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Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
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LUCKNOW, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2019; PAGES 12-4 ₹3



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Diplomacy key to India-Lanka ties

By the time this column appears, the trends, if not the results, of Sri Lanka's presidential election should be known. It is always hazardous to anticipate the outcome of an election since voters are often — though not always — inclined to defy conventional wisdom and opinion polls. Not that the Sri Lankan election industry has evolved as much as India's where opinion polls and exit polls have acquired an independent life, sometimes quite distinct from the election itself. Yet, based on a brief visit to Sri Lanka last month and some previous experience of politics in that charming island, some forecasts are in order.

My reading of the polls suggest that the SLPP candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, enjoys a distinct advantage over his UNP rival Sajith Premadasa, the son of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa. How clear that advantage is and whether the election will go into the counting of the second preference votes — where the first preference votes of the JVP and an Independent candidate promoted by a few NGOs will matter are difficult to anticipate. However, barring the truly unexpected, it would seem that President Sirisena will be succeeded by another member of the family of the man who was defeated in 2014.

My reading of the presidential election is based on three observations.

First, it was pretty apparent that Gotabaya ran a streamlined, professional campaign. This was in sharp contrast to the UNP campaign that suffered from a relative shortage of resources and internal cohesion. Initially the UNP nomination was supposed to go to Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe. However, the party felt that rather than bear the entire burden of a strong anti-incumbency, it was preferable to go with Premadasa who, despite being a Minister in the Sirisena Government, was not too strongly identified with the regime. The desire to make a fresh start was understandable but Premadasa has not been able to rope in many of the traditional UNP voters.

Secondly, despite being very closely identified with his elder brother's presidency, Gotabaya has an image that is more technocrat than politician. He is seen to attach a great deal of emphasis on governmental efficiency, education and technology. Moreover, his plans to slash personal and corporate taxes are quite radical. Indeed, going by the manifesto, Gotabaya seems to be making a big pitch to transform Sri Lanka into another Singapore — originally a dream of President JR Jayawardene that was scuttled by the civil war.

In electoral terms, this suggests that Gotabaya may be able to prevail in Colombo and some of the adjoining Sinhalese-dominated towns that had tilted the balance against Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2014.

Thirdly, the Islamist bombings last April had a devastating effect on Sri Lanka's economy and its tourism industry. The fear of terror attacks reviving once again has put national security back on the political agenda. As the architect of Sri Lanka's military victory over the LTTE in 2009, Gotabaya is seen to be a tough no-nonsense politician. It is an image that will stand him in good stead in this election.

In 2014, the loss of a chunk of the SLFP vote and the huge 80 per cent turnout in the Northern Province where Tamils predominate had contributed to Sirisena's victory by a narrow margin. This time there is no reason to suggest that Tamil regions are sufficiently motivated to turn up in such large numbers. The feedback suggests that there is a palpable mood of disappointment with the Sirisena Government over regional autonomy. This would mean that while Premadasa will win a majority of Tamil votes in the Northern Province, this might not be enough to offset the lead Gotabaya is likely to secure in the traditional Sinhalese area. Indeed, it is nothing short of curious that many of Colombo's Left-liberals have suddenly begun singing praises of the 'progressive' credentials of the JVP candidate. Earlier, the JVP was debunked as the voice of extreme Sinhala nationalism.

The facile view is that India will be very upset with a Gotabaya victory, in case it happens. This assumption is centred on the post-defeat comments of Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2014 when he accused R&AW of interfering to secure his defeat. Moreover, the Rajapaksas are seen to be pro-China, while the UNP is understood to have good relation with India.

This assumption forgets a few cruel truths. First, the civil war against the LTTE was won in 2009 by the Sri Lankan army thanks to some tacit support from India. Gotabaya was the man who maintained links with the national security establishment in India. Secondly, the generous contracts to China, particularly in Hambantota, followed India's own unwillingness to participate. Thirdly, the sale of the facilities in Colombo and Hambantota were negotiated by the UNP and not the Rajapaksas. In his manifesto, Gotabaya has promised an independent foreign policy that avoids being linked to any of the great powers.

How a relationship is negotiated depends ultimately on diplomacy rather than either the past or stated positions. If the Modi Government can reach out to the winner and persist with an economy-first approach and support for counter-terrorism, relations with Sri Lanka are bound to be healthy. It does not matter if Gotabaya or Sajith Premadasa wins. That is a choice for Sri Lanka's voters.

Sabarimala Day 1: 10 women in barred age group sent back

PTI ■ SABARIMALA

Amid tight security, thousands of devotees offered prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple when it opened for the annual Mandala-Makaravilakku puja on Saturday, though police said ten women were sent back from Pamba base as they were in the "barred" age group.

The temple has reopened just days after a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court referred to a larger Bench the matter related to entry of women into the hill temple and other issues related to various faiths.

The State and temple precincts had witnessed protests by right-wing outfits and BJP workers last year after the LDF Government had decided to implement the Supreme Court verdict of September 28, 2018, allowing women of all age groups to offer prayers at the shrine. Though the apex court did not stay its earlier order allowing entry of women in the Lord Ayyappa temple, the LDF Government in Kerala this time said the shrine is not a ground for activism and made it clear that it would not encourage women who want to visit the temple for publicity.

Police on Saturday evening said at least ten women, who were part of a 30-member group from Vijayawada in Andhra



Devotees arrive at the Lord Ayyappa temple that opened for two-month long Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season in Sabarimala on Saturday

Pradesh, were sent back from Pamba, five km from the shrine, as they were found to be in the age group of 10-50 years. Females in this age group

informed them about the current situation in Sabarimala. They did not proceed further," a police official said.

Early this year, two women in the barred age group — Bindhu and Kanakadurga — had trekked the holy hills and offered prayers at the shrine, scripting history on January 2.

However, Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran has said those who want to visit the temple can procure a court order to enter the temple. At 5 pm on Saturday, Kandararu Mahesh Mohanararu opened the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, located in a reserve forest of the Western Ghats in Pathanamthitta district of the state, and performed the pooja. The devotees from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and other neighbouring States, who were allowed to trek the hill from 2 pm, climbed the sacred 18 steps to the temple with the "irumudikettu" (sacred bag containing the offerings to the Lord) after the priests performed the "padipooja".

While AK Sudheer Nambodiri took charge as Sabarimala melshanti (chief priest), MS Parameswaran Nambodiri who was to take charge as priest of the Malikappuram Devi Temple could not do so following a death in his family.

Pawar, Sonia may not meet today

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The meeting between Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Delhi to discuss a possible alliance with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra may not take place on Sunday, sources said.

Pawar has convened a meeting of the NCP's core committee in Pune on Sunday, which makes it difficult for him to reach Delhi in time, party sources said on Saturday.

Earlier, sources in both the parties had said that Pawar and Gandhi may meet on Sunday.

"The core committee meeting will begin in Pune at 4 pm. After that Pawar will head to Delhi in the evening. So the meeting with Sonia Gandhi seems unlikely," sources said.

The core committee may discuss portfolio allocation in the possible coalition government of NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena, sources said.

Pawar is expected to meet senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel on Monday or Tuesday to discuss government formation, they added.

"A meeting with Sonia

Gandhi may happen later," they said.

"Pawar and other NCP leaders will be meeting Congress leaders on Tuesday. In that meeting, the Congress will decide whether it will be part of the government or will support from outside," NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said late in the evening. "Once that decision is made, further process for government formation will follow," he told reporters.

Allies Congress and NCP have worked out a common minimum program with the Sena for government formation.

Maharashtra is under President's rule since November 12 after the BJP-Sena alliance fell apart over the issue of sharing of chief minister's post.

Shiv Sena not to attend NDA meet

Mumbai (PTI): The Shiv Sena, which is holding talks with the Congress and NCP for government formation in Maharashtra, said on Saturday that it would not attend a meeting of NDA constituents on the eve of the winter session of Parliament.

Sena leader Sanjay Raut also said that formal severance of ties with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance was now only a formality, and he had "learned" that Sena MPs would now be sitting on opposition benches.

The Sena also accused the BJP of having intentions to indulge in "horse-trading" in the state, which is under President's rule since November 12. The Uddhav Thackeray-led party fell out with the BJP over sharing of chief minister's post after the two allies won a comfortable majority in the last month's assembly polls.

CAPSULE

RAJAT SHARMA RESIGNS AS DDCA PRESIDENT

New Delhi: Senior journalist Rajat Sharma on Saturday resigned from the post of president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association, citing his inability to continue amidst "various pulls and pressures" within the organisation.

V-P CALLS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCRIBES

New Delhi: By starting their own newspapers, political parties and business groups are promoting their vested interests and compromising the values of journalism, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday. Highlighting the perils of fake news, he said it may be time for media bodies to come up with a code of conduct for journalists.

Yogi summons Swati ... seeks report on minister threatening cop

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday summoned Minister of State (Independent charge) Swati Singh after an audio clip of her threatening a police officer in Lucknow went viral.

The Chief Minister has also asked for a report from Director General of Police within 24 hours.

In the audio clip that surfaced on social media, the UP minister was heard questioning Circle Officer of Lucknow Cantonment, Dr Beenu Singh, about an FIR filed against owners of real estate major Ansal Developers and expressing displeasure over it.

In the said audio, Swati Singh alleged that "fake cases" were being filed against the company. She was also heard saying that it was a high-profile case and was in the know of the Chief Minister.

"It is false. Close the case," Singh is heard saying, asking the officer to visit her office "if she wanted to continue to be posted in Lucknow".

The minister is also heard asking the police officer to sit down with her to resolve the matter. Opposition parties, including Samajwadi Party and Congress, attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over Swati Singh issuing threats to the police officer.

"The matter is high profile and has been taken cogni-



sance of by the Chief Minister. What inquiry will you do? Is this zero tolerance for corruption which the Chief Minister is not tired of speaking about? Shame!" Samajwadi Party tweeted, quoting the conversation between Swati Singh and the Circle Officer.

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ajay Kumar Lallu posted in a separate tweet, "UP minister is threatening Lucknow Cant Circle Officer to favour scamster Ansal Builder. Madam Minister is saying that this matter is in the know of the CM Sahab, there are orders from above that there should be no FIR in this case. See the hold of scammers under BJP government, how the minister is threatening the guardians of law."

On September 29, real estate group Ansal API's vice-chairman Pranav Ansal was detained at Delhi airport while he was about to fly to London, in connection with cases pertaining to criminal breach of trust, cheating, and forgery. Ansal was later brought to Lucknow and sent to jail.

HC reserves order on bail plea of Chinmayanand

Allahabad (PTI): The Allahabad High Court on Saturday reserved its order on a bail application of Swami Chinmayanand in the sexual harassment case filed against him by a law student of Saharanpur. After hearing the counsel for Chinmayanand and the complainant, Justice Rahul

Chaturvedi reserved his order on the bail plea.

Chinmayanand was arrested on September 21. Police had on August 27 booked him under sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

He was later booked under section 376C of the IPC, which is usually applied in cases where a person abuses his position to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape".

The law student was also arrested on the charge of trying to extort money from Chinmayanand. Another bench of the court had fixed November 27 for hearing her bail plea in the matter.

RCom chairman Anil Ambani, four directors resign

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Communications chairman Anil Ambani and four other directors have resigned from the company, which is going through insolvency process, according to a regulatory filing.

The chief financial officer of the debt-ridden company, Manikantan V, too has resigned, the filing said.

"Anil D Ambani, Chhaya Virani, Manjari Kacker have tendered their resignation as Director of Company on November 15th, 2019," the filing said.

Ryna Karani and Suresh Rangachar tendered their resignations on November 14 and

November 13, 2019, respectively. The development comes a day after RCom posted a consolidated loss of ₹30,142 crore for July-September 2019 due to provisioning for liabilities after the Supreme Court ruling on statutory dues.

This was the second highest loss posted by any Indian corporate till date.

Ambani was once in the world's top ten rich persons list but now the company is struggling to even sell assets for the recovery of dues.

The company, which is going through insolvency process, had made a profit of ₹1,141 crore in the corresponding three months a year ago.

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Just breather! Air quality to fall again

Delhi air improves from severe plus to very poor, relapse likely from Nov 20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The air pollution in Delhi on Saturday improved significantly from the "severe plus" to "very poor" category, with overall Air Quality Index (AQI) at 360. However, the relief is short-lived as the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) has forecasted that air quality may deteriorate again from November 20 due to western disturbance.

SAFAR said, "Strong surface winds are flushing out the accumulated pollutants. No drizzling last night greatly

helped air quality to recover."

The high surface winds in Delhi will continue for the next two days (till Nov 19) to consistently improve the air quality, the forecaster added.

Local factors — temperature and surface winds — play vital roles in dispersion process of suspended particulate matters (SPMs).

On Friday value of AQI on was above 500, which falls under severe plus category.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution on Sunday is predicted to be under 2 per cent, SAFAR said.

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Amnesty India got foreign funds in FCRA violation

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd, booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for alleged violation of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), used commercial methods and circuitous funding, including funds receipt under the head of FDI, to circumvent the provisions of the FCRA after being prohibited from receiving such funding, sources said here on Saturday.

The revelation has come after scrutiny of the Amnesty account books by the agency investigators a day after it conducted searches at three loca-

tions in Bengaluru and the national Capital on the premises of Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd and Indians for Amnesty International Trust in Bengaluru for the violation of the FCRA.

A number of Amnesty entities allegedly received foreign contribution amounting to ₹36 crore from Amnesty International UK through Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd despite denial of permission to Amnesty's trusts to receive foreign contribution by the foreigners division of the Union Home Ministry that oversees FCRA implementation, sources said.

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Iqbal Ansari boycotts meeting of litigants

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ayodhya issue

Sunni Waqf Board decision on land after taking opinion

A day before the crucial meeting of All-India Muslim Personal Law Board on Sunday, the original litigant in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case, Iqbal Ansari, boycotted a meeting of all litigants from the mosque side.

The meeting was convened by AIMPLB secretary Zafaryab Jilani in Lucknow to ascertain the views of all parties from Muslim side on the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya issue and filing of a review petition in the apex court.

There were five litigants from the Muslim side in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi title suit.

Another litigant, Haji Mahboob, was also not present in the meeting but he sent his representative.

Haji Mahboob had supported the efforts of spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar for an out-of-court negotiated settlement to the dispute.

Representatives of the three other litigants were present in the meeting held at local Islamic seminary Nadwatul Uloom and they met AIMPLB general secretary Maulana Wali Rahmani.

Iqbal Ansari of Ayodhya said that for him the Ayodhya dispute had been settled and the issue stood closed for him. "I want peace and harmony to prevail in the country. I appeal to all litigants from Muslim side to accept the Supreme Court verdict and do nothing which could hurt peace and amity in the country."

Iqbal Ansari is the son of Hashim Ansari, one of the oldest litigants in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi title suit.

Ansari Senior was associated with the case since 1949, being among those arrested for breaching public order after idols of Lord Ram were placed in the mosque.



Born in Ayodhya, Ansari Senior died in 2016 and his son Iqbal Ansari became the petitioner after his death.

Meanwhile, the AIMPLB has convened an emergency meeting of its executive committee at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema in Lucknow on Sunday to decide the future course of action after the apex court's verdict on Ayodhya dispute case.

The crucial meeting will decide whether or not to file a review petition in the Supreme Court over its verdict and should Muslims accept or refuse the five-acre land to be given for construction of a new mosque as per the Supreme Court verdict.

AIMPLB member, Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali said in Lucknow on Saturday that most of the 51 executive members would take part in the meeting to discuss the Supreme Court verdict.

The meeting would be chaired by AIMPLB president Maulana Rabey Hasan Nadvi.

Earlier on Friday, Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind (JuH), also a party in the case, had maintained that any alternative land for the mosque outside the acquired 67 acres was not acceptable to them. The JuH also suggested for filing of a review petition.

Maulana Nadwi not allowed to enter Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former member of All-India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Salman Husain Nadwi, was prevented from entering Ayodhya on Saturday. He was turned back from Raunahi toll plaza on the outskirts of Faizabad city.

Maulana Nadwi was going to Ayodhya to meet the Sunni Waqf Board and also mahants and litigants in the Ayodhya case to discuss about the five-acre land ordered by the Supreme Court for mosque in its November 9 verdict.

Maulana Nadwi is considered close to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board chairman Zufar Farooqui and is known for his proximity to Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in Uttar Pradesh.

The Sunni Waqf Board has already announced that it will not file a review petition against the Supreme Court judgement on Ayodhya issue.

Maulana Nadwi had earlier advocated the cause of temple at Ayodhya. He had also given statements against the official line of the Muslim Personal Law Board. In February 2018, Maulana Nadwi was expelled from All-India Muslim Personal Law Board following his suggestion for shifting the Babri mosque from Ayodhya and for an out-

court settlement to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute.

Maulana Nadwi was closely associated with spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar when he initiated the move for an out-of-court settlement to the dispute. Maintaining its uncompromising stand on Babri Masjid, the AIMPLB had said that once a masjid was built, it would always be a masjid till eternity.

Maulana Nadwi's visit to Ayodhya came after he and other top clerics had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after the Supreme Court pronounced its verdict on the Ayodhya issue. Yogi Adityanath had earlier discussed with them the steps taken by UP government for

modernisation of madarasas and improving the education system.

Earlier, Nadwi had said that he favoured a university along with a mosque to be constructed on the five-acre land.

"Our meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was very positive. He pitched for communal harmony and peace across the state. I believe that a university along with a mosque should be constructed on the land for the Muslims in Ayodhya. This will send a good message to society," Nadwi said.



Hindu devotees take holy dip in the Ganga river in Allahabad

Pioneer

Farmers clash with police

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of farmers fought a pitched battle with the police in an attempt to prevent possession on their land acquired by the state government for the Trans-Ganga City Project in Unnao on Saturday morning.

The district administration officials along with a police force had come to remove encroachments from the acquired land.

Several farmers were injured in the baton charge by the police, which also used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the farmers who were demanding better compensation for their land acquired for a residential project.

District Magistrate Devendra Kumar Pandey, however, said the farmers had been adequately compensated.

Several policemen, including an ASP, were also injured when the farmers pelted them with stones.

Pandey said that UPSIDA chief engineer along with other officials reached the site

for carrying out construction work when the farmers flocked there and forcibly stopped the work.

The officials tried to pacify the farmers and when they failed, they called the police and district administration to control the situation.

The farmers, however, did not leave the place despite warning by the police and indulged in a verbal spat.

When some farmers started damaging the government vehicles parked at the site, the cops baton-charged them.

However, the police act boomeranged and the farmers went berserk and many of them started pelting police and officials with stones.

Additional police force was called from different police stations to control the situation.

The police arrested VN Pal, a contractor, for inciting the farmers.

The situation came under control after MLA Pankaj Gupta struck a dialogue with the irate mob of farmers.

The situation was said to be under control and police

and district administration officials were camping at the site.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav condemned the baton-charge on the farmers and said the Bharatiya Janata Party government was taking oppressive measures to suppress farmers without hearing their plea.

He said the farmers were given a small amount as compensation and their lands were forcibly acquired by the government.

Some of the farmers injured in the clash were identified as Siyawati, Mewal, Stripal, Pawan, Raju, Nanha, Dharmpal, all of Murlipur village in the area, Sushil Tiwari, Priyam Trivedi and Ram Sewak of different villages.

The policemen who sustained injuries in the stone-pelting included ADM, Rakesh Kumar, ASP Vinod Kumar Pandey, CO City, Anjani Kumar Rai, Sub-Inspector Anuruddha Singh, constables Arjun Singh, Ram Sewak and a woman constable Manu Yadav.

5 bootleggers arrested in Chandauli

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Chandauli police nabbed five bootleggers and recovered smuggled liquor worth Rs 1 crore in a crackdown against liquor smugglers on Saturday.

Those arrested were identified as Dalveer, Mahendra and Bhupendra of Haryana, Ramu of Kannauj and Ramesh of Etah district.

The police also recovered two trucks used for transporting the contraband and a Scorpio SUV from the accused.

During interrogation, the arrested liquor smugglers are reported to have owned up their crime and revealed that the contraband contained 2,580 cartons of Indian Made Foreign Liquor.

A Chandauli police spokesman said that personnel of Sayed Raja police station were tipped-off about movement of the liquor smugglers and laid a trap in Ramaupur village from where the trucks were to pass.

"The police team stopped the vehicles and recovered the smuggled goods. The accused, some of whom were travelling by the SUV, were subsequently nabbed," the police spokesman said.



Uttar Pradesh DGP OP Singh was honoured with Transformation Leadership Award, 2019 by Bhutan Minister TS Powdye, who was the chief guest at an international meet on Promoting Happiness through Public Policy in Lucknow on Saturday. The programme was organised by Lucknow Management Association and Global Lucknow.

'UP govt working to increase income of small entrepreneurs'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is working for increasing small entrepreneur's income and One District One Product (ODOP) scheme is an important link in this direction.

This was stated by MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh during UP Day function at the UP Pavilion at India International Trade Fair in New Delhi on Saturday.

"The One District One Product scheme will help small entrepreneurs sell their products across the world. Through this scheme, the government is providing help to small entrepreneurs in designing, packaging, marketing of their products, and also in getting loans," Singh said.

"The state government is also considering to organise a two-week exhibition to showcase products of traditional

entrepreneurs in Delhi. This could lead to better marketing of their products. The state government is working towards opening up the world market for state products. Besides, help of e-commerce companies, like Amazon, is also being sought," the minister said.

Singh said that Uttar Pradesh was attracting investment and a proposal to award 300 acres of land in Greater Noida for small scale industries was being discussed.

"An investment of about ₹1,500 crore, over 60,000 people will get employment," he said.

The minister said that the Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was working aggressively for improving Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in the state for entrepreneurs.

"Besides creating a conducive environment for

investment, the UP government has launched Investment Mitra Portal for investment, through which investors can apply online and authorities will have to decide their case within a certain time. This will not only bring transparency, but also increase investors' confidence," he said.

Apart from Singh, Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion, Chaudhary Udaybhan Singh, Principal Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal, Commissioner and Director, Trade Promotion Authority, Directorate of Industries and Enterprise Promotion, Gaurav Dayal, were also present.

The dignitaries took a round of UP Pavilion and later watched cultural programmes organised at Pragati Maidan.

3030 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा संख्या 108/ वि. पा. मं. (प्र.) ल. / 2019-20

अयोध्यासहकारकर्ता द्वारा अनुमोदी टेकदारों / फर्मों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु अलग-अलग सीलबन्ध ई-निविदाओं को भागों में ई-टेंडरिंग वेब साइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में घोरेहर बनराशि व कैला, तकनीकी एवं अनुभव सम्बन्धित प्रश्न, व्यावसायिक व अन्य शर्तें आदि एवं दूसरे भाग में दृष्ट व वाणिज्यिक नियम एवं शर्तें प्रदान करनी होंगी। निविदा प्रश्न मूल्य, घोरेहर बनराशि एवं जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र आदि प्रश्न के साथ संलग्न करते हुए इनकी Scanned copy upload करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा प्रश्न एवं घोरेहर बनराशि, जो कि अयोध्या अभियाना, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, लखनऊ के खाता संख्या 2408002190005438 I.F.S. Code - PUNB0691100 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, लखनऊ के खाते में RTGS / NEFT के माध्यम से स्थानान्तरित कर यू.टी.आर. संख्या तथा पे-रिलीफ की प्रति ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर निविदा प्रश्नों के साथ सह प्रामाणित PAN एवं GST पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र की प्रति प्रथम भाग के साथ लगाना अनिवार्य होगा। बाहिर घोरेहर बनराशि एवं अन्य प्रश्न पूर्ण तथा उचित/स्वीकार्य योग्य न होने पर द्वितीय भाग को नहीं खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदाओं का विवरण - निविदा सं. कार्यों का नाम, घोरेहर बनराशि, खुलने की तिथि व समय क्रमशः निम्नानुसार है -

(1) 108 - विभाग(मं)(प्र)/ल/2019-20 - विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड - प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 केंवोल्ट उपकेंद्र मोहन रोड के वार्षिक परिचालन एवं सामान्य अरुणक कार्य, घोरेहर बनराशि ₹ 18,00,000, निविदा दिनांक 19.12.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग वेब साइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 20.12.2019, समय 13.00 बजे के उपरान्त एवं भाग-2 (ग्राहक पार्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रश्न मूल्य ₹ 590/- भाग (500.00+G.S.T. @18% अतिरिक्त), ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर खोली जायेगी। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं अन्य संधर्भाओं आदि के सम्बन्ध में सूचना एवं निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in देखी जा सकती है। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य संधर्भों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनों तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in देखी जा सकती है।

बैकल डिस्ट्रिक्ट फर्म एवं एसी फर्मों जिनके डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोई सार्वजनिक/सी.बी.आई. ऑफिस नहीं है अथवा लिमिटेड कंपनी निविदाओं स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी।

अयोध्यासहकारकर्ता को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी भी ई-निविदा अथवा सभी ई-निविदाओं को अवधीकार/निम्नलिखित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। अयोध्या अभियाना, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल - प्रथम, 3030 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि. का सं. 111 सं. 114, नू-सल पारेषण भवन, विद्युति खण्ड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। फ़ोन: 2167, दिनांक: 16.11.2019 "राष्ट्रिय में विजली बचाव"

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I legally inform to all concern that my self and family has broken our relation with daughter Nirmala Singh (Neelu), Alambagh Lko. They will be self-responsible for their all activities as Social, Political, Economical and Criminal. From-Smt. Rajkumari Singh, 551 Ka / 0-327C Omnagar, Alambagh. Lko, Sri Shreeram Singh, 51, Semi Chauhan Kheri.

Hardcore criminal held after encounter

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A hardcore criminal was arrested after an encounter with a police team in Amethi district late Friday night.

The criminal, identified as Chandrashekhar Kesarvani of Amethi, was carrying a reward of ₹25,000 on his arrest and was wanted in several cases of loot, murder and Goonda Act had been invoked against him.

He is also one of the accused in the murder of a brick kiln owner.

A team of Crime Branch sleuths was tipped-off about the movement of Chandrashekhar Kesarvani and his aides near Navodaya Vidyalaya in Gauriganj area on Friday night. Subsequently, a joint team

of Gauri police station and Crime Branch were asked to arrest him. The team surrounded the area and asked Chandrashekhar Kesarvani and his aides to surrender.

However, Chandrashekhar and his aides opened fire on the police team and a bullet hit constable Rajesh Yadav.

In retaliatory firing, Chandrashekhar sustained injuries while his aides escaped taking advantage of darkness in the area.

While the constable is undergoing treatment at Amethi District Hospital, Chandrashekhar Kesarvani was referred to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow, Additional Superintendent of Police of Amethi Daya Ram Saroj said. PTI

3 sent to jail for objectionable messages

Muzaffarnagar: Three people were arrested here for posting objectionable messages on the social media against the Supreme Court's Ayodhya judgment, police said on Saturday. According to an FIR lodged with the police, Sadik Malik posted a message against the verdict on Friday and his two friends liked the post. Station House Officer Yashpal Dhama said. The three were produced before a court here and later they were sent to judicial custody for 14 days. In a unanimous verdict last week, the Supreme Court cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya and directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot for building a mosque. PTI

QUICK TAKES

MAN COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER TRYING TO KILL WIFE

Kanpur: A 32-year-old man allegedly shot at his pregnant wife before committing suicide here, police said on Saturday. Pankaj Gautam was killed on the spot, while Neha (27) was taken to a hospital where her condition was stated to be critical. The couple got married in February, Superintendent of Police (west) Anil Kumar said. Gautam shot at his wife and later ran to the terrace of their home in Maswanpur area to shoot himself on the right temple, the SP said. Police have recovered a country-made pistol of .315 bore and an empty shell of bullet from the spot. A case was registered and investigation on, the SP added.

COUPLE KILLED AS MOSQUITO COIL SETS HOUSE AFIRE

Bareilly: A young couple was killed when their house caught fire in Vanshi Nagala locality under the jurisdiction of Subhash Nagar police station here, police said. Vijay Saxena (35) and his wife Rajni (30) were found dead on Saturday morning when their neighbours

broke into their house seeing smoke coming out of it, said Subhash Kumar, SP (City). Police suspect that the fire was caused by a mosquito coil that was lit under a wooden cot. Most household goods were damaged in the fire, the SP said, adding that both bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

DALIT WOMAN GANG RAPED

Shamli: A 30-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gang-raped and beaten up by four men at Ahata Gos Garh village. The incident took place on Thursday when the woman had gone to the fields to relieve herself. The men dragged her to a sugarcane field and took turns to rape her. The victim was also beaten up when she tried to resist. Three of the accused have been identified as Sachin, Sosing and Rohit while the third man is yet to be identified, said Sandeep Balyan, SHO, Thanabhawan police station, adding that all accused are absconding. A case has been registered under relevant statutory sections following a complaint by the victim's husband, he said. The victim was sent for a medical examination, police said. PTI

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Experts discuss aspects of mobility

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The second day of the Urban Mobility India Conference, organised at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan by the Central government with support of the UP government, witnessed several sessions on various aspects of mobility with discussions by experts.

Shravani T from a company working in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development made a presentation at the conference. She said it was because of the challenges of growing urbanisation that transit systems have been introduced with set goals.

"Indian cities are facing many challenges as a result of rapid urbanisation in the last few decades, which has not happened anywhere else in the world. With the growing population, urbanisation has led to many challenges like insufficient transport infrastructure, traffic congestion, housing shortage, urban sprawl whose adverse effects are currently seen in cities," she noted.

She pointed out that in order to tackle these challenges, transit systems have been introduced with a set goal, as planned development along with the transit, also



termed as transit-oriented development which has become a buzzword today.

"But in reality, our development is not transit-oriented with development and transit functioning independently, which is imparting many more

new challenges to cities. The aim of transit-oriented development is not only to promote healthy ridership but also encourage people to live within walking distance of the transit for better affordability. This concept of transit-oriented

development has been understood and interpreted differently by various cities leading to a lot of ambiguity," she said.

She pointed out that transit-oriented development is supposed to be an ideal strategy

to integrate land use and transport systems by fixing current development around these public nodes as dense, diverse and pedestrian-friendly routes based on the character of the area.

"In the Indian context, it is treated as a total blanket development with multiple parameters to be spread across the transit nodes. This type of development forgets that every city is unique and one single rule cannot be applied to them. Each city has multiple transit stops and transit places differ with each other in form, functions and impacts. Some are located in the central business areas and residential areas where transit provides convenient means for commuters to travel to work and other destinations. There is a need for tailored strategies for each node, creating a node typology for the transit nodes based on cities context and needs," she pointed out.

Shravani said that analysis of context-based TOD with a framework that guides the development of the city and transit influence zone development is necessary by contextualising these node typologies to create high performing transit-oriented development projects.

Man stabbed in Jankipuram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Two bike-borne unidentified miscreants stabbed a man in Jankipuram police station area on Saturday night. The victim identified as Manna of Bakshi-Ka-Talab, who works with a private company, was returning home by his bicycle. Around 8 pm, when he was in Aznabar locality in Jankipuram, he was attacked by the miscreants. The victim suffered a cut on his throat. He was rushed to a hospital by passersby. Later, he told the police that the youths waylaid him asking to shell out all the money that he had. "When I refused, one of them attacked me with a knife," the victim said. However, the police said the accused asked Manna about the way to BKT and attacked him when he refused.

"The accused may have been in a drunken state and they attacked when Manna refused to tell them the way to BKT," the police claimed. However, sources said Manna was attacked during loot bid which they had to abort as they saw commuters converging on

the scene," they said.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old woman, identified as Ruby of Banthara, was found hanging from a tree in her house on Friday night. Police said she ended her life. However, the police could not explain the reason. Reports said the police were informed by Ruby's husband Virendra Kumar about the incident around 10 pm on Friday. A team reached the scene and were told that Ruby was hanging from the tree with a dupatta tied around her neck. "We are not disputing the claims made by Virendra as of now. Ruby's parents have been informed and the body sent for autopsy. If her parents lodge a complaint or the autopsy report hints at foul play, a case will be registered," the police said.

THEFT

The police were taken by surprise by the "skill" of an auto-lifter who was caught in the act by a CCTV camera on Saturday. The suspect broke the lock of a motorcycle in just 38 seconds and sped off with it from outside a house in

Jankipuram. The facts surfaced when the police examined a CCTV footage after Prateek Upadhyay of Rae Bareilly lodged a case of theft. Prateek had visited his relative's house in the area on Thursday evening and parked the bike outside. When he came out after a while, he found his bike missing. During investigations, the cops checked the CCTV footage. "In one of the footages, the suspect was seen approaching the bike. He broke the lock and sped off in just 38 seconds," the police said. The cops said a manhunt has been launched for the auto-lifter.

2 CARS GO UP IN FLAMES

Two cars went up in flames under mysterious circumstances in Thakurganj on Friday night. Reports said a car driver, identified as Manoj of Thakurganj, said he had parked the car near his house. "Around 2 am, a fire broke out and both the cars were engulfed in flames. I called firefighters who doused the flames," Manoj was quoted as saying by the police.

Focus on child rights protection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC), along with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), started a campaign at Metro stations in Lucknow city to support child rights protection, help meet their basic needs and expand opportunities for full development of their talent. The event marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The campaign was launched from the photo booth at Hazratganj Metro Station. Ruth Lyons from UNICEF and managing director of UPMRC Kumar Keshav were present on the occasion. Ruth thanked the five selected stations for joining the #GoBlue campaign on Blue Day. Keshav said that safety of children is their top priority.

Artefacts were displayed to spread awareness about child rights. Apart from Hazratganj, Bhoonath, Vishvavidyalaya, Charbagh and Transport Nagar stations will also be connected



to the #Go Blue campaign. "Volunteers are also sensitising visitors about child rights through photo booths at all

these metro stations. Till now, more than 6,500 people have posted photos with hashtags like #CRC30 and

#ForEveryChildEveryRight. The campaign will be on till World Children's Day (November 20).

Defence Pension Adalat on Nov 23

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Defence Pension Adalat will be held in Lucknow at AMC Centre & College stadium on November 23 under the arrangements of Surya Command. The event is planned to be inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. A team from Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension), Prayagraj, will be present to address pension-related grievances of the veterans, widows and surviving dependents of pensioners. They will try and give on-the-spot solutions. The Pension Adalat will be held from 9 am hours on November 23 and buses will be placed at Charbagh railway station and bus stand to facilitate movement of veterans to the venue. Representatives of 'Records Office' of various Regimental Centres will also be present to address document-related issues of the pensioners. In addition, various stalls like medical check-up facility, ECHS and Army Placement Node will be established to address other problems of veterans.

Social media activist held for 'hate-filled' posts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A social media activist of Delhi was arrested by the cyber team of Hazratganj police for writing posts on the Supreme Court's verdict of Ayodhya land dispute case in a bid to 'vitiate peace and communal harmony' in the country.

Hazratganj circle officer

AK Mishra said the accused, identified as Sohrab Ali of Nand Nagri in New Delhi, had posted "hate-filled" messages, hurting the sentiments of people of the other community. "We are keeping a watch on social media posts following the Supreme Court's verdict. After the posts of Sohrab, whose Twitter handle is @Kakawani,

were detected, sub-inspector Srikant Mishra lodged a case in this connection. We worked on the case and tracked the accused. Later, a police team was sent to New Delhi and the accused was arrested," he said. The CO said the accused was taken to Civil Hospital for medical test and later sent behind the bars.

Scientists urged to develop cost-effective tech for cane farmers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Sanjay R Bhoosreddy, Principal Secretary, Sugar Industry and Cane Department and Cane Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh, urged the Scientists for developing cost-effective and farmer-centric sugarcane production technology for reducing cost of production of sugarcane and increasing the farmers' income.

Bhoosreddy was addressing

the participants of National Workshop on Sugarcane: "Challenges and Future Strategies for Doubling the Farmers' Income organized by ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, in collaboration with Directorate of Sugarcane Development, Govt of India at IISR (Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research).

He said that with the improvement in economic condition of sugar mills, the farmers will also get the time-

ly payment of their produce. A souvenir was also brought out on the occasion and was released by the chief guest. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (Crops/Oilseeds), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India emphasised on reducing the cost of production of sugarcane, adopting integrated farming system and developing value added products of sugarcane for doubling the farmers' income.

RK Singh, Assistant Director General (Commercial Crops), ICAR stressed that India should also work on line of Brazil and produce sugar and ethanol as per its emerging demand at national and international level. Dr Singh also highlighted the need of development of climate-resilient varieties of sugarcane and encouraging micro-irrigation in sugarcane crop which will ultimately lead to enhancement of farmers' income. At the outset, Director

of ICAR-IISR Dr AD Pathak highlighted that the institute has adopted eight villages after signing a MoU with DSCL Sugar for doubling the income of the sugarcane farmers by 2022 and the results of first two years are very encouraging. Giving an overview of the workshop, Dr AK Sah, Principal Scientist and Organising Secretary, highlighted the problems being faced by the sugarcane farmers and requested the scientists for early redressal.

TINY-TOTS ENTHRAL

Lucknow (PNS): The 'Pre-Primary Annual Concert' of St Francis' Boys College was held on Saturday. The programme began with a prayer dance based on all religion by the students of KG-D. The students of Nursery-A presented a welcome dance. They also presented a dance-drama with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' as the theme.

The students of Nursery-B presented "Tinkling Stars," a dance drama wherein the children wore silver-coloured costumes to give their performance perfect look. The students of Nursery-C put up a dance titled "Little Heart Beats." It was a performance dedicated to their parents. The students of Nursery-D dedicated their performance to the nation

and titled it 'My India'.

The students of KG-A depicted summer, rainy and winter seasons. Musical acrobatics was performed by the students of KG-C, depicting the teacher as a potter who shapes the future of students. 'Cultural Diversity of India', a dance medley, was performed by the students of KG-B showcasing

the culture of India. The students of KG-D presented a skit titled 'The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf'. Principal Fr Alwyn Moras addressed the parents and thanked them for their support and encouragement. Head mistress Sr Priscella proposed the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with the national anthem.

Budding managers showcase talent at IIM-L fest



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

IIM-Lucknow's 'Manfest-Varchasva 2019' had an enriching start to the events for the second day with festival director (FICCI) Rashmi Lamba delivering a talk to the students on equal representation of men and women in media and the impact it can create on

young minds as part of the 'Inclusion Conclave'. With the same theme of thought, the 'Model United Nations' saw engaging deliberations on LGBTQ rights in the UN Human Rights Council. Also, to add a more national flavour, a mock Lok Sabha session was conducted to debate the current economic slowdown in the country. The



event saw students from schools and colleges across the country articulate their thoughts. IIM-Ls Spic Macay chapter organised a performance by Vishal Krishna, Debanjan Bhattacharjee and Arijit Saha. The Media Communication Cell hosted an innovative writing event called 'Contrapunto' wherein the participants had to bid for their characters and unique places. The highest bids were received for characters like Baba Ramdev and Narendra Modi. The students had to write interesting stories using these characters and places in limited time. Some plots included 'Baba Ramdev in Disneyland'

and 'Alok Nath in Himalayas'. On the sports front, there were multiple nail-biting moments during football, cricket, and tennis matches among teams from IIM-Calcutta, MDI, FMS, IIM-Shillong and other colleges. As the rounds progressed, the matches got more intense with close finishes. Multiple dance events proved to be crowd entertainers. The final major event was a western band competition which had the entire campus grooving. The day concluded with the 'Lamhe Proshow' and Maadhyaam band, famous for their soothing Bollywood covers.

UPSRTC ties up with IIM-L

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation has tied up with Indian Institute of Management (Lucknow) for a study and suggestions on passenger safety and improvement of services. UPSRTC managing director Raj Shekhar said IIM-L has made this study an important part of 'Manfest Varchasva-2019'. More than 200 teams, including 400 interns, graduates and students from various IIMs & reputed management institutions, participated in this case study.

More than 80 teams submitted their reports to the IIM-L team. "The IIM-L team shortlisted nine project reports for presentation before a panel and three were finally selected and awarded," he said. IIM-L bagged the first prize, followed by MDI Gurgaon second and Faculty of Management Studies (Delhi) third. "The suggestions will be taken up by UPSRTC for implementation in coming days," the managing director said.

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मानसरोवर योजना-2 के पॉकेट पी-2 में स्थित भूमि जिस पर भूखण्ड संख्या-2/185 से 2/191 तक तथा 2/206 से 2/220 तक लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण से सुजित, आवंटित एवं निबन्धित है। दिनांक 28.09.2019 को जिला प्रशासन/पुलिस बल के सहयोग से उपरोक्त भूमि का भौतिक कब्जा लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा प्राप्त किया जा चुका है।
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CITYBRIEFS



Test Tube Baby Meet

NEW METHODS IMPROVE IVF SUCCESS RATE: DOC

Technical advances in the field of infertility like stem cell and PRP (platelets rich plasma) in ART reproduction has boosted the IVF success rate and also made it cost-effective. The success rate earlier was about 50-60% but it has gone up to 80%. This was stated by veteran IVF expert and director of Ajanta Hospital & IVF Centre Dr Gita Khanna. She said IVF treatment has now reached people who were unable to afford it earlier, courtesy the advances in IVF at Ajanta Hospital. Addressing media-persons during a 'Test Tube Baby Meet' at Leela Auditorium of the hospital on Saturday, Dr Khanna announced the launch of HRP (High Risk pregnancy) and Women Wellness Clinic Centre at Ajanta Hospital to provide treatment even to women with highly complicated pregnancy cases.

HISTORY CONGRESS

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu-Arabi-Farsi University hosted the 30th Uttar Pradesh History Congress (UPHC) on Saturday. The chief guest at the workshop was Vice-Chancellor Mahrukh Mirza while UPHC general

president Salil Mishra, vice-president SN Rizvi, general secretary Atul Kumar Sinha and local secretary Poonam Chaudhary also addressed the gathering. Thanking KMCU administration on behalf of UPHC, Mishra said such workshops must be organised regularly to maintain the interest of people in the subject. Mirza said KMCU is constantly trying to make the 'Ganga-Jamuni' *tehzeeb* grow in the country. Rizvi said something has to be done to check the way historical facts are being manipulated. Sinha discussed the importance of history and said more research in the area is required.

INSPECTION

General manager of Northern Railway TP Singh inspected the Diesel Shed of Lucknow division during a visit to the city on Saturday. He was accompanied by DRM Sanjay Tripathi, ADRM Amit Srivastava and other officials. Assistant commercial manager SS Yadav said the GM first inaugurated a garden and then the modernised Spectrograph Lab at the Diesel Shed. "The GM praised the workers and officials and asked them to improve the technology for train operations," Yadav said.

DELHIITES IN DEEP WATER

Capital flunks all 19 potable tests; safest Mumbai doesn't need ROs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites have neither fresh air to breathe nor safe water to drink. The drinking water supplied to residents in the national Capital has failed on all the 19 parameters — odour, iron, calcium, ammonia, chloride, anionic detergent and coliform among others. In contrast, Mumbaiers may not even need to buy water purifiers or reverse osmosis (RO) units. The drinking water in India's commercial capital passed all the tests of quality standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The other two metros, Chennai and Kolkata, too didn't fare well, and are at the 13th and 14th place respectively.

Of the 21 capital cities where water quality was tested, Delhi was at the bottom with all samples failing to meet the BIS norms. Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar bagged the joint second spot in the rankings with Ranchi coming in at third.

Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manufacturers to meet the BIS quality standard. However, the BIS norm for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies which supply piped water. Unlike Europe and other developed countries, India doesn't have any certification for potable water.

The BIS lifted samples from the Capital cities across the country to test water qual-

| RANKING | CAPITAL | NO OF SAMPLES THAT FAILED | NO OF PARAMETERS IN WHICH SAMPLES FAILED | PARAMETERS IN WHICH THE CITIES FAILED |
|---------|------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Mumbai | 0/10 | 0 | — |
| 7 | Chandigarh | 10/10 | 2 | Aluminium, Coliform |
| 13 | Chennai | 10/10 | 9 | Turbidity, Odour, Total Hardness, TDS, Chloride, Fluoride, Ammonia, Boron, Coliform |
| 14 | Kolkata | 9/9 | 10 | Colour, Turbidity, TDS, Magnesium, Barium, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Aluminium, Coliform, E Coli |
| 15 | Delhi | 11/11 | 19 | Odour, TDS, PH, Turbidity, Colour, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Aluminium, Manganese, Iron, Calcium, Nitrate, Phenolic Compounds, Anionic Detergent, Ammonia, Chloride, Sulphide, Coliform, E Coli |

ity on several parameters. Announcing the findings, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said, "All the samples lifted in Delhi have failed, but all samples of Mumbai are clear, and tap water of Mumbai is safest to drink."

In Delhi, the samples were taken randomly from 11 places like Krishi Bhawan, Janpath (residence of Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan), Pitampura, Ashok Nagar, Mukundpur, Burari, Karawal Nagar, Sonia Vihar, Seema Puri and Nand Nagari. In Krishi Bhawan, housing several Central Government offices, the sample failed to meet seven parameters of BIS norms, while water from Paswan's residence failed on three parameters.

All the 11 samples failed to meet the 19 parameters like odour, colour, turbidity, PH, total dissolved substances (TDS), hardness, alkalinity, aluminium, manganese, iron, calcium, nitrate, phenolic compounds, anionic detergent, ammonia, chloride, sulphide, coliform and e-coli that make up the BIS standard.



The tap water is supplied by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). In most places, water pipes are running alongside and crossing sewage lines and drains in Delhi, which make the water supply susceptible to sewage contamination, officials said.

In Mumbai, all the 10 samples met the standards set by the BIS. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) supplies water to the residents in Mumbai. In Kolkata, nine samples failed 10 quality parameters while in Chennai, all 10 samples failed in nine para-

ameters. The samples in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar failed in one parameter each — phenolic compounds and chloramines respectively. In Ranchi, the potable water test failed on four parameters, while in Shimla on aluminium and Chandigarh on two parameters, "aluminium and coliform".

According to officials, testing was conducted for organoleptic and physical tests, chemical test, toxic substances and bacteriological tests in the first stage. In the next phase, they will also

undergo virological and biological tests for major disease carriers. The study, conducted by BIS for the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry, tested 10 samples in 21 capital cities to see if they met the Indian Standard 10500:2012 (specification for drinking water).

Paswan said he has written to State Governments asking them to clarify what helps his Government can provide to make tap water drinkable. The Centre also plans to include Capitals of the north-eastern States and smart cities

under the testing regime by January 15, 2020, while all district headquarters are expected to be tested by August 15, 2020.

Samples from Jaipur, Dehradun and Amravati too failed on seven parameters which include total alkalinity, coliform, calcium, turbidity, magnesium and aluminium. The sample in Ranchi failed on TDS, nickel, manganese and total hardness while Raipur on aluminium, total alkalinity and hardness.

The sample from Patna and Bhopal failed to four parameters like coliform, colour, total hardness and total alkalinity. The samples of Guwahati, Gandhi Nagar and Bengaluru failed on five parameters. The sample of Thiruvananthapuram failed on three parameters.

The Indian Standard prescribes 48 parameters including radioactive substance but in the current study, radioactive substance test was excluded. Also free residual chlorine has been excluded from this exercise since it is applicable only when water is chlorinated and a minimum limit has been prescribed for it.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender No. S/13/2019, dt. 13-11-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) - www.ireps.gov.in For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get their registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials: SN.1. Tender No.: 40/19/0274/OT/029/19. Brief Description: Battery Box for 1100 Ah VRLA Batteries. Quantity: 88 Nos. Closing/Opening Date: 02-12-2019. SN.2. Tender No.: 40/19/0287/OT/030/19. Brief Description: "V" deep groove alternator pulley. Quantity: 314 Nos. Closing/Opening Date: 02-12-2019.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

(HQ) U.P. JAL NIGAM LUCKNOW SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
Letter No. : 943/मु./कोटेशन/2008-132/19, Dated : 13.11.2019
Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Headquarter) invites sealed tender for Laying of cement concrete paver blocks between block 'A' & 'E' passage at U.P. Jal Nigam (Headquarter) campus Lucknow from bidders having relevant experience interested contractors may purchase tender document between 21.11.2019 to 26.11.2019 at the office of the Executive Engineer (Headquarter) during office timings and submit the tender latest by 27.11.2019 up to 15.00hrs. Received tenders will be opened on 27.11.2019 at 15:30hrs in the office of the Executive Engineer (Headquarter) U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow. The Non-refundable cost of tender document Rs. 560.00 including GST has to submit in the office of the Executive Engineer (Cash) U.P. Jal Nigam Lucknow. Other detail of tender will be available on UP Jal Nigam website www.upjn.org.com

SCHOOLSCAN



GEOFEST INTERNATIONAL-2019

On the second day of the five-day International Geography Olympiad 'Geofest International-2019', jointly organised by City Montessori School, Jopling Road and Rajajipuram II campuses, the participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Russia and various states of India presented folk dances with an appeal to conserve natural resources and environment. Through collage and other contests, they showcased their skills and expressions carrying the strong messages to keep the earth clean and green. Earlier, CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi encouraged the young geographers. He said it is the need of the hour that young generation channelises its energy towards social development. The contests began with 'Geo Plea', a traditional group dance, in which primary, junior and senior students performed together. Fifty-five teams took part in this contest with each having 10 participants. The students actualised their thoughts through dance and acting. Indian teams presented Bihu, Bhangra, Chhau and many more traditional dances.

CONFERENCE

कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा
विधि विस्तार सूचना इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना 81 व 86-विषयों पर, 2019-20 जो कि पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक में किन्हीं अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 29.11.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 30.11.2019 को क्रमशः 12.30 व 13.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल-प्रधान, उत्तराखण्ड पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड सं. 111 से 114, भुवनेश्वर परियोजना, विद्युत खण्ड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक 2168, दिनांक 16.11.2019, "राष्ट्रहित में निजीजी बचाये"

CONFERENCE

Lucknow (PNS): Integral University, Centre for Incubation, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development organised a national conference in association with the department of Commerce and Business Management. A plenary session was organised on Saturday which consisted of six panelists. Asia Pacific Leadership Awards-2019 were also organised by Maxel Leadership Council. Director Archana Shukla.

Security stepped up ahead of Babri demolition anniversary

PTI ■ AYODHYA

Security arrangements in Ayodhya have been strengthened ahead of the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition on December 6, a top official said on Saturday. Security around Ramjanmabhooni, which falls in the 'red zone' high-security area, has been stepped up and other landmark religious sites around it are also under tight vigil, Ayodhya DM Anuj Jha told PTI.

"We had kept a hawk-eye vigil across the temple town and other parts of the district till the verdict, and security will remain intensified till the Babri (Masjid) demolition anniversary," he said. "Our next challenge would be to maintain calm, peace and harmony on December 6, though I am positive that people of Ayodhya will display utmost maturity as they are peace-loving," Jha said. The Ayodhya security cover has four zones — red zone for the 2.77 acres disputed site, yellow zone for the city, green zone for the district and blue zone for the neighbouring areas of the district. Streets in red zone areas and those leading to the area are being kept under tight watch and barricades in these places which were put up ahead of the verdict will continue to be there till December 6, the District Magistrate said. A week after the Supreme

Court's verdict in the communally sensitive Ayodhya land dispute case, vigil around important religious sites such as Hanuman Garhi, Kanak Bhawan and Ram ki Paidi remained heightened on Saturday and security personnel also guarded important public places. A high alert remained around the Ramjanmabhooni site even as thousands of devotees streamed in to pay obeisance to Lord Ram. The Ayodhya district magistrate also said Section 144 clamped on November 8 will remain in place till December 28. The section prohibits unlawful assembly of four or more people. Jha asserted that people of Ayodhya have "very peacefully and maturely reacted" to the Supreme Court verdict as "expected" by the administration.

"If people outside can take the message of Ayodhya, nothing untoward will happen anywhere else in the country in the wake of the judgement," he added. Settling a fractious issue that goes back more than a century, the Supreme Court in a historic verdict on November 9 backed the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya, and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque in the Hindu holy town. Amid heightened security, members of the Muslim community on Friday offered



prayers at various mosques in Ayodhya district, the first 'jumma namaz' after the landmark verdict. "Friday namaz was offered by people at various mosques in Ayodhya district. Security was stepped up at all mosques for the day, including in rural areas. "We had also alerted our officers at ground level to immediately report any protest, such as sporting of black arm bands by anyone. Everything went off peacefully," Jha said.

Security forces have been keeping a hawk-eye vigil over the holy town since the evening of November 8, a day before the judgement was announced, even as a security apparatus

was put in place days before in anticipation of the SC's decision. A posse of security personnel have been deployed through out the holy town since November 8. Regular check-posts set up in the streets have remained in place, alongside patrolling parties on roads which intensified vigil at night. Police officials have been keeping tight vigil on social media too to trace any inflammatory statements or posts.

Besides, 45 CCTV cameras recently installed around important sites such as Hanuman Garhi, Kanak Bhawan, Dashrath Mahal and Ram ki Paidi are being fed to a centralised control room and

monitored by Ayodhya SSP to spot if anyone "attempts any mischief", Jha said. Ahead of the verdict, lakhs of devotees visited the pilgrimage town for 14 Kosi and 5 Kosi Yatras. On the auspicious Hindu occasion of Kartik Purnima on November 12, over five lakh pilgrims converged in the city. "It all went off peacefully as we had made adequate preparations," Jha said. "Schools and colleges reopened from November 13 in Ayodhya and in some areas we have removed barriers that impeded movement of children and in other areas we have made it a bit easier to navigate while keeping overall security in mind," Jha said.

On December 6, 1992, a frenzied army of kar sewaks had demolished the historic Babri Masjid that was built in 1528 by Mughal emperor Babur. A large section of Hindus and right-wing outfits believe that the mosque was built by destroying a Ram temple that stood on the birthplace of Lord Ram, a claim rejected by Muslims. The mosque's demolition had triggered unrest in Ayodhya in 1992 and communal riots in various parts of the country. Right-wing outfits Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal celebrate December 6 as 'Shaurya Diwas' (glory day) while Muslim organisations mark it as 'Yaum e Gami' (day of sorrow).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RCOM CHAIRMAN...

During July-September 2019, the company set aside ₹28,314 crore on account of provisioning following the Supreme Court order on calculation of annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of telecom companies. The apex court last month upheld the Government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual AGR, a share of which has to be paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer. RCom's total liability includes ₹23,327 crore licence fee and ₹4,987 crore spectrum usage charges. "The resignation of Shri Manikantan V and appointment of Shri D Vishwanath as Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer has been put up to the COC for their approval. Upon approval by the Committee of Creditors, further disclosures will be made to stock exchanges," the filing said. Ambani got the charge of RCom after property division between him and his elder brother Mukesh Ambani in 2005. The company is undergoing through insolvency proceedings following an applica-

tion filed by Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson. The National Company Law Tribunal has handed over control of the company to an insolvency resolution professional. Sources estimate that RCom Group's total secured debt is around ₹33,000 crore. Lenders have submitted claim of around ₹49,000 crore in August. RCom has put its all assets for sale which include spectrum holding of 122 MHz that the company before insolvency proceedings estimated to be around ₹14,000 crore, towers business for ₹7,000 crore, optical fibre network ₹3,000 crore and data centres worth ₹4,000 crore. The Committee of Creditors looking after asset sale of RCom will open bids received for the assets on November 24.

AMNESTY INDIA...

Out of the ₹36 crore, Amnesty International UK invested Rs 10 crore as FDI in Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru, by subscribing to the latter's debentures, sources said, adding the amount was utilized by Indians for Amnesty International Trust as security for obtaining

overdraft from banks. This in turn was used by the trusts of Amnesty India for NGO activities, which is a contravention of the FCRA provisions, they said. Scrutiny of the account books of Amnesty has revealed that it indulged in activities that were both prohibited and regulated under the FCRA. Entries in Amnesty's account books were not commensurate with the activities postulated for not-for-profit organizations under the Indian laws, the sources further said.

The CBI had registered a case on November 5 following a complaint from the Union Home Ministry against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and unknown others. These entities allegedly contravened the provision of the FCRA and the Indian Penal Code by receiving foreign contributions from Amnesty International UK through AIPL even though prior registration or permissions were denied to Amnesty

International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) and other Trusts under FCRA. Last week, the Home Ministry had barred over 1,800 NGOs from receiving foreign contribution for not complying with the provisions of FCRA. "Accumulated evidence, painstaking examination of background and intelligence reports on funding patterns show Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) turning into sleeper cells-working and plotting against the Government-in potential collusion with the foreign powers," according to an intelligence dossier. The dossier had flagged the tricky roles played by voluntary organisations such as IKV Pax Christi (Netherlands), Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) and Compassion International (USA) in taking circuitous route for funding local NGOs in a bid to create and run sleeper cells for future onslaught against the Government.

JUST BREATHER...

While overall AQI improved but a few places in Delhi - Dwarka Sector 8, Anand Vihar, Mundka - recorded values of primary

pollutant Particulate Matter (PM) 10 very high - 438, 336, 338 respectively.

However, areas like Mandir Marg, Karni Stadium, Punjabi Bagh recorded AQI better with PM 10 values between 100 - 200 µg/m3. "The AQI is likely to enter the poor category on Monday. However, pollution is likely to increase November 20 onwards as another western disturbance will result in a dip in wind speed," SAFAR said further. According to Real Time Ambient Air Quality database of US embassy, New Delhi, at Shaheed Sukhdev Singh College, Rohini, AQI was 151, Wazirpur -272, Vasundra, Ghaziabad -280, Sector 62 -161, Sanjay Nagar -171, Srinivaspuri -200 and Narela AQI was recorded 206.

US embassy marked 10 places of Delhi under unhealthy category while two places marked as hazardous zone - Wazirpur and Ghaziabad. Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal may announce AAP decision on extending car rationing Odd-Even Scheme to tackle air pollution problem.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
National Competitive Bidding through e-procurement
Bid Identification No. 07/EE/RWSS/ANGUL/2019-20 Dt. 08.11.2019 (DMF)
The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at: Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/ Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.
Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.
1. No. of Tenders : 11 No.
2. Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 6,000.00 to Rs. 10,000.00
3. Value of work : Rs. 10.56 Lakhs to Rs. 125.58 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : "A", "B", "C" & "D" Class
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in portal : 18.11.2019 at 17.00 hours to 27.11.2019 upto 17.00 hours
6. Date & time of seeking tender clarification : 23.11.2019 upto 17.00 hours
7. Date & time of opening of tender & verification of original document : 28.11.2019 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at: Talcher
8. Time of completion : 2 (Two) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months
9. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
10. Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher
25019/11/0022/1920

Speaker chairs all-party meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Parliament's Winter Session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday appealed to all political parties for cooperation for ensuring smooth functioning of the House and add to the legislative productivity of the session.

After an all-party meeting, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Speaker said floor leaders of different parties mentioned various issues that they wished to be discussed during the Winter Session, beginning November 18. "I told them that after discussing these issues in the business advisory committee, we will try to take up as many as possible," he said.

"I appealed to floor leaders of all parties for their cooperation in smooth functioning of the House. As the House is answerable to the people and I hope parties will raise issues of public interest. There should be debate in the House, and for that it should function," he added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi, MoS Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay and others leave after an all-party meeting at Parliament in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

There will be 20 sittings in this session. Birla said, "All parties have assured me that the session will be smooth and will be as fruitful as the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha." After the all-party meeting, TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay told

reporters that he raised the matter of the West Bengal Governor running a "parallel administration", which shouldn't be allowed to function.

"Issues of unemployment and economic conditions should be discussed. Opposition should be given space," he said.

BSP leader Kunwar Danish Ali said the House should discuss the issue of air pollution in north India, including Uttar Pradesh.

The session, beginning Monday, is taking place in the backdrop of a spate of Supreme Court decisions on key issues,

including Ram temple and Rafale deal as also major decision of the government to do away with the autonomy provision of article 370 relating to Jammu and Kashmir and hence expected to figure prominently in the month-long proceedings of the two houses.

Besides, Constitutional amendment bill for Citizenship, the other key bills which may be tabled during the session include regularisation of 1728 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. Government will also bring bills to replace two ordinances on corporate tax rate cuts and ban on e-cigarettes.

Cong's 'Bharat Bachao' against BJP Govt at Ramlila Maidan on Nov 30

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday announced that its district-level and State-level agitations against the Centre's "anti-people policies" would culminate in a "massive rally" at Ramlila Maidan on November 30. It also hit out at the Government over a BJP Minister's remark that economy is doing fine with people getting married and trains full, saying that such statements were being made in a planned manner to divert attention from reality.

The Congress held a meeting of its general secretaries, chiefs of its frontal organisations, department heads, State unit chiefs and Congress Legislative Party leaders on Saturday. "The meeting was called to discuss the agitation programme... Against the Central Government's anti-people policies, especially economic slowdown, farmers distress, huge unemployment and other issues," Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said.

He said that the party has decided to hold a mega rally against the anti-people policies of the Central government on November 30 in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan. The meeting has decided to name it as 'Bharat Bachao Rally' because people are suffering very much.

Venugopal said that the party has planned to hold agi-



tations in various parts of the country from November 5 to 15, during which it would take out protests to highlight the failures of the BJP-led Government. "We decided that the agitations at district and state levels will be completed before November 25," he said.

The Congress also lashed out at the Government Union Minister Suresh Angadi's statement on Friday dismissing the Opposition's criticism over the state of economy, asserting that "airports and trains are full and people are getting married" and this indicates that the country's economy is "doing fine".

Noting that the economy slows down every three years but it will pick up soon, the minister of state for railways said "some people" were trying

to malign the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hitting out at the minister's remarks, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala in a tweet said that it seems such bizarre statements are made or are prompted to be made in a planned manner to divert attention from the reality and prevailing circumstances.

"Airports are full, trains are full, people are getting married. Some people are doing this for nothing else but to malign the image of Narendra Modi," Angadi had told reporters during an inspection of the soon to be commissioned Tunda Khurja eastern dedicated freight corridor.

"Every three years there is fall in demand in economy. It is a cycle. Then the economy picks up also," he had said.

BJP holds nationwide protest, demands apology from Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Armed with the Supreme Court's clean chit to the Modi Government on the Rafale deal, the BJP on Saturday held countrywide protests against the Congress, demanding an apology from its leader Rahul Gandhi for making "baseless" allegations.

The BJP said in a statement that its workers held protests in district headquarters across the country while its national general secretary Arun Singh led the stir in Bhubaneswar, Maharashtra party chief Chandrakant Patil in Mumbai and Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal in Patna, among other places.

It also organised demonstrations in Lucknow,



Delhi BJP workers stage a protest seeking an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after SC ruling on the Rafale issue in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Chandigarh, Shimla, Jaipur, Varanasi and Thiruvananthapuram, the statement said.

The BJP has also referred to the Supreme Court's deci-

sion to let off Gandhi in a contempt case for attributing false remarks to it after he tendered an apology. The party demanded that he also offer an apology to the country.

BY STARTING THEIR OWN NEWSPAPERS

Parties, business groups promoting their vested interests: V-P Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said political parties and business groups are promoting their vested interests and compromising the values of journalism by starting their own newspapers.

Highlighting the perils of fake news, he said may be it is time for media bodies to come up with a code of conduct for journalists.

Naidu was speaking at an event organised by the Press Council of India to observe the National Press Day and confer National Awards for Excellence in Journalism. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar also attended the event.

With business groups and even political parties setting up newspapers and TV channels to further their interests, the core values of journalism are getting eroded, the vice president said.

He stressed that if a newspaper is run by a political party, it should clearly mention so.

"Political parties and politicians started their own newspapers. They are called newspapers but they should be (called) newsletters."

"That is an undesirable trend that has crept into our system. To protect and promote your business interest, to paint your rivals in a negative manner, you are using it (media)," he said.

Naidu also urged journalists to exercise caution in the time of sensationalism.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presents Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award to Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari during the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

"Sensationalism has become order of the day, sensational news means senseless news," he said.

The cardinal principle of journalism is to present fair, objective, accurate and balanced information to the readers and viewers without journalists assuming the role of gatekeepers, he said.

Instead of giving expression to the popular feeling, some newspapers these days are giving expression to coloured and partisan views, he added.

Naidu said times have changed in such a way that one has to now read a minimum of four to five major newspapers to get a complete sense of the current developments.

"Same is the case with the news channels. Earlier, that was not the case," he remarked.

Stressing on the need to maintain objectivity, fairness and accuracy, the vice president said neutrality and sanctity of newsrooms should be upheld at all times.

"This has become all the

more critical in the present times after the advent of the 'fake news' phenomenon and the huge impact social media is creating.

"With the electronic and social media providing news by the minute with alerts and flashes on smartphones, journalists will have to exercise greater caution and guard against 'fake news', disinformation and misinformation," he said.

Sensationalism, biased coverage and paid news have become the modern-day afflictions of the media, he said.

Javadekar said fake news is a bigger crisis than paid news. "This is the day for the press to understand its freedom as well as its responsibility. Today there is a crisis of fake news more than paid news," he said.

"A fake news was circulated about child-lifters and it claimed 20 lives. When there is discussion about lynching, only one lynching is talked about but these 20 people also died due to lynching. That is not talked about," he said.

Govt leading country to starvation-like situation: Congress on NSO data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After an official survey reportedly pointed to a fall in consumer spending for the first time in four decades in 2017-18, the Congress on Saturday said there is a perception that the Government is leading the country towards a "starvation-like situation".

On Friday morning, a media report cited the latest consumption expenditure survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO) to claim that consumer spending fell for the first time in more than four decades in 2017-18, primarily driven by slacking rural demand.

On Friday evening, the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry said it

has decided to not release the Consumer Expenditure Survey results of 2017-18 due to "data quality" issues.

"Can you cover up onset of poverty and penury by hiding data, Mr Modi? You should have come forward, released the data and told the nation, these are the steps we propose to take, but this government only seeks to hide employment data, farmer's suicide data, poverty data, slow-down data, consumption data, export and import slow-down data," Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal said.

"Hiding data is not a solution, finding a solution is the way forward, but the government refuses to do so," he added.

NAVY MIG TRAINER CRASHES IN GOA VILLAGE, BOTH PILOTS SAFE

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

A major tragedy was averted on Saturday as the pilot of an Indian Navy MIG trainer aircraft that crashed pointed the plane away from populated areas.

Both the pilots ejected safely, said Indian Navy Flag Officer, Goa, Rear Admiral Philippe George Pynumootil.

The officer said the aircraft was on a regular training sortie when the incident occurred.

A villager said the aircraft crashed on a rocky plateau on the outskirts of Verna, 15 kms from the state capital, around noon. The wreckage of the aircraft lay strewn in one-km

area, he said. The aircraft is attached to INS Hansa located near Dabolim in Goa.

Taking to Twitter, the Indian Navy spokesperson said, "During a training mission, after take-off from INS Hansa at Dabolim a MIG29K trainer aircraft suffered an engine fire. The pilots Capt M Sheekhand and Lt Cdr Deepak Yadav ejected safely".

The pilots were provided first-aid and shifted to hospital in Vasco.

The Indian Navy and the Goa Police have cordoned off the site of the mishap and are in the process of clearing the wreckage.

BJP attacks Congress over I-T tribunal order on Young Indian

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit out at the Congress alleging that family and commerce run hand-in-hand and are inter-gally linked for the party after the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea to consider Young Indian (YI) as a charitable institution.

Briefing media, Union Minister and senior party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that ₹90 crores were given to the National Herald paper and Government properties worth ₹2,000 crores were handed to the Associated Journals Limited which used to run the paper, even after the newspaper ceased operations in 2008.

Prasad said, in 2010, Young India Limited was formed and was exempted from Income Tax in the name of a charitable trust. He alleged the Congress has hidden the facts for tax exemption. "There is a judicial affirmation... That family and



commerce go hand in hand and you (family) invoke dubious methods for enrichment," he added.

The Law Minister said, the BJP condemns this palpable, dubious transaction of undue enrichment which is corruption.

There was no immediate reaction from the Congress but it has earlier rejected a similar charge by the BJP and termed the probe as a case of political vendetta.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others have been accused of paying just ₹50 lakh through which YI, a not-for-profit organisation, had obtained the right to recover ₹90.25 crore that the AJL owed to the

Congress. In July last year, the Income Tax department asked the YI to pay tax of around ₹145 crore. "In ₹50 lakh, you became the owner of property worth ₹2,000 crore. What kind of model is this? This should be investigated," Prasad said.

"When BJP used to discuss Robert Vadra and his doings earlier, it used to say that there are various models of development - one of it is Vadra model of development," Prasad said.

"Under it (Vadra model of development), you invest ₹20-₹25 lakh, and you become the owner of big real estate properties in Gurgaon," he said. The minister said that after Vadra model of development, he used to think that a new model of development would not come.

"But this (Young Indian matter) is family model of development. Pariwar model of development. Invest ₹50 lakh and become the owner of property worth ₹2,000 crore," Prasad said.

Dean of Diplomatic Corps expresses concern over air quality in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air pollution has made the foreign diplomats also worried.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador Hans Dannenberg Castellanos has expressed concern over the poor air quality in Delhi and said the odd-even road rationing scheme is a good start, but working closely with farmers in Punjab on the issue of crop residue burning should also be strongly considered.

Delhi was blanketed by a thick smog for four consecutive days till Friday as unfavourable weather hampered dispersion of pollutants.

The national Capital witnessed a dip in pollution levels on Saturday morning even as

the air quality in the city remained in the "severe" category.

Amid the pollution crisis, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in India, Ambassador Castellanos of Dominican Republic, expressed concern over the air quality in Delhi.

"It (pollution) affects all of us. And it does not have a diplomatic solution nor is the MEA the responsible one to solve it. This is a problem of major proportions to be solved by city and federal government, not the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs). The odd-even scheme is a good start, but working closely with the farmers in Punjab on the issue of burning crops should also be strongly considered," he said.

Nafed apple procurement in Kashmir failed miserably: Farmers body

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's initiative to procure apples in Kashmir through cooperative Nafed has "failed miserably" as only 0.01 per cent (1.36 lakh boxes) of 11 crore boxes has been purchased directly from growers so far.

Returning from a field visit to the valley, the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSSCC) demanded that the Centre should provide compensation to apple and other horticulture crops growers in Kashmir who have incurred losses due to unseasonal heavy snowfall as well as from lack of transport and cold storage assistance due to the political turmoil in the newly formed union territory.

The Centre decided to procure apples in the region in the wake of terrorists threatening some apple growers not to sell their produce in the market following abrogation of the special



status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories.

"The Government authorised Nafed to carry-out procurement but this operation failed miserably. Lack of experience and infrastructure meant that Nafed has procured 0.01 per cent of the estimated produce (1.36 lakh boxes out of more

than 11 crore boxes)," the AIKSSCC said in a statement.

Farmers have complained that the Nafed procurement had disruptive effect since it has sold apple in the sale market at lower prices that brought down the wholesale apple prices in the procurement market, it noted.

Kashmir produces 75 per cent of the country's total apple production and the horticulture

industry of Kashmir has a turnover of Rs 10,000 crore annually.

"If 70 per cent loss (as is being claimed by the growers and representatives of commerce and industry) is true, then this will devastate the livelihood of the people of Kashmir for years to come," the farmers' body said.

Highlighting the plight of

farmers, the AIKSSCC said its delegation which visited the valley witnessed extensive damage to the apple crop in the valley due to untimely and heavy snowfall, it said and added growers were unable to move out and harvest the crop and store it because of heavy snow fall. The impact on saffron crop was much worse and yields are expected to remain lower this year.

Besides heavy snowfall, the farmers body said crops like pear, cherry and grapes which were harvested in August were stranded due to complete shutdown in the valley and could not be marketed, leading to near total loss for the farmers.

Apple harvesting was to begin in September but was delayed as farmers could not go out for picking. Once harvesting began, non-availability of telephones for first 60 days and non-access to internet even now meant that the communication

between apple growers, transporters and traders was snapped, causing a disruption in the demand-supply chain, it said.

Further, farmers could not bring apples to the procurement markets since trucks were not allowed to go to the villages and farmers were forced to bring their produce to the Highways. This caused delays, inconvenience and additional costs, it added.

As a result, transport cost almost doubled due to prevailing security threat and unavailability of trucks. Frequent transport blockades and closure of highways resulted in further delays and loss of quantity and quality of apples during transportation, the AIKSSCC noted.

AIKSSCC, a nationwide platform of 250 farmers' organisations, urged the government to assess the actual loss and provide relief to apple growers as well as growers of saffron, pear, grape, cherry and sheep breeders.

BJP leader's son held in PMC bank scam

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police on Saturday arrested Sardar Ranjeet Singh, son of a city BJP leader, in connection with the ₹ 4,355 crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Ltd scam.

Ranjeet Singh was a director of the PMC Bank and is the son of a senior city BJP leader and former MLA from Mulund Sardar Tara Singh.

Confirming the arrest, Deputy Commissioner of Police and city police spokesperson Pranaya Ashok said that Ranjeet Singh had been brought for questioning in the morning in connection with the PMC bank scam.

Ranjeet was a director for around 13 years besides being a Member of the bank's Recovery Committee. He was interrogated on the loans extended to the HDIL Group companies, their long-pending dues and efforts made to recover the dues.

Sources in the EOW said that Ranjeet Singh was extremely 'evasive and unsat-



isfactory" in his explanations. The investigations have revealed his alleged involvement in the scam.

"Ranjeet was formally placed under arrest in the evening and will be produced before a holiday magistrate on Sunday for securing a police remand and further investigation," DCP Ashok said.

Ranjeet Singh's is the eight arrested in the PMC Bank scam. Earlier on Tuesday, "concurrent auditor" of the bank Anita Kirdat (35) had been arrested.

Kirdat, whose responsibility was to ensure a "systematic and timely" examination of the bank's financial transactions, had audited the bank's transactions on a monthly basis. She, however, had not pointed out the alleged irregularities in its processes. Kirdat will be in EOW's custody till November 18.

On Monday, the EOW had arrested two statutory auditors, Jayesh Sanghani and Ketan Lakdawala, in connection with the scam. They are suspected to have played a key role in covering up the irregularities in the bank.

Among the other arrested persons are two promoters of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) Sarang Kumar Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan.

The PMC Bank's exposure to the HDIL group was nearly 73 per cent of its total loan book size of ₹ 8,880 crore as of September 19, 2019.

The EOW suspects a nexus between some of the accused and realty group HDIL, whose mammoth loan defaults are said to have caused a liquidity crisis at the bank, leading to appointment of administrator and restrictions on withdrawal of funds. HDIL is a listed real estate company, has played a key role in the PMC Bank scam. The Mumbai police have registered a case against the former bank management and promoters of the HDIL in the PMC Bank scam case.

Rebel Kaviraj set to take on BJP candidate Anand Singh in Vijayanagar

PTI ■ BENGALURU

More trouble is brewing for the BJP in Karnataka with another rebel Kaviraj Urs adamant to file nominations as an independent to take on the party candidate Anand Singh in Vijayanagar Assembly constituency in Ballari.

The development comes days after the Supreme Court gave partial relief to the 17 disqualified MLAs by allowing them to contest the December 5 by-elections.

Anand Singh is seeking re-entry to the assembly on BJP's ticket in the December 5 bypolls in 15 constituencies.

However, he is confronted with rebellion from within BJP.

"Anand Singh and I are friends. We grew together, but when it comes to elections, some differences are bound to surface. I shall file the nominations.

There's no question of going back," Urs told reporters in Ballari in the presence of Anand Singh and BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar.

DMK's son-rise in mayoral election

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Demand from some of the powerful party cadre to field Udhayanidhi Stalin, the film actor-turned-politician son of MK Stalin, the party president, as the candidate for the post of Chennai Mayor in the upcoming local body polls has put the DMK leadership in a dilemma.

Mayors of municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu are elected directly by the voters. The post of Chennai Mayor commands respect and is rated as a powerful post. Stalin himself was the Mayor of Chennai from 1996 to 2001.

If Udhayanidhi is nominated by the party as its mayoral candidate, it would be his first electoral battle and graduation into big-time politics.



Stalin has charted out the political road map of his son with the assistance of M Subramaniam, a confidante and former mayor of Chennai. It is Subramaniam who has been entrusted with the task of promoting Udhayanidhi among party cadre in a big way.

The grooming of Udhayanidhi is being seen as an attempt by Stalin to bring the party apparatus under the control of his family which includes wife Durga, daughter Senthamarai and son-in-law

Sabareesan. The last named is a businessman and wields big power in the DMK. It was Sabareesan who masterminded Stalin's 2016 Assembly election campaign and 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign which yielded impressive results.

Since the DMK and its allies swept the Lok Sabha election of April 2019 by winning all the seats from the Chennai metropolis, Stalin is confident that he could make Udhayanidhi win in the mayoral election. Once Udhayanidhi crosses the hurdle of the mayoral election, it goes without asking that he alone would be the contender for the Chief Minister's post after Stalin leaves the scene.

But if rumors are to be believed, discontentment is brewing up in the DMK. Senior

leader Dorai Murugan, the Vellore strongman is already upset over the delay in elevating him as the party general secretary in place of K Anbazhagan, the 97-year-old veteran who is in a state of comatose for the last one year.

All hearings installed in the State by the DMK leadership feature only the larger-than-life size pictures of Stalin and Udhayanidhi while those of Kammozhai, Karunanidhi's daughter by his third wife Rajathi Ammal and grand nephew Dayanidhi Maran are absent.

A party insider on condition of anonymity told The Pioneer that order has been issued by the party leadership not to include anybody other than Stalin and Udhayanidhi in the posters. It is son-rise time in the DMK.

'Bulbul' caused losses worth ₹23,811 cr, Bengal Govt tells visiting Central team

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal has incurred a loss of ₹ 23,811 crore in the devastations caused by cyclone 'Bulbul' that has affected around 35 lakh people in three districts, said a report the State Government submitted to the visiting Central team said on Saturday.

The report was handed over to the members of the central team during a meeting with state Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha at the secretariat and a separate report would be sent to the Centre. Members of the team called on the State Government officials on Saturday, a day after they visited the cyclone-hit areas in North & South 24 Parganas and Purba Midnapore districts to assess the extent of damage caused by the storm.

"The state has incurred a total loss of ₹ 23,811 crore in the three districts ravaged by cyclone Bulbul where over 35 lakhs of people have been directly affected. A total of 5,17,535 houses were dam-

aged in the cyclone," a senior official said, quoting from the report. Altogether 14,89,924 hectare of agricultural land have been damaged, it said adding that the power department has incurred a loss of ₹ 597 crore. As many as 4,35,000 tarpaulin and 6.2 lakh water pouches have been distributed by the state Public Health Engineering department, the report said.

"Reports on losses incurred in North and South 24 Parganas and East Medinipur districts due to the storm and requirement in those areas were handed over to the central team. We would submit a separate report to the Centre," the IAS officer said.

The central team have made ground visits, conducted aerial surveys of the affected areas and met officials of the three affected officials.

"We visited the areas affected by the cyclone to assess the extent of devastation. We have spoken to all the people concerned," a member of the central team said.

"We have taken note of

what we have gathered from our meetings in these districts. We will now submit a report to the central government," he said.

The team members included joint secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs KB Singh, assistant director of department of expenditure under the Union finance ministry Sumit Agarwal, director of department of agriculture Narendra Kumar and deputy director of Union power ministry OP Suman.

Cyclone 'Bulbul' had made landfall late on November 9 between Sagar Islands in West Bengal and Khepupara in Bangladesh. Altogether 14 people, including fishermen of a capsized trawler, died in the calamity.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier welcomed the visit of the team to the cyclone-hit areas.

After conducting an aerial survey of the cyclone-hit areas, she had said on Wednesday that the loss incurred by the state due to the catastrophe might go up to ₹ 50,000 crore.

Nobody should cross the 'Lakhsman rekha': WB Gov

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar fired yet another salvo at the West Bengal Government on Saturday saying that nobody should cross the 'Lakhsman rekha'.

The governor and the Mamata Banerjee Government have been involved in a war of words.

"As the governor of the state it is required that I adhere to the mechanism that is spelt out in the Indian Constitution — what I am supposed to do and not do," he said at an event here. "None is expected to cross the Lakhsman rekha," he said.

The verbal spat between the Trinamool Congress Government and the governor started soon after he assumed office in July end on a number of issues.

The two sides have been locked in a war of words a number of issues — ranging from Dhankar's seating at the Durga Puja carnival to comments on his severity since he rushed to Jadavpur University on September 19 to "rescue" Union minister Babul Supriyo, who had been gheraoed by a section of students.

The latest issue was the state government's refusal to provide the helicopter sought by Dhankar to travel to Murshidabad for a programme and return to the city on Friday.

The government had called the governor's request for a chopper "absurd" and "misuse of public money", while Dhankar in a veiled attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said "some people are using their tongue too often and very loosely" without understanding his statements.

'Trial runs done, train services in Kashmir likely to resume today'

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Two trial runs on Srinagar-Banihal railway line were conducted successfully on Saturday, paving the way for resumption of full services in Kashmir Valley from Sunday, more than three months after they were suspended due to security reasons, officials said.

The trial runs, through the restive south Kashmir, were done after a thorough safety audit of the section, a railway official told PTI. He said rail services in the valley should be fully operational from Sunday.

"The train service on Srinagar-Banihal route will resume on Sunday and it is being restored for the public fully for the first time after it was suspended due to security reasons," he said.

Train services in the valley were suspended on August 3, ahead of the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories. Services partially resumed — on Srinagar-Baramulla stretch — on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the situation limped back to normalcy in Kashmir and the annual examinations of students in the middle classes began on Saturday. "The annual examinations for classes five to nine started this morning," an official said. The examinations were scheduled to start from Monday, but the first two papers were postponed due to heavy snowfall across the valley. The valley schools have remained affected since the

abrogation of Article 370 on August 5.

Shopkeepers at major markets across the valley have been following a pattern, opening early and then closing after noon to join protests against abrogation of the special status. However, private



cabs and auto-rickshaws were now visible on roads in large numbers, a few mini-buses have also started plying on some routes, according to the officials. They said private transport was plying unhindered in Srinagar and elsewhere in the valley. But prepaid mobile phones and all internet services continue to remain suspended. 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 Feroz Abdullah under the controversial Public Safety Act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the chief minister.

Women should uphold tradition of Sabarimala shrine: BJP leader

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Women should allow to follow the tradition and heritage of the Sabarimala shrine, BJP Tamil Nadu general secretary Vanathi Srinivasan said Saturday.

They should realise this and allow to maintain the sanctity of the temple, Vanathi told reporters here to a question on the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayyappa temple issue.

Endorsing Tamil Nadu Chief minister K Palaniswami's view on actor Rajnikanth that he was not a political leader, she said that it was for him to decide whether to join BJP or not.

However, there is a political vacuum in Tamil Nadu after the death of M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalitha, she said.

Vanathi, who received the applications from party workers for the local body elections, said the BJP has gained new strength in the State.

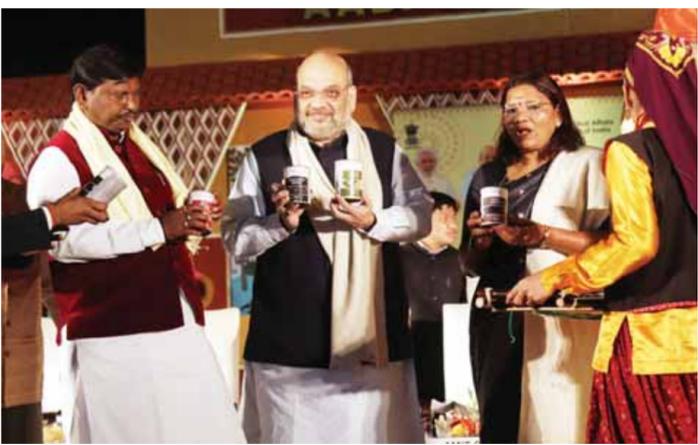
Expressing deep sorrow over the suicide of IITM student Fathima Latheef, the BJP leader said the educational institutions should prepare the students mentally also, not only physically. Vanathi also sought adequate compensation for Rajeswari who was run over by a lorry, while trying to avoid a leaning flagpole in the city.

Goa DGP dies in New Delhi

Panaji (PTI): Goa's Director General of Police Pranab Nanda has died due to cardiac arrest, a senior police official said on Saturday. Nanda was on a visit to Delhi after attending official functions in Goa on Friday. He died late on Friday night, the official said. He was 57.

Confirming Nanda's demise, Inspector General of Police Jaspal Singh said, "We were informed by his family that Nanda is no more. He died due to cardiac arrest. It's shocking."

The 1988-batch IPS officer was transferred to Goa on February 25 this year.



Home Minister Amit Shah during inauguration of national tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav 2019, at Dilli Haat in New Delhi on Saturday. Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

Arunachal CM welcomes Centre's initiative to solve Naga problem

PTI ■ NAMSAI (AP)

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Saturday welcomed the Centre's initiative to solve the decades-old Naga problem and categorically stated that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the state.

The Arunachal Pradesh government will make clear its stand on the Naga peace process to the Centre when called for discussion, he said. Welcoming the Centres initiative, Khandu said New Delhi is serious to solve the issue once for all.

"We will soon call an all-party meeting to discuss the issue besides taking the view of other stakeholders. We will submit our decision to the Centre before a framework agreement is signed,"

the chief minister said while addressing the National Press Day celebration here.

"We are clear in our stand and we want that Naga peace process should not affect the state at any cost," he said.

The central government has already rejected insurgent outfit NSCN-IM's demand for unification of Naga inhabited areas in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. All the three northeastern states have vehemently opposed it.

The union home ministry had said in a statement that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including the states of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will be duly consulted and their concerns will be taken into consideration. The NSCN-



IM had demanded 'Nagalim' or Greater Nagaland in which all Naga-inhabited areas in the Northeast would be under one administrative umbrella. The map of 'Nagalim', released by the NSCN-IM a few years ago, spreads over 1,03,473 sq km beyond the 16,527 sq km area of Nagaland.

It includes Anjaw, Changlang, Lohit, Longding, Namsai and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The NSCN-IM and its rival fac-

tions have claimed that these areas, primarily Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts, are dominated by Nagas.

Successive governments in Arunachal Pradesh have time and again made it clear that they would not compromise on the state's territorial integrity.

A framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015 by NSCN-IM leader Thuingaleng Muivah and Centres interlocutor RN Ravi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The framework agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, with the first breakthrough in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland which started soon after Independence in 1947.

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION TEACHING
NO T/3/2019

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the following teaching post.

| Designation | Department | No. of Post |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Assistant Professor | Biochemistry & Molecular Biology | 01 (SC) |

The notification containing full particulars such as Essential Qualification, Experience, Pay, Application format etc. are available at the University website : www.cukerala.ac.in. The last date for receipt of application at the University is **20th December, 2019**.

Sd/-
davp - 21353/11/0021/1920 Registrar

North Eastern Railway
E-Tendering Tender Notice No.47/2019
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)
N.E. Railways Izzatnagar for and behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on line (E-tendering) for the following work:

S. No. : 1. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Bamiana station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (Baheri, Bamiana, Deorania, Ghatpuri, Makrandpur, Manpur Nagaria, Soron Shukar Kshetra - 07 nos.) in the section of DEN/HQ/IZN. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,45,75,174.22, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,72,900/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 06 Month.

S. No. : 10. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Deorania station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (Baheri, Bamiana, Deorania, Ghatpuri, Makrandpur, Manpur Nagaria, Soron Shukar Kshetra - 07 nos.) in the section of DEN/HQ/IZN. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,45,75,174.22, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,72,900/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.

S. No. : 11. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Makrandpur station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (Baheri, Bamiana, Deorania, Ghatpuri, Makrandpur, Manpur Nagaria, Soron Shukar Kshetra - 07 nos.) in the section of DEN/HQ/IZN. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,12,70,020.32, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,56,400/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.

S. No. : 12. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Ghatpuri station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (Baheri, Bamiana, Deorania, Ghatpuri, Makrandpur, Manpur Nagaria, Soron Shukar Kshetra - 07 nos.) in the section of DEN/HQ/IZN. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,12,70,020.32, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,56,400/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.

S. No. : 13. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Soron Shukar Kshetra station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (Baheri, Bamiana, Deorania, Ghatpuri, Makrandpur, Manpur Nagaria, Soron Shukar Kshetra - 07 nos.) in the section of DEN/HQ/IZN. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,12,70,020.32, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,56,400/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.

S. No. : 14. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Kichha station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (KHH & PBW - 02 nos.) in IZN Div. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,12,70,020.32, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,56,400/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.

S. No. : 15. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at stations (1st FOB at Aliganj & Chamrua Station Total-02 nos.) in Izzatnagar Division. Approx. Value : Rs. 4,14,88,421.67, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 3,57,500/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 06 Month.

S. No. : 16. Description of Works : Provision of Foot Over Bridge at Manpur Nagaria station in jurisdiction of ADEN/LIZN (under sanctioned work Provision of first Foot Over Bridge (Baheri, Bamiana, Deorania, Ghatpuri, Makrandpur, Manpur Nagaria, Soron Shukar Kshetra - 07 nos.) in the section of DEN/HQ/IZN. Approx. Value : Rs. 2,12,70,020.32, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 2,56,400/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 09 Month.

S. No. : 17. Description of Works : Shoulder ballast cleaning (Total-30 TKM) of BPR-LKU section. Approx. Value : Rs. 43,40,362.80, E.M.D. Money : Rs. 86,800/-, Cost of Tender Forms : Rs. 3,000/-, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 06 Month.

1. Online e-tender can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. of dated 13.12.2019.
2. For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Izzatnagar

CPROW-269

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Do not travel with inflammable article in train

Clean-up: China deploys PLA troops in HK

AGENCIES ■ BEIJING/HONG KONG

China on Saturday deployed its troops in Hong Kong for the first time since the unprecedented pro-democracy protests began in the former British colony more than five months ago over a proposed extradition law, with soldiers in plain clothes clearing the roadblocks.

Soldiers from the Hong Kong Garrison of People's Liberation Army (PLA) — the world's largest military — have been deployed for the first time in more than five months of civil unrest in Hong Kong, as dozens marched from their Kowloon garrison to help clear roadblocks, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

It was also the first time in over a year that the PLA local garrison has been involved in the public community work.

The soldiers, mostly in green T-shirts and black shorts, and carrying red buckets, ran out of the PLA's Kowloon Tong barracks at about 4 PM to clear obstacles on Renfrew Road, near Baptist University's campus, the report said.

A soldier said their action had nothing to do with the Hong Kong government.

"We initiated this! Stopping violence and ending chaos is our responsibility," he said, quoting a phrase coined by President Xi

Jinping.

Firefighters and police officers also joined the soldiers.

Earlier, Hong Kong Secretary for Security John Lee Ka-chiu said the PLA could freely decide on whether to send soldiers to perform volunteer services outside military sites and the local government had no record of how many times this has happened.

In October last year, more than 400 soldiers were sent in batches to Hong Kong's country parks to help remove trees felled during Typhoon Mangkhut.

China earlier said under Article 14 of the city's Garrison Law and Basic Law — the city's mini-constitution, the PLA must not interfere in local affairs but troops can be called out to help with disaster relief if requested by the local government. Such a request has never been made since the city returned to the Chinese rule 22 years ago.

On Thursday, Xi broke his silence over Hong Kong's unprecedented pro-democracy protests threatening China's control over the former British colony, saying the most pressing task at present was to bring violence and chaos to an end and restore order.

Xi made the comments at the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Hong Kong is rocked by



In this image made from video, People's Liberation Army soldiers, with brooms, arrive to clean up the protest area at Hong Kong Baptist University in Hong Kong, on Saturday

unprecedented pro-democracy protests for over five months and in the past few weeks they grew violent, bringing the international financial centre virtually to a grinding halt.

The protests which began over a proposed extradition law by the Hong Kong administration sparked fear of extradition of locals to the Chinese mainland for prosecution. It later turned into a major pro-democracy movement with demands to elect their local officials without the Chinese interference.

The protestors, mainly youth, are demanding pro-

China Chief Executive Carrie Lam's resignation, inquiry into police brutalities and universal franchise of 'one person one vote' with freedom for all the locals to contest elections for the local legislature.

A clean-up began across Hong Kong on Saturday with pro-government groups removing bricks and debris from roads after a week of widespread disruption and violence as pro-democracy protesters changed tactics to sink the city deeper into chaos. Their "Blossom Everywhere" campaign of roadblocks, vandalism and protest

across the semi-autonomous financial hub shut down large chunks of the train network, forced schools and shopping malls to close and stretched police resources.

The tactic blocked major intersections and highways with barricades made from bricks, furniture, bins and steel barriers, while university campuses became bases for stockpiling petrol bombs and supplies.

On Saturday, hundreds of government supporters began knocking down improvised walls concreted into the road by pro-democracy protesters,

whose demonstrations have rocked Hong Kong for more than five months.

Comments on a Facebook feed of the clean-up reflected that schism, with some applauding the effort by the men based in the garrison and others calling any PLA deployment "unconstitutional" under the handover agreement.

Arguments and scuffles also broke out on Saturday between pro-government and pro-democracy activists still occupying parts of a university campus.

Elsewhere at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Kowloon, student protesters also began clearing rubbish, but insisted they wanted to maintain an occupation of the campus and keep control of one of the major tunnels to Hong Kong Island. The Cross-Harbour tunnel has been closed since Tuesday, its toll booths torched and piles of rubble laid across the road.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's former chief executive CY Leung has warned of "lone wolf". Leung warned that the unrest in Hong Kong was entering a more dangerous "lone wolf" phase, with the number of demonstrators falling considerably but the violence getting more extreme, a news article in the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Saturday quoted him as saying.

WH says zero evidence of any wrongdoing by Prez in impeachment hearing

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The White House on Friday said "zero evidence" of any wrongdoing by President Donald Trump was presented at the impeachment hearing by a Congressional panel, asserting that the former US envoy to Ukraine deposed she was unaware of any criminal activity involving the president.

"The second public hearing of Speaker Pelosi and Congressman Schiff's impeachment charade was as useless and inconsequential as the first. Zero evidence of any wrongdoing by the President was presented," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said after the conclusion of the second public hearing on impeachment against Trump.

Former US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch testified before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence as part of the House-initiated impeachment hearing against Trump.

Referring to her testimony, Grisham said Yovanovitch deposed under oath that she was unaware of any criminal activity involving President Trump.

"She was not on the July 25 phone call and had no knowledge about the pause on aid to Ukraine. It is difficult to imagine a greater waste of time than today's hearing, and yet unfortunately, we expect more of the same partisan political theater next week from House Democrats," Grisham said.

On Friday, Yovanovitch was the third witness to appear before the House Committee headed by Congressman Adam Schiff in the Democrat's impeachment against Trump.

The public hearing of the probe kicked off on Wednesday as William Taylor, the acting ambassador to Ukraine and George Kent, the deputy assistant secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs, testified for more than five hours before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Yovanovitch told lawmakers that she advocated the US position that the rule of law should prevail, and Ukrainian law enforcement prosecutors and judges should stop wielding their power selectively as a political weapon against their adversaries and start dealing with all consistently and accord-

ing to law.

"Untrue are unourced allegations that I told unidentified embassy employees or Ukrainian officials that President's Trump's orders should be ignored because he was going to be impeached or for any other reason. I did not and I would not say such a thing. Such statements would be inconsistent with my training as a foreign service officer and my role as an ambassador," she said.

The previous Obama administration, she said, did not ask her to help the Clinton campaign or harm the Trump campaign, she said. "Nor had I taken any such steps if they had. Partisanship of this type is not compatible with the role of a career foreign service officer," she added.

The former diplomat said she never met Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, nor she had any direct or indirect conversations with him.

"And although I have met former Vice President Biden several times over the course of our many years in government service, neither he nor the previous administration ever raised the issue of either Burisma or Hunter Biden with me," she said.

Responding to questions, Yovanovitch said fighting corruption in Ukraine was a key element of US policy.

"It was important, and it was actually stated in our policy and in our strategy. It was important because corruption was undermining the integrity of the governance system in Ukraine. And as I noted in my statement, countries that have leaders that are honest and trustworthy make better partners for us," she said.

Following the testimony, Congressman Schiff said this is a story about "an effort to coerce, condition, or bribe a foreign country into doing the dirty work of the president, investigations of his political rival, by conditioning US taxpayer money, by conditioning a meeting that President Zelensky desperately wanted and needed to establish that relationship with the most powerful patron of Ukraine, the United States of America.

"The fact that they failed in this solicitation of bribery doesn't make it any less bribery. It doesn't make it any less immoral or corrupt. It just means it was unsuccessful," he said.

US Senate passes resolution honouring Sikh Community

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States Senate has unanimously passed a resolution recognising the historical, cultural and religious significance of the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, besides the Sikhs' contributions in the US' growth.

Introduced by Republican Senator Todd Young from Indiana and Democratic Senator Ben Cardin from Maryland, the first of its kind resolution on Sikhism was passed by the US Senate on Thursday.

The resolution said Sikhs in the US and around the world live as per the values and ideals of equality, service, and devotion to God, first preached by Guru Nanak.

The Senate resolution also mentioned four eminent Sikhs for their contribution to the US.

The Sikhs figured in the resolution included Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian-American Congressman, elected to the office in 1957; Dr Narinder Kapany, the inventor of fiber optics; Dinar Singh Bains, the largest peach grower in the United States; and

Gurinder Singh Khalsa, the recipient of the prestigious Rosa Parks Trailblazer Award.

The resolution also recognised the contribution of Sikh women Grammy-winning artist Sranam Kaur; New York Police Department police officer Gursoach Kaur; and University of California, Berkeley professor Supreet Kaur. Indiana-based Khalsa welcomed the passage of the resolution.

"This is a historic moment for the global Sikh community. We Sikhs of America are grateful to the United States Senate and Senator Young for introducing the resolution," he said.

A similar resolution introduced in the US House of Representatives too is likely to be passed soon.

The two different House resolutions said Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 120 years, and during the early 20th century thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroad.

Congressman Greg Pence from Indiana, elder brother of US Vice President Mike Pence, is one of the sponsors of the resolution on Sikh.

Car bomb kills at least 12 in Syrian town held by Turkey

Beirut (AP): A car bomb exploded on Saturday in a northern Syrian town controlled by Turkey-backed opposition fighters, killing at least 12 people and wounding several others, Syrian opposition activists and Turkey's Defense Ministry said.

Northern Syria has been hit by several explosions that have killed and wounded scores of people over the past month. That's since Turkey began a military operation against Kurdish fighters in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to pull the bulk of American troops out of northern Syria.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that 14 people, including nine civilians, were killed Saturday the town of al-Bab in Aleppo province. The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, said 12 people were killed in the blast in a busy part of town near a bus station.

Turkey's Defence Ministry said the blast killed 18 people and blamed the main Kurdish militia, known as the People's Protection Units. It is not uncommon for reports to give differing casualty figures in the immediate aftermath of this kind of attack.

Lanka votes for new Prez

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankans voted on Saturday to choose a new president amid multiple poll-related incidents, including an attack on the minority Muslim voters, in an election that will decide the future of the country that struggles with security challenges after the Easter Sunday bombings and increasing political polarisation.

A record 35 candidates are vying for the top post at the election with the main contenders being former wartime defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 70, and the ruling party candidate Sajith Premadasa, 52. Anura Kumara Dissanayake from the National People's Power (NPP) coalition is also a strong candidate. Polls opened at 7 am local time with some 12,845 polling stations being set up throughout the country for 15.9 million voters, who will choose a successor to President Maithripala Sirisina. This election will make record as the election with the largest number of polling stations and the longest 26-inch ballot paper. The final results will come on Monday.

The election is taking place nearly seven months after home-grown radicals pledging loyalty to the Islamic State terror group detonated suicide bombs at three churches and three posh hotels, killing 269 people, seriously hitting the tourism industry, one of the main forex earning sectors of

the country.

Around 400,000 election officials have been placed on duty and over 60,000 police personnel and over 8,000 Civil Defence Force (CDF) personnel deployed to maintain law and order. Despite tight security, multiple election related incidents were reported around the country just before voting began and during voting, election monitors and the Police said.

The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) said that unidentified gunmen attacked a convoy of buses carrying Muslim voters from north western Puttalam district to the north-eastern region of Mannar where they were registered to vote. No casualties were reported. The CMEV also reported multiple incidents of attempts to influence voters at several locations. There were also reports of voters at polling centres in Buddhist temple being influenced to vote in particular ways by monks tying (sacred) pirith strings.

Some concerns were raised over alleged set up of military road blockades in the north. Tamils saw it as an intimidatory tactic to prevent them from voting. However, the police said the Army was asked to withdraw with adequate deployment of police personnel.

The Army, however, insisted that there was no move to block voters in the North by placing new roadblocks. The Army said that no new roadblocks were placed in Jaffna and that the roadblocks over

which some concerns were raised were placed after the Easter Sunday attacks.

Local and foreign election observers were on duty with European Union and Commonwealth observers manning selected areas.

European Union election observers were gathering information on incidents related to the presidential election. The Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observer Mission (EU EOM) Marisa Matias told reporters that the EU EOM will gather information from their observers around the country and present its findings on Monday.

The EU has a long history of accompanying the electoral process in Sri Lanka and has deployed EOMs on five previous occasions, the last in 2015, which the EU says reflects the EU's long-term commitment and partnership with Sri Lanka.

The two front runners Premadasa and Rajapaksa voted in their respective home districts, Hambantota in the Deep South and near capital Colombo. Sirisena, who is supporting neither candidates, voted in his home district of Polonnaruwa in the north central province.

The candidate who obtains over 50 per cent of the votes will win the presidency. The ballot also allows voters to choose their three top candidates in order of preference, which will determine the winner if no candidate secures over half the first place votes.

Britain's Prince Andrew has 'no recollection' of Epstein sex accuser

AFP ■ LONDON

Britain's Prince Andrew has said he does not remember meeting Virginia Roberts, one of disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein's alleged victims, who claims she was forced to have sex with the royal.

But Andrew admitted in an interview with the BBC that his decision to remain friends with Epstein after he was convicted of soliciting prostitution from a minor was a serious error of judgement.

"I have no recollection of ever meeting this lady, none whatsoever," Andrew told BBC interviewer Emily Maitlis, according to extracts from "Prince Andrew and the Epstein Scandal" released ahead of the programme airing on Saturday.

Andrew, 59, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II and eighth in line to the throne, has been heavily criticised over his links to multimillionaire Epstein, who died in custody in the US in August.

A photograph apparently showing Andrew with his arm around then 17-year-old Roberts, now Giuffre, and with Epstein's friend Ghislaine Maxwell standing in the back-

ground, has been widely published. Supporters of Andrew, however, have disputed its authenticity.

Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to procuring a girl under the age of 18 for prostitution and served 13 months in a US prison before being released on probation. He was arrested in July on new federal charges that he trafficked girls as young as 14 for sex, but was found dead in New York's high-security Metropolitan Correctional Center on August 10 as he awaited trial.

A coroner ruled that he committed suicide by hanging. The BBC interview is the first time Andrew has answered questions on his relationship with Epstein. In 2015, he used a public appearance at Davos in Switzerland to deny the claims.

Pressed over the fact that he remained friends with the disgraced financier after his conviction, even staying at his Manhattan townhouse, Andrew said he regretted the decision.

"It was a convenient place to stay," the prince added.

"I have gone through this in my mind so many times. At the end of the day, with the benefit of all the hindsight one

can have, it was definitely the wrong thing to do.

"But at the time I felt it was the honourable and right thing to do," Andrew went on to concede it was "not something that was becoming of a member of the royal family".

"We try and uphold the highest standards and practices and I let the side down, simple as that," he told Maitlis of the BBC's Newsnight programme.

Over the years Epstein, 66, hobnobbed with politicians, socialites and celebrities, including Donald Trump before he was president, and Bill Clinton.

After his death Giuffre, who says she was abused by Epstein for years and farmed out to his wealthy friends including Andrew, said "the reckoning must not end, it must continue".

She has alleged she was forced to have sex with the prince three times, an allegation he has strongly denied.

"He knows exactly what he's done and I hope he comes clean about it," she told reporters after a US hearing on August 27 at which other alleged Epstein victims also described how they were abused.

Giuffre previously testified that she was forced to have sex with Andrew in London in 2001 when she was 17. She said she had sex with him again in New York and on Epstein's private island in the Caribbean.

But the allegations were struck from the record by a US judge in 2015, who said the "lurid details" were not needed to decide a civil case concerning Epstein.

She has filed a lawsuit in the US accusing Epstein of using her as a "sex slave".

Buckingham Palace has strenuously denied the claims, calling them "false and without foundation".

In August, it issued a statement after a video emerged purporting to show Andrew at Epstein's New York home in 2010 waving goodbye to a woman leaving the property.

"His Royal Highness deplors the exploitation of any human being and the suggestion he would condone, participate in or encourage any such behaviour is abhorrent," the statement said.

Sarah Ferguson, Andrew's ex-wife and the mother of his two daughters, also defended the embattled royal ahead of Saturday's interview broadcast.

One killed in petrol protests in Iran's Sirjan

Tehran (AFP): One civilian was killed and other people injured in Iran's Sirjan, the semi-official news agency ISNA said on Saturday, a day after protests in the central city over a petrol price hike.

"Unfortunately someone was killed," Sirjan's acting governor Mohammad Mahmoudabadi said in the report, adding that the cause of the death and whether "the individual was shot or not" was still unclear. Other people were injured during the demonstrations, he said.

Mahmoudabadi emphasised that "security forces did not have permission to shoot and were only allowed to fire warning shots... which they did." He said it was a "calm gathering" that was exploited by some who "destroyed public property, damaged fuel stations and also wanted to access the oil company's main fuel depots and set fire to them".

Their effort was thwarted by forces including the police, the Revolutionary Guards and the Basij militia, ISNA quoted him as saying. Iran imposed petrol rationing and raised pump prices by at least 50 per cent on Friday, saying the move was aimed at helping citizens in need with cash handouts.

Protesters spill back onto bridge in Iraq capital

AFP ■ BAGHDAD

Anti-government demonstrators spread to a second bridge in the Iraqi capital on Saturday after security forces retreated from a key area where they had clashed with protesters, AFP correspondents said.

Protesters have occupied Baghdad's Tahrir (Liberation) Square for more than three weeks, demanding the overhaul of a ruling system they see as corrupt and unjust.

On Friday night, at least one person was killed and more than a dozen wounded in Tahrir when explosives beneath a parked car detonated, Iraq's state security forces said.

The protest movement had spilled over onto four bridges crossing the river Tigris that link east Baghdad to the city's west where government buildings and foreign embassies are based.

Security forces retook three of those bridges and nearby districts more than two weeks ago, pinning the protesters back in Tahrir and on Al-Jumhuriyah bridge with volleys of tear gas, live ammunition and even machine-gun



Protesters celebrate while taking control of some concrete walls and barriers set by security forces to close the Sinak bridge leading to the Green Zone government areas during clashes between Iraqi security forces and anti-government demonstrators in Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday AP

in at the mouth of Al-Sinek bridge.

"The security forces withdrew to another concrete barrier on Al-Sinek," one protester told AFP.

An elderly woman, who had travelled from the southern port city of Basra to join the rallies, cheered in support.

"You didn't just lose us, you lost all of Iraq!" she said, addressing Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi.

"Get out, get out, there's no place for you here. Tonight, we'll be in the Green Zone," she said, referring to the area across the river housing Abdel Mahdi's office, parliament, the US embassy and other key buildings. Dozens climbed up into a large parking complex near the bridge, unfurling a sign in support of demonstrators in nearby Tahrir.

The morning after Friday's blast, small clusters of men deployed around the square to search all those entering it.

"We had a security breach yesterday and this explosion happened," said Abu Karrar al-Basrawi, a middle-aged man from Basra volunteering for the search. But we've multiplied our checkpoints so it doesn't happen again," he said.

SHOW TIME

Boring & nothing new to offer



MARJAAVAAN
*ing: Riteish Deshmukh, Siddharth Malhotra, Tara Sutaria, Rakul Preet Kaur
Rated: 5/10

It is said that Bollywood has forgotten to make romantic movies. Gone are the days when a boy met a girl. A villain tried to separate them. But love conquered all and the hero and heroine were united in the end. It was happily ever after. Today, Bollywood is only taking a leaf out of some of the earlier romantic movies made and giving them a twist to fit the 21st Century mood.

Unfortunately, *Marjaavaan* doesn't even have that to offer to its viewers. It could be that director Milap Zaveri failed to see *Ek Villain* which had a similar starcast. The only difference was that instead of Tara Sutaria, the love interest was Shraddha Kapoor.

Those who have seen *Ek Villain* would see the similarity. Siddharth Malhotra is from the wrong side of the society — a goon who does all the bad work for his boss whom he is

indebted to. But falls in love with the girl and wants to turn good for her. In steps the villain. Again Riteish Deshmukh. The least Zaveri could have done is to not take the same starcast and make a movie on similar lines.

However, all is not lost here. Deshmukh instead of doing movies like *Housefull 4* that don't make any sense to those like to watch movies that have some content, should actually switch to doing roles where he plays the bad guy. Like in *Ek Villain*, Deshmukh excels here too as the bad guy somewhat with a twist in his character.

Siddharth Malhotra does what he does best. Play the baddies at the drop of a hat; all this with his bare hands, a tad difficult to digest given that the baddies that he is fighting are all armed with the latest machine guns. And yet, our hero is able to come out as the winner. A total disconnect with reality.

Overall, it is a movie that is not worth a watch.

— Shalini Saksena

No saving this disastrous affair

MOTICHOOR CHAKNACHOOR
*ing: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Athiya Shetty, Vibha Chibber, Navni Parihar, Vivek Mishra
Rated: 5/10

It is unfortunate that an actor, the calibre of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has done films like *Sarfarosh*, *Badlapur* and *Manjhi-The Mountain Man* would actually agree to sign on the dotted line for *Motichoor Chaknachoore*. One doesn't understand the thought that went into him accepting the role. He can't be that desperate to play the lead.

Yes, here Siddiqui plays the hero with Athiya Shetty. There are a few things horribly wrong with this pairing at many levels. First, the two actors have no chemistry; they are awkward at best. Given that Shetty is doing the pursuing while Siddiqui just goes with the flow should have had some laugh out loud moments. The only time when a smile comes is where Siddiqui has been given some funny dialogues. "36 ke hain, kab tak brahmachari bankar baithe rahe. Naati, kaali, patali, takli, kisi se bhi byah kar lenge. Hamko mourdi hi chahiye bas" the dialogue reeks of desperation but at least it is funny given the context in which it is said.

Then there is the whole loud message that is staring at our faces that of dowry. If that was the intention of the director Debamitra Biswal, to highlight the problem of dowry in the country, he should ensure that the film walked that path and the content suited the purpose.

All that this film managed to do was to show that a 36-year-old man is desperate to get married. A strict no-no.

— Shalini Saksena



Vridhi Jain crowned

Vridhi Jain, 19-year-old-girl from New Delhi, was crowned as Miss Teen India Universe 2019 by the Chairman of the Glamanand group, Nikhil Anand, at Miss Teen International India 2019 finale held at Jaibagh Palace in Jaipur recently.

She will now be representing India in Mexico at Miss Teen Universe 2019 which is going to hold from November 1 to 7. Her costume is being designed by Anu Solanki. She did her schooling from St. Thomas School, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. And is now doing her graduation in Banking and Insurance from Maharaja Surajmal Institute, New Delhi. A Management student by profession, Vridhi is also a trained

Kathak and Bharatnatyam classical dancer, she likes to carve her ideas through poetry. Her hobbies are to swim and skate. In 2018, she won the Miss Teen India pageant and was the 1st runner's up. Vridhi has keen interest in being an IAS officer in future. The very congenial Miss Teen India World is focused and is never seen beating the bush.

A MANAGEMENT STUDENT BY PROFESSION, VRIDHI IS ALSO A TRAINED KATHAK AND BHARATNATYAM CLASSICAL DANCER. SHE LIKES TO CARVE HER IDEAS THROUGH POETRY. HER HOBBIES ARE TO SWIM AND SKATE

Shahid takes cricket lessons

After actor Ranveer Singh, who is currently taking cricket lessons to prepare for his forthcoming film '83, Kapil Dev's biopic, actor Shahid Kapoor is gearing for the Hindi remake of Telugu film *Jersey*. He has started the training to hone his cricketing skills for the role of a cricketer in the film.

Talking about the film, Shahid said, "It took me some time to decide what to do next after *Kabir Singh*. But the minute I saw *Jersey*, I knew I wanted it to be my next. It is a wonderful inspiring and personal human journey that I connected with deeply."

According to a source, Shahid is "learning the ropes of playing a cricketer on screen by regularly going for the cricket sessions."

A picture of Shahid taking cricket training is on social media. In the image, he is seen holding a bat in his hands.

The film's shoot will start in Chandigarh this month. *Jersey* will be directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri who helmed the original as well.



Produced by Allu Aravind, Aman Gill, Dil Raju, the film is scheduled to release on August 28, 2020.

'Was never approached for Super 30'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with RITVIK SAHORE about the latest season of TVF Play's web series *Flames* and how did Ferrari Ki Sawaari happened among other things

■ What's your role in *Flames*?

I play Rajat. This is the second season of the web series and the story is of young romance unfolding. As it was shown in Season 1 that Rajat and Ishita are now in a relationship, this season will show what actually happens after two people come into a teenage relationship — attraction and romance, understanding, discovering the deep-rooted discomforts, trust and a gamut of emotions.

■ What prompted you to play Rajat?

First, I found the storyline interesting and appealing. Second, I just completed shooting for *Laakhon Mein Ek* and it was an exhausting experience because I played a dark character in it. I wanted to take up something light-hearted that would be interesting to do and this series was the best option.

■ You debuted with *Ferrari Ki Sawaari*, how did that happen?

It happened all of a sudden. I was in Class VI and was preparing for my Mathematics exam. That's when my father asked me to take a break from study and we both went to a mall. After doing our shopping, while we were returning home a person came to us and asked if I would like to be a part of a film. He was Rohan Mathur, now a casting director who was assisting in the film back then. At first, we thought it was a joke but then he took us into confidence and the next day I went for acting workshops. That's how I got the film.

■ Were there any apprehensions in your family?

My parents have been very supportive throughout. I am here because of them. They always asked me of what I wanted to do before taking any decision themselves. Even when I was approached for the film, my father asked me *tujhe karna hai kya?* Knowing that I was so young still he asked for my decision whether I want to do it or not. They have always been understanding and



I NEVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING AN ACTOR. I WAS A CONFUSED CHILD. SOMETIMES I WANTED TO BE A PILOT AND SOMETIMES A DOCTOR. I TOOK PART IN SCHOOL PLAYS AND ALWAYS GOT TO PLAY THE LEAD, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY

comforting. ■ After doing the film, did your friends treat you any differently?

I had a small group of close friends and all of them were extremely happy. Vidhu Vinod Chopra sir even held a special screening of the film for my friends. There was no big difference in their behaviour towards me because we knew each other much before the film, so it was not a big deal. They are still the same.

■ Was acting always on your cards?

No. I never thought of becoming an actor. I was a confused child. Sometimes I wanted to be a pilot and sometimes a doctor. I took part in school plays and always got to play the lead, I still don't know why. May be because my teacher liked me very much. (laughs)

■ There were reports that you were casted for a role in *Super*

30. Is it true?

No. I was never a part of the film. I don't know why such reports were doing rounds on the internet, but I was never approached for any role in the film.

■ What things do you keep in mind before signing a project?

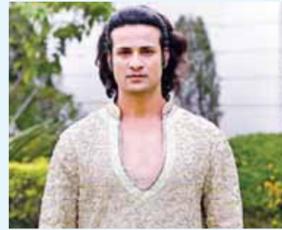
I try to choose strong scripts with good content. If the story is good your role will definitely stand out and people will love it. My focus never lies in playing only lead roles, the character and the story should be good and that's all I look out for.

■ Any actor or director that you would like to work with?

I would like to work with Ranbir Kapoor as he is a fabulous actor and I love the vibe that one gets to see in his films. As for the director, I would love to work with Rajkumar Hirani sir and Sriram Raghavan, I love the kind of films they make.

TELLYTALE

HIMANSHU FOLLOWS SATTVIC DIET



Himanshu Soni, who is currently seen playing the role of Lord Ram in Colors' *Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush* has been winning hearts across the nation. Playing Ram has helped Himanshu in more ways than one. The actor, who is praised for his craft as Lord Ram, reveals the secret behind his gleaming and poise personality. Himanshu follows a strict sattvic diet which is restricted to bowls of fruit and daal and measured the amount of vegetables completing his day's meal and helping him stay fit and bright. Talking about his special diet Himanshu says: "I have been very conscious about what I eat and drink. After 30's the organs reverse their function, hence it is very important that extra care is taken for long and healthy life. I am a pure vegetarian and follow a sattvic diet and my character of Lord Ram is also a major inspiration behind this routine. Ramji has a very poise and calm personality, and when I was reading and preparing for my character I learnt about his lifestyle which I wanted to imbibe to personify Lord Ram with conviction on screen."

CENTURY OF CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating their teamwork, dedication and the immense success, Colors' *Choti Sardaarni* completes a milestone of 100 episodes on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. The cast and crew, presently shooting in the scenic locales of Serbia had a small party organised on the auspicious day of Gurupurab. The celebration started with a group prayer meeting and was followed by a feast, making it a truly special one.

Away from India, local tour guides of Serbia helped Nimrit Kaur and Avinash Rekhi arrange a special feast, comprising of various local delicacies that gave them all a langar feel. Missing celebrations back home, Avinash and Nimrit ensured that Gurupurab was celebrated with much fanfare and also brought in a massive cake for the successful completion of 100 episodes.



CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL

Deforestation is a big problem around the world and the responsibility lies upon all of us to save our planet from the looming disaster. Giving out a shout out to the little ones to come forward and take a pledge to protect our nature, Saumya aka Rubina Dilaik of *Shakti... Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki* gave a tearjerking performance at the Colors' Children's Day Special event.

While the show will have lots of fun and performances in-store by Arjun Bijlani, Surbhi Chandana, Jasmine Bhasin, Tejaswini Prakash, and many others, Rubina's performance to *Bezubaan Kab Se* along with Neerja Tiwari and Dipali Borkar, will be an eye-opener for everyone. Dedicated to the disastrous situation that the entire world is going through as a result of climate change, Rubina and the kids will depict the repercussions of deforestation and its impact on our nature.



Speaking about her performance, Rubina said: "It's shocking to see how people do not understand the catastrophic effects deforestation can have on our ecosystem and I want to communicate it through my act at this very special Children's Day event. It's important for us to teach the young generation to value our green cover and to make sure it's preserved for their future and I am glad that could contribute towards it in a small way."

SHRUTI LOVES SOLO BIKE RIDES

Star Bharat's show *Nimki Vidhayak* parallel lead actress Shruti Ulfat, who is



currently playing Gangadevi in the show, is not only an actress but a bike rider too.

Shruti Ulfat shares: "Acting has always been close to my heart, but I am also fond of other activities like going to the gym, yoga and jogging. I believe in keeping myself fit. Along with this, bike riding is my other hobby. I have visited several places in solo bike trips. But one place which is still in my bucket list is Ladakh. I will surely fulfill this one day."

Shruti further adds: "I want to take my

son for my trip to Ladakh but he is still very young. I am very close to my son and always believe in spending quality time with him. So every evening I take him for an evening walk so we hang out and spend time together."

SARA'S UNCONVENTIONAL TALENT

Zee TV's show, *Movie Masti* with Maniesh Paul has captivated its audience



with its tongue-in-cheek humour and eccentric drama ever since it was launched. The inimitable host Maniesh Paul unravels the unseen and 'flaw' some side of Bollywood's hottest celebrities every week and during the grand finale, he put the gorgeous Sara Ali Khan and the maverick Rohit Shetty to the ultimate Bollywood test.

During this Saturday's grand final episode, Sara Ali Khan revealed her unconventional ways of convincing people. She took us down memory lane and revealed how she got admission into her school by singing *Damadam Mast Kalandar* during the interview.

Talking about the incident Sara mentioned: "I have always been this crazy, since I was a kid." Rohit cracked a joke in between and said: "And when exactly did you grow up?" Sara started laughing, but continued: "When I was young, I remember that my mother and father were trying to get me into Montessori School. So, they got a call from the principal, who wanted to talk to me. Before they gave me the phone they told me to talk properly. I snatched the phone from them and started singing *Damadam mast kalandar, ali da pehla number* and I thought I had done a great job. My mother on the other hand, thought I had lost the chance at the admission. However, I got in because the principal thought I was very confident."

VARUN GAINED 12 KG FOR A ROLE

A lot of times we see television actors go an extra mile to portray their character perfectly. From picking up nuances from relatable stories, to changing their lifestyle to fit in their character's shoes, Varun Badola has already been inspired by his real-life incidences for his role as a father. But for a method actor like Varun, who boils the ocean for his characters, yet again raised the bar. In a recent conversation, Varun revealed that he gained 12 kilos for his character as Amber Sharma in Sony TV's *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan*. Essaying the character of a grumpy father in his 50s, Varun even coaxed the makers to opt for the salt and pepper look for Amber Sharma's role.



CHAMPIONS OF EARTH

SHALINI SAKSENA met up with saviours of Nature at the recent Earth Hero Awards held in Delhi, to bring you stories of inspiration and good work that they are doing to leave a better world for future generations

JALAL-UD-DIN BABA, J&K, Award Category: Inspire

He was in Class VI and would watch as his parents exploited the Wular Lake in Bandipora district in J&K for whatever that the lake was able to give — fish and water chestnuts. It was then that Baba decided that when he was old enough, he would do everything that was possible to give back what his parents had taken from the lake that is the lifeline for the people living in the area.

Baba, who has been awarded the Inspire award by RBS Earth Heroes Awards for his commitment to filmmaking in environment, water, climate change, livelihood, forests and glaciers tells you that he is from a village Bandipora which standard on the banks of the Wular Lake, the largest fresh water lake in Asia with an area of 272 sq km. "I was born on the banks of this river with bounties of this lake like water chestnuts, *nadru* (lotus root), fish and sometimes even sand extraction. The Wular water run in my blood. It was always in my mind to give it back to the mother which nurtured me. This pulled me towards Nature. I started small. I would go on my own to collect trash that would collect on the banks. Sometimes, I would pull my friends as well. My activism was a reaction to what I had seen my parents do to the lake," Baba explains.

He tells you that the lake feeds eight lakh people. "Yet, they don't understand the importance of what it means to have clean fresh water," Baba says who is also a guest faculty and trainer at media departments, schools, colleges and universities across the country.

He conducts science and green filmmaking workshops, lectures, hands-on training and screenings. He has won more than 19 national and international awards from India, the US, China, Australia, France, Spain and Bangladesh, besides official acknowledgements, nominations and citations across the country. His flair for storytelling has empaneled him as a science communicator and resource person with Vigyan Prasara, Department of Science and Technology.

"To begin with, I would tell stories, tell the fishermen how necessary the lake is for the people of the region. I would write articles and hold debates on how we were poisoning the waters. I told people what to and what not to do. There are 42



The Wular lake attracts thousands of migratory birds. The area can become an eco-tourism spot and provide an alternative means for earning. But the exploitation over the years has had a devastating effect on the biodiversity

other water bodies around this lake that feed the locals. I would tell people not throw waste and faecal matter into the lake because this water is then recycled, cleaned and finds its way into our taps for us to drink. Then there is the fish, *nadru* and even water chestnut. The fish eat what we throw in the waters and we in turn eat that fish. We eat *nadru* and water chestnuts too. We are not only damaging the environment, what we are eating is damaging our bodies as well. But I found

that the impact that I was hoping for never came. That is when I decided to turn towards digital medium and armed myself with a camera to tell my story," Baba recalls.

His film on what the Wular means to the locals is as dramatic as it can get. It is told from the eyes of a 13-year-old rag picker, Bilal Ahmad Dar who lives on its banks and what the lake means to him. The reason he has to eke out a livelihood is because he lost his father to cancer when he was six. And the reason for cancer? The toxic Wular lake. I made a hero of this boy. I targeted school children. I find that they are most open to ideas, yet our environment is at its worst today. This means that we are doing something wrong in our education system," the 47-year-old tells you.

He has been conferred with the Inspire Award for his work as an individual (journalist/filmmaker/artist) or institution who has influenced thought or inspired action on wildlife conservation, natural resource management, and environmental protection through their creative expression.

"We are not teaching the importance of what the ecology and environment means to us. I show my films. I sometimes scare them by telling them the story of Dar. They understand the importance of Wular today," Baba says.

The reason why Wular is dying? The lake is at the large part of the Valley — North. "Even the affluence from South Kashmir is emptied into the lake. The lake starts from Shehnag travels to Lidar which meets Jhelum. This water carrying silt as well. Through Jhelum, the affluence and silt empties into Wular which is like a river and a lake. The lake becomes a reservoir. All the more reason why there is need to protect it and not throw trash into it. The lake attracts thousands of migratory birds. The area can become an eco-tourism spot besides what is already being done. It can provide an alternative means to earning for the locals. But the exploitation over the years has had a devastating effect on the biodiversity. Some of it is still left. There is time. Kashmir is dependent on Nature. We don't have industries; we don't have railways. We only have waters and lakes. If we lose Wular, we will lose everything including the Dal Lake in Srinagar," Baba says.

S SATHISH, Tamil Nadu, Award Category: Save The Species

Sathish is a forest range officer at Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu. This is the first Marine National Park in South-east Asia. After completing his BSc in Forestry and then doing Environmental Science, Sathish is now pursuing his doctorate in Marine Biology. His interest in Nature and preserving the species took root after he had completed his one-and-a-half years of training in Hyderabad, Telangana. He tells you that his posting in Gulf of Mannar was more like a punishment.

"Most forest rangers consider a posting here as a punishment because the working style in Marine National Park is very different from what one would do or find in a Tiger reserve. Nobody wants to work in a marine environment. People who come in this job have a different view of what the job entails. Working with marine animals is different as the nature and style of working here is different. One has to love the sea in order to love the work that comes with the territory. Once you fall in love with marine life, there is no walking away from this," Sathish says.

The lack of awareness when it comes to dealing with marine life is what deters young forest rangers to work in this area. "We don't have much information about marine animals. I studied Forestry for four years in BSc, two years of Environmental Science and one-and-a-half years of training and yet before I joined the National Park at Gulf of Mannar, I too didn't have much knowledge. This field is kind of nightmare since it is new for everyone. Then there is the fact that the park borders Sri Lanka. Working here was an eye-opener for me," Sathish tells you.

Even though the National Park has a rich wildlife, what is an unexplored world is marine life and there is so much that the sea has to offer. "There are sea cucumbers, sharks, whales, sea horses



and beautiful corals. Since the park is at the border, sea cucumber and sea horses are tradable items. People eat them but luckily not in India. The challenge was to stop trade in these marine animals. Over 100 people were apprehended. I even targeted kingpins," Sathish says.

Going after such people meant that Sathish and his wife's life is always under threat. He tells you that since he has been posted there, not a single day has gone by when the two of them roamed the area freely. His wife doesn't allow him to go alone anywhere. Recalling a recent incident, he tells you how his driver was beaten black and blue just because he drives Sathish around. They wanted Sathish to slow down in his work. Fake cases of Human Rights violation are filed against him regularly. But this has not slowed him down.

Once Sathish joined, his first priority was to think of things that could be taken up on a priority basis. "What we have under the sea is just as important for the ecosystem. Sea cow or dugong and sea turtles are endangered here. Dugong was being hunted for its meat. Its meat is a delicacy and sells for ₹1,000 per kg. When I took over, there were only 150 dugongs left in Gulf of Mannar," Sathish says.

What we have under the sea is just as important for the eco-system. Dugong and sea turtles are endangered here. Dugong was being hunted for its meat. Its meat is a delicacy and sells for ₹1,000 per kg

He tells you that there are 56 marine animals in the Gulf of Mannar primary work in with sea cucumbers. For this, the Forest Department bought scuba equipment after he and his team members learnt how to scuba dive. In fact, he and his eight-team are the only team in the Department who know how to scuba dive.

"There was a reason why we learnt how to scuba dive. There are 10,000 boats that ply in this region. There is so much plastic that is thrown in the sea. These settle at the bottom and cover the coral reef they would suffocate and die. This in turn would affect other marine animals living in the coral reefs. One a week we dive and col-

lect all the plastic settled at the bottom," Sathish explains.

This is not the only work that Sathish is known for in the area when he took over the National Park back in 2016. He regularly gives talks to school children telling them about the importance of marine life in general and sea turtles, dugong and sea cucumber in particular. And it was his commitment to the conservation of sea cucumber, in the coastal stretch of Mandapam and Rannad Wildlife Range, that Sathish was awarded the Save the Species award by RBS Earth Heroes Awards.

"I tell the fishermen that their livelihood is dependent on what the sea gives them. If they abuse the sea, soon there won't be anything left for them to sell and eat. I tell them that these endangered species are important for the other fish to survive. If sea cucumber disappears, their income will also disappear. Sea cucumber cleans the sea bed. This is something that the fishermen understand since the area has seen a drop in the amount of the fish coming in. The impact is that today, even if a dugong gets caught in the nets, it is set free. This has led to an increase in their number. As for sea turtles, if they would get caught in the net, their flippers would be cut off and turtle would be thrown back. But today, people protect them after they have understood the role each marine animal plays," Sathish says.

His work related to dugong is just as innovative. An app has been created — Save the Dugong. "The fisherman, with the help of this app needs to click the picture; it will give us the GPS sighting and help us track the movement. In return we pay ₹10,000. While the money is nowhere near the money they would earn if they killed the animal, the idea of seeing a dugong has caught on and the species number is on the rise. We are now in the process of trying to bring this area as dugong conservation area," Sathish says.

BHOLU ABRAR KHAN, Bharatpur, Award Category: Green Warrior

He was all of 12 when he would spend his days chasing birds at Keoladeo Ghana National Park at Bharatpur. His father was a chef at one of the resort's where ornithologists and birdwatcher would come and visit from time to time. One such person who piqued Bholu's interest was Dr Salim Ali who used to frequent the park to ring the birds. Bholu attributes much of his love and knowledge of birds to this man.

"Dr Ali used to come to the park often. Once I met him. He asked me if I would be interested in helping me. I was 12, had lot of energy and free time since I wasn't going to school. I would spend hours chasing birds and looking for them. He was the one who taught me the names and how to identify them. Those which I couldn't identify, I would look at it with care and come back and describe the bird in detail. Dr Ali would then tell me the name. I would go patrolling with the staff even as a kid. I

would go to count nests and help ring the birds," the 65-year-old who retired as forest ranger with the park, recalls.

However, Dr Ali had a strict rule. The only way that Bholu could help was that he had to compulsorily go to school. The young Bholu had no option but to comply. Unfortunately, he could not complete his graduation. In 1976, family pressure forced him to get married. "Those days one simply followed what the family said. I was in second year and sitting in the exam hall when I had to leave. The baarat was at the doorstep. I got caught up with married life and never had the opportunity to go back to complete it," Bholu recounts who had joined the park as a forester.

But it didn't deter him from working with the birds. He got a job with the park, learnt how to conduct bird census camps and to handle birds safely. He monitored the park daily and reported issues around encroachment, poaching, animal diseases and unruly visitors who would disturb the

birds. His thorough knowledge meant that guides would come to him to takes lessons on how to identify a particular bird — whether it was migratory, a resident bird or a resident migratory. He has taught MSc student who came to learn about the birds. He has taught young forest officers who would be posted at the park. He has taught school students who would visit the park by showing them a presentation, the peculiarities of a bird and how to spot them in the wild.

He regales you with stories. He tells you how he was the one who had spotted a hissing cat. Something that was unheard of in the park. "Once, as a kid I spotted a cat. But I didn't know its name. But I studied the way it looked. I ran back and informed the office. When they saw the animal, they were surprised to see a hissing cat. Nobody knew that it was in the park," Bholu tells you.

He tells you how back in the 80s and 90s people would through the park to see



the Siberian crane. Unfortunately, the fighting in Afghanistan in the 90s proved to be fatal to this majestic bird that would rest in Afghanistan. He tells you how rampant killing of this exotic looking bird meant that Keoladeo lost one of its prized possessions. But he tells you that back in

1985, a Russian had ringed a baby Siberian bird. The bird was spotted in the park in 1986 with its parents after flying for 8,000 km.

"The then park director called the person who had tagged the bird. It was then that there are three kinds of population each has a different destination. The central population that comes to Bharatpur, the western population that goes to Iran and eastern population that goes to China where their numbers are large.

There were other challenges as well. Water is a big issue. The Gambhir river that used to feed the Bharatpur wetland, no longer is an option since the construction of the dam. "There was a time when thousands of birds used to come to the park. There was plenty of food back then. But after the dam was built, the part lost its supply of water. The option was to feed the park from the Chambal river. The water from this river that feeds the city is collected some 17 km away in a flood con-

trol drain. But this water lacks natural food. There is bound to be a decline in the bird population. But during good monsoons, there is plenty of food and the bird population thrives," Bholu tells you.

He opines that there is need to ensure that Bharatpur remain a wetland to attract birds. "The town has no other industry. The entire population is depended on tourist who come here. If the water disappears, the birds disappear, the tourists will as well. At present, the park in a world heritage site. But the park can lose its status. What will we do then? The Government is doing its best and park officials are doing their best to deal with the situation since there is so much more awareness about wildlife today," Bholu says.

He tells you his life started with the bird and will end among the birds. His children too are wildlife photographers. "I too am a photographer. Many of my photos have found way into many magazines," Bholu tells you.



Jasse Tuominen of Finland, second left, vies for the ball with Max Goppel, left, Martin Rechsteiner, below, and Martin Buchel of Liechtenstein during the Euro 2020

Messi returns to sink Brazil

Lionel Messi misses penalty but still manages to fire Argentina to 1-0 win over Brazil

AFP ■ RIYADH

Lionel Messi struck on his return to international duty following a three-month ban as Argentina defeated fierce rivals Brazil 1-0 in a friendly in Riyadh.

The Barcelona forward was suspended by CONMEBOL for accusing South American football's ruling body of "corruption" after he was sent off in July's third-place play-off with Chile at the Copa America.

Messi netted the only goal of the game at

the King Saud University Stadium on 13 minutes on Friday, tapping home the rebound after his penalty was saved by Brazil goalkeeper Alisson.

His effort came shortly after Manchester City striker Gabriel Jesus rolled a spot-kick wide for Brazil, who were playing without the injured Neymar.

Messi, who scored with a pair of free-kicks in his last game with Barcelona, twice threatened from set pieces in the second half before Liverpool keeper Alisson beat away a powerful drive from Leandro Paredes.

Rodrygo, the 18-year-old who scored a sensational Champions League hat-trick with Real Madrid this month, made his Brazil debut as he replaced Willian for the final 20 minutes.

However, Brazil were unable to find an equaliser as their winless run since capturing the Copa America title extended to five matches.

"It's important to win and it is always nice to beat Brazil, for the rivalry, which feels a lot of late," said Messi.

"It's good for everything that is to come, to continue growing while looking towards the qualifiers and the next Copa America (in 2020)."

The meeting between the two South American giants was the second in Saudi Arabia in little over a year. Brazil beat Argentina 1-0 in Jeddah in October 2018.

Brazil also defeated Argentina 2-0 at home in the semi-finals of this year's Copa America, a controversial match that left Messi complaining the hosts had benefited from favouritism.

Brazil will play a friendly against South Korea in Abu Dhabi on

November 19, in their final game before South American qualifying starts for the 2022 World Cup in March.



Finland, Sweden seal Euro 2020 place

AFP ■ PARIS

Finland qualified for the first major tournament in their history with a 3-0 win over Liechtenstein while Sweden sealed their place at the Euro 2020 finals following a victory in Romania.

Norwich City forward Teemu Pukki scored twice in Helsinki and Jasse Tuominen also netted to bring the home crowd pouring onto the pitch at the final whistle as Finland wrapped up second place behind Group J winners Italy on Friday.

Roberto Mancini's Italy registered a record 10th straight win as they eased past Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-0 in Zenica.

Francesco Acerbi, Lorenzo Insigne and Andrea Belotti scored for

Italy, who have bounced back impressively after failing to qualify for last year's World Cup year for the first time since 1958.

"Mancini has done a great job, he has given us clear ideas in a short period of time. We are proud of the record of ten consecutive wins but our objectives and our dreams are honestly others," said Belotti.

Bosnia are guaranteed a place in the play-offs after finishing top of their UEFA Nations League group last year.

Sweden qualified for a sixth straight European Championships after a 2-0 success in Bucharest that eliminated Romania from contention.

Marcus Berg and Robin Quaison scored first-half goals for Sweden

who secured second place behind Group F winners Spain, leaving Romania hoping for a play-off berth.

Berg headed in an inviting cross from Emil Forsberg as Sweden surged ahead on 18 minutes and then turned provider as he cushioned the ball off for Quaison to double the lead.

RAMOS HONOURED BY SPAIN FANS

Seven different players were on target for already-qualified Spain in a 7-0 thrashing of lowly Malta in Cadiz.

Alvaro Morata opened the scoring on 23 minutes before former Arsenal midfielder Santi Cazorla bagged his first international goal in four years.

Pau Torres, substitutes Pablo Sarabia and Dani Olmo, Gerard Moreno and Jesus Navas completed the rout as Spain made sure of top spot.

Spanish fans honoured Sergio Ramos with a huge mosaic of the defender who last month broke the record previously held by Iker Casillas for most national team appearances.

"I'm very happy. What better way for me to toast this tribute than with a victory of such authority and playing such good football?" said Ramos, who earned his 169th cap Friday.

"The joy is two-fold on both a personal and group level."

Alexander Sorloth struck twice for Norway in a 4-0 win over the Faroe Islands. Tore Reginiussen and Iver Fossum got the other goals in

Oslo for the hosts who will head into the playoffs.

Denmark require a draw from their final game against the Republic of Ireland after a 6-0 demolition of Gibraltar.

Christian Eriksen and Robert Skov both hit a brace in Copenhagen with Martin Braithwaite and Christian Gytkjaer also on the score-sheet.

Switzerland occupy second place in Group D behind Denmark after a nervy 1-0 win over Georgia courtesy of late header from debutant Cedric Itten.

"I'm still in a bit of shock," said Itten.

"To score on my debut here in St Gallen is a dream come true. It's still going to take a while to sink in."

Zverev win at ATP Finals, Nadal bows out



Alexander Zverev celebrates after defeating Daniil Medvedev in their ATP World Tour Finals

AFP ■ LONDON

Rafael Nadal headed home from the ATP Finals after defending champion Alexander Zverev's win against Daniil Medvedev confirmed the Spaniard's exit from the season-ending tournament.

The world number one recovered to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-5 in the early round-robin match at London's O2 Arena but knew he was dependent on the later result.

Zverev's 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win on Friday meant he qualified for the semi-finals from Group Andre Agassi alongside Tsitsipas.

Tsitsipas, who topped the group, will play six-time champion Roger Federer in Saturday's semi-finals while Zverev will meet Dominic Thiem, who finished ahead of Federer in Group Bjorn Borg.

German seventh seed Zverev broke the fourth-seeded Medvedev early, with the Russian knowing he was already heading out of the tournament after two defeats.

But Medvedev dug deep in the second set, fending off the single break point engineered by Zverev and took it to a tie-break.

The pair swapped mini-breaks but Medvedev double-faulted to give Zverev a 5-3 lead and the German held his nerve to seal his first match point with an ace.

"I'm in the semis again, this arena is where I play my best tennis," said Zverev.

"We don't play in this atmosphere anywhere else in the world.

"Today because Daniil had nothing to lose he could just enjoy it, but for me it was must-win. He's been the best player since the summer so all credit to him."

NADAL ASSURED OF NO 1

Zverev, who beat Novak Djokovic in the final last year, has had a mixed season but now has the chance to end it on a high in London.

Nadal, who has already secured the year-end number one ranking, has never won the end-of-season tournament and had a miserable start at the O2 Arena, being outplayed by Zverev in his opening match.

But the 19-time Grand Slam champion produced an astonishing comeback to defeat Medvedev on Wednesday and give himself a chance of qualifying from the round-robin phase.

Tsitsipas, 21, had already qualified for the semi-finals before Friday's match after beating Medvedev and Zverev.

Serve dominated in the first set on Friday, with Tsitsipas taking it on a tie-break. But Nadal put increasing pressure on his opponent's serve and a single break in sets two and three were enough for him to seal the match.

Following his win Nadal was in the strange position of not knowing whether he would qualify for the knockout rounds or not.

He received the trophy for finishing the year as the top-ranked player on the court at the O2.

"I'm super happy," he said. "Honestly, after all the things I went through in my career in terms of injuries I never thought at the age of 33-and-a-half I would have this trophy in my hands again."

"It's something really, really emotional for me. A lot of work in the shadows to be where we are today." Federer secured a spot in the semi-finals for the 16th time in his career on Thursday by beating Djokovic in straight sets.

Srikanth knocked out of Hong Kong Open

PTI ■ HONG KONG

A profligate Kidambi Srikanth was knocked out of the USD 400,000 Hong Kong Open following a straight-game semifinal defeat to local favourite Lee Cheuk Yiu here on Saturday.

The former world no 1 squandered six game points in the second game to suffer 9-21, 23-25 in contest that lasted 42-minutes.

It was his first semifinal appearance since making the last four at the India Open Super 500. He had finished runner-up at the event.

Srikanth fell back early in the opening game with Lee opening up a 6-1 lead. The Indian tried to catch up but failed to narrow the gap.

In the second game,



Srikanth stepped up the gas taking an early 5-1 lead. However, Lee soon restored parity. The shuttlers fought neck and neck with Srikanth surging ahead but

the Indian lost momentum, eventually conceding the match.

Srikanth had beaten the 23-year-old Lee in straight games at the India Open last

Hamilton keen to gain early advantage ahead of 2020



Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, smiles during a news conference

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Lewis Hamilton believes his Mercedes team have an advantage over their rivals ahead of the 2020 world championship after wrapping up their unprecedented sixth consecutive title double with two races to go this year.

The six-time drivers' champion, who retained his crown in Texas two weeks ago, said he was as keen as ever to win the final events in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, but added that Mercedes can take more risks.

"It's almost a different approach now for me, because we can be a little bit more aggressive," said Hamilton.

"We can try some different strategies and we can try some different ways how we go about our weekend and the process."

"We've basically got two freebies to try some new things that can take place next year."

"Next year, we have even less testing before the first race. I think it's only six days, as

opposed to eight..."

"So every tiny bit of an advantage you can gain in changing things and adapting and being dynamic, hopefully, could pay dividends next year. That's our goal."

Hamilton also dismissed suggestions that the absence of team chief Toto Wolff from Mercedes pit wall for the first time since 2013 could be a negative factor this weekend.

"It's such a breath of fresh air," he joked before adding: "He has such a presence within this team that even while he's not here, he's still here..."

"Everything that's been set up is because of him — and all the people that he's put in place — and everyone is here still knuckling down, working as normal."

"It's just you don't see him on the pit wall. You don't see him in the meetings, but I know he's on the debrief on the other end and listening to all the things we say."

"I think everyone's behaving as well as they can!"

Tsitsipas shocks Federer to reach final

AFP ■ LONDON

Stefanos Tsitsipas shocked six-time champion Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4 to reach the final of the ATP Finals in his tournament debut on Saturday.

The Greek sixth seed, 17 years younger than his 38-year-old opponent, beat the Swiss at the Australian Open but had fallen to him twice since then.

Federer was unrecognisable from the player who dominated Novak Djokovic in his final round-robin match, struggling on serve and hitting a total of 26 unforced errors compared with just five against the Serbian.

But Tsitsipas belied his years with a performance full of confidence and grit, saving 11 out of 12 break points during the match.

Coming into the match, the Greek 21-year-old led the tournament in service games won, with 35 out of 37.

Tsitsipas conceded a break point in his first game as cries of "Let's go Roger, let's go" rang around the O2 Arena but he survived the scare and broke Federer in the next game.

Thereafter it was a case of what might have been for Federer, who



Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece celebrates winning a point against Roger Federer

dropped just six points on his serve in the first set and saw a whopping six break points come and go.

Tsitsipas was forced to dig deep to see out the set, needing seven set points before he finally closed it out 6-3.

Federer was in deep trouble when Tsitsipas broke him to love in the third game of the second set but he finally made a break point count -- his 10th, to level at 2-2.

Tsitsipas, dominating rallies from the back of the court, broke back

straight away with a forehand cross-court winner for a 3-2 lead.

At 5-4 down Federer knew he had to break Tsitsipas for only the second time in the match.

The Greek slipped to 15-40 down but Federer again could not take advantage, spraying a forehand out to give his opponent a match point and he won with an ace.

Austrian fifth seed Dominic Thiem plays defending champion Alexander Zverev of Germany in the second semi-final later on Saturday.

Pacers engineer another innings win

India demolish Bangladesh for sixth successive Test win

PTI ■ INDORE

India annihilated Bangladesh inside three days for a resounding innings and 130 run-victory in the first Test, riding on one of the most hostile fast bowling performances in recent times.

The quick victory was on predictable lines.

Having bowled Bangladesh out for 150 in the first innings, India bundled them out for 213 in the second essay after declaring their first innings on their overnight score of 493 for six.

The victory also gave India 60 points, and they strengthened their position in the World Test Championship table with 300 points in their kitty.

The thrashing also completed a hat-trick of innings wins for them, having beaten South Africa in the second and third Test in the previous series.

The gulf was huge between the two teams and it could only get worse for Bangladesh from here onwards as the Indian pace attack, in the upcoming Day/Night Test with pink ball, is expected to cause more damage to their batsmen's psyche.

It was a game where Mohammed Shami (match haul of 7 wickets), Umesh Yadav (4 wickets overall) and Ishant Sharma (3 wickets) scared the hell out of an opposition that showed little stomach for a fight, save senior player Mushfiqur Rahim (64, 150 balls, 7x4), who delayed the inevitable.

Ravichandran Ashwin (match haul of 5 wickets) complemented the pacers, chipping in with wickets at regular intervals.

Bangladesh may have lost a lot of Test matches but the one in Indore has left them with scars that will remain for a long time. An international team looked frightened in the face of relentless hostility.

There were no angry gestures or over-the-top celebrations but scorch-



India's Ravichandran Ashwin, center, and teammates celebrate the dismissal of Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim during the third day of first cricket test match

ing pace, mesmerising swing and the red cherry rearing at the throat from good length.

It created a spectacle and Bangladesh didn't have the wherewithal to handle it.

The best part about this Indian attack is that its intensity is same even in the third session as it is early in the morning. Mehidy Hasan Miraj (38 off 55 balls), despite sharing a 59-run stand with Rahim, being bounced out by Umesh, was a case in point.

It was a 'heavy ball' in cricketing parlance that grew big on Miraj, hit-

ting him on his chest and then tickling the stumps. It was pure intimidation as the batsman looked in physical pain as he left.

Ditto for Imrul Kayes, who got a perfect outswinger (inswinger for a left hander) from Umesh in the first session. The ball tailed in and uprooted the leg-stump. Kayes had given up on the fight from the start as he looked nervous while facing each and every delivery.

Shadman Islam may have been a heavy scorer in domestic cricket but he has never faced a bowler of Ishant's

calibre in his short Test career. So when young Shadman got one from Ishant to nip back from length, he couldn't react in time to bring his bat down, as the ball clipped the top of middle stump.

Bangladesh's best bet, Mominul Haque (7) was jittery from the start and survived a DRS call while trying to leave a delivery pitched on the off-stump.

However, when Shami angled one into the opposition skipper, he was adjudged plumb in-front even though Virat Kohli had to take a review, which

turned out to be successful. Shami's guile again came to the fore when he hurried Mohammed Mithun with a bouncer and his mistimed pull was easily taken at mid-wicket by Mayank Agarwal.

For the team's oldest player (in terms of age) Mahmudullah Riyad, the issue was technical as well as temperamental. A fluent player in white ball format, not for once during the two innings did he look comfortable be it against the pacers or spinners.

In the post-lunch session, Shami

Arun lauds Indian pace unit

PTI ■ INDORE

An extremely skilful bunch with each speed merchant bringing in a different facet makes the current Indian pace unit best in the world, feels team's bowling coach Bharath Arun.

In another fabulous fast bowling performance without injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, the Indian trio of Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami collected 14 wickets in an innings and 130 runs victory over Bangladesh in the first Test.

But more than the wickets, it's the impact that the pacers have created over the last 20 months has left a lasting impression.

"I think at present we are the no. 1 team in the world. Getting there is difficult, staying there is even more difficult. I think to do that over a period of three years, you need to stay constantly hungry," Arun said after the match.

India's most successful bowling coach Arun then spoke about each of the three pacers.

On Ishant coming round the wicket to left-hander (Shadman Islam dismissal), Arun said: "Actually started working on that variation from yesterday. So if you look at the way he signalled after he

just bowled one fuller on the off-stump channel. The ball held its line and all the veteran did was to offer a training session slip catch to Rohit Sharma.

Amid the ruins, Rahim, after get-

ting the wicket, he was very happy that he could do that.

"Each time you try to explore new avenues in your bowling, you constantly look to improve. And this would give him the much needed fillip to experiment more and try out," he added.

It's Ishant's experience that has made him the bowler that he is.

"Ishant is probably the most experienced bowler we have. He has played over 90 Test matches. He felt that he needs the batsmen to play a lot more."

It was about him trying to experiment with different angles. What he's doing now, suits his bowling best," the bowling coach said.

When asked about Umesh, the bowling coach lavished praise on the "character" that he has shown despite being in and out of the side due to specific team combinations.

"Umesh showed a lot of character in coming back. But then that's also an embarrassment of riches (with Bumrah on his way to recovery)," the former India bowler said.

"You have five fast bowlers (Buvneshwar Kumar) who are ready to play for the country. And over a period of time if you can manage the workloads well, we can ensure that each one is nice and fresh for every game that we play."

Umesh showed a lot of character in coming back. But then that's also an embarrassment of riches (with Bumrah on his way to recovery)," the former India bowler said. "You have five fast bowlers (Buvneshwar Kumar) who are ready to play for the country. And over a period of time if you can manage the workloads well, we can ensure that each one is nice and fresh for every game that we play."



India's Ishant Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Umesh Yadav leave the field

We feed on each other's success: Ishant

PTI ■ INDORE

Feeding off each other's success over attaching importance to hierarchy within the fast bowling department has helped in Indian pacers recent success, the experienced Ishant Sharma said here on Saturday.

The trio of Ishant, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav shared 14 wickets between them to annihilate Bangladesh by an innings and 130 runs in the first Test here, helping India go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

"I am not treated as a senior, we don't have anything like that (junior/senior mindset). We always enjoy each other's success, speak with each other and try and share our plans. It's healthy competition," Ishant said after the match.

To this Shami added: "The more we get tired, the better fun we have. We push each other. We try to enjoy each other's success. There are certain things I cannot even say."

"I bowl alongside Ishant and Umesh, that makes it easier for me. I focus on my length and have been able to execute it well."

Ishant said it's difficult for him to explain his recent purple patch.

"I have played quite a lot. I am only 31 but having played almost 100 games, the body does feel old. The bowling is taking a toll on my body, but I'm enjoying it, trying out different variations."

Umesh said the incentive for the fast bowlers at home is that they get more overs when they take more wickets.

"Earlier, the new ball was doing a lot for pacers. We know our strengths. We try to take wickets with the new ball and make it easier for spinners."

Shami said he's looking forward to playing the pink-ball Test in Kolkata.

"What I try to do is to pitch it on a good spot, nothing special. I just try to execute good line and length. That will be the same with the pink ball also," he said.

He said given Umesh's power with the bat, all the boundaries in India looked small.

"We don't have restrictions as batters. The team management has given us freedom."

We try to bat sensibly, though, when there is a batter at the other end. I have been empowered by the skipper and the coach."

'We now have dream combination of fast bowlers'

PTI ■ INDORE

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Saturday termed his fast bowling arsenal as a "dream combination" that can torment any opposition on any kind of surface.

Riding on one of the most hostile fast bowling performances in recent times, India thrashed Bangladesh by an innings and 130 runs inside three days in the first Test.

Asked about India's current fast bowling resources, Kohli reminded that the team is without Jasprit Bumrah, who is undergoing treatment for an injury.

"These guys (fast bowlers) are on top of their game, when they bowl, it looks like any pitch is a good pitch. Jasprit is not a part of

the attack and when he comes back, it will be a one heck of an attack to counter (by opposition teams)," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

"They can take wickets in every spell. The slip fielders are ready as they know the ball can come any over. This is a dream combination for our captain. Having strong bowlers is the most important thing in any team," he added.

Talking about the match, he said, "Don't know what to say, it's another clinical performance. It was very professional with the bat, playing five batters with one guy taking responsibility is what we want with overseas tours coming up. Hats off to the boys."

India's performance at



Captain Virat Kohli applaud teammates

home is now comparable with the Australians of the early 2000s but Kohli said the team was not playing for records.

"The numbers and records are there for every-

one to see, that'll remain in the books, we haven't focused on it. We're looking at keeping the standards up, motivating the next lot of players. In that process, we're pushing up the standard of

Indian cricket. We don't care about numbers at all as a team," the skipper said.

Asked about Mayank Agarwal's superlative performance, Kohli said, "The mindset is simple, when you see a young guy coming in to bat in Tests I know how much time it took me to get those big hundreds, so I know the importance of getting big runs."

"It's important as a senior batter to let them know to keep going. I want them to not make the mistakes I made as youngsters to make them world class cricketers."

The Indian team will play its first ever Day/Night Test in the second and final match against Bangladesh in Kolkata, and Kohli said the players are excited about it.

"The pink-ball Test is going to be exciting, will be a challenge for the batters. With the older ball, it doesn't swing that much so the bowlers will have a challenge. We're just happy to be among the first to play pink-ball cricket for India."

Man of the Match Agarwal said it was a dream come true for him to play for India and produce this kind of performance.

"It's dream come true to play for India, grateful for the start I've got. Hope I can continue. I do practice my six-hitting but not during the Tests, but I do try and hit a few in domestic cricket," said Agarwal who made 243 in India's only innings.

"It's great to have somebody who motivates you. When I got my first 150,

Kohli was at the non-striker's end and he said 'nothing short of 200 for you next.'"

About the Day/Night Test in Kolkata, he said, "We've had three pink-ball sessions under lights, Rahul Dravid arranged those in Bangalore. Looking forward to the game now. It's going to be a landmark game for us."

Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque said the toss impacted the outcome of the match.

"It has been difficult. We won (the toss) and decided to bat, it was a difficult decision. But I have a lot of positives, especially Abu Jayed who picked four wickets. Mushfiqur was superb with the bat in both innings, Liton did well too," he said.

PTI ■ INDORE

India have extended their stay here by two days and will have a full-fledged training under lights from Sunday, aiming to get used to the "twilight" ahead of the country's first pink-ball Test.

Even the Bangladesh team has also decided to stay back and utilise the time, which they have got because of an early finish to the opening Test, training under lights.

It has been learnt that

Twilight Training

Indian team to stay in Indore for nets under lights

for the next two days, the Indian team's focus will be on what is being called as "twilight zone", something that cricketers who have played with the pink ball, have acknowledged to be very challenging.

"We will specifically train during the twilight because we still don't know what the ball will

do during that particular phase," a source close to the team management told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Many players who have played the Duleep Trophy, including Cheteshwar Pujara, has said that sighting the pink ball at twilight is a challenge as the crimson

colour of the sky and the pink colour of the ball makes it look more like orange.

"In the twilight period, I feel that maybe sighting the ball could be a little challenging. (But) the more you play, you get used to it. It's always about experience and knowing how the ball is

behaving," Pujara recent told PTI in an interview.

Ravichandran Ashwin had recently said that, at times, he is getting a feel of an orange ball.

"Obviously, it's a challenge to play with the pink ball. The ball has a lot more lacquer. I haven't even bowled a single ball with the pink ball. Obviously I just saw it. Sometimes I don't understand if its orange or pink, still coming to terms with that," Ashwin had said.

First win at home ground for Afghanistan

SHALABH SAXENA ■ LUCKNOW

Karim Janat rose to the occasion with his all-round show (5 wickets and 26 runs), helping Afghanistan register first win at their home ground and level the series T20I series on Saturday. Karim replaced left-arm pacer Fareed Ahmed and single-handedly outplayed the touring West Indies in the second T20 International at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Stadium.

Electing to bat, Afghanistan openers Hazratullah Zazai and Rahmanullah Gurbaz gave their team a flying start, adding 42 runs in 4.2 overs before Williams removed both of them in consecutive deliveries. The Afghan wicket-keeper holed out to Keiron Pollard, who managed with a slight juggle. Zazai drove the



slower one from Williams into the hands of Brandon King at cover-point. After that, the home team kept on losing wickets at regular intervals amidst few impressive

cameos by Janat (26 off 18 balls), Gulbadin Naib (24 off 18 balls) and Najibullah Zadran (20* off 24 balls). Afghanistan innings came to end at 147/7 with a boundary

by skipper Rashid Khan. In reply, West Indies started off poorly with Brandon King again failing to score big and got out for 12 runs off Naveen-ul-Haq. All Afghanistan bowlers bowled at a tight line and didn't give any easy runs to the Caribbean batsmen. At the end of the 10th over, West Indies were struggling at 45-4. Man-of-the-match Karim Janat scalped five wickets at the expense of just 11 runs from his quota of four overs. The last match of the series will be played on Sunday.

BRIEF SCORES

Afghanistan: 147/7 (Karim Janat 26, Gulbadin Naib 24, Najibullah 20; Williams 23/3, Holder 23/2, Paul 28/2)
West Indies: 106/8 (D Ramdin 24, E Lewis 14; Janat 11/5, Naveen 19/1)

Rajat Sharma resigns as DDCA president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior journalist Rajat Sharma on Saturday resigned from the post of president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA), citing his inability to continue amidst "various pulls and pressures" within the organisation.

Sharma's nearly 20-month tenure was a tumultuous one with his public differences with general secretary Vinod Tihara, who enjoys a fair amount of support base in the organisation.

"The cricket administration here is full of pulls and pressures all the time. I feel that vested interests are always actively working against the interest of cricket," Sharma said in a statement.

"It seems that it may not be possible to carry on in DDCA with my principles of integrity, honesty and transparency, which I am not willing to compromise at any cost," he added.

Within hours of Sharma's resignation, CEO Ravi Chopra also put in his papers. The two member Cricket

Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sunil Valsan and Yashpal Sharma also tendered resignation.

It will be interesting to see whether the Atul Wasan-led selection committee and coach KP Bhaskar will continue for the Ranji Trophy team or not.

Sharma had joined cricket administration after receiving active backing from former finance minister late Arun Jaitley.

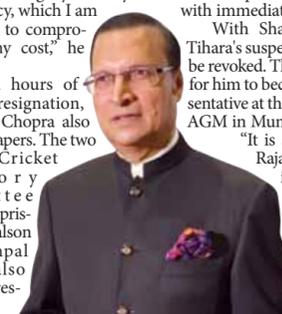
Many DDCA insiders believe that Sharma lost ground once Jaitley was no more as the late former finance minister was the binding force for all the different factions.

"In my endeavour though I faced many road blocks, opposition and oppression, just to keep me from discharging my duties in fair and transparent," Sharma said.

"That's why I have decided to call it a day and hereby tender my resignation to the Apex Council from the post of President, DDCA with immediate effect," he added.

With Sharma's resignation, Tihara's suspension is expected to be revoked. That will pave the way for him to become DDCA's representative at the December 1 BCCI AGM in Mumbai.

"It is a good decision by Rajat ji to tender his resignation. Yesterday, eight of the directors had signed in favour of withdrawing all powers from the president," Tihara told PTI.





Talktime
SWARA BHASKER
 Known for her roles in *Tanu Weds Manu* and *Veere Di Wedding*, Bhasker never fears in voicing her opinions. She speaks with Musba Hashmi about how she never had the fear of getting typecast and upcoming projects

'A star abused me on sets'

■ Having born to a naval officer, how did you end up doing acting?
 I had a regular childhood. My parents are from Delhi and I was born and brought up in the city. And like every other child of the generation, I too was obsessed with *Chitrahaar* (aired on DD National) and *Superhit Muqabla* (aired on DD Metro). I wanted to be a part of those shows. After I grew up and was studying in Ja wa h a r l a l N e h r u

University, my interest in acting grew even more. I wanted to be seen on the screen. Then after completing my MA, I shifted to Mumbai to pursue my dreams.

■ You debuted with *Madholal Keep Walking* but the film didn't do well. Did it dishearten you?

My first film is a different project that has not been released till date. By the time *Madholal...* released, I realised that it's not just enough to shoot a film but there's a whole process to get them released. So you have to land in projects that will actually get released and not just shot. I didn't expect *Madholal...* to do well because there's a whole system for distribution and economic breakdown also. It didn't dishearten me at all. Also, the film got good reviews. Then I got *Tanu Weds Manu* and I got so many accolades for the film and that actually became my break.

■ In the initial days of your career, did you have the fear of being typecasted?

No. You're right that a lot of people try to tell what one should do and what not and direct them by saying not do a particular type of role or else you'll get typecasted. But, I never had this fear in me. I was clear in my mind that I wouldn't be spending my life waiting for the ideal role to come to me. I can't sit idle. I start angsty if I am not working. I knew that I couldn't get a star-child launch. Not that Karan Johar or Sanjay Leela Bhansali would be launching me opposite a superstar, that was

I WAS CLEAR IN MY MIND THAT I WOULDN'T BE SPENDING MY LIFE WAITING FOR THE IDEAL ROLE TO COME TO ME. I KNEW THAT I COULDN'T GET A STAR-CHILD LAUNCH

never going to happen. I figured it out that I have to showcase my work.

If you'll look at my career, I have broken all the rules and have done everything that people tell aspiring actors not to do. My biggest break, as I mentioned earlier turned out to be a heroine's best friend's role. And it is in the industry's don't dos list. Then Bindia, the rejected lover in *Raanjhanaa*, next came Salman Khan's sister in *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo*, it was a role that no actor was ready to play it,

followed by *Nil Battey Sannata* which people told me that it was like a career suicide because I played a mother of a 15-year-old at such a young age and then ofcourse Sakshi Soni's masturbation scene in *Veere Di Wedding*. I had done TV at a time when people considered it uncool. So, I believe in breaking all the boxes and that's what I tell others to do too. I don't pay attention to what people say not out of disrespect but because how can someone else decide for me what is my trajectory in life.

■ A worst and best moment in the industry.
 My worst experience was when a star abused me on sets just because they were having a tantrum. I don't want to get into name calling, but it happened in front of a lot of people and everyone just stood still. After a moment, they all ignored it and behaved as if nothing has happened at all.

There are a lot of good experiences that I have had in the industry. But the best moment has always been the messages that Sooraj Barjatya sir keep on sending me every now and then praising my work and checking up on me if I am good or not.

■ You often have been at the receiving end for raising your voice on different issues. Does these trolls affect you in any way?

It's not nice to be at the receiving end of trolling but I don't pay attention to it now because I have become familiar to it. But, the thing that I do feel bad about is people mis-

understand what I say. And this is not a nice place to be in. It is like a collateral damage of speaking out but I wouldn't stop speaking up fearing that somebody would misunderstand me. I cannot help that. I remember when I wrote that open letter (to Sanjay Leela Bhansali for *Padmavat*) so many people got angry on it for no reason.

Most of them didn't even read the letter, they just read the headline. I don't even choose the headlines, the publishing platform does. So, I was a little sad at that time, but it's fine. I think people are not used to seeing women speaking up on issues, they just don't like it. It is a bigger problem and I don't understand what's a big deal in that.

■ Can you talk about your upcoming film *Sheer Qorma*?

It's a beautiful film about a Muslim same sex couple directed and written by Faraz Arif Ansari. It's a subject that we have not seen on screens before. It's a long-short film, which means it's not a full length film. It's a dream come true moment for me because Faraz have given me the opportunity to work with Shabana Azmi ji and Divya Dutta ma'am.

■ Do you think the film can land in some controversies because of the sensitivity of the topic?

I can't predict a controversy. But the soul of the film is so pure, I don't think there can be any controversy around it. I am convinced that it will go well with people.

'Artist should push himself to be successful'

■ How did your musical journey begin?

It began when I was four years old and my mother noticed my interest. I started learning at a very young age. I learnt music. I went to New York to study and interned there. It has been an ongoing process. But I came back to India, Mumbai. That is how it all started.

■ You interned in New York. Was working there never on the cards?

As a performer, I felt that my personal musical influences were more Indian like India pop and Bollywood. I always felt that I would adjust to this kind of music better.

■ Was it tough to come back and difficult to adjust to Mumbai?

I am not from Mumbai. My family is from Meerut. When I was in a

Singer SHREYA SHARMA speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how she got her first break with Prada and a remix of wedding song for the brides to enjoy on their special day

boarding school, I was very sheltered. Then I went to New York, but when I moved to Mumbai, I was all by myself. It was tough going to begin with. But life goes on and things settled down soon.

■ How did you get your first break — for Prada?

I was doing shows with Katalyst Entertainment and had gone to meet Naveen Soni at his office and it was by chance that they were discussing about *Lamborghini*, it had only been a week since the song had released. We got talking and saw a

cover that I had done and they asked me to record a track. They came up with *Prada* and we recorded the song. We had a lot of fun. I was at the right place at the right time.

■ People are usually looking for a Bollywood break. Was it the same for you?

Whether it is indie pop or Bollywood, it is always about connecting with the song and the music. I love Bollywood and the songs. When *Prada* happened, I enjoyed it very much. I loved the vibe.

■ You have been associated with

music for such a long time. Is there any hit formula?

There is no formula. One can never predict what the public will like or dislike. India is such a vast country, it is difficult to make a generalised statement that this sells or that doesn't sell. All I would say that a song that connects with the public will do well. There are people who say that fast numbers work, but slow songs do well too. Some people like old songs as well. Content is king and all demographics fail.

■ How would you define suc-

cess?
 My parameters are feelings and to be professionally satisfied with the work that I have done. If the audience connects with the song means that one is successful. But having said this, it is important for an artist to push himself or herself all the time. One can't be complacent. If you keep pushing yourself, you are successful then.

■ Are you working on a project?

Yes, I am working on a couple of projects. Then there is wedding cover of an old song that I am working on, it is an ode to the brides getting married this season. I want them to feel special and enjoy their day. The cover is slated to be released this year on my YouTube channel.





Pathbreaking decision by a decisive Government of Gujarat

All the 16 check-posts have been abolished by the State Government



Mr. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, India



Mr. Vijaybhai Rupani
Chief Minister, Gujarat

A positive step by the government for the betterment of vehicle owners: Permanent solution for long queues

- All the 16 check- posts to be abolished from 20-11-2019 in Gujarat
- Vehicle owners and people engaged in transport services can now pay the taxes and fees on parivahan.gov.in (ODC & Tax Module)
- Over-Dimension vehicle and /or cargo require prior online approval, which is available online after payment of exemption fee
- Overloading is strictly banned, no approval will be given
- The fine is double of exemption fee incase a person is found providing false details of the vehicle and the goods, or violates conditions of approval
- This will help to curb pollution and lead to a better work efficiency



For more details log on to: cot.gujarat.gov.in and rtogujarat.gov.in | Commissioner of Transport, Gujarat, Gandhinagar

It is the government's priority to save time, energy and money of vehicle owners - Mr. Nitin Patel, Dy. Chief Minister, Gujarat

☎ Helpline No: 079-23257808 and 079-232 51396 ✉ Email: cot-trans-complain@gujarat.gov.in

the pioneer agenda

Don't take yourself too seriously. Know when to laugh at yourself, and find a way to laugh at obstacles that inevitably present themselves
— Halle Berry



FROM THE INSIDE

Mystic pillars of a great king
The two pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border tell the tale of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism

2



4

Leading a virtuous life
Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were transformational and cut across the lines of religion



FROM THE KEHWA KHANAS TO THE SOCIALS

What do millennials want from restaurants in India? Do they appreciate quality, instead of chatpata, “buzzing” flavours? The answers lie in the history of restaurant retail in India and cultural habits of how people eat different foods at home and in restaurants, writes ANOOTHY VISHAL in her book, *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*. But first, a taste of history... An edited excerpt:

If professional chefs run restaurants today, history has come a full circle. In medieval India, the moneyed nobility employed the highest-paid chefs and not the *bazaar* chefs who cooked the common man's *chaat*, kebabs and breads. Several accounts of Lucknow, including the early 20th-century *Guzishta Lucknow* by Abdul Halim Sharar, talk of highly paid *rikabdars*, or professional cooks, who specialised in unique dishes that left their diners amazed.

Shaikh Fida Ali was a *rikabdar* during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh. He once placed a transparent lampshade on a table before a British dignitary. He placed a lit candle inside the lampshade, then blew it out, broke what appeared to be the glass of the shade and started eating it. 'It was later learnt that the entire lampshade was made out of sugar candy,' wrote Aslam Mahmud, an old *Lucknauwallah* and bureaucrat, in his superbly researched *Awadh Symphony*, which talks about life under the nawabs. Centuries before molecular gastronomy began to beguile us with its presentations, the *rikabdars* were already practising food as an art form.

Restaurant cooks, on the other hand, traditionally didn't know how to cook these nuanced dishes, and restaurant cooking has therefore always been distinct from home cooking in India. This fact is crucial to any understanding of the country's food- and restaurant-scape. For the first time, really, in the history of food retail in India, we are at a point where at least some restaurant food cooked by chefs is being considered more evolved and more desirable than home food. Experience-led dining that was confined to moneyed homes (as opposed to restaurants that were more functional and catered to mass needs) has only relatively recently shifted out of that private zone and into a public, social one.

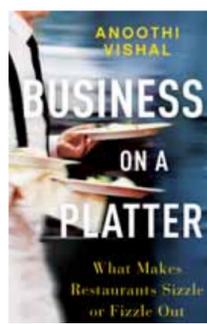
After the British assumed power in India and Mughal might was lost, cooks who had till then laboured in the kitchens of aristocrats found themselves out of work. Some of them found work with new employers but discovered that these new sahibs and brown sahibs of the Raj did not understand the elite art. Chef Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, a well-known chef from Lucknow popular for his high-end wedding catering, tells me this delicious story behind the popular Lucknow idiom, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal', used to be dismissive about someone.

According to him, a chef who found employment after having served a nawab for a long time asked his new employer what he would like to eat that day. The employer told him to make something simple like *masoor dal*. The chef in turn handed the employer a long list of ingredients to be bought for the preparation, looking at which the employer's face fell and he complained of the expense. The cook walked out, scoffing, 'Yeh moonh aur masoor ki dal' (loosely translated as 'How can you, with this face, appreciate my *masoor dal*').

Used to a lavish, no-expense-spared way of cooking, the talented cooks must have been at a loose end. Some of them and their descendants set up small restaurants where they refashioned the elaborate and exquisite foods of their former masters as bites for common men. *Qormas* (hitherto cooked only within homes, *nihari* being the street dish), *dal* and *pulaos* were thus tweaked to become part of Mughlai menus at a few restaurants in cities such as Delhi, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

We find an example of this kind of shift in the story of Karim's, the iconic Mughlai restaurant in Delhi. According to his descendants' retelling of their restaurant's history, in 1913, Haji Karimuddin set up Karim Hotel in Gali Kababian near Jama Masjid, contending he was serving the 'food of royals to the common man'. Haji Karimuddin traced his ancestry to a family of Mughal cooks in Shahjahanabad that had to flee the capital after the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II, was exiled. The family relocated to Meerut. However, when India came under the British crown and the Delhi Durbar was being held in 1911, Karimuddin moved back to the city with the idea of opening a small restaurant to take advantage of the crowd that would be descending on the city for the *darbar*. Karim Hotel in the beginning served just *aloo gosht*, a home-style gravy of meat and potatoes, and *dal* to its patrons. The food was meant to be a substitute for home food.

In Calcutta, another cosmopolitan melting pot, dishes of Mughal origin were reinvented by small restaurants to cater to the needs of workers and daily-wage earners. Anadi Cabin on Esplanade is reputed to be almost a hundred years old. It has been around most certainly since before Partition, and remains unchanged till today, including in its use of the same iron *tawa* on which the cook shallow-fries Mughlai *porotas* (the Bengali term for *paranths*), a beloved Calcutta street snack and Anadi's signature dish.



MANY OF THESE EARLY RESTAURANTS THUS CAME UP AS BUSINESSES THAT WERE SEEKING NOT TO PROVIDE RECREATION BUT INSTEAD TO CATER TO A NEED FOR CHEAP, FILLING MEALS AS PEOPLE MOVED FROM VILLAGES AND SMALLER TOWNS TO THE CITIES TO WORK FOR THEIR COLONIAL MASTERS



The tiny restaurant turns out 400 *porotas* from 20 kg of four daily in a kitchen visible to all. The *porotas* could be covered in duck egg (which were considered vegetarian by traditional meat-eating Hindu Bengalis who did not prefer chicken) or chicken egg, filled with *keema*, folded and shallow-fried. These *keema porotas* are an innovation often credited to this restaurant. Mughlai *paranths* almost certainly existed in Lucknow and Awadhi homes before Wajid Ali's exile to Calcutta along with cooks who brought Nawabi dishes to the City of Joy. The simple egg-coated Mughlai *parantha* of Awadh, made with many layers or *parat*, underwent a metamorphosis to become the *keema*-filled substantial snack of Calcutta, which could be picked up easily and eaten on the go by daily-wage earners in the new city.

Many of these early restaurants thus came up as businesses that were seeking not to provide recreation but instead to cater to a need for cheap, filling meals as people moved from villages and smaller towns to the cities to work for their colonial masters. However, colonialism in India brought with it more upscale restaurant and leisured experiences, catering to the elite.

The first passenger train in India started running between Bombay and Thane in April 1853, pulled by three steam engines Sahib, Sindh and Sultan on a 34 km broad-gauge line. As British India's rail network grew and the railways began to cover longer distances (Bombay to the capital in Calcutta was a much publicised route for first-class tourists), there was need for refreshments and restaurants en route.

Several British or Anglo-Indian travellers' accounts speak of impeccable crockery, turbaned waiters and formal service, and food that was fairly similar all across the railways — thick soups, cutlets and bread and butter. It was, however, only Europeans or Anglo-Indian travellers who were entitled to travel in first-class carriages, and who could enjoy the catering in the dining cars. Conditions in the third class, in which the bulk of Indians travelled, were terrible. A 1929 *Times of India* report said that the Great Indian Peninsular Railways was trying out a separate dining car for Indians: 'It would probably not have allowed the third class passengers who made up the bulk of travellers, and who had to either eat food they had brought or buy at station halts on the way.'

Since the catering was primarily for Europeans, European-inspired dishes started

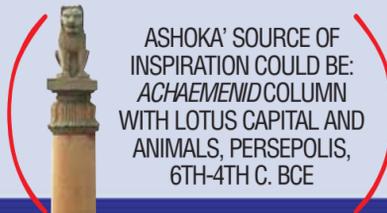
appearing on the menus in these restaurants along the rail network — things like chops, cutlets, omelettes, tea and custard. These dishes would eventually get absorbed as restaurant and club food in India, and we continue to eat some of this 'continental' food even today. The crockery and cutlery used were of the highest quality and the service by liveried waiters was impeccable, in keeping with the expectations of the sahibs of the Raj. Even after India became independent, upscale dining would imitate this pattern of deferential service.

While the dining cars were available only to first-class European travellers, from 1901, separate refreshment rooms for Indians started appearing at a few stations. This resulted in the emergence of other dishes that are now part of old-fashioned or nostalgic restaurant food centred around the Raj — for instance, the railway mutton curry (which clearly was never a single recipe) or the egg curry.

Till much after Independence, railway refreshment rooms were thought to be fairly high-standard restaurants, and railway catering would be relied upon for banqueting needs when dignitaries visited. My grandfather, who was in the catering division of the Northern Railways for some time in the 1970s, had amusing stories of catering to the Nehru-Gandhis — delicious anecdotes that we savoured as all restaurateuring tales must be.

But not all history is appetizing. The history of restaurants in India is fraught with caste and religious segregation — one reason that may have prevented a food retail boom earlier in the country's history. Once they started catering to Indians, railway refreshment rooms were segregated not just as those meant only for Europeans but also as those meant for Hindus versus Muslims. Even water from taps in the railway stations was marked Hindu or Muslim in British India. There were 'pure' Hindu meals cooked by brahmins, and those offering Muslim food like *qorma*, *kebab* and *pulao*.

In the south, similarly, vegetarian brahmin hotels and 'military hotels' serving meat (with the suffix 'Hindu' added to signify that no beef or pork was served, though mutton was) came up as well as Udipi restaurants serving 'pure veg' food run by brahmins from the region, to cater to students and officers who worked in the Madras Presidency.



ASHOKA' SOURCE OF INSPIRATION COULD BE: ACHAEMENID COLUMN WITH LOTUS CAPITAL AND ANIMALS, PERSEPOLIS, 6TH-4TH C. BCE



Lauriya Nandangarh and Araraj Ashoka:

THE MYSTIC PILLARS THAT UNVEILED A GREAT KING

The decoding of the two Ashokan pillars with edicts near Bihar-Nepal border in the 18th century tells the tale of how India first came to know of the existence of Ashoka and his conquest through Buddhism, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

A major unpardonable pitfall of India's pre-Islamic era was its apathy of recording political chronology in a systematic way. On top of that, non-stop destruction of its monuments, architecture, literature and centre of cultures thereafter in the hands of Islamic invaders from 12th century, a major part of Indian history was once deleted, fragmented, obscured and finally fictionalised with legend and folklore.

From 18th century onward, when European traders started exploring the country, they were astonished to see several archaeological ruins prevailing under massive dilapidation in isolated places, attracting no attention from common people. India of that time was a country with little sense of heritage of its pre-Islamic era, though the country's civilization dates back 5000 years. This was a matter of great perplexity to Europeans who were clearly excited to find amazing archaeological relics, one after another, with mind boggling engineering marvel and excellent craftsmanship. However, none of those seemed to connect with any ready reference of written history.

For instance, in 1616, an Englishman named Thomas Coryat found an eccentric monolithic stone pillar at Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla. The pillar had some mystic inscription written in an unknown language. The thrill of this discovery was extended when on July 30, 1670, inside a pestilential jungle frequented by wild animals in Bihar near the Nepal border, John Marshal (not to be confused by famous John Marshal of ASI) found a similar circular sand stone pillar with mysterious edicts on its body. The pillar had a beautiful stone lion seated on an abacus crowned on its top as capital.

From the local people, John came to understand that this amazing engineering marvel was called "Bhim ka lathi" or the walking stick of Bhima, a character of Hindu epic Mahabharata. The place, where this pillar was found, was 23 km from Bettiah town.

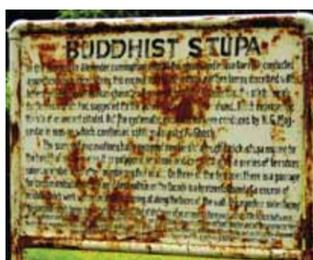
The place was then known as Mathia and today is known as Lauriya Nandangarh. Lauriya in local language means stick.

The two major victories against two Indian rulers — one in 1757 in Bengal and another in 1799 in Mysore — cemented the position on East India Company in political theatre of India. They become the ruler in almost every sense over a vast geography. This attracted many Europeans to India in the next 200 years. Many of them were ordinary office bearers and yet they proved to be extra ordinary researchers with an acute interest in India's history. In next 100 years or so, some of them gave Indian history a new insight with their exceptional hard work and outstanding academic brilliance.

By the end of 18th century, many such mysterious stone pillars and rock stones with edict written on them in an unknown language were found from Peshawar to Mysore. European officials working in India, and having keen interest in oriental history, were excited to discover a new light of wisdom in these mystic pillars. Groping in the dark, many of them speculated these as conquests of some victorious king, or boundary pillars of dominions, or edicts of religious nature. The widest speculation was that these were secret codes of Greek treasures once owned by Alexander. However, these were soon discarded with the logic that the pillars were found in places like Delhi, Allahabad and Bihar, where Greek never could invade.

In November of 1780, Charles Wilkins sent a report to the Asiatic Society of Bengal about a finding of another mysterious decapitated pillar with similar alphabets carved on its surface at Buddal in north Bihar. This place was 28 km from Bettiah town, now known as Lauriya Araraj. This pillar, though not found with a capital, created more excitement as its edicts were more prominent and bold.

In 1783, Thomas Law, collector of Gaya district drew sketches of both the pillars and sent a report to William Jones in Calcutta.



The report heading read: "A short Account of Two Pillars to the North of Patna". In March 1814, while marching with 34th Regiment of East India Company to take part in Anglo-Nepal war, Lieutenant J Horris saw Lauriya Araraj pillar and drew some important sketches.

Now two stone pillars — one with a lion capital on top and another broken at top, found in north Bihar near Nepal border with mysterious inscriptions on them — started to rouse curiosity of the antiquarians. Such inscriptions on similar kind of pillars found in Delhi and Allahabad were already being discussed. More people started exploring the places with an objective to decode the language. It was clear that the mystery would only be unfolded once the edicts were decoded.

At the beginning of 19th century, James Prinsep, a young man came to Calcutta to join Calcutta mint. Out of sheer passion, he started serving Asiatic Society of Bengal as journal editor. The journal was a class by itself and very popular across the world. Soon Prinsep built a fantastic network with people across India who started sharing information and documents with him on every single archaeological findings. Prinsep was confident enough to think that a new chapter of history would be uncovered if the edicts written on the pillar could be decoded.

After years of hard work, in 1837,

Prinsep managed to decode the script of the edict and opened the doors of knowledge to India's glorious past that remained hidden for so long.

In 1820, Brian Hodgson, a British resident in the royal court of Kathmandu, sent a copy of the inscription on Lauriya Nandangarh pillar edict to Calcutta. This document was reported lost. Prinsep and Hodgson started frequent correspondence and soon became good friends, though it is assumed that they never met. Hodgson again sent him the copy of the inscription that he once found in Lauriya Nandangarh and in October 1834, he sent him an eye copy of Lauriya Araraj pillar edict.

Now armed with the information pertaining to all the four edicts, Prinsep managed to decode a name — "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" — that seemed to appear in all edicts. Meanwhile, a discovery of an ancient book by someone in Sri Lanka at almost the same time revealed that "Devanamapiya Piyadasi" meant — "The beloved to the God and his name was Ashoka". Overnight, India got a colossal king whose transformation to a humanist after accepting Buddhism was known and the name Ashoka became a cult chapter of history.

Once the language was decoded, it was easy to understand that these pillars were not victory monuments, but a new and effective way of communication. Much to their astonishment, it was found that these were a public declaration of a king to come forward in acceptance of Buddhism and his transformation.

Discovery of the existence of Ashoka, the emperor, and his gargantuan contribution to spread Buddhism across the world delivered a master stroke. The language decoded by Prinsep was Prakrit, written in Bramhi script. This newly found script was named as Ashoka Bramhi. This was the first and biggest tangible evidence of Ashoka, India's greatest king ever.

Out of these two pillars, the crown-less pillar of Lauriya Araraj, erected in 349 BC

is a marvelous piece of art. Known as "Stambha Dharmā", the pillar is well polished and 37.9 feet in height. The diameter of the base is 41.8 inches and weighs nearly 34 to 40 tonnes.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is majestic and perhaps the second best specimen of Mauryan architecture with animal capital after Rampurva's grounded pillars.

The pillar at Lauriya Nandangarh is a single block polished sandstone with an excellent lion capital built in black stone. The lion built in a seated position on a circular abacus of arched bell is covered with lotus petals.

The circular abacus of Lauriya Nandangarh lion is again decorated with image of geese. The face of the lion is broken due to vandalism. In design, it is very similar to that of the lion capital which was later found in Rampurva in 1876 by Archie Carlyle, inside the deep forest of Tarai. Rampurva lion capital is now preserved in Indian Museum of Calcutta.

The six edicts in a single block found on the pillar of Lauriya Araraj, revealed Ashoka the beloved of the God's declaration of Buddhist teachings of morality through kindness shown to all subjects and animals. It also talks about the restriction of animal slaughter. However, in both the pillars found in Bihar, nowhere do the edicts talk about Ashoka's conquest of Kalinga and his repent. This is very interesting to note.

The lion capital found on Ashoka pillar of Lauriya Nandangarh is one of the oldest samples of Indian stone sculptures, influenced by Persian archaeology, whereas the discovery of Ashoka Bramhi is the first tangible evidence of Buddhism that finally cemented the existence of Shakyamani Buddha as a human being and discarded the theory of him being a mythological figure as per many Hindu legends.

Two kilometres from Nandangarh Ashoka pillar, another archaeological wonder was discovered in 1862 by Alexander Cunningham — a huge mound of 15 stu-

pas made of mud, yellow clay and brick in three levels in the shape of polygonal with three flights of stairs. The 26 metre high structure has a circumference of 460 metres and the dome is missing. It is imagined that when intact, this would be one of the biggest stupa of India built in 300 BC.

Cunningham did very little excavation and later, Henry Garrick did a great job of excavating more mounds. In 1905, T Block did further excavation and found a gold leaf, a female statue and a small deposit of burnt human bones with charcoal. These findings are common with Buddhist stupa where bone remains of Buddha are said to be found. However, till now, no solid evidence has been found that tells us who these remains belonged to. Many think that this was a pre-Mauryan structure and may be a vedic burial ground. Nani Gopal Majumdar and Amalendu Ghosh, who excavated the site from 1935 to 1939, are of an opinion that this stupa is very similar to the Buddhist stupa found at Piprahkot on UP-Nepal border.

Cut to present, it is sad to note that two hundred years ago, when this site lay undiscovered inside a dense forest with no human habitation around, a group of Europeans risked their lives to uncover the hidden treasures of India, uncovering a glorious part of our history, our present generation attaches no value to these findings.

Today, Bettiah is a dusty, over populated and unplanned town, situated very close to the Nepal border. The locals hold no pride in India's rich history. Marks of vandalism are clear on the pillars and unrestricted entry is palpable. Bettiah now has Americanised pizza restaurants, which get over crowded every evening, whereas it's a struggle to get the auto drivers to take you, or for that matter even seek directions, to Lauriya Nandangarh or Araraj.

It is sad indeed that we never knew our heritage back then two centuries ago, and today, it seems we still haven't learnt the lesson to protect it.

FROM PAGE 1

From the Kehwa Khanas to the Socials

Restaurants like The New Woodland Hotel came up in the Madras Presidency, and can be credited as popularising the Udupi-style food that continues to thrive today. Woodland, as it was popularly called, was set up in 1938 by K. Krishna Rao, a man from a poor family of priests from near Mangalore. Its customers then were primarily brahmins who worked for the government, or upper-caste religious travellers who were vegetarians. As we can see, for so much of their history, restaurants in India were not the inclusive businesses we see them as today.

Partition changed much of that. It rent India's social fabric in more ways than we can imagine. It unleashed bloody, religious violence, but with the old order being torn apart, space for the new was created. For the first time, as I argued in a 2017 article, we got eateries that catered newly invented restaurant food to all manners of people — rich and poor, Hindu and Muslim. Butter chicken, dal makhani and naan became the first restaurant foods to escape the

tag of religious identity. Refugees from Punjab had arrived with less than nothing in Delhi. They brought with them a hardy spirit of survival and enterprise, but also one very important tool — the tandoor. A clay oven used to bake bread in villages, the tandoor made its way into Delhi with refugees carrying memories of the sanjha chulha (the common village oven used to bake breads for all households) into this new harsh city where they had to fashion life afresh.

In 1947, an enterprising refugee from Peshawar, Kundan Lal Gujral, opened a restaurant called Moti Mahal in Delhi's Daryaganj area, in a building that had suffered badly during the rioting. Here, he set up a tandoor, in which the restaurant baked naan, a bread popular in old Peshawar eateries, and eventually chicken. The fowl was not a meat



that Delhi was familiar with or fond of. 'Neither Hindus nor Muslims ate it, and initially there was some resistance to tandoori chicken,' says Anil Chandra, one of Moti Mahal's early patrons.

As food historian K.T. Acharya notes in his authoritative *Indian Food: A Historical Companion*, the chicken, as a scavenger, was thought to be 'unclean', and since the oldest of times, there has been resistance among brahmins and other upper-caste Hindus to eating its meat. Delhi and Uttar Pradesh's composite culture meant that these biases were ingrained in upper-class Muslim culinary cultures too.

Goat meat was prized and Mughlai dishes like shabdegh, silken qormas, gola and dil (heart) ke kebab, that required much dexterity, were made of goat meat with-in homes by specialist cooks for weddings and special functions.

Specialist cooks like Hakim in old Delhi, whom old-timers told me about for my article for the Wire, and restaurants like Flora cooked these and catered to shaukeen, gastronomically indulgent Dilliwallahs, both Muslims and meat-eating Hindus like the Kayasths. This courtly culture, however, waned after Partition as the Muslim elite moved away and refugees poured in.

The new tandoori chicken was India's original fast food. Simply done and fresh. Moti Mahal also takes the credit for inventing butter chicken: tandoori chicken pieces dunked in a tomato, yoghurt and butter laden sauce, and perhaps India's most famous restaurant creation.

The advent of this new kind of food served by Punjabi restaurateurs was to have a big impact on restaurant food everywhere in the

country. In Delhi, restaurants such as Kwality, which had come up around the time of World War II and served ice cream and simple continental eats to American soldiers posted in Delhi, gradually incorporated this new Punjabi food into their menus. Other similar restaurants came up, also run by migrants, serving bold Punjabi flavours with tomato and cream, dishes that had been concocted within restaurants, and dishes such as pindi chana (a style of dry chickpeas popular in Rawalpindi) that came to Delhi and have been part of the city's most famous street dish since then — chole bhature.

Excerpted with permission from *Business on a Platter: What Makes Restaurants Sizzle or Fizzle Out*, Anoothi Vishal, Hachette India, ₹550

It's time to wrap up Naga peace process



In this October 30, 2019 photo, a poster with a Naga flag is seen on the entrance of a shop in Kohima

AP

A fortnight has already gone by since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. Even as the peace talks are inconclusive, the good news is that the both sides — Union Government's interlocutor and Nagaland Governor RN Ravi and Naga groups, including the NSCN factions — have not stopped negotiations for a peace pact.

The ongoing Naga peace process, which was started in 1997, turned 22 this year. It could happen only after a ceasefire agreement was signed between the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the Government of India.

Interestingly, the Naga insurgency has its roots in 1918. Against the backdrop of the First World War, the Nagas had decided to form Naga Club to bring Naga tribes under a single umbrella. The seed for the unique identity was germinated outside India — when various members of the scattered Naga tribes, recruited in the British Labour Corps, thought of forming a group of their own. And this Club approached the Simon Commission and informed it in 1929 “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as we did in ancient times”.

It simply indicated that the Nagas did not want to surrender themselves either to then British imperial regime in India or any future Government of India. Also it showed its desire to live as they want. All these indicate that the Nagas never wanted themselves to be subservient to any non-native “foreign” domination. This precisely demonstrates the very idea of “Naga self-determination”, alive for a century now.

Later, when the struggle for India's independence moved towards its final stage, the Nagas under the leadership of charismatic AZ Phizo formed the Naga National Council (NNC). And eventually, the NNC declared independence for the Nagas on August 14, 1947, just one day before India achieved hers. The NNC conducted a referendum in May 1951 which it claimed to have the backing of almost 99.9 per

cent of the Nagas for full independence.

On record, the peace process with the Nagas started before independence in June 1947. Then Assam Governor Sir Akbar Hydari signed a Nine Point Agreement with the moderate leaders in the NNC, but the hard-core leaders like Phizo refused to accept the agreement. Almost a year later, Phizo, not seeing any further cooperation from the Government of India, formed an underground Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA). But then the Government responded with armed power and enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in 1958. In July 1960, the basis of a Sixteen Point Agreement led to the creation of a separate State in the Union of India for the Nagas. This actually came into existence on December 1, 1963. Here it must be noted that the peace agreement was signed between the Naga Peace Convention, a group of moderate Naga leaders, and the Government of India. The NNC refrained from signing and agreeing to form a separate State under the Indian Union.

After the formation of the State of Nagaland, a Peace Mission was constituted in 1964 to advance talks with the NNC, but this could not produce any result despite a series of six rounds of historic negotiations. Finally, the mission was cancelled in the year 1967.

In the midst of this turmoil, the NNC split in 1975 during the heyday of the Indira regime. And the breakaway group from the NNC formed the NSCN. Unfortunately, this happened during the period of a peace deal between the Government and the NNC in Shillong. As per the Shillong Accord, the NNC leadership agreed to give up arms. But then, many of its front-line leaders, including Isak Chishi Swu, Thuingaleng Muivah and SS Khaplang did not accept the terms and conditions of the peace deal and hence they together established the NSCN in 1980. But after more than a decade of the formation of the NSCN, differences cropped up among the leaders. As a result, the NSCN broke into two factions in the year 1988, one led

by Isak and Muivah, named as NSCN-IM and other led by Khaplang, known as NSCN-K.

Later on these two groups fought fiercely, even killing their own cadre and damaging the chances of coming together. In fact this schism between the NSCN factions helped different political establishments at the Centre to deal with them separately. Further, NSCN-K made its operational area mainly restricted to Arunachal Pradesh and the NSCN-IM based its activities in Nagaland and Manipur. In later years, the NSCN-IM took the centre stage and held the centre of the “Naga sovereignty” movement.

In the year 1997, the NSCN-IM leadership signed a ceasefire agreement with the Government, preceding rounds of talks since 1995. The key principle of the agreement was that there would be no counter-insurgency operations against the NSCN-IM and in turn it would not attack Indian security forces. And this truce has survived for long.

Finally, the historic Nagaland Framework Agreement, popularly known as Nagaland Peace Accord, was signed between the NSCN-IM and the Narendra Modi Government in August 2015. The accord was inked after over 80 rounds of talks between the Government and various stakeholders of the Nagaland movement. The Nagaland Peace Accord brought lots of hope to the Naga people across the region and they thought a lasting solution would soon emerge. Interestingly, in 2017, after two years of signing the Nagaland Peace Accord, other Naga armed groups joined this peace process under the banner of Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). All of them now form one single group and take part in the ongoing discussions with the Government.

The 2015 Framework Agreement says: “The Government of India recognises the unique history, culture and position of the Nagas and their sentiments and aspirations. The NSCN understood and appreciated the Indian political system and governance.”

Though details of the Nagaland Peace Accord are

not available in the public domain, it has been understood that the Naga leadership has accepted the broad terms and conditions to live under the Indian Union. With this, their demand for an independent Nagaland diminishes for now.

Interesting turn in this entire saga of struggle is that the senior-most leaders of the NSCN — Isak and Khaplang — died in 2016 and 2018 respectively. This left only Muivah to deal with the Indian Government for any future negotiations.

After the demise of Isak, who was the only Naga leader from Nagaland, the support for a Greater Nagalim has gradually waned within the region. (Khaplang was a Naga hailing from Myanmar).

However, among a few side effects of this disenchantment is the wavering commitment of the Nagas from Nagaland towards the peace process. And finally, Muivah, a Naga belonging to Manipur, might face hurdles in negotiating the last remaining details of the truce.

Today, Centre's interlocutor and Governor of Nagaland RN Ravi, who has been handling the Naga peace process for long, says that the procrastinating attitude of the NSCN-IM is simply delaying the inking of the deal. It is because the organisation is now insisting on a separate flag and a constitution for Nagaland.

Surely, the Union Government will not accept it and the NSCN-IM may handle such controversial issues too carefully. If NSCN-IM is sidelined at this moment and other groups take the centre stage, its efforts of nearly half a century will result in fiasco.

Since the Naga issue has been regarded as the oldest insurgency in the country, it is worth noting the thorny problems that may unfold violence in the North East.

First of all, the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) are advocating a solution for the Nagas within the State of Nagaland, whereas the NSCN-IM wanted to include all the Naga-inhabited areas across the region in the Nagalim or Greater Nagaland wherein it thought their problems could be addressed.

Second critical aspect of the truce between the Nagas and the Government is the territorial integrity of the Greater Nagaland. As the Naga groups desire and demand to include all Naga-inhabited areas into the Greater Nagaland, it has been increasingly making some of the States such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur restive.

Already Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has welcomed the Centre's initiative to solve the decades-old Naga problem, but categorically stated that there will be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the State. “We are clear in our stand and we want that Naga peace process should not affect the State at any cost,” Khandu said on November 16.

Also the Union Home Ministry has assured that before any settlement is arrived at with Naga groups, all stakeholders, including the States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will be duly consulted and their concerns will be taken into consideration. Earlier during a “lengthy discussion” with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had urged the Centre to take into consideration the interests of the people of Assam while going for any accord.

The core issue is that a future Nagalim could redraw the boundaries of these three Naga-inhabited States. It is reported that the proposed Nagalim includes 1,20,000 sq kilometre area which expands beyond the territorial limits of the North East into Myanmar. Even before the signing of the Framework Agreement in 2015, the Nagaland State Assembly itself endorsed the demand of the “integration of all Naga-inhabited areas on five occasions: December 1964, August 1970, September 1994, December 2003 and July 2015”. This shows how the popularly elected Nagaland Assembly is in full support of the demand for a Nagalim.

Third, though the Union Government had simply fixed October 31 this year just to conclude the Naga peace process, it completely failed to do the same. To be precise,

finalising such imaginary deadlines would not help bringing various Naga groups to agree to some watertight solutions.

Already differences are emerging between the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs.

Today, the Nagas are on a roller-coaster ride. Whatever may be the outcome of the current peace process, it would certainly not satisfy all the stakeholders involved in the process, particularly, the NSCN-IM.

The Government must take maximum caution as any attempt at sidelining or ignoring the NSCN-IM may force its cadre to take up arms or may help regrouping majority of the Naga tribes in the long run. Also playing any trick to divide the leadership of the NSCN-IM may fuel anti-India sentiments once again in the Naga dominated areas across the North-Eastern region.

The moot point is whether the Government can accept the Naga demand for a separate flag and a Constitution? Is it possible to say “yes” to a shared notion of “sovereignty” as the NSCN-IM has been demanding for a long time?

Precisely, looking at the current political strength of the Union Government, Prime Minister Modi will definitely say no to both these demands. The Government has already made it clear that these demands are not acceptable.

Considering the Modi Government's resolute decision to abrogate Article 370 — which had long guaranteed a special status, flag and a separate Constitution to the State of Jammu & Kashmir — the NSCN-IM and the NNPGs should not be too hopeful about their demand for a shared sovereignty.

However, the Union Government should take utmost caution to ensure the patience the Nagas have shown towards a amicable solution should not go in vain.

Today, most of the ultras of the region have either laid down their arms or some of them are in talks with the Government for the peaceful solution. That's why a region which was encountering fierce violence accompanied by anti-India sentiment has witnessed relatively calm and quiet

atmosphere recently. But, with globalisation and proliferation of global terrorism widening the net wide, the Government must not take any chance with the NSCN-IM and other Naga terror groups.

Much beyond external financial support and arms supply from our neighbouring countries, the global jihadi elements such as the ISIS and the al-Qaeda may pitch into such troubled spots to recreate disturbances for the country. Considering the favourable geopolitical scenario for Delhi at the moment, a global consensus to fight the menace of terrorism, and friendly neighbouring regimes on India's eastern front, the Modi Government has an absolute advantage to deal with the NNPGs and the NSCN-IM. It's time to wrap up the Naga peace process.

While talking about shared sovereignty for the Nagas, the NSCN-IM must remember: “Starting a revolution is like lighting a match; it risks becoming extinguished as quickly as it was lit. Sustaining a revolution, however, is like starting a fire, and ensuring that it has the fuel to burn as long as necessary. As an agent of change, I need that fire for as long as it takes for results to emerge. Otherwise, I risk burn out.” (Stephanie Van Hook).

However, the grit and determination that has been displayed by the Naga leadership is truly commendable. Succinctly, its survival for the last 100 years bears this testimony. But then a revolution to sustain for such a long duration must have to encounter its course of ups and downs. And, the Naga revolutionaries have faced a number of contradictions, both violent and non-violent in the long history of their movement.

The common people in Nagaland still hope for the best as the peace negotiation is going on. What makes sense for them today is the promise for an early solution even as the October 31 deadline has lapsed. Unnecessary intransigence would make the long road to freedom not only difficult but purely unattainable.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

It is over a fortnight since the deadline, fixed by the Union Government, for the Nagaland peace pact lapsed on October 31, 2019. However amid hopes and apprehension, the good news is that the peace talks have not stopped



MAKHAN SAIKIA



THE REAL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS OF THE ASPIRANT IS MEASURED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE ACHIEVES INNER TRANQUILITY
— SWAMI SIVANANDA



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

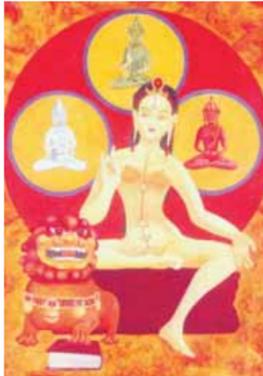
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. This is possible through regularising your routine and disciplining your senses. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be important for you. Your career shows a good indication this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain out of the blue. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated for you. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you may feel stagnated. This is the time to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors to new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get a message of love. Romance with a desired partner is on the cards. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause your BP to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. For those in a job, favour of a senior will boost their confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love and emotions, you may feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature. You will be concerned about the feelings of others around you.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Healthwise, this week is good. You will feel an abundant flow of energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet the needs of your health and be the motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down in your career as you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted. Your addiction to alcohol, overindulging or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles wait for some time before committing to a relationship.

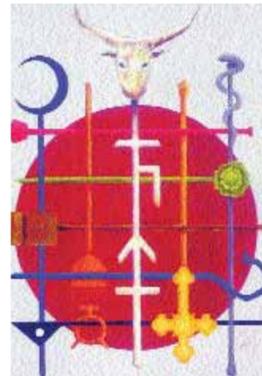
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are full of energy, creativity and positive energy. Your health will be good. You need to utilise this balance in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain energy within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. Support from someone from opposite sex will help you achieve your desired goals. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams this week, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your seniors. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence. In terms of love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements. You will feel highly ignited and need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills, and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. You will be lucky in love and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see the perfection all around you and experience the emotionally fulfilling situation. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will enjoy good health, vigour and stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On the career front, you must maintain a practical approach and need to take some important decisions in regards to your work. There are high chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the workplace. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will experience one-sided love. Have a lot of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of important responsibilities. Married couples, you will have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be surrounded by anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future. This will cause tension. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The good part is that you are positive and know how to control the situation. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, it is important that you look after your health. A visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on the career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to a desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Your positive outlook will bring further improvement. Mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away and you will feel relaxed. Physical exercise and being with nature will be best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. A good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In love, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. Leave the old school thinking and form a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be moody and irritated. This may cause concern for your physical health. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards developing your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see results. Give your best efforts, the rewards are assured. The abundance of happiness is in store for you in terms of a relationship. Balance and stability in love are on the cards. Unmarried people may get marriage proposals. You will be soulful, passionate, and romantic and will leave no stone to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

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Guru Nanak's guide to leading a virtuous life

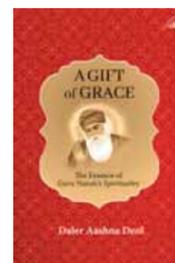
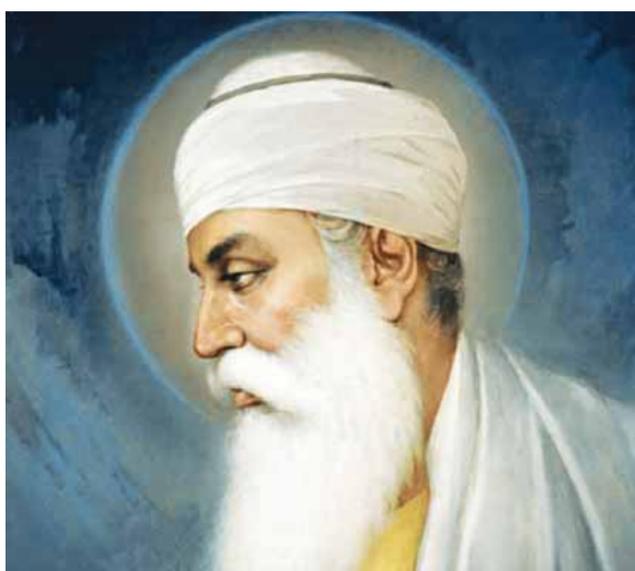
Guru Nanak's spiritual beliefs and practices were profoundly transformational and cut across the lines of religion, writes DALER AASHNA DEOL in her book, *A Gift of Grace*. The world celebrated the 550th birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru on November 12. An excerpt:

Guru Nanak divides our spiritual path into five distinct stages: moral living and rightful actions, search for divine knowledge, spiritual unfoldment, divine grace, and the final entry into the realm of Eternal Truth. Each stage is unique and vital. These stages appear as part of a sequence, and it is not possible for us to bypass any of these steps. For example, moral living is a precondition for the search of divine knowledge. A person who leads a morally decadent life will inevitably see no need to search for experiences of any kind, let alone spiritual knowledge. Also, our spirit cannot unfold unless we have accumulated sufficient spiritual energy during the first two stages. Any movement from this point onward is possible only when we receive divine grace, which is not our right but a 'reward' for good deeds. Leading a virtuous life is the very foundation of our spiritual quest. To go any further on the spiritual path, we need to make truthfulness and moral living an essential part of our life. It is only through such living that we make ourselves worthy of God's compassion and grace.

Growing up in a world where money can buy more comforts than it was possible at any other time in human history, how can we agree on a set of values and behaviours that would provide a reliable guide to a virtuous life? We need to acknowledge that there are some things which are moral, ethical, doable, and right under any circumstances. We may have a difference of opinion on whether it is moral to charge interest. But there should be no controversy on things like violence, falsehood, and exploitation of the poor and helpless. We need to identify some core values based on themes that cut across societal and cultural boundaries. The seven core values, based on Guru Nanak's teachings, are:

Non-violence Avoiding violence that hurts the innocent, kills, or insults (in the form of rape or other degrading actions) the victim, mass killings of innocent people in a war or a political conflict.

Truth Letting reality appear in its purest form, separating facts from opinions, not using falsehood of any kind to deceive other people, treating honest living as a sacred obligation.



Love Showing sympathy and compassion for a victim of oppression, having a sense of justice, keeping a charitable spirit, sharing one's wealth and good fortune with the poor and the needy.

Virtue The pursuit of highest personal morality in one's daily life, respecting the honour and integrity of one's partner, taking responsibility for one's children, catering to their material, emotional, and intellectual needs, caring for the needs of elders in the family.

Communitarianism Being a good citizen, participating in electoral processes, raising voice against misdeeds of those in authority, using public office for public good, protecting the natural environment, giving one's employer a fair share of one's time, talent, and ability.

Equality Treating all people as equal

despite differences of colour, race, gender, or ethnic origins, respecting cultural and spiritual traditions of other people.

Theism Having faith in the unbounded love, mercy, and compassion of the Creator for all things and all beings. It is not an attempt to define a new morality. It has not been easy for moral philosophers, who have struggled with these issues over the ages.

We can look at various opinions, or what our belief system has to say about these matters, but, in the end, we need to have an objective look at how we are coping with difficult moral and ethical choices in our life. This freedom for self-evaluation is not a blank cheque, meaning whatever serves our needs or purposes is acceptable. We need to cultivate, in the words of Albert Einstein, a moral attitude in and towards life based on the totality of our being-body, mind, and soul. Not doing this self-evaluation in a seriously mindful way would indicate our reluctance to follow a spiritual path.

A Gift of Grace: The Essence of Guru Nanak's Spirituality, written by Daler Aashna Deol is published by Niyogi Books