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JNU protesters jolt Delhi to a halt

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

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"With a view to restore the normal functioning of JNU through dialogue with all stakeholders and to advise the university administration for res-

olution of contentious issues, the Government has appointed a three-member high power committee," HRD Secretary R Subrahmanyam said.

"The committee will initiate dialogue with the students and varsity administration immediately and submit recommendations. The UGC will provide required support for functioning of the committee," Subrahmanyam said.

Senior Delhi Police officers kept on appealing the agitating students to maintain law and order and return to hostel in the JNU campus but students dug in their heels. Despite the adamant students, police officers kept them engaged and finally succeeded in persuading them to leave for their respective destinations.

When asked whether the students could return on Tuesday to press for their demands, Srivastva said there is no information about this but they remain vigilant to ensure that no untoward incident takes place in the city.

JNU Students Union, vice president Saket Moon said, "The police are telling us they will take a delegation to meet HRD officials. We will decide on sending a delegation only after our colleagues detained at unknown locations are released. We want representation in the HRD panel."

Meanwhile, the protesting students also alleged that police restored 'lathi' charge to disperse them in which several students sustained injuries. However, police said that they will look into the allegation of lathi charge and they will speak to the students about it.

"Around 100 students were detained by police. Despite continued defiance by some groups of students, methods of persuasion were resorted to, and there was no use of water cannons, tear gas shells or lathi-charge at any stage of the protest. Apart from 10 com-



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

panies of CAPF, around 800 Delhi Police personnel were deployed to handle the protest and ensure maintenance of law and order," said a senior police official.

The students, who were holding a protest on the university's premises for the last three weeks, hit the streets seeking to get the attention of Parliament about their demands, asserting they will not relent until the Government withdraws the hike.

Earlier on Monday morn-

ing, section-144 was imposed outside the JNU campus ahead of the protest. Delhi Police personnel and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) stopped the students on the Baba Ganganath Marg, around 600 metres from the main gate of the university.

But initially on Monday afternoon, the barricades outside JNU's gates were removed and the students were allowed to march towards Parliament but were again stopped on road outside the Safdarjung Tomb. The students sat on

road demanding the release of students detained by the police.

The students also alleged that the police used baton on them at Safdarjung Tomb while they were marching towards Parliament, however, the same was refuted by the Delhi Police. Mandeep Singh Randhawa, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district and Public Relation Officer (PRO) of Delhi Police said that police will enquire about the lathi charge allegation.

"It could be possible that some of them sustained injuries

when the barricades were broken by the students. Even some police personnel got injured," the Randhawa added. However, Aishe Gosh said they took out a peaceful march from JNU.

"The police thought they would detain students including two JNUSU office bearers and the movement would end, but every student is a leader. We are all fighting together. The Delhi Police is upset. Till the time there is not a complete rollback of the hike and of the IHA manual, we will continue our agitation."

Maha Pawar play: Talks with Sonia yield no results

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

While Sena retaining the mayor and deputy mayor's post is thus a mere formality, it has

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



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

increased Sena's importance and also the suspense over who will it eventually ally with.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Pawar said he briefed Sonia about the political situation in Maharashtra but surprisingly, claimed, there was neither any talk on Government formation in the State nor the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) for the three parties. The three parties had earlier met in Mumbai to chalk out a 40-point CMP.

"We have discussed in detail the political situation in Maharashtra," he said, adding senior Congress leader AK Antony was also there.

"Certain leaders of both (Congress-NCP) parties will meet and discuss further and get back to us. We will keep an eye on the situation in Maharashtra. The Congress and the NCP leaders will hold further talks on the future course of action," he maintained. Sources said the NCP has called its leaders like Ajit Pawar and Jayant Patil to Delhi to hold the talks.

#ZehrilaPani: Kejriwal calls report fake; test yourself, dares Paswan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As #DilliKaPaniZehrila, trended on Twitter on Monday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal rejected the report prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as "false and politically motivated". Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan challenged him to name officials for a team comprising city and Central officials to test the water quality.

In the first phase of its survey, the BIS had found that all

the 11 samples drawn from Delhi did not comply with the quality norm and failed on all 19 parameters.

Dismissing the BIS report, Kejriwal said, "Between January and September 24, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) collected 1,55,302 samples, of which 2,222 samples failed to meet the standard. This means 1.43 per cent samples failed."

"But 98.5 per cent samples did meet the standards. Similarly, the data for October showed that out of the 16,502 samples, only 658 failed to

meet the specified standard," the Delhi CM claimed.

Kejriwal argued that as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards, the sample needs to be collected for every 10,000 people and only then can a study come to a conclusion. In this case, at least 2,000 samples would have been collected.

Kejriwal also pointed at the contradictory statement of Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat, who had said Delhi's water quality was better than the European

standards. "Both Shekhawat and Paswan are in the Cabinet of the Central Government. Let them decide who is correct," Kejriwal said.

He argued that Delhi water quality should not be judged on 11 samples. The Delhi Government said in the coming days it would collect five samples from each municipal ward in Delhi in the presence of the people, media and the Opposition for testing.

Kejriwal also invited Paswan to be present on the occasion. After the BIS report,

posters were put in the national Capital slamming the Kejriwal Government for making people to drink "poisonous" water.

Earlier, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had tweeted about the "poisonous" water in Delhi to hit out at the Kejriwal Government.

Tagging Kejriwal, he tweeted, "In the name of free water, you are making Delhi residents drink poison. A survey in 20 cities in the country found the Delhi water to be most poisonous".

CAPSULE

4 JAWANS DEAD IN SIACHEN AVALANCHE

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

JUSTICE SHARAD ARVIND BOBDE TAKES OATH AS CJI

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

OPP WANTS FAROOQ BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND LS

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

NO NEED FOR ODD-EVEN SCHEME NOW: KEJRIWAL

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

RS marshals' uniform given total makeover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a day the Rajya Sabha entered its 250th Session on Monday, the House witnessed a makeover of the House marshals' uniforms that have been redesigned by the National Institute of Design (NID) — from the traditional Indian attire comprising a turban to a military-style outfits with a cap. Customarily, the presiding officer of the House (Vice-President) is flanked by two marshals who march ahead of the Chairman to announce the commencement of proceedings and also assist the chair in his or her official functions, including organising the desk and providing order documents.

The all new Navy blue uniform sported an aiguillette, an ornamental braided cord with decorative metal tips for the winter months.

However, it is different from military uniforms. For the summer months, the uniform will be all-white on the lines of Navy except the change in design.

Earlier, the marshals sported safari suits during the sum-



In this combo photo, (top) Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu flanked by an Upper-House marshal in their new dress during the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday; and (bottom) the marshal in their old dress

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250TH SESSION OF HOUSE RS should have greater say in creating States, UTs: Manmohan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Their protests continued until end of the question hour when Speaker Om Birla allowed Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to make his comments on the detention of Abdullah. Opposition leaders also raised the issue of MPs not being allowed to visit Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of its special status under article 370 whereas parliamentarians from Europe allowed to go there. Chowdhury described the EU delegation as "bhade ke tattu" (hirelings). "Our leader Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to visit (J&K),

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

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Chowdhury said it was an "atrocious" not to allow the former J&K Chief Minister to attend Lok Sabha proceedings.

Giving an account of sequence of events, the Speaker said when Home Minister Amit Shah informed the House in the previous session that Abdullah was not under detention, he was then correct. The written information of his detention was received later by the Lok Sabha secretariat, he said. He said now he has written information that Abdullah is under detention. DMK leader TR Baalu sought Birla's intervention in the matter, saying the speaker is the custodian of the House and should ensure that members are allowed to attend the House. "What has happened with Farooq is illegal. You are custodian of the House. You have to make intervention," Baalu

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

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

PM Modi praises NCP, BJD for adhering to parliamentary norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

His remarks came just hours before Pawar was scheduled to meet Sonia in view of the Maharashtra impasse, which has brought the ideologically-opposite Shiv Sena and Congress along with the NCP on one platform to explore the possibility of forming a Govt in Maha. While efforts are on for the Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP to come together, there has been a buzz also about the BJP and the NCP exploring an alternative possibility for government formation. As for disruptions in Rajya

Sabha in the past hindering passage of crucial legislations, Modi said a distinction needs to be drawn between checking and clogging. "The Rajya Sabha is about checks and balances. This is absolutely essential for our democracy. Debates have to be many and effective. But, there is also a difference between checking and clogging (and between) balance and blocking," he said. With some within the ruling party questioning the effectiveness of Rajya Sabha as crucial legislative work got stalled because NDA lacked majority in the House, Modi recalled the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's words that the Upper House "may be the second house but no one should think of it as a secondary house." "Today, I echo the sentiments of Atal Ji and add that the Rajya Sabha must be a vibrant supportive House for national progress," he said, adding makers of the Constitution envisioned a bicameral legislative framework and this vision has enriched the democracy. He, however, wanted the House to function and not disrupt work. "Our Constitution inspires us to work for a Welfare State. It also motivates us to work for the welfare of states. The Rajya Sabha, as the Council of States, enables us to further the spirit of cooperative federalism," he said.

Curbing pollution in Delhi: Lax officials to face action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The northern States have been witnessing severe air pollution since last month, with the air quality even touching the 'emergency' mark, triggering anger among citizens. The air pollution in the national capital was so toxic after Diwali that the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) had declared a public health emergency in the Delhi-NCR and had advised people, especially chil-



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

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

the neighbouring states for the deteriorating air quality here. A few days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's principal secretary PK Mishra had reviewed the air situation in Delhi and other parts of north India wherein it was decided that the chief secretaries of the affected States will monitor the situation round-the-clock and take steps to tackle the menace. The Environment Ministry official said sprinkling of water has been advised in many parts of Delhi to ensure dust settles. Punitive action will be taken over construction activities and Delhi has been asked to stop all waste burning in industrial areas, he added. Mishra said he will be personally monitoring the situation on the daily basis. We discussed accepted air pollution plan while within the next fortnight, we will intensify our anti-pollution measure and review the situation as directed by the Supreme Court.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Hitting back at Chatterjee, Kalyan Banerjee of the TMC rejected her allegations and soon started again arguments and shouting by the MPs. This led to the Chair to intervene and urge them against making personal remarks. The Bill was moved by MoS Finance Anurag Thakur. The Bill proposes to amend certain definitions to enable the increased investment in Chit Funds.

Shiv Sena raises farmers' plight, stage protest in Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

RSP MP Premchandran raised the death of an IIT-Chennai Girl-student in a suspicious circumstances and sought a judicial inquiry into it as he said name of professor was doing round for humiliating her. While Congress-led opposition protested against the detention of the house member Farooq Abdullah in J&K, members of the Shiv Sena, the oldest ally of the BJP which has snapped its ties with the ruling party, also raised slogans and demanded relief for farmers in Maharashtra and later walked out of the House. Shiv Sena members were seen sitting in the opposition benches after their party broke ties with the BJP with one of its member in the Modi-Cabinet already putting-in his papers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chidambaram moves bail application in apex court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

INBRIEF

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

In his obituary reference, Naidu described Jaitley as a "quintessential politician" and a "man of impeccable integrity" whose stellar contribution is a matter of record. An advocate by profession and a member of the Upper House since April 2000, Jaitley passed away on August 24 at the age of 66, he said. Jaitley, he said, left an indelible mark on all Ministries he headed and was the force behind

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

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

Jagannath Mishra (82) on August 19, Sukhdev Singh Libra (86) on September 6 and Gurudas Dasgupta (82) on October 31. While Leader of the House Thaaewardand Gehlot said Jaitley's death was a personal loss to him, Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said the personal relationship that the deceased member shared with other members turned political bitterness into sweetness on most tense issues. "We haven't seen such a media savvy minister and leader," he said, adding Jaitley did not stop meeting media personnel and friends even when he was ill during his last days. Derek O'Brien (TMC) said

Jaitley was a mentor to many of the new entrants in Parliament despite having diagonally opposite political ideology. He recalled how Jaitley had taken positively his comment on him being a "plantation manager who planted stories" in media sitting in Parliament. Azad described Jethmalani as perhaps the only practising lawyer and a player in his mid-90s. Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) recalled the contribution of Dasgupta and termed him as "sharp leader". NCP leader Sharad Pawar recalled the contribution of Jaitley to sports. He said Jaitley often used to discuss issues related to cricket with him. The House observed silence as mark of respect to the late leaders.

Sharad Arvind Bobde takes oath as 47th CJI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, who was part of the historic Ayodhya verdict earlier this month, was on Monday administered oath as the 47th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind and started holding court at 11:30 am. Bobde, 63, succeeds Justice Ranjan Gogoi who demitted office on Sunday. He took oath in English in the name of God at a brief ceremony held at the Durbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



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

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

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

'Technical institutions should become centers of innovations'

1st convocation ceremony of IIT, Nava Raipur

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Governor Anusuiya Uikey and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday gave away gold and silver medals to the students at the first convocation ceremony of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology, Nava Raipur.

Higher Education and Technical Education Minister Umesh Patel, Ex-Director IIT Delhi and Ex-Chairman NBA Professor Surendra Prasad, special guest of the programme, Chairman IIT Board and Co-Founder HCL Ajay Choudhary also attended the ceremony among others wherein 69 students received B.Tech. degree.

Speaking at the function, Baghel called upon the students to contribute to the



development of Chhattisgarh with their technical knowledge.

He said that use of advanced technology in processing of agricultural and

forest produce can generate maximum employment opportunities, and farming can be made more profitable for farmers. Research should be done in this context.

Baghel said that in future, IIIT will become one of the major institutes to contribute tin progress of the country, just like BSP and NTPC.

He said that in last 200 years, there has been progress in every stream of science, but this progress has come with its own set of challenges. He said that with all kinds of development, air and water pollution have also emerged as huge problem. He appealed to students to do research in this sector. Chhattisgarh has immense potential for research, said Chief Minister. Chhattisgarh is rich in forest.

After receiving degree at the convocation ceremony, it is possible that some students would go abroad and some would stay in the country.

"Wherever we work, wherever we go, we should always strive for glorifying the name of our country," she added.

Governor said that 41 students of IIIT have got job opportunities with attractive packages. This includes

Viman Anand Baghel of Kondagaon who has got the package of ₹29 lakh, which is commendable.

Uikey encouraged the youngsters for entrepreneurship and motivated them to become job providers. She also encouraged the students to utilize their technical knowledge for further research in various fields.

Special guest of the occasion, Umesh Patel said that research should be encouraged in engineering and technical institutions of Chhattisgarh.

Professor Surendra Prasad said that technical institutes should focus on both professional skills and wisdom.

Ajay Choudhary also addressed the programme. IIT Vice-Chancellor and Director Dr Pradeep Kumar Sinha presented progress report of the institution.

Two Naxals held in Dantewada

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Two Naxals were arrested by security forces in Dantewada district and a tiffin bomb planted by them was recovered, police said on Monday.

Baman Mandavi (27) and Hidma Podiyami (26), both jan-militia members, were nabbed from the forest near Nadenar village under Katekalyan police station area, around 70 kms from here, on Sunday evening, a local police official said.

Personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the CRPF's 195th battalion were involved in the search

operation, he added.

"Based on their interrogation, a tiffin bomb planted by them to harm security forces was recovered from the area along with a detonator and an electric wire," the official said.

The arrested duo have been associated with the banned CPI (Maoist) since the last several years, he said.

"Their job involves arranging ration for senior ultras and keeping an eye on the movement of security forces. The duo were also allegedly involved in planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and iron spikes to target security personnel," the official explained.

'Ram Gaman Marg' to be developed as tourist route



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced that the route in the state through which Lord Ram believed to have been travelled during his exile period will be developed as religious tourist spot and route as the state is perceived as his maternal home.

The route is from Koriya to Sukma-Konta as identified by the experts.

He also said it is because of this that there is a custom for people in the state to touch the feet of their nephew as they see reflection of 'Lord Ram' in them.

He was addressing the 9-day event concluding ceremony organised at Dudhadhari Math, Raipur on Monday. The event is organised in memory of Math Mahant late Rajeshri Vaishnav Dasji every year where musical 'Ramkatha' and 'Bhakta-Santh' sammelan are held.

Chief Minister also said that already a Rs 11- lakh award has been announced for finding the date of birth of 'Mata Kaushalya'. After it a massive celebrations will be held. He also said that in the name of Late Rajeshri Mahant Vaishnav Das 'Sanskrit Samman' will be given.

Spl squads to check illegal transportation of paddy

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Food Minister Bhagat in a review meeting of food and civil supplies department on Monday instructed the officials to take stern action against the illegal transportation of paddy into Chhattisgarh from neighbouring states.

Official source informed that in the meeting, he instructed the concerned officials to check the illegal transportation of paddy by middlemen and took information about the availability of gunny bags



at procurement centres. He instructed in the meeting to form special

squads to check the arrival of paddy from neighbouring states. The squad must

consist of officials from departments of revenue, forest, food, cooperative,

transport and Mandi board, he stressed.

The districts situated at state borders namely Mahasamund, Gariaband, Raigarh, Jashpur, Balrampur, Korja, Rajnandgaon and Kawardha need to be alert on the matter, he said.

It is the duty of state government to provide more and more benefit to state farmers, he said.

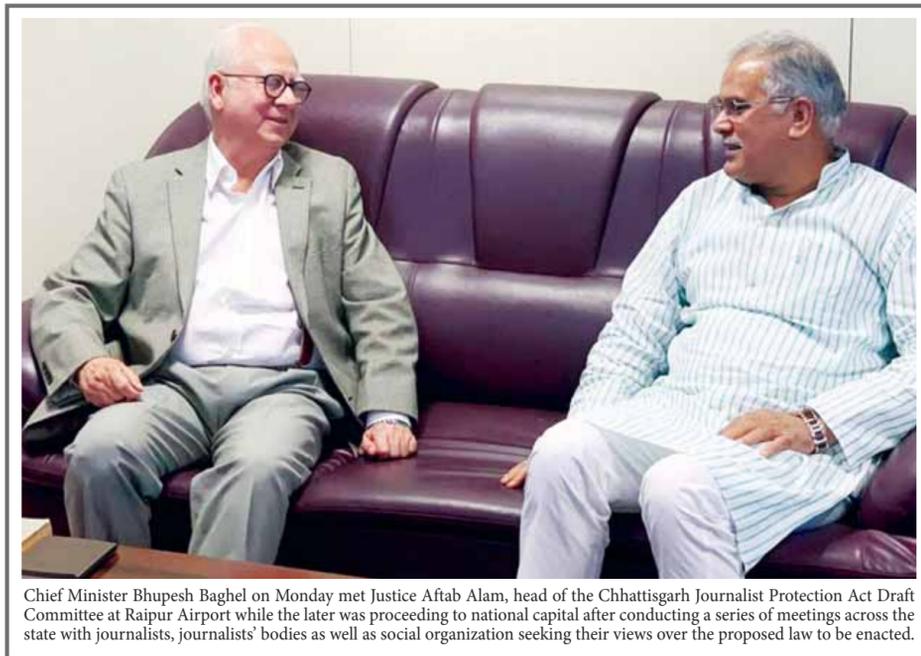
Regarding public distribution system, the minister took district-wise information about storage facilities at fair price shops and its distribution.

Sunil Kujur appointed as Cooperative EC



RAIPUR : Retired Chief Secretary Sunil Kujur (IAS) took charge as State Cooperative Election Commissioner, Chhattisgarh on Monday. The Cooperative

Department issued the order of his appointment in the afternoon. Earlier, the state government had made all efforts for his extension as Chief Secretary but the Government of India had rejected the extension proposal. Thus, Sunil Kujur retired on October 31, 2019 as chief secretary. It was expected that he would be accommodated by the state government in a key post after retirement.



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday met Justice Aftab Alam, head of the Chhattisgarh Journalist Protection Act Draft Committee at Raipur Airport while the later was proceeding to national capital after conducting a series of meetings across the state with journalists, journalists' bodies as well as social organization seeking their views over the proposed law to be enacted.

Power company conducts mock drill to counter outage

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company conducted a mock drill to counter any black out within 20 minutes in case of any problem in Korba-based Thermal Power Plants.

The power can be restored through the hydel power projects. The drill was conducted at Load Dispatch Centre, Dangania in presence of Chhattisgarh State Power Companies chairman Shailendra Kumar Shukla and Transmission Company Managing Director Tripathi Sinha.

During the drill, within 20 minutes the power restoration was done from Bango based hydel power plant. It is



a part of the directive to conduct mock drill under Indian Electricity Grid Code and State Grid Code.

Before going for mock drill, for Bango Hydel Power Project 132 KV sub-station to Jannipali, Churikhurd and Korba sub-station, an island sub-system was made. A black out in hydel and thermal project was created,

then restoration process was triggered by the engineers. Diesel generator set was used to restore service of Bango project to charge the 132 KV sub-station then passing through the created island the 20MW load of hydel power station was taken and within 20 minutes power was restored, the engineers informed.

Western Regional Grid comprises Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In case of any power failure from power plants, it would affect the power supply in these states. In year 2012, on July 30-31 the Northern and Eastern Grid black-out affected power supply of 21 states but Western Grid remained operational.

Raipur Zila Panchayat seat reserved for general woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Under provisions of Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj Act, the reservation process for Zila Panchayat chairman post in 27 districts for three-tier panchayat general election 2019-20 was conducted at local new circuit house conference hall on Monday. Raipur Zila Panchayat has been reserved for general woman category.

The lottery was done in presence of Deputy Secretary cum Director Panchayat and rural development department Jitendra Kumar Shukla and public representatives.

As per the process, 13 seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes, 3 for Scheduled caste, seven for OBC and four districts for general category candidates. The reservation has been done on the basis of 2011 Census.

The Scheduled Tribes reserved

seats are Dantewada, Sukma, Bijapur, Narayanpur, Kanker, Kondagaon, Bastar, Sarguja, Balrampur, Koriya, Korba and Jashpur. The Scheduled Caste reserved seats are Balod, Kabirdham and Dhamtari while Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund, Bemetara, Janjgir-Champa, Raigarh, Balodabazaar-Bhatpara and Durg for Other Backward Category. Raipur, Mungeli, Bilaspur and Gariyaband districts chairman will be from unreserved category (general).

The woman reserved seats for ST are Dantewada, Narayanpur, Sarguja, Balrampur, Koriya, Korba and Jashpur while SC woman the districts of Dhamtari and Kabirdham have been reserved while for OBC category woman the seats of Rajnandgaon, Bemetara, Mahasamund and Durg have been reserved.

HC issues notice to state govt over indirect mayoral elections

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Monday sought reply of the state government over a set of petitions that has challenged the decision to hold the elections to the posts of mayors of municipal corporations and chairpersons of other civic bodies in the state through indirect elections.

In October this year, the state government issued a gazette notification-- The Chhattisgarh Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019-- paving the way for indirect elections of Mayors and chief of other civic bodies in the state,



state's Advocate General Satishchandra Verma said. Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) MLA Dharamjeet Singh and five

others filed separate petitions challenging the decision of the government, terming it unconstitutional, Verma said.

The division bench of Chief Justice PR Ramchandra Menon and Justice PP Sahu on Monday took all six petitions for hearing and directed the state government to furnish its response on the issue, he said.

The HC has posted the matter for next hearing on November 28, he added.

As per the government's gazette notification, general public will directly elect corporators and then the elected corporators will elect mayor and chairpersons of municipal bodies from among them.

Tribals across the state stage protest in capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Troops of tribals from across the state reached the capital embarking on 'Van Swaraj Padyatra' on Monday and staged a dharna at Budhpara Dharna site of Raipur.

Later they also met Governor Anusuiya Uikey and raised their demands, including their forest rights. They commenced the march on November 11.

Under the banner of 'Van Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti', the tribals reached capital on foot. Their demands include the issues related to Jan Jungle and Jamean and to press their demand they on Monday evening also handed over a

memorandum to the Governor. They were in traditional attire and were armed with bow, arrow and small axe.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on the other hand commenting on the agitation of tribals said the main demand of them about forest right was actually stayed by the high court and as the matter was already pending with the Supreme Court the distribution of forest land title was stopped by the state government.

As far as the matter of mines was concerned it was under the purview of the Centre but the state government assures the tribals that they will safeguard the interest of tribals, he said.

Ministers give themselves increased HRA

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The first full Cabinet meeting of Haryana on Monday gave bonanza to the ministers with increased House Rent allowance.

Government has decided to revise the House Rent Allowance to the Ministers from Rs 50,000 to Rs 80,000 plus Rs 20,000 to cover electricity and water charges that is totaling Rs one lakh per month.

A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of State Cabinet which met under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday.

The new rules will be called the Haryana Ministers Allowances (Amendment) Rules, 2019.

All allowances admissible to the Ministers have been revised by the government from or after April 1, 2016 except House Rent Allowance which was last revised on June 2, 2011.

GRAM SABHA EMPOWERED TO BAN LIQUOR

The Cabinet took an in-principle decision to bring an amendment in section 31 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 allowing devolution of powers to Gram Sabha to ban intoxicating liquor within the



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar presiding over the meeting of State Cabinet at Chandigarh on Monday

Pioneer Photo

local area of a Gram Panchayat. As per the decision, a Gram Sabha may, at any time, during the period commencing on 1st day of April and ending with the 31st day of December instead of 30th day of September of any year pass a resolution banning the opening of a liquor vend in the Sabha area from April 1 of the next year. It was further decided that the quorum of the Gram Sabha meeting for passing such a resolution shall be one-tenth of its members.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN COOPERATION TO BE CREATED

Haryana Cabinet has decided to create Department of Foreign Cooperation to streamline and provide focus to various initiatives taken by the state government for the promotion of investment, employment for Haryana youth and welfare of Non Resident Indian (NRI)/Person of Indian Origin (PIO).

The Department will also work to enhance international

cooperation with provinces of foreign countries and engagement with cities under the sister provinces and twin cities programmes of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The new department will deal in formulation of country wise strategies for promotion of investment, employment in the state, education and skill development and promotion of Haryanavi culture and welfare of Haryanavi diaspora, participation at bilateral and multilateral fora with the objective of pursuing issues of interest to the state involving cooperation in

public and private sector organization. Apart from this, the department will deal in participation in bilateral working groups with a view to promote state's interest in foreign countries in the area of trade and investment both in-bound and out-bound in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs.

The department will also maintain liaison with Indian Missions abroad/Ministry of External Affairs/ foreign missions at New Delhi on matters pertaining to Haryana with regard to investment, employment, education, skill develop-

One day session of Assembly on Nov 26

Chandigarh: The Haryana Cabinet on Monday decided to convene one-day special session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha on November 26 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of adoption of Constitution of India. Talking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, chief minister Khattar informed about the decision.

ment, and culture and NRI/PIO affairs. Besides this, it will also work for development of global country wise marketing and communication strategies to ensure strong links with Haryanavi diaspora.

CM AUTHORISED TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO GST

The Cabinet also gave authorization to the Chief Minister for a further period of 6 months for all matters pertaining to the implementation of Goods and Services Tax in the State including framing of new rules and rate of tax, amendments thereto and issue of notifications under the Act.

Agitating farmers, cops scuffle at Sambalpur



PNS ■ SAMBALPUR/ BARGARH/ ATTABIRA

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

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

They alleged that only a limited quantity of paddy can be sold under the token system introduced by the State Government. "But this year bumper crop has been har-

vested. We are in a dilemma where to sell the rest of the paddy," a farmer said ruefully. The agitators parked paddy laden tractors in front of the Collectorate gates leading to a traffic jam on three main roads.

Similar protest was observed by farmers in Bargarh. They locked up the Sub Collector office after a discussion with the officials failed on Monday. Farmers in Padampur also expressed resentment against the token system.

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

Floating light, sound shows dedicated to 550th Parkash Purab at Sukhna Lake

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Dedicated to 550th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, Punjab Government in collaboration with the UT Administration on Monday organized a multimedia floating light and sound shows at the Sukhna Lake here.

The 45-minute floating multimedia light and sound show mesmerized audience by showcasing life journey of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji through colourful visual presentations, ultra-modern laser techniques and unique acoustics.

During the shows the audience were disseminated the message of strengthening the ethos of communal harmony, peace, compassion, brotherhood, women empowerment, protection of natural resources, and humanity as preached by the Guru.

The floating multimedia light and sound show showcased the life of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and his efforts to promote social equality were also showcased to the audience in the letter and spirit through the shows.



This event will also be showcased on Tuesday at 7 pm to 7:45 pm and 8:15 pm to 9:00 pm to commemorate the 550th Parkash Purab.

The Multimedia floating light and sound shows are being organized in the state and such shows have already been held in Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur,

Moga, Kapurthala, Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Ferozepur at Sutlej and Beas rivers.

The initiative of the state government was also aimed at acquainting the younger generations of the state with the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev by using the hi-end visual projection and advanced laser technology.

JHARKHAND ASSEMBLY POLLS

Saryu's candidature creates fissures in Grand Alliance

ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

The candidature of rebel BJP leader and former Cabinet Minister Saryu Roy from Jamshepur (East) against Chief Minister Raghubar Das has not only affected the BJP but has created fissures in Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan).

Big brother in Grand Alliance Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has openly come up in support of Roy urging all like-minded parties to support Roy, while at the same time Congress after fielding its national spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh from the seat said that it is too late to withdraw its candidature from prestigious seat.

Jamshepur East, which is largely an urban constituency, is considered as safe citadel of BJP and Chief Minister Raghubar Das has been representing the seat for five times since 1995. Like Raghubar, Roy too had a wide experience as MLA and MLCs in Bihar. Roy, the 68-year-old politician who has been opposing some of the decisions taken by his own party and Government alleging irregularities filed his nomination paper as an independent candidate from Jamshepur east on Monday. Roy, who has taken up the crusade against corruption not even sparing his own party, is considered as new darling of opposition parties. When Roy announced to contest as



Independent Jamshepur East candidate Saryu Roy along with his supporters showing victory sign after filing his nomination papers for upcoming State Assembly elections, in Jamshepur on Monday

in the Government.

However, as per the seat adjustment among Grand Alliance partners, the seat has gone to Congress and the party has already announced the candidature of its fast national spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh from Jamshepur east. Vallabh, a professor at the Xavier School of Management (XLRI) in Jamshepur is new darling of Congress mostly seen in television debates.

Sources in state Congress claimed that by projecting Vallabh from prestigious seat against Chief Minister the party has given one of the best candidates and his candidature is even approved by Congress president Sonia Gandhi. State Congress working president Rajesh Thakur said, "There is no chance of Congress withdrawing its candidate from Jamshepur east. Our candidate Gaurav Vallabh has even filled his nomination." Thakur also said that Grand Alliance in State is intact.

Vallabh become the new Congress star in social media when few months back with his ease of knowledge cornered the BJP's spokesperson Sambit Patra on a TV debate on the state of the Indian economy, asking him if he knew how many zeros are in 5 trillion.

Independent candidate against Raghubar Das, JMM executive president Hemant Soren was first to come up in support Roy. Soren asked opposition parties to support Roy. Later, JMM General Secretary Supriyo

Bhattacharya extending support to Roy said,

"Despite being part of the Raghubar Das Cabinet, Roy as whistle blower has raised his voice against Government in blanket scam, paddy purchase

scam, rain storage scam, health equipment procurement scam, drug scam and others bringing sleepless nights to Raghubar." He appealed to all parties to support Roy in his fight against the alleged corruption and injustice

Poll whip against 50 in Bokaro under CrPC

PNS ■ BOKARO

At least 50 troublemakers were identified and action has been taken under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) Section 107 (security for keeping peace) at Chas in Bokaro district ahead of Assembly poll.

The Assembly poll scheduled to be held in the third and fourth phases in four constituencies of the district includes Bermo and Gomia, Bokaro and Chandankiyari.

Bermo and Gomia will go for poll on 12 December while Bokaro and Chandankiyari on 16 December. Today section 107 has been imposed against 43 troublemakers while earlier on 12 November action were taken against 27 (under CrPC 107), informed Chummun Singh, OC of Chas police station. "After getting instructions from the Election Commission Police are still preparing a list of such habitual offenders. Action would be taken against those so

that they do not create trouble in this Assembly poll," added the OC.

Ex-Min Singh, AJSU's Mahto file nomination

PNS ■ BERMO

Former Minister Rajendra Prasad Singh and AJSU candidate Lambodar Mahto filed their nominations papers from Bermo and Gomia seats respectively.

Singh accompanied by former Union Minister RPN Singh, Forest minister of MP, Umang Singhar along with his son JaiMangal Singh, Gaurav Singh, OPLal, Yogendra Giri, Pramod Singh, several trade union leaders with family friends and around 10,000 supporters submitted two sets of nominations papers at civil SDO office at Tenughat on Monday afternoon.

Singh, who had represented Bermo in Assembly seat five times, filed his nomination paper along with senior leaders of grand alliance displaying unity and strength. The entire route through which local Congress leader took out a road show to reach to the office of the returning Officer for fill-

ing nomination witnessed a petal shower and the vehicle on which Singh was travelling got covered with flowers.

Later, the Congress leader held a public meeting at Jaina More referral hospital ground. Speaking at the meeting, the senior Congress leader from State attacked the NDA Government at Centre and State for people misery. Singh said, "The Raghubar Das led NDA Government in Jharkhand is full with false and fake ideas. In last five year the Raghubar Das Government has failed to address issue such as unemployment, farmers' distress and growing inflation.

The status Rajendra Prasad Singh enjoys in the Congress party can be gauged from the fact that in 2014 Bermo assembly seat, BJP candidate Yogeshwar Prasad Batul defeated Singh by margin of nearly 10,000 votes, but the party has once again reposed faith on him by giving him ticket from the Bermo seat.

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E-TENDER NOTICE

1. NIT No: SECL/GM/DA/SO(EnM)/e-tender/19-20/65, date 05.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_155078_1, Location of work: Dipka Expansion Project, Dipka Area, Estimated Cost: 74,60,685 Description of Work: Day to day diversion, shifting and extension of LT overhead Lines of East and West Section Quarry (Old Dipka, Jhingatpur, Uppe and Lower Kusumda) for a period of one year at Dipka Expansion Project. Start date & time for submission of bid: 14.11.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 04.12.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 06.12.2019 at 11 AM. SO(E&M),Dipka Area

2. NIT No: SECL/GM/DA/SO(EnM)/e-tender/19-20/66, date 06.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_155093_1, Location of work: Dipka Expansion Project, Dipka Area, Estimated Cost: 57,79,421 Description of Work: Regular cleaning of spillage coal/ dust/ slush/ slurry etc. from various locations of Silo Section for a period of 180 days at Dipka Expansion Project. Start date & time for submission of bid: 14.11.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 04.12.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 06.12.2019 at 11 AM. SO(E&M),Dipka Area

3. NIT No: SECL/GM/DA/SO(EnM)/e-tender/19-20/67, date 06.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_155155_1, Location of work: Dipka Expansion Project, Dipka Area, Estimated Cost: 42,59,475 Description of Work: Repairing of R1/R2 belt conveyors (270 mt length) as providing, fitting, installation and commissioning of structural elements at New CHP of Dipka Expansion Project. Start date & time for submission of bid: 14.11.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 27.11.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 29.11.2019 at 11 AM. SO(E&M),Dipka Area

4. NIT No: SECL/GM/CEWS/CM(Civil)/e-Tender/2019-20/06, date 02.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_154653_1, Location of work: CEWS Gevra, SECL, Estimated Cost: 7,81,840 Description of Work: Repairing of damaged/fallen boundary wall of workshop at CEWS, Gevra. Start date & time for submission of bid: 07.11.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for opening of bid: 25.11.2019 at 11 AM. Chief Manager(Civil),Gevra Area

5. NIT No: SECL/KB/GM/So(Mining)/CT/19-20/e-Tender/04, date 08.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_155365_1, Location of work: Manikpur OCM, Korba Area, Estimated Cost: 86,77,800 Description of Work: (a) Hiring of pay loaders for mechanical transfer of (-) 100 mm sized coal into tipplers at discharge end of CHP Plant No. II and (b) Hiring of Tipplers for transportation of (-) 100 mm sized crushed coal from CHP Plant No. II to siding No. II, at Manikpur OCM, Korba Area. Lead (a) NA (b) 3.09 km TPD 1500 Te for (a) & (b) for a total quantity of 2,70,000 Te for (a) & (b) and Total period of 180 days. Start date & time for submission of bid: 16.11.2019 at 11 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 09.12.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 10.12.2019 at 05 PM. SO(M),Korba Area

Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www.eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CIL https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and www.secl-cil.in. In Case of any Misprinting/ Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

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REGISTERED OFFICE: 5TH FLOOR, DANI CORPORATE PARK, 158 C.S.T.ROAD, KALINA, SANTACRUZ (E), MUMBAI -400098

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF M/S. PHOENIX ARC PVT LTD (ACTING AS A TRUSTEE OF PHOENIX TRUST FY19-5 SCHEME I) UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 AND IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED UNDER SECTION 13(2) READ WITH RULE 3 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ISSUED DEMAND NOTICES TO THE BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS, GUARANTORS AS DETAILED HEREUNDER, CALLING UPON THE RESPECTIVE BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS, GUARANTORS TO REPAY THE AMOUNT MENTIONED IN THE SAID NOTICES WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE SAME. THE SAID BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS, GUARANTORS HAVING FAILED TO REPAY THE AMOUNT, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS, GUARANTORS AND PUBLIC IN GENERAL THAT THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF THE COMPANY HAS TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREUNDER IN EXERCISE OF POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM UNDER SECTION 13(4) OF THE SAID ACT/R/W RULE 8 OF THE SAID RULES ON THE DATES MENTIONED ALONGWITH. THE BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS, GUARANTORS IN PARTICULAR AND PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED NOT TO DEAL WITH THE PROPERTIES AND ANY DEALINGS WITH THE PROPERTIES WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE CHARGE OF M/S. PHOENIX ARC PVT LTD. (ACTING AS A TRUSTEE OF PHOENIX TRUST FY19-5 SCHEME I) FOR THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED THEREIN WITH FUTURE INTEREST, COSTS AND CHARGES FROM THE RESPECTIVE DATES.

DETAILS OF THE BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS, GUARANTORS, PROPERTIES MORTGAGED, NAME OF THE TRUST, OUTSTANDING DUES, DEMAND NOTICES SENT UNDER SECTION 13(2) AND AMOUNTS CLAIMED THERE UNDER ARE GIVEN AS UNDER:

S. NO.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER, CO-BORROWER, LOAN ACCOUNT NO., LOAN AMOUNT	DETAILS OF THE SECURITIES	1. DATE OF POSSESSION 2. DEMAND NOTICE DATE 3. AMOUNT DUE IN RS.
1.	MR. DEEPAK KUMAR JHA, S/O MR. KAMLESHWAR JHA AT: SAKAMRI MANDIR NAKUL GARAGE POKHAR TALAB RAMKUND RAIPUR-492001 & MR. SHALINI JHA W/O MR. DEEPAK KUMAR JHA AT: BESIDE POKHAR TALAB RAMKUND RAIPUR- 492001 & M/S V.K. SALES AND SERVICES THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MR. DEEPAK KUMAR JHA AT: POKHAR TALAB NEAR NAKUL GARAGE RAMKUND RAIPUR-492001 LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER: 454LAP31481852 LOAN AMOUNT SANCTIONED: RS. 65,00,000/- (RUPEES SIXTY FIVE LAKH ONLY)	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND ALONG WITH RCC STRUCTURE ON IT HAVING OLD KHASRA NO. 465/2 AND NEW KHASRA NO. 465/4 ADMEASURING 1548 SQ FEET, SITUATED AT WARD NO. 16, PH NO.106, REVENUE INSPECTION NO. 1, SHAHEED CHURAMANI SITUATED AT CHIRHULDIH, RAMKUND BEHIND VANDANA AUTO AND BY THE SIDE OF RAINBOW TVS VEHICLE GARAGE RAIPUR & RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)-492001. PROPERTY BOUNDED AS: NORTH- HOUSE OF SOME OTHER, SOUTH- HOUSE OF SAVITRI BAI JAUJE ROOPCHAND SINDHI, EAST-ROAD, WEST-OTHERS PLOT. NAME OF THE MORTGAGOR: MR. DEEPAK KUMAR JHA S/O MR. KAMLESHWAR JHA.	1) 14.11.2019 2) 17.06.2019 3) RS. 75,36,626/- (RUPEES SEVENTY FIVE LAKH THIRTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SIX ONLY) DUE AND PAYABLE AS OF 17.06.2019 WITH FURTHER INTEREST APPLICABLE FROM 18.06.2019 ALONGWITH COSTS AND CHARGES UNTIL PAYMENT IN FULL
2.	MR. RITESH RAHUJA S/O SRI HARISH KUMAR RAHUJA & MRS. SIYA RAHUJA W/O RITESH RAHUJA & MR. HARISH KUMAR RAHUJA ALL AT: MIG 26 PREM PARK MAHAVIR NAGARPURENA (CHHATTISGARH) RAIPUR-492001, MRS. SIYA RAHUJA C/O HEY GUY'S SEQUAL PROPRIETOR MR. RITESH RAHUJA S/O LATE SRI HARISH KUMAR RAHUJA & HEY GUY'S SEQUAL THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR MR. RITESH RAHUJA S/O LATE SRI HARISH KUMAR RAHUJA BOTH AT: MAIN ROAD KATORA TALAB NEAR NETAJI CHOWK RAIPUR- 492001 LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER: 454LAP34962338 LOAN AMOUNT SANCTIONED: RS. 40,50,232/- (RUPEES FORTY LAKH FIFTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTYTWO ONLY)	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND ON PLOT NO MIG 26 ADMEASURING 1100 SQ FEET AND CONSTRUCTED STRUCTURE STANDING ON RESIDENTIAL FLAT AT GROUND+1ST FLOOR ADMEASURING (750+700 SQ FEET) ALL TOGETHER 1450 SQ.FEET AT MOUZA VILAGE- PURAINA, PH NO 113, REVENUE CIRCLE NO. 113, KHASRA NO. 269/9 SITUATED INSIDE 250 METRES FROM MAIN ROAD AT WARD NO 45 NAMED RANI DURGAVATI WARD, NAME AND STYLED AS PALASH RESIDENCY AT MAHAVIR NAGAR. PROPERTY BOUNDED AS : NORTH : HOUSE NO. 12, EAST : HOUSE NO. 16, SOUTH : HOUSE NO. 14, WEST : ROAD NAME OF THE MORTGAGOR: MR. RITESH RAHUJA S/O SRI HARISH KUMAR RAHUJA.	1) 14.11.2019 2) 16.07.2019 3) RS. 47,59,499/- (RUPEES FORTY SEVEN LAKH FIFTY NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY NINE ONLY) DUE AND PAYABLE AS OF 16.07.2019 WITH FURTHER INTEREST APPLICABLE FROM 17.07.2019 ALONGWITH COSTS AND CHARGES UNTIL PAYMENT IN FULL

DATE: 14.11.2019
PLACE : RAIPUR

AUTHORISED OFFICER,
PHOENIX ARC PRIVATE LIMITED
(ACTING AS A TRUSTEE OF PHOENIX TRUST FY19-5 SCHEME I)

FOR ANY QUERY PLEASE CONTACT MR. GAURAV MOHAN MISHRA (+91 7083586568) & MR. PANKAJ RAI (+91 7768003567 & LANDLINE NO. 022-68382544)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

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

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

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

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

RC 406/2015
ICICI BANK VS MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI
"ORDER"
 Dated: 26.10.2019

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

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

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fire holds off Hong Kong Police at protest campus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trump says will 'strongly consider' testifying in impeachment prob

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

New SL Prez says will remain neutral on foreign policy

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

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

Sinhala Buddhist city of Anuradhapura.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Stop flexing muscles in South China Sea, China urges US

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

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

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

"We agreed to keep talking and engaging frequently," Esper told reporters afterward in a brief exchange. "We continue to make progress on any number of issues." The South China Sea for years has been a major point of contention between Beijing and Washington. **AP**

Pakistan tests Shaheen-1 missile

Islamabad: Pakistan on Monday successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 650 kilometres, bringing many Indian cities under its range. The test-firing of the Shaheen-1 missile by the Pakistani military took place amidst Indo-Pak tensions over New Delhi revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The Shaheen-1 missile is capable of delivering all types of warheads up to range of 650 KMs, ISPR tweeted. **PTI**

Libyan officials: Airstrike kills 7 workers in Tripoli

Cairo: An airstrike slammed into a biscuit factory in the capital, Tripoli, on Monday killing at least seven workers including five foreign nationals and two Libyans, health authorities said.

Tripoli has been the scene of fighting since April between the self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, and an array of militias loosely allied with the UN-supported but weak government which holds the capital.

The Tripoli-based health ministry said the airstrike took place in the capital's Wadi el-Rabie neighborhood, the south of the city center where fighting has been raging for months.

Malek Mersat, a spokesman with the ministry, told The Associated Press that the dead included five workers from Bangladesh, and two Libyan nationals.

At least 15 foreign workers, mostly from Niger and Bangladesh, who were taken to nearby hospitals for urgent treatment. **AP**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client Dina Nathi Smt. Shri Shankar Lal, R/O:- Hatus No-99, Vign Garden Extension, North Block, Road-17, New Delhi-59, has ejected his elder son sani varma, age about 26 years and the wife of sani varma Smt. Shilpi, age about 29 years, from his properties due to any behavior toward my client Sh. Dinarath (Mother & Father of Sani Varma), San Varma/Smt. Shilpi wants to capture/occupy the movable and immovable property of the family/ father and mother.

If any person has make any transaction with Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi, the family/father and mother will not be responsible for any transactions and for any act. No person can claim from family/father and mother about the transactions or act of Sani Varma & Smt. Shilpi

Any act of Sani Varma & Smt. Shilpi, only Sani Varma/ Shilpi are responsible for any act. The family/father and mother will not be responsible for any act of Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi.

This Notice is published on behalf of my client, Dinarath to inform and warn the general people not to make any transaction with Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi; if any person does this that only person and Sani Varma/Smt. Shilpi shall be responsible

Manoranjan Sharma (Advocate)
 M. 9853790487

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my Client Dr. Kiran Pal Singh S/o Late Majnu Singh R/o Flat No. 60732/GF, D-6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi and S-11/03, DLF Phase-3, Gurgaon declare that Mrs. Purnima was residing with my client for some duration in intervals. She was provided separate special flat i.e. Flat No. 103/FF-Yes Residency, F-Block, Rajender Park at Gurugram under DVC settlement order dt. 6/9/2017 in terms of DVC-Mediation- Settlement. Mrs. Purnima against the terms of said order/settlement entered into the property of DLF, Phase-3 on 18/4/2019 without permission of property owners (my client) which amounts to trespassing, for which my client is taking appropriate legal steps. My client will not be responsible for her misconduct and misdeeds etc. since my client is not aware regarding whereabouts her movements and there is no Communication since 22/4/2019 whatsoever with her etc. Therefore my client is not responsible for any acts, misdeeds etc, and my client should not be targeted in any manner. The matters are pending adjudication with Concerned court of law for Divorce/Malicious Prosecution/ Injunction etc. Any person(s) dealing with her in any manner whatsoever will be at his own risk, costs and responsibility. This is for information to general public only.

AJIT SINGH ADVOCATE
 246, Lawyer's Chambers, Delhi High Court New Delhi-110003

Conservative candidates vow to back Brexit deal: UK PM

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has revealed that every Conservative Party candidate standing in the country's general election on December 12 has personally pledged to back his Brexit deal.

In his first major newspaper interview of the election campaign, Johnson told the Sunday Telegraph that he has asked all 635 of his candidates to sign up to a pledge to back his Brexit Withdrawal Agreement in the House of Commons.

"If we get a majority Conservative government, we can deliver and there will be no more wrangling or dither or delay," Johnson said, Xinhua news agency reported.

He said he plans to end Britain's membership of the European Union (EU) in January if he wins a majority that

keeps him at 10 Downing Street.

"Of course there will be many who voted Remain, many who voted Leave, people with different views, and they will come together to get it done, and come together in the interests of the whole country."

The Telegraph commented that highly unusual decision by Johnson is designed to help convince voters who support Britain leaving the EU that the Conservatives will deliver Brexit if they return to government.

Meanwhile the newspaper reported the latest opinion poll, carried out by Savanta ComRes, puts the Conservatives on 41 per cent, the highest level in one of the poll company's surveys since the last general election. Labour remains eight points behind, but has risen to 33 per cent, its highest level since April. **IANS**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution), Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Electric Division, Kathua
 Email:- xenmrekathua123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
e-NIT No. KED/15 of 2019 Dated: 14-11-2019

For and on behalf of Govt. of UT of J&K, e-tenders, are here by invited from Contractors/Self Help Groups having valid A- Class Electrical Contractors License issued by Govt. Of J&K and having sufficient experience of the relevant job and meeting qualification Criteria as per e-NIT for fixing of Rate Contract for Improvement /Maintenance/Emergent works of HT/LT Distribution Network including 11/433KV Sub Stations in Sub Division Kathua of Electric Division, Kathua(JPDC) on Turkey basis.

S.No.1, Name of Work :- Fixing of Rate Contract for Improvement /Maintenance/Emergent works of HT/LT Distribution Network including 11/433KV Sub Stations in Sub Division Kathua of Electric Division, Kathua(JPDC).

Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.) :- 1000/-, Earnest Money/ Security Deposit (in Rs.):- 50000/-, Date and time of Downloading of Bidding documents :- 16-11-2019 (10.00 A.M.), Last date and time of e-Bid submission :- 29-11-2019 (02.00P.M), Date and Time of opening of e-Bids :- 30-11-2019 (02.00PM)

The tender document consisting of terms and conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be downloaded from <http://jtenders.gov.in>.

No. DIP/J-9192/19 Dated : 16-11-2019

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Distribution)
 JPDC, Electric Division Kathua

Dealing with a new Lanka

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



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

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

Perilous for pedestrians

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



According to statistics released by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the number of pedestrians killed on India's roads climbed from 12,330 in 2014 to 22,656 in 2018 — an increase of 84 per cent in just four years. Many things can be extrapolated from these numbers. The first, of course, is the dramatic expansion in the country's road network. The other quite obviously is the total lack of pedestrian safety in the country. There are no pavements or sidewalks left beyond central Delhi and select other Government zones in other cities, which have not been occupied by hawkers and parked cars. There are a few crosswalks or an alternative method to cross major thoroughfares. The traffic police and transport authorities, in their desperation to make traffic flows smoother, have also done little to chalk out a plan for pedestrians, who come last in their scheme of things. However, blaming the authorities and the rash driving habits of Indian drivers is a valid criticism. While studying pedestrian deaths, there should be far more planning to ensure their safety, including in vehicle and road design. Pedestrians themselves should share a lot of the blame. Even when there are overpasses, underpasses and traffic lights to cross roads safely, they blithely ignore these and cross the roads in the face of oncoming traffic just sticking their hands out. With little or no understanding about how much faster vehicles have become, pedestrians often take their lives into their own hands. Crossing a road, even at a traffic light in one's favour while staring down at a phone, is downright dangerous. Driving down any of the new high-speed expressways, you will find pedestrians without a care in the world crossing the road while cars zoom by at speeds well over 100 km per hour. With such blatant disregard of road use and behaviour, no matter what is done, pedestrians will still die. And the number of deaths can easily be brought down. One method is to teach schoolchildren the basics of road safety, both as pedestrians and drivers. The other is to build proper methods for people to cross the roads and stop encroaching them. India's roads are horribly bloody as it is and far too many people die on our roads every single day. In any other country this would be a national emergency. In India, this is barely given a second thought. That needs to change urgently.

Drowning cacophony

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



A SURYA PRAKASH

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

construction of a mosque and associated activities.

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

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

Therefore, in order to provide restitution to the Muslim

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Nepal Prime Minister
—KP Sharma Oli

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

Actor
—Rajinikanth

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

Microsoft co-founder
—Bill Gates

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

NCP chief
—Sharad Pawar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Task cut out

Sir — Gotabaya Rajapaksa's presidential win was pretty convincing. As for Sajith Premadasa's defeat, it is no doubt painful for him as it would be for any presidential hopeful. But there may be some consolation for him with the fact that he can now forget about his election promises, which he would have been required to fulfil if had he been elected. Gotabaya played his cards well. In times when Sri Lanka is faced with several problems, including the state of the economy, fears set off by the Easter Sunday bombings and not to forget the revulsion towards corruption, he refrained from taking on his opponents, especially Premadasa, and conducted himself in a business-like manner. This approach came as a breath of fresh air in the electoral politics that is generally vitiated by effrontery and name-calling. Thus, he must have endeared himself to the voters, who were fed up with the present state of affairs. Finally, winning the executive presidency is one thing and living up to the expectations of

The quest for equality continues

The Supreme Court's decision to refer the review pleas made in the Sabarimala case to a larger seven-judge Bench elicited a mixed reaction. One is inevitably led to ask if the apex court lost its earlier conviction to look kindly on the review petitions and not dismiss them even in the face of no "apparent error" in its original historic judgment. Nevertheless, it was some solace that it did not reverse or stay its judgment allowing the entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala temple. Even though women in the 10-50 age group can still legally enter the temple, the prospect of them being allowed to have Ayyappa *darshan* looks bleak. Belligerent opponents of women's entry seem to be determined to put blockades to prevent women in the menstruating age from entering the temple "to preserve the sanctity" of the temple. Last time, frenzied attacks and "purification rituals" made headlines. It is not clear when the original ruling stands, why the State Government now deems it right to ask women to get Supreme Court's order for "protection." The Left Government seems to have developed cold feet for fear that it will have to face a political backlash from "true Ayyappa devotees."

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



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

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Politics of convenience

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

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

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

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

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

Anybody will agree with the fact that between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiv Sena, it was the latter which had shown a greater and stronger commitment to the concept of Hindutva and Hindu nationalism. Meanwhile, the Congress had always been critical of the Sena's ideology, dubbing it as "extremist", "fascist" and "chauvinist." The Shiv Sena on its part treated the grand old party as its most serious opponent. Yet, both parties have instantly shed every inhibition, resentment, repugnance and ideologies to form a Government.

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

NS Rajan
Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Equal education, equal chances

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



MADHURI DHARIWAL

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

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

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

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

—UNION HEALTH MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Hello Minister! Can you hear me?

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



BINDU DALMIA

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

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

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

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

One shares the Prime Minister's optimism to aim for a \$5 trillion economy, as much as one lauds the Finance Minister's interactive-resolution modus, which is a refreshing departure from her predecessors in not procrastinating decision-making till the annual Budget to address the industry's pain points. And pain points abound, from the beleaguered banking, automobile, realty, power and aviation sectors, with the latest crisis in telecom having overtaken all others. While India's improved ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index (EODB) is an outcome of the Modi regime's commitment to reforms, one parameter in the EODB that requires improvement is dispute resolution, particularly in the crippled telecom industry. Resolution and relief are very much within the Centre's discretion, as they are the winners in this case and need to make concessions in the overall interests of the sector. Regulatory uncertainties in the distressed sector are casting negative ripple effects on the already subdued business sentiments within the country. While Indian business has been reluctant to commit to fresh capital expenditure (CapEx) investments, we can ill-afford a negative perception amongst foreign direct investors. The National Digital Communications Policy 2018 envisaged attracting investments worth \$100 billion in the telecommunications sector by 2022, which is only possible in an enabling environment, where time is spent on growth instead of fighting fires. Given that the beneficiaries of the trade diversion from the US-China trade wars have been Vietnam and

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



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

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

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

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

Let's remember that "the Supreme Court is fair, but not infallible."

Besides, the Indian telecom market, which is the second-largest in the world in terms of data consumption, is too large to be held hostage by either erstwhile cartels, or the likely emergence of a duopolistic scenario, or the eventual equality of allowing single-player dominance. Which is where we are headed if the Government fails to salvage existential issues facing two out of the three private players, Vodafone-Idea and Bharti Airtel. Ideally, the Government aims at three non-State players, plus one public sector telco in the market, because India needs multiple carriers to ride the digital revolution forward. That the Government is not in favour of a monopoly is a decision in the right direction. But to avert monopolistic conditions, or even a duopoly, intent must be followed through by supportive action.

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

Empirical evidence in economic

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

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

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

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

Big ticket privatisation move welcome

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



KARAN BHASIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



POLITICIANS MUST WAKE UP TO CRISIS

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

(The Guardian editorial)

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

BJP's trap to target Bengalis, cries Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Protests were held in the north-eastern States on Monday opposing the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were burnt in Assam. The protest rallies coincided with the first day of the winter session of Parliament during which the bill is proposed to be introduced.

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

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

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

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

Stir in NE States, Modi's effigy burnt

PTI ■ GUWAHATI/SHILLONG/AIZAWL/ITANAGAR

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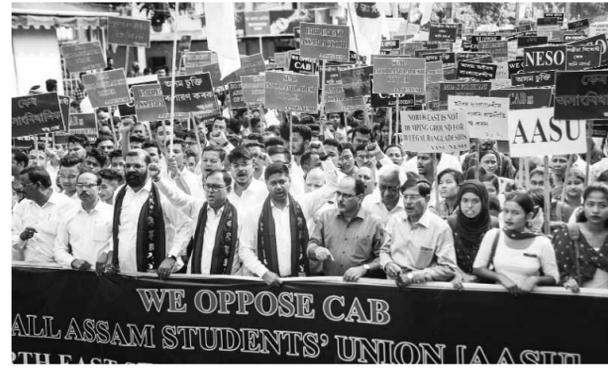
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Activists of North East Students Organisation (NESO), along with All Assam Students' Union (AASU), hold placards as they take out a protest rally against Citizenship Amendment Bill, in Guwahati on Monday PTI

ards against the CAB.

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

"The Central Government is trying to impose on Assam all the illegal Bangladeshis who entered the country in the next 43 years by fixing the cut off year as 2014. We won't accept that. We

oppose it," he iterated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ AYODHYA

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

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

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

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



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

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

which the akhara belongs. Varma said hence, the right to worship the deity historically remains with the akhara. "The Nirmohi Akhara will meet the Prime Minister and after meeting the PM, its executive body will again be meeting in Ayodhya to discuss whether we have been given appropriate place as mentioned in the verdict," he said.

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

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

The employees are demanding issuance of a notification by the

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

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

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

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

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

Centre should take steps to control deteriorating economy: Gehlot

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

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

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

"They are being arrogant that

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Shrine receives ₹3.30 cr as revenue on opening day

PTI ■ SABARIMALA

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

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

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



facilities we have arranged," Vasu told the media.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hospitalised leaders of RTC employees continue fast

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

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

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

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



tody from his house on Sunday.

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

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

The employees unions have recently announced that

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

The unions demanded that the Government hold talks with them to resolve the issue. The State Government had earlier said the employees' stir was illegal as they caused immense inconvenience to the public.

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

AMMK weakens as workers on leaving spree

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pak violates ceasefire along LoC in Rajouri & Poonch



PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

Search op launched to track down suspected ultras in Poonch

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

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

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

Kaiga Nuclear power plant expansion sparks stir

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

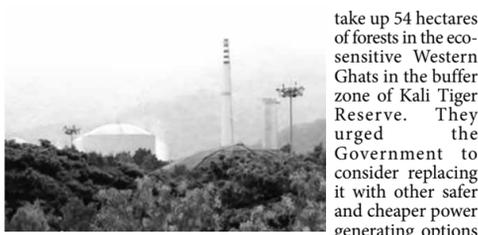
Hundreds of people have thronged in Mallapura, a tiny town on the river Kali valley in Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka to protest against the expansion of Kaiga Nuclear power plant in the sensitive western ghats on Sunday. Mallapura is an adjacent town near the nuclear plant.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The Government has neither acknowledged such reports, nor has it carried out any assessment on its own.

Professor TV Ramachandra, an expert in water management from IISc, a premier Scientific research Institute in Bengaluru, who

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Foundation Day Celebrations
 18 - 24 November, 2019
 Inauguration on 19 November 2019, 6:00 PM

By
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
 Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (IC)
 Govt. of India

Venue - IGNC Auditorium, Janpath, New Delhi
 All are Cordially invited

For details of the programmes please visit
www.ignca.gov.in | IGNC | [ignca_delhi](https://www.facebook.com/ignca) | 09599443393

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
 (Established by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
 Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 078
 Website: www.ipu.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 The Superintending Engineer, University Works Department, GGSIPU, Sector 16 C, Dwarka invites on behalf of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University item rate tenders for following work(s):

Name of Work : ARMO GGSIP University, Dwarka Campus, New Delhi
Sub Head : Annual Comprehensive maintenance of inbuilt RO System in Boys and Girls Hostels (2019-20)

NIT No. : 22/SE/UWD/Civil/2019-20 (Second Call)
Estimated Cost : Rs. 8,66,250/-, Time of completion : 12 months
EMD : Rs. 17,325/-

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and www.ipu.ac.in Last date of submission of bids is 20/11/2019. **SE/UWD**

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD
 29, IIE, Sahasradhara Road (IT Park), Dehradun Phone No. 0135 - 2708100
 Fax No. 0135 - 2708109 Web site : www.siidcul.com

NIT No: 25/SIIDCUL/2019. **Tender Notice**

SIIDCUL invites online bids from O.E.M. or Authorized dealer for supply of LED Street Light fittings (as per bid document). Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in. Bids can be submitted on www.uktenders.gov.in on/before 18.12.2019 time:-03.00 PM.
 Letter no.-2536, Date - 18.11.2019 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

The BJP, which has a



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

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress, which has a strength of 29 corporators in

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

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

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

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

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT (HO)
 E BLOCK, 3rd FLOOR, DR. S.P.M. CIVIC CENTRE,
 J.L. NEHRU MARG, NEW DELHI - 110002
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Open Online Item Rate Tenders are invited under two bid system (Technical & Financial) from experienced and financially sound firms / Agencies / Contractors / Joint Ventures for the work of "Rate Contract for Construction of Artistic Gazebo (Garden Huts/Rain Shelters) in Parks under South Delhi Municipal Corporation" Online Tender No.317466, issued vide No. DD/HQ/SDMC/2019-20/D/1205/NIT No.5 dt.18.11.2019. EMD Rs. 3.00 Lacs Tender Cost Rs.2000/- Estimated Rate Contracts Amt. Rs.450 Lacs, under different head of A/Cs. Period of Rate Contract twelve Months. After getting themselves registered for e-tendering in SDMC (if not registered earlier) Bidding Documents with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded & submitted on e-tenders website- <http://mcdetenders.com> OR visit SDMC website www.mcdonline.gov.in / South Delhi Municipal Corporation /Tenders/e-tendering. For Online tender the helpdesk Nos. are 011-23227413 & 011-23227414 or mail to : mcd-ithelpdesk@mcd.gov.in Download, Bid Preparation and Hash Submission is w.e.f. 19.11.2019 from 1001 hours to 26.11.2019 up to 1500 hours. Re-encryption of Online Bid w.e.f. 26.11.2019 at 1701 Hours to 27.11.2019 upto 1500 Hours. Opening of Technical Bids 27.11.2019 at 03.30 P.M. All details of Revisions, Clarifications, Corrigendum, Addendum, Time Extension etc., if any, in respect of above tender(s) will be published in newspaper(s) separately. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated in respect of these tenders.
 RO No. 108/DPI/S/2019-20 **Dy. Director (Hort.) HQ**

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

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

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

Army patrol hit by Siachen avalanche, four killed



PNS ■ JAMMU

avalanche in Northern Siachen glacier.

Lance Naik Hanamantappa Koppad of 19 Madras Regiment was extricated from his fibre-reinforced hut, buried under the 35 feet deep snow wall after a gap of 140 hours, but he could not survive even after he was airlifted to Army's Research and Referral hospital in New Delhi for specialised medical care.

Meanwhile, the rescue teams were reportedly working round the clock and observing all precautions since the unstable ice and snow in the region could trigger fresh avalanches.

The rescue teams, armed with sophisticated equipment, have been camping in the area to rescue members of the patrol party, official sources said.

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

(A)

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

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

(B)

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

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

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

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Amba...
Rainbow memories
21 beautiful years.
We've been blessed to have your Laughter
And your wonderful, loving presence
Every precious moment

You are Always in our hearts

Gun Nidhi & Manju Kapur Dalmia
Agastya, Katyayani & Maya
Amba's friends and family

19.5.1980 - 19.11.2001

NITI mulls healthcare system for middle class

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

dle class," Kumar said.

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

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

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

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

Sensex ends 72 pts lower

Yes Bank drops 4%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS CORNER

CLW'S TRAINING PROGRAMME CONCLUDES

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



LIC EXTENDS SPECIAL REVIVAL CAMPAIGN

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



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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said a total of 11.7 million vehicles of all categories were sold this year as against 14.1 million units in the April-September 2018 period, but festive demand this year led to a 0.3 per cent growth in the passenger vehicles segment.

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

Indra Nooyi inducted into Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American former PepsiCo head Indra Nooyi and Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos have been inducted into the prestigious Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery for their accomplishments and positive impact on America's shared history, development and culture. Founded by Congress in 1962, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery tell the story of America by portraying the people who have made significant contributions to the history, development, and culture of the people of the US.

Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the Portrait Gallery presents poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives form America's national identity.

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

"Nobody is entitled to a fat salary and high-paying job unless you perform, right? You have to deliver value." "All across industry, may be 30,000 to 40,000 in a year..." he said when asked about the number of middle-level staff who would lose their jobs.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Vodafone Idea to raise mobile services rates from Dec 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

India ranks 59 on IMD World Talent Ranking Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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



OJSWI TRADES INVESTMENT AND FINANCE LIMITED
Kh. No. 305, Gopi Ram Building, Sultanpur Village, New Delhi-110030
Tel. No:- 09810836602, Fax No:- 0124-4699333
CIN:- L67120DL1990PLC042059
Website:- www.ojswi.in; Email Id:- corporate.ojswi@gmail.com

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

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

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

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/- Sandeep Garg Director (DIN: 00021295)

Place:- New Delhi Date:- November 16, 2019

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Chemsford Road near New Delhi Railway Station, Pahar Ganj, Delhi on 26.10.2019. In this regard a DD No. 39-A, Dated 26.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hairs: White & Black, Wearing: White Shirt & Black Pant. Dead body preserved at Lady Harding Hospital Mortuary. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi Ph.: 011-23524746, 23520787 DP/6739/CD/19



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

Sd/- SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Tel. No. 011-23967889 DP/629/N/19



RBI plans to set up college of supervisors: Das

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank is in the process of setting up a "college of supervisors" to augment the supervisory skills of its key personnel, governor Shaktikanta Das has said.

The development can be attributed as a response to the massive scam at Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, which for three years hoodwinked the regulator with cooked up books-something the annual inspection by the RBI supervisors could not notice and take preventive action.

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

The governor was addressing a closed-door conference on "50 years of bank nationalisation" organised by Ahmedabad University over the weekend.

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

SINGLES

INDIA TO MEET PAKISTAN IN SEMIFINAL
SAVAR: Chinmay Sutar and Shubham Sharma starred in India's comprehensive 120-run win over Hong Kong in the ACC Emerging Teams Cup on Monday. India will now clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in the semifinals. Sutar smashed an unbeaten 104 off 85 balls and Sharma an unbeaten 65 off 55 balls as India amassed 322 for five in 50 overs. Opener and wicketkeeper B R Sharath too made a valuable contribution with 90 off 93 balls. Sharma also contributed with the ball taking four wickets for 32 runs in 10 overs as India bowled out Hong Kong for 202 in 47.3 overs. Shahid Wasif top-scored for Hong Kong with 68 off 84 balls. India take on Pakistan in Dhaka tomorrow while their semifinal will be played between hosts Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The final too will be played in Dhaka on November 23.

BOPANNA PULLS OUT OF DAVIS CUP TIE
NEW DELHI: Senior player Rohan Bopanna pulled out of India's upcoming tie against Pakistan due to a shoulder injury, paving the way for Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan's inclusion in the playing squad. Bopanna, who underwent an MRI scan on Monday, communicated his unavailability to non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal. The 39-year-old was expected to be paired with veteran Leander Paes for the doubles rubber of the November 29-30 tie. "It's disappointing not to have Rohan in the side. But we want him to protect his shoulder. He needs shots (injection) for treatment. We have an able replacement in Jeevan. He has done well on the Tour and we will have a good left-right combination," Rajpal said.

MURALI VINAY OUT OF MUSHTAQ ALI
CHENNAI: Experienced opener Murali Vijay will miss the Super League and Knockout matches of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament to be played in Surat from November 21 due to an ankle injury. Vijay has done well in the recent Vijay Hazare Trophy (50 overs) and Mushtaq Ali Trophy making 284 runs (8 matches, 1 century) and 127 runs (from 6 matches) respectively. He will be replaced by left-arm spinner M Siddharth in the squad, a press release from Tamil Nadu Cricket Association said. Tamil Nadu chief selector M Senthilnathan said Siddharth was picked as it was felt there were enough batsmen in the squad and as a back-up spinner.

VJENDER TO FACE ADAMU IN DUBAI
DUBAI: Indian boxing star Vijender Singh will square off against two-time former Commonwealth super middle-weight champion Charles Adamu of Ghana in his next professional bout here on November 22. Vijender, managed by Top Rank Promotions and IOS Boxing, made his US debut earlier this year in July, recording an 11th successive win, beating Mike Snider. WBO Asia Pacific & Oriental super middleweight champion, will take on the 42-year-old Adamu in a 10-round fight. Adamu is a veteran of 47 fights with a record of 33-14-0, including 26 knockouts. He completed most recently in Feb this year, winning via a Technical Knockout to end losing streak. **AGENCIES**

Now is the time

Struggling India face Oman in do-or-die World Cup qualifying round away match



Indian coach Igor Stimac shake hands with his Oman counterpart before the start of pre-match press conference in Muscat on Monday

Points not revenge on Chhetri's mind

MUSCAT: India are not looking at revenge but full points against Oman, skipper Sunil Chhetri said on Monday as they gear up to take on the hosts.

Oman had beaten India 2-1 in Guwahati in September but Chhetri dismissed talks about India gunning for a revenge.

"We won't think about revenge or anything closer to that, absolutely not. At the end of the day, the points matter. It's not a derby as they are not our neighbours," Chhetri said during a training session.

"These are the qualifiers and we have only one thing in our mind, to go out and give everything that we have and take the result. I mean the important point is to go and play well, especially in the away matches."

Oman striker Al Mandhar has already scored four goals in four matches during the qualifiers but Pritam Kotal felt everyone should be dealt with equally to come out with a favourable result.

"It's not only Al Mandhar, other attackers like Al Alwai, Al Ghassani everyone can impose equal danger to a defence line. They are quick, they switch positions fast and can score from long. We have to be extra cautious of their long-range shots," Kotal opined.

Custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu picked that staying unbeaten on the road is the priority now and Oman is going to be a difficult opponent to play against.

"It's always difficult playing away from home and we recognise the threats (from Oman) given their ability and strength. We have to make sure we deal with them well." **PTI**

come their way and score goals.

"Oman are much better now than the team we played against in Guwahati. They are the favourites. We know for a fact that match is going to be very difficult for us," the high profile Croatian coach said.

Historically too, India are the underdogs, having not won any of the 11 matches they have played against Oman who have emerged victorious on eight occasions.

Before the Guwahati match in September, the two sides played out a 0-0 draw in the run-up to the 2019 Asian Cup in the UAE. In the two legs of the 2018 World Cup qualifiers played in 2015, India had lost to Oman 0-3 in Muscat before a 1-2 defeat in Bangalore.

India will still be without senior central defender Anas Edathodika as he returned home before the Afghanistan match due to a family emergency, dealing a further blow to a team which has lost the services of Sandesh Jhingan, Rowling Borges and Amarjit Singh due to injuries.



Indian coach Igor Stimac during team's practice session

Oman vs India
Live from 8:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Winless in four games so far in an increasingly disappointing campaign, the Indian football team faces higher-ranked Oman in a do-or-die World Cup qualifying round match here today.

A first half strike from Sunil Chhetri gave India hopes of beating Oman in the first leg in Guwahati in September but it ultimately turned out to be so-near-yet-so-far as the Gulf nation struck twice in the final 10 minutes to outwit the home side.

Oman are coming into this match after an emphatic (4-1) win over Bangladesh on November 14.

India, on the other hand, are struggling after an impressive goal-less draw against Asian champions Qatar as they needed late equalisers in their identical 1-1 draws against lower-ranked Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

After three draws and a defeat, India are fourth in the Group E table with three points while Oman are second with nine points from four matches. Qatar are on top with 10 points from four matches.

An upset win over Oman will certainly keep Igor Stimac's side in the hunt for a next round berth but a loss will virtually send India out of reckoning as far as the 2022 World Cup qualification is concerned.

If India lose, they will trail Oman by nine points and have only three matches — maximum nine points — left to play in this second round of the qualifiers.

Even the runner-up sides from the eight groups are not guaranteed an automatic spot in the third round of the qualifiers.

A draw against Oman will also make it difficult for India to qualify for the next round. Their last three matches — all to be played next year — are against Qatar (at home on March 26), Bangladesh (away, June 4) and Afghanistan (at home, June 9).

But getting a least a point against Oman may prove crucial as it will make it easier for India to get an automatic third round berth for the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers.

This campaign is also a joint qualifying round for the 2023 Asian Cup and the third-placed teams and the best four fourth placed teams from the eight groups automatically get a spot in the third round of the qualifiers of the continental championships.

Stimac's side has struggled not just in defence but four matches into this campaign, it is also clear that its offence is also not in the best of form.

India is no longer dependent on only Chhetri to score the goals but the inability to convert the chances has cost the team dear.

Stimac has no illusion about who is the favourite today but he is also hoping that his players will convert the chances which



Cristiano Ronaldo, left, celebrates with his teammate Diogo Jota after he scored Portugal's second goal

AFP ■ PARIS

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as reigning champions Portugal secured their place at the Euro 2020 finals with a 2-0 victory away to Luxembourg, while France ended their qualifying campaign with victory.

Bruno Fernandes struck the opening goal on 39 minutes on Sunday before Ronaldo tapped in a scrappy second late to clinch second place in Group B behind winners Ukraine, who drew 2-2 in Serbia.

Iranian striker Ali Daei holds the world record with 109 international goals scored in 149 appearances between 1993 and 2006.

"All records must be broken and I will beat that record," said Ronaldo.

Portugal became the 17th nation to qualify for next year's multi-host tournament, which kicks off in Rome on June 12, joining the likes of world champions France, Spain, Italy and England.

"We can't give the match high marks for style," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos, who admitted the heavy pitch made life challenging for his team.

"I'm very happy for my players because the qualifying campaign has been more difficult than we expected."



99 not out

Ronaldo scores 99th Portugal goal as holders seal Euro 2020 spot

"We're through to the finals of a major tournament for an 11th straight time. You've got to believe in these players."

Portugal knew they would book their place at Euro 2020 with a win or by matching Serbia's result from their game in Belgrade.

But they were made to work hard by a Luxembourg team ranked 96th in the world that notably held France to a 0-0 draw in 2018 World Cup qualifying.

Sporting Lisbon midfielder Fernandes broke the deadlock before half-time, controlling Bernardo Silva's pinpoint pass expertly before lashing in from 20 yards.

Ronaldo, who smacked in a hat-trick in Thursday's 6-0 thrashing of Lithuania, moved to the brink of his international century four minutes from time.

Silva's far-post cross was forced towards goal by Diogo Jota, with Luxembourg goalkeeper Anthony Moris getting a hand to the ball before Ronaldo turned in from the goalline.

FRANCE SIGN OFF

Later on Sunday, world champions France wrapped up top spot in Group H as goals from Corentin Tolisso and Antoine Griezmann sealed a 2-0 win over Albania in Tirana.

"I'm very dependent on the players," French World Cup-winning coach Didier Deschamps said after his 100th game in charge.

"It's a personal pride. But it's good to see what the players do together. At times, it can be a bit more difficult with changes to the players, injured players, but the spirit is there."

The visitors made a quick start on the pitch, though, as Bayern Munich midfielder Tolisso headed Griezmann's free-kick into the bottom corner.

The Barcelona star slotted in the second himself on the half-hour mark, before the dead rubber petered out in the second period, with Olivier Giroud going closest to a third by striking the post.

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Max Verstappen underlined his potential as a champion of the future on Sunday with a commanding victory for Red Bull in an astonishing and crash-hit Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos.

The 22-year-old Dutchman twice passed newly-crowned six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton in a thrilling contest that had two safety car interventions and saw the Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clash and retire, before clinching the eighth victory of his career.

His third win this season also made up for his disappointment in last year's race in Brazil when he looked certain to win before a late accident wrecked his hopes of victory.

He made the most of pole position and finished a dominant winner ahead of his former Red Bull teammate Pierre Gasly, now with Toro Rosso, as they delivered a Honda-powered one-two for the Japanese company for the first time since the heyday of local hero Ayrton Senna.

Frenchman Gasly came home 0.062 seconds ahead of Hamilton, who finished third for Mercedes but was demoted to seventh following a post-race stewards' investigation after crashing with luckless Thai driver Alexander Albon, the man who replaced Gasly at Red Bull, in the final laps.

Hamilton's demotion gifted McLaren's Carlos Sainz his first Formula One podium, subject to several other stewards' inquiries.

"Lewis was very quick," said Verstappen. "So I had to keep pushing all the time. He pitted early so we

MAX BENEFIT

Verstappen wins crazy Brazilian GP as both Ferraris crash out



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after winning the Brazilian GP

had to be on top of our pit-stops and we had a good move on him.

"I could control the race with the tyres I had, so, for me, it was unbelievable. It was a lot of fun out there and great to win the race."

VETTEL, LECLERC SUMMONED

Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto has called drivers Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc to a clear-the-air meeting after their collision wrecked the team's hopes in Sao Paulo.

The pair, who collided while fighting for fourth place, were forced to retire from the race, leaving Ferrari embarrassed and pointless and the drivers arguing about who was to blame. "There will be time (for us all) together at Maranello to understand what happened," said Binotto.

"It's not for me to blame them, it's for them to recognise it." Both cars were damaged and forced to retire in the incident, which came after a Safety Car restart when Vettel 'closed the door' on a challenging Leclerc.

It resulted in Ferrari's first scoreless race since the 2017 Singapore Grand Prix and refocused criticism on the team's habit of generating self-inflicted damage — and the fractious relationship between their drivers.

"I have not reviewed yet, I don't want to do it yet," insisted Binotto. "I think doing things in the heat of the moment, we may have the wrong conclusion."

"I heard both drivers, but they will come as well together to discuss again what happened and there will be time for the team to analyse all the video and the data."

"Whatever will be the judgement, more important is we are disappointed and sorry for the team."

"But first, the two drivers should be sorry for the team — as it has been a very small crash with big consequences..."

"They are silly things that should not happen."

Reid to focus on individual improvement

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

With no international assignment till next year, the Indian men's hockey side will focus on individual improvement rather than team tactics during the ongoing national camp, chief coach Graham Reid said on Monday.

After securing a 2020 Olympics berth in the qualifiers against Russia, the team is currently undergoing a three-week training and conditioning camp which will conclude on December 8.

"Given there is no tournament immediately following the three-week camp in



Bhubaneswar, it is a perfect opportunity for us to change focus from team tactics to more about individual improvement," Reid said as the national camp of 33 core probables which began at the Kalinga Stadium here on Monday.

"We will do this through detailed analysis and review from our performances last season including the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Odisha. This will provide a good road-map for us in our quest to squeeze as much improvement as we can in the next nine months," the 53-year-old Australian added.

The Indian team recently secured its place at the 2020 Olympic Games by defeating Russia 11-3 on aggregate at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers here.

India's next assignment will be the twin home leg matches of the FIH Pro League against the Netherlands in January next year.

Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar will host India's home matches during the 2020 Hockey Pro League, the sport's governing body announced on Monday.

The first team that India will host is the Netherlands on January 18. The Pro League will feature 144 matches in the coming season.

Australia's home matches will be played in Perth and Sydney, while England will be playing its share in London.

The first match will feature the Netherlands and China on January 11, 2020 at the Wujin Hockey Stadium in Changzhou.

NEW KING OF LONDON

Tsitsipas topples Thiem to become first Greek player to win ATP Finals title

AFP ■ LONDON

Stefanos Tsitsipas battled back from a set down against Dominic Thiem to win the ATP Finals title on Sunday night, emphatically staking his claim as the leader of the next generation of aspiring global superstars.

The Greek 21-year-old, who won, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) is the youngest champion since Lleyton Hewitt in 2001 and the fourth first-time champion at the season-ending event in as many years.

It is Tsitsipas's third title of the season and comes a year after he was crowned champion at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan.

He has charmed the crowd at London's O2 Arena all week and earned his place in the final with an impressive straight-sets win against six-time champion Roger Federer.

"I can't sum up my emotions right now," said Tsitsipas. "It's amazing to be remembered as the 2019 champion. It is a dream come true and the best way to end this match."

"I did get nervous at some points in the match but I managed to forget about how I felt and I had momentum in the tie-break which was really tight.

"My fighting spirit and me constantly trying to push myself to do better got me there in the end."

Defeat is a bitter disappointment for Thiem, who won five titles this year, including the Indian Wells Masters, and reached a second successive French Open final.

There was little to choose between sixth-seed Tsitsipas and Austria's world number five Thiem in the first set as a total of five break points went begging.

Both players had impressed on serve during the tournament, with Tsitsipas's figures especially striking — 44 service games won out of 47 leading into the final.

In an inevitable tie-break Tsitsipas saved a set point at 5/6 but



Stefanos Tsitsipas, right, and Dominic Thiem pose for the media with their trophies after the final of the ATP World Finals match

Thiem clinched his second set point with a powerful serve that the Greek returned into the net.

TSITSIPAS BREAKS

But Tsitsipas regrouped and within minutes Thiem, who beat his opponent in three sets in the Beijing final last month, was under pressure, spraying a forehand wide to concede first break of the match.

Tsitsipas held with ease and then produced a forehand down the line to break again, with Thiem threatening to unravel. Tsitsipas had won 12 out of 14 points in the set.

Thiem, who like Tsitsipas plays with a single-handed backhand, stemmed the tide but could make little impression on his opponent's serve and lost the set 6-2.

Thiem was rocking again at the start of the deciding set. He saved two break points in the first game but looked increasingly shaky and was broken to trail 1-2.

The Greek was now well on top but out of nowhere Thiem leveled at 3-3 after Tsitsipas put a backhand wide.

The Austrian was now playing with much more confidence, unleashing a series of blistering winners and edged ahead 5-4 after another service hold but the rest of the set went with serve.

In the deciding set tie-break Tsitsipas took a 4-2 lead but was pegged back to 4/4.

But on the next point Tsitsipas earned a mini-break, giving him the chance to serve out for the

Murray will do 'great job' at Davis Cup



AFP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray will do a "great job" when he continues his comeback from injury at next week's inaugural Davis Cup Finals in Madrid, British captain Leon Smith said on Sunday.

Murray, who inspired Britain to the 2015 Davis Cup title, will line up alongside his older brother Jamie, Dan Evans, Kyle Edmund and Neal Skupski at the Caja Magica.

"Andy feels great," said Smith. "He's obviously extremely happy to be back in tennis."

"He's training unbelievably hard to get back to his best position, with great focus."

"If he's picked to play, then I know he will do a great job on the court. That's not ego, that's confidence of course."

"He's still a very good tennis player, he's pushing (the other) guys ahead. And at the same time, you realise what he's gone through."

Britain, who were handed a wildcard for the first tournament since the old World Group was scrapped, will be favourites to progress from a Group E.

Nadal ends as No 1

AFP ■ LONDON

TOP 10 PLAYERS		
1.	Rafael Nadal (ESP)	9,985 pts
2.	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	9,145
3.	Roger Federer (SUI)	6,590
4.	Dominic Thiem (AUT)	5,825 (+1)
5.	Daniil Medvedev (RUS)	5,705 (-1)
6.	Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	5,300
7.	Alexander Zverev (GER)	3,345
8.	Matteo Berrettini (ITA)	2,870
9.	Roberto Bautista (ESP)	2,540
10.	Gael Monfils (FRA)	2,530
126.	Andy Murray (GBR)	442

Rafael Nadal was confirmed as the year-end world number one for the fifth time after the ATP released its season-closing rankings on Monday.

The Spaniard did not make it beyond the group stage of last week's ATP Finals in London but Novak Djokovic's failure to reach the semi-finals meant Nadal closed the year with 9,985 points, 840 clear of the Serb.

Nadal draws level with rivals Djokovic and Roger Federer, who have also finished the year in top spot five times, and moves one behind six-time end-of-year number one Pete Sampras.

Nadal and Djokovic have been this year's two dominant players after winning two Majors each.

Djokovic won the Australian Open and Wimbledon with Nadal cleaning up at Roland Garros and the US Open.

Federer ends the season at number three for the second year running. The Swiss, who turned 38 in August, has cut down his Tour commitments to focus on events around Grand Slams.

He reached the semi-finals of the French Open where he lost to Nadal and the last eight at Flushing Meadows where he lost in five sets to world number 20 Gregor Dimitrov.

In between he lost an epic Wimbledon final against Djokovic, the first to be decided by a tie-break in the fifth set, suggesting that he still has hopes of a 21st major title in 2020.

Dominic Thiem, who took a set off Nadal in the final of the French Open, moves up to number four.

The 21-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas closes the year at number six, just behind Daniil Medvedev, after his triumph in London.

Former world number one Andy Murray began the year ranked at 240 and the prospect of retirement.

As he struggled with surgery on a hip injury and the subsequent recuperation he had slipped to 503 in September before a dramatic return to the courts, which produced a remarkable victory at the European Open in Antwerp, lifted him to a year-end 126.



Eves continue to dominate WI

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

The series already in their pocket, India women continued their domination over the West Indies spinners shine as India win 4th T20 by 5 runs

Indian to reach double digit score. Hayley Mathews (3/13) scalped three wickets for the hosts, while Afy Fletcher (2/2) and Sheneta Grimmond (2/10) picked up two wickets apiece.

The Indians then bowled and fielded with discipline to restrict the West Indies women to 45 for five in their nine overs.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur completely relied on her spinners and they did not disappoint her as off-spinner Anuja Patil (2/8), Deepti Sharma (1/8) and Radha Yadav (1/8) kept the Windies on a tight leash throughout to ensure the win.

Mathews (11) and Chinelle Henry (11) top-scored for the home team.

The fifth and final T20 of the series will be played here on Thursday.

Paine drops retirement hint

Test skipper says that he's not sure, but Australian summer could be his last

IANS ■ BRISBANE

Australia captain Tim Paine on Monday said the upcoming Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand could be the last time he leads the side at home.

"It might be (my last summer), I'm not too sure," Paine told reporters. "But... I'm enjoying doing it. I feel good physically (and) mentally. So while that continues, I'm scoring enough runs and keeping well enough, then I'd like to continue."

"I know when you get to my age that can change really quickly. I'm really looking forward to this summer, beyond that I haven't looked too far. I know what I want to do and what I want to achieve."

Wicketkeeper Paine, 34, took over the reins after former skipper Steve Smith was handed a one-year suspension last year for his role in the ball tampering scandal.

There have been talks of restoring Smith as captain as his exceptional performance at the Ashes where he amassed 774 runs.

Asked about his aim as skipper, Paine said Australia's top priority is to reclaim top spot in ICC test rankings and win the World Test Championship (WTC) where they are right now placed fifth in the points table.

"Our goal is to get back to that number one ranking and we want to win that 'Test Championship,'" he added. "To do that we're going to have to be good enough to win in India and we're going to have to be good enough to beat everyone, everywhere."

"It's the only way we're going to get to where we want to get to. It's an exciting period and I'm looking forward to being part of the start of that and there is no end point at the moment!"



Tim Paine celebrates with Aus teammates

Delhi qualify for Super League

PTI ■ SURAT

Delhi qualify for Super League of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament

All-rounder Lalit Yadav claimed three wickets with his off-breaks as Delhi notched up a comprehensive 20-run win over Odisha in their final Group E match to qualify for the Super League of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Monday.

Elected to bat, Delhi posted 149 for six and then returned to dismiss Odisha for 129 in 18.1 overs to complete the win and top Group E with 22 points from seven matches.

Going through a rough patch, Shikhar Dhawan top-scored with a 33-ball 35 which comprised three fours and a six. However his struggle was apparent against an unfancied Odisha attack. He failed to get going.

Earlier, Delhi batsmen, including opener Hiten Dalal (20) and first-down Dhruv Shorey (26), got starts but none could convert them into big scores but they did enough to help the team post a decent score on board.

For Odisha, Abhishek Raut (2/21) took two wickets, while Govinda Poddar (1/18), Suryakant Pradhan (1/31), Pappu Roy (1/35) and Subham Nayak (1/29) accounted for one wicket each.

Defending the total, Yadav returned with impressive figures of 3.1-1-10-3 and he was ably supported by Pawan Negi (2/38) and Nitish Rana (2/6) as the trio derailed Odisha's chase.

Odisha had a disastrous start and were looking down the



Harshal Patel in action during Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament

Kidambi eyes good show in Korea

PTI ■ GWANGJU

Kidambi Srikanth in action during Denmark Open tournament

Overall, world number 13 Srikanth enjoys a 10-3 head-to-head record against Wong Wing Ki, who is on a comeback trail after suffering the personal tragedy.

World number 9 Saina, who has made early exits in a series of tournaments recently, decided to skip the event but she is likely to feature at the Syed Modi International World Tour Super 300 in Lucknow next week.

With Saina's withdrawal, there is no Indian participation in women's singles.

Among other Indians in the fray, world number 16 Sameer Verma will take on top seed Chinese Shi Yu Qi in the opening round, while his elder brother Sourabh Verma will face a qualifier.

Subhankar Dey, who had claimed the SaarLorLux Open last year, will need to fight it out against Olympic champion and second seed Chen Long of China.

No Indian is taking part in any doubles competition.

phase since his final finish at India Open this year, Srikanth boosted his confidence with a semifinal appearance at the Hong Kong Open last week.

It was his first appearance at the last four stage since the India Open and the Indian ace would look to continue the good run when he opens against Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent in the men's singles.

Back in form after a string of below-par performances, Kidambi Srikanth would look for another good outing while Saina Nehwal pulled out of the Korea Masters World Tour Super 300 tournament, which starts with the qualifiers here today.

After going through a tough



Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim, right, listens to head coach Russell Domingo after batting in the nets during a training session with the pink ball ahead of their second Test match against India in Indore on Monday

Sarfraz should focus on domestic cricket: Pak PM

KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan has advised sacked Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed to focus on domestic cricket to get back to the national team.

Khan, the patron-in-chief of Pakistan Cricket Board and a former captain, also backed the appointment of Misbah-ul-Haq as head coach and chief selector.

"I don't think the performance and form of a player should be judged by T20 cricket but through Test and One-day cricket. He can come back to the national team, he should focus on domestic cricket," Khan said when asked about Sarfraz.

The wicketkeeper-batsman was removed as captain and dropped from the team in all three formats by the PCB last month after Pakistan were whitewashed 0-3 in a T20 series at home.

Regarding the appointment of Misbah as head coach and chief selector, Khan said, "It is a constructive move to appoint Misbah as he is an honest and unbiased personality who has loads of experience behind him."

"I think Misbah will turn out to be a good choice and Pakistan will improve and do well in Test and ODI cricket under him. He has this talent in him that he can groom the players and also improve their performance," he added.

Khan also supported the new domestic first-class season in which only six provincial teams are competing on home and away basis and said eventually this will lead to a better cricket system in the country.

He noted that there was already some improvement in domestic cricket and hoped it will get better.

"If our domestic cricket improves, then Pakistan cricket will also move forward."

HARYANA MAUL MECHALAYA MUMBAI: Powered by an all-round show by Harshal Patel, Haryana ended their league stage campaign on a high with a 99-run win against Meghalaya in a Group D match.

Put into bat at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in the suburbs, Haryana rode on a quick fire 82 off 40 balls by opener Patel to amass a competitive 202/6.

The chase was an uphill task for Meghalaya, who struggled to get going and were restricted to 103/9.

Patel, a right-arm medium pacer, then shone with the ball to return with fine figures of 3/22.