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Arrest PC if needed: Court to ED

Judge allows agency to quiz Chidambaram in Tihar jail today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The trial court on Tuesday permitted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to interrogate and arrest, if necessary, former Finance Minister Chidambaram in the INX Media bribery case. Armed with the order, the ED is expected to take Chidambaram in its custody on Wednesday.

After this development, even if Chidambaram's bail petition in the Supreme Court in the CBI case is favourably disposed, he might end up spending Diwali behind bars.

Trial court judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar on Tuesday evening passed the order allowing the ED to interrogate Chidambaram in Tihar jail on Wednesday and arrest him if necessary. The court said three ED officials can interrogate Chidambaram on Wednesday after 8.30 am and asked the jail superintendent to make arrangements in this regard.

The former Finance Minister's judicial custody in the INX Media corruption case, which was filed by the CBI, ends on October 17. Since his arrest on August 21, he has till Tuesday spent 54 days in custody — both of the CBI as well as judicial — in nine spells.

After the court passed the order, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Special Public Prosecutor Amit Mahajan, appearing for the ED, sought permission to question



Senior Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram after being produced in the Rouse Avenue Court in connection with the INX Media corruption case in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Chidambaram in some space available on Rouse Avenue court premises. The court, however, said, "It's not in the dignity of this person that you interrogate and arrest him here in public view." The court also rejected Chidambaram's petition against the production warrant.

Chidambaram on Tuesday sought bail from the Supreme Court in the INX Media corruption case saying the CBI wants to keep him in custody to humiliate him. The court

will hear on Wednesday the arguments of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI. Citing his attempts to meet to two crucial witnesses, the agency reiterated that Chidambaram should not be given bail. Justice R Banumathi headed Bench will resume hearing on this petition on Wednesday morning and the ED is expected to make arrest early in the morning.

After the trial court's permission to the ED, Chidambaram's bail petition in

the apex court has literally become useless. The ED will get maximum 15 days custody of Chidambaram following which he may be remanded in judicial custody till he gets bail in the ED's case.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Chidambaram, told a 3-judge bench headed by Justice R Banumathi that there were no allegations against their party colleague or his family members of having ever tried to

approach or influence any witness in the case.

Sibal told the Bench, also comprising justices AS Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, that Chidambaram is in custody for last 55 days and the Delhi High Court had rejected his bail plea in a "strange way".

Chidambaram, 74, was arrested by the CBI on August 21 and is lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody in the corruption case.

The CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017 alleging irregularities in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of ₹305 crore in 2007 during Chidambaram's tenure as the Finance Minister.

Thereafter, the ED lodged a money-laundering case in this regard in 2017.

Chidambaram moved the top court challenging the Delhi High Court's September 30 verdict denying him bail in the INX Media case lodged by the CBI.

Sibal told the Bench on Tuesday that earlier the ED had argued before the apex court that they want custodial interrogation of Chidambaram, but later they opposed his application filed in the trial court to surrender in the money laundering case.

"Bail should be granted to him (Chidambaram). They (CBI) want to keep me in jail to humiliate him," Sibal argued before the apex court.

Praful summoned over deal with Mirchi's wife

ED to question NCP leader on Oct 18; Patel claims case 'unsubstantiated'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Another senior Minister from the earlier UPA Government landed in trouble on Tuesday as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned Praful Patel for questioning on October 18 in connection with an alleged property deal between him and Hajra Iqbal, the wife of late Iqbal Mirchi, an erstwhile close aide of Karachi-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

As it readied itself to arrest former Union Minister P Chidambaram on Wednesday for custodial interrogation in the INX Media case, the ED prepared the ground for the questioning of former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel on allegations of quid pro quo in a property deal with late Iqbal Mirchi's wife Hajra.

Official sources said that at its office in Mumbai on October 18, the ED would record Patel's statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a deal between a real estate company promoted by him, his wife and late Mirchi's wife.

The ED documents have revealed that Millennium



Developers Pvt Limited, a company promoted by Patel and his wife, constructed Ceejay House and transferred its third and fourth floors to Mirchi's wife Hajra Iqbal in 2007 "towards beneficial interest of Mirchi in the land on which the structure is built". Patel and his wife own a significant number of shares in Millennium Developers Private Limited.

However, Patel dismissed the case, saying, "It is an old case and since I am on election tour, I am not privy to the documents. But I can tell you that the allegations against me are false and unsubstantiated."

Talking to mediapersons here, he said, "Documents may have been leaked to media. Obviously, you are in possession of some papers which may have never been brought to my attention."

The ED is investigating several property deals, including Ceejay House at Worli in south-central Mumbai, which

was reportedly owned by Mirchi's first wife Hajra Memon. Ceejay House is constructed on a plot allegedly owned by Iqbal Mirchi. The ED's contention is that Patel redeveloped Ceejay House in 2005. The ED considers the property as "proceeds of crime".

The ED's move to question to Patel comes in the wake of the grilling of Mukhtar Memon, an alleged key person who handles various properties of Mirchi in Mumbai. Memon is the brother-in-law of Mirchi.

In his interaction with the media, Patel said that the matter was under investigation and the issue is if the "person at Ceejay House is linked with me". The building, according to Patel, was there in 1970. "After my father's death, there was dispute in the family among 21 co-owners. The Mumbai High Court was asked in 1978 to take charge and look after the property," Patel said.

According to the list of Mirchi's properties located in India and the UK, Ceejay House was constructed in 2006-07 as a joint venture (JV) between Mirchi and Millenium Developers Pvt Ltd.

The ED probe has revealed Mirchi had bought/developed several properties in India and abroad from the proceeds of crime generated through various illegal offences.

The NCP is seeing the action against its leader as "political vendetta" in the run up to the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

Ayodhya case hearing sees sharp exchanges between lawyers in SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday saw sharp exchanges between the lawyers representing Hindu and Muslim parties during the proceedings in the politically sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case.

A 5-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was hearing arguments of former Attorney General and senior advocate K Parasaran, appearing for a Hindu party.

He was responding to the lawsuit filed by the Sunni Wafk Board and others in 1961 to seek claim over the disputed site at Ayodhya.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who represents Muslim parties, got up and intervened when Parasaran was submitting that a "historical wrong" was committed by Mughal emperor Babur after his conquest of India more than 433 years ago by constructing a mosque at the birthplace of Lord Ram and it needed to be corrected.

Parasaran, along with another senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan, objected that there were lot of interruptions from the

other side and the court should set the things right as this is the case of public right.

The bench then said it will allow Dhavan to make rejoinder submissions.

Later in the day, Vaidyanathan, who started arguing on behalf of one Mahant Suresh Das, took strong note of some murmuring of lawyers from the other side and said: "I cannot continue with the running commentary going on here."

The senior lawyer was saying that they have perfected the title by "long and exclusive use" of the disputed property. That would be a definite admission that Hindus or the temple or the deity was the previous owner if Muslims claim benefit of adverse possession doctrine, he said.

As Vaidyanathan said that he cannot argue, Dhavan, in high pitch tone, said, "What is all this. How can he say that I am doing the running commentary?"

"Stop this," shouted Dhavan and this led to a sharp reaction from Vaidyanathan as well.

"How can he (Dhavan) say this (stop it) to me," Vaidyanathan retorted and urged the court to take note of all this.

The CJJ tried to calm the tempers and said "these are disruptions...you (Vaidyanathan) see, how agitated you are looking?"

Vaidyanathan then proceeded with his submissions and alleged that the Muslim side can take benefit of adverse possession only if they admit that the deity was the previous and lawful owner of the property.

"They have not proved that there was a grant from Babur...If it was the case of dedication as wakf on the ground of long user, then how can there be a concept of joint possession as laid down in the verdict of one of the judges of the Allahabad High Court," he said.

Dhavan again got up and said that he was forced to interrupt as the lawyer for the other side was not giving the complete picture.

"You do not have to point out the obvious to the judges," the bench told Dhavan.

The bench, which heard the matter on 39th day, said, "...tomorrow will be the 40th day and we want to conclude it".

The court had fixed October 17 as the deadline to wrap up the hearing in the case.

Woman officers to hold three-day camps in dists; spread awareness

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that three-member teams of women officers would go to districts from October 18 to 20 to spread awareness among women regarding government schemes.

All the women nominated as nodal officers for implementation of various government welfare schemes related to women have been asked to visit their respective districts and review the implementation of schemes, take feedback from women and submit a detailed report to the government before October 25.

The Chief Minister said that Kanya Sumangala Yojana would be launched on October 25 and before that, the women officers should spread awareness about the scheme among women and inform them about it.

The Chief Minister gave these instructions during a review meeting at Lok Bhawan on Tuesday.

He stressed that government welfare schemes should not remain confined to offices so that their benefits reached the people.

Bharat Ratna for Savarkar in Maha BJP manifesto

Sankalp Patra wants highest national award for Phule also, promises 1 crore jobs

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The bestowal of "Bharat Ratna" upon social reformers Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, and freedom fighter Veer Savarkar, creation of one crore jobs in five years, making Maharashtra "drought-free" in five years and ₹5 lakh crore investment in infrastructure sector are among the promises made by the ruling BJP in its manifesto for the State Assembly polls.

In its manifesto "Sankalp Patra" released three days after its ally Shiv Sena released its manifesto "Vachan Patra", the BJP has also promised houses to all the homeless in the State by 2022, pure drinking water to each household, to set up a grid for Marathwada to solve water problem in the region and to provide job opportunities to one crore women by bringing them under "Mahila Bachat Ghatak" scheme.

Releasing "Sankalp Patra" along with the party's working president JP Nadda, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "On our return to power in the State, we will recommend to the Centre a proposal to bestow 'Bharat Ratna' upon social reformers Jyotiba



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, BJP working president JP Nadda, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil and other leaders release BJP's manifesto ahead of Maharashtra Assembly elections in Mumbai on Tuesday

PTI

Phule, Savitribai Phule, and freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. These three great leaders deserved to be honoured with Bharat Ratna as they spent their whole lives for social activities. The Shiv Sena has also for some time been demanding bestowal of Bharat Ratna upon Veer Savarkar."

The promise to bestow Bharat Ratna upon the Phule couple and Veer Savarkar is being seen as a move to attract Dalit and Hindu votes.

"The focus of our manifesto is three-fold — to address drought, increase availability of water and employment," the

CM said.

The project to link various rivers, uninterrupted power supply, education, economic development, health, agriculture, social welfare, air transport, port development, water supply for irrigation and rural development are the BJP's other focus areas.

In its "Sankalp Patra", the BJP also promised to seek financial assistance from the Centre to invest to the tune of ₹1 lakh crore on infrastructural facilities, to generate solar energy in next five years that is enough to supply electricity to farmers for 12 hours in a day

and to set up a solar power grid.

In a first of its kind initiative, the BJP has promised to set up an independent authority to repair all kinds of roads. The ruling party said it would connect the entire Maharashtra by internet through Bharat Net and Maha Net.

"We will register all kinds of labourers at one place and bring them under the ambit of the social security... We will undertake a special rehabilitation programme for the retired soldiers, families of martyred soldiers and officials who died during the call of duty," the BJP manifesto said.

RBI stopped printing 2K notes since Apr 1 to prevent hoarding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India has not printed a single ₹2,000 note from April 1 onward this year. The move is seen an attempt to curb stockpiling of black money.

The RBI confirmed this in response to an RTI reply in which it said that soon after the demonitisation, the Central bank printed 3,542,991 million ₹2,000 notes to match with the demand after the existing ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes were cancelled in October 2016.

As per the RTI reply, the volume of printing of ₹2,000 notes came down drastically in the following year as the bank



went in fast gear to print currency notes of other denominations. In 2017-18, only 111.507 million notes were produced, which was further reduced to 46.690 million notes 2018-19, said the RBI.

Earlier, the RBI had refuted the reports of withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes but many experts feel that the stopping production in the financial year will lead to withdrawal of the high value note in near future.

Continued on Page 7

Farooq's sister, daughter detained for protest sans order

SMS services in Valley withdrawn after terrorists kill truck driver

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The police on Tuesday detained a small group of women led by daughter and sister of National Conference president and sitting Member Parliament Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar when they tried to stage an "unauthorised" sit-in protest against the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of State into two Union Territories.

Farooq Abdullah's sister Suraiya Mattoo, his daughter Safiya Khan, former J&K High Court chief justice Bashir Ahmad Khan's wife Professor



A paramilitary woman detains a Kashmiri woman who was among the protesters in Srinagar on Tuesday

AP

Hawa Khan and others were detained by the police from Pratap Park area.

The women arrived at the busy Lal Chowk area on Tuesday morning wearing

black arm badges and holding several placards. Safiya Khan was seen car-

rying a banner reading "Kashmiri brides not for sale", apparently implying to the statement made by some BJP leaders of Haryana and UP after the abrogation of Article 370. Other protesters were seen holding placards which demanded the release of detainees and restoration of civil liberties.

As they started assembling inside the Pratap Park, women cops, along with paramilitary forces, prevented them from staging sit-in dharna. The cops also demanded them to produce permission letter, if any, issued by the office of District Magistrate.

When these women refused to call off the dharna, women cops pushed them inside the police vans before escorting them to the nearest police station.

In a written statement, these women said, "We the

women of Kashmir disapprove the unilateral decision taken by the Government of India to revoke Article 370 and 35A and downgrade and split the State of Jammu & Kashmir. We feel betrayed, humiliated and violated as people."

"We demand immediate release of detainees. We express our outrage against the national media for their false and misleading coverage of ground realities in Kashmir," reads the statement.

Meanwhile SMS services were withdrawn by the State administration barely hours after the postpaid mobile phone services were restored across the Valley on Monday. The decision was taken after review of the prevailing security situation arising after the killing of a truck driver hailing from Rajasthan by a group of terrorists in Shopian late on Monday evening.

Education most powerful weapon: Karidhal to students

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION



Governor Anandiben Patel conferring Dr Ritu Karidhal with honorary DLitt degree at Lucknow University on Tuesday

Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

“You all are ready to begin a new chapter in your life, your professors have armed you with the most powerful weapon on earth, which is education. You have graduated and you are a part of this new global elite, and with this comes a sense of great responsibility. Go ahead and find your new goals, improve something, change people's lives and the world for the better.”

These views were expressed by ISRO scientist and Chandrayaan-2 director Dr Ritu Karidhal at the 62nd convocation of Lucknow University. She recalled that she completed her post-graduation degree from LU's department of Physics in the year 1996. “I would like to thank my teachers from those times. Prof HM Bali was the then head of the department. There were Prof JP Shukla, Prof NK Mehrotra, Prof Poonam Pandey, Prof Manisha Gupta and others under whose able guidance, I completed my post-graduation. It was the education that took me to the vast space of ISRO,” she said.

However, she pointed out that the decision taken by her parents to send her so far some 22 years ago, when the distance was not measured in kilometres but in hours, was a difficult one.

“I used to take two-and-a-half days, and not hours, in reaching Bangalore. It was not at all an easy decision for my parents. I should thank my parents who took such a tough decision without fearing about any uncertainty in a far-off and unknown place. I am sure they had utmost confidence in their daughter. My space journey began and I have got the opportunity of being a part of many prestigious missions and many challenging tasks,” Karidhal said. She said one thing which she learnt in ISRO was how to tackle complex

Topper with 14 gold medals hogs limelight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Samiya Ikram of Mathematics department, who bagged 14 gold medals, was the cynosure of all eyes and even got a special hug from Governor Anandiben Patel. She bagged the Dr AN Singh Gold Medal, Iqbal Narain Srivastava Gold Medal, Madhuri Devi Memorial Gold Medal, Ram Tirtha Gold Medal and Smt Shanti Devi Sharma Memorial Gold Medal to name a few. The topper said she was passionate about mathematics.

About her success mantra, she said one should remain disciplined in life. “I missed the chance of being a topper in earlier classes and was always left behind by one or two per cent. I am glad I have made it this time,” she said.

Other gold medallists included Rishabh Tripathi (7), Vibhantika Dwivedi (8), Apoorva Singh (6), Tanzila Siddiqui (6) and Nimisha Singh (5). Rishabh Tripathi said he is the son of a ‘purohit’ and faced financial problems also, but his passion for Indian history kept him going. “I want to become a professor. I love the subject so much that

and challenging situations and how to find a solution to a critical problem.

Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission Rajeev Kumar said he was grateful to Lucknow University because it provided him with the opportunity to study when he had some problems in Delhi.

Recalling his teachers, he said: “I remember my teachers UB Singh, Daljit Singh, Ajit



Topper Samiya Ikram being hugged by Governor Anandiben Patel at the 62nd convocation of Lucknow University on Tuesday

Pioneer

I want to take it up as my profession. I want to serve the country by highlighting its culture and tradition existing since centuries,” he said.

Vibhantika Dwivedi said that the challenging part was to choose between Science and Law. “I was very good at Science and hence I did BSc because I wanted to have a scientific background. But I was so much interested in Law that

I took it up. I think everyone should study Law,” she said. Asked as to what she wants to do for the country, she said she wants to go abroad to study the policies and then implement the same in India. Shreya Gupta, who bagged a gold medal in Geography and is doing PhD in Ecological Footprint, said she wants to work in the area of climate change.

Singh, Prakash Chandra and Shailendra Singh who always encouraged me”. He added that this is a great time when great attention is being given to the education system.

“The Central government focused on higher education and over 50 universities having NAAC scores of 3.1 and above have been given the freedom to design their own syllabi. It's time for Lucknow University to also

upgrade itself since it already has a NAAC score of 2.73. LU has the potential to become the best,” he said, adding that they would soon have a Accreditation and Advisory Council. “The world is looking at India at this point of time. When in New York, I saw that several schemes and laws such as GST, Ujjwala were being watched by other countries,” he pointed out.

ISRO scientist accorded warm welcome

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Don't give up, just keep conquering whatever you want to achieve, ISRO scientist Dr Ritu Karidhal told the students of Mahila Vidyalaya PG College on Tuesday. She was felicitated at her alma mater where she pursued BSc from 1991 to 1994. She was also registered as the first alumna of the Alumni Association formed on the occasion as a part of the 125 years celebration of one of the oldest institutes of the city.

The scientist was welcomed by a huge gathering of students who had put up posters and portraits. Walking down memory lane, she said: “I used to get down from the autorickshaw close by.”

She pointed out that what one studies from class 9 to class 12 becomes the base later. “It is at this time that you have to know which subject you like and follow it with full interest. Here what we get are the roots. Whatever subjects I studied — be it Physics, Chemistry or Mathematics — I saw them in the light of space study. I always had a fascination for space and I would wonder why was the moon walking with me at a distance. Curiosity starts at this stage itself,” she said. About her work at ISRO, she said what



Dr Ritu Karidhal signing autograph for students at Mahila Vidyalaya PG College in Lucknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

they did was something most countries failed to achieve. “However, we did it in first attempt where the chances of success were just 50 per cent. One of the key things that we had to study was the breaking of the gravitational force to launch the Chandrayaan and for that, what was required was precise planning. This was very difficult but the movement here is not as per the speed of light. We also had to make a satellite which was self-dependent and could diagnose its own problem and then set itself

right,” she said. She added that when they were given the task, they had only 18 months to finish it.

President of Mahila Vidyalaya Alok Ranjan said Karidhal was an inspiration for all. He told the students to learn what she had told them and try to imbibe it in their own lives. “ISRO is doing great work and we would want Dr Ritu Karidhal to join us for the large-scale celebrations to be held next year regarding the 125 years of Mahila College,” he added.

Guv for eradication of dowry culture

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Anandiben Patel urged the students of Lucknow University to neither accept nor offer dowry if they want to remove this social evil from the society. We may say many good things in the society, but we do not follow them when it comes to actual practice, she said while speaking at the 62nd convocation of the university on Tuesday. She also directed the university to adopt villages for poverty alleviation.

Vice-Chairperson of the Planning Commission of India Rajeev Kumar and ISRO scientist Dr Ritu Karidhal were conferred upon honorary DLitt degrees on the occasion. As many as 91 gold medals were given away. A book on the Vice-Chancellor's three-year journey at Lucknow University and LU's Academic Calendar were released on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor said she invited students from a primary government school to the convocation so that they aspire for a better education and end up studying at this university. She appreciated the fact that almost 80 per cent of the gold medallists are girls. She said she wanted to congratulate the parents of Chandrayaan Mission-2 director Dr Ritu Karidhal for helping her reach this position. She said women in all parts of the country were making great progress.

“Even the differently-abled daughters are doing well in the country and a prime example of this is an IAS officer posted in Kerala. We should treat daughters like goddesses and it is not appropriate to worship the goddess only during festivals,” the Governor said.

With reference to Indian-American economist Abhijit Banerjee, who shared the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences on Monday with his wife Esther Duflo and a fellow American, Patel said it was important to alleviate poverty and every effort should be made in this direction.

“These Noble Prize winners have given answers to questions on how poverty can



Rishabh Tripathi



Salika Khatoon



Tanzila Siddiqui



Apoorva Singh

be removed,” she said.

Referring to a survey according to which 70 crore people were below the poverty line in India, the Governor said that in the last decade, India have been able to take 27 crore people out of poverty, but 22 per cent were still below the poverty line.

“The need of the hour is for the government to make policies and guidelines. One of the best schemes of the government has been ‘PMAY’ because if slum-dwellers live in clean surroundings, they will have minimal or no diseases, and the government will not have to spend on their treatment,” she added.

She pointed out that Lucknow University was one of the few universities with a century-year old heritage associated with the city.

Quoting Nelson Mandela, she said education is a powerful tool through which you

can change the world. She added that LU is making great strides in the progress of education.

“Tagore Library here needs no introduction and everything from admission to fee payment has been digitised. The university also boasts of the process of getting feedback online. The university has to keep pace with education and because of the wonderful work done by LU in putting everything online, the state government has given it the responsibility of digitising all the universities of the state,” she added.

She also appreciated the work of the university in terms of conducting ‘Padhe Lucknow Badhe Lucknow’ for promoting a reading culture.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said convocation does not mean the end of learning. He said the university is doing

a lot of research work and centres of the prominent research centres were started here. He said a lot of changes have been made to better the standards of higher education. He also told the students to respect their teachers.

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This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd. (erstwhile Mape Finserve Pvt. Ltd.) on **22nd October 2019** at 10 AM for Alamnagar at Kundan Clinic, 1st Floor, Plot No 551 Jha/176 Kanpur Road, Alamnagar Lucknow-226005 & Gomti Nagar Branch at 1st Floor, 1/8, Bhaila Complex, Vram Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010, & For Swaroop Nagar at 204-206, 2nd Floor, Nadra Corner, 113/121, Swaroop Nagar Kanpur-208002 and Bareilly Branch: 1st Floor, Building No. SA-57/94, DD Puram Bareilly Uttar Pradesh-243001.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Alamnagar Branch: PR00646242/GLD104374/P R O 0 6 3 7 6 6 7 / GLD104716/PR00646775/GLD104383/PR00601771/GLD04737, PR00650315/GLD115024/PR00650238/GLD115023/PR00659705/ GLD115122/PR0061774/GLD044758/PR00659190/GLD038329/ PR00693249/GLD35745/PR00621526/GLD081815/PR00644924/ GLD104358/PR00689924/GLD24491/PR00593152/GLD353744/ PR00645672/GLD104385/PR00619532/GLD081791/PR00631837/ GLD032238/PR00646237/GLD104373/PR00602136/GLD044767/ PR00650966/GLD115027/PR00662210/GLD115136/PR00642285/ GLD104768/PR00626388/GLD087513/Gomti Nagar-PR00654463/ GLD115481/PR00643909/GLD109536/PR00624290/GLD087093/ PR00652180/GLD115486/PR00629015/GLD115145/PR0063563/ GLD032323/PR00608889/GLD053140/PR00624292/GLD115451/ PR00591438/GLD033911/PR00585164/GLD032322/PR00580977/ GLD032264/PR0064497/GLD124440/PR00617980/GLD059536/ PR00640794/GLD050948/PR0064933/GLD05453738/PR00610761/ GLD059555/PR00648126/GLD115411/PR00597925/GLD0434767/ PR00578926/GLD11599/PR00650126/GLD115427/PR00638822/ GLD100838/PR0063891/GLD1010070/PR00633653/GLD100628/ PR00629390/GLD094647/PR00625805/GLD079318/PR00583012/ GLD112299/PR00591753/GLD033935/PR00633935/PR00633192/ GLD1100522/PR0064847/GLD115413/PR00603142/GLD0594660/ PR00642622/GLD109518/PR0062794/GLD087934/PR0058840/ GLD043777/PR0065484/GLD124352/PR00642189/GLD109533/ PR00652698/GLD115452/PR00629040/GLD094462/PR00623186/ GLD087891/PR00642791/GLD109534/PR00644131/GLD109538/ PR00660852/GLD112405/PR00646886/GLD114996/PR00642234/ GLD109507/PR00643333/GLD109526/PR00606264/GLD058262/ PR0068896/GLD043770/PR0063471/GLD100638/PR00642410/ GLD109517/Kanpur Branch-PR00657830/GLD10423/PR00581218/ GLD14672/PR00600789/GLD047806/PR0064844/GLD10101020/ PR00673734/GLD114424/PR00581225/GLD104573/PR00606152/ GLD087891/PR00653615/GLD1010137/PR00657325/GLD14425/ PR00609001/GLD047895/PR00573130/GLD104578/PR00573248/ GLD14578/PR00567394/GLD14427/PR00594059/GLD030117/ PR00609390/GLD047896/PR00648463/GLD10101335/PR00567402/ GLD14428/PR00625615/GLD0325103/PR00576484/GLD0514613/ PR00581450/GLD114680/PR00596370/GLD030155/PR00647022/ GLD047852/PR00581504/GLD104581/PR00561579/PR00510158/ PR00572920/GLD14508/PR00623843/GLD02459/P R O 0 6 4 0 5 / GLD054786/PR00653615/GLD1010137/PR00657325/GLD14425/ PR00609390/GLD047896/PR00648463/GLD10101335/PR00567402/ GLD14428/PR00625615/GLD0325103/PR00576484/GLD0514613/ GLD101155/PR006019445/GLD047894/PR00630278/GLD0582522/ PR00619880/GLD101075/PR006050347/GLD1010146/PR00581422/ GLD054786/PR00653615/GLD1010137/PR00639344/GLD05101010/ PR00609390/GLD047896/PR00648463/GLD10101335/PR00567402/ GLD14428/PR00625615/GLD0325103/PR00576484/GLD0514613/ GLD0582490/ Bareilly Branch: PR00650800/GLD103723.

For more details, please contact
Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.
(Erstwhile Mape Finserve Pvt. Ltd.)
Contact Number(s): 1800-102-8012,
Gomti Nagar: 0522-4113074 / 4113041,
Alamnagar: 0522-4114337 / 4114338,
Swaroop Nagar: 0512-2508022 / 2530897
Bareilly Branch: 05136955045
(Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)
KARVY Retail is now SBFC

Railways gears up to deal with festive rush

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow division of Northern and North-Eastern Railways will run festival special trains and increase the frequency of trains to cater to the rush during festive season. “We have decided to run four turns (frequency) of the weekly Festival Special Train (82119/82120) between Gorakhpur and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus. The train will depart at 5.10 am from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus from on October 19, October 26, November 2 and November 9. The train from Gorakhpur will depart at 1545 hrs on October 20, October 27, November 3 and November 10,” chief PRO Pankaj Singh said. The train will consist of 22 coaches, including four general, 14 sleeper, two AC-III and two SLR coaches.

PRO, Lucknow office of NER, Alok Srivastava said: “We have started preparations to ease the passenger rush during the festivals. In fact, the festive mood has already set in and passenger volume is witnessing an increase. We are increasing the number of coaches in view of the rising demand.” According to Pankaj Singh, ticketing officials have been asked to feed the information in the system regarding augmentation of coaches. He said an additional coach has been attached with each pair of train between Gorakhpur and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Gorakhpur & Panvel, and Gorakhpur & Kanpur. On the other hand, the Lucknow division of Northern Railways has also braced up to meet the rush this festive season. NR officials said 24 pairs of trains will be running either with increased frequency or with additional number of coaches. “Some of these trains will continue to run by November 1 while some will run for more days,” they said. Even as the railways claims to have enough ground work to cater to the need of the passengers, there are number of passengers who are forced to take other transport modes to reach their respective destinations.

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RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, PARIVAHAN MARG, HEAD OFFICE, JAIPUR

NOTICE INVITING BID FOR SUPPLY OF BS IV CHASSIS FOR FABRICATION OF PASSENGER BUSES.

Online Bids in the prescribed form are invited for supply of BS-IV Chassis having Wheel Base 5100 mm to 5500 mm for fabrication of Passenger Buses as per specifications of RSRTC. The detail information of the Bid will be available at RSRTC website- <https://transport.rajjasthan.gov.in/rsrtc> and <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> also on <https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> after 09.10.2019.

Online Bids will be accepted on above website up to dated 04.11.2019 till 16.00 Hrs. and technical bids will be open on 05.11.2019 at 11.00 Hrs. in the office of the undersigned.

UBN NO. RTC/1920WSOB00309

SAMWAD/C/3200/2019-2020 **General Manager(B/B)**

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date **11.11.2019, 15:00**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. **Manual offers are not allowed against this tender**, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

1	N.I.T. No.	C/189-12/2019-20/SHG/DK Dt. 10.10.2019
2	Name of work	Mechanized cleaning work at Shahganj Railway Station.
3	Approximate Cost	Rs. 2,79,90,354/- (Rs. Two Crore Seventy Nine Lac Ninety Thousand Three Hundred Fifty four only)
4	Earnest Money	Rs. 2,90,000/- (Rupees Two lakh ninety thousand only).
5	Completion Period	Four Years (1460) days
6	Tender Closing Date and Time	11.11.2019, 15:00 hrs.
7	Tender opening date and Time	11.11.2019, 15:30 hrs.
8	Website	www.ireps.gov.in
9	Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 11800/- (Including 18% GST) per tender form
10	Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note :- 1. "No post tender, correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void."

3296/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC33813 Website : www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 238/P-2/EMP-WV 11648 dated: 10-10-19 & ID: 46400

Scope of Work: Supply, Installation, Repair & Maintenance of VPN (Virtual Private Network) services & 20 Mbps leased line link at GGSSTP, Roopnagar

Time Period: For Three Years

EMD: 15,200/-

Date & time up to which tender shall be received : 19-11-19 & 11:00 AM

Date & time of opening of tender: 19-11-19 & 11:30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com/> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

Note:

1) In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact No. +91-(79)-40016866/40/38/18/21. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL website www.pspcl.in.

Dy. CE/ Monitoring, GGSSTP, Roopnagar

RTP-77/19
DPR/14OCT19/C7467 Dt. 14-10-2019

MOLESTATION, LOOT AT BIRTHDAY BASH

Police yet to track down gatecrashers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after registering a case of dacoity and molestation with a girl during a birthday party at a club in Vibhuti Khand on Monday, the police have failed to find the named accused.

"The accused are on the lam and police teams are hunting for them. We have formed several teams to arrest those named in the case, but without any success so far. Mediapersons will be informed when the accused are arrested," police spokesman AK Dwivedi said. He added that the Vibhuti Khand SHO was yet to share with him details regarding development in the case.

When contacted, Vibhuti Khand SHO Rajeev Dwivedi said, "The address of the attackers were verified and the teams raided their houses in Khadra, Hasanganj, but they were

locked". He said the accused (Mujaddit Alfassani and Aftab) worked as brokers/property dealers and came from simple families. "They do not belong to any high-profile family, as claimed earlier," he said.

The SHO said that the police were yet to identify the aides of named accused. Interestingly, Gomti Nagar CO AC Srivastava was not even aware about the incident and said he needed some time. The group of miscreants, with some armed with pistols, had molested a girl after gatecrashing the party, intimidated her family members, and injured two men by attacking them with knife and a liquor bottle. They had also looted the mobile phone from the person on whose complaint the police registered a case in this connection. However, sources said the police were deliberately delaying the arrest of the

accused. "Some of the well-wishers of the accused are in touch with the Vibhuti Khand police who are giving a long rope to them so that a compromise can be struck with the victims," the sources claimed.

They said the policemen at the picket duty near the club did not take any preventive measures. "It is strange that the case is being investigated by the Vibhuti Khand SHO and he and his team have yet to complete the exercise to find evidence," they said.

Police laxity had forced the SSP (Lucknow) to call a meeting and direct the SHO/COs to lodge cases under strict sections of IPC in issues involving gatecrashers kicking up a shindy in night clubs and late night parties. In a hurriedly-called meeting, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani had announced to set up a cell to address such cases.

S-I abuses trader, demands bribe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A sub-inspector of traffic police was accused of abusing a trader and demanding bribe. According to complainant Jasveer Singh of Indira Nagar, he was returning from Charbagh with some bales of cloths for curtains in his SUV when a four-wheeler overtook his vehicle, forcing him to stop near Fun Republic crossing on Monday evening. "I deal in curtains, cushions and blankets, and the consignment of goods I had placed the order for reached Charbagh on Monday morning. I put the bales in the rear portion of SUV and head-

ed for my shop when there was a little mishap," he said.

He alleged that the S-I snatched his mobile phone and switched it off while using cuss words for ignoring his instruction to stop. "He snatched the keys and asked me why I was carrying goods in the SUV as it amounts to violation of norms. I showed him all the documents, but the S-I and his driver lunged at me and forced me to drive to 1090 crossing where he threatened to impound my SUV if I did not shell out favour money," Singh alleged.

The businessman also alleged the S-I and his driver

him hostage for hours and he was subjected to mental trauma. Singh met the SSP (Lucknow) in the evening and apprised him of the incident. "The SSP heard my case sympathetically and summoned the S-I to his office on Wednesday," he said.

A police spokesman said he had no information about the action taken against the sub-inspector in question. Meanwhile, SP (Traffic) P Singh said he was not aware about the case. "No one came to me with any such complaint, nor did any officer seek any detail about the incident from me," he said.

Woman found hanging

Lucknow (PNS): A 20-year-old woman was found hanging from a tree in a mango grove in Kakori on Tuesday morning. Some villagers spotted the woman hanging from a tree with a saree tied around her neck. They alerted Hardoiya villagers and the news also reached the police. A police team reached the place. Investigating officer Ajay Shukla said the woman was identified as Reema Rawat of Hardoiya village and she lived with her husband Shatrohan in a rented accommodation.

Shukla said the father of the deceased had not given any complaint as yet. "Reema's father demanded autopsy and we sent the body for the post-mortem. The aggrieved father said he needed a day time to think about the course of action. If he gives any complaint, we will register a case accordingly," he said.

The IO termed the incident a case of suicide and discounted villagers' apprehensions of

foul play. "The woman had no issue from her marriage and she may have been under depression. She left her house sometime on Monday night and reached the orchard where she hanged herself," he said.

Meanwhile, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from Gomti river in Kakori police station area on Tuesday morning. Police said Sarvan Kumar of Saintha village spotted the body in Gulami Kheda village. "Sarvan informed us and we reached the scene. Villagers could not identify the body. We sent the body for autopsy while further investigations are underway," the police said.

GOLD CHAIN LOOTED

Two unidentified miscreants on Monday deprived a woman, identified as Anjali Singh of Indira Nagar (Sector D). The woman was going to pick her daughter from school on and was targeted near Aurobindo Park.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing an election rally in Cantt on Tuesday

Pioneer

CITYBRIEFS



TRAINING

Bank of India Star Rural Self Employment Training Institute in Vibhav Khand, Gomti Nagar, conducted an intensive training of candle making for SHG women at Bhairampur village in Mohanlalganj. The trainees were motivated for self-employment. Various types of candles

prepared in the training like were demonstrated by the trainees.

KISAN PAKHWADA

Bank of Baroda is organising 'Kisan Pakhwada' from October 1 to 16 for linking farmers with various agriculture schemes provided by it. Bank of Baroda, Lucknow Region, organised 'Mega Agri Credit Camp' at Mars Hall in Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. The aim was to educate farmers about various farm-related products and linking them to active banking schemes. The camp



was attended by over 1,100 farmers. Loans were sanctioned to 2,567 beneficiaries and 1,827 sanctions amounting to Rs 47 crore were provided under agriculture sector.

SHILP KUMBH - 2019

The Uttar Pradesh Regional Office of NABARD will organise a five-day event called 'Shilp Kumbh - 2019' from October 16 to 20. Artisans from different parts of UP will be showcasing their handloom and handicraft products, including GI products. The event is aimed at providing market access to these artisans. The products available for purchase in the fair will be Banarasi sarees, Azamgarh's black pottery, Firozabad's glass work, Baghpat's home furnishing items, Bahraich's wheat stem art, Lucknow's chikankari, Mau's handloom sarees, etc.

SCHOOLSCAN



Young mathematicians from 17 countries participating in the four-day ITMO-2019, organised by City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, were on a sightseeing tour of Lucknow on Tuesday, imbibing the values of unity, peace and *tehzeeb* that the state capital is famous for. These young mathematicians from Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Nepal, UAE, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Russia, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Finland and various states of India visited Bada Imambara, Chhota Imambara and zoo among other places.

सड़क सुरक्षा – जीवन रक्षा



सड़क सुरक्षा सप्ताह
14 से 20 अक्टूबर, 2019
के अन्तर्गत रैली

का शुभारम्भ

मुख्य अतिथि
योगी आदित्यनाथ
मा0 मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति
अशोक कटारिया
मा0 राज्य मंत्री, (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) परिवहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 16 अक्टूबर 2019, समय : प्रातः 09.00 बजे
स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग लखनऊ

इस अवसर पर आपकी उपस्थिति प्रार्थनीय है।

सुरक्षित सड़क – सुरक्षित उत्तर प्रदेश

परिवहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Govt issues order for payment of bonus

Lucknow (PNS): The Yogi Adityanath government on Tuesday issued order for disbursement of bonus to around 14 lakh non-gazetted state employees. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had earlier approved bonus and additional dearness allowance for the state employees and the order was issued on Tuesday.

The state employees will receive bonus for 30 days this year, estimated to be around ₹7,000, but actually they will get ₹6,908. Employees whose grade pay is up to ₹4,800 will be eligible for the bonus which will also be given to employees of government-aided schools and colleges, local bodies, panchayats and even daily wage workers. While 75 per cent of the bonus will be deposited in the Provident Fund account of the employees, and rest 25 per cent will be paid in cash before Diwali.

MAINTENANCE OF GPS

E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/19-2019/2030. Dated: 10-10-2019. Works tender through E-Tendering system are invited for the following work. **Tender No.19/2019.**

Name of the work: At Kathiar Division : One yearly maintenance of GPS based Fog Safe Device. **Tender Value:** ₹ 15,36,844/-

Earnest Money: ₹ 30,700/- **Date & time of Closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 04-11-2019 and Opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 04-11-2019.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 04-11-2019 in website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Elect), Kathiar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the work: "Construction of 4-Lane road from L&T Junction at Fishery Harbour Road to Gate No.1". Estimated Cost : ₹ 4,75,72,335/-. Last date & time of submission: **01.11.2019 upto 17:00 hrs.** Refer our website for details eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Executive Engineer, PRD

PPT/PR/388/19-20 Dt. 14.10.2019

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Dy.CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders from OEM or authorized dealer of OEM through on line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

S. No. 1:- E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the Work : IREPS Tender No.- 11-MWS-GKP-2019-20

"D-Check Scheduled Maintenance of 12 Nos. CUMMINS make D.G.Sets for 06 Nos. Power Cars through OEM". Estimated cost : ₹ 5,69,47,056/-

Earnest Money : ₹ 4,34,700/- **Cost of the Tender forms : ₹ 10,000/-** **Last date of tender Submission :- Upto 15.15 hrs Date 14.11.2019 Period of Contract : 03 Months.**

S. No. 2:- E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the Work : IREPS Tender No.- 12-MWS-GKP-2019-20

"D-Check Scheduled Maintenance of 12 Nos. GREAVES make Engine of D.G.Sets for 06 Nos. Power Cars through OEM". Estimated cost: ₹5,81,41,764/-

Earnest Money : ₹ 4,40,700/- **Cost of the Tender forms : ₹ 10,000/-** **Last date of tender Submission :- Upto 15.15 hrs Date 14.11.2019 Period of Contract : 03 Months.**

The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Workshop Manager, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur

CPRO/Mech-127

From any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि। बांदा अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित विवरणानुसार दो भागों में दिनांक 31.10.2019 तक प्रेषित किए जायेंगे।

यदि योज्य ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से निम्न कार्यों को कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदाओं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

जिनके सम्पन्न प्रत्येक निविदा हेतु पृथक-पृथक निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 1,180.00 होगी। विस्तृत जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> एवं <https://dvvn1.org> पर उपलब्ध रहेगी।

ई-निविदा संख्या-75/SE/EDCB/2019-20 कार्य : सुगम योजना से स्वीकृत कार्य पैकेज संख्या-25, 26 एवं 28/बीएनडी/बीपी/2019-20 के तहत विभिन्न स्थानों/ग्रामों में विद्युतीकरण का कार्य।

घरोहर धनराशि 2,000.00

ई-निविदा संख्या- 76/SE/EDCB/2019-20 कार्य : बिजनेस प्लान से स्वीकृत कार्य पैकेज संख्या- 10 एवं 11/बीएनडी/बीपी/2019-20 के तहत प्रस्तावित विद्युतीकरण का कार्य।

घरोहर धनराशि 1,500.00

ई-निविदा संख्या-77/SE/EDCB/2019-20 कार्य : जमा योजना से स्वीकृत कार्य पैकेज संख्या-89/ बीटी/एफडी/ 2018-19, 10 एवं 11/बीटी/एफडी/ 2019-20 के तहत प्रस्तावित विद्युतीकरण का कार्य।

घरोहर धनराशि 1,000.004.

ई-निविदा संख्या-78/SE/EDCB/2019-20 कार्य : कार्यालय उप-मुख्य लेखाधिकारी, क्षेत्रीय लेखा कार्यालय में विभागीय सूचनाओं की फीडिंग का कार्य।

घरोहर धनराशि 3,000.00 (शैलेन्द्र कुमार) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, बांदा। पत्रांक :1183/विपिओमबां० /पी-1 (प्रकाशराज) ; निविदा / 2019-20 / 75-78, दिनांक 14.10.2019 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

TENDERNOTICENO. S/Tender/06/2019 Dated:15-10-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) :- www.ireps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> on line. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders.(5) Please submit offers online for the following Materials: **Tender No.** 80/19/4066/OT/19/19. **Brief Description:** Lubricating oil. **Quantity:** 48690 Nos. **Closing/Opening date:** 06-11-2019.

For PCMM

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

पूर्वांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., प्रयागराज, राबि पत्र तथा ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ऑनलाइन अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-07/ईओडब्ल्यूओ पी./2019-20 जिसके वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की तिथि 21.10.2019 तथा निविदा खुलने की तिथि 22.10.2019 नियत है, अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदाओं की तिथि निम्नवत् विस्तारित की जाती है तथा निविदा प्रपत्र एवं धरोहर धनराशि के मूल्य को संशोधित करते हुए क्रमशः रु० 1,180.00 और रु० 10,000.00 निर्धारित की जाती हैं।

1. वेबसाइट पर अवलोक करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय — दिनांक 25.10.2019 अपराह्न 14.00 बजे तक।

2. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 26.10.2019 अपराह्न 13.00 बजे।

निविदा में निहित अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत कार्य मण्डल, 177, एलनगंज, प्रयागराज। पत्रांक-432 दिनांक 15.10.2019 राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाएँ

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Notification No. 01/2019 (JTBS) (This Notification is not for employment)

Sealed applications for JTBS are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), for and on behalf of the President of India for 200 locations of 106 stations of Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway.

Notice No. & description of Works: Applications No.:- 01/2019 (JTBS) inviting applications for authorization of JTBS for THREE years at Lucknow Junction, Gorakhpur, Gond, Basti, Khalilabad, Badshahnagar, Aishbagh, Manikpur, Lakhimpur, Dalliganj, Lucknow City, Mohanlapur, Barhwal, Janwari Road, Coloneleganj, Maskana, Babbhan, Anandnagar, Naugar, Barhni, Behraich, Nanpara, Nepalganj Road, Malhauri, Gola Gokarnnath, Tahsil Fatehpur, Mahmudabad Avadh, Sidhauri, Nautanwa, Tulsiapur, Belrayan, Risiya, Gonda Kacheri, Paintipura, Ramaipur, Lachhimpur, Bindaure, Bichhia, Shohratgarh, Munderwa, Baruchak, Uska Bazar, Gainsari, Sarju, Matera, Nakha Jungle, Sarayan, Parsendi, Maniram, Katra, Brijmanganj, Lakhatnagar, Jagtabela, Motiganj, Majapur, Domingarh, Gontinagar, Jhila, Intiaithok, Subhagpur, Swaminarain Chapia, Chureb, Bhirkheri, Chilhia, Rajbojha, Pachperwa, Ghagha Ghat, Parsa, Gaur, Ganjajwa, Timlich, Dudhwa, Gorakhpur Cantt, Camargudi, Pepeganj, Maghar, Murtiha, Nishangarha, Chowka Ghat, Parsa Tiwari, Manjhra Pura, Banko Ghat, Sundhiamau, Tappa, Khajuria, Sahjanwa, Jahangirabad Raj, Kamapur, Ataria, Khairabad, Pharedahan, Bakshi Ka Talab, Gangadham, Bangai, Chilwariya, Bisheshwarganj, Tikunia, Orwara, Kauwapur, Govindnagar, Sitapur, Biswan, Hargaoon, Mihinpurwa, Palia Kalan, Payagpur and Balrampur stations of Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway. Approx. Value (in Rs.): ₹ 1,20,000/-, Earnest Money (in Rs.): NIL, Cost of form: ₹ 1,000/- (One Thousand only)

● Date and time for sale of application form between 10:00 to 17:00 hrs. (on any working day, except Saturday, Sunday & 12-11-2019) from 18-10-2019 to 26-11-2019 ● Date and time for receipt of Application on 27-11-2019 at 10:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs. ● Date and time for opening of Application on 27-11-2019 at 15:00 hrs. ● Detailed Application form, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions is available on website <http://www.nfe.indianrailways.gov.in> as well as at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Eastern Railway, Ashok Marg, Lucknow.

Divisional Railway Manager (Comm) CPRO/Vaniya-131 Lucknow

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No person with self-respect will support Congress: Adityanath

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting out at Congress, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the grand old party was not finding workers to oppose abrogation of Article 370 which was a blot on Kashmir, and no person having self-respect would support Congress.

Addressing an election rally in Pratapgarh in which senior Congress leader and three-time MP Rajkumari Ratna Singh joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, Yogi Adityanath said that in the present scenario, no one would support Congress for opposing abrogation of Article 370 which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister addressed rallies in Pratapgarh, Chitrakoot and Kanpur in support of BJP candidates contesting the UP assembly by-elections. He appealed to the people to vote for the BJP.

Yogi Adityanath said that Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and other parties had done politics on caste and religious lines and promoted nepotism and casteism and UP bore the brunt of this style of politics.

"It is wrong to expect development from them because development and good governance is not on the agenda of these parties," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the farmers of Pratapgarh, with their diligence and efforts, had provided a global stage to the cultivation of amla (Indian gooseberry).

"The BJP government has included amla in the 'One District One Product' project and is providing a new market to the farmers here. The work on the medical college has started in Pratapgarh. In the next session, the process for admissions along with the OPD will start in the medical college," he said.

While addressing a rally in Chitrakoot, the Chief Minister said that it was the holy land where Lord Ram spent around 12 years in exile.

"For the last 15 years, the SP, the BSP and the Congress, in connivance with some contractors, looted funds allocated for the development of the region. Our government has stopped that loot. Not only that, after the formation of the BJP government in the state, the region has become free of dacoits," the Chief Minister said.

He said that fighter planes would be manufactured at the factories to be set up in the defence corridor here and the planes manufactured in Chitrakoot would give a befitting reply to the enemies.

"The tanks made in Chitrakoot will protect the country's borders and they will have Chitrakoot written on them," he added.

Enumerating the various welfare schemes of the BJP government, the Chief Minister said that the state govern-

Ratna Singh joins BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a big jolt to the Congress ahead of Assembly bypolls, former MP and senior leader of the party, Rajkumari Ratna Singh, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Pratapgarh during an election rally on Tuesday.

Rajkumari Ratna Singh, 60, is the daughter of former external affairs minister Dinesh Singh, who was one of the closest associates of former Prime Minister Indra Gandhi and other members of the Gandhi family.

The announcement of Ratna Singh joining the BJP was made at the election meeting held at Gadhwa Inter College Grounds in Pratapgarh, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed the election rally.

Pratapgarh is one of the 11 assembly constituencies where bypolls will be held on October 21.

"Ratna Singh is a big name of this area as she has won Lok Sabha elections

in 1996, 1999 and 2009 from Pratapgarh on Congress ticket," BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh said.

In 2019, Rajkumari Ratna Singh had contested election but lost to Akshay Pratap Singh 'Gopalji', a close aide of Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiyya.

The former Congress MP figures in a long list of Congress leaders considered close to Gandhi-Nehru family to have switched over to the BJP in UP. These leaders include Sanjay Sinh, his wife Amita Sinh and lawmaker Dinesh Pratap Singh, among several others.

In Rae Bareilly, two Congress legislators, Aditi Singh and Rakesh Singh, have already turned rebels and it is a matter of time before they formally join the BJP. Both the legislators had defied the Congress whip and participated in the special session of UP assembly on October 2.

Sources say Ratna Singh is annoyed at the style of functioning of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as she has been sidelined in the party.

The Chief Minister targeted the Congress, the SP and the BSP while addressing the rally in Kanpur. He said that Pakistan and Congress were pained most after the abrogation of Article 370.

"Over 41,000 citizens of Kashmir have died due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, but the SP, the BSP and the Congress never did anything on the issue. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government abrogated Article 370 and paved the way for development in Kashmir," the Chief Minister said.

Four of a family burnt alive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic mishap reported from Jhansi, four members of a family were burnt alive in a fire in Sipri Bazaar police station area in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Luckily, half-a-dozen other members of the family escaped unhurt as they were sleeping on the terrace and were rescued in time.

Jhansi range DIG Subhash Singh Baghel said it appeared that the fire was sparked by short-circuit but the chief fire officer had been asked to submit his report after a detailed probe.

Reports said that fire broke out at a grocery store in Dayaram Colony in the wee hours of Tuesday when most of the family members were fast asleep in bedroom, just above the store.

The deceased were identified as Jagdish Udania (45), his mother Kumud (75), his wife Rajni (38) and his 13-year-old daughter Muskan.

Neighbours alerted the fire brigade and rescued five members of the family who were sleeping on the terrace of the house.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives. He directed officials of the district administration to ensure all possible help to the affected persons.

Meanwhile, half-a-dozen

people were killed in separate road mishaps.

In Muzaffarnagar, two men were killed when a vehicle hit them on Deoband-Muzaffarnagar road near Rohana village on Monday night.

The victims, Shahrugh, 23, and Abrar, 45, were waiting for a bus when a speeding vehicle hit them. Both died on the spot.

The duo was part of a music band and they were returning to Rohana after performing at an event.

In Banda, two people were killed and one seriously injured when the motorcycle they were riding was run over by a speeding truck in Tindwari area on Monday night.

Suman Nishad (35) and her brother-in-law Rajkishor (24) along with another person were returning to their village when they were run over by the speeding truck which hit their motorcycle.

Nishad and Rajkishor died on the spot while the other person sustained serious injuries.

The motorcyclists were not wearing helmets.

In Amethi, two men were killed after their motorcycle collided with a truck on Tuesday.

Santosh Kumar (31) and Sunil Kumar (30) were returning from a nearby fair when their motorcycle crashed into a truck near Gungwachh turn, killing both men on the spot.

Attempt on life of BJP leader in Mainpuri

Lucknow (PNS): Close on the heels of the sensational murders of three senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh, unknown assailants made an attempt on the life of the ruling party's district president in Mainpuri early Tuesday morning. Luckily, BJP's Mainpuri district unit president Alok Gupta escaped unhurt after he took shelter behind his car to save himself.

According to Superintendent of Police in Mainpuri, Ajay Shanker Rai, who visited the spot, police are investigating the incident and a manhunt has been launched to nab the assailants. The SP said the incident occurred at Awadh Nagar area under Kotwali Sadar police station when the BJP leader was sitting outside his house on Tuesday morning. Suddenly, three motorcycle-borne men came and opened indiscriminate fire but Gupta took shelter behind his car, foiling the murder attempt. After firing, the assailants escaped before the local residents could respond to the alarm raised by Gupta.

Additional police force has been deployed at the residence of the BJP leader while personnel security has been provided to him, the SP said. The Mainpuri incident comes just days after a BJP students' leader, Kabir Tiwari, was shot dead in Basti and two senior leaders of the ruling party were gunned down in Saharanpur.

UP govt doing away with 25K home guards

Not retrenched: DGP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Falling short of required budget to pay honorarium to home guards as per the directive of the Supreme Court, the Uttar Pradesh Police, on the direction of the Chief Secretary, is discontinuing the services of about 25,000 home guards.

The move has come as a major setback for the home guard personnel especially when the government has announced bonus for 14 lakh state employees as a Diwali gift. The state government is already facing criticism over lack of job opportunities in the state.

The order to remove the home guards was taken last week citing budgetary constraints. With this decision, the strength of home guards deployed for law and order duties would be cut by 32 per cent.

Besides, more than 99,000 home guards also stand to lose regular employment, as the state government has cut the number of days they are required to report on duty from 25 to 15 days.

Lucknow (PNS): On the back foot over the decision to remove 25,000 home guards from police duty, Director General of Police OP Singh on Tuesday said that these home guards had not been retrenched but had been kept out of duty on temporary basis due to financial crunch. "It is wrong to say that these 25,000 home guards have been removed... it is just a temporary phase and they have been kept out of their duties," he told media persons here but refused to make any commitment about when these home guards would be asked to resume their duties.

"We have no budget for the hiked honorarium of the home guards due to which this decision has been taken. But certainly something will be done soon so that they again resume their duties," the DGP said while asserting that Home guards were the backbone of police in controlling law and order and they were working at par with the state police.

Sources said that Chief Secretary Rajendra Tewari said in Aayodhya on Tuesday that they planned to sort out the problem and would take some early decision so that the home guards also celebrated Diwali.

Earlier, around 40,000 home guards had lost their jobs as the police department refused to take their services.

The Supreme Court was earlier moved to seek equality in daily allowance of UP home guard and UP Police constable.

As per the government order dated October 11, the

decision to end the services of 25,000 home guards was taken in a meeting headed by the Chief Secretary on August 28. The Home department had deployed 25,000 home guards around a year back to fill up the vacancies in the police force.

The order was issued by Additional Director General of

Finance Commission arriving on Oct 19

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 15th Finance Commission of India will arrive here on October 19 on a four-day visit. The Finance Commission decides how the revenues from the Consolidated Fund of India are to be distributed among Centre and the states. In addition, the Finance Commission also decides the principles on which the grants in aid will be given to states.

All the heads of the major heads of the state's economy like physical and social infrastructure have been asked to place their demands before the commission through power-point presentation. The ministers of the departments concerned will also be present during the presentation.

The 15th Finance Commission headed by former Rajya Sabha MP and bureaucrat NK Singh will also meet Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The 15th Finance Commission set up on November 17, 2017 was scheduled to submit its recommendation by October 30 but its term has been extended to November 30. The recommendation will be observed for the next five years and come into force from April 1, 2020.

The visit of the 15th Finance Commission is significant in view of the ambitious plan floated by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for turning Uttar Pradesh into a trillion-dollar economy in the next five years. The recommendations of the Finance Commission will be impor-

tant for states and UP in the wake of state governments losing autonomy over a large part of their revenues following the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 2017.

The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission have acquired much greater importance than before. Unlike the Centre, which can raise cesses and surcharges at will, states lack an equivalent mechanism to raise resources. How far they are able to function with financial autonomy in the years ahead will depend to a great extent on the Finance Commission recommendations due later this year.

As per the terms of reference of the Commission, it shall review the

current status of finance, deficit, debt levels, cash balances and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the States. It will recommend a fiscal consolidation roadmap for sound fiscal management, taking into account the responsibility of the Central government and state governments to adhere to appropriate levels of general and consolidated government debt and deficit levels. This part of the Commission's recommendation will be important for UP, as the debt level is likely to cross ₹5-trillion mark. The size of the UP budget of 2019-20 is ₹4.89 trillion.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may have called for accepting the challenge of turning Uttar Pradesh into a trillion-dollar economy in the

next five years but the target may not be easy to achieve in that time span. A close scrutiny of the state's economic situation indicates that Uttar Pradesh has a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of ₹15.42 lakh crore and it will take much longer than just five years to become a trillion dollar economy, according to experts. In fact, the state will have to have a GSDP of ₹70 lakh crore to achieve the trillion-dollar economy target, if the value of a dollar is taken to be ₹70, according to these experts.

UP has not been able to witness double digit economic growth despite consistent attempts over the years, they say. The GSDP is estimated to have grown 7 per cent in 2017-18 and 6.5 per cent in 2018-2019.

PARLIAMENT RENOVATION LS Secretariat seeks MPs' suggestions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has sought suggestions from MPs on changes needed in the present structure of the Parliament and the scale of renovation required in the new scheme of things where Government is set to remodel and develop the whole area in and around it, to be completed by 2022.

The suggestions were sought in a letter sent to the Lok Sabha members on October 11. According to the plan, the Government would also redevelop the 3 km-stretch of the Central Vista spanning from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

The letter said, "... There is active consideration regarding either renovation of the existing Parliament building or construction of altogether a new Parliament building within the given premises."

It sought suggestions from the members to "rectify the drawbacks or faulty features" causing inconvenience in their day-to-day functioning in the existing building.

They have also been asked to suggest features or facilities which should be provided in the new building to make it "foolproof".



The Lok Sabha MPs have to email their suggestions within a week. They have also been advised against sending in hard copies of their responses.

The idea to either construct a new Parliament building or to renovate the present structure, which is over 90 years old, has been floating since UPA 1. The idea was given a fresh push under the present Government.

It is also said that the present dispensation would seek to add new structures to the existing Parliament building, round in shape, to make it 'Vastu friendly'.

According to sources in the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, five Indian architectural firms have submitted bids for the project to be executed by the Central Public

Works Department.

Describing the whole exercise as a "dream project" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri has maintained that not a single tree will be cut while the redevelopment takes place until 2022.

A committee of experts will now evaluate the technical proposals submitted by the firms. Financial proposals of only those bidders whose technical proposals qualify will be opened. As of now there is no estimate as to how much would it cost to undertake the entire project in the area which is the nerve-centre of the power structure that controls the country.

CR Patil directs to cut facilities in illegal abode of MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting further pressure on VIP squatters, the Lok Sabha Housing Committee chairman CR Patil on Tuesday issued directions to cut electricity, water and gas supply in the accommodation illegally occupied by MPs. The committee, chaired by BJP MP CR Patil, decided to approach Delhi Police to ensure that the ex-MPs vacate the accommodation allotted to them in Lutyens Delhi.

According to the rules, former MPs have to vacate their bungalows within one month of dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha. As many as over three dozen former MPs are overstaying in their bungalows and flats. Despite several notices, they have not vacated their accommodations.

On May 25, President Ram Nath Kovind dissolved the 16th Lok Sabha with immediate effect on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet after the Modi Government was formed for a second term. With these former MPs not vacating their bungalows, the newly-elected members of parliament have been staying in transit accommodation such as their respective State guest houses or the Western Court, sources said. The panel has been unable to allot houses to the MPs despite their repeated requests, they added.

Art 370 abrogation decisive battle waged by Govt to end Pak-sponsored terror: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The abrogation of special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 is a "decisive battle" waged by the Narendra Modi Government to end years of Pakistan-sponsored proxy war and terrorism, and it will bring long-lasting peace in Jammu & Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at an event of counter-terror body NSG's garrison at Manesar (Gurugram).

Speaking at the 35th Raising Day celebrations of NSG as the Chief Guest here, Shah said the recent decision to repeal special provisions in J & K will help "completely eradicate" Pakistan-supported terrorism from the Kashmir Valley.

The Minister asserted that his government is firm on the policy of "zero tolerance" on terrorism and to defeat all its forms.

The National Security Guard (NSG) is an important instrument to achieve this goal, he said.

"I believe that with the abrogation of Article 370 by PM Narendra Modi, we have initiated a decisive battle against years of proxy war and terror acts perpetrated by our neighbour (Pakistan) and this step will ensure long-lasting peace in Kashmir and the region," Shah said.



India has been facing terrorism for many years and there would be very few countries across the globe who have waged such a long battle against terrorism. Terrorism is a curse on any civilised society and the biggest impediment to development, he said.

"Hence our Government is firm on continuing the zero tolerance policy on terrorism and ensuring victory on terror always," Shah added.

The recent big step of repealing Article 370 taken by Modi is aimed at completely eradicating terrorism from Kashmir and to safeguard the country from this scourge, Shah said.

Shah also lauded the elite commando force saying it has impressed the world with its capability to counter any terror attack as he recounted its stellar operations at Akshardham temple in Gujarat and the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai in 2008.

"This inspires confidence in the minds of the citizens that they are in safe hands," he added.

Army Chief pitches for inclusion of indigenous technology in armed forces

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat on Tuesday pitched for greater inclusion of indigenous technology in the armed forces and asserted that India will fight and win the next war with home-grown solutions.

In his address at the 41st DRDO Directors Conference, he also said the development of weaponry and other systems should be done keeping "future warfare" in mind. "And, if we are looking at contours of future warfare, it may not necessarily be contact warfare. So, there is realm of non-contact warfare. We need to start looking at development of cyberspace, space, laser, electronic warfare and robotics. And, along with that Artificial Intelligence (AI)," Rawat said. "And, if we do not start thinking on it now, it will be too late," he said. He praised the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for its achievements in the last few decades and said India is making great strides in research and development. "We are confident the services will greatly benefit from it," he said.

"India is one of the largest importers of weapons and ammunition, and after 70 years of Independence, it is not a very proud statement to make. But in the past few years, it is changing. DRDO is striving to ensure our requirements of services are met with home-grown solutions," Rawat said.

PTI

INSHORT

AMIT KHARE GETS ADDL CHARGE OF SECY MHRD

New Delhi: I&B Secretary and 1985-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre Amit Khare was on Tuesday given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of HRD till further orders. He replaces Rina Ray, IAS (1984), who was repatriated to her parent cadre with immediate effect.

PROTECTION OF NAVLAKHA EXTENDED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday extended by four weeks the interim protection from arrest granted to civil rights activist Gautma Navlakha in the Koregaon Bhima violence case. A bench of justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta, however, asked Navlakha to approach the concerned court to seek pre-arrest bail in the case.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN UPSETS JUSTICE MISHRA

New Delhi: Supreme Court Justice Arun Mishra took strong exception Tuesday to a social media campaign and news reports seeking his recusal from a Constitution bench which is hearing the interpretation of provisions of the land acquisition Act.

HIGH COURTS FACE 420 JUDGES SHORTAGE: DATA

New Delhi: While the Supreme Court is working with its full sanctioned strength, vacancy of judges is on the rise in the 25 High Courts of the country, according to latest Law Ministry data. The figures released by the ministry on October 1 show that the high courts faced a shortage of 420 judges — the highest till now this year. As on October 1, the high courts were working with 659 judges as compared to the sanctioned strength of 1079.

'INDIA, NETHERLANDS HELP EACH OTHER'

New Delhi: Dutch King Willem-Alexander on Tuesday said India and the Netherlands complement each other extremely well and have the potential to make each other stronger in the areas of technology and innovation. Speaking at the inaugural session of the India-Netherlands Technology Summit, the King said that for ten years now, the two countries have been close partners in the areas of innovation.

ARMY CHIEF COMPLIMENTS FORCE

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat has complimented his force for steadfastly facing various challenges along the eastern and western border, saying it has responded to difficult operational situations in the most "innovative" manner. In his address at a conference of top commanders of the Army, Gen. Rawat particularly mentioned about the Army foiling operations by Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT) along the Line of Control, and activities by terrorists in the hinterland in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said.



Shah to be replaced by Nadda as BJP president by Dec

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amit Shah will demit his post as BJP president by the year end and is likely to be replaced by a new one with working president JP Nadda expected to succeed him.

Shah, who is holding the crucial portfolio of Union Home Ministry, would only be stressing his party's dictum of one-man-one-post by demitting the post of the party president once organisational polls are completed by December. In an interview to a news channel, he said that the new president would take over by December and rejected the notion that he would remain the "super power" running the party from behind the scene.

"BJP is not the Congress party and nobody can run it from behind the scenes," he said saying it will be run as per its constitution. Nadda, who is already appointed party's working president, is expected to take charge from Shah in December.

To another question, he denied that his party was looking at former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as the face of the party in West Bengal. He rejected any involvement in the election of the next BCCI chief and that there was any deal with Ganguly, who was elected as cricket body's Chief.

‘God save this country’: Cong on BJP’s demand for Bharat Ratna to Savarkar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the BJP in Maharashtra calling for Bharat Ratna award for Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, the Congress on Tuesday said that if the Government considers it on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, then "God save this country".

The opposition party's response came after the election manifesto of Maharashtra BJP, released on Tuesday, said the party will ask the NDA Government at the Centre to confer India's highest civilian award on Savarkar.

"In a country where Mahatma Gandhi is being made to commit suicide in examinations, anything is possible," Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said at a press conference, referring to the row over a question in the internal assessment examination of some schools in Gujarat.

Savarkar had faced criminal trial in the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, Tewari said, adding that he was later acquitted.

The Congress spokesperson cited an article which claimed that the Kapur Commission concluded that facts pointed towards a "conspiracy to murder by Savarakar and his group" in Mahatma Gandhi's case.



"If on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, this Government considers any such thing (giving Bharat Ratna to Savarkar), then all I want to say is that God save this country," Tewari said.

Asked if there was a contradiction between the recent praise for Gandhi by RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat and the demand for Bharat Ratna for Savarkar, Tewari alleged that it was a coordinated and well thought out strategy "that on one hand keep praising Mahatma Gandhi and on the other hand make such a demand".

"But if what has been written in the article about the conclusions of the Kapur Commission is correct, then the Government should seriously think that on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, is this step appropriate," he said.

Cong raises issue of IT raids on its employees with CEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Congress delegation on Tuesday met Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and raised the issue of income tax raids on some of its employees last week. They alleged that the tax department is behaving like a "department of BJP".

The delegation comprising former ministers Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tiwari and Pranav Jha alleged that the party was prevented to use its designated bank account to fund its candidates in the assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana. The Congress leaders alleged that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) officials raiding the opposition across the country without document and warrants.

After the meeting, Congress leader Kapil Sibal said "The position is such that people of CBDT have been sitting at the homes of our employees from Friday to Sunday. There is no warrant and no papers. What is this? We know that they are misusing ED and other agencies. If this is not an attack on democracy then what is it?" The Congress has demanded to the poll body to intervene in the matter as their account have been paralysed.

"The Congress is required



to transfer, whatever funds it has, to its candidates in Maharashtra and in Haryana, in their designated bank accounts by cheque, that is what the elections require and we have been prevented from doing that and that is illegality and we have conveyed to the EC that they should intervene," Sibal said.

The Congress leader said that they have seen it happening in the last elections, it is happening now brazenly. "India cannot be converted into a state where democracy is under perpetual seize and the Tax department of the Government cannot become a department of the ruling party, the BJP," Sibal added.

Party leader Anand Sharma said "They have (EC) has the constitutional mandate to ensure free and fair elections. There cannot be targeting using and abusing. For three days Congress party's accounts section was totally paralysed. Whatever meagre funds the Congress party has at its disposal considering the BJP is the world's richest political party."

Scientists warns of wasp causing loss to Jamun tree growers

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Scientists have warned that a Jamun berries and seed-eater wasp, scientifically known as 'A. kerrichi' is fast spreading its wings, threatening to inflict losses on Jamun tree growers.

Commonly found, ever-green Jamun is an economically important tree in India, which also has medicinal properties. Its berries and seeds are much sought after for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and free-radical-scavenging properties.

However, the tiny but a potential pest of Jamun, A kerrichi, an eulohid seed borer which was reported from the agricultural fields in Pune way back in 1957, has been recently found seriously damaging the berries in Jamun trees (S Cumini) in fields in Karnataka's rural Bangaluru too.

The result of the study conducted by the scientists from ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, country's leading institute in Bangaluru is published in the latest journal of the Current



Science.

The scientists have called for spraying botanical pesticides as heavy infestation of jamun fruits by the wasp renders the berries unmarketable and hence loss to the farmers

The authors of the study noted that A kerrichi was initially reported from Pune, Maharashtra in 1957. "Besides this, no reports that highlight the economic importance and nature of damage of this eulohid seed borer in Jamun are available, possibly due to its limited distribution/occurrence and pestilence.

"However, in the recent past, several incidences of A kerrichi attacking S. cumini fruits causing extensive crop loss have been noticed in farmers' fields in rural Bengaluru," says the study that provides experimental details of the critical fruit stages that are susceptible to the pest for planning management interventions.

"In Jamun both whole fruit as well as seed are economically important. Considering the vast damage it can cause and the ability to build up in huge numbers (85 per fruit) in over-

lapping generations, A kerrichi can become a major problem to Jamun growers. Further, larval feeding affects seed viability and rate of germination. As the critical stage for infestation is G2, application of safe botanical pesticides at this stage may help reduce seed borer infestation," said the scientists.

They had randomly collected A kerrichi infested jamun fruits in different developmental stages from the infested trees. The collected fruits were separated into five groups, namely G1-G5 based on their size, colour and hardness. Observations on fruit diameter, length, mesocarp thickness and seed diameter from all the phenological stages (G1-G5) were made and recorded daily.

It was noted that heavy infestation of jamun fruits by A kerrichi had rendered the fruits unmarketable.

The scientists included P D Kamala Jayanthi, BR Jayanthi Mala and Anjana Subramoniam (Division of Entomology and Nematology) and A Rekha (Division of Fruit Crops) from the Bangaluru based institute.

ICAR devise kits to detect, control JE, bluetongue diseases in animals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed diagnostic kits to detect and control 'Japanese Encephalitis' (JE) and 'bluetongue' diseases in animals. These diagnostic kits have been developed by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) under the ICAR. Japanese Encephalitis virus spreads from pig to human.

Talking about JE ELISA kit for swine, ICAR Director General Trilochan Mohapatra, said JE is a re-emerging viral zoonotic disease leading to death of children every year in the country." India is importing one diagnostic kit for this virus at Rs 1,200-1500. Now, ICAR-IVRI have developed this kit for just Rs 180-200," Mohapatra said. Earlier this year, more than 100 children died in Bihar's Muzaffarpur due to an outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES).

This diagnostic kit has

been developed as per the 100-day programme of the premium research institute, the DG said.

The government and ICAR would now work towards making this kit available in village and block levels, he said.

Talking about the second kit to diagnose 'bluetongue', Mohapatra said the disease is found in cattle and goats and is even cause of death of these animals.

"We are the first country in the world to develop a diagnostic kit for bluetongue disease," he said, adding that it can also provide export opportunities in long-term.

Mohapatra, who is also the secretary of Department of Agricultural Research and Education, said the two kits would help in controlling these diseases at very early stage and prevent them from spreading.

The disease is widespread among sheep, goats, cattle, buffaloes and camels in the country and is even cause of death of these animals.

SC quashes Delhi HC order restraining IT department taking action against Gautam Khaitan

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed the Delhi High Court's interim order restraining the Income Tax (IT) department from taking any action against VVIP chopper scam accused Gautam Khaitan, against whom a separate black money laundering case has been lodged, saying it was "not sustainable in law".

The apex court set aside the May 16 order of the high court which had also said that the black money law cannot be allowed to operate with retrospective effect from July 1, 2015.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked the high court to decide the petition pending before it on its own merits and uninfluenced by the observations of the top court.

The bench, also comprising justices M R Shah and B R Gavai, said that the scheme of the Black Money Act is to "provide stringent measures for curbing the menace of black money" and various offences have been defined and stringent punishments have been pro-

vided under the law.

"It would further be relevant to note that sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Black Money Act, itself provides that save as otherwise provided in this Act, it shall come into force on 1st day of July, 2015. A conjoint reading of the various provisions would reveal that the assessing officer can charge the taxes only from the assessment year commencing on or after April 1, 2016. However, the value of the said asset has to be as per its valuation in the previous year," the bench noted in its 13-page verdict.

"As such, we find that the high court was not right in holding that, by the notification/order impugned before it, the penal provisions were made retrospectively applicable," the bench said.

It noted that the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 was passed by the Parliament on May 11, 2015 and it had received Presidential assent on May 26, 2015.

PTI

Young mother killed in Pak firing, 2 others hurt

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Twenty days after giving birth to her first child, a 27 year young mother was killed in heavy mortar shelling in Noona Bandi area of Shahpur along the Line of Control in Poonch on late Tuesday afternoon.

According to ground reports, “27-year-old Shamim Akhtar w/o Mohd Maqsood was standing in front of her kitchen when she was directly hit by a mortar shell around 3.45 p.m.” Due to impact of the blast, her head was reportedly blown off, local villagers in the forward area, claimed.

Her 20-day-old son, miraculously escaped any grievous injury, as she had kept him on the floor inside the kitchen.

As heavy shelling continued in the forward areas, another couple hailing from Qasba village of Poonch sector received injuries and was rushed to the nearby hospital. The injured were identified as



Mnzoor Hussain and Naseema Akhtar.

Meanwhile, large number of children remained stranded for several hours inside a local school (seminary) run by Sain Miran Baksh Educational Trust in Shahpur area of Poonch.

In the wake of intense shelling, which started early Tuesday morning around 9.00 a.m. the children could not be rescued. Local villagers and some parents, later in the afternoon managed to organise two ambulances and ferried children from the forward area to safer locations. “None of the child received injuries during heavy mortar shelling,” official

sources said.

Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand said, “Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation in Qasba and Kirni sectors at about 9.30 a.m. by firing small arms and mortars”. He said, “the Indian Army retaliated befittingly”.

Late afternoon, the Pak Army also targeted forward areas of Shahpur and Karmara in the forward areas forcing the local residents to stay indoors.

The local villagers of Shahpur—Upper and Lower, Gountrian and Islamabad in Poonch appealed to the district authorities to expedite work on bunkers in the area to ensure safety of school going children and local villagers.

A Local villager, Shabir Rathore claimed, “these villagers were regularly targeted by the Pakistan army but so far work on bunker construction has not started in the area”.

Main accused held in Murshidabad triple murder case

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After much political hullabaloo the police have finally arrested a mason for brutally murdering a Jagannaj school teacher,

his pregnant wife and an eight-year-old son.

The mason called Pratik Behera had killed the trio out of personal grudge when victim Bandhu Paul refused to give him a receipt of ₹24,000 which he had taken from him for some insurance policy, he is known to have confessed to the police.

“There was grudge and there was a financial angle,” Murshidabad SP Mukesh said adding the triple murder had taken place in a matter of five



minutes.

Earlier the police had claimed that the victim an RSS worker also dealt in some kind of chit fund business in which he used to accept monetary deposits from the people.

The mason was one of such depositors who deposited ₹24,000 with him but failed to procure any receipt for the amount.

When Paul refused to provide with any receipt an altercation followed and the mason killed the threesome.

Harsh measures will isolate people, delay restoration of normalcy in Kashmir: NC

PTI ■ JAMMU

The National Conference (NC) on Tuesday condemned the arrest of party president Farooq Abdullah's sister and daughter during a protest in Srinagar, saying such measures would further alienate the people and delay restoration of normalcy in the valley.

It sought the immediate revocation of detention of political leaders and common citizens, including Abdullah's kin.

The police on Tuesday arrested half-a-dozen women activists during a march to protest the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories.

Abdullah's sister Suraiya and his daughter Safiya, who were leading a group of women activists, were first detained and later arrested by the police.

The NC said such harsh measures would further alienate the people and delay restoration of normalcy in



National Conference leaders expressed regret over the continued detention of political leaders and common citizens, saying the situation had touched the lowest depths

Kashmir, which was reeling under “fear psychosis and a sense of insecurity” among the people.

“Being kin of former Chief Ministers should not entail political victimisation, leading to curtailment of liberty and freedom of movement and speech,” senior NC leaders said in a joint statement, issued

from party headquarters Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here.

The National Conference leaders expressed regret over the continued detention of political leaders and common citizens, saying the situation had touched the lowest depths and even the liberty of relatives of those in public life was under severe threat. “The detention of Suraiya Mattoo and Safiya Abdullah Khan, respectively sister and daughter of Abdullah and the aunt and sister of Omar Abdullah, reflect the sad state of affairs the State is in for the past over 70 days,” the statement said.

Bengal Govt working for empowerment of rural women: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal Government is working for the empowerment of rural women through various self-help groups, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday. On the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women, Banerjee referred to the success of the ‘Anandadhara’ scheme aiming for poverty alleviation through social mobilisation.

The scheme, initiated in 2012, is implemented by organising women into self-help groups (SHG).

“Today is #InternationalDayofRuralWomen. Our Govt in #Bangla is working for the empowerment of rural women through self-help groups. The scheme Anandadhara has been very successful in this regard,”



Banerjee tweeted.

“We also distribute animals for rearing by them, ensuring their economic prosperity,” she added.

The International Day of Rural Women was first observed on October 15, 2008 to recognise the critical role and contribution of rural women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

88 Bru refugee families shifted from Tripura to Mizoram

PTI ■ AGARTALA/AIZAWL

A total of 408 people belonging to 88 displaced Bru families staying in six relief camps of Tripura have left for their homeland Mizoram since the repatriation exercise began on October 3, officials said on Tuesday.

A total of 4,447 Bru families, lodged in the relief camps at Kanchanpur and Panisagar sub-divisions of North Tripura district, are scheduled to return to the neighbouring state from where they had fled since 1997 following ethnic clashes.

The Bru community, also called Reangs, is among the 21 scheduled tribes in the country. They are scattered across Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Kanchanpur, Abhedananda Baidya, said 235 Bru people of 45 families have been repatriated.

His Panisagar counterpart N Darlong said 173 people belonging to 43 families have left for Mizoram till date during the ninth round of repatriation which is termed as the “final” one.

The repatriation is scheduled to continue till November 30. Mizoram officials said 22 Bru families from various relief camps have been repatriated on Monday.

The repatriation is being carried out through some Bru

organisations are against the exercise.

On October 4, posters opposing the repatriation and demand for a separate autonomous district council for the Bru community were found in the relief camps. However, no untoward incident was reported then.

Mizoram Bru Indigenous Democratic Movement leader Phillip Apeto had said they were not satisfied with the rehabilitation package and a district council for the Brus under the sixth schedule of the constitution must be created.

A memorandum submitted by three Bru organisations to Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana had also expressed apprehension that the Bru community would lose their identity if they return to Mizoram in the present situation.

During the eighth round of repatriation, the Ministry of Home Affairs had warned that the relief camps must be closed down from October one 2018 and free ration and money doled to the displaced families would be discontinued.

However, that phase did not bear much fruit.

While the MHA did stop the free ration and cash dole from October one, 2018, the Centre restarted it apparently due to political reasons as Mizoram assembly election was nearing.



A worker makes firecrackers for the upcoming festival Diwali at a factory on the outskirts of Ahmedabad on Tuesday

AP

Tributes paid to Abdul Kalam on 88th birth anniversary

PTI ■ RAMESWARAM (TN)

Former President APJ Abdul Kalam was remembered here on his 88th birth anniversary with the late scientist's family and the district administration paying tributes at his memorial here.

The leader's memorial at Pekarumbu was dazzling with electrical lights and floral arrangements, as there was a steady stream of visitors including school children who paid homage to the former president.



Muthu Muhammad Meera Maraikkayar held special prayers.

School children also paid floral tributes and took a pledge to follow Kalam's ideals.

An American Indians Association, as part of honouring the late leader's services, presented a prize for Global Peace, which was handed over to Maraikkayar.

Ramanathapuram district collector K Veera Raghava Rao paid floral tributes at the memorial while Kalam's relatives led by his elder brother

मह्योचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, अलुकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 1

निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या विमर्ग/13/2019-20, कार्य का विवरण

(1) अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत भंडार खण्ड, अरोध्या हेतु निगमकार्य हित में चालक सहित किराये पर डीजल चालित जीप नुमा वाहन-01 अदद किराये पर डीजल चालित जीप नुमा वाहन 12 माह हेतु। **घरोहर राशि (₹0 में) 3000.00, क्र.सं. 2, निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या विमर्ग/14/2019-20, कार्य का विवरण**

(2) अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत भंडार खण्ड, बरेली हेतु निगमकार्य हित में चालक सहित किराये पर डीजल चालित जीपनुमा वाहन 01 अदद किराये पर डीजल चालित जीप नुमा वाहन 12 माह हेतु। **घरोहर राशि (₹0 में) 3000.00, निविदा जमा करने की तिथि - 26.10.2019 (13 बजे), निविदा खुलने करने की तिथि- 26.10.2019 (17 बजे), निविदा प्रपत्र मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि० की वेबसाइट www.mvnl.in तथा उ०प्र० सरकार की ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in से देखें एवं डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रस्ताव केवल ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर निर्धारित तिथि 26.10.2019 को 13 बजे तक जमा किये जा सकते हैं। प्रत्येक निविदा हेतु जीएसटी सहित निविदा मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 (निविदा मूल्य ₹0 1000.00 एवं 18 प्रतिशत जी०एस०टी०) तथा घरोहर राशि EE (Payment), ESC, B-21, H. Road, Mahanagar Extension, Lucknow के खाते में RTGS / NEFT के माध्यम देय होगी, खाता सं० - 0758002100007099 बैंक का देना नाम-पंजाब नेशनल बैंक/ महानगर, लखनऊ, आईएफएससी- PUNB0075800 निविदा भाग-2 (प्राईस विडो) केवल ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध प्रोफार्मा में आनलाइन जमा करना होगा। निविदा मूल्य एवं घरोहर राशि की रकून प्रतियों को ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा**

प्रस्ताव के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। निविदा प्राप्त/खोलने की तिथि के दिन सार्वजनिक अवकाश होने की स्थिति में, निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस को निर्धारित समय तक प्राप्त/खोला जायेगा। निविदा भाग-2 बिना निविदा मूल्य/उचित घरोहर राशि के नहीं खोला जाएगा। टेंडर की वैधता न्यूनतम 90 दिन होनी चाहिए। भविष्य में इस निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खोलने की तिथि में कोई विस्तार होता है तो उसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अथवा मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि० की वेबसाइट www.mvnl.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। **समस्त नियम एवं शर्तें -** 1. किराये के वाहन का माडल तीन वर्ष से अधिक पुराना न हो। 2. कार्यवधि प्रातः 9.00 बजे से रात्रि 9.00 तक होगी एवं आकस्मिक अवकाश पड़ने पर किसी भी समय उपलब्ध करानी होगी जिसका कोई अलग से पारिश्रमिक देय नहीं होगा। 3. चालक, वाहन का अनुक्षण एवं मोबिल आयाल तथा बीमा इत्यादि की व्यवस्था वाहन स्वामी के द्वारा स्वयं की जायेगी। 4. वाहन चालक का वाणिज्यिक ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस एवं वाहन वाणिज्यिक पंजीकृत होना चाहिए। 5. वाहन खराब होने की दशा में दूसरा वाहन एक घंटे के भीतर वाहन मालिक द्वारा उपलब्ध कराना होगा। 6. वाहन की अनुपलब्धता की दशा में प्रोटेदा दर पर कटौती की जायेगी। 7. वाहन के दुर्घटना अथवा अनियन्ता विद्युत भंडार मण्डल, म.वि. वि.लि., बी-21, एच रोड, महानगर विस्तार, लखनऊ। पत्रांक - 77, दिनांक 15.10.2019, राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाएं, बल्व की जगह एल०ई०डी० लगायें।

Rajasthan bypolls to test Cong; will win both seats: Pilot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress president Sachin Pilot on Tuesday said Mandawa and Khinwsar Assembly bypolls will be the test of the work done by his party Government and claimed it will win both the seats with “huge” margins.

The bypolls were necessitated after Khinwsar (Nagaur) MLA Hanuman Beniwal and Mandava (Jhunjhunu) MLA Narendra Kumar (BJP) were elected to Lok Sabha in May this year.

“The bypolls are the test of the work of the Government and we are prepared for that. We will win the seats with huge margin. When the Congress was in opposition for five years, we won all bypolls and this time, we are in the Government and there is no reason for not winning the bypolls,” Pilot told reporters here.



While Congress has fielded former MLAs Rita Chaudhary in Mandawa and Harendra Mirdha in Khimsar, the BJP has given ticket to Sushila Siga in Mandawa and is contesting the bypolls in alliance with MP Hanuman Beniwal's Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) on Khimsar where Beniwal's brother Narayan Beniwal is the alliance candidate.

Railways initiates ‘Sewa Service’ train for last mile connectivity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to provide better travel opportunities to passengers who travel daily from neighbouring cities mainly to earn livelihood and education purposes the Railways has initiated nine new ‘Sewa Services’ spread across eight States of India.

Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan, MoS Railway Suresh C Angadi and Meenakshi Lekhi, flagged off the inaugural run of Delhi — Shamli train service in a ceremony held at New Delhi Railway station on Tuesday.

Indian Railways has always strived to provide convenient and comfortable service to its users.

To provide better travel opportunities to passengers who have to travel to neighboring towns and cities mainly for livelihood and education purposes the Railways has initiated nine new Sewa Services spread across eight states of India. These daily or six days a week short distance services will be a boon to the daily



Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan, MoS Railway Suresh C Angadi and Meenakshi Lekhi, flagged off the inaugural run of Delhi - Shamli train service in a ceremony held at New Delhi Railway station on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

passengers.

According to the statement, “Inaugural runs of train services in the other six states were also initiated with the flagging off by the dignitaries being received through video conferencing in the respective venues.

Speaking on the occasion Goyal said that based on the hub and spoke concept these trains will provide better rail connectivity between smaller and satellite towns and important cities. “Railway is working on how to be an effective engine of growth in the country. The

‘Railway is working on how to be an effective engine of growth in the country. The common passengers will greatly benefit from these services’

common passengers will greatly benefit from these services,” he said.

He also shared that Railways is not going to use any

new assets in these trains, with efficient planning and by enhancing operational capabilities the lie-over rates of trains are to be used for short services during the long stationed time between two services.

This will not only increase trips but also earn revenue from the otherwise stationed coaches, he added. Dr Harsh Vardhan appreciated the work being done in all areas with a special mention of the up-gradation of stations in the National Capital Region.

MAHARASHTRA POLLS

PM diverts attention from issues: Rahul

PTI ■ YAVATMAL/WARDHA,

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a “loudspeaker” of certain industrialists, and said his strategy was like that of a pick-pocket who diverts attention to steal.

On campaign trail in Vidarbha for October 21 Maharashtra Assembly elections, he also targeted the Modi government for “waiving” corporate tax.

Addressing a rally in Yavatmal district, Gandhi said the Prime Minister speaks of the moon mission and abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, but is silent on issues such as farmers’ plight and lack of jobs.

“The Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetisation broke the back of small and medium enterprises, farmers, labourers and poor people. As

long as the Modi Government is in power, the issue of joblessness will continue to haunt the country. The problem of joblessness will grow in the next six months,” he claimed.

Criticising the Government’s decision to “waive” (slash the rates of) corporate tax, Gandhi said such benefits were extended to certain industrialists, but not to the poor.

The Congress leader also alleged that the Union Government was planning to privatise National assets such as ports, coal mines, and public sector units such as Air India.

“Modi is the loudspeaker of (industrialists) Adani and Ambani. Just like a pickpocket, who diverts attention of people before stealing, his (Modi’s) only job is to divert your attention so that he can pass your money to a select few industrialists,” Gandhi said.



While the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Right to Food, land acquisition and laws for tribals were being amended, amendment to the GST act was not acceptable to the Government, he said.

“When the poor person gets money, he starts purchasing, when the demand increases, manufacturing gets a boost,” he said, adding that the NYAY minimum income scheme, proposed by the Congress before the

have jump-started the economy.

The annual budget of MNREGA is ₹35,000 crore and the Modi Government cut corporate tax worth ₹1.25 lakh crore in a single day, Gandhi said.

Referring to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s France visit, he said the latter did a puja of the Rafale fighter jet (while taking symbolic delivery of the first aircraft). “But ₹35,000 crore were stolen from the jet deal. The media will not write about this because it is being controlled by industrial-

ists. Your money is given to the media so that they publicise Modi,” he alleged.

Maharashtra has the opportunity to solve all these problems by voting for the Congress and NCP, he said.

“We will install a government which will work for the poor, farmers, labourers, and small and medium businesses,” he added. At a rally at Arvi in Wardha district, Gandhi accused the Modi Government of weakening all pro-poor schemes of the UPA regime, including the MNREGA, RTI Act, Right to Food and the land acquisition bill.”BJP made fun of MNREGA which had given a boost to the economy,” he said.

The GST’s purpose was to finish off small and medium businesses, the Congress leader claimed.”Don’t let this happen in Maharashtra. Let’s stop this here,” he said.

Opp claims trees chopped for PM’s Oct 17 Pune rally



PTI ■ PUNE

Opposition parties in Maharashtra have alleged that some trees located on the campus of Sir Parshuram (SP) College in Pune were chopped on Monday for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s October 17 rally, which will be held on the college ground.

The college authorities on Tuesday denied the allegation saying only certain branches hanging dangerously were cut for the safety of students who play there, which has nothing to do with the PM’s event.

NCP MP Vandana Chavan alleged some ‘subabul’ trees around the ground, where the rally will be held, were felled by the college administration.

“As per the information with us, trees were cut from the stems which is unacceptable,” alleged Chavan.

She demanded stringent action against those responsible for the “cruel act”.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Rupali Patil also said the trees were hacked. “They have cut the trees

because they believed that the trees would prove hindrance for the PM rally,” she claimed.

However, Pune BJP unit president Madhuri Misal, one of the trustees of Shikshan Prasarak Mandal (SPM) which runs the SP College, refuted the allegations saying chopping of trees had no connection with the PM’s programme.

“In recent rains, two trees fell near the ground. Since our students from five different institutes of SP Mandal play on that ground there could have been an issue of their safety, so we sought permission from the Garden department of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to cut some trees,” she said.

“The trees were cut on Monday after receiving the civic nod. It has no connection with the PM’s rally as the stage for the event is being set at a location which is distant from the place where some trees were chopped. These two things are different,” she added.

A PMC official said the permission to hack trees was issued on October 14.

Hours after mobiles restored, SMS services blocked in JK

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

SMS services were withdrawn for the PM rally,” she claimed. However, Pune BJP unit president Madhuri Misal, one of the trustees of Shikshan Prasarak Mandal (SPM) which runs the SP College, refuted the allegations saying chopping of trees had no connection with the PM’s programme.

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internet was started around mid-August. However, after its misuse, internet facilities on cell phones was snapped on August 18. As Kashmiris in the Valley hoped their post-paid mobiles would help them reconnect with the outside world, the deadlock over the scrapping of the special constitutional provision for Jammu and Kashmir continued. Markets and other business establishments remained closed while most of the public transport was off the roads across the Valley. A large number of private vehicles and some private taxis, including autorickshaws, could be seen plying in many parts of Srinagar while some roadside vendors also plied their trade.

The efforts of the state government to open schools have not borne any fruit as parents continued to keep children home due to apprehensions about their safety. Government offices are open and attendance in most offices is near normal, the officials said.

It is a cumbersome process with online payments not an option because of internet services being blocked in Kashmir, many subscribers complained. While landline phones were restored last month, internet services on all platforms continue to remain suspended.

Over 25 lakh prepaid mobile phones and other internet services, including WhatsApp, remain deactivated for now, officials said. Governor Satya Pal Malik on Monday said internet services would resume very soon, but officials in the security establishment maintained the process might take up to two months. A decision on pre-paid subscribers could be taken next month, they said.

In Jammu, communication was restored within days of the blockade and mobile

Pak yet to respond to proposal to host meet of BSF-Pak Rangers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan has not yet responded to India’s proposal on hosting the biannual meeting between the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers, another example of what appears to be the neighbour unilaterally snapping functional level contacts, government sources said on Tuesday. The meeting at the level of director generals of both the border guarding forces is scheduled to be held this month.

The biannual meeting has taken place regularly despite ups and downs in bilateral ties between the two countries in the past. “This time the Indian side has proposed to hold the meeting in October, but the Pakistan Rangers has so far not confirmed its intention to participate in the meeting,” said a source. Another source said it is yet another instance of unilateral measures by Pakistan to stop functional level contacts.

Pakistan has been unsuccessfully trying to drum up international support against

India for its decision to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir’s special status and bifurcate the state into two union territories. After India’s decision on August 5, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with India and expelled Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria from the country.

Rejecting Pakistan’s reaction, India has categorically told the international community that its move on Kashmir is an internal matter. India maintains Kashmir is a bilateral issue and no third party has any role in it. In the last couple of months, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has stepped up his attack on India and has been regularly referring to India and Pakistan’s status as nuclear powers.

India’s Border Security Force (BSF) and the Pakistan Rangers guard the international border between the two countries. The two forces have been holding meetings at the level of director generals of the two forces as well as between sector commanders to maintain peace along the frontier.

Won’t allow Bharat to become ‘Hindu Rashtra’: Owaisi

PTI ■ THANE

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has said Bharat is “not a Hindu Rashtra” and they will also not let it become so.

His comments came after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat last week said the Sangh is firm on its vision that “Bharat is a Hindu Rashtra”.

Addressing an election rally on Monday night in Kalyan town of Maharashtra’s Thane district for party candidate Aiaz Moulavi, Owaisi said a section of soci-

ety wants to paint the entire country in one colour, but “we see Hindustan in multiple colours, it is the beauty of Hindustan”.

“Bharat is not a Hindu Rashtra, and Inshallah, we will not allow it to become so,” he said.

Alleging that the Shiv Sena was against the green colour, he said, “Change your spectacles and you will see the green colour in the National flag also.”

He said Bharat is unique because of its secularism and pluralism. There is no other

country in the world as Bharat and “we are proud of it.” “I want to tell those in the RSS that we are not living here on your sympathy. If you want to measure the index of my happiness or sorrow, you and we should see what the Constitution has given to us,” Owaisi said.

He also said that the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) has established itself in Aurangabad because of its own efforts.

“We will spread to other parts of the state also. You cannot stop us,” he said.

After Savarkar, BJP may propose Bharat Ratna for Godse: D Raja

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the BJP for mooted Bharat Ratna award for V D Savarkar, Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja on Tuesday said the ruling party may even propose the honour for Mahatma Gandhi’s killer Nathuram Godse. The election

manifesto of Maharashtra BJP said the party will ask the NDA Government at the Centre to confer India’s highest civilian award on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar. “This is biggest irony of our times that while we are all celebrating the birth cen-

tenary of Gandhiji, the BJP is seeking Bharat Ratna to Savarkar, who was an accused in his assassination case,” Raja told PTI here. “The day may not be far off for BJP to demand Bharat Ratna to Gandhiji’s assassin Nathuram Godse. This is part of their agenda,” the CPI leader said.

RBI stopped printing 2K notes since Apr 1 to prevent hoarding

Recently National Investigation Agency and Intelligence Bureau reported to Government about the tendency of hoarding the `2,000 notes for illegal purposes. The agencies reported that the high value notes, especially `2,000 notes will defeat the purpose of Government envisaged in the demonetisation citing many cases of seizure

of such notes during raids.

The Income Tax Department and Financial Intelligence Unit also reported to the authorities that in their raids majority of the notes seized are `2,000 notes, urging for the controlling the circulation of the high value notes preferred by those involved in tax evasion and financial crimes.

Maha BJP manifesto repetition of old promises, says Cong’s Deb

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The All India Congress Committee women’s wing president Sushmita Deb called the BJP manifesto released on Tuesday for the Maharashtra Assembly polls as a repetition of old promises.

Creation of one crore jobs in the next five years, providing houses for all by 2022 and ushering in USD 1 trillion economy are the key promises made in the ruling BJP’s “sankalp patra”.

“It is a classic case of repetition of old promises. The reason is simple. Promises of 2014 remain unfulfilled. This explains why after five years,

BJP-Shiv Sena Government has no concrete achievement to showcase,” she said at a press conference here.

Deb said agriculture sector had worsened, unemployment had risen sharply, crimes against women had seen a severe spike and promise of clean drinking water remain unfulfilled.

While the BJP-Sena Government promised double-digit growth in agriculture, the actual rate was a meagre 0.4 per cent, which had led to eight farmers committing suicide every day, she claimed. “The BJP’s manifesto promises one crore jobs over the next five years. This is yet

another jumla given sharp rise in unemployment which has tripled under this Government. In fact every third young person in urban areas is today jobless,” Deb said. She said 2000 factories had shut down and Maharashtra was no longer the preferred destination and lagged behind Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand in ease of doing of business.

Crime against women were rising sharply, including a 300 per cent increase in cases of abduction besides 11 rapes registered every day, Deb stated, adding that the Devendra Fadnavis government had not used a single rupee from the Nirbhaya Fund.

Rane-led MSP merges with BJP, Sena miffed

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a snub to the Shiv Sena, the Maharashtra Swabhiman Party (MSP), headed by former Chief Minister Narayan Rane, merged with the ruling BJP, in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Undeterred by the stiff resistance from its ally Shiv Sena to the entry of Rane and his two sons, the ruling BJP went ahead and allowed the MSP’s merger with it at an election rally organised for Sr Rane’s son Nitesh and the BJP candidate at Kankavli Assembly constituency in Sindhudurg district.

While Nitesh had joined the BJP and filed his nomination from his new party early this month, Sr Rane, his another son and former MP Nilesh and their supporters formally entered the BJP.

Speaking at Nitesh’s campaign rally, Chief Minister

Fadnavis heaped praise on Sr Rane saying: “Narayan Rane has a special place in Maharashtra politics. He is well-versed in many subjects. In way, he has been a part of the BJP ever since he went to Rajya Sabha early last year with the BJP’s support”.

“All were waiting for this (merger) for a long time. It has finally happened today.

There is hardly any competition here. The BJP will benefit hugely with the Ranes’ entry to the party,” Fadnavis said.

Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena leadership has not taken kindly to the MSP’s merger with the BJP. Sena President Uddhav Thackeray, who will be campaigning in Kankavli and Savantwadi constituencies, is expected to spell out his stand on the MSP’s merger with the BJP. On its part, the Sena – notwithstanding its alliance with Sr Rane – has put up its candidate against Nitesh Rane. In sence, the fight would

be between the Sena and BJP in Kankavli constituency.

Fadnavis said that Nitesh would win the Assembly polls with a thumping margin. He, however, advised Nitesh, known for his losing his cool on some pretext or the other, to restrain himself and learn to remain calm.

There had been speculation in the State political circles that he would join the BJP along with his two sons Nitesh and Nilesh. His entry to the BJP was being resisted by its ally Shiv Sena for a very long.

He had earlier announced that he would join the BJP on October 2. Rane made an announcement about merging the MSP with the BJP, while campaigning for his party candidate Rajan Teli. “The BJP is getting strong in Konkan region. My son Nitesh and his supporters joined the BJP earlier. I will merge my party with the BJP in the presence of chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on October 15,” he said.

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3				
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ				
पत्रांक संख्या : 1765 / E.E.-3/			दिनांक : 14.10.2019	
अल्पकालीन निविदा-सूचना				
जोन-3 के अन्तर्गत कार्य हेतु जलकल विभाग जोन-3 द्वारा अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 23.10.2019 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक शुल्क जमा करके कैश काउन्टर से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 23.10.2019 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक निविदा खोली जा सकती है तथा प्राप्त निविदायें उसी दिवस को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष खोली जायेंगी। निविदा विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-				
क्रम सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा शुल्क	EMD	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1.	Laying & jointing of 250 mm dia NP3 RCC hume pipe at MD-10, Sector-C, Aiganj & at Chapartalla, Bada Chandganj near Sanjay Bhawan, old Mahanagar, Lucknow.	Rs. 200/-+ GST 12%	Rs. 3500.00	Rs. 160764.30 +12% GST
2.	Laying & jointing of 110 mm dia PVC pipe line at difference places of 9/1 Nauwakheda, Jankipuram Vistar, Sector-9, Lucknow.	Rs. 300/-+ 12% GST	Rs. 6500.00	Rs. 330216.16 +12% GST
जमानत राशि अधिशासी अभियन्ता जलकल विभाग, जोन-3 लखनऊ के नाम बन्धक होगा, जमा करना अनिवार्य है। सभी निविदादाताओं का रजिस्ट्रेशन, जी0एस0टी0 नं0 की छायाप्रति निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। बिना जमानत धनराशि के व निर्धारित तिथि व समय के उपरान्त किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। किसी एक व समस्त निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा महाप्रबन्धक जलकल विभाग नगर निगम को सुरक्षित होगा। अन्य शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लेखित हैं।				
(एस0डी0 मिश्रा)				
अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3				
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम				

कार्यालय उपनिदेशक (निर्माण) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उ०प्र०

नवीन मण्डी स्थल-तन्त्रिचारी रोड, बाँदा

(ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना)

पत्रांक-नि०ख०बाँदा/निविदा/2019-1152

दिनांक-15.10.19

जनपद महोबा मण्डी समिति चरखारी एवं महोबा क्षेत्रांतर्गत सम्पर्क मार्गों के गड्ढामुक्तिकरण/मरम्मत कार्य हेतु ई-निविदायें वित्तीय रूप से सुदृढ़ अनुमती तथा मण्डी परिषद में सिलिल कार्यों हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 08.11.2019 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आन लाइन कार्यालय उपनिदेशक (निर्माण) मण्डी परिषद, बाँदा में खोली जायेगी। उक्त निविदायें दिनांक 07.11.2019 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर आन लाइन भरकर डाउनलोड की जा सकती हैं। निविदाकर्ता को दिनांक 08.11.2019 को अपराह्न 12.30 बजे तक समस्त बिड डाक्यूमेन्ट एवं पंजीकरण से सम्बन्धित समस्त आवश्यक प्रपत्र सहित जो वेबसाइट पर डाउनलोड किये हैं उनकी मूल प्रति उपनिदेशक (निर्माण) मण्डी परिषद, बाँदा के कार्यालय में जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। कार्यों का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा शुल्क (18 प्रतिशत जी.एस.टी. सहित)	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु० में)	घरोर धनराशि (लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	जनपद महोबा मण्डी समिति चरखारी सम्पर्क मार्ग सुदामपुरी से कनेरा (लम्बाई 0.50 कि०मी०)	590.00	13.02	1.31	45 दिन	‘द’
2	सम्पर्क मार्ग छानी से सन्तोषपुरा (लम्बाई 2.00 कि०मी०)	1180.00	17.59	1.80	45 दिन	‘द’
3	सम्पर्क मार्ग करी से सलैया (लम्बाई 1.00 कि०मी०)	590.00	13.08	1.31	45 दिन	‘द’
1	जनपद महोबा मण्डी समिति महोबा गहरा सम्पर्क मार्ग (लम्बाई 0.60 कि०मी०)	590.00	12.00	1.20	45 दिन	‘द’

शर्तें : 1. ई-निविदा के साथ नान रिफंडेबल निविदा का मूल्य भारतीय स्टेट बैंक शाखा कचेहरी कम्पाउण्ड बाँदा आई.एस.सी. कोड-एस.सी.आई.एन. 00000221 उपनिदेशक (निर्माण) मण्डी परिषद, बाँदा के अधिकांता खाता सं०-30394500417 में जमा कर रसीद निविदा के साथ डाउनलोड की जायेगी। 2. घरोर धनराशि की धनराशि भारतीय स्टेट बैंक शाखा कचेहरी कम्पाउण्ड बाँदा आई.एस.सी. कोड-एस.सी.आई.एन. 00000221 उपनिदेशक (निर्माण) मण्डी परिषद, बाँदा के जमानत खाता सं०-30394500374 में जमा कर रसीद डाउनलोड करनी होगी। 3. रु० 100.00 के स्टाम्प पेपर जो ट्रेजरी कार्यालय से जारी हुआ हो साथ में रु० 1.00 का चेन्नेन्ट टिकट लगाकर जमा करना अनिवार्य है। 4. समस्त टेन्स एवं श्रम विभाग के नियमों के अनुसार कटौती ठेकेदार के देयकों से की जायेगी। अनुबन्ध गटन के 60 दिन के अन्दर श्रम विभाग में पंजीकरण कराना आवश्यक है। 5. वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर डाउनलोड किये गये फार्म में किसी भी तरह की त्रुटि की निम्नता की स्थिति में कार्यलय में अनुरक्षित निविदा फार्म की मूलप्रति ही मान्य होगी। 6. ई-निविदा की दरें 90 दिन तक मान्य होगी। 7. शासनादेश संख्या 4435/छ-गु-14-06-50(7)/2006 दिनांक 02.11.2006 के अनुसार जिलाधिकारी महोदय से निर्गत प्रमाण पत्र एवं हेरिथेज प्रमाणपत्र एवं रु० 100.00 के स्टाम्प पेपर पर भरकर प्राकृष टी-6 के रूप में रायच पत्र संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। तथा पंजीकरण पुस्तिका के तालिका सं०-09 के अनुसार रु० 10.00 के स्टाम्प पेपर पर भरकर नोटटी द्वारा प्रमाणित करना अनिवार्य होगा। 8. शेष नियम एवं शर्तें कार्यालय कार्य दिवस में आकर देखी एवं पढ़ी जा सकती हैं।

उपनिदेशक (निर्माण)

Pakistan slips up

Though it may not be blacklisted, it does slide further on compliances required for countering terror at FATF



Pakistan may not be blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the inter-governmental forum that links terror funding to freezing international aid, but India's persistent campaign against it nursing terror hubs has clearly paid off. It now appears that Pakistan could slip into the "dark grey" list, a severe warning to take correctives, as it has but fulfilled only six of the 27 conditions of compliance to evade curfew altogether. Besides, the common cause on terror hubs impacting domestic politics that India has man-

aged to drum up around the world, particularly winning US endorsement on this effort, means Pakistan has few friends. In August, the FATF's Asia Pacific subgroup placed it in the "enhanced blacklist" for its failure to meet global standards. Yet its Prime Minister Imran Khan has been lobbying hard for the overall FATF vote, diverting attention from the terror factory at home to Kashmir, forging a new Islamic alliance with Turkey and Malaysia for a crusade-like stance against the Western world, still dangling the Taliban sword to keep the US invested in its relevance for Afghanistan and playing on Chinese anxieties about the Indo-US axis. And while Pakistan may scrape through this time, requiring just three members' support to escape a funding ban, it has still got away by being a strategic counterweight for others' geo-political concerns rather than attempting any course correction at home. What else explains the renewed push for militancy in Kashmir? That problem continues and can only be beaten by now normalising life in the Valley. Discontent cannot be allowed to fester under lockdown for Pakistan's no-risk benefit schemes.

So what are India's obstacles? The recent incremental push in bilateral relations with China has meant that it has come around to agreeing with our viewpoint of combatting terror without referencing Pakistan. How else could it justify its own clampdown on Uighur Muslims? And though it dragged its feet at the UN, it did assent to designating Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. But as the new president of the FATF, China isn't expected to ignore concerns of its all-weather friend Pakistan. It has wriggled a bit here and there but cannot abandon its ally given its strategic interests in the region. Direct transactional benefits with China will frankly take a long time to mature as significant tradeoffs on Pakistan. Of course, there are two more nations, Turkey and Malaysia, to deal with. Both are now spearheading a new-Islamic axis as India has stepped up diplomatic engagement and is building on mutual understanding with the UAE and Saudi Arabia. In fact, India has made significant inroads in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which has traditionally been opposed to it on Kashmir. But with the UAE and Saudi Arabia inviting India as an "observer" in its last edition, the OIC has warmed up a bit albeit Malaysia and Turkey continue to support Pakistan. In fact, Khan is now advocating a trilateral forum for a neo-Islamic world distinct from the traditional pan-Islamism. This leadership challenge to religious legacies has not gone down well with even Saudi Arabia of late. India, too, has now given up the charm offensive with both Turkey and Malaysia and is hitting back economically. It is reviewing imports of palm oil and other products from Malaysia in response to its Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) speech on Kashmir. With that country hosting radical Indian Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, there are some creases of discomfort. Reports say that following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's address on the Kashmir issue, India pulled out of discussions with Anadolu Shipyard, which intended to tie up with with us for building a 45,000-tonne fleet support ship. Simultaneously, India is also building bridges with the ring states around Turkey and Malaysia — Cyprus, Armenia and Greece around the former and Indonesia around the latter. India is now pegging its diplomacy on sound economic sense and that's delivering results, particularly in one-on-one negotiations in a multilateral world. It is demanding that sensitivities be shown to it in return, considering some of these nations are defaulting on rights records too — Turkey in Syria and China in Hong Kong, Tibet and in Uighur-dominated Xinjiang. In fact, India has stayed away from commenting on these issues until now, when it has condemned Turkey's action against Syria. Smart reasoning and corresponding posturing might change the way the world perceives our concerns.

Wild chase

The aberrant behaviour by a lion at a wildlife park in Karnataka shows why we need a tourism protocol



As if the existing threats to wildlife in the form of illegal poaching, encroachments and culling were not enough, a new provocation comes from intrusive tourism. Unknowingly or out of curiosity, tourists are heckling animals so much during safaris that the latter are now displaying aberrant behaviour. The latest such instance was captured by one of the passengers aboard a jeep at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Zoological Park in Bellary, Karnataka, in August, which went viral this week. An aggressive male lion is seen chasing a jeep full of visitors until the driver accelerated enough to outpace him. It was sheer luck that the tourists managed to escape the wrath of the lion, who was hellbent on pouncing upon them. Now the king of the jungle is usually gentle when not on the hunt, even unperturbed by human behaviour. Besides, by virtue of park tourism, lions have become quite immune to human attention. So it was quite strange that Keshri, the lion in question, would become hostile unless he was teased or provoked. Turns out he had just been brought to the park and was yet to settle down. Clearly, he was not used to tourist behaviour and should not have been exposed to visitors either. Particularly, when he was yet to demarcate his territoriality and be sure of his limits, he was but expectedly insecure. In the age of daring selfies and his virality, tourists are not just happy taking routine shots but want a dramatic film sequence. And when they cross limits of admissibility, they run the risk of a chase or attack. Be it big cats or elephants, several videos of them raging after tourists have circulated on social media. In July, a similar video was captured as bikers were chased by a tiger at the Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary in Wayanad, Kerala.

Our big cats are stressed in their fragmented habitats, some of which do have enough roaming stretches, prey bases or transit corridors to deeper forests. Human encroachment and development have resulted in frequent man-animal conflicts. Hemmed in from all sides, such aberrant behaviour is being reported all too frequently now, even from reserves like the Kruger National Park. Tourist behaviour, therefore, should be respectful of protocol and mindful of the peace any sanctuary guarantees the wild. For example, protocol calls for the visitors to maintain a certain distance from the animals during an encounter, which is definitely not followed either by them or unscrupulous tour operators hellbent on selling a "sighting." With greater interest comes greater responsibility.

The great wall of nature

The proposal for a 1,400km-long green corridor along the Aravalli range, which is still in the planning stage, is a remarkable step forward in greening the country



RK **PACHAURI**

Former Prime Minister of India IK Gujral was one of the most scholarly and well-read leaders we have had. At a public function organised by this writer, he mentioned that the battle of Panipat took place at that location only because it was the southernmost location, which had an open area suitable for warfare. According to him, right from the Khyber Pass to Panipat, the entire terrain was heavily forested where conventional warfare of that period was not possible.

A recent news report mentioned that the Government is planning to build a 1,400 kilometre-long "great green wall" of India. If this project receives official sanction and is backed by innovative institutional arrangements for its implementation, it would mark a remarkable step forward in greening India because we, as a nation, have failed to seize the importance of greening our degraded and deforested land.

The Green India mission was one of the eight key missions included in the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The purpose of this operation was to protect, enhance and restore India's decreasing forest cover and act on the growing extent of climate change through a combination of mitigation and adaptation measures. Unfortunately, the mission has been grossly under-funded. A report by the Parliamentary Committee, titled, 'Performance of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) pertaining to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)', quotes MoEFCC as stating that the "budget allocation of ₹47.80 crore for FY 2017-18 is grossly insufficient. The committed liability of FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 is ₹89.53 crore, which is more than the budget allocation of FY 2017-18."

Expansion of population and encroachments by humans on forest land and the habitat of other species have not only reduced forest cover since independence but has also led to poor forest density even in those areas, which are regarded as forest land. The proposed "green wall" of India is planned to establish a green belt from Porbandar to Panipat and would help restore degraded land through afforestation, particularly along the Aravalli hill range, which covers Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.

It is well-known that the Aravallis have been heavily degraded in several areas, particularly in Haryana, as a result of the nexus between politicians and the builders' lobby. The establishment of the "green wall" would provide an effective barrier for dust coming from the deserts in Western India and Pakistan. It is now well-established that dust from deserts can travel large distances as has been seen with dust from Saudi Arabia travelling to northern parts of Europe. This writer has always advised officials in the Middle East, including a former Saudi Oil Minister, "Please convert your oil wealth to soil health."

Recently, the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) of the United Nations Convention



to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in India and as a follow-up to that event, India can and should set an example for other countries that are threatened with desertification.

The UNCCD is an agreement to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, based on long-term strategies and national programmes, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements. It was in 2006 that in order to gather support for the convention, the UN declared that year as the "International Year of Deserts and Desertification."

The convention has thus far been ratified by 190 States and the European Union (EU). However, on March 28, 2013, Canada became the first country to withdraw from it but reversed this arrangement on March 21, 2017.

In hosting COP14 of the convention, India made a major impact on this expanding problem in different countries of the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to this conference stated: "I call upon the leadership of UNCCD to create a global water action agenda, which is central to land degradation neutrality strategy."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently published a special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas

fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The report states, "The level of risk posed by climate change depends both on the level of warming and on how population, consumption, production, technological development and land management patterns evolve. Pathways with higher demand for food, feed and water, more resource-intensive consumption and production and more limited technological improvements in agriculture yields result in higher risks from water scarcity in drylands, land degradation, and food insecurity."

It further states: "Many activities for combating desertification can contribute to climate change adaptation with mitigation co-benefits as well as to halting biodiversity loss with sustainable development co-benefits to society...Preventing desertification is preferable to attempting to restore degraded land due to the potential for residual risks and maladaptive outcomes."

The UN system, as is widely known, is currently underfunded and is actually facing a serious crisis. For several years now, there has been a growing realisation that the UN system needs to be restructured and reformed, starting, of course, with the composition of the permanent members of the Security Council, of which India should have been admitted as a member years ago.

In the case of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

“IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT THE ARAVALLIS HAVE BEEN HEAVILY DEGRADED IN SEVERAL AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN HARYANA, AS A RESULT OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN POLITICIANS AND THE BUILDERS' LOBBY. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 'GREEN WALL' WILL PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER FOR DUST COMING FROM THE DESERTS

SOUND BITE

It is biggest irony of our times that while we are celebrating Gandhiji's birth centenary, the BJP is seeking Bharat Ratna for Savarkar, an accused in his assassination case.



CPI general secretary
—D Raja

Professionally, it has been a very special year for me. Both the successes have only motivated and encouraged me to keep following my instincts and work hard.



Actor
—Hrithik Roshan

The global security situation is in a flux. There is concern over the inherent dangers in nuclear brinkmanship pursued by countries as a cover for cross-border terrorism.



Indian diplomat
—Pankaj Sharma

When a ship sinks in the middle of a sea, the captain evacuates everyone safely but Gandhi is a captain who himself left after seeing the Congress sinking.



AIMIM chief
—Asaduddin Owaisi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Together, we can win

Sir — A large number of climate strikes have recently erupted around the world, directing attention to issues such as climate change and global warming. It is also interesting to note that many indigenous tribes have been praying for the protection of the Amazon rainforest as thousands of wildfires continue to destroy it. People often turn to prayer in difficult times. Such prayers not only lead to positive results but also strengthen relationships among people. The prayers for the Amazon and the protests have attracted the attention of the global population. One hopes that such admirable activities continue to inspire people around the world.

P Senthil
Via email

Misleading policy

Sir — Economists have forever been negotiating between the two poles of wealth and poverty. In 1776, Adam Smith postulated that the existence of economic prosperity, more than the persistence of poverty, must be

paid attention to. An eon was spent on identifying the conditions necessary for wealth creation. Then an era was spent on the distribution of income between capital and labour.

Finally, Nobel Prize-winning economist Angus Deaton delved into the cause, spread and measurement of poverty. But looks like Indian-American economist Abhijit Banerjee has analysed

the problem with poverty with an experimental approach. The randomised controlled field trials (RCTs) adopted by him has helped find out what works and what doesn't to fight poverty.

The traditional way of measuring wealth on account of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is misleading. It probably further skews the distribution of wealth and accentuates income dis-

parity. We have journeyed long from exploring the creation of wealth to the distribution of income to now Nobel prize winner Abhijit Banerjee's treatise on poverty.

Strangely, it is seen that deeper the democratic mores, as it is in the US, the sharper has been the turn to the right wing ideology of wealth inequality. It may take ages for the socio-economists, much less the Governments, to

The historic China connect

This refers to the editorial, "Finding an old connect" (October 14). The second informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping was historically significant. The choice of Mamallapuram as the venue of the meet was important on account of its historical links with China, which dates back to the seventh century. Mamallapuram, named after Narasimhavarman I of the Pallava dynasty, is an ancient port town that has a strong mercantile history with China. It was also part of China's silk route and India's spice route. In fact, the origins of Kanchipuram's silk industry can be traced back to the import of raw silk from China via Mamallapuram. Sino-India links in the region can be traced back as far as 2,000 years. Chinese coins discovered in the region further establish the age-old link between the two nations. This rich history made Mamallapuram a befitting venue for this summit.

China has seen an exponential growth in cutting-



edge technology, leaping far beyond India. Electronic goods manufactured by it, which were once frowned upon, have now become much sought after. As India is a big market for Chinese goods, it is unlikely that Xi will take a harsh stand against India on the issue of Kashmir.

TK Nandanam
Kochi

move away from a trite GDP to even grasp the concept of creation and distribution of happiness.

R Narayan
Navi Mumbai

Challenges ahead

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Bangla pride" (October 15). The appointment of former cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly as the head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is welcome. In fact, he may just be the person the cricket administration needs right now to set things right. It's good to learn that on his priority list are first class players, who are the foundation for a strong pool of talent for the national team. Other issues like the absence of an Indian umpire in the middle of a sea, the captain evacuates everyone safely but Gandhi is a captain who himself left after seeing the Congress sinking. He has his task cut out.

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Fight pollution collectively

Carpooling, using public transport, segregating waste to reduce burning, choosing not to burst firecrackers at Diwali can make a big difference



NAVDAHA MALHOTRA

The Diwali season comes with many debates: Does a ban on firecrackers make a difference? Could we have prepared better? Has the national Capital's air pollution decreased? What can Delhiites do to help bring it down?

This year the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government announced a series of measures to tackle air pollution, including the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme; distribution of masks to prevent PM10 intake; a community pyrotechnic show for Diwali; mechanised road-sweeping; a tree plantation drive and a pollution plan for 12 hot spots. In September, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that according to the air quality data of the last four years, the pollution levels in Delhi had reduced by 25 per cent. While the data is still being examined, this indicates a positive step in the fight for a cleaner Delhi.

In the past, there have been many claims and counter-claims over the impact of the odd-even scheme implemented in the Capital. While some studies indicated that it was a success, others claimed that there was no impact, and still others contended that it was impossible to isolate vehicular pollution from Delhi's data sets. However, the one thing all studies agree on is that the odd-even scheme will not succeed without a robust public transport system and without restrictions placed on heavy vehicles and two-wheelers, which make up the majority of Delhi's vehicular traffic. In the past, the scheme provided exclusions for two and three-wheelers, trucks, taxis and cars used by VIPs. These exemptions, and the limited hours of the odd-even scheme, made it harder to define the success of the project, especially as two-wheelers have the highest emissions levels. At the moment, the Delhi Metro and bus fleet are not equipped to keep up with the existing demand from commuters, let alone the demand that will be generated during vehicular rationing days. However, the undeniable benefit of the scheme is decreased congestion on the city's roads. This cuts down the number of hours citizens spend in their cars and the pollution caused by congestion. The scheme is a step in the right direction but it alone cannot solve the problems of vehicular pollution.

Given these concerns, the next logical solution would be to consider electric vehicles (EVs) and particularly electric public transport. Several cities around the country have committed to electric bus fleets and feeder buses and should these measures be implemented, they will certainly have a positive impact on air pollution. However, cutting down on tailpipe emissions is only half the battle. As long as EVs are powered by traditional electricity, they still contribute to fossil fuel emissions, just perhaps not in the same city they are driven in. EVs are a step in the right direction but not enough to tackle the air pollution crisis, unless they become solar powered in the future.

Like the different sources of the problem, the solutions to our air quality issues are also varied and complex. Pollution does not acknowledge State or city boundaries and our solutions must transcend these as well. Central and State Governments must work together to ensure heavy industrial and vehicular activity is kept outside cities; equitable and environmental solutions for stubble burning are implemented as quickly as possible; industrial activity is heavily regulated and fuel emission standards for vehicles continue to advance. Most importantly, this Government needs to ensure that air quality is monitored adequately and that the data is shared so that the benefits of schemes like odd-even can be evaluated.

At the moment, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has a woefully incomplete monitoring network, with data gaps for many pollutants and locations. The newly-released National Clean Air Plan (NCAP) fails to include many of the Indian cities that require policy action and doesn't give local authorities the enforcement power they need to penalise offenders. As citizens, it often feels like there is little we can do beyond voting for the right candidate every few years. Installing air purifiers, limiting physical activity and wearing masks outside allows those who can afford it a break from the air pollution but it does not solve the issue. Each individual can take certain proactive actions: Carpooling and using public transport cut vehicular emissions. Ensuring that waste is segregated before it is discarded cuts down waste burning as does limiting open garbage and leaf burning in the winter. During Diwali, choosing not to burn firecrackers can make a massive difference, as we have seen in the last decade in New Delhi.

However, it is clear that only stringent policy can create the kind of widespread change that is needed to tackle air pollution. To make this happen, citizens must encourage their representatives to take action through their votes and their voice. Elections will be held in several States soon, including Delhi. We must make our priorities known to our leaders by raising our voices and demanding a better standard of air quality from our representatives.

(The writer is a social campaigns manager)

CONGRESS NE KHODA PAHAD, NIKLI CHUHIYA. WOH BHI MARI HUI. (THEY DUG A MOUNTAIN, ONLY TO FIND A MOUSE. THAT TOO A DEAD ONE).
—HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER
MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THINK IN WHAT LIGHT DO THESE REMARKS SHOW WOMEN. BECAUSE OF PEOPLE WITH YOUR MINDSET, HARYANA IS KNOWN AS THE CRIME CAPITAL.
—HARYANA CONGRESS PRESIDENT
KUMARI SELJA

A double-edged sword

While cities that experimented with free public transport achieved positive results for a while, sustaining them beyond a few years proved to be a problem



MEGHA KUMAR

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement on offering free public transport to women has sparked off a debate across the country about the financial performance and pricing of public transport. As cities across the world struggle to keep the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) and other modes of public transport financially viable, scholars and operators alike are trying to arrive at an economically sound formula for operations.

According to an estimate by the Delhi Transport Corporation and the Delhi Metro, women constitute around 30 to 35 per cent passengers in both buses and the trains. This comes to about 14 lakh women per day on the buses and 800,000 women per day on the metro. The Delhi Government is assuming that the scheme will see a rise of 50 per cent in female ridership, resulting in a decrease in the number of vehicles on the city's roads and improved safety for those vulnerable sections who cannot afford public transport otherwise.

Impact studies in cities that have experimented with a free public transport policy indicate tangible benefits such as higher ridership, less traffic congestion, better air quality, savings on printing, ticket-punching technology and the people engaged in ticket sales. Free public transport promises intangible benefits, too, such as a stronger democracy, higher citizen participation, better liveability and a vibrant economy.

However, it is easier said than done. Cities like Tallinn in Estonia and Châteauroux and Aubagne in France experimented with free public transport in the past and achieved positive results for a while. Sustaining the results beyond a few years, however, proved to be a problem. Also, while the combined effect of free service and happier commuters can significantly increase ridership, public transport can also experience a rebound effect, resulting in crowding and poor service quality due to a large demand response. Such a response can result in a higher tax burden for the transport agency.

The key to operating a free public transport is to identify alternate sources of revenue to finance it. Sustaining a free transport policy in the long-term, especially during times of economic volatility, can be highly strenuous. The city of Châteaurouxin, France could generate returns on public transport in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007. However, 2008 onwards, the returns declined. The city of Hasselt in Belgium had to wind up its free public transport policy after a few years as the Government could no longer support its financing.

So, the big question is, can Indian cities afford free transport for their citizens, given the burgeoning population of the country?

Cities in India face a severe shortage of public transport. City peripheries and low-income neighbourhoods often remain unserved and even if a network of buses and local trains and so on exists, the frequency of service is low, rendering it ineffective. Free or otherwise, the absence of public transport results in last-mile connectivity problems for the poor. Addressing the inadequacies of the country's public transport network will require huge capital investments and considering the amount of expenditure it entails, it could



be too much of a burden on the State Governments to then generate funds for operating expenses.

However, the good news is that, though it appears impossible at present, there are solutions worth exploring. Given that State Governments are finding it difficult to provide even partial support in the form of subsidies and grants to public transport agencies, relying on budgetary support to fund a free transport policy seems very difficult at present. Running free public transport may or may not be possible but every city must have at least an affordable transport system. There are a few strategies for long-term funding and cost-cutting that could be explored for achieving this.

Cross-utility subsidy: Although it's not very popular in the country, cross-utility financing is prevalent in many parts of the world, including Europe and North America.

There are many ways to enforce a cross-utility subsidy like imposing a levy on utility use or cross-subsidising a loss-making utility by a profit-making one. The loss-making transport department of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport (BEST), for instance, was, for a long time, cross-subsidised by revenues generated by the profitable electricity department. If implemented in a prudent manner, cross-utility subsidy can offer a long-term solution for funding public transport.

Targeted subsidy: Grants often fail to benefit the desired user groups. So, the solution lies in introducing selective subsidisation for carefully identified beneficiaries. It is a difficult thing to pull off but one can take heart from the fact that over 10 million customers in India gave up their Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) subsidy in response to the Government's plea. If people are made aware about the purpose of a subsidy, there will be many who will give it up if they don't require it. At any rate, the Government should explore targeted subsidies to offer affordable pub-

THE KEY TO OPERATING A FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS TO IDENTIFY ALTERNATE SOURCES OF REVENUE TO FINANCE IT. IF IMPLEMENTED IN A PRUDENT MANNER, CROSS-UTILITY SUBSIDY CAN OFFER A LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR FUNDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

lic transport to the needy and the vulnerable.

Dedicated transport fund: Many experts have emphasised the need to exempt public bus transport corporations from the motor vehicle tax. For many bus corporations, the operational losses are almost equal to what they pay as motor vehicle tax. While there is a sound rationale behind taxing vehicles that generate huge negative externalities like emissions and congestion, imposing a similar tax on public buses is draconian. On a "per passenger kilometre" basis, public transport is more efficient and causes lower emission and congestion than private vehicles. Moreover, the tax gets directly passed on to the commuters as part of the fares they pay. Foregoing the tax will also make fares more affordable and improve the financial accessibility of public transport.

New performance indicators: There is also a need to develop new performance indicators for evaluating public transport corporations. These indicators must mainstream social and environmental goals. Currently, public transport operations in the country are guided primarily by financial parameters like earnings and cost-per-kilometre. Now, more emphasis needs to be placed on the intangible socio-economic benefits such as time savings, improved productivity, lower congestion and improved livelihood opportunities that public transport enables. Changing the way public transport corporations are assessed will also change the manner in which they operate and the goals they prioritise in service delivery.

While financial performance is critical for operating public transport, increasing the fare is not the best solution. The approach to the problem will change once it is realised that the objective of operating public transport is not to generate revenue but to offer affordable services to citizens. The need of the hour is to find innovative solutions to make public transport affordable for all.

(The writer is Area Convenor, Centre for Sustainable Mobility, TERI)

Will the Thackeray clan see a s(o)nrise?

The timing is perfect for Thackeray scion Aditya to make his electoral debut with the BJP-Sena alliance poised to win the Assembly polls. The young Thackeray represents the changing political scenario and the Sena's evolving culture



KALYANI SHANKAR

How would the late Sena chief Bal Thackeray have reacted to the idea of his grandson Aditya entering electoral politics when the Thackeray clan had scrupulously kept out of it for decades? He would have chuckled.

So far, the family has run a powerful political party in Maharashtra without contesting elections. The youngest Thackeray, Aditya breaks that tradition in the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections by contesting from the Worli seat in Mumbai.

Balasaheb had once told me he had taken three decisions — he would not contest elections, would

not write his autobiography and would not take any Government post and he had stuck to them till the end of his life.

After the first Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party Government (BJP) was formed in 1995, Balasaheb often quipped that he ruled the State via "remote control". Balasaheb's son Uddhav Thackeray surprisingly not only kept the party alive but also followed the "remote control" policy of his father.

However, the 29-year-old Aditya is different in this sense and he represents the aspirational Maharashtrian youth. His image-makers are trying to project him as a suave, English-speaking Sena leader. Nine years ago, Balasaheb himself introduced his grandson to the political world in October 2010 and also named Aditya the head of the party's newly-created youth wing.

The timing is perfect for the Thackeray scion to make his electoral debut, with the BJP-Sena alliance poised to win the Assembly polls this month.



Aditya stated the obvious in an interview recently, "I chose this election because I thought this was the right time." There is a vacuum in the youth leadership in Maharashtra, which he hopes to fill.

As a child, Aditya used to travel with his father and grandfather and became interested in politics from then on. "If you have to do something good for society, politics is the way. I have been thinking of my journey for the last five years. We did several agitations. How to serve Maharashtra better, Shiv Sena style? I have always thought that I should join my party legislators", says Aditya.

Prior to this electoral contest, he had undertaken a *Jan Ashirwad*

yatra in July to thank the voters for the 2019 success but his real intention was to gauge the public mood for his own debut.

The young Thackeray represents the changing political scenario and also the evolving culture of the Sena. Much has changed since the days of Balasaheb. The party's clout in Maharashtra politics has certainly diminished. Politics has changed, the voters have changed and the Sena, too, has become a junior partner in the coalition, as compared to the earlier days of dominating the Sena-BJP alliance.

Aditya is experimenting with a different kind of politics, trying to change the old narrative. The Sena's image has been that of a muscular political party and he would have to change this if he wants to succeed. The Sena is no more a rabble-rousing party.

In the past it used to launch agitations against the South Indians, Gujaratis, Biharis and Muslims. Today, in a bid to woo non-Maharashtrian voters, his campaign

has multi-lingual posters. He does not mention religion or Hindutva and instead prefers to raise bread and butter issues like employment and development.

He talks about the ban on plastic, beach cleaning and the environment. Aditya is more cosmopolitan, modern and open to new-age electoral politics. He is accused of being comfortable with the Page 3 set but he is also trying to appeal to the ordinary youth.

Second, Aditya is emulating his grandfather by building a base among the youth. The senior Thackeray had a devoted youth following all his life. As long as he was alive, every *Vijayadasami* day, thousands of youth had attended his meeting at the Shivaji Park. Now, Aditya is targeting the millennial voters. He is being projected as a sensitive, modern, young leader, who is flexible and open to new ideas.

Third, it was the family's considered decision to support Aditya's electoral plunge. Bal Thackeray could run the Government through remote

control. Uddhav, too, managed to do that but Aditya, encouraged by his mother Reshmi, believes that the days of "remote control governance" are over and one needs to be in the system.

Above all, the Sena wants to strengthen itself on the ground fearing that the BJP might subsume the party. The family feels that the junior Thackeray's presence in the next Cabinet would give them some control.

Aditya is poised to win the Worli seat, if Dame Luck smiles at him, he might even become the Deputy Chief Minister. Though Uddhav says now, "The first step in politics doesn't mean that you have to become the Chief Minister of the State. He has just entered politics, this is just the beginning." He would push for his son when the time comes.

Aditya wants to prove that he is not just another son of a powerful political family but a grassroots leader in his own right. The Assembly contest will be his acid test.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



A TIME OF RECKONING

Though some fossil fuel companies now promote renewable projects, they continue to expand their operations in the face of overwhelming evidence that their actions will drive ecosystem collapse and make much of the planet uninhabitable. It is difficult to confront the full implications of irresponsibility on such a monumental scale. But we, and our politicians, now have no choice but to try. (The Guardian editorial)

MBA in Information Technology Business Management is an extensive course with specialised streams, designed to inculcate and amplify the necessary skills within students, which will help them understand the business requirements and devise potential technology solutions for the successful execution of the same. The programme aims at developing professionals with excellent leadership, management and entrepreneurship qualities. MBA in IT Business Management is a two-year post-graduate programme. It is one of the most advanced courses present in the education world today.

MBA (ITBM) trains the students to lead their organisations with proficiency and with caliber. This course gives them an opportunity to transform themselves into multifaceted experts in the Information Security industry. MBA (ITBM) has an extremely comprehensive scope as it offers various specialisations to the students and lets them select the field they would like to explore. This opens a plethora of professional doors for a fresh graduate to enter. The specialisation streams of MBA (ITBM) include systems, information security management, software solutions management, IT infrastructure management & data science.

The systems specialisation provides insights, knowledge, and practice on the vital amalgamation of business and technology, and builds the mastery it demands to manage and balance both. This programme focuses on equipping tech into business processes through the application of innovative strategies. The industry-centric course content covers all the essential aspects, including enterprise resource planning, service-oriented architecture, requirements engineering, enterprise performance management, six sigma for process optimisation and more. The career prospects in this specialisation include functional consultancy, requirements engineering, process optimisation, business development, ERP planning and implementation, business analysis, quality management and business process management.

Information Security Management specialisation emphasises on the management of risks associated with operating systems, databases, applications, routers and firewalls and others in organisations that are evolving and expanding each day. Alleviating these risks on each level has become an absolute necessity of a growing business. The Information Security Management specialisation aims at developing professionals who are capable of understanding information workflows and the risks associated with them so that they can form strategies for an information secured business environment. Prospective career profiles for this specialisation are information risk management, IT security consulting, IT advisory services, information security audit, identity and access management, BCM & ISMS implementation, HIPAA auditing and implementation,



TAKE AN ADVANCED ROUTE

A specialised MBA opens a plethora of doors for fresh graduates, says DR DHANYA PRAMOD

compliance and due diligence, IT project advisory.

Software Solutions Management specialisation teaches students the art and process of fetching effective solutions to the problems concerning the business of an organisation. They learn about management information systems, principles of marketing, finance, HRM, data warehousing & the concepts related to business intelligence. MBA SSM students comprehend how to han-

dle technology, along with possessing standard managerial skills. They also gain knowledge about different and diverse domains like manufacturing or logistics and banking or finance. prospective career profiles for this specialisation are IT sales and marketing, business process analysis, software solution development, quality verification, enterprise solutions architecture, techno-functional consultancy, software architecture and devops.

SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS MANAGEMENT SPECIALISATION TEACHES STUDENTS THE ART AND PROCESS OF FINDING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE BUSINESS

TIP TOP Ace UPSC IES interview

It is vital for engineering aspirants to crack the interview round. AKHAND SWAROOP PANDIT tells you about the tips and tricks that will help students

Qualifying for the interview of UPSC engineering services, which is the final stage of selection has always been a dream for its aspirants. Everyone wants to perform their best at this stage. Afterall, the selected candidates are among the 0.5 per cent who manage to crack the IES examination. Nearly 1 lakh students compete for around 600 vacancies every year for different engineering branches. While the written test evaluates the technical knowledge of the candidates, the IES interview gauges their personality combined with their field-related knowledge. The interview also tries to bring out qualities like intuitive powers, spontaneity, practicality, soft skills, leadership qualities, confidence level and team spirit of the finalists. That said, it is the 200 marks and a set of rigorous questions that ultimately decides the fate of those 0.5 per cent candidates whether they can manage to get through one of the most sought-after engineering recruitment examinations. Sounds gruelling? Fret not! All you need is a well-defined plan and some extra efforts to tackle all your apprehensions and give your best shot. Here is a list of preparation tips and tricks for the upcoming IES interview:

Pay attention while filling the Detailed Application Form (DAF):



Prior to your interview, the most crucial thing is to fill the DAF very carefully. Because, a lion's share of the interview questions will be based on your own profile such as your previous job experience, hobbies, your hometown, college and others. You cannot afford to go wrong while answering those questions and stick to the information while you are talking at the interview.

Focus on current affairs: The candidate must stay updated with the latest national and international affairs. So flip through the news-

papers, surf the current affairs blogs and news pieces and take quizzes as much as possible.

Keeping the knowledge about your subjects and the final year college project in place: The interview board pays a lot of attention to a candidate's technical and subject know-how. So make sure you get your basic concepts right and prepare two/three of your favourite technical subjects and their practical applications as you will be asked questions about your understanding of the subjects

Emphasise on the tricky ques-

tions: The interviewer might ask questions related to your state/city and its historical importance, your hobbies, your weaknesses, the reason behind joining IES and much more. These questions should be answered tactically to avoid creating any negative impression on the panel. For instance, while talking about your weaknesses, direct your answers smartly towards your strengths.

Never create answers: Not sure about your answer to a particular question? Say it clearly to the interviewer. Never try to say anything negative or create answers to something you are not sure about. It will only create a negative impact and confusion.

Groom yourself well on the Day: We all must have heard the saying, the first impression is the last impression. So, make sure you are formally dressed and well-groomed for the interview as this will create a lasting impression on the interviewer from the time you enter the interview room.

Remember, it is the selection day so give your best shot at the interview with patience, confidence and clarity. This will increase your chances of getting through the interview with utmost success.

The writer is CEO & Founder, Catalyst Group

'Need for engaging education mores'

Experiential learning enables children to organise their pattern of thought and transform them into action more effectively, says MANDAR NATEKAR

Knowledge is believed to be transcending international boundaries overcoming regional barriers more widely and quicker than ever before. People along with their children are travelling the globe providing the young ones an enhanced exposure to experiences and more opportunities to learn new things. Educators believe that there is a need to scout for more innovative ways for children to gain relevant knowledge and skills in an easy and impactful way.

Experiential education is one such well-structured methodology of learning. It enables children to organise their pattern of thought and transform it into action more effectively. It helps them understand their existing environment and be better prepared to deal with real-life scenarios, as they grow older. Being a parent or guardian, one would observe that when children return from school they are more likely to initiate discussion about what all transpired that day rather than sharing what was actually taught in the classroom. Such is the power of an experience that allows more retention and can leave an ever-lasting impact on a child's mind, over and above any traditional method of learning.

The benefits of experiential learning are embedded deep within



the core of a child's learning process. This methodology helps breakdown complex knowledge into simpler content that is engaging and quick to learn. As we know, in a traditional classroom setup the dominant mode of learning is listening, however, in an experience based environment learning goes beyond the classroom and forces a child to use cognitive abilities in combination with physical skills to take a desired action. This brings out various aspects of a child's personality to the forefront and helps them recognise their skills and interests in unique ways.

When a child is rewarded for taking a particular action, it encourages them to further undertake those tasks repeatedly, therefore becoming better with each play.

Experiential education starts

with a basic visit organised by the school to a Museum, voluntary work in the local community, or project oriented visits to National parks and so forth. These experiences were widely used across the globe as a part of the curriculum to make real-life scenarios informative and fun for children.

Later we saw that there truly was a need for more engaging means of learning for children. This gave rise to digitalisation of classrooms, educational toys, show events, and edutainment or theme-based parks with newer attractions. To complement these means, technologies like recorded audio headsets, audio books, simulated games can also be used to give on-ground learning a new dimension altogether.

The writer is CEO, KidZania India

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him

— Maya Angelou

INBRIEF

INDUCTION PROGRAMME

The KIIT College of Education organised the Induction programme for its BED programme students. The objective of the event was to give the new students information about their chosen design discipline and familiarise them with the various resources at the institute that will enhance their academic experience at KIIT.

The occasion included an inspirational speech by Prof (Dr) M Sen Gupta, Director, KIIT College of Education, who elaborated on the role of Educators and the moral, ethical and academic responsibilities of sincere learners. She also spoke about the importance teaching as an integral element of our existence and how it has the power to bring about immense change in the world.

NEW CAMPUS ON BOARD

Symbiosis International (Deemed University)'s new state-of-art Noida Campus was inaugurated on September 24, 2019 by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Minister of Human Resource Development at Sector 62, Noida.

Headquartered in Pune, Symbiosis started its Off Campus Centre at Noida with two schools viz — Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies (SCMS) and Symbiosis Law School (SLS) in 2010. Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA and Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies, NOIDA have moved to this newly built infrastructure. Located at SIU, Block A, 47/48, Sector 62, Noida, this modern spectacular campus boasts of international faculties and world class facilities for education, promising the students a world class environment to embark on their careers.

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

The Irish-based Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) in conjunction with Lufthansa Technik Shannon Limited (LTSL) have launched a dynamic new course in aviation open to students all over the globe. The new Bachelor of Science in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering is a full-time QQI Level 7 accredited course that will run for 28 months.

Expressing her interest in the affiliation, Cliona Campbell, Director of International Affairs, Limerick Institute of Technology said: "Collaborating with Lufthansa Technik Shannon helps us to create an extraordinary teaching programme that will boost a student's career in aviation."

The training programme is divided into three stages, which will equip students with the skills, expertise and confidence to begin a career in the global aviation industry. Students will gain experience across every area of the aircraft and will experience modules such as, electric fundamentals, inspection techniques, basic aerodynamics and many more to bolster their knowledge.

IIIT-DELHI WEBSITE LAUNCHED

In line with the target of making Delhi a global destination for World Class education, Manish Sisodia, Deputy CM kick-started the process for international students admissions to more than 21 programmes at IIIT-Delhi by launching the website.

The Institute offers undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes in computer science, electronics and communications, computational biology, human centered design, mathematics and social sciences.

The admissions for International students will happen in three phases. The early action application deadline for BTech admissions is November 7, 2019. Regular application deadline is January 1, 2020 and late action deadline is March 1, 2020. Similarly, early, regular and late application deadlines for MTech admissions are December 1, 2019, February 1, 2020 and April 1, 2020.

Conference on de-stressing exams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the aim of creating strong strategies and roadmaps to make school examinations less stressful, the Northwest Accreditation Commission, USA (NWAC) hosted a conference titled De-stressing Examination organised by Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE) last week. The conference was inaugurated by former UGC Chairman Professor Ved Prakash. The event gave special focus on De-Stressing Examination on the lines of Draft National Education Policy 2019.

Director General of National Testing Agency (NTA) Vineet Joshi also attended the conference and spoke about the importance of coordination among all the boards and NTA,

to enable proper verification of students at the application stage of exams conducted by NTA.

Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE gave a detailed presentation on the way CBSE is bringing about a change in the evaluation and examination process to reduce the stress.

"The biggest challenge in front of educators today is to come up with a curriculum that has a futuristic orientation. The education boards do not only have the responsibility of certifying students, but they also have the responsibility to prepare the children for tomorrow's world. Students must not be educated on age-old patterns rather they should be made future-ready," Ved Prakash said on the occasion.

Science & technology expo

Around 1000 students from over 10 schools visited the Techno Blizz, an open house and science and technology exhibition at the Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering (EIE) at Tech Park in SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur Campus.

A total of around 14 labs were set up with various kinds of instruments, prototypes and equipment to help students understand the intricacies of electronics and instrumentation engineering. A few of these dis-



Faculty briefing the students about projects

plays were developed by the students and faculty of the EIE Department.

This Techno Blizz was done in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam.

A team of scientists and engineers from the Nuclear Research Centre displayed scientific models and explained to students the basic functioning of the center. Speaking about the Open House, Head of the Department, Dr A Vimala Joseph said: "The two-day event provided information about the department and SRMIST at large. The children also got hands-on experience and insight into the different aspects of Electronic and Instrumentation engineering through orientation and working models."

IEEEC conference kicks off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 28th IEEE Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN 2019), which kicked off on Monday here, hosts a series of technical talks, special sessions, workshops, tutorials exhibitions and awards function during the four-day-long event. With the theme "Responsible Robotics and AI for the Real World" — experts and delegates underlined the importance of developing responsible technology in an era where robotics and AI are

intruding various aspects of our social as well as private lives.

The four-day conference from October 14-17, 2019 brings in all dimensions of research and development in Robotics and AI.

This is the first time IEEE Ro-MAN Conference is taking place in the Indian subcontinent. The idea is to connect the Indian and international communities in the fast-growing sector of Robotics & AI. Nearly 205 high-quality papers are being presented in 25 oral sessions and one poster session spread over four days.



Grow professionally

Banking sector puts a lot of emphasis on development of skills. This is the reason why it attracts the best talent, says PROF AMIT GOYAL

The banking and financial services have always been the most preferred employment sector for the best students across the world. Over 10 international banks like Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and American Express and 30-plus Indian banks like ICICI, Yes, Axis, IDBI, Kotak, HDFC and Citi are regularly seen scouting for talent at Indian campuses. The tradition of IIMs shows that top students have always had a bias towards working in the banking sector.

A Deloitte survey on *Popularity of working in Banking* conducted in 2013 found that students seeking banking jobs are motivated by learning and earning prospects of banking sector. Top factors that are attached to banking sector jobs which make it a career of choice are:

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

We are living in the knowledge society and the real talent of today values continuous learning and development. Inherently, finance and banking are information driven industries. People working here are always learning and dealing

with new and innovative practices that make the jobs interesting for them. Also, being a people oriented sector, banks put a lot of emphasis on developing professional skills of its people. This makes it the foremost reason why banking sectors attracts the best talent across the world.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH

The huge capital norms and the backup of central banks make banking and financial service companies very strong and stable.

The fact that they are dealing with the public money gives them a lot of Government protection. Strong regulations block the entry of non-serious or weak players in the sectors. These factors put together make banking jobs a lot more secure and stable.

GOOD FUTURE REFERENCE

A student who once becomes a banker is able to reap benefits for his entire career. A banking job of a few years in the beginning of an individual's career makes it a good career reference for the future. Experience as a banker helps a

THE BANKING SECTOR IS GROWING AND SO ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES. BANKS OFFERING DIFFERENT TYPES OF SERVICES RECRUIT CANDIDATES WITH VARYING SKILLSETS

candidate both professionally and socially.

PRESTIGE

Bankers or anyone else dealing with money have always commanded a higher social status in all cultures and societies, since time memorial. The prestige that is attached with a banking job both global and

rural. The respect and prestige of being a banker is therefore a strong intrinsic reason for a lot of talented candidates to seek a banking career.

WHAT WILL YOU BECOME?

The banking sector is growing and so are the opportunities therein. There is no one size fits all profile in banking. Banks offering different types of services recruit candidates with varying skillsets. The role of a clerk in a fully computerised branch has already become redundant.

Most people are recruited in office profile and are required to have specialised domain knowledge. The curriculum and pedagogy is carefully designed to prepare our students for these profiles. During the course of study, the corporate relations department helps a student in identifying the most suitable profile according to their strengths and aptitude.

WHERE WILL YOU WORK?

There are many categories of Banking Financial Services and Insurance companies in India where one can work like Wealth Management, Bank &

NBFC, Asset Management, Fintech, Brokerage, Insurance, Accounting & Taxation, and Rating Agencies.

Students have many designations like Trade Finance Manager, Trade Desk Manager, Financial Planning, Service Delivery officer, Relationship Manager, Management Trainee, Business Banker, Credit officer, Forex Officer, Credit Analyst, Risk Analyst and Operations Executive to name a few.

HIGH FUTURE EARNINGS

The average salary of a fresher in BFSI sector is ₹2-₹2.5 lakh per annum, with three-five years of experience can earn ₹5-₹6 lakh per annum and with 10-plus years experience one can get ₹10 lakh per annum.

The trends show that after making a ground hold for about two-three years in banking industry people tend to grow faster in this sector.

It is notable that good students are usually forward looking and prefer jobs which give them higher future growth than immediate salary.

The writer is Director, TKWs Institute of Banking and Finance

‘Soft skills are just as essential at workplace’

Having an edge over the others can go a long way in building a successful career. Hence, human skills are important, says RACHIT JAIN

In a professional world of cut-throat competition and performance-based assessments, soft skills might appear to be an understated requirement. However, one cannot do without them. A candidate might be programmer, an engineer, a writer or a sales person, but he is first a human being with an emotional quotient. Human skills are technically not considered a part of professional talent; yet even the best professional talent is futile without essential soft skills. You might be the best developer in the organisation, but if you are insincere, unable to communicate well with the team, lack the ability to collaborate and fail to maintain a good equation with your clients, your technical ability or hard skills is going to get you only so far.

Increasingly, organisations are realising that without the necessary human skills, professional talent too has its limitations. If an employee lacks technical skills, training and experience can help improve it. However, when it comes to attitude and aptitude, these are soft skills that can't be taught or ingrained.

Why soft skills matter?

Between two employees who are equally good at their work, which one will you choose to service a client? One who is approachable, doesn't lose patience easily, communicates seamlessly and greets everyone with a smile or the one who often turns irritable?

It is not difficult to understand why soft skills are important than hard skills. Soft skills include a series of personality traits that enable an individual better navigate his environment and handle difficult situations with grace. These human traits include social and communication skills, sincerity towards commitment, emotional intelligence, negotiation, conflict resolution as well as people to people skills. Empathy, patience, flexibility, tolerance and an ability to communicate in difficult situations without arousing tempers are very important skill sets.

Can soft skills be quantified?

It is difficult to quantify or judge soft skills in an individual at the time of recruiting. There aren't many tests to judge skills like communication or even sincerity. However, if you accord the due importance to soft skills, there are subtle ways in which you can assess these during recruitment.

This includes keeping a close eye on the way the individual communicates, the sincerity and maturity he displays throughout the process. If a candidate takes more than a week in responding to your requirement of submitting some documents, you get gauge a lackadaisical attitude behind it. Also important is



Rachit Jain
Founder and CEO, Youth4Work

to watch for the written communication with the candidate that gives a fair idea about the maturity of expression and sensibility of thought of the individual.

As a recruiter, nobody wants to be flooded with resumes from a job portals listing non-human or mechanical skills like years of experience, this degree or that course. What I am looking for are the people who are actively searching jobs in the job position offered and are able to show some passion towards it. This is why we have tried to design innovative Talent Boards that display list more than just the technical skills of an individual.

Our algorithms do not just rank candidate profiles based on a series of technical skill tests but also try to extract exceptional insights into a candidate's skills, attitude, pro-activeness and sincerity by analysing the smart data behind the candidate's activity on the algorithm. Combining the human element with data creates a smart data pool of talent that is much more representative of a candidate's skill set than a simple resume is.

As there arises a greater shift in organisational attitudes towards analysing soft skills during recruitment, we will witness a greater proliferation of similar algorithms and psychometric tests that lay equal value on quantifying soft skills and aptitude. We will also have more organisations investing in building soft skills among their employees through psychological skill training and team building activities.

There was a time when data-based predictions powered decision-making for marketers and financial analysts on the back of detailed insights, be it regarding demand forecasting or predicting defaulters in loan repayments.

Today, Predictive Analytics (PA) is becoming a trend. In HR it means a technology which learns and draws insights from existing data and uses it to map future trends and behavior to enable effective and efficient HR management and decision-making.

By identifying relevant trends and patterns, PA empowers organisations to understand what they do not yet know and gain insights on various aspects of management. The PA-

led human resource management can, thus, enable HR managers to make better strategic decisions while dealing with various incumbent challenges faced by the workforce.

The importance of this technology can be illustrated through some HR problems which managers face daily. One of them is that of absenteeism and typically costs organisations a huge amount of money. Identifying excessive absenteeism, diagnosing the reasons, and predicting the same for the future becomes critical.

Another example is the process of analytics-driven recruitment. Businesses across industries look not only for talented, qualified, and experienced candidates but also those who will make a great culture fit in

MIND IT

their organisation. The PA can help determine which candidates are a better fit along with delineating various factors involved in such decision-making.

Predictive social media analytics and sentiment analytics are some of the solutions that can look at non-numeric data, such as feedback surveys, social media content and others to gauge the engagement level of employees. Leveraging the insights collected from these systems, organisations can come up with relevant strategies to bolster employee engagement while delivering superior employee experience.

All organisations incur recruitment cost and it goes waste when the selected candidate does not join the workforce. In addition to losing money, it can also negatively affect an employer's brand. The PA will assess historical data to unearth possible renege and help managers take the necessary decisions. It also helps in predicting the attrition before it happens. It will also look at an organisation's data to identify factors that have the most significant influence on an employee's flight risk. Managers can then use this data and address these issues before they cause an employee

to leave. Google is one of the first companies to effectively utilise predictive analytics in its hiring process.

The above examples of predictive analytics are not limited to predicting the future trends but also predicting the category — whether the candidate is suitable to be hired or not. The PAs is used to classify the performance of employees as high, medium and low. HR managers analyse a large number of variables and with the help of technology are able to predict the performance of employees. This way HR managers can use statistics and technology to make better decisions. The PA where classification is done, may use past known outcome and derive rules for prediction or group the employees with similar behavior

when the outcome is unknown.

Thus, HR managers can classify the performance of employees in three categories: high medium and low performing, without resorting to the traditional normal curve.

The companies who have started using PA in HR use one or more statistical procedures like Regression-Linear and logistics, Decision tree, Random Forest, Cluster Analysis, Neural nets etc.

In view of this, there is no doubt that analytics can be a powerful data-driven tool for organisations to anticipate performance outcomes and develop pro-active strategies in Human Resource Management.

The writer is Sangeeta Shah Bhargava, Professor, Information Management Area, MDI Gurgaon



The Faculty of Engineering at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow has a number of scholarships available for new self-funded, international (non-EU) fee paying students with excellent academic qualifications for the MSc in Civil Engineering with Industry programme starting in January 2020.

Value: Up to £3,000
Duration: One year
Eligibility: The scholarship is available for application to all self-funded, new international (non-EU) fee paying students holding an offer of study for the MSc in Civil Engineering with Industry. You must start your full-time MSc in January 2020. One will need a minimum of a 2:1 (or equivalent) in your undergraduate degree to be considered.

For more information - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/engineeringscholarships/faculty-of-engineeringexcellence>. One can contact: eng-scholarships@strath.ac.uk

Application deadline: The last date to apply is January 17, 2020.

Fully Funded Doctoral

Scholarships administrated by the Central European University in Hungary.

The educational program is open for outstanding international students, who want to study doctoral degree coursework for the academic year 2020/21.

Award: Up to €1,350
Eligibility: To be considered for this grant, applicants must have a master's degree (or equivalent) in a related field from a recognised university or institution of higher education, or provide documentation indicating that they will earn such a degree before enrollment in a CEU doctoral course of study.

Supporting Documents: Academic writing submission, letters of Recommendation, academic records, and curriculum vitae or resume must be submitted.

Admission Requirements: For admission, candidates must have a master's degree (or equivalent) in a related field from a recognized university or institution of higher education. **Language Requirement:** You should check all the English language requirements when you come to study at Central European University. **How to apply:** Online application system for the grant.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is January 30, 2020.

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT TRAVERSIA TECHNOLOGY

Location: Delhi, Gurugram
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891604
Application deadline: October 25, 2019

CONTENT WRITING AT ZILCH LIFE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891605
Application deadline: October 24, 2019

OPERATIONS AT KULDIP ENTERPRISES INDIA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891606
Application deadline: October 24, 2019

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT LEGODESK

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹3,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891607
Application deadline: October 25, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT QUEST ADVENTURES GROUP

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹3,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891601
Application deadline: October 24, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT PAI TECH CO

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹35,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891602
Application deadline: October 25, 2019

VIDEO MAKING/EDITING AT THE WILDFIRE EVENTS

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹4,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1891603
Application deadline: October 24, 2019

STUDY ABROAD

‘One of the best ranked programmes globally’

Professor Avril Robertson, Director of Biotechnology programmes, University of Queensland talks about important of the course

■ **What makes the course on Biotechnology at University of Queensland (UQ) so special?**

The programme is consistently ranked best in

ships?

The indicative annual fee for Master of Biotechnology in 2020 is AUD \$41,040. A standard full-time study load is 16 units per academic year. All fees are reviewed annually.

The School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences offer exciting scholarships; the value of the scholarship is 50% of the tuition fees payable for the minimum number of units required to complete the programme by the student.

■ **What about jobs and placement?**

A biotechnology qualification can launch careers in area of science or technology like synthetic biology, health data analytics, agricultural science and drug design and development. One can pursue a career as directors and founders of technology start-ups, product development experts, consultants, clinical trials management, research team leaders to name a few.

■ **How to apply?**

Students in India are encouraged to submit their applications through an authorised UQ representative in India can help with information about entry requirements, the application process and studying.

Ranking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (2017-2019). The course is founded on excellence in both teaching and in research. It spans Bachelors, Masters and PhD levels. It is taught by scientists who have commercial expertise and industry experts into the classroom.

■ **Why should Indians pursue this course?**
The Biotechnology sector in India is forecast to grow tenfold to around \$100 billion by 2025. Growth will be in the areas of bio-pharmaceutical (prediction, diagnosis and treatment of disease), agricultural biotechnology and the biotechnology service industry. This demands a workforce skilled in cutting edge science and knowledge.

■ **What about fee and scholar-**

IN BRIEF

ZERO WASTE PATTERN AT ORIGAMI WORKSHOP

The Indian Institute of Art & Design recently conducted a series of origami Workshop for Students of Interior Architecture and Design and Fashion Design by Aditi Anuj alumni of (National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad) at the college campus.

The aim of the workshop was to help students explore the endless opportunities of incorporating origami folding techniques in solving design

problems. The workshop also offered the students an opportunity to practice zero waste pattern making.

The workshop helped the students practically comprehend the importance of dimensions and perspectives as they played with space and shape through this paper folding technique. The process of creating through a single medium acted as a means for innovative ways to ideate and design.

PTE ACADEMIC 79 PLUS LAUNCHED

In their endeavor to make the preparation more effective, Pearson, has launched PTE Academic 79, a practice resource to aid effective preparation for the test. PTE Academic 79 Plus is a step by step guide to all task types in PTE Academic that empowers test takers to achieve their dream score.

The company also introduced the PTE Academic Official Practice

app as a digital resource that will assist learners and test takers to prepare for the language proficiency exams, especially Pearson Test of English (Academic), to pursue education abroad. It is a user-friendly guide with simple and lucid language, comprising of more than 150 examples along with detailed explanations as well as two full-length practice Tests. This

comprehensive book is mindful of the various needs of PTE Aspirants and is a stepping stone to achieve their study abroad objective.

The app includes a Q&A section with detailed, section-wise information about the test, the process and criteria for score. The content available on the app is a combination of item/question information, practice and key information for test prep.

TAKE AN UNCONVENTIONAL PATH

Can poker become a career option? The answer is yes. It may seem easy to learn but it needs a whole lot of hard work and skill to master the game. And with an increased number of Indians showing interest in card games, it becomes important to make sure players are well educated with the tips and tricks of it.

"It is a serious jigsaw and there are loads of strategies that one has to learn to be a professional poker player. Education in poker is extremely necessary for a country like India, where

people consider all card games to be bad," Varun Mahna, CEO, Poker Danga says. In the case of poker, as it involves hours of learning, analysis of hands and observing your opponent's body language and strategy, it becomes more of a skills game. Hence developing more knowledge on the sport of poker will definitely help in accentuating its position as a skill

"Educating the youth about the game of poker will also lead to responsible gaming which is a serious concern and is the need of an hour," Mahna says.

Benchmark indices log gains for third day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equities continued their winning run for a third session in a row on Tuesday as positive news on the US-China trade deal front and consumer demand revival hopes in the upcoming festive season enthused investors.

The BSE benchmark Sensx rallied around 421 points during the day but pared some gains towards the flag-end of the session and settled 291.62 points, or 0.76 per cent, higher at 38,506.09 — a two-week high for the index.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose over 87 points, or 0.77 per cent, to settle at 11,428.30. The market rally was mainly driven by auto and metal stocks.

Top gainers in the Sensx pack were Vedanta, M&M, ONGC, Hero MotoCorp, Maruti Suzuki and HUL rising up to 3.79 per cent.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Tata Motors, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finance fell as much as 2.53 per cent.

Of the 30 scrips on the Sensx, 24 shares closed with gains and 6 with losses.

Sectorally, BSE auto emerged as the top gainer with 2.36 per cent rise. Other top performers were metal, bankex, power and FMCG — rising

1.56 per cent.

On the other hand, BSE telecom, tech and IT indices fell up to 2.15 per cent.

In the broader market, BSE largecap outperformed the benchmark Sensx by rising 0.79 per cent. BSE midcap index also gained 0.72 per cent but smallcap index slipped 0.11 per cent.

In the last three trading sessions, the Sensx has added 625.69 points or 1.64 per cent and the Nifty has gained 193.75 points or 1.71 per cent.

“Green shoots from US-China trade talks added positivity while outperformance in domestic auto stocks in expectation of festival demand further lifted the sentiment. FIIs are net buyers in the last two days given stability in global market. Start of Q2 results is mixed but some tailwinds on future earnings outlook will help the market to maintain the momentum,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Experts are also of the view that the central bank will continue with its accommodative policy stance and may go for further rate cut in the policy review of December 2019, as retail inflation moved up in September.

Retail inflation climbed to a 14-month high of 3.99 per cent in September due to cost-

lier vegetables and pulses but still remained within the RBI's comfort zone, government data showed on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee tumbled by 31 paise to end at 71.54 against the US dollar. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.75 per cent to USD 58.31 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong ended in the red, while those in Seoul and Tokyo ended higher.

Exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note after European Union's top Brexit negotiator hinted at the possibility of a deal this week.

Meanwhile, gold witnessed muted trading on Tuesday, rising marginally higher by Rs 5 to Rs 39,105 per 10 gram in the national capital as a weaker rupee kept the downside limited, according to HDFC Securities.

“Spot gold prices for 24 Karat in Delhi were trading marginally up by Rs 5 at Rs 39,105 as weaker rupee kept the downside limited. Spot rupee was trading 10 paise weaker against the dollar during the day,” Tapan Patel, senior analyst — commodities, HDFC Securities said.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 39,100 per 10 gram in the previous trade here.

India retains fastest-growing rank: IMF

India's growth projection revised to 6.1% in 2019

IANs ■ NEW YORK

In the gloomy global economic picture painted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India retains its rank as the world's fastest-growing major economy, tying with China, with a projected growth rate of 6.1 per cent for the current fiscal year, despite an almost one per cent cut in the forecast.

However, the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday projected India's economy to pick up and grow by 7 per cent in the 2020 fiscal year.

The WEO cut India's growth rate by 0.9 per cent from the 7 per cent made in July and by 1.2 percent from the 7.3 per cent in April.

In contrast to the dark view of the economy within India, when viewed globally, the nation's picture seems brighter despite the cuts.

The world economy is projected to grow only 3 per cent this year and 3.4 per cent next year amid a “synchronised slowdown”, according to the WEO.

Explaining the cut in growth projection for India, the WEO said: “India's economy decelerated further in the second quarter, held back by sector-specific weaknesses in the automobile sector and real estate as well as lingering uncertainty about the health of non-bank financial companies.”

It added that “corporate and environmental regulatory uncertainty” were other factors that weighed on demand.

IMF's projected growth rate of 6.1 per cent for 2019-20 is consistent with the Indian Monetary Policy

Committee's forecast.

About the international scenario, IMF's Chief Economist Gita Gopinath wrote in the foreword to the WEO: “The global economy is in a synchronized slowdown, with growth for 2019 downgraded again — to 3 per cent — its slowest pace since the global financial crisis (in 2007-08). This is a serious climb down from 3.8 percent in 2017, when the world was in a synchronised upswing.” WEO projected China's economic growth to slow down to 5.8 per cent next year.

In the Euro area, growth is projected to be only 1.2 percent this year and 1.4 next year, with the German economy expected to grow by a dismal 0.5 per cent this year.

United States is expected to slightly better with a 2.1 per cent growth projected for this year and 2.4 per cent for the next.

Gopinath blamed the global slowdown on rising trade barriers, uncertainty surrounding trade and geopolitics, and structural factors, such as low productivity growth and an aging population in developed countries.

WEO said India's growth in 2019 is sharply lower than the 6.8 per cent in 2018 “for idiosyncratic reasons, but is expected to recover in 2020”.

The reduction in India's growth projection for this year “reflects a weaker-than-expected outlook for domestic demand”, WEO said.

India's future “growth will be supported by the lagged effects of monetary policy easing, a reduction in corporate income tax rates, recent measures

to address corporate and environmental regulatory uncertainty, and government programs to support rural consumption”, it added.

In the medium term, the IMF expects India's growth to stabilise at about 7.3 per cent over the medium term, based on continued implementation of structural reforms.

The IMF suggested that India should use monetary policy and broad-based structural reforms to address cyclical weakness and strengthen confidence.

It said: “A credible fiscal consolidation path is needed to bring down India's elevated public debt over the medium term. This should be supported by subsidy-spending rationalisation and tax-base enhancing measures.”

Other measures it suggested included reducing the public sector's role in the financial system, reforming the hiring and dismissal regulations that “would help incentivise job creation and absorb the country's large demographic dividend”, and land reforms to expedite infrastructure development.

The auto sector is one of the areas seriously affected globally, according to the WEO.

“The automobile industry contracted in 2018 for the first time since the global financial crisis, contributing to the global slowdown since last year,” it said. Global car sales fell by three per cent last year, while the number of automobile units manufactured declined by 1.7 per cent, in value terms it fell by 2.4 per cent, WEO said.

Global economy in synchronised slowdown: IMF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The global economy is in a “synchronised slowdown” amidst growing trade barriers and heightened geopolitical tensions, the IMF warned on Tuesday as it downgraded the 2019 growth rate to three per cent, the slowest pace since the global financial crisis. “This is a serious climbdown from 3.8 per cent in 2017, when the world was in a synchronised upswing,” Indian-American Gita Gopinath, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in the foreword to the latest World Economic Outlook. “With a synchronised slowdown and uncertain recovery, the global outlook remains precarious. At 3 per cent growth, there is no room for policy mistakes and an urgent need for policymakers to cooperatively deescalate trade and geopolitical tensions,” she said. Besides supporting growth, such actions can also help catalyse needed cooperative solutions to improve the global trading system, Gopinath said.

Released ahead of the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank, Gopinath in the World Economic Outlook said that this subdued growth is a consequence of rising trade barriers, and elevated uncertainty surrounding trade and geopolitics.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11360.85	11462.35	11342.10	11428.30	87.15	
EICHERMOT	18310.00	19300.00	18285.00	19187.90	859.95	
VEDL	147.15	155.90	144.50	153.75	5.95	
ZEEL	236.90	253.70	234.55	250.60	7.70	
ONGC	137.00	139.15	135.35	138.90	3.65	
HEROMOTOCO	1620.15	2699.95	2610.00	2678.00	68.80	
MARUTI	6811.00	7019.00	6809.00	6995.00	173.90	
M&M	568.00	586.55	565.20	582.50	13.85	
HINDUNILVR	2050.00	2077.30	2025.80	2060.05	45.80	
BRITANNIA	3129.10	3193.65	3112.35	3176.55	66.90	
KOTAKBANK	1595.40	1629.50	1577.50	1617.00	31.50	
HINDALCO	187.90	195.55	185.90	192.20	3.50	
TITAN	1254.00	1275.15	1253.00	1272.00	23.05	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2964.00	3029.90	2953.45	3010.60	52.55	
YESBANK	41.10	41.45	39.00	40.80	0.70	
INDUSINDBK	1256.95	1277.35	1236.00	1271.55	20.95	
HDFCBANK	1207.00	1225.00	1206.85	1223.70	19.30	
ITC	245.05	249.20	245.05	247.80	3.70	
GAIL	126.00	129.15	125.55	127.75	1.90	
ADANIPORTS	408.85	414.50	407.45	413.55	6.10	
NTPC	117.00	119.80	117.00	119.35	1.60	
IOC	145.00	148.35	145.00	146.70	1.95	
TATASTEEL	345.05	358.35	338.70	349.20	4.35	
POWERGRID	198.40	202.00	198.30	200.85	2.45	
CIPLA	440.00	448.50	435.35	446.30	5.40	
SBIN	256.45	259.90	254.80	258.50	3.05	
DREDDY	266.00	2696.90	2654.55	2683.00	31.10	
BPCL	489.95	494.50	487.90	491.15	5.20	
AXISBANK	682.60	694.85	681.30	689.90	6.40	
ULTRACEMCO	4194.90	4219.20	4141.55	4205.00	34.70	
TCS	2032.00	2047.00	2022.70	2037.80	16.80	
ICICIBANK	400.00	435.45	428.20	432.20	3.35	
COALINDIA	1429.10	1444.80	1420.65	1434.45	10.50	
LT	189.00	192.70	188.00	191.25	1.15	
GRASIM	169.55	706.15	691.10	702.50	3.85	
RELIANCE	1362.50	1370.00	1354.30	1364.15	6.15	
SUNPHARMA	397.20	400.00	392.25	396.20	1.55	
ASIANPAINT	1807.70	1825.00	1796.00	1804.10	5.40	
HCLTECH	1089.10	1099.15	1079.45	1088.00	1.20	
BAJFINANCE	3895.00	3916.00	3843.00	3884.30	1.00	
TECHM	724.00	729.00	719.00	720.90	0.15	
WIPRO	244.95	245.50	239.25	245.00	0.05	
HDFC	2019.00	2030.40	2009.20	2013.00	-1.75	
BAJAJFINSV	8130.00	8130.00	8013.00	8050.00	-32.25	
NESTLEIND	14152.10	14205.00	14035.95	14085.00	-84.00	
UPL	58.05	591.00	580.80	583.20	-3.45	
JSWSTEEL	221.00	226.90	224.15	219.50	-1.95	
TATAMOTORS	127.10	128.90	123.70	126.55	-1.30	
INFRATEL	258.50	260.40	255.25	256.15	-3.30	
INFY	773.10	775.95	765.00	769.00	-17.10	
BHARTIARTL	390.00	391.95	381.55	382.40	-11.15	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	26829.75	27052.60	26803.25	27010.60	219.00	
BANDHANBNK	570.20	638.00	570.20	629.00	60.30	
GICRE	208.10	221.50	206.15	220.10	10.05	
NMDC	97.90	102.00	96.65	101.85	3.70	
BOSCHLTD	13350.00	13947.00	13350.00	13819.90	474.45	
MOTHERSUMI	99.50	102.75	97.90	101.90	2.90	
CONCOR	586.95	598.00	582.45	595.20	16.95	
BIOCON	252.20	262.60	251.25	260.50	7.15	
HAVELLS	655.20	675.40	625.50	669.15	15.25	
ICICIGI	1245.50	1270.00	1245.50	1270.00	28.75	
ASHOKLEY	68.00	69.65	67.35	69.15	1.55	
COLPAL	1529.80	1569.85	1528.00	1551.05	30.55	
ACC	1479.00	1550.05	1461.30	1497.90	28.55	
HDFCLIFE	581.00	595.85	580.60	593.00	10.70	
OFSS	3095.00	3150.00	3087.65	3145.00	51.45	
L&T&H	81.70	83.10	81.05	82.75	1.10	
ICICIPRULI	452.05	460.00	448.75	455.50	5.95	
SBILIFE	829.00	844.00	829.00	839.00	10.30	
PEC	93.90	94.85	92.10	94.60	1.15	
AMBUJACEM	194.90	198.50	194.00	196.40	2.35	
SIEMENS	1578.70	1595.50	1574.00	1592.00	18.30	
PIDILITIND	1369.00	1389.55	1351.55	1377.50	15.25	
PNB	57.30	58.15	56.70	57.90	0.60	
DLF	154.50	159.40	152.00	156.35	1.50	
UBL	1277.30	1299.25	1265.50	1285.90	9.55	
BAJAJHLING	3570.00	3620.40	3570.00	3590.00	23.90	
NHPC	23.70	23.90	23.25	23.85	0.15	
BERGEPAINT	480.00	484.80	475.45	480.00	2.90	
CADILAH	233.00	234.85	232.40	234.00	1.30	
LUPIN	718.00	726.90	711.50	720.25	3.85	
DMAT	1836.00	1874.90	1817.55	1836.05	8.00	
PAGEIND	21000.00	21777.00	20800.00	21100.05	90.70	
DIVISLAB	1685.00	1701.80	1679.05	1690.15	6.45	
MCDOWELL-N	617.00	628.00	616.95	619.00	2.35	
SRTRANSFIN	1044.65	1054.95	1028.00	1048.00	3.35	
HINDPETRO	312.45	315.15	309.65	311.30	0.80	
PEL	1365.00	1396.40	1356.55	1379.05	2.55	
PETRONET	258.90	260.50	257.60	259.30	0.45	
HINDZINC	209.40	212.00	207.10	208.10	0.20	
GODREJCP	690.70	695.00	684.05	690.00	-0.70	
BANKBARODA	88.25	88.75	86.80	87.90	-0.40	
SHREECEM	18750.00	18860.95	18511.05	18599.00	-96.60	
MARICO	385.50	385.55	379.00	382.75	-2.20	
HDFCAML	2730.00	2744.00	2701.60	2711.90	-21.30	
INDIGO	1769.10	1771.70	1748.00	1752.55	-14.20	
AUROPHARMA	459.25	467.60	450.00	454.55	-4.70	
DABUR	458.60	459.05	447.40	450.00	-5.00	
NIACL	96.00	96.05	94.40	94.75	-1.50	
IDEA	6.40	6.45	6.10	6.20	-0.20	
PGHH	11668.00	11729.05	10830.00	11255.00	-513.60	
IBULHSGFIN	187.00	196.40	182.20	187.50	-10.30	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
BAJAJCON	230.00	230.05	193.00	195.55
FLFL	406.60	423.05	406.60	413.10
BANDHANBNK	569.90	638.05	569.90	625.05
FEDERALBNK	82.90	85.55	81.75	84.50
IBULHSGFIN	189.00	196.30	182.20	189.05
MARUTI	6829.00	7015.35	6810.00	6987.70
RBLBANK	259.00	274.90	241.75	264.25
TATASTEEL	345.50	358.25	338.80	349.10
YESBANK	41.00	41.40	39.00	40.60
BPCL	491.40	494.50	487.90	490.25
HINDUNILVR	2052.00	2077.00	2026.75	2063.35
TATAMOTORS	127.50	128.95	123.75	126.95
HDFC	2013.00	2030.05	1994.85	2013.20
SBIN	256.80	259.90	254.75	258.40
M&M	570.00	593.15	565.50	584.60
TCS	2028.80	2046.90	2023.20	2037.40
RELANCE	1363.50	1370.00	1345.00	1363.30
INFY	773.80	774.75	765.00	767.80
INDUSINDBK	1251.55	1276.25	1230.00	1272.00
KOTAKBANK	1586.00	1629.65	1577.80	1614.80
BIRLACORPN	522.25	534.45	511.10	527.00
JINDALSTEEL	99.50	104.95	96.25	103.15
ICICI	1247.45	1272.00	1240.00	1267.25
LT	1427.00	1445.10	1421.00	1433.15
ZEE	237.95	253.35	234.85	250.00
NCC	48.60	50.25	47.40	49.30
VEDL	147.50	155.80	144.60	153.45
HEROMOTOCO	2616.85	2699.50	2615.00	2676.00
CDSL	1277.20	1344.75	1276.00	1329.35
ICICIBANK	430.00	435.30	428.00	431.70
DMART	1830.00	1874.80	1818.00	1837.95
HDFC	1210.00	1225.00	1207.30	1222.90
BAJFINANCE	221.05	226.90	214.50	219.50
BANKBARODA	3909.00	3916.75	3845.00	3880.30
ADANIEN	88.65	88.75	86.90	88.00
EICHERMOT	148.00	155.90	146.70	155.05
AXISBANK	18370.00	19288.00	18270.00	19200.20
VARRO	683.65	694.90	681.80	690.00
ESCORTS	447.45	463.60	439.20	466.60
PEL	611.90	632.60	610.00	630.40
ASHOKLEY	1368.00	1396.10	1302.00	1375.60
GRUH	68.00	69.60	67.40	69.05
SAIL	34.00	327.05	304.00	317.30
JUSTDIAL	32.25	34.45	31.65	33.40
AUROPHARMA	612.00	617.70	572.30	578.95
IDEA	459.95	462.40	450.20	454.85
WIPRO	6.40	6.44	6.11	6.16
ASIANPAINT	244.00	245.50	239.20	243.70
BAJAJ-AUTO	1797.00	1824.15	1797.00	1802.50
TESANET	2959.00	3029.00	2956.50	3009.45
COALSA	78.00	78.50	77.00	77.70
ONGC	1525.00	1569.45	1525.00	1556.55
BAJAJFINSV	136.60	139.40	135.40	138.75
OMAXE	8108.95	831.45	8012.90	8035.10
ITC	190.00	193.20	187.25	187.50
TITAN	247.40	249.20	245.10	247.50
BHEL	1251.00	1274.50	1251.00	1272.20
MOTHERSUMI	43.00	43.50	42.50	42.75
DLF	99.00	102.70	97.95	101.85
ACC	154.75	159.35	152.00	156.10
IOC	1487.00	1504.60	1461.70	1498.85
BHARTIARTL	145.95	148.30	145.20	146.35
LICHSGFIN	391.95	391.95	381.65	383.55
PVR	368.00	396.90	354.00	363.90
BIOCIN	1805.00	1835.00	1790.25	1822.15
HDFCLIFE	255.00	262.40	250.20	260.20
BRIJANNIA	581.95	596.20	581.00	592.25
COALINDIA	313.90	319.75	315.45	318.50
CROMPTON	188.30	192.60	188.10	191.30
NBCC	253.15	255.60	248.60	252.70
HINDALCO	32.65	33.00	32.05	32.70
ULTRACEMCO	188.00	195.35	186.00	192.50
UPPL	4121.35	4219.25	4121.35	4206.05
EDELWEISS	585.30	590.95	580.20	583.45
HEG	74.50	78.00	72.50	75.85
CANBK	179.75	181.80	176.90	180.60
PGH	898.95	912.05	833.75	880.10
NGH	11633.70	11660.90	10855.55	11281.05
NUNFLINDA	14175.00	14198.00	13711.60	14080.65
SUPERM	397.25	40.00	392.50	396.60
SIEMENS	1582.70	1595.05	1575.65	1593.15
LUPIN	719.50	726.55	699.70	721.15
MCX	998.90	1024.80	990.00	1016.65
APOLLOHOSP	1460.20	1490.00	1460.20	1485.15
TVSMOTOR	401.00	411.90	391.85	410.00
BERGEPAINT	480.00	484.80	475.85	478.30
HINDPETRO	312.00	315.30	309.80	310.85
SKTRANSFIN	1040.40	1054.00	1027.90	1048.75
ADANITRANS	232.50	255.35	232.20	238.05
CPIA	44.00	44.70	43.60	44.85
STAR	335.20	359.20	334.90	355.45
FORTIS	134.30	136.75	133.25	136.20
PNB	57.50	58.10	56.70	57.90
AMARAJABAT	698.50	698.50	646.85	678.70
SRF	2615.00	2669.20	2590.00	2623.30
GODREJPROP	1001.00	1001.05	961.10	980.05
BOCHSLTD	13445.05	13912.90	13333.95	13688.70
GSP	209.45	210.60	201.00	207.35
TATAMTRDVR	56.85	57.00	54.50	56.55
NTPC	117.70	119.80	117.35	119.45
DABUR	459.85	459.85	443.25	450.05
CEATLTD	20951.00	21769.60	20705.00	21073.35
BEL	934.50	941.70	909.30	935.05
ADANIPOWER	109.50	111.10	108.20	110.40
ADANIGAS	62.45	62.45	60.95	61.90
HAVELLS	154.95	155.70	150.00	151.60
BTC	655.75	675.55	655.70	666.95
BTC	1155.95	1209.90	1148.80	1189.90

Trump imposes sanctions on Turkey, says prepared to ‘swiftly destroy’ its economy

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Protesting Turkey’s military offensive in northeast Syria, US President Donald Trump has announced sanctions against Turkish officials, raising of steel tariffs and ending negotiations on a USD 100 billion trade deal.

Trump has signed an executive order that empowers his administration to slap sanctions on Turkey.

The treasury department has already placed Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu and Energy Minister Fatih Donmez on its sanctions list, while Trump in a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the US House of Representatives has declared the Turkey issue a national emergency.

On Wednesday, Ankara launched a cross-border assault on Kurdish fighters after the US decided to withdraw troops from Syria, a move criticised by the Republicans, with some terming it a “betrayal” of the Kurds.

“This (executive) order will enable the US to impose powerful additional sanctions on those who may be involved in serious human rights abuses, obstructing a ceasefire, preventing displaced persons from returning home, forcibly repatriating refugees or threatening the peace, security or stability in Syria,” Trump said in a statement.

Turkey’s military offensive is endangering civilians and threatening peace, security and stability in the region, he said, adding that he has been per-

fectly clear with his Turkish counterpart that his action is precipitating a humanitarian crisis and setting conditions for possible war crimes.

“I’m fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey’s economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path,” the president said.

The order gives the state and treasury departments authority to consider and impose sanctions on individuals, entities or associates of the Turkish government involved in actions that endanger civilians or lead to the further deterioration of peace, security and stability in northeast Syria.

The order will authorise a broad range of measures, including financial sanctions, the blocking of property, and

barring entry into the US, he said, adding that the US will immediately stop negotiations with Turkey on a USD 100 billion trade deal.

Steel tariffs will be increased back up to 50 per cent, the level prior to the reduction in May, Trump said.

He asserted that his administration will aggressively use economic sanctions to target those who enable, facilitate, and finance heinous acts in Syria.

In addition to the sanctions on the three Turkish ministers, the treasury said people who engage in certain transactions with the persons designated today may themselves be exposed to designation.

Furthermore, any foreign financial institution that knowingly facilitates any significant financial transactions for or on

behalf of the persons designated today could be subject to US correspondent or payable through account sanctions, it said.

The treasury department said as a result of today’s action, all property and interests in property of these persons, and of any other persons blocked by operation of law, that are in the US, in the possession or control of US persons must be blocked and reported to the treasury.

“Turkey must ensure the safety of civilians, including religious and ethnic minorities, and is now, or may be in the future, responsible for the ongoing detention of ISIS terrorists in the region.

“Unfortunately, Turkey does not appear to be mitigating the humanitarian effects of its invasion,” he said.

Brexit deal ‘possible this week’: EU’s Barnier

AFP ■ LUXEMBOURG

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said Tuesday that a deal with Britain could be reached this week, but warned more tough talks are still needed. British and EU officials are racing to reach a deal on Britain’s exit terms before a summit of EU leaders starting on Thursday, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson seeks to fulfil his vow to take Britain out on October 31.

As he arrived in Luxembourg to brief the other 27 EU states on the state of the closed-door talks, Barnier struck a cautiously upbeat note.

“This work has been intense all along the weekend and yesterday because even if the agreement will be difficult — more and more difficult to be frank — it’s still possible this

week,” Barnier told reporters.

“Obviously any agreement must work for everyone — the whole of the United Kingdom and the whole of the European Union. Let me add also that it is high time to turn good intentions into legal text.”

After weeks of gloom and growing fears Britain would crash out of the bloc with no divorce arrangements in place, the last few days have given a glimmer of hope that an agreement can be reached — though there has so far been no decisive breakthrough.

More than three years after Britain’s 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU, talks remain stuck on how to avoid customs checks on the land border between British-ruled Northern Ireland and Ireland, which is staying in the bloc.

The EU had reservations

about London’s proposed customs arrangements and the proposed role for Northern Ireland’s Stormont assembly in giving consent to the plans.

London’s Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay will join Barnier in Luxembourg later in the morning in what is being interpreted as a positive sign for progress in the talks — which have been shrouded in secrecy since the weekend as the two sides seek to avoid potentially damaging leaks.

“It’s not done yet but we’re trying. The British want a deal and they have moved on customs and Stormont,” a senior European diplomat told AFP, referring to the role of the Northern Irish provincial assembly.

“We’ll have to see if it’s enough to be turned into a legal text. We must be cautious.”

‘Turkish invasion resulted in widespread casualties’

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The “unilateral invasion” of northern Syria has resulted in widespread casualties and destruction, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Monday.

This has also undermined the successful multinational “Defeat ISIS” mission in Syria, he said.

Esper will be visiting NATO next week in Brussels and he plans to press members of the alliance to take collective and individual diplomatic and economic measures in response to Turkish actions.

“Despite the opposition and repeated warnings from the US and the international community, Turkish President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan ordered a unilateral invasion of northern Syria that has resulted in widespread casualties, refugees, destruction, insecurity, and a growing threat to US military forces,” he said.

Turkey launched a cross-border assault on Kurdish fighters on Wednesday after the US decided to withdraw troops from Syria, a move criticised by the Republicans, with some terming it a “betrayal” of the Kurds.

“This unacceptable incursion has also undermined the successful multinational ‘Defeat

ISIS’ mission in Syria, and resulted in the release of many dangerous ISIS detainees,” Esper said in a statement late Monday afternoon.

Due to Turkey’s irresponsible actions, the risk to US forces in northeast Syria has reached an unacceptable level, he said.

“We are also at risk of being engulfed in a broader conflict. Therefore, at the President’s (Donald Trump) direction, the Department of Defense is executing a deliberate withdrawal of US military personnel from northeast Syria,” the defense secretary said.

Turkey’s unilateral action was “unnecessary and impulsive.” President Erdogan bears full responsibility for its consequences, to include a potential ISIS resurgence, possible war crimes, and a growing humanitarian crisis, he said.

The bilateral relationship between the US and Turkey has also been damaged, Esper said.

In a joint statement, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Foreign Relation Committee Ranking Member Bob Menendez, and Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Jack Reed accused Trump of “reckless decision-making” in Syria and Turkey.

They said this has endangered American national security and the security of its allies around the world.

“To be clear, President Trump’s withdrawal of US forces is contributing to the chaos and havoc Turkey is causing in northeastern Syria,” the statement said.

The Kurdish partners are already paying the ultimate cost of this betrayal and tens of thousands of civilians have already been displaced, the Democratic senators rued.

Completely withdrawing US from northern Syria, at this moment, with no strategy in place, is “ceding our interests to Putin, Erdogan, Assad, Iran and to others who are already gleefully filling the security vacuum,” according to the statement.

Trump should use this moment to step up, do the right thing, and correct course, the senators demanded.

“He can listen to his national security and military advisors, and to the chorus of bipartisan voices in Congress and across the world who made it clear that this was a grave mistake worth reversing,” they said in the statement.

Leaders are not those who are always right, but those who are willing to learn from their mistakes, they said.

Syria Kurds keep Turkey at bay in border town

AFP ■ BEIRUT

Syria’s Kurds put up stiff resistance Tuesday around an ethnically divided border town that is a key goal of Ankara’s nearly week-old invasion, a war monitor reported.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, the de-facto army of the Kurdish administration in northeast Syria, “launched a major counterattack overnight against Turkish forces and their Syrian proxies near Ras al-Ain,” the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Britain-based monitor said “fortifications, tunnel networks and a continuous supply of reinforcements” had enabled the SDF to hold off Turkish efforts to take the town.

An AFP correspondent in the area said clashes continued on Tuesday, despite repeated claims by Ankara in recent days that it had captured the area.

The Turkish invasion has already killed 70 civilians and 135 SDF fighters since its launch on October 9, according to the Observatory.

The monitor has put the number of pro-Turkish Syrian fighters killed at 120.

The United Nations says 160,000 people have fled their homes.

Further west, Ankara’s Syrian proxies battled pro-Kurdish fighters around the strategic city of Manbij overnight, the monitor said.

The Observatory said that pro-Ankara fighters were battling forces loyal to Manbij’s Military Council, a governing body linked to the Kurdish administration in northeastern Syria.

This came after Damascus said it had dispatched troops to the city as part of an agreement with the Kurds announced on Sunday to contain Ankara’s advance.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he expects Kurdish forces to withdraw from Manbij, which lies some 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of the Turkish border.

Turkey wants to create a 30 kilometre wide buffer zone along the border to keep away Kurdish forces it regards as “terrorists” and provide a resettlement area for some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees currently on its soil.

Pound rallies over Brexit hopes

AFP ■ HONG KONG

The pound rallied Tuesday after the European Union’s top Brexit negotiator flagged the possibility of a divorce deal this week, reviving hopes Britain could avoid crashing out of the bloc.

With the exit deadline on October 31, Michel Barnier’s comments reinforced hopes for an eventual agreement between the two sides and came after reports said a compromise was taking shape.

Ahead of a meeting to update EU countries on negotiations, he told reporters: “This work has been intense all along the weekend and yesterday because even if the agreement will be difficult — more and more difficult to be frank — it’s still possible this week.”

Sterling surged more than one percent to as high as \$1.2698, near levels not seen since June, before easing slightly. It also picked up against the euro.

The currency had already been rising after Britain’s Daily Telegraph said a divorce agreement was forming, with EU and British negotiators hailing a positive day of talks on the Northern Ireland issue.

The paper quoted unnamed sources as saying there was “cautious optimism”, while the BBC said the EU is considering holding an emergency summit to push through a possible deal. It said there was not enough time to get anything done before a summit set for this week.

The pound had come under pressure on Monday

after European officials played down the chances of an agreement that had been aired by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar last week.

David Kelly at JP Morgan Asset Management said the Johnson-Varadkar talks had sparked a “whirlwind of diplomacy between the British government and the Europeans to try to come up with an agreement this week.”

He added in a note: “While it is by no means certain that the UK and Europe can agree to a deal or that such a deal can make it through the UK parliament, there does appear to be recognition from the British side that any Brexit deal will have to treat Northern Ireland very differently from the rest of the UK.”

William, Kate meet kids at Islamabad school

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Britain’s Prince William and his wife Kate Middleton on Tuesday visited a girls’ school here and interacted with students in their first engagement on a five-day visit to Pakistan.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrived in Islamabad on Monday, the first royal trip to the country in more than a decade.

The couple visited the Model College for Girls located in Islamabad. The college is a government-run school for disadvantaged from four to 18-year-olds, benefiting from the Teach for Pakistan programme based on the UK’s Teach First scheme.

Kate arrived at the college dressed in a royal blue classic kurti with trousers and dupatta by Pakistani designer Maheen Khan.

The royal couple, both 37, saw different parts of the school and also inspected a class of mathematics. They mixed up with the students of the school.

The school administration briefed the royal couple, who are strong advocates of girls’ education, about the school and they were also appraised about education system in Pakistan.

During their five-day visit here, the royal couple is scheduled to visit Northern Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides capital Islamabad and Lahore.



Later in the day, Willaim and Kate will visit the Margalla Hills in the foothills of the Himalayas, Geo News reported.

The Duke and Duchess will also meet President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan and later attend a reception hosted by British High Commissioner Thomas Drew, the report said.

Kate and William were welcomed at the Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi, the garrison city adjacent to the capital Islamabad by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his wife.

Last week, Kensington Palace called the five-day trip

“the most complex tour undertaken by The Duke and Duchess to date, given the logistical and security considerations.”

The visit, which will end on October 18, has been organised at the request of the United Kingdom’s (UK) Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

This is the first royal tour to the country since 2006 when Prince Charles and Camilla, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, travelled to Pakistan.

In 1990, Princess Diana, William’s mother, visited Pakistan to participate in a fund-raising event for a cancer hospital built by Khan.

Mozambique votes in tense election after violent campaign

AFP ■ MAPUTO (MOZAMBIQUE)

Mozambique began voting in a general election on Tuesday that some fear could test the country’s fragile peace, after a heated campaign marred by violence and allegations of electoral fraud.

The Frelimo party, which has ruled the impoverished southern African nation since independence from Portugal in 1975, is widely expected to again beat its arch-rival Renamo, a former rebel group turned main opposition party.

President Filipe Nyusi, who cast his ballot as polls opened at 7:00 am (0500 GMT), called on voters to show “the world we stand for democracy and tolerance.”

“Mozambique has chosen to move forward peacefully,” he said, adding that more than 4,000 observers had been deployed in the country’s most watched election in the country’s

history. “Let’s continue this process in a serene way. Peace means that everything must be done according to the rules.” Nyusi, 60, is forecast to win a second five-year term despite his popularity taking a hit from chronic unrest and a financial crisis linked to alleged state corruption.

While the election is expected to see regional wins for Renamo, few think Frelimo will be unseated from government after 44 years at the helm.

“Frelimo is a machine,” said Castro Davis, a 42-year-old public servant in the capital Maputo, predicting a “straight-forward victory.”

Elena Jorge, 50, told AFP she wants Renamo to win “but people know that these elections will not be free, fair or transparent — but we have hope.” Around 13 million of Mozambique’s 30 million citizens are registered to vote at more than 20,000 polling

booths, which close at 6:00 pm (1600 GMT).

Renamo is predicted to take control of three to five of Mozambique’s 10 provinces for the first time following a change of law allowing voters to elect provincial governors.

“This election will be a test for democracy,” said Ericino de Salema of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. “For the first time, the political geography of the country may change substantially, it may even lead to confrontation.”

Renamo’s candidate Ossufo Momade, 58, heads a party of former anti-communist rebels who fought a brutal civil war with Frelimo from 1975-1992, devastating the economy and leaving almost one million people dead.

Renamo picked up arms again in 2013 to 2016, but tension continued until Nyusi and Momade signed a peace deal in August.

But an armed breakaway faction of Renamo has rejected Momade’s candidacy and threatened to attack campaign events, raising fears the presidential, parliamentary and provincial polls could be marred by bloodshed.

The six-week campaign was one of the most violent in the country’s turbulent history, with candidates threatened, election material destroyed, and deadly clashes breaking out between supporters.

The opposition has already accused Frelimo of tampering with the vote.

Enrolment has more than doubled in the southeastern Gaza province, a Frelimo bastion, and civil society groups have expressed concern about the size of the increase.

They also estimate that there are around 300,000 “ghost voters” on electoral rolls — names on the electoral roll not aligned with real, potential voters.

“We definitely have some irregularities that put stains on the whole process,” said Hermenegildo Mulhovo of election monitoring group Sala da Paz. The situation escalated last week, when the head of a local election observation mission was shot dead by members of a special police unit in Gaza’s capital Xai-Xai.

Lutero Simango, an MP of the country’s third biggest party MDM, accused Frelimo of “using all state means, including police and secret services, to intimidate people.”

Frelimo suffered its worst result at the ballot box — 51.8 percent — in local elections last year and has been severely weakened in recent years.

In 2016 it was revealed the government secretly borrowed \$2 billion, sparking the worst financial crisis in the country’s history and uncovering a vast corruption network with links to the regime.

Jury breaks rules, Booker Prize goes to Atwood and Evaristo

PTI ■ LONDON

Canadian author Margaret Atwood and British writer Bernardine Evaristo jointly won the prestigious 2019 Booker Prize on Monday after judges broke the rules by declaring a tie, the first since 1992.

British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie’s tragicomic ‘Quichotte’ was among the six books shortlisted for the prize.

Atwood, 79, is the oldest ever Booker winner, while Evaristo, 60, is the first black woman to win the award since its creation in 1969.

The Booker rules say the prize must not be divided, but the judges insisted they “could-

n’t separate” Atwood’s ‘The Testament’ and ‘Girl, Woman, Other’ by Evaristo.

The rules were changed after the last tie in 1992, and organisers told this year’s judges that they were not allowed to pick two winners.

But after five hours of deliberations, Peter Florence, the chair of the five-member judging panel, said: “It was our decision to flout the rules.”

The judges said they strongly wanted both the authors to split the GBP 50,000 award at a gala ceremony at Guildhall here.

“The more we talked about them, the more we found we loved them both so much we wanted them both to win,”

Florence said.

Atwood expressed her joy at sharing the award with a younger writer.

Atwood joked to her co-winner: “I would have thought I would have been too elderly, and I kind of don’t need the attention, so I’m very glad that you’re getting some.”

“It would have been quite embarrassing for me... if I had been alone here, so I’m very pleased that you’re here too,” she said.

Evaristo said, “We black British women know that if we don’t write ourselves into literature no one else will.”

“It’s so incredible to share this with Margaret Atwood, who’s such a legend and so gen-

erous,” she said, after the shock joint win was announced.

The others shortlisted included Lucy Ellmann for ‘Ducks’, Newburyport, Chigozie Obioma for ‘An Orchestra of Minorities’, and Elif Shafak for ‘10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World’.

Atwood’s ‘The Testaments’ had been the bookmakers’ favourite to scoop the award. She had also made the shortlist with ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ in 1986, with her latest book set 15 years after the end of that novel.

The 2019 shortlist had been selected from 151 submitted books published in the UK or Ireland between October 2018 and September

2019.

On Rushdie’s ‘Quichotte’ the judging panel commented, “A picaresque tour-de-force of contemporary America, with all its alarms and craziness. Rushdie conjures a celebration of storytelling and language that will delight lovers of Cervantes, lovers of daytime television and lovers of life.”

This was the fifth time that the Mumbai-born novelist was shortlisted, including the 1981 win where he bagged the award for “Midnight’s Children.”

Rushdie’s latest work is inspired by the classic ‘Don Quixote’ by 16th century Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes.

The judging panel said this year’s shortlist offered an insight into different worlds from the dystopian setting of Gilead, the monologue of an Ohio housewife and the tragicomic tale of a travelling salesman in America; to mostly female, mostly Black, British lives across generations, the trials of a young Nigerian man on a quest to improve his prospects and true allegiances within the broths of Istanbul.

Florence, founder and director of the Hay Festival and Chair of the Booker Prize judging panel this year, said: “The common thread is our admiration for the extraordinary ambition of each of

these books.”

“There is an abundance of humour, of political and cultural engagement, of stylistic daring and astonishing beauty of language,” he said.

“Anyone who reads all six of these books would be enriched and delighted, would be awe-struck by the power of story, and encouraged by what literature can do to set our imaginations free.”

Each of the shortlisted authors received GBP 2,500 and a specially-bound edition of their book.

“The Booker Prize has been jointly awarded twice before, to Nadine Gordimer and Stanley Middleton in 1974 and to Michael Ondaatje

and Barry Unsworth in 1992,” according to the Booker Prize website.

Last year’s winner was Northern Irish writer Anna Burns for ‘Milkman’, which has sold around 546,500 copies in all formats since the award.

The Booker Prize for Fiction, first awarded in 1969, is open to writers of any nationality, writing in English and published in the UK or Ireland.

The prize is supported for the first time this year by venture capitalist Michael Moritz and novelist wife Harriet Heyman’s charitable foundation Crankstart, rather than the Man Group.

Clashes over Catalan separatists' convictions

AP ■ MADRID

New disruptions to Catalonia's transportation network on Tuesday followed a night of clashes between activists and police over the conviction of separatist leaders, as Spanish authorities announced an investigation into the group organizing the protests.

Authorities said that three people were arrested and more than 170 others injured, including about 40 police officers, during the clashes well into the early hours of Tuesday between angry protesters and riot police at Barcelona's international airport and elsewhere across the northeastern Spanish region.

Thousands of passengers were stranded at the airport, with many were forced to walk with their luggage on highways and across fields.

The protesters were responding to an online campaign by Tsunami Democratic,

a loose, leaderless grassroots group that uses encrypted messaging apps to call for peaceful disobedience.

Spain's caretaker interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, said that authorities were investigating the group.

In a landmark ruling Monday, Spain's Supreme Court acquitted the Catalan politicians and activists from the more serious crime of rebellion for pushing ahead with a banned referendum on Oct. 1, 2017, and declaring independence based on its results. But judges found nine of them guilty of sedition and handed down prison terms of nine to 13 years. Four of them were additionally convicted of misuse of public funds and three were fined for disobedience.

The court also barred all of them from holding public office. That has an immediate impact in the upcoming Nov. 10 election because six of them



were planning to run as candidates to Spain's parliament.

The verdict is likely to be a central issue before the vote and politics for years to come, with very different views in Madrid and Catalonia already emerging hours after it was issued.

While Spain's caretaker prime minister, Pedro Sánchez,

called for beginning a "new phase" and urged Catalan separatists to abide by the law, the ruling invigorated the Catalan independence movement, with many of its leaders making new calls to work toward effective secession or repeating the slogan "we will do it again".

"We have to continue defending the right of

Catalonia to self-determination," the regional president, Quim Torra, told foreign reporters in Barcelona on Tuesday. "A referendum is the most positive solution for solving this situation."

His regional minister for foreign action, Alfred Bosch, urged the Spanish prime minister to change his attitude. "We don't see any proposal, we only see 100 years of prison, exile and repression," Bosch said.

The caretaker Spanish foreign minister, Josep Borrell, soon due to become the European Union's top diplomat, said the sentence wasn't resolving the underlying political problems that only dialogue "in the framework of the Constitution" could.

Spain's constitutional law says that the country is indivisible.

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow it is and remains a political problem that has to be solved," Borrell told foreign

reporters, adding that Catalan separatists shouldn't ignore Catalans like him who are against independence.

"When one excludes part of the population because they don't think like one, and only considers as the people those who think like one, this is a totalitarian attitude," he said.

More protests took place Tuesday, with on and off blockades of regional roads and railway lines. A three-day student strike begins Wednesday.

Spain's airport operator, AENA, said that more than 1,000 flights were scheduled to operate normally in Barcelona on Tuesday, with six flights canceled compared to 110 on Monday.

The regional emergency service, SEM, said that 131 people had been treated overnight for injuries, most of them at the airport. Two dozen people were taken to hospitals, one with serious eye damage.

India warns of inherent dangers in 'nuclear brinkmanship'

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India has warned of the inherent dangers in "nuclear brinkmanship" pursued by countries as a cover for cross-border terrorism, days after Pakistan Prime Minister drummed up hysteria over a possible nuclear war in South Asia after New Delhi revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that the global security situation is in a flux, Ambassador Pankaj Sharma, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), said that as a responsible nuclear power, India's nuclear doctrine continues to stress a policy of credible minimum deterrence with a posture of no-first use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states.

He made the comments on Monday at the General Debate of the First Committee, which deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community.

"The global security situation is in a flux. There is concern over the demise of some of the landmark disarmament treaties and agreements and the lowering of the nuclear threshold and the inherent dangers in nuclear brinkmanship, pursued by countries as a cover for cross-border terrorism," he said.

Sharma's comments came days after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan delivered his maiden speech at the UN General Debate and in his almost 50-minute address, devoted half of his time to India and Kashmir, drumming up hysteria over nuclear war. In a strong reply, India had said Khan's "threat of unleashing nuclear devastation qualifies as brinkmanship, not statesmanship."

Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue after India withdrew the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, but New Delhi has asserted the abrogation of Article 370 was its "internal matter" and has asked Islamabad

to accept the reality.

India has also said that there is no scope for any third party mediation on the Kashmir issue.

Sharma asserted that the disarmament machinery has not lived up to expectations, as evident in the deadlock in the CD for over two decades and the inability of United Nations Disarmament Commission to hold its substantive session this year.

"Yet, there is hope and optimism due to our underlying belief in the value of dialogue and cooperation," he added.

The Conference on Disarmament had failed in its efforts throughout the year to adopt a Programme of Work, he said, adding that this was the result of the lack of political will and "fissiparous tendencies" and could not be attributed to any shortcomings in the rules of procedure.

"We need to preserve the CD as the sole disarmament negotiating forum and get back to substantive work as per its mandate. India stands ready to work with fellow members on all the core items on CD's agenda," Sharma said, underscoring India's commitment to the goal of universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

New Delhi has also called for complete elimination of nuclear weapons through a step by step process, as outlined in the Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2006.

He said India would like to reiterate its call to undertake the steps outlined in the Working Paper, including negotiation in the CD of a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

As in previous years, India will be tabling four draft resolutions, namely 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons', 'Reducing Nuclear Danger', 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction' and 'Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament'.

Pak condemns Rajnath's 'disintegration' remark

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Tuesday condemned Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks that no power can stop the nation's "disintegration" if Islamabad did not mend its ways.

"We condemn the recent statements made by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during election rallies in Haryana," Pakistan's Foreign Office said.

During a rally in Haryana on Sunday, Singh asked Pakistan to forget Kashmir and instead fight an "honest battle" against terrorism, warning that no power can stop its disintegration if it continued with its rant and did not mend its ways.

The Foreign Office said the provocative statements from a senior minister in the Indian government provide another insight into the BJP mindset, which is a mix of "hegemonic ambitions" and "obsession" with Pakistan.

"It is highly irresponsible of the Indian Defence Minister to be threatening the splitting of a sovereign country. We are



sure that the world community would take cognisance," the FO said in a statement.

Pakistan also said that Singh should have no doubt that the security forces and people of Pakistan were ready to resolutely defend the country against any evil design.

The FO also rejected offer of help to deal with terrorism.

"We also reject his gratuitous comments on help in counter-terrorism..." the FO said.

It further said that it was part of a well-established pat-

tern that whenever there were elections in India, the BJP leadership would whip up anti-Pakistan sentiment to rally support for its candidates.

The FO urged the BJP not to drag Pakistan for electoral gains. The defence minister's statements comes amid tensions between India and Pakistan following the abrogation of the special status of Kashmir under Article 370 in August.

Tensions between the two countries have spiked since India abrogated Article 370.

Former WH adviser objected to ambassador's ouster

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Pionia Hill, a former White House adviser on Russia, told House impeachment investigators behind closed doors Monday that she had strongly and repeatedly objected to the ouster earlier this year of former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, according to a person familiar with the testimony.

Yovanovitch testified Friday that President Donald Trump pressured the State Department to fire her.

Hill made the remarks as she testified for more than 10 hours in the Democratic inquiry, which is probing Trump's pleas to Ukrainian officials for investigations into political rival Joe Biden's family and into the country's involvement in the 2016 presidential election. The person requested anonymity to discuss the confidential interview.

The interview is one of what could eventually become dozens of closed-door depositions in the impeachment probe. There are five more

scheduled this week, mostly with State Department officials, though it is unclear if they will all appear after Trump declared he wouldn't cooperate with the probe.

While interviews have focused on the interactions with Ukraine, the probe could broaden as soon as next week to include interviews with White House budget officials who may be able to shed light on whether military aid was withheld from Ukraine as Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, pushed for the investigations.

The three committees leading the probe are seeking interviews next week with Russell Vought, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Michael Duffey, another OMB official who leads national security programs, according to a person familiar with those requests. That person wasn't authorized to discuss the invitations and requested anonymity.

The packed schedule of interviews comes as Democrats are methodically working to pin down the

details of Trump's pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Once Democrats have completed the probe, and followed any other threads it produces, they will use their findings to help determine whether to vote on articles of impeachment. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she wants the committees to move "expeditiously."

Democrats have already obtained documents and testimony that verify parts of an original whistleblower's complaint that launched the probe.

A cache of text messages between three diplomats provided by one of the inquiry's first witnesses, former Ukrainian envoy Kurt Volker, detailed attempts by the diplomats to serve as intermediaries around the time Trump urged Zelenskyy to start the investigations into a company linked to Biden's son. Yovanovitch told lawmakers there was a "concerted campaign" against her based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives."

Nigerian police bust another 'torture house'

AFF ■ KANO (NIGERIA)

Police in northern Nigeria said on Monday they rescued over 300 young men from an Islamic boarding school where they were chained and sexually abused, the second such operation in a month.

A police team raided the school in Daura in Katsina state after some students escaped from their hostel on Sunday and poured into the streets in protest.

Katsina police chief Sanusi Buba told reporters in Daura that the young men were chained and tortured.

"We learnt that the inmates here are over 300 and because of the inhuman treatments they are being subjected to they revolted yesterday (Sunday)," he said.

"Some of the inmates escaped while..about 60 of them stayed back," he said, with

most of them found in chains. Buba said the school was established by 78-year-old Muslim cleric, Bello Mai Almajirai, 40 years ago. He later transferred management of the school to his son.

He said the school enrolled students brought by their families to learn the Koran and be treated for drug addiction and other ailments.

Daura which lies 70 kilometres (45 miles) from the state capital and near the border with Niger, is the hometown of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The students are from "various parts of Nigeria", including Katsina state and neighbouring Niger Republic, said the police chief.

According to Buba, the abused inmates were "subjected to inhuman conditions," with some of the students revealing that they were sodomised by their teachers.

Sri Lankan Tamil parties to talk with presidential aspirants

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Tamil minority parties from the former conflict-torn north and east regions of Sri Lanka will meet presidential candidates of leading parties during the poll campaign ahead of the next month's elections. Leaders of some six different parties, including the main Tamil National Alliance, met on Monday in the northern province of Jaffna to try and reach a common accord to serve Tamil interests, party sources said.

However, the parleys organised by students unions of Jaffna and Batticaloa universities ended in a deadlock as parties failed to reach a common accord.

CV Wigneswaran, the former Tamil chief minister of the northern province, told reporters that five parties would consult the main presidential candidates on their

concerns.

The ultra Tamil nationalist party Tamil National People's Front's (TNPF) demand for Tamils to stay away from voting in the election was rejected by the other five parties.

The party had also demanded abandoning of the constitutional reform ideas that came out in 2017 and dropping of the unitary character of the constitution to a federal form for the Tamil regions.

"We could not agree with two of the demands of TNPF. We have to move on now and cannot go back to make a new start from the beginning," Wigneswaran said.

Both front-runners for the presidential post Sajith Premadasa from the ruling party and Gotabhaya Rajapaksa from the main opposition are wooing the Tamils for crucial votes which would see them go past the 50 per cent votes needed to be elected as presi-

dent.

The majority Sinhala community are divided among them with perhaps Rajapaksa holding the edge over Premadasa on majority community support.

In the previous presidential election held in 2015, the Tamil minority vote played a decisive role in the victory of Maithripala Sirisena over the former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The Tamil parties supported the then opposition challenger Sirisena to make him address Tamil issues.

As a goodwill gesture toward the community, Sirisena did release some of the land held for military purposes. Yet the larger Tamil community remains dissatisfied with lack of action to address political grievances.

Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, while addressing reporters on Tuesday, denied Tamil party

claims that a large number of Tamils had disappeared during the military campaign he spearheaded which ended in crushing the LTTE's three-decade-old campaign for a separate Tamil homeland.

"All LTTEs who surrendered to the Army were rehabilitated and released into society. There is no evidence to back allegations that LTTE cadres who surrendered are missing," Rajapaksa said.

He said his government would not honour the UN human rights council resolution which the Sirisena government had co-sponsored in September 2015.

"We will reject it", Rajapaksa said.

The resolution had called for an international investigation into alleged war crimes committed by both government troops and the LTTE during the final phase of the conflict which ended in May 2009.

Indonesia arrests 24 after minister attack

AFF ■ JAKARTA

Indonesian police said they have arrested more than two dozen suspected militants after members of a network linked to the Islamic State (IS) group tried to assassinate a government minister.

The world's biggest Muslim majority nation is on high alert ahead of President Joko Widodo's second-term inauguration on Sunday, with some 27,000 troops expected to be deployed in the capital Jakarta. Authorities have also banned mass demonstrations in the lead up to Widodo's swearing in, for fear they might be used as cover for an attack, State Intelligence Agency spokesman Wawan Purwanto said.

Last week two militants stabbed Security Minister Wiranto, a former general who goes by one name, during an official visit to West Java.

The 72-year-old was rushed

by helicopter to Jakarta, where he was treated for knife wounds to his stomach. He is recovering in hospital.

Some 27 suspected militants had been arrested since the attack, said national police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo.

Prasetyo also said police seized sharp weapons, explosive materials and chemicals during the raids. The arrests took place across the Southeast Asian archipelago of some 260 million people, including in Bali where a father and son were brought in for allegedly planning attacks on the holiday island.

At the weekend, hundreds of mourners and survivors commemorated the 17th anniversary of the Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people — Indonesia's deadliest-ever terror attack. The married couple arrested after Wiranto was attacked were later identified as members of Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD).

Warren escalates Facebook fight with ad targeting Zuckerberg

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren has escalated her tiff with Facebook by running an ad — on Facebook — taking aim at its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg.

It's the latest example of growing resentment of Big Tech by Republicans and Democrats alike.

The list of grievances is long: Companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon are too big and powerful. They're bad for privacy, public discourse, democracy and small business. They're spying on us, contributing to economic inequality and hooking us and our children on addictive, useless services. The companies, of

course, object to these characterizations.

Warren, who in March proposed breaking up big tech companies, began running a text ad on Facebook last Thursday to take aim at Zuckerberg.

"Breaking news: Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook just endorsed Donald Trump for re-election," the ad reads. It then goes on to say that while this isn't true, Zuckerberg has "given Donald Trump free rein to lie" on Facebook.

Warren's ad is taking issue with Facebook's policy of not fact-checking politicians' speech or ads, the way it has outside parties fact-check news stories and other posts. Facebook has refused to remove a misleading video ad

from President Donald Trump's campaign targeting Democrat Joe Biden.

Facebook responded to Warren's move by tweeting Saturday that the Federal Communications Commission "doesn't want broadcast companies censoring candidates' speech. We agree it's better to let voters — not companies — decide."

Political speech and tech companies' role in spreading or stifling it has been an ongoing issue for both sides. Sen. Kamala Harris, a California Democrat, urged Twitter to suspend Trump's account for violating the service's rules, while Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri is battling what he considers tech companies' bias against conserva-



tives. Hawley has also told Zuckerberg that he should sell off WhatsApp and Instagram. Reaching out to conserva-

tives, Zuckerberg has held a series of private talks and small, off-the-record dinners with journalists and commentators

on the right to discuss free speech and other concerns. The dinners, starting in July, took place at one of Zuckerberg's homes in California, Politico reported Monday, citing unnamed people familiar with the meetings.

Spokesmen for Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who was said to have met with Zuckerberg as part of the series, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Zuckerberg confirmed the dinners, saying on his Facebook page that he's met with "conservative politicians, media and thinkers."

"To be clear, I have dinners with lots of people across the

spectrum on lots of different issues all the time," Zuckerberg wrote.

The big tech companies, in general, are trying to maintain a neutral stance, even if that draws the ire of politicians as divergent as the president and those trying to impeach him. In response to Warren, Facebook tweeted that voters rather than companies ought to be the ones weighing candidates' speech.

Social media services are "caught between a rock and a hard place," said Andrew Guess, a Princeton University political scientist who studies social media and its effects on political opinion.

Blocking or suspending accounts for speech can prompt complaints of political bias or

censorship, but a hands-off approach may be viewed as a free pass to politicians like Trump.

"Anything they do is going to attract criticism," Guess said. "That, of course, makes them a target."

Beyond discourse and privacy, antitrust concerns have emerged as a major concern for lawmakers and candidates. This wasn't the case in 2016, when grumbling about the outsized power of tech was largely confined to activists and those on the most liberal end of the spectrum.

Still, while there have been congressional hearings, investigations and fines, including a record \$5 billion against Facebook, little has changed for Big Tech.

Misbah disappointed with attitude of some players



PTI ■ KARACHI

Head coach-cum-chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq is extremely disappointed with the attitude of some Pakistani players, who shy away from proper training, lack discipline and don't adhere to professional standards.

Pakistan recently suffered a whitewash against Sri Lanka in the three-game T20I series at home and Misbah remains very disappointed at the way the top-ranked side capitulated to Sri Lanka in front of home crowds.

"What has disturbed Misbah the most in his first assignment as head coach and the chief selector is the reluctance of some players to follow directions of the management and do proper training to keep high fitness standards," one source said.

"He is unhappy that some players are just too relaxed and take training lightly and are not working on improving their cricket discipline. He has also not been encouraged by the attitude of captain, Sarfaraz Ahmed whom he feels shies away from taking responsibility when the chips are down."

Another source said that Misbah was surprised by the behaviour of three senior players — Wahab Riaz, Imad Wasim, and Haris Sohail.

"Several times he felt they were making excuses to shy away from training and proper nets. He got the feeling they had some sort of excuse ready to go easy on their training," the source said.

"Batsman, Haris Sohail has developed a painful habit of making excuses for having some niggling problem or pain when asked to push himself in training.

"Another problem which confronts Misbah is that most of the players don't appear to have the cricket discipline to follow and execute plans on the field which are discussed in the dressing room."

The source said at one stage Misbah even felt that the decision of former head coach Mickey Arthur to keep left-arm pacer Wahab Riaz out of the team was understandable.

The long-serving former Pakistan captain is also not pleased that some players are also not displaying the required professional standards.

"Two players bluntly informed their team's head coaches that they would reach for the National T20 Championship matches in Faisalabad on the morning of the games. When Misbah came to know about this he told the head coaches they should be more firm with the players and ensure they joined their provincial team a day before the matches," one source said.

Misbah is also surprised that Arthur and the ex-support staff didn't pay enough attention to developing proper batsmen in all formats and didn't look beyond Babar Azam.

"It is not a very happy situation now and one can expect Misbah to take some hard decisions as chief selector while selecting the T20 and Test squads for the coming tour of Australia," he said.

Zahid Mahmood, a leg-spinner who in the past has been ignored by the selectors and coaches, is now under the consideration of Misbah who is not satisfied with the form of current team leggies, Yasir Shah and Shadab Khan.

Similarly, Misbah is also on the lookout for some new pace bowlers and youngster Naseem Shah is under his scanner for the Australian tour.

The source said it will also be interesting to see whether Misbah supports Sarfaraz Ahmed to continue as a Test captain when the board meets to decide on the captains for the Australian tour.

No politics behind my selection as BCCI chief: Ganguly

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as Board of Control for Cricket in India president designate Sourav Ganguly returned to Kolkata amid a grand welcome the former Cricket India captain said there was no politics to be read into his getting nominated as the boss of Indian cricket.

Soon after landing at the NSI Airport the cricketing south-paw said, "there was no political pressure on me; neither is there any political deal," behind his getting the prized post. When asked as to whether he saw a shinning political future ahead of him particularly after the 2021 Bengal Assembly elections, he remained non-committal saying "there was no talk with anyone on my political future."

Incidentally hours before being tipped off to be the first cricketer to become a BCCI president Ganguly had a brief meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah which many critic saw as a prelude to his becoming the Board president.

On whether there was any offer from any political bench for



him he said "there is nothing wrong if any politician wants good people to join politics. There is nothing wrong if Mr Amit Shah or Mamata Didi want good people to join their parties."

On his future chemistry with BCCI secretary designate Jay Shah he said "Jay and I have been very good friends.

Both of us are young and both of us have experience and both of us want to do something for the Indian cricket. So it will be a great inning for both of us. There will not be lack of any

effort ... whether I will be successful or not I can't say but I can say that I will work to the best of my capability for the cause of Indian cricket."

Dwelling on his priorities as the BCCI chief he said "my first priority is the whole lot of first class cricketers. It is this pool of cricketers from where the top payers emerge. But the remaining lot of first class cricketers gets very little for them. So it will be my first priority to do something for them. We will work collectively and change their lives."

'Want to reverse losing trend in knock-out games of ICC events'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who is set to be the new BCCI president, wants the Virat Kohli-led national team to reverse the trend of losing the knock-out games in ICC events.

"India are a good team. I know they have not won a big tournament. But they play well in big tournaments except the semi-finals and the final. Hopefully, Virat can change it around. He is a champion player," Ganguly told reporters here on Tuesday.

India have not won an ICC event since the 2013 Champions Trophy. The team finished runner-up in the 2017 Champions Trophy final after losing to Pakistan.

In the World Cup earlier this year, India were one of the favourites to win the title but ended up losing the semifinal to New Zealand.

Smriti loses top spot

PTI ■ DUBAI

Injured India opener Smriti Mandhana has lost her number one status after being toppled by New Zealand's Amy Satterthwaite in the batting chart of the latest ICC ODI rankings.

Mandhana, who has 755 points, slipped to the number two spot after she missed India's recently concluded ODI series against South Africa due to injury.

The 23-year-old suffered a fracture in her right toe after being struck by a ball during a net session before the start of the ODI series against South Africa which India won 3-0.

Among others batters, skipper Mithali Raj moved down to the seventh spot while her Harmanpreet Kaur rose in the rankings to the occupy the 17th place.



Smriti Mandhana in a file picture PTI

In the bowlers' rankings, Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey and Poonam Yadav moved down to be placed sixth, eighth and ninth respectively.

Among the all-rounders, Deepti Sharma has moved down to the third place while Shikha Pandey broke into the top 10.

Jaffer slams 'unfit' Vadodara pitches for Hazare trophy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic cricket stalwart and former India opener Wasim Jaffer on Tuesday slammed the "unfit" pitches being used in Vadodara for the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Jaffer took to Twitter to vent out his frustration. "Absolutely unfit pitches to play in 'List A' matches in Vadodara," he wrote.

Later Jaffer, who is the highest-run scorer in Ranji Trophy, said that the pitch at the Motibaug ground was "close to being dangerous".

"Yes, specially the pitch at Motibaug is close to being dangerous. Two-three players were hit by a ball and nobody is scoring more than 150-160 runs.

"Our tournament was (suppose) to start on 24th (September) but then there was rain for two

weeks. So, I don't know why the Baroda Cricket Association first of all took up (the job) to host Vijay Hazare," Jaffer said.

All the Group B matches have been played in Baroda and Jaffer's team Vidarbha won only two of their nine matches, losing four. Three of their games had no result. They are languishing at the 8th spot in the Elite Group B standings and 13th in the combined Group A and B standings.

"And the matches we are playing on, if you look at the scores, you will get to know what kind of wickets we are playing on. In Bengaluru, Jaipur and Dehradun they are getting good pitches to play (on), so its just feels very sad," Jaffer said.

A senior member of the Vidarbha's coaching staff believes that the match-referee should submit a detailed report about the condition of pitches to the BCCI.

Ireland, Scotland attempt to deny minnows 'dream'

AFP ■ DUBAI

Ireland captain Gary Wilson wants his side to ensure they finish "right at the top again" in the upcoming 2020 T20 World Cup qualifying tournament, but Nigeria and Jersey are among those chasing a "dream" appearance on the global stage.

Scotland are the highest-ranked team in the competition, with 14 nations vying for six places in the opening round of next year's World T20 in Australia, where they would join Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in attempting to reach the 'Super 12s'.

Ireland are the only Test team having to go through qualifying, which starts on Friday in the United Arab Emirates, and will be expected to book a sixth straight appearance in the tournament.

"We are here to compete at the world stage," said Irish skipper Wilson. "We have a great record in the Middle East and the boys are looking forward to a great tournament and ensure we finish right at the top again."

The winners of each group of seven will qualify automatically, with the four remaining spots to be decided in playoffs.

Scotland, 11th in the world T20 rankings, claimed their first-ever win at a global ICC tournament in the 2016 edition by beating Hong Kong, but will be looking to put the pain of agonisingly missing out on the 50-over World Cup earlier this year behind them.

They had two chances to secure a place during last year's qualifying in Zimbabwe, but lost to Ireland before rain cut short their tense run chase against two-time world champions the West Indies.



"We know every team is dangerous in this competition," said Scotland captain Kyle Coetzer. "It is vitally important not only for us as Scotland but for every team here."

JERSEY CHASING 'DREAM'

The Netherlands, who reached the 'Super 10' round in 2014, Oman, Hong Kong and hosts the UAE will all be among the favourites to qualify.

But the likes of Nigeria, Jersey and Singapore insist they are not going to just make up the numbers as they bid to give cricket a boost in their countries.

There was already a shock in the Asian regional qualifiers, with Singapore reaching this stage ahead of Nepal, the world's 13th-ranked outfit.

Island team Jersey are playing in their second consecutive qualifier, having fallen short four years ago despite surprise victories over Hong Kong and Nepal.

"For Jersey, it would probably be the biggest thing that has happened in our sporting history," admitted captain Charles Perchard.

"It's a dream of ours to potentially play in a World Cup next year... "We're a small island

and in a lot of sports we do punch above our weight, especially in cricket and qualification would be massive for our country."

Nigeria have reached the final stage of qualifying for the first time as cricket continues to grow in the African country, with their youth side booking a spot at next year's Under-19 World Cup in South Africa.

"It would be a great thing to be at the World Cup. It would be a great history for Nigeria," said their skipper Ademola Onikoyi, after his team took the place of Zimbabwe following their suspension by the ICC.

"Our juniors will be at the World Cup next year in South Africa, so we want to do that as well."

Singapore, led by Amjad Mahboob, are also debutants at the qualifying event, while Bermuda will be looking to repeat the heroics of their side who famously reached the 2007 World Cup.

The qualifiers get underway on Friday, with Scotland facing Singapore in the opening Group A game, while Ireland take on Hong Kong and the UAE play Oman in Group B.

Delhi eye maiden PKL final place

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the VIVO Pro Kabaddi League Season Seven entering its penultimate phase, the semi-finals, all eyes are on the star athletes who have pushed their teams towards the coveted title. Defending champions Bengaluru Bulls have rode on Pawan Sehrawat's raiding brilliance all season but they will be up against League toppers Dabang Delhi KC, who have with them another brilliant talent in raider Naveen Kumar. In the second semi-final, Bengal Warriors will face an in-form U Mumba side, who outclassed a strong Haryana Steelers unit in the Eliminators.

BATTLE OF RAIDERS

For most parts of this season, Pawan Sehrawat has looked the best Kabaddi player in the country, and he has carried that form into the crucial, knockout stages of the competition. His 20-point performance was vital in Bulls' comeback victory against UP Yoddha in the Eliminators and the defending champions will once again be reliant on the High-Flyer for the raid points against Delhi, especially with Rohit Kumar still looking troubled by his back injury. Pawan has 328 points from 23 matches this season, including 17 Super 10s, but the raider will be facing a familiar foe in Delhi's left corner Ravinder Pahal. Interestingly, the 'Hawk' has a better head-to-head history against Pawan in duels (8-7), and will take belief from Nitesh Kumar's performances for UP against the raider from the same position.

At the other end, Naveen Kumar will be keen to launch the wrecking ball onto a leaky Bulls' defence. Barring Mahender Singh, no defender looked convincing in their game against UP, and in Naveen they will be facing a raider of another class. The 19-year-old, a produce of the



Future Kabaddi Heroes (FKH) programme, has 19 consecutive Super 10s this season (268 points from 21 matches), and will be a force to reckon with. With both the raiding departments looking strong, the match will most likely be won by the defence.

"WELL-BALANCED" SIDES

Bengal Warriors, arguably, have been the most complete side in Season 7, with their defence and attack firing hand in hand. But they will be facing a U Mumba, often called a defence-reliant team, who have discovered a new dimension through two young raiders — Abhishek Singh and Arjun Deshwal. The duo scored 32 points for the Mumbai side in their Eliminator round, and with U Mumba also peaking at the right time, the second semi-final will be a tactical warfare.

Baldev Singh (averaging 2.59 tackles per match) and Rinku Narwal have been in good form for the Warriors and they will be keen to make life difficult for Mumbai's young raiders. Maninder Singh's injury concerns will be a concern for the Bengal team though, especially with Mumbai corners of Fazel Atrachali (top scoring



defender in season seven with 81 points so far) and Sandeep Narwal in red-hot form. But in K Prapanjan and Mohammad Nabibakhsh, the Warriors have a great raiding unit to support Maninder.

The eliminator rounds were testimony to the fact that there can be no clear favourites in a Kabaddi match. Expect nothing short of fireworks as the most fiercely competed season of VIVO PKL enters the final stages.

The players had a take on the semi-final match:

Talking about the semi-finals Pawan Hi-Flyer Sehrawat, Captain of Bengaluru Bulls, said "It was a great match yesterday, I

have never played such a high quality match. During my school days I played a match which ended in a draw and after that I played a tied game in the knockout stage yesterday and it was a great experience to be part of it. I had lost hope of winning but then our coach motivated me and we had Rohit bhai's support also that kept me going. There were so many exciting moments in the match that in the end turned it turned in our favour. It was a complete team effort. Our match with Dabang Delhi KC is going to be challenging, they are a good and balanced team with good quality defenders and raiders and like the previous one it is going to be a close

call. A blockbuster of a Raid Fest for sure!"

Talking about the semi-finals Fazel Sultan Atrachali, Captain of U Mumba, said "The last match with Haryana was very difficult as Haryana had played us very recently and they knew our gameplan. They had strategized accordingly to ensure the best result. However, it was a very important time for me because in the last season, we qualified to the playoffs and then couldn't go further so I wanted to not repeat the same mistake. Yesterday's game was really good because we won such a tough match so the team is very motivated and confident. We have strategized focusing on defence and when we have a controlled defence we perform really well. Even Bengal Warriors has a good defence but I think we can overcome that. We need to concentrate on team work and not depend on any one player during the match, everyone has to support each other and play as a unit."

Talking about the semi-finals Joginder Narwal, Captain of Dabang Delhi, said "The season has been tough and the competition during the league stage is high. The team worked hard and emerged as table toppers, we wish to continue the momentum and give our best during the semi-finals. We have always taken one game at a time and will do so even for our match against Bengaluru Bulls. Our aim is to pick the cup this year, and we are working towards it."

Talking about the semi-finals Nabibakhsh, Bengal Warriors, said "U Mumba put up a good game, they were on point with their defence and offence. We are preparing for the semi-finals and practicing rigorously to make sure we keep the pressure on our opponent from the beginning. The match against U Mumba will be a neck-to-neck battle and we will give our best to make sure we emerge victorious and



IAN S ■ KOLKATA

India snatched a 1-1 draw from the jaws of defeat against much lower ranked Bangladesh to dent their chances of qualification in a Group E Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup tie at the packed Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Tuesday.

A first-half strike from Saad Uddin in the 42nd minute helped Bangladesh take a shock lead against India, who are 83 places above them and drew 0-0 against Asian champions Qatar in their last game.

The hosts had a flurry of chances to peg back with Anas Edathodika's shot headed out by Mohammad Ibrahim on the goalline in the second half. It was only in the 88th minute that centre-back Adil Khan headed in a goal to equalise.

Bangladesh too, could have doubled their advantage as Mohammad Ibrahim's shot found

the crossbar in the second-half and Adil made a goalline clearance.

The result means India move to two points from three games after losing their campaign opener to Oman. Bangladesh, who prior to this game had lost both their matches against Afghanistan and Qatar, logged their first point but remained at the bottom of the five-team group.

India missed defensive mainstay Sandesh Jhingan and holding midfielder Rowlin Borges due to injury and suspension respectively.

Chhetri got a chance to get India ahead in the 5th minute when his first-time volley after receiving a pass from Ashique Kuruniyan went straight to visiting goalkeeper Ashraful Islam.

India enjoyed the lion's share of ball possession and tried hard to open up the Bangladesh defence but the away side held firm as the hosts fluffed their lines in the final third.

The result means India move to two points from three games after losing their campaign opener to Oman. Bangladesh, who prior to this game had lost both their matches against Afghanistan and Qatar, logged their first point but remained at the bottom of the five-team group

Bangladesh got their first opportunity in the 31st minute when Biplo Ahamed sneaked into the box only for Anas to intercept at the right time.

Four minutes later, Bangladesh goalkeeper Ashraful was forced into a fingertip save from Manvir Singh's looping header as India kept knocking at the door.

But against the run of play, Bangladesh nosed ahead three minutes before halftime. Skipper Jamal Bhuyan swung in a delectable free kick for Saad to nod in past Gurpreet who failed to catch the ball.

After the break, Bangladesh missed a golden opportunity to double their advantage when Sohail Rana cut in from the left to set up Mohammad Zibban, whose shot was saved well by Gurpreet.

India then fluffed two gilt-edged chances at and just after the hour mark as Anas' header was first saved on the goalline by Ibrahim and then in the 66th minute,

Manvir mistimed his run to spurn a header from close range.

At the other end, Adil made an acrobatic clearance to save Gurpreet the blushes after Zibban got behind the defence and lobbed the ball past India's tall custodian.

Chhetri wasted wide from substitute Brandon Fernandes' corner in the 76th minute as India threw the kitchen sink at their lesser fancied rivals.

The effort paid off as Adil powered in a header from Brandon's corner at the near post to send the crowd into raptures.

Chhetri dribbled past two defenders soon after but the 35-year-old's shot was weak as the stadium reverberated with his chants.

The packed 65,000 spectators were left high and dry in the end as India could not record a win which was expected. The result means Bangladesh, ranked 187, remain unbeaten in their last three meetings against India, ranked 104.

ENGLAND 6 RACISM 0

England players suffer shocking abuse ++ Monkey chants at Sterling & Rashford ++ Bulgaria fans make fascist salutes ++ Match stopped twice & almost abandoned



AFP ■ SOFIA

England manager Gareth Southgate said his side made a statement by deciding to complete a 6-0 Euro 2020 qualifying win over Bulgaria after the match was twice halted by racist chanting.

The visitors led 2-0 through early goals from Marcus Rashford and Ross Barkley when play was first stopped and an announcement made to supporters that the game could be suspended if offensive chanting continued.

Once restarted, England quickly made it 3-0 through Barkley before a second stoppage as Croatian referee Ivan Bebek held discussions with players and coaching staff from both sides.

Raheem Sterling then netted twice either side of half-time before Harry Kane rounded off the scoring to take England to the brink of qualification.

"We know it is an unacceptable situation," Southgate told British broadcaster ITV.

"I think we've managed to make two statements really by winning the game, but also we have raised the awareness of everybody to the situation."

"The game was stopped twice and I know for some people that won't be enough, but I think we were as a group on board with that process."

In a statement, The English Football Association said their players "were subjected to abhorrent racist chanting" and called on UEFA to investigate immediately.

Tyrone Mings was one of those targeted on his England debut. The Aston Villa defender believed that stopping the game did have the desired effect of reducing racist abuse in the second half.

"The correct steps that were taken definitely helped," said Mings.

"We made the decision at half-time to come out and play the game which we thought

WE KNOW IT IS AN UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION. I THINK WE'VE MANAGED TO MAKE TWO STATEMENTS REALLY BY WINNING THE GAME, BUT ALSO WE HAVE RAISED THE AWARENESS OF EVERYBODY TO THE SITUATION



was the right decision. If anything else happened, we would have taken appropriate action."

A comprehensive victory was the perfect riposte for Southgate's men to their shock 2-1 defeat at the Czech Republic on Friday and opens up a three-point lead at the top of Group A.

However, the focus was again on the stands as another England match blighted by racism from opposition fans.

After several English players suffered racist abuse in a qualifier away to Montenegro in March, Southgate had prepared his side to follow UEFA's three-step protocol for reporting racist incidents that can lead to matches being abandoned.

A section of 5,000 seats at the Vasil Levski National Stadium was already closed

for the game after racist incidents during games against Kosovo and the Czech Republic in June.

"I have to say the officials were onto everything very quickly," added Southgate.

"We reported everything immediately when we heard things, we had constant communication with the fourth official and the referee."

On the field, Southgate's decision to make five changes from the side beaten in Prague on Friday was fully vindicated.

Rashford was one of those recalled put his Manchester United woes behind him by smashing the opener into the roof of the net after just seven minutes before Barkley tapped home a second at the back post.

The first stage of UEFA's protocol followed as the game was temporarily stopped and a warning played over the loudspeaker in both Bulgarian and English that the match could be suspended after monkey chants were aimed at England players.

That warning was not heeded as after Barkley headed home Kane's cross, there was a second, longer stoppage in play.

A number of Bulgarian ultras were then ejected from the stadium.

When play did get back underway there were six minutes of stoppage time added and the visitors used it to increase their advantage when Kane crossed for Sterling to this time apply an easy finish.

Southgate's men could have scored plenty more in the second-half against the dispirited hosts on a terrible night all round for Bulgarian football.

Sterling's second arrived midway through the second-half with Kane again the creator before the England captain finally got on the scoresheet himself five minutes from time.

England now need just a point from their final two qualifiers against Montenegro and Kosovo next month to seal their place at next year's Euros.



AFP ■ KIEV

Ukraine beat Portugal 2-1 on Monday to clinch a place at Euro 2020 despite Cristiano Ronaldo scoring his 700th career goal.

Roman Yaremchuk and Andriy Yarmolenko put Ukraine two goals up after 27 minutes.

Although Ronaldo scored his landmark goal from the penalty spot in the 72nd minute and Taras Stepanenko was sent off, Ukraine held on to secure first place in Group B.

700 & counting

Cristiano scores 700th career goal in Portugal's 1-2 defeat against Ukraine



Turkey's players salute as they celebrate a goal against France during the group H qualifying match AP

Ukraine join already qualified Poland, Russia, Italy and Belgium at next summer's finals, while second-placed Portugal, who are eight points behind

Ukraine, have Serbia just a point behind them with two matches remaining after they beat Lithuania 2-1.

"There are days like these, when the

Lakshya wants to break into top 30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A maiden BWF World tour title pushing him closer to top 50, Dutch Open champion Lakshya Sen says he will look to put up a good show in the remainder of the season to break into the world's top 30.

The 18-year-old on Sunday clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open title, beating Yusuke Onodera of Japan 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 in the summit clash.

"This is the biggest title of my career so far. I have reached quarters and a semifinals in the past, so it is good to finally win a super 100 tournament. It will boost my ranking and give me a chance to play the super 500 tournaments," Lakshya, who rose to world No 52 this week said.

"At the beginning of the year, my target was to reach the top 50 and after this win I would be close to that. I still have few events left in the year. If I can do well there, I can go further up. Hope I can break into top 30 early next year."

Lakshya will play the Saarlouis Open Super 100 (Oct 29-Nov 3) next, before participating in two International Challenge events at the Irish Open (November 13-16) and Scottish Open (Nov 21-24). He will also play the Syed Modi International Super 300 (Nov 26-Dec 1).



It was an impressive week for the teen shuttler, who displayed superb temperament and skills to outwit his opponents.

"The first round against Nhat (Nguyen) was tough, the second match was okay but again playing (Ygor) Coelho was difficult. I had played him before so I was ready for a big match," said the 2018 Asian Junior Champion.

"The finals was also a long match and I am happy how I performed overall in the week," he said.

Sindhu starts with win

PTI ■ ODENSE

World Champion P V Sindhu made an impressive start to her campaign at the Denmark Open, claiming a straight-game win over Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the women's singles competition here on Tuesday.

Fifth seed Sindhu, who had made early exits in China and Korea, got back her bearing as she overcame former World Junior Champion Gregoria 22-20, 21-18 in 38 minutes to keep her 5-0 record intact against the Indonesian.

The Olympic Silver medallist will now face Korea's An Se Young next.

World Championships Bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth also made it to the second round beating the legendary Lin Dan 21-14, 21-17 in a 35-minute opening round clash.

The Hyderabad shuttler is likely to meet world No 1 and two-time world champion Kento Momota of Japan next. He had lost to Momota at the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland.

Thailand Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made a good start to their men's doubles campaign, beating Korean pair of Kim Gi Jung and Lee Yong Dae 24-22, 21-11 in 39 minutes.



Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap, who had reached the semifinals at Korea Open, failed to cross the opening round after losing 13-21, 12-21 to Thailand's Sittikhom Thammasin in the men's singles.

National champion Sourabh Verma, who had clinched the Hyderabad Open and Vietnam Open this year, also made an early exit after going down 21-19, 11-21, 17-21 to Mark Caljouw of the Netherlands.

Paine backs Smith's return to captaincy

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Australian captain Tim Paine has addressed speculation over whether Steve Smith will again lead the team once a ban ends in March, saying he would be fully supportive if it happens "one day".

Smith skipped the team until he was suspended for 12 months over a brazen attempt under his watch to alter the ball with sandpaper in Cape Town last year.

Part of his punishment included a further year-long exile from any leadership role. Calls have grown for Smith to take over from Paine when the ban is lifted, following batting performances that helped Australia retain the Ashes



against England.

Paine, who will turn 35 in December, on Monday brushed off questions surrounding the Australian side's future leadership.

"I'm enjoying having the job at the moment... And I certainly hope Steve Smith does captain Australia again one

day, and if he does, I'll be fully supportive of it," he told the *Daily Telegraph*.

Paine will not play in this summer's Big Bash League, instead joining broadcaster Channel Seven's commentary team. But he will almost certainly retain the captaincy for the home summer Test series

Smith should be made captain once Paine's time is up: Ponting

IAN S ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia skipper Steve Ponting believes Steve Smith should get another chance to lead the national team once Tim Paine's time is up.

"It's the million-dollar question: when Steve Smith's ban is up will he go straight back into the captaincy or will he not?" Ponting told 7NEWS.

"To be honest I think it's up to Tim how long he plays

He's the best keeper in the world. Whether that's as captain or not that's up to the hierarchy at Cricket Australia to make that decision. I've been on record already — when Tim's time is up I'd like to see Steve Smith have another go. "I think he probably feels like there's unfinished business there as far as his captaincy's concerned. He's got to want to do it and obviously then the authorities have to say yes or no," he added.

against Pakistan and New Zealand, despite occasional criticism of his form during the

Ashes.