories.

Announcing the hearing, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission said

"Witnesses will examine the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the context of the region's history and larger patterns of rights violations in India and Pakistan, and will offer recommendations for action by Congress."

The Commission has invited Anurima Bhargava, Commissioner, US Commission on International Religious Freedom as witness in the first panel for the hearing on Wednesday, November 13.

Raising eyebrows over the real intentions of Tom Lantos Commission, congressional

observers said its Co-Chairs Congressmen James P McGovern and Christopher H Smith, announced the hearing without notice and has chosen a panel that is "loaded against India".

The list of witnesses for the second panel released by the Human Rights Commission, which is a Democratic Party dominated bipartisan caucus of the US Representatives, reflects that the panelists are all suspect.

Invitees are people who are totally pitted against India, indicating that the Congressional hearing is all set to be "biased and one

sided." The announcement of the hearing by the Lantos Committee comes on the heels of a blatant one-sided hearing last month on Jammu and Kashmir.

India had termed as "regrettable" criticism by several US Congressmen over the situation in Kashmir, and said the comments reflected a very limited understanding of the country's history and its pluralistic society.

Congressional observers suspect this due to the massive political funding by groups believed to be Pakistani-Americans and those close to the Pakistani establishment.

Very appreciative of India's gift of solar panels, says UN chief's spokesperson

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN is very appreciative of India's gift of solar panels to it, a spokesperson for the Secretary General has said, amid suggestions that their energy can be used to run escalators in the world body's headquarters that have been partially shut as part of austerity measures implemented due to a severe liquidity crisis at the organisation.

The United Nations is facing a "severe liquidity crisis", reaching its deepest deficit of the decade.

Several emergency mea-

sures have been put in place by the world organisation to tide over the financial crunch.

Official travel will be limited to the most essential activities, air conditioning and heating in the UN Secretariat has been reduced outside official working hours and catering facilities are being operated with reduced hours.

"The issue with the escalators, as we pointed out, is an issue having to do with our budget. We are using solar panels. As you know, India had donated that, and we're very appreciative for the donation. But when it comes to our cost-

cutting measures, we'll keep reviewing them and probably bring more services online once the money comes in," Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said at the daily press briefing here Monday in response to a question.

Secretary General Antonio Guterres' spokesperson Stephane Dujarric was asked about the escalator situation last week and a suggestion was made that the energy generated from the Gandhi Solar Park, installed on the roof of the UN Headquarters, can be used to power the escalators.

On the suggestion that energy from the solar panels could be used to power the shut escalators, Dujarric had said "I don't think I'm an electrical engineer, but I will see where that electricity goes."

In response to a question, Dujarric had said that the UN was saving about USD 14,000 a year by keeping the escalators closed.

Another suggestion to tide over the liquidity crunch was to get sheep to mow the lawns in the UN Headquarters just as they were being used to mow the lawns in the UN offices in Geneva.

"Well, we could talk to our friends at the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to see if they have anything to offer," Dujarric had said.

India is among the initial group of over 30 UN Member States who paid their regular budget dues in full and on time to the world organisation as of October 11, 2019. India paid USD 23.25 million in regular budget assessments by January 31, 2019, the 30-day due period specified as per UN's Financial Regulation rules.

Total arrears for the UN are USD 1.385 billion. Officials at the world organisation said

that seven countries owe 97 per cent of the USD 1.385 billion. These seven nations are the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Iran, Israel and Venezuela.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu had also cited the example of the solar park to underscore that energy efficient practices at the UN will help as the world body implements the austerity measures.

Naidu had said last month that among the menu list of austerity measures that could perhaps improve the budgetary

situation includes adhering to the advance air ticket purchase policy, better management of exchange rate fluctuations, energy efficient lighting and other environment friendly practices at the UN Headquarters and duty stations.

"The Gandhi Solar Park, a token gift of India to the UN, which was inaugurated last month, is part of the solution," he said.

The park, with 193 solar panels, installed on the roof of the UN building was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the

high-level UN General Assembly session in September.

At a contribution of about one million dollars, India gifted the solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the UN Headquarters, one panel each for every 193 UN Member State.

The solar panels are powered up to reach the max of 50 KW of generation power. Energy generated in the park is equivalent to energy that would have been created through use of 30,000 kilograms of coal. It also has a carbon sequestration of 1000 seedlings which will grow into trees over 10 years.

Israeli airstrike kills Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza

PTI ■ JERUSALEM/GAZA

Israeli security forces on Tuesday assassinated a commander of Islamic Jihad described by them as "a ticking bomb", leading to retaliatory attacks from the Gaza Strip that pushed major areas in Israel to closure and escalated tensions in the region.

A joint statement by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and Israel's internal security agency, the Shin Bet, announced that Baha Abu al-Ata was neutralised in a targeted strike at around 4:30 am in an operation that was approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"[Ata] was behind multiple attacks and rocket launches against Israel in recent months and intended to carry new immediate attacks," the Army and Shin Bet said.

"The operation was recommended by the IDF Chief of Staff and the Shin Bet and approved by the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, after it was presented and endorsed by (the security

cabinet," it said.

Ata and his wife were killed as they slept on the third floor of a building in Shejaiya district of Gaza City, Palestinian sources said.

Palestinian health officials said that four of their children and a neighbour were injured.

The Israeli Army however rejected speculations that the killing marked return to Israel's policy of targeted assassinations. IDF spokesperson, Brig Gen Haidai Zilberman, said the killing of the senior Islamic Jihad commander does not represent a return to the policy of targeted killings that saw Israel kill dozens of terror leaders in the last decade.

Zilberman said that the Israeli air force targeted Baha Abu al-Ata because he was "a ticking bomb" and was planning imminent attacks against Israel.

Ata headed the military council of the Al-Quds Brigade, the military arm of the Islamic Jihad. He commanded the organisation's operations in northern Gaza, but also wielded great influence on the south-

ern front.

Ata is said to have several hundred fighters under his command and an arsenal of dozens of rockets at his disposal that could be fired at Israel. Israel had in the past also tried unsuccessfully to assassinate the Islamic Jihad commander but this time it is said to have "real time intel for a pinpointed operation".

Islamic Jihad threatened to respond forcefully to the assassination. "We promise to continue the fight, and our response will undoubtedly come to shake the foundations of the Zionist entity," the organisation said, calling for general mobilization of its troops.

Militant faction Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, said that Israel bears all the responsibility for the consequences of the assassination of Abu Al-Ata.

"This crime committed by Israel will not pass silently, and will be met with retaliation by the resistance forces," it said.

The Secretary General of Islamic Jihad, Ziad al-Nakhala,



Relatives of Islamic Jihad commander, Baha Abu el-Ata, who was killed with his wife by an Israeli missile strike that hit their home, mourn in the family home during his funeral in Gaza City on Tuesday

said that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has crossed "all the red lines" in the assassination of Abu Al-Ata.

"We are going to war. Netanyahu has crossed all the

red lines in the assassination of Al-Quds Brigades Commander Baha Abu al-Ata. We will respond forcefully," al-Nakhala told Dar al-Hayat, an Arabic-language news site.

Sirens were heard soon after the attack in areas from Gaza to Tel Aviv with barrage of rockets, mortars and incendiary balloons making their way to Israel from the Gaza

Strip.

In an unprecedented move since the 2014 Gaza war, the IDF Home Front Command announced to cancel all school in all of the Dan region, including Tel Aviv, as well as the south.

The IDF Home Front Command immediately ordered all schools and non-essential businesses closed in the following areas - the Gaza periphery; the Lachish region, the western Negev, the central Negev, the Shfela region, the Dan region, including Tel Aviv, and the Yarkon region bringing life to a standstill in major areas of the Jewish state.

Bomb shelters were opened in central Israel and as far as Modi'in, next to Jerusalem. Tel Aviv was also preparing to open bomb shelters, an official announcement from the municipality said.

The Israeli security cabinet was meeting in the morning to review the situation. Sources in Gaza said that Israel has also carried out several attacks in the coastal enclave following the rocket attacks from there.

Two lawyers, gunman in Thailand's courtroom shootout

AFP ■ BANGKOK

Three people were killed in a shootout at a Thai courtroom on Tuesday during a hearing into an inheritance dispute, according to police, who said two of the victims were lawyers.

The gunman opened fire on the opposing side in the dispute in Chanthaburi provincial court before a guard shot back and fatally wounded him.

National police office spokesman Krissana Pattanacharoen said three people including the assailant were confirmed dead, while others were injured in the melee.

"Two are lawyers another one is the shooter," he said, adding that they are still investigating why the courtroom feud turned deadly.

The identities of the victims were not released.

Iran accuses Europeans of hypocrisy over nuclear deal

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran accused European nations of hypocrisy on Tuesday for criticising its latest step back from a nuclear deal while failing to fulfil their commitments of relief from US sanctions.

But President Hassan Rouhani made no mention of a new report from the UN nuclear watchdog that reveals that its inspectors detected uranium particles of man-made origin at a undeclared site in Iran.

Britain, France, Germany and the EU have been trying to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal since the US unilaterally withdrew from it in May last year and began reimposing sanctions.

A year after the US pullout from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran began reducing its commitments to the deal hoping to win concessions from those still party to the accord.

Iran's latest measure came

last week, when engineers began feeding uranium hexafluoride gas into mothballed enrichment centrifuges at the underground Fordow plant south of Tehran.

In a joint statement on Monday, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union said Iran's decision to restart activities at Fordow was "inconsistent" with a 2015 nuclear deal.

"The E3/EU have fully upheld their JCPOA commitments, including sanctions-lifting as foreseen under the JCPOA," they said.

"It is now critical that Iran upholds its JCPOA commitments and works with all JCPOA participants to de-escalate tensions."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif hit back on Tuesday, "Fully upheld commitments under JCPOA? YOU? Really?" he tweeted.

Zarif said Iran had already "triggered and exhausted" a dispute resolution mechanism in the troubled accord.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass had on Monday threatened the use of "all the mechanisms laid down in the agreement" to make Iran comply with its obligations under the JCPOA.

On Tuesday, Rouhani said Iran only began scaling back its nuclear commitments a year after the US withdrawal to give the other parties time to make up for it.

"We waited for a year," Rouhani told a televised news conference.

"Nobody in the world can blame us by saying 'Why are you abandoning your commitments under the JCPOA today and why have you launched Fordow today?'" he said.

"This is a problem that the enemy has created for us," he said, referring to Iran's arch-enemy the United States.

Iran's approach, he said, was to take "the path of resistance and perseverance" by reducing commitments under the JCPOA and engaging in

negotiations.

"We are negotiating with the world... they are giving us proposals, we're giving them proposals. Up until today, I have not accepted the proposals I've been given," Rouhani made no mention of the uranium particles the International Atomic Energy Agency said its inspectors had detected at an undeclared site in Iran.

In a report seen by AFP on Monday, the watchdog said its inspectors had "detected natural uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at a location in Iran not declared to the agency." The particles are understood to be the product of uranium which has been mined and undergone initial processing, but not enriched.

While the IAEA itself has not named the site in question, diplomatic sources have previously said the agency has been posing questions to Iran relating to a site where Israel has alleged secret atomic activity in the past.

'Chennai-Andaman submarine cable system project to be ready by 2020'

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI) submarine cable systems project is expected to be completed by 2020, an official of the Japan-based NEC Corporation, the company implementing the 2,300 km long undersea project, said. A submarine communications cable is a cable laid on the seabed between land-based stations to transmit telecommunication signals across stretches of ocean and sea.

Earlier, the state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited had placed an order with NEC Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. (NECTI) to design, engineer, supply, install, test and implement an optical submarine cable system connecting Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai and the union territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N Islands) in the Bay of Bengal.

NEC Corporation, the parent company of NECTI, will manufacture the optical submarine cable at its facility in Japan and provide technical assistance during the turnkey implemen-

tation, Atushi Kuwahara, Head of Administration, Submarine Network Division, NEC Corporation told PTI in Tokyo.

On the current status of the project, he said the submarine cable and repeaters cable have been manufactured and it will take another one year to be completed.

Now what is left is "cable loading, cable laying (done by ship), CLS installation and commissioning tests. This will be the first landing of cable in the islands," he said, adding that it will allow residents and tourists to connect with the rest of the world using high speed internet services. Kuwahara, however, did not disclose the total value of the project. Compared to satellites, using internet connection through submarine cables is more reliable, cost efficient and of large capacity, he said, adding that it is best for telecom infrastructure, applications like HD TV, high speed internet, data transmission, high speed mobile terminals, among others.

"The cable system will provide the A&N Islands with sufficient bandwidth for supporting voice and data connectivity that enable the implementation of e-governance initiatives, such as the establishment of enterprises and e-commerce facilities," as per NEC Corporation.

"The system will also assist educational institutes in sharing knowledge and will play a significant role in driving the "Digital India" vision, a campaign launched by the Government of India to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically," according to the company.

Speaking on the importance of the project, the official said once completed, it will open the gateway to Southeast Asian markets for the company. Besides CANI, the company is undertaking two more cable projects — 3,500-km long Hong Kong-Guam (HK-G) cable system project and 9,500-km long Japan-Guam-Hong Kong (JGA) project — he said. NEC Corporation has over 98,000 employees and operations in public, enterprise, telecom carrier, system platform and various other sectors in over 168 countries and territories, including India.

Pak, Afghan officials discuss efforts to normalise ties

Islamabad (PTI): A Pakistani delegation has met Afghanistan's top officials in Kabul and discussed efforts to normalise relations amid increased tensions, according to sources here.

Monday's meeting was the first since the Pakistani Embassy closed its consular section in Kabul earlier this month, citing unspecified security concerns.

The Pakistani delegation included Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. They held talks with Afghan intelligence chief, national security adviser and acting foreign minister.

The agenda of talks, according to sources, included the dispute over an Afghan market in Peshawar, border firing incidents and mutual allegations of harassment of diplomats.

The two sides agreed to address bilateral concerns and normalise the ties, according to the sources.

Brexit Party won't challenge Tories in vote

AP ■ HARTLEPOOL (ENGLAND)

Brexit Party chief Nigel Farage changed course Monday, announcing that his party would not challenge Conservative candidates in nearly half of the UK's districts, a tactical move that may make it easier for pro-Brexit forces to prevail in the Dec. 12 election.

Farage said his party will not put forward any candidates in 317 seats that the Conservatives won in the last election so as not to split the pro-Brexit vote. The move should boost the chances that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives win a majority in an early election that Johnson sought to increase his Brexit mandate.

A Conservative majority would likely mean that Johnson's Brexit divorce deal would be passed by Parliament, clearing the way for Britain to leave the European Union at the end of January.

Farage said he was putting

country before party by unilaterally forming a "leave alliance" with the Conservatives at the expense of parties seeking to slow or even stop Brexit. Those parties include the opposition Labour Party, the anti-Brexit Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party.

All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs in the Dec. 12 election, the first December vote in nearly 100 years. Right now the governing Conservatives have 298 seats and Labour has 243.

Farage has been under huge pressure from Brexit supporters not to run candidates in seats where there is a risk of splitting the Brexit vote.

"If we field 600 candidates, there will be a hung Parliament," Farage said, warning that might well lead to another referendum on Britain's EU membership that could cancel Brexit altogether.

"I think this announcement today prevents a second



referendum from happening," he said. "And that to me, I think right now, is the single most important thing in our country."

After three years of negotiations and repeated delays, Britain is now scheduled to leave the EU on Jan. 31.

Monday's move represented a substantial change in tac-

tics, for only last week Farage had threatened to run against the Conservatives in every seat in England, Wales and Scotland unless they agreed to team up with his Brexit Party.

Johnson refused the offer, which included a demand that he drop his Brexit divorce deal.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn on Monday called Farage's decision "a Trump alliance," saying it reflected a desire to please US President Donald Trump, who had pushed publicly for Farage and Johnson to unite in a pro-Brexit front.

"One week ago Donald Trump told Nigel Farage to make a pact with Boris Johnson," Corbyn tweeted. "Today, Trump got his wish."

Corbyn also claimed the "Trump alliance" would allow profit-driven US drug companies to get a foothold in Britain's beloved but financially stressed National Health Service — a constant theme of his campaign.

Over the weekend, several right-wing British newspapers urged Farage to change tack, saying there was a risk that Britain might not leave the EU if the Labour Party comes to power.

On the campaign trail, Johnson told reporters he was "glad that there's a recognition" that only his party can get Brexit done. The prime minister said he had not discussed any election deal with Farage.

Earlier in the campaign, Farage had been strongly critical of Johnson's EU divorce deal — saying it wasn't a real Brexit — but he softened his tone Monday.

Farage said he had been encouraged by recent comments from Johnson that rule out extending the Brexit transition period beyond the end of 2020. He said the plan now is "to take the fight to Labour," which he accused of betraying 5 million of its supporters who had voted to leave the EU in the 2016 Brexit referendum.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson holds a baby as he meets with supporters at the Lych Gate Tavern in Wolverhampton in England as part of the General Election campaign trail. Britain goes to the polls on December 12.

China aims to build its own Yellowstone on Tibetan plateau

AP ■ XINING (CHINA)

There's a building boom on the Tibetan plateau, one of the world's last remote places.

Mountains long crowned by garlands of fluttering prayer flags — a traditional landscape blessing — are newly topped with sprawling steel power lines.

At night, the illuminated signs of Sinopec gas stations cast a red glow over newly built highways.

Ringed by the world's tallest mountain ranges, the region long known as "the rooftop of the world" is now in the crosshairs of China's latest modernisation push, marked by multiplying skyscrapers and

expanding high-speed rail lines.

But this time, there's a difference: The Chinese government also wants to set limits on the region's growth in order to design its own version of one of the US's proudest legacies — a national park system.

In August, policymakers and scientists from China, the United States and other countries convened in Xining, capital of the country's Qinghai province, to discuss China's plans to create a unified park system with clear standards for limiting development and protecting ecosystems.

The country's economy has boomed over the past 40 years, but priorities are now expand-

ing to include conserving key natural resources, says Zhu Chunquan, the China representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, a Switzerland-based scientific group.

"It's quite urgent as soon as possible to identify the places, the ecosystems and other natural features" to protect, Zhu says.

Among other goals, China aims to build its own Yellowstone on the Tibetan plateau.

Zhu serves on an advisory committee providing input on the development of China's nascent national park system, expected to be officially unveiled in 2020.

Chinese officials also have visited US national parks, including Yellowstone and Yosemite, and sought input from varied organizations, including the Chicago-based Paulson Institute and the Nature Conservancy.

The ambition to create a unified park system represents "a new and serious effort to safeguard China's biodiversity and natural heritage," Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm says.

One of the first pilot parks will be in Qinghai, a vast region in western China abutting Tibet and sharing much of its cultural legacy.

The area also is home to such iconic and threatened

species as the snow leopard and Chinese mountain cat, and encompasses the headwaters of three of Asia's great waterways: the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong Rivers.

"This is one of the most special regions in China, in the world," says Lu Zhi, a Peking University conservation biologist who has worked in Qinghai for two decades.

While construction continues at a frenzied pace elsewhere on the Tibetan plateau, the government already has stopped issuing mining and hydropower permits in this region.

But a key question looms over the project: Can China marry the goals of conservation

and tourism, while safeguarding the livelihoods and culture of the approximately 128,000 people who live within or near the park's boundaries, many of them Tibetan?

"China has a dense population and a long history," Zhu says. "One of the unique features of China's national parks is that they have local people living either inside or nearby."

Yellowstone is widely considered the world's first national park. After it was created in 1872, the US government forced the Native Americans who lived in the area to resettle outside the park boundaries, in keeping with the 19th-century notion that wilderness protection meant nature apart

from people.

But countries that attempt to establish park systems in the 21st century now must consider how best to include local populations in their planning.

"Figuring out how to achieve ecological conservation and support for the communities at the same time — that's the most complicated rub you have," says Jonathan Jarvis, a former director at the U.S. National Park Service and now a professor of the University of California, Berkeley, who has toured the Qinghai pilot park, called Sanjiangyuan.

China has previously undertaken vast resettlement programs to clear land for

large infrastructure projects, such as Three Gorges Dam and the South-to-North Water Transfer Project. These resettlements left many farmers in new homes without suitable agricultural fields or access to other livelihoods.

But in developing the national parks, the government is giving conservation-related jobs to at least a swath of people living in Sanjiangyuan to stay and work on their land. The "One Family, One Ranger" program hires one person per family for 1800 yuan a month (USD 255) to perform such tasks as collecting trash and monitoring for poaching or illegal grazing activity.



QUOTE OF THE DAY
A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.
— Nelson Mandela

Big data is the keyword for the future. And its unprecedented relevance even today is the very reason for its prominence. Organisations today are gathering digital impressions of customers to observe their interpretation through machine learning and distributed computing. Data analytics in the education segment opens numerous doors for instructors to connect and facilitate education in new ways. It will give them a more profound comprehension of the student's learning experience, and therefore manage the process appropriately.

MAKE IT BIG

Data analytics opens numerous doors for instructors to connect and facilitate education in better and newer ways, says DR PRATIMA SHEOREY

Here are a few ways data analysis has already started influencing the Indian educational system:
Improved test results
The general thought of utilising data inside the instructive framework is to improve the results of the students. Right now, the only estimation of the learner's performance is their response to assignments and tests. While this holds true, every learner produces a remarkable data trail. Dissecting this information trail continuously will help increase a superior comprehension of the individual student journey, and in devising the ideal learning conditions for them.
Customisable programmes
With the assistance of data analysis, customised programmes for every individual learner can be made. Regardless of whether schools and colleges have lakhs of students, tailor-

made programmes can be made for every one of them. This is conceivable with the assistance of 'blended learning' — a blend of online and offline pedagogies. This offers the chance to pursue classes that the learners are keen on and furthermore work at their very own pace, and also connecting with educators/facilitators/mentors.
Analysing educators
Instructors can receive the greatest number of rewards from data analytics, because of the handling of information-driven frameworks that can enable educators to make learning experiences as indicated by a learner's learning capacity, and inclination. Different projects can be cultivated that will urge every person to pick what they want to realise. Through this, numerous reports can be produced about the life of a student and what they might want to do or want to pursue in the

WITH BIG DATA, INSTITUTES CAN LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF A STUDENT AND THROUGH HIS BEHAVIOUR AND INSIGHT, PREDICT APPROPRIATE CAREER ALTERNATIVES

part would help improve students' results, dropout rates at schools and universities would likewise decrease. Instructive organisations can utilise prescient examination on every one of the information that is gathered to give them fragments of knowledge on future understudy results. Such expectations can help investigate a course program before it is brought into the educational plan; limiting the scope for experimentation. Truth be told, enormous amounts of information can likewise be utilised to screen how students are performing in the real world after moving on from school. This would help the future students in picking the correct school and course, reducing the number of dropouts.
Gateway for cross-country exchange programmes
With huge information in the training area, establishments can all the

more precisely foresee candidates and furthermore break down the potential factors that influence the application procedure. Such information will enable organisations to manage their enrollment procedures to get better results. Such an influx of information will also enable understudies to investigate data about schools internationally, accelerating the quest and application process for global students as well.
Career prediction
Closely analysing a student's presentation report will assist the facilitator to understand his/her advancement and their qualities and shortcomings. The reports will propose the areas in which the student is interested, and they can seek a vocation in a similar field. If a student is enthusiastic about learning a specific subject, at that point, the decision ought to be valued and the student ought to be urged to pursue what they wish to pursue. With big data, educational institutions can look at the progress of a student and through their behaviours and insights, predict appropriate career alternatives.
Data analytics is bound to revolutionise the education sector, by allowing students to have a more positive impact on society and the future of the country. And embracing this very field will open up numerous possibilities in the Indian pedagogy system.
The writer is Director, Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development, Pune

Admissions OPEN

UG COURSE
The NRAI School of Mass Communication invites applications for admissions to its degree course in Bachelor of Business Administration.
The degree is designed to give a broad knowledge of the functional aspects of a company and their interconnection, while also allowing for specialisation in a particular area. The degree also develops the student's practical, managerial and communication skills, and business decision-making capability.
Duration: Three years
Eligibility: Candidates who have recently passed Class XII from any recognised board.
How to apply: Log on to www.nraismc.com or application forms & brochure may be obtained from admission office of NRAI School of Mass Communication, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi-110049.
Last date to apply: November 28, 2019.

ECG IN TECHNOLOGY
Delhi Paramedical and management Institute (DPMI) invites applications for admissions to its full time Diploma in Electrocardiogram Technology (ECG).
Duration: One year
Eligibility: Candidates who have recently passed Class XII from any recognised board and wants to work in Health industry can enroll for these courses.
How to apply: Log on to www.dpmindia.com or forms & brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi Paramedical & Management Institute, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.
Last date to apply: November 22, 2019.

VITEEE-2020 application form

The sale of printed application forms for VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE-2020) for BTech programmes was launched by Founder-Chancellor of VIT, Dr G Viswanathan at the Head Post Office, Vellore on November 8, 2019.
VIT Vice President Dr Sekar Viswanathan, VIT Executive Director Dr Sandhya Pentareddy, VIT Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr S Narayanan, Dr G Kalaiichelvan, Director (UG Admission) among others participated in the event.
A valid VITEEE rank is mandatory for admission to BTech programmes offered in VIT Vellore, VIT Chennai, VIT- AP and VIT-Bhopal. The exam will be held from April 13 to April 19, 2020 as Computer Based Test in 120 cities in India as well in Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat and Qatar.
The application forms can be obtained by providing a demand draft for ₹1,250 drawn in favour of Vellore Institute of Technology, payable at the respective campus or by cash payment at selected post offices across the country. The last date for applying is February 29, 2020. For more details log on to www.vit.ac.in.

'Technology is reshaping learning practices'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with MUKESH SHARMA about the importance of personalised learning and how a holistic curriculum is the need of the hour

What made you come up with Prometheus?
The idea to build the school came into being because there was a need to create an institute that helps students realise their true potential. The school is meant to be that institute, which sets the course for students to receive a high-quality holistic education and become a greater part of the community.
The inspiration for naming the school was drawn from the Greek titan, Prometheus, who gave fire to mankind and initiated the dawn of civilisation. Hence, the name. We want to give students an education that ignites their potential.
How do you plan, to best use your experience in e-learning domain for the students?
We are incorporating the best educational pedagogies and introducing new age tech-enabled practices in line with these pedagogies. I will use my experience to keep the focus on new age learning and introduce latest pedagogies as and when needed.
What different aspects of personalised learning can be used by schools to overcome the ageold learning strategy?
Personalised learning is aimed at meeting the needs of every stu-

dent and drawing out their individual talents and strengths. The first step is moving away from the 'one-size-fits-all' model and creating individual 'learner profiles', which is a key element of personalised learning.
Once learner profiles have been established, it is possible to utilise 'personal learning paths', which focus on the students' strengths to help them improve. Additionally, the use of 'flexible learning environments' helps students to take control of their education.
Today technology is seen as means of leapfrogging in both teaching, learning as well as in knowledge transactions...
All the way from kindergarten to universities, technology is reshaping teaching and learning practices. This specially applies to the use of gadgets like laptops, mobiles and tablets. Information has become accessible at the click/tap of a finger or through voice commands. Students can easily connect with educators across the globe using the means of technology. International tie-ups for e-learning and offering course material that don't have experts physically available are now possible; which means the child is not bound by a classroom to learn.



Mukesh Sharma
Founding Chairman, Prometheus School, Noida
This is a feat in itself and has expanded the boundaries of the knowledge transactions.
A curriculum with overall development is the need of the hour, do you think customisation can be its tool?

Overall development is essential in raising well-rounded individuals that are endowed with the capabilities to handle the needs of the future. In line with our core-beliefs, customisation of the curriculum is an important aspect of nurturing capable students.
Curriculum that are focused on the outcome of an entire class, as a whole, cannot plan for diversified paths to work ahead. To bring out the best in students, we need to customise the curriculum and their education to enable a well-rounded growth. Customisation of the curriculum can help meet the specific needs of a demography and provide room for growth that can help maximise the students' potential for success.
What are your long term goals?
Within the next five years, the school will have established its name as a top premium school in the country front lining the new age holistic education, encompassing — academics, co-curricular activities, sports education and life skills learning. We aim to educate and empower the students to help them grow into aesthetically rich, intellectually aware and integrated young people capable of fulfilling their dreams and aspirations.

Catalyst of growth

Demand for chemical engineers is on the rise as their contribution is required in several sectors, says AJAY KAPUR

One of the evergreen profession is engineering and why not as engineering forms the foundation for innovation and technology. And chemical engineering is one such branch that has always been in demand. A much sought-after stream among engineering aspirants, chemical engineering promises a bright career scope as the range of related professions is wide. From biotechnology and aerospace to biomedical and petroleum industries, the career provides a wide range of opportunities. A highly profitable branch, it provides good growth not only in India but abroad also.
The branch deals with the engineering and development of chemicals/processes to identify and/or solve technical glitches. It combines the knowledge of Chemistry and Engineering to produce chemicals and related by-products. Aspirants should get a degree in Chemical Engineering from a reputed university or college to get a strong backing for their profile.
Responsibilities: The job requires the person to design and invent chemical processes or products, plan and operate industrial plant facilities, create environment-friendly health and safety standards, provide safety measures for chemical



industry work conditions, R&D in the Bio-Tech firms, create chemical materials for industrial production, processing of food and agricultural products, cosmetics, and mineral based industries.
Scope: Earlier it was only about industrial-scale production of chemicals, but the field has seen a vast change as the chemical engineers now cover various fields and industries. A broad field, Chemical Engineering has applications in plastics, textile, food, pharmaceuticals, petroleum, and many more. All these sectors and industries hire Chemical Engineering graduates thus opening a huge scope for them in India as well as abroad.
Chemical engineering graduates can find jobs in petroleum refineries, petrochemical industries, food processing units, cement factories, pharmaceutical industries, fertiliser factories, biotechnology sector and many others.
Pay Scale: Salaries in this field of Engineering are lucrative where freshers can earn on an average ₹25,000 to ₹30,000 per month. With experience and depending on the skills, the salaries reach ₹5-₹7 lakh per year. If one is willing to go abroad and work in Petroleum industry then one can expect high-end salaries. Competent professionals with few years of experience can expect salaries between ₹1 lakh and ₹3 lakh per month.
The writer is MD, Shubham Chemicals

MoU to foster entrepreneurial education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
To foster entrepreneurial spirit of its students, JP International School, Greater Noida signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Atal Incubation Centre — BIMTECH, Greater Noida. The agreement aims at building opportunities for students and faculty at both campuses.
AIC BIMTECH is supported by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, GOI and BIMTECH. JP International School also has Atal Tinkering Lab, supported by NITI Aayog.
The broad framework of the two partnerships will focus on to help or incubate ideas/start-ups which will be curated by AIC-BIMTECH team, faculty exchange pro-

gramme, student exchange programmes, participation in seminars and academic meetings and others.
Amit Saxena, Vice President of Sparsh Group & JP International School signs MoU with Chitransh Verma, AVP of AIC-BIMTECH

15th convocation at SRMIST

Challenges are always there, but are you ready to face them? Questioned A Rajarajan, Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, ISRO, Sriharikota to an enthusiastic crowd of 5000 students who had come to receive their medals, ranks, and degrees at the 15th Annual Convocation at SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur on November 10, 2019.
The chief guest for the event added that hard work and dedication would yield better results. He said: "Remember your par-

ents, teachers, and all those who have played a role in your life. The process of traversing from college life to the outer world will be different and difficult. The value systems that you learn from your institution is what will help you overcome these situations."
He also urged students not to give up on their dreams. "If India has to become the best country in the world, it needs all-round development and the primary focus is education. SRM has been contributing massively in this endeavour."
KN Vyas, Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy receives Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from Founder-Chancellor, SRMIST and Member of Parliament, Dr TR Paarivendhar at the 15th convocation

ents, teachers, and all those who have played a role in your life. The process of traversing from college life to the outer world will be different and difficult. The value systems that you learn from your institution is what will help you overcome these situations."
He also urged students not to give up on their dreams. "If India has to become the best country in the world, it needs all-round development and the primary focus is education. SRM has been contributing massively in this endeavour."

'Teaching is a service'

Manish Sisodia, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, was the chief guest at the workshop *Millennium Development Goals 2030: Role of Education and Universities* organised by the University School of Education, IP University to mark the occasion of National Education Day on November 11, 2019.
Speaking at the occasion, Sisodia said: "Teaching is a service, not a profession. The service of the teacher is round the clock and completely 360-degree work. This unique attribute of the teacher differentiates him from other services."
He further added, quality education can be achieved through active role of universities.



Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia along with Prof K K Aggarwal, Founder VC & Prof Mahesh Verma, VC, IP University



MAKE FUTURE BRIGHT

Corporate banking offers lucrative option for those who are just starting off, says AMIT GOYAL

Banking professionals handle client's money. In simplistic terms, they help individuals and corporate with their investments, loans and all other money related issues. When we hear the words corporate banking, you might immediately think of loans. Or, we might be confused about what corporate banking means and how it's different from commercial banking and investment banking. In either case, your thinking would be justified. In India corporate banking is now the better career option for the younger student.

Take for example a small mom and pop shop in your neighbourhoods, the likely services the business would require would be depositing their daily sales proceeds and making payments to their suppliers. On the other extreme a large global corporate with presence in multiple geographies will have different set of challenges like bidding for projects or requirement for international payments in different currencies.

Job profile

The bankers deal with companies rather than everyday people. Their clients range from small and medium sized companies to huge conglomerates. The products they offer include treasury services, loans and credit, trade finance, and employer services.

Corporate banker's responsibilities include: Meeting with and interviewing corporate and personal customers, discussing their financial requirements, and providing appropriate financial advice. They are advising corporate clients about mergers, acquisitions, capi-

tal markets etc. preparing lending agreements promoting the bank's services planning and problem solving writing reports managing projects training and supervising junior banking staff.

Responsibilities

- Interacting with the business customer, understand their underlying needs and provide them solutions in a timely fashion
- Corporate/business banking also involves business development and new income generation for the bank by way of deepening existing customer wallet and by winning new customer to the bank.
- If and when a customer faces challenges in the bank, they usually contact their designated Relationship Manager and request them to get involved in the situation and resolve it for them.
- Working closely with the Relationship Manager to deliver the right solution.
- Maintaining strong working relationships with all team members and stakeholders.

What to study?

Although there is no prescribed specialisation that one must have in order to be a corporate banker. However, for few roles the hiring manager may prefer a particular stream or background.

For instance, for an analyst role, a degree in mathematics, statistics may be desired due to the analytical nature of the job. Similarly, for a customer-facing role that involves business development, a specialisation in sales and marketing or finance may be desired. Ideally a post graduate diploma in banking and finance from a reputed institute is the next best step to start a career in corporate banking.

Skills

Be a trouble-shooter for the customer. Customer service is at the heart of banking. Good communication skill, a can do attitude and an affable personality is what is looked for when selecting a candidate. Technical knowledge in banking can be added bonus for lateral recruitment. For a fresher, it is imperative that the candidate

is enthusiastic, keen to learn on the job and can connect well with the customers.

Other skills, which can go a long way in a banker's career, are being proactive, attention to details, creative and customer focused. There are many key skills:

- Analytical ability
- Numeracy skills
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Very good interpersonal skills
- Negotiation skills
- Discretion
- Attention to detail
- Ability to priorities, manage time and work under pressure
- Willingness to work long and unusual hours.

Remuneration

A corporate banker can work in a variety of fields and locales. The annual salary for corporate bankers ranges between ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh and is dependent upon the level of experience, type of industry, and geographic location.

The writer is director of TKWs Institute of Banking and Finance

GATE to success

Only three months are left for the GATE 2020 exam. AS PANDIT tells aspirants what they can do to secure a seat in institutes like IITs and NITs

It's a crucial period for the aspirants of the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2020 scheduled on February 1, 2, 8 and 9. Conducted jointly by the Indian Institute of Science and seven Indian Institutes of India (IITs) headed by one institute every year, candidates who end up qualifying the exam are not just eligible to secure a seat in IITs/NITs for higher education courses like M.Tech and PhD but can also get hired by various Public Sector Undertakings for high-paying engineering-related jobs.

No wonder, the competitive exam is gaining popularity among the students day by day. However, with just 3 months left for the exam, many of you might have started panicking over how to crack GATE 2020 exam with a good rank. Fret not.

Here is a preparation strategy you must follow to ace the GATE:

Focus on the syllabus

While you all must be familiar with the syllabus of the exam and the subjects involved, make sure you are thoroughly aware of the latest one and the topics being covered. All questions asked in the examination are directly related to the topics mentioned in the syllabus.

Subject and topic weightage

Analyse the question papers from the previous 10 years and research on the marks distribution of each subject. This will give you an idea about the core topics to prepare as in the GATE exam, questions are generally asked from the core area of the syllabus, which has to be prepared well.

Keep the fundamentals clear

Unlike other competitive examinations, while preparing for GATE, it is important to clear your basic concepts rather than cramming the formulas. Since simple questions are asked in a tricky format, be thorough with your concepts in order to understand and solve the questions.

Solving previous years' papers

Now that you have understood the pattern of the questions, start with solving as many mock test papers as possible, followed by the previous year's question papers. This will help in adapting to the online pattern and assess your preparation.

Based on the test analysis, you can focus on their weak areas. However,



Akhand Swaroop Pandit
Co-founder-CEO, Catalyst Group

keep in mind that the pattern of the examination has changed for the next year.

Focus on high return and easy questions

During preparations, lay emphasis on topics like Engineering Mathematics and General Ability as they carry 30 per cent of the total marks and are fairly easier to score in. You could look at some online lectures to prepare for these topics.

Attempt the easier questions first

You should go through all questions and try solving those questions first, which you find easy and require less time to score qualifying marks. Beware of attempting questions you are not confident of as there is negative marking too.

Unwind before the exam

When it's just one day left before GATE, stop bothering much about it. Go out for a drive or do anything that relaxes you. Sit for the exam with a rejuvenated mind.

With 90 days in your hand, follow the aforementioned strategy and start your preparation for GATE 2020 exam considering it as your only attempt. However, remember this isn't the end of the world. So, go ahead and give your best shot.

There has been a dramatic shift in the way HR approaches talent acquisition. Talent shortage and the rapid consumerisation of HR technology have compelled HR departments to treat their candidates like customers. High performing organisations are putting the candidate experience at the front and centre of their recruiting strategy. And technology is a key driver enabling this shift.

Most of us might have at least one negative recruitment experience where the recruiter disappeared after the interview or worse, after filling up a hundred forms and interviewing for a day, you're told that you've not made it. No further explanation provided.

However, HR technology is changing that.

From helping recruiters make faster, more objective decisions to providing real-time updates to candidates, HR technology is helping organisations make recruiting a more candidate-centric process.

Let's look at how HR technology is helping organisations make recruitment more effective:

Recruitment Marketing

The talent landscape today is much more competitive than ever before. The days of placing an ad and waiting for candidates to pour in are long gone. Today, recruiters must sell jobs to candidates in order to fill

MINDIT

positions faster. And candidates are more likely to have multiple offers when they are interviewing. Which makes it critical for recruiters and organisations to invest in building a strong employee value proposition that encourages candidates to choose their organisation over others.

Online presence coupled with active social handles are one way to building a great employer brand. Dedicated technologies for employee advocacy or recruitment marketing can help organisations tap into diverse, richer talent pools and hire top talent. Many HCM or ATS

solutions also provide modules for career page development and optimisation which is also a big driver of successful recruitment marketing.

Most HR tech solutions also offer some level of automation, helping organisations with smaller budgets and HR teams remain competitive in the talent market. Email marketing and drip campaign capabilities offered by HR technology vendors can prove to be invaluable branding and marketing tools. Again, these capabilities can be offered as a bundle with suite solutions or stand-alone offerings.

Smarter sourcing

The one area in recruitment where technology has had the most pronounced effect is talent sourcing. Access to Internet in the country is on the rise. Social platforms, job boards and CRM platforms are enabling recruiters to tap into a rich pool of talent. ATS and HCM software typically provide capabilities for talent sourcing and help recruiters automate sourcing on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Indeed, and Monster.

Objective Talent Assessment

Unconscious bias has been a major hurdle in effective recruitment however, technology is helping recruiters overcome it.

Talent assessment tools help recruiters make an objective, data-driven decision about a candidate's potential fit for an open position.

Talent assessment tools help ensure a fairer recruiting process and deliver a positive candidate experience — helping build the employer brand and position organisations competitively in the talent market.

HR technology is transforming how organisations think about talent acquisition. It is helping recruiters become enablers of the employment experience rather than perform only transactional activities.

The writer is Vidhya Sam, HR Head, Adrenalin eSystems



The Macquarie University, one of Australia's top 10 universities announced scholarship worth AUD \$15 million to reward outstanding students in India, with a focus on providing financial support for students across all courses.

The university offers up to \$40,000 scholarship for Indian students enrolling in undergraduate programme and up to \$25,000 scholarship for PG programmes. The scholarships will be disbursed as \$10,000 annual scholarship towards tuition fees covering all coursework programmes commencing in 2020. This would mean a student enrolling in a four-year undergraduate degree would receive \$40,000 over four years or approximately 25-30% off their total tuition fees.

Applicants for all 2020 scholarships will be required to meet the English and academic requirements for the course they have selected and accept their offer by the deadlines listed below:

For students commencing a degree in February 2020 the deadline is December 20, 2019. For students commencing a degree in July 2020 the deadline is June 19, 2020.

For details on application and eligibility please visit:

The University of Sheffield, UK is offering 50 international UG merit scholarships in 2020. The scholarships are competitive awards worth 50% of the tuition fee for an undergraduate degree programme starting in September 2020. The scholarship is available for new international (non-EU) students who meet the eligibility criteria.

You will be able to apply for a scholarship via MUSE for applicants. You must hold an offer to study at the University of Sheffield. Scholarship results will be announced by 16:00 (UK time) on Friday May 22, 2020.

Eligibility: Your programme must be scheduled to commence at the University of Sheffield in September 2020.

You must receive an offer for a course studied in full at the university. All UG degree courses are eligible with the exceptions of Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200). For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and eligible to pay the overseas tuition fee. You must not be a sponsored student.

For more information visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships-undergraduate/international-undergraduate-merit-scholarship>
Application deadline: Last date is 13:00 (UK time) May 4, 2020.

ACCOUNTS AT JENOME BIOPHAR

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014510
Application deadline: November 21, 2019

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT AT TECHCRUZERS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT LLP

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014511
Application deadline: November 20, 2019

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT PATA HAI MEDIA LABS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014512
Application deadline: November 21, 2019

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT BLU SAVIORS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹11,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014513
Application deadline: November 21, 2019

OPERATIONS AT ANTHILL CREATIONS

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014507
Application deadline: November 20, 2019

DIGITAL MARKETING AT DXMINDS TECHNOLOGIES INCORPORATION

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014508
Application deadline: November 20, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT D'FRENS CONSULTING

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2014509
Application deadline: November 20, 2019

STUDY ABROAD

Brexit, a boon or bane for Indian students?

ROHIT SETHI, Director, ESS Global, gives a low down on what does Brexit mean for international students eyeing UK universities

With the deadline for the withdrawal now extended till January 31, 2020, the uncertainty still prevails around whether Brexit

will have any effect over the academic aspirations of international students willing to study in the UK.

Post-Brexit plans will not only bring bad news for UK students willing to study in mainland Europe but will also affect the EU students. Proposals from Britain's education ministry have stated that from 2021 the UK may start charging overseas EU students the same fees as charged to the other international students. This means that EU students would have to pay somewhere between £10,000 and £35,000 a year to attend a university in England.

Moreover, Britain's exit from the EU can possibly affect the country's reputation as one of the top study abroad destinations. It can complicate the student visa process, making it more difficult for international graduates to secure jobs in the country due to fluctuations in work visa policies.

There is also a possibility of getting no scholarships in the case of certain universities in the UK. While Brexit may not impact the UK based scholarships like Commonwealth or Great, it may hinder the probabilities of international students planning to participate in EU-based grants through programmes like Erasmus+.

A recent study by the GMAT council reported that international students are still keen to study business in the UK. In fact, Brexit is expected to bring a considerable positive impact on Indian students interested in pursuing higher education in the UK, especially those willing to register for the postgraduate programmes at UK universities. With the British Government revealing its ambitious immigration plan underlining the need for skilled professionals in the UK economy, the admission of Indians and other migrants from the non-EU regions will hugely benefit from such a demand and favourable immigration policies.

Changing policies might be a boon for Indian and non-EU students.

The writer is a Study-Abroad Consultant



IN BRIEF

YOUNG DESIGNERS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT

The JD Institute of Fashion Technology participated in a theme-based fashion show #KnotsOfInspiration/Education organised by the Italian Embassy at the Italian Embassy Cultural Center and showcased their design collections.

The institute participated in the event along with other fashion schools in the country. The fashion show was followed by the Young Italy-India Fashion Lab

contest in which winners stand a chance to pursue higher studies on scholarship and attend the Milan Fashion Week.

Commented on the event, Harsh Dalal, Director, JD Institute of Fashion Technology, said, "I am delighted to be a part of this event. I wish good luck to all the growing young talents of India and being the part of this industry we will always support and enhance their skills to make Indian fashion, a global identity."

GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL STUDENT CHAPTER

The BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore has recently launched the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Student Chapter, with an objective to promote sustainability among the student community. The event helped the students to have a better understanding of the green technology and its needs in the current world scenario.

Arun Rao, Head

Engineering, Assetz Property Group said: "It is quite visible that green properties are environment friendly and helps people and makes a better place for people to stay. This initiative taken by the college has been an eye-opener for the other institutions in Bangalore to have a concept of necessity and awareness regarding implementing the subject of green technology and making

the student-community to be more responsible towards the society and even the environment."

The IGBC student chapter will involve activities like presentations and lectures by experts on Green buildings, opportunities to participate in IGBC events, internship opportunities for students on green building, design competition, participation in chapter meetings.

WORKSHOP ON PHOTOGRAPHY AT IIAD

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) organised a two-day photography workshop at its Okhla campus for Communication Design Students. The aim of the workshop, facilitated by Canon Photo Mentor and a Lifestyle and Commercial Photographer Ravi Dhingra, was to provide the students a chance to learn about the basics of photography from light sources to various lighting types and techniques.

The workshop provided the students with a platform to talk about the various aspects to keep in mind while taking a

photograph and how to use reflectors and light modifiers in order to create the appropriate atmosphere and environment to visually express themselves.

Dhingra said: "Picture capturing is an art in which you need to gauge the details such as light, frame, exposure etc. to create an art piece. Shadow plays an important role in adding volume and dimension to any frame." He stressed on the importance of the absence of colors in a time of so much sensory overload, as a way of disrupting the monotony and asserting one's individuality.

Federer alive at ATP Finals

AFP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer kept alive his hopes of a seventh ATP Finals crown on Tuesday, beating Italian debutant Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 at London's O2 Arena.

The Swiss third seed put himself under enormous pressure by losing his first match on Sunday in straight sets in Group Bjorn Borg to Dominic Thiem.

The six-time champion was not at his fluent best on Tuesday but ultimately had too much for Berrettini, who won just three games against Novak Djokovic in his opener.

Both players were solid on serve in the first set, with Federer struggling to make inroads against the eighth seed.

The Swiss eventually earned himself the sniff of a chance in the 12th game, winning the first break point of the match but Berrettini snuffed out the danger and held to take it into a tie-break.

Federer upped the level of his game in the shootout, helped by some wayward shots from his opponent plus a Berrettini double-fault and won it comfortably 7-2.

The Swiss, clad in black, broke immediately at the start of the second set to leave the Italian with a mountain to climb.

Berrettini earned a clutch of break points in the eighth game but Federer eventually served himself out of trouble.

Federer, as usual enjoying the lion's share of support from the crowd, broke in the next game to seal the set 6-3.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion said he had remained calm and tried to stay positive after the Thiem defeat.

"There's no reason to be too down on yourself," he said. "We came here to play three matches and give it all we have. It was the big goal of the season to come here and qualify which we did, plus I had a day off."

"Not everything was bad (in the Thiem match) but of course if you over-analyse it, all of a sudden it can be," he added. "I was ready, I was prepared today and that's what matters the most."



Roger Federer plays a return to Matteo Berrettini during their ATP World Tour Finals singles match at the O2 Arena in London on Tuesday

AP



Rafael Nadal plays a return to Alexander Zverev

'NO EXCUSES'

On Monday night, Rafael Nadal refused to make excuses after being outplayed by defending champion Alexander Zverev.

The Spanish top seed, who has never won the season-ending event, came into the tournament under an injury cloud and was well short of his imperious best as he went down 6-2, 6-4.

He is locked in a battle with Novak Djokovic to finish as the year-end number one but was not serving flat out in practice last week due to an abdominal strain that forced him to pull out of the Paris Masters at the semi-final stage.

The 33-year-old led Germany's Zverev 5-0 in head-to-head contests coming into the match but was uncharacteristically sloppy in the first set, conceding two breaks of serve.

Buoyed by his dominant start,

Zverev, seeded seventh, broke in the first game of the second set to take an iron grip on the match.

Nadal dug deep, urging himself on but his 22-year-old opponent proved too strong. He did not concede a single break point in the entire match.

Zverev hit a total of 26 winners—double his opponent's tally — and Nadal managed just three forehand winners in the entire match.

"The physical issue was not an excuse at all," said the Spanish 19-time Grand Slam champion, who said he did not feel any pain from his abdominal injury. "The only excuse is I was not good enough tonight."

"What really matters is I need to play much better in two days. That's the only thing," he added. "We knew that it was going to be tough, because the period of time since the injury until

today is very short, but we are here trying."

Zverev, one of four players under the age of 24 at the event in London, was delighted to recapture his best form after a mixed season.

"This means so much, playing here again after winning my biggest title so far in my career here last year," he said. "This means everything to me."

"Playing here, playing in front of you all, playing in the O2 is something that we don't have during the year, and this is so special."

Nadal faces a tough task now to qualify for the semi-finals from the group phase, with matches still to come against Tsitsipas and Medvedev.

The Spaniard has qualified for the year-end championships for 15 years in a row but has only made nine appearances due to injuries.



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino reacts after VAR cancels his opening goal against Aston Villa during Premier League game

PL/Twitter

VAR must improve: Klopp

AFP ■ LAUSANNE

The day after Liverpool beat Manchester City in a crunch match where VAR decisions were hotly disputed, the Premier League leader's coach Jurgen Klopp and other top football figures have suggested improvement is needed to the fledgling system.

Klopp, his City opposite number Pep Guardiola, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane, and Thomas Tuchel of Paris Saint-Germain all attended the UEFA coaches forum in Nyon, Switzerland on Monday, where the VAR (Video Assistant Referee) system was a hot topic.

"It is clear it's a process where they have to keep on improving," Klopp said.

"It can be improved, a lot of things have to be done by human beings and we are not 100 percent (either)."

"There is space for some mistakes, nobody asks for perfection, just to have the right decision, that's all."

His comments were made a day after the marquee game of the Premier

League season so far saw a controversial VAR call after six minutes when City could easily have had a penalty when the ball ricocheted around the Liverpool area and hit the Reds' defender Trent Alexander-Arnold on the arm.

Not only did VAR fail to overturn the referee's decision not to award City a penalty, but they were doubly punished 22 seconds later when Liverpool midfielder Fabinho fired home a brilliant strike to give the Reds a 1-0 lead.

UEFA assistant general secretary Giorgio Marchetti said uniformity was needed but called for time for the promising new system to bed in.

"Now we have VAR, it's quite useful that coaches and representatives of referees can speak together," Marchetti said.

"Let's not forget VAR is very young and it's a revolution in the game. 'What we all need is uniformity."

"There are points which need to be fine-tuned, but you have to look at the positive points that VAR brings," he said.

Sai Praneeth enters top 10

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth jumped one spot to 10th while Kidambi Srikanth slipped three places to be at 13th in the latest BWF rankings issued on Tuesday.

Sai Praneeth, who had won Bronze at the World Championships in August, moved to top 10 while Srikanth, who was at 10th in the previous week, dropped out of the top bracket.

Sameer Verma also moved up one place to be at 16th in the men's singles rankings headed by Japanese Kento Momota. In the women's singles rankings, P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal remained unchanged at sixth and ninth respectively. In the men's doubles, the pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty rose two places to be at seventh. The Indian duo have been in fine form in recent months, reaching the final of the French Open in October and the semi-final of the China Open recently.

SRIKANTH GETS WALKOVER

HONG KONG: Top Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the men's singles second round without playing a shot after his opponent Kento Momota's pull-out while Sourabh Verma entered the main draw of the Hong Kong Open after clinching straight-game wins in his two qualifying clashes here on Tuesday.

Srikanth was to play against Momota in the first round today but the Japanese world number one pulled out of the tournament on Tuesday. The reasons for his withdrawal were not known.

World number 10 Srikanth will now face either compatriot Sourabh or Frenchman Brice Leverdez, who will clash in the second round today, to reach the quarter-final. Sourabh, seeded fourth in the qualifiers, first defeated Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-15, 21-19 before getting the better of Lucas Claerbout of France 21-19, 21-19 in the final qualifying round.

In the mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa rallied from a game down to beat the Thailand duo of Nipitphon Phuangphapet and Savitree Amritrajai 16-21, 21-19, 21-17 in a 55-minute match and advance to the second round.

But in another mixed doubles first round match, the Indian duo of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy lost 10-21, 18-21 to the third seeded Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai to bow out of the tournament.

Creating chances not enough, we have to score from them: Chhetri



Indian players warm up during team's practice session in Dubai ahead of FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifier against Afghanistan in Dushanbe

Indian Football/Twitter

PTI ■ DUBAI

Talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri on Tuesday asked his team-mates to pull up their socks and produce an improved performance in the team's crunch World Cup qualifying round match against Afghanistan tomorrow.

After inspiring performance against Asian champions Qatar (0-0 draw), India played out a 1-1 draw against lower-ranked Bangladesh, who were on the verge of running away with the match before the home side's late equaliser in Kolkata on October 15.

Igor Stimac's side are now at the fourth spot in the Group E table with two points and tomorrow's match at Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe will be a crunch game for India to remain in the hunt in the qualifying round. The war-ravaged Afghanistan chose Dushanbe as their home venue for the second round qualifiers of the World Cup.

Chhetri said "converting chances" was an area where the team needs to work more. India had a slew of chances against Bangladesh and all of them they wasted except for the 88th minute header from Adil Khan.

"We are creating chances. But that is not enough. We have to try our best to convert them and try to be a tougher unit while defending. We have missed against Bangladesh and we need to pull up our socks against

Afghanistan," Chhetri said after a short training stint at the Dubai Sports City.

"At the end of the day, if we can do better on the pitch, we'll be happier," Chhetri mentioned.

Fullback Subhasish Bose said, "Maintaining clean sheets will be of paramount importance in order to stay alive in the race of the World Cup Qualifiers. We will need to be sharper in the absence of Sandesh-bhai (Jhingjan)."

"The team is upbeat. We will leave no stone unturned to make the most out of the remaining games. We were able to do the same against Qatar. If we play to our true potential, there's no reason not to repeat it against Afghanistan and Oman again," he added.

Seasoned defender Anas Edathodika, who paired with Adil Khan at the heart of the defence against Bangladesh, sounded optimistic about the "defensive solidarity" that the Blue Tigers have shown so far.

"There are no easy games at the International level but we have shown defensive solidarity so far. We have to continue to believe in ourselves. We really need to get some good results in the next two games and all that starts with our performance at the back," he said.

"It always makes your job easier to win a match if you can come out with a clean sheet. If we can maintain our shape and hold the defensive line as per our plans, we can pull it off against them," he explained.

'Astro turf, near sub-zero conditions will make it tough'



Sunil Chhetri chats with Igor Stimac at airport before leaving

IFT/Twitter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bracing up for an unfamiliar astro-turf, sub zero temperatures and a sprightly opponent in Afghanistan, India's football coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday conceded that his team's winless streak in the World Cup qualifiers won't be easy to break in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

"The climatic condition in Dushanbe is very different from what we have experienced in India at this time. It's very cold and mercury level drops to closer to sub-zero," Stimac said.

The Group E match will be played on artificial turf amid near freezing temperatures.

"Moreover, the match is scheduled on an artificial turf which our players are not used to. Afghanistan have chosen the venue to make others' life difficult and we have an uphill task in front of us to overcome it," he added.

Stimac said a victory against Afghanistan will boost his side and will help build the momentum for the clash against Oman in the away matches in Muscat on November 19.

"We have improved a lot since our first game (against Oman). We can show what we are capable of without our key players sometimes (defender Sandesh Jhingjan and midfielder Rowlin Borges). The result against Afghanistan in Dushanbe will have a major impact on the entire team. A win will boost our confidence by manifold before we head to Muscat."

Asked what will he do differently against Afghanistan, he said, "We have to avoid injuries. We have already lost Sandesh and Rowlin due to injuries and we can't afford to have anymore. We have to execute our plans in the right way. The boys are up and running and they are confident."

STERLING & GOMEZ

What happened at St George's Park

Joe Gomez was the first Liverpool player to get to StG and was in the player canteen when Sterling arrived

A group of England players, including Gomez, were laughing when Sterling walked in

Sterling said to Gomez: "You think you're the big man now?"

There was further laughter, as other players thought it was "banter"

Sterling walked up to Gomez and tried to grab him round the neck, Gomez reacted angrily, and the two players were separated by team mates

Gomez and Sterling met elsewhere in StG, Sterling apologised and they put the matter behind them

Gomez went to see the England boss to plead on Sterling's behalf, saying that he didn't think it was in the team's interests for Sterling to be sent home

Southgate dropped him from the Montenegro game as punishment



Liverpool's Joe Gomez, right, and Man City's Raheem Sterling clash during the Premier League match

Emotions got the better of me: Sterling

AFP ■ LONDON

Raheem Sterling said he allowed his "emotions" to get the better of him leading to a brief altercation with Liverpool's Joe Gomez that resulted in the Manchester City player being dropped for tomorrow's Euro 2020 qualifier against Montenegro.

Sterling admitted on Instagram on Tuesday he and Gomez "had words" when they met up at the England camp the day after Liverpool's 3-1 win over defending champions Manchester City which left the latter nine points adrift of Jurgen Klopp's side.

"Both Joe and I have had words and figured things out and moved on," Sterling said.

"We are in a sport where emotions run high and I am man enough to

admit when emotions got the better of me.

"This is why we play this sport because of our love for it — me and Joe Gomez are good, we both understand it was a five to 10-second thing... it's done, we move forward and not make this bigger than it is.

"Let's get focus on our game on Thursday," Sterling added.

The Daily Mail reported that Gomez and Sterling had to be separated by teammates on Monday after a "physical confrontation".

The pair had also clashed on the field towards the end of Sunday's match.

England manager Gareth Southgate moved quickly to deal with the issue — arguably one of his achievements during his time in the

post has been to erase the rivalries between members from different clubs which plagued previous England squads.

The likes of former star defender Rio Ferdinand have spoken about how when they used to join the England camp he and Manchester United players would stick together and find it hard to mix with Chelsea or Liverpool stars.

Southgate said in a hastily-organised press conference on Tuesday he would rather deal with the matter publicly now than let it fester till his usual meeting with the media on the eve of matches.

The 49-year-old, clearly irked by how the information had leaked out regarding the set-to, said Sterling's emotions had run over but "it is not the

same for Joe (Gomez)".

However, he emphasised a line had been drawn under the incident.

"We are like a family and all families have disagreements. The important thing is for a family to communicate and work through problems."

Despite being dropped for Thursday's match Sterling took part in England squad training as did Gomez.

Sterling, who according to some reports had packed his bags but changed his mind when Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson intervened and persuaded him to stay, has been one of the stars of England's qualification campaign, scoring eight goals in six games.

A draw against Montenegro at Wembley will be enough to guarantee England's place at Euro 2020.

LOCAL EVENTS

LUCKNOW HOLD BAREILLY

Lucknow played aglances draw with Bareilly in the Under-19 State-Level Junior Boy's Football Tournament at Agra on Tuesday. Lucknow will take on host on Thursday.

VIKAS SHINES

Vikas Arora slammed 49 runs in just 28 balls to script Lucknow Rangers' eight-wicket win over PNB in league match of the 2nd Sardar Patel T20 Corporation Tournament at NER Stadium on Tuesday.

BRIEF SCORES:

PNB: 84 (Ashish Tripathi 22, Shekhar 20, Vinay 20; Pradeep 11/3, Jasmeet 11/2, Md Saifu 15/2)

LR: 88 (Vikas 49, Rashid 17, Himanshu 12; LM Joshi 7/1).

MIX AND MATCH

Kohli & Co take pink ball throw downs in between red ball nets



Indian players during a practice session ahead of their first Test match against Bangladesh in Indore on Tuesday

PTI ■ INDORE

Skipper Virat Kohli had his first experience of negotiating a pink ball as Indian cricketers took turns to get used to the new colour during the net session ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh, starting from Thursday (tomorrow).

The Indian team did not train under the lights and the throwdowns with the SG pink ball was part of the traditional red-ball practice session.

Usually, three adjacent nets are placed — for pacers, spinner and throwdowns — for Indian team's practice. However, on team's request, the throwdown-net was created on the other side of the ground on separate practice turfs with a black sight-screen. It was skipper Kohli, who first faced the pink ball.

With throwdown specialists Raghavendra and Sri Lankan Nuwan Senaviratne hurling the pink stuff at express pace, the skipper looked comfortable. He looked more intent on playing defensive shots.

Once Kohli was done and went into the main nets, the other top-order batsmen including Cheteshwar Pujara mixed and matched, facing red and pink ball simultaneously.

Young reserve opener Shubman

PINK BALL LESSONS

Need to play late against pink ball: Rahane | Visibility at twilight could be difficult: Pujara

PTI ■ INDORE

The pink ball is going to be a very "different ball game", India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane asserted on Tuesday, saying its extra lateral movement compared to the red cherry will force batsmen to play late and closer to their bodies.

Rahane had a couple of practice sessions with the pink ball under the watchful eyes of NCA Director Rahul Dravid in Bengaluru building up to the historic Day/Night Test starting November 22.

"We had two good practice sessions, actually four but two with pink ball — one during the day and one under lights. It was actually exciting," Rahane said ahead of the first Test.

"For me, it was the first time I played with the pink ball and definitely it's a different ball game as compared to red ball. Our focus was to look into the swing and seam movement and also play close to our body," Virat Kohli's deputy observed.

Rahane's assessment after his initial sessions was that the batsmen will have to tweak their technique slightly.

"What we found out after the practice session was that the (new) pink ball does a lot more than the red ball. You have to play slightly late and close to your body. We had a word with Rahul bhai as he was also there."



Cheteshwar Pujara & Ajinkya Rahane train at NCA

PTI/File Picture

BENGALURU: Top batsman Cheteshwar Pujara feels "visibility at twilight" could be an issue when India and Bangladesh venture into the uncharted territory called Day/Night Tests later this month in Kolkata. The Test at Eden will not only be the first day/night affair for both the sides but it will also mark the first official appearance of SG pink balls.

"I have played earlier with pink ball in the Duleep Trophy, that was good experience. Playing with pink ball at the domestic level could come in handy," Pujara told 'bcci.tv'. Majority of the cricketers will be playing with the pink ball for the first time in their careers. However, the likes of Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Hanuma Vihari, and Kuldeep Yadav have

experience of playing with the Kookaburra pink ball in Duleep Trophy.

"Visibility is not an issue during the day, it will be an issue in twilight and under lights, the twilight could be a little difficult. Those sessions will be crucial."

Pujara added, "Most players have said that picking the wrist spinners' wrong 'un is a little difficult." For another senior player, Ajinkya Rahane, training ahead of the match will come in handy as far as acclimatisation is concerned.

PTI

Bhuvi trains to test fitness

PTI ■ INDORE

Recovering from a hamstring injury and a side strain, pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar assessed himself for a comeback when he participated in a "skill session" during Indian team's practice.

The Indian team management seem to have taken charge of Bhuvneshwar's final phase of rehabilitation.

His injury has been a concern for the Indian team since he came back from the West Indies after the limited overs series. He followed a rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy.

"Bhuv is here for a skill session with the team. The team management just wants him to get into the groove," a team source said about the pacer's presence at the net session.

He had a catching session with fielding coach R Sridhar and then participated briefly in the net session. He bowled a few deliveries from full run-up but it was evident that he wasn't going full tilt.

However Bhuvneshwar's presence at the session is a welcome news considering that the 29-year-old is still an important member as far as India's white ball cricket is concerned.



Gill seemed to have taken a hit when one of the deliveries bounced extra but it was not serious.

The Indian team will get only two full training days ahead of their first day/night Test at the Eden Gardens, starting November 22.

Aware that not much time is in hand, the BCCI had arranged a couple of pink ball sessions under lights for the Test specialists like Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, Pujara, Mohammed Shami at the NCA under Rahul Dravid's guidance.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee are likely to watch 1st day of D/N Test

Hasina, Mamata likely to watch together in President's Box

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee are likely to watch India's first ever Day/Night Test together after ringing the customary Eden Bell to start the proceedings on November 22.

A four-member team led by Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner Toufique Hasan did a recce of the Eden Gardens on Tuesday and checked the seating arrangements for the Prime Minister and her 80-odd delegates who will grace the historic occasion.

As per the schedule, Hasina will be on a one-day visit and she will watch the match for some time after ringing the Bell and once again will come back at the closing time 8pm when the Cricket Association of Bengal will present a grand felicitation.

Hasan did not confirm whether Hasina and Mamata will watch the match together but a CAB official indicated that they would be seen together in one of the President's box at BC Roy Club House.

Giving the details of Hasina's programme, Hasan said: "Prime Minister will arrive in the morning on the same day and will come to the Eden to ring the Bell just before the start at 1pm. She

will leave to take rest after watching the match for some time and will return again at 8pm for the main felicitation programme."

"She will be seated in one of the central President Boxes near the Bell. We are happy with the arrangements and looking forward to be part of the historic occasion. Eden is known as the Mecca of Cricket and for the first time both the countries will play a Day/Night match. Bangladesh people are really excited," he added.

Hasina will leave on the same day after the felicitation. The schedule of her political programmes of the day is not yet finalised.

Hasina and Mamata will be accompanied by BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Naimur Rehman, BCB President Nazmul Hasan along with CAB office bearers.

"Following the first day's play, the players who played the first Test between India and Bangladesh will be felicitated followed by speeches by the hon'ble dignitaries," CAB Secretary Avishek Dalmiya said.

In the break, there are plans for a chat show featuring the fabulous five of Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and VVS Laxman.

Babar has potential to be compared to Kohli, Smith

IAN S ■ PERTH

Having managed to end as the highest run-getter for Pakistan in the just concluded T20 series against Australia, it will be important for Babar Azam to turn on the screws in the longer format as his team gets ready to take on the Aussies in a two-match Test series, which also includes a Day-Night game at Adelaide.

And former Australia batsman Michael Hussey believes that the talented batsman can be spoken of in the same sentence as that which has stalwarts like Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson if he improves his Test record.

"I honestly believe this guy can be in the same conversation when we start talking about the best players in the world," Hussey was quoted as saying by Fox Sports. "We start talking about (Virat) Kohli, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson, Joe Root gets floated around."

"I think if he can start putting together some big hundreds like this in the Test arena, he's that good... he's a brilliant, brilliant player," he added.

Babar made a brilliant start to the preparation for the two-Test series as he hit a masterful 157 in the practice game against Australia A. This after scoring two fifties in the three-match T20 series that saw the hosts win the series 2-0 as the first game saw no result thanks to rain.

Tigers preparing to tackle Ashwin-Jadeja

PTI ■ INDORE

It's India's fast bowling unit which is now feared in Tests but Bangladeshi batsmen are more concerned about handling spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja during the two-match series, top-order player Mohammed Mithun said on Tuesday.

Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma are expected to be more than a handful during the series but Mithun seemed more wary about the Ashwin-Jadeja threat.

"We all know the strength of their bowling line-up. We are working on how to tackle their spinners as it is batting-friendly for the first two days but afterwards their spinners come into play as they try to attack the opposition," he said.

"We are working on some technical aspects keeping our focus on how to handle them," Mithun said.

They are expecting that batting coach Neil McKenzie will help them decode the Indian spinners.



Daniel Vettori supervises Bangladesh's training session in Indore on Tuesday

BCB/Twitter

"Let the technical things remain inside the dressing room," he said without parting with the trade secrets.

Asked to comment on India's weakness, Mithun said that he preferred to look at his own strength than opponent's weakness.

"We are looking at our strength more than focusing on their weakness because no team could do well against them at their home (in the recent past). We are looking forward to do well here. Obviously it won't be easy and we need to work really hard," he said.

"The five bowlers they (India) have, we cannot take anyone lightly because everyone is world class." Mithun has belief in his young bowling unit that it can take 20 wickets to win a Test match.

"Any batsman can get out anytime. If we can bowl as a unit with discipline I feel we can pick 20 wickets."

While India are favourites by a distance, Mithun feels that the T20 win in Delhi gives them hope of enjoying a good result.

"If we look at the past no one gave us any chance when it comes to beating India in the T20 and that too in their own backyard. "But our players had that belief. We are disappointed that we could not win the last game (in Nagpur) despite creating chances at the same time now we are looking forward to do well in Test series."



Kolkata's iconic stadium Eden Gardens

PTI/File Picture

D/N Test to start at 1 pm & end at 8 pm

IAN S ■ KOLKATA

Keeping in mind the dew factors that comes into play at the Eden Gardens post sunset on winter evenings, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has agreed to the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) request to start the game at 1 pm and end the day's play by 8 pm in the Day-Night Test.

A BCCI official confirmed the development and said that sessions have been re-planned

keeping in mind the need to call stumps by 8 pm as the ball would get really wet if play carried on post 8 pm in Kolkata in late November.

"Keeping in mind the dew factor, the BCCI approved CAB's request to change the playing hours in the second Test. While play will start at 1 pm, the first session will end at 3 pm. The second session will start from 3:40 pm and continue till 5:40 pm. The final session will be played from 6 pm till 8 pm," the official said.

Chahar almost takes hat-trick in Mushtaq Ali Trophy

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Medium-pacer Deepak Chahar followed up his hat-trick in the final India-Bangladesh T20 international with almost a repeat, taking three wickets in the space of four balls for Rajasthan against Vidarbha in a Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Tuesday.

However, his heroics (four wickets in an over) went in vain as Rajasthan went down by 1 run (via the VJD method) finishing with 105 for 8 in a game to reduced to 13 overs due to rain.

The fast-improving Deepak Chahar, who on Sunday last became the first India player to take a T20 international hat-trick and also the best ever bowling figures (6 for 7), picked up the wickets of Darshan Nalkande, Shrikant Wagh and Akshay Wadkar off the



Deepak Chahar celebrates after hat-trick

fourth, fifth and sixth balls of the final over of Vidarbha's innings, but missed the three-peat as he bowled a wide in between.

His performance helped Rajasthan restrict the opponent to 99 for 9 in 13 overs.

After scalping the wicket of Rupesh Rajkumar of the first ball of the over, he dismissed Nalkande off the fourth.

However, he delivered a wide the next ball and then dismissed Wagh and Wadkar off the next two to finish with figures of 4 for 18 in 3 overs.

Chahar began the over by picking up the wicket of Rupesh Rajkumar Rathod to finish with superb figures of 4 for 18 in 3 overs.

Earlier, Vidarbha chose to bat after winning the toss and after some middling performances by the batsmen, the Vidarbha innings

imploded and Deepak Chahar triggered the collapse.

His first victim was Rathod, who was caught by his cousin Rahul Chahar.

He then had Nalkande caught by Rajnesh Bishnoi, before having Wagh caught by Chandrapal Singh Chundawat.

He then bowled Wadkar to complete a hat-trick.

Chasing 106 for victory, Rajasthan faltered after a bright start provided by Manender Singh, who smashed 6 sixes in 17 balls before falling for 44.

Opener Ankit Lamba (15, 11 balls, 1 four, 1 six) and Arjit Gupta (12, 9 balls, 1 four, 1 six) were the only other batsmen to reach double figures as the team could make only 105 in 13 overs.

Vidarbha tops the points table with 16 points from 4 matches in an all-win record.

Mumbai record 4th win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai registered its fourth win in the league stage at Wankhede stadium on Tuesday after beating Pondicherry by 27 runs.

The title favourites have beaten Mizoram, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh in their first three games.

Asked to bat, Mumbai rode on a blazing half century by skipper Suryakumar Yadav (57 off 37 balls) to post a descent 171/6 on the board.

Their inform openers Jay Bista (29 off 21 balls) and Aditya Tare (20 off 14 balls) conjured 48 runs for the first wicket.

Chasing 172, Pondicherry had a pathetic start and were reeling at 29-2.

But then Parag Dogra (45 off 35 balls) and opener Arun Karthik (27 balls) tried to resurrect the innings with 28-run stand, before Karthik



was dismissed by Shivam Dube.

Anand Subramanian (39 off 31 balls) and Dogra gave a scare to Mumbai, but their bowlers held their nerves to eke out a win.

Pacer Tushar Deshpande (2-29) and Shams Mulani (2-25) shared the spoils.

There are no matches on Wednesday and the action resumes on Thursday.

In the first game at the Wankhede Stadium, Meghalaya stunned Assam by four wickets.

At BKC, Madhya Pradesh defeated Mizoram by 86 runs.

In the second game, Haryana defeated Bengal by five wickets as they chased the 123-run target with 17 balls to spare.

India spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who came back to the Haryana team after national duty, returned with figures of 1-21.