

OPINION 8
WHY CONG
OWES AN ANSWERWORLD 11
RESPECT DEAL OR WILL
ESCALATE OP, WARNS ERDOGANSPORT 15
DELHI FACE BENGAL
FOR PKL-7 TROPHY

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

INEQUALITY
IS RAMPANT:
AYUSHMANN
14 VIVACITY

FATF warns Pak: Stop terror funding or else...

Pak granted Feb deadline to fulfil remaining 22 of 27 tasks to avert blacklisting

PTI ■ PARIS

Putting Pakistan on notice, the international terror financing watchdog FATF on Friday warned it will be black-listed if it does not control terror funding by February next, voicing serious concern over that country's failure to deliver on most of its 27 targets.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) gave the warning to Pakistan at its five-day plenary which concluded here on Friday while deciding to again put the country on the "Grey List". By making this decision on Pakistan public, the FATF has given notice to the global financial institutions that they need to prepare to red flag the jurisdiction and ready their systems in February 2020 if the country falters in meeting the targets.

"It was again decided by consensus that FATF would retain Pakistan on the Grey List and warn Pakistan that if it did not complete its full Action Plan and show significant and sustainable progress action will



FATF President Xiangmin Liu, left, and Executive Secretary David Lewis talk to each other after a media conference at the OECD headquarters in Paris on Friday. AP

be taken," said an official privy to the development said.

Since Pakistan continues to be in the FATF "Grey List", it would be very difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, ADB and the European Union. There is also the risk of reduction in rating by Moody's, S&P and Fitch, making Pakistan's financial condition more precarious.

According to a FATF statement, the FATF plenary noted that Pakistan addressed only five out of the 27 tasks given to it in controlling funding to terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen, responsible for a series of attacks in India.

The FATF said it strongly urges Pakistan to swiftly com-

plete its full action plan by February 2020.

"Otherwise, should significant and sustainable progress not be made across the full range of its action plan by the next plenary, the FATF will take action, which could include the FATF calling on its members and urging all jurisdictions to advise their Financial Institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan," the global body said in the statement.

Such action could include calling upon global financial institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan. This language is the same as used for Iran, which is already in the blacklist category.

Continued on Page 7

Hindu outfit leader killed in City

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Controversial leader of Hindu Samaj Party, Kamlesh Tiwari, was killed in cold blood in his office at Khurshedbagh in Naka police station area on Friday, triggering protests from his supporters.

The agitated followers of the Hindu outfit leader laid siege to nearby roads, holding up traffic for hours, raised anti-police slogans and ransacked a UP Roadways bus and passing tempos.

With the bypolls to 11 assembly seats barely three days away, the Lucknow police once again came under pressure and personnel from several police stations were summoned to the area and deployed around the victim's house and around the mortuary which was flooded by party workers and supporters.

As per reports, Kamlesh Tiwari was sitting in his residence-cum-office at Khurshedbagh when two persons wearing saffron kurtas and carrying some sweet boxes visited him in the afternoon. After a brief tête-à-tête, Tiwari asked his aide Saurashtra Singh to serve tea to the guests. Later, the visitors paid Singh some money to bring paan masala.

On his return to the office, Singh found Tiwari and the guests absent. Assuming that they might have left, Singh started going to the house when he spotted blood stains on the floor and found Tiwari lying in a corner of the office.

On a closer look, he found



People gather near the office-cum-residence of Hindu Samaj Party founder Kamlesh Tewari (inset) after he was brutally killed by some unidentified miscreants in Lucknow on Friday. PTI

injuries around Tiwari's his throat, chest and face. The throat had apparently been slit with a sharp-edged weapon and he had been shot on the head. At that time, Tiwari's wife was resting in a room on the first floor of the house while his driver Mohit was busy somewhere else.

Later, Singh informed Tiwari's wife and other party workers, who rushed the victim to the KGMU Trauma Centre where he was declared brought dead.

Singh later told the police, "Tiwari was provided security cover but his gunner was on leave. The only constable in Tiwari's duty was resting in one of the rooms of the house. The killers posed as workers of a Hindu outfit and wanted to meet Tiwari. They called Tiwari 10-15 minutes before reaching the office. I heard the guests talking about an interfaith marriage when I was asked to purchase paan masala."

During preliminary inves-

tigation, the police recovered an empty sweet box of a sweet shop located in Surat district of Gujarat. Also, a country-made pistol, probably the murder weapon, was also recovered.

Investigators suspect that one of the assailants gagged Tiwari and slit his throat in one go. The multiple injuries on his face and body were probably caused as Tiwari struggled to defend himself.

As the news broke, incensed Hindu Samaj Party workers took to the streets

and prevented cops and even senior officials from entering the lane leading to Tiwari's residence. They raised anti-police slogans and hooted at the cops and abused them. It took hours to end the deadlock as police officials cajoled the leaders of different Hindu outfits who converged on the scene of crime.

At the mortuary too, the scene was no different. A large number of supporters thronged there and shouted slogans against the police, denigrating them for poor law and order and for failing to provide security to the victim.

The agitated supporters blocked the Pucca Pul crossing near Tile Wali Masjid and damaged a UP Roadways bus on the bridge. The police had to divert traffic after the incident.

Later, the protesters split into groups and moved towards Transit Hostel of KGMU, Pucca Pul and Bada Imambara and raised anti-police slogans. A heavy police force was deployed at mortuary and in Khurshedbagh. "A case has been registered at Naka police station in this regard and the police are investigating all possible angles," said ASP (West) Vikas Tripathi.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has sought a report from the Director General of Police. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to nab the assailants. The SIT is headed by Lucknow Range IG SK Bhagat and has SP (Crime) and CO (STF) as its members.

Sonia gives Haryana rally a miss, Rahul called in to fill void

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an embarrassment for the Congress, two days before the crucial Assembly elections in Haryana, party chief Sonia Gandhi cancelled her only poll rally scheduled for Friday in Mahendragarh.

Partymen had prepared round the clock to make the rally a huge success and expected that Sonia will use the occasion to counter the high-pitched campaign by BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This was scheduled to be Sonia's first public appearance after taking as interim president from her son Rahul Gandhi post the Lok Sabha debacle. In her place, Rahul Gandhi addressed the rally.

"She has a viral infection, so she asked me to meet you and talk to you. I will come even at the last second on your call," Rahul Gandhi said at the rally.

The news of Sonia's can-



celling her programme came through a social media message from Haryana Congress.

"@RahulGandhi ji will be addressing a public meeting at Mahendragarh today, at 2 PM. @INCIndia president Sonia Gandhi ji will not be able to attend the meeting due to unavoidable reasons," the Haryana Congress said.

Rahul Gandhi has already held rallies for the October 21 Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana and it was his second rally in Haryana.

Continued on Page 7

Sainik schools to open doors for girls after Rajnath's nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major initiative to empower girls, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has given the nod for their admission into Sainik schools all over the country. So far, only boys were allowed to study in these schools. There are 31 such schools. The project to have such schools to serve as nursery for grooming future Service personnel was started in 1961.

Giving details of the new endeavour here on Friday, Defence Ministry officials said the Minister approved the admission of girls from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner. The decision is in line with strengthening the motto of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" propagated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The decision has been taken following the success of the pilot project started by the Ministry of Defence for admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago," the Ministry said in a statement.



Officials also said Singh has directed authorities to ensure availability of necessary infrastructure and sufficient female staff in Sainik schools for smooth implementation of the directive. Moreover, the decision is in line with the objective of the Government towards greater inclusiveness, gender equality and enabling greater participation of women in armed forces.

Most of the Sainik schools are residential and run by the Defence Ministry except in Lucknow which is administered and funded by the UP Government.

Continued on Page 7

CBI chargesheets PC, Karti, former Secy for conspiracy, cheating in INX media case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday filed a chargesheet in the INX Media corruption case, naming 14 individuals and entities, including former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, his son Karti, and then additional secretary in Department of Economic Affairs Sindhusree Khullar.

They have been charged with committing offences under various IPC sections relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating and also under the Prevention of Corruption Act for causing loss to the exchequer.

Then Director in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board Prabodh Saxena, then Joint Secretary and Undersecretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Anup K Pujari and R Prasad respectively have also been chargesheeted, CBI officials said. All the chargesheeted persons have been accused of involvement in the criminal



conspiracy for irregular clearance of FDI to INX to the tune of ₹307 crore.

Three companies allegedly controlled by Karti — Singapore unit Advantage Strategic Consultancy Private Limited and Chess Management Services Private Limited — have also been named in the chargesheet.

These companies are alleged to have laundered the bribe money. Then INX promoters Peter Mukherjee and his then wife Indrani allegedly transferred money to these companies for alleged favours in the irregular approval of the FDI.

Continued on Page 7

SC shifts Assam NRC chief to MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented order of its type, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre and the Assam Government to immediately transfer the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela to Madhya Pradesh for the maximum period possible. Hajela has been facing threats and criticism from several quarters for exclusion of names from the updated NRC list.

A native of Madhya Pradesh and a 1995 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre with BTech in Electronics from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Hajela was appointed the NRC coordinator by the top court to oversee the mammoth and sensitive exercise of finalising and publication of Assam NRC data.

A special Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and RF Nariman ordered the intercadre transfer of Hajela on deputation to his native State for maximum possible period. Attorney General KK



NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela

Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, sought to know the reason behind the unprecedented order of the top court, to which the CJI responded, "can any order be passed without a cause or reason". The Bench, however, did not specify the cause or the reason for passing the order, leading to speculation that the officer might be apprehending some kind of threat. Two FIRs were filed last month against Hajela for "discrepancies" in the final updated NRC list. A lawyer

Continued on Page 7

Delhi Zoo director removed, day after drama in lion's enclosure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the Delhi Zoo (National Zoological Park) witnessed a high drama when a man jumped inside the enclosure of a lion but was saved unhurt, the Union Environment Ministry removed zoo's director Renu Singh, an IFS officer, who was holding the post since 2017.

Renu Singh, a UP cadre officer, has joined the Ministry as Deputy Inspector General of Forest (DIGF), a post held by Sunesh Buxy, who has been given the additional charge of the National Zoological Park (NZP) till the appointment of the new director.

The NZP has been in the news for quite some time for illegal procurement of animals, mismanagement, and violation of the rights of the zoo inmates. Faced with wide-



Rehan Khan, who jumped inside the enclosure of a lion in Delhi Zoo on Thursday. file photo

spread criticism, the Ministry on September 16, 2019 handed over the control of the NZP to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), a statutory body formed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. Till then, the Ministry had been

directly overseeing the zoo's administration.

Justifying the move, a senior Environment Ministry official said transfer was aimed at streamlining the functioning of the Delhi Zoo.

The Ministry in its letter issued on October 17 said, "It has been decided with the approval of the competent authority that Singh will be laterally shifted to the Ministry as DIGF."

On September 17, the Ministry had suspended a Delhi Zoo veterinary officer after he was found guilty of "negligence in animal care, inspection and maintenance of records."

The suspension of veterinary officer, Abhijit Bhawa was based on recommendation of a high-level panel set up by the Ministry to probe into the

Continued on Page 7

Ride with long-lost treasures



BY KUSHAN MITRA

For those of you who have seen the new ₹100 note, you would have noticed that there is a stepwell featured on it. Stepwells are a common feature across many parts of western India and were commonly used by Rajput kings and their predecessors in the earliest example of rainwater harvesting. Many of them have fallen into disrepair and disuse though they were all ornate at one time. Many, because they were often associated with religion, were destroyed when invading armies came into the region. But not the stepwell we see on the ₹100 note. The Rani Ki Vav



#StatueOfUnity | #IncredibleIndia | @HyundaiIndia | @souindia

at Patan, Gujarat, survived thanks to it being covered in sand and mud.

Whether that was a deliberate act to protect it from armies that raided the prosperous traders of Gujarat is unknown, but it survived. It was

not affected by the large-scale loot of antiquities by colonial powers thanks to it being lost in time and it was not "discovered" until after Independence and excavated in 1958.

We might criticise the Archeological Survey of India

India's westernmost State might be famous for its businessmen but it has some of the most significant historical sites in the country

(ASI) for several things, including the large-scale "disappearance" of historical monuments in a city like New Delhi but it must be complimented for the astounding work it has done in restoring the Rani Ki Vav, which is a major reason that UNESCO made it a world heritage site. However, if there is any criticism of the ASI, it is that there can be much more information on the importance of the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon, who have been painstakingly carved in three-dimensional ways into the stone. This site is a tremendous validation of the skills of craftsmen from Gujarat.

There is also the spectacu-

lar Surya Mandir in Modhera an hour from Patan, with its 12 carved "adityas" or manifestations inside, which is a must-visit. Both the well and the temple were built during the rule of Bhima I, the founder of the great Solanki dynasty, the well being built by his consort, Queen Udaymati. These sites, just a couple of hours from Ahmedabad, are a reminder of not only the great wealth of this part of the nation, which is as true now as it was then, but also the skill and patience of the rulers and the people.

It is a crying shame that there are fewer and fewer people taking up some of these intricate crafts. The Patola saris of Patan for example, with geometrical designs inspired by patterns on the vav, and the "double-ikat" method, requiring an understanding of complex mathematics, used to be made by 200 families.

Continued on Page 7



NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name from Shailendra Kumar to Shailendra Kumar & Kumar is to be included in column of the surname of my passport. Name Shailendra Surname - Kumar, Shailendra Kumar 4/10 Vikas Nagar, Lucknow U.P.

NOTICE

I, Omkar SinghYadav, r/o Type-II/158, Aakansha Colony, Sector-F, Jankipuram, Lucknow-226021, hereby inform that I am changing the name of my daughter Saloni to Saloni Yadav. She will be known by this name Saloni Yadav for all purposes in future.

NOTICE

I, PRAVITHA T. W/o Service No. 13999225Y Rank-HAV Biju K, R/o Kunnummal House Vengeri P.O. Kozhikode(Teh), Kozhikode, Kerla. In my Husband Service Record my name mentioned as PRAVITHA Biju where as my correct name is PRAVITHA T. My correct name PRAVITHA T. should be mentioned in records.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



NAIK SANJAY TIWARY
20 JUL 1985 - 15 SEP 2019
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK SANJAY TIWARY WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 21 CORPS DENTAL UNIT.

FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



NAIK MUKESH
15 MAY 1979 - 08 SEP 2019
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK MUKESH WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH BASE HOSPITAL LUCKNOW.

FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



HAV K VIJAY BHASKAR
01 JUL 1977 - 21 AUG 2019
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAV K VIJAY BHASKAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL KAMPTEE.

FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



NAIK PRAISE AB
04 APR 1994 - 03 JUL 2019
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK PRAISE AB WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH BASE HOSPITAL DELHI.

FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Cong, SP and BSP deprived people of basic rights: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Targeting the Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that their governments had looted the state exchequer and deprived people of basic rights leading to lawlessness in the state.

“Only such people are not admiring our work during whose tenure power was merely the synonym for anarchy, corruption and hooliganism. The SP, the BSP, and the Congress were are involved in this. They never had development on their minds. And now when their anti-development facade has been exposed, the citizens have been rejecting them since 2014,” Yogi said addressing rallies in Aligarh, Rampur and Saharanpur on Friday.

Mentioning development works, the Chief Minister said that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s tenure, around three crore people got houses.

“Ayushman Yojana has become a boon for the destitutes. Free houses and cooking gas connections have been distributed among the poor. Farmers of the state have benefited from Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana. Both Central and UP governments have been working continuously to double the income of



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath waves at crowd during an election rally in support of BJP candidate Bharat Bhushan Gupta in Rampur on Friday

farmers. By making farmers happy, we want to realise the dreams of Chaudhary Charan Singh,” he said.

Yogi Adityanath further said, “Congress only gave us terrorism and corruption and insulted Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar by granting special status to Kashmir under Article 370.”

The Chief Minister said that the Bharatiya Janata Party had achieved what other par-

ties could not achieve in 70 years while in power.

“Congress needs power for loot, and the SP and the BSP continued with its corrupt practices. The BJP brought an end to all this and paved the way for prosperity of people,” Yogi Adityanath said.

In an election meeting at Iglas in Aligarh, Yogi said that Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh played a significant role in establishing Aligarh Muslim

University by giving land but his name was not mentioned on any plaque.

“The government is reviving the lock industry of Aligarh through One District, One Product’ scheme,” he said.

The Chief Minister also mentioned several schemes of the Central and UP governments and said that all sections of society were being benefited under BJP regime in a transparent manner.

UP to witness mini version of assembly polls on Monday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will witness a mini version of assembly elections on Monday with bypolls in 11 constituencies.

Bypolls for Gangoh, Rampur, Iglas (SC), Lucknow Cantonment, Govindnagar, Manikpur, Pratapgarh, Zaidpur (SC), Jhalpur, Balha (SC) and Ghosi seats will be held along with Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.

It is a four-cornered contest with the Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and Congress fielding candidates on all 11 Assembly seats.

While the ruling BJP will try to build on its Lok Sabha success, the opposition parties hope that the results will help them galvanise their cadres ahead of the 2022 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress, in particular, hopes to show signs of revival in UP after its battering in the Lok Sabha polls where it won just one seat — that of Rae Bareilly.

In contrast, the BJP won 62

of the 80 parliamentary seats in the state and ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) bagged two more.

“We have several challenges before us. But with the blessings of seniors and the support of youth, no one will be able to stop the party from coming to power in 2022,” newly-appointed UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu said recently.

Lallu said the Congress would become the voice of the deprived, farmers, youth and women in the state. He exhorted party workers to overcome all hurdles through determination and hard work, and function unitedly.

However, the ruling party’s UP unit chief Swatantra Dev Singh has claimed that the assembly bypolls will be a ‘one-sided contest in favour of the BJP’.

“BJP workers in the entire state are a committed cadre and are working for the party’s programmes rather than seeking personal gain,” he had recently told reporters.

“The government of Yogi Adityanath is committed to the

protection of the poorest and marginalised sections of society. The BJP will make a clean sweep in the upcoming by-elections,” he said.

The party is highlighting the development work carried out by the BJP government, as well as initiatives to make India clean and “plastic-free,” he said.

The BSP and the SP, which were in an alliance in the Lok Sabha elections, ended their tie-up after the polls. In the current assembly, the BJP has 302 MLAs, SP 47 and BSP 18. BJP ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) has eight MLAs and the Congress seven.

In the recent Hamirpur by-election, BJP candidate Yuvraj Singh won by 17,846 votes over Samajwadi Party candidate Manoj Prajapati.

The assembly bypolls were necessitated after some MLAs won the Lok Sabha elections and resigned as members of the UP assembly.

The Ghosi assembly seat fell vacant following the resignation of MLA Phagu Chauhan after he was appointed the Governor of Bihar.

Awasthi reviews reserve police lines’ construction

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi on Friday reviewed progress of construction of new Reserve Police Lines and fire stations in the state.

An official communiqué released in Lucknow on Friday said that reviewing construction of new reserve police lines in Hapur, Amroha, Auraiya, Amethi, Sambhal, Chandauli, and Kasganj, Awasthi asked the agencies engaged to prepare a blueprint and submit it immediately so that the first instalment of funds could be released.

The Additional Chief Secretary warned the agencies that delay would not be tolerated and the work should be completed on time. He told the officials that the Chief Minister had already warned that no callousness would be tolerated and stern action would be taken after fixing responsibility if any delay or compromise with the quality of work was detected.

Awasthi also enquired the names of officials engaged in the construction of residential premises in 44 existing reserve police lines along with those engaged for construction of new barracks, toilets, administrative blocks for new police stations, police out-posts etc. He asked officials to prepare a draft and make a presentation of proposed work on Wednesday.

Awasthi said that those dragging their feet on projects would face legal proceedings and cases would be registered against them. Besides Awasthi, senior officials of working agencies attended the meeting.

The Additional Chief Secretary also reviewed the work on construction of new fire stations in Bulandshahr’s Gahna Gowardhanpur, Syana, and Anoopshahr tehsils. He directed Chief Fire Officer of Bulandshahr to visit the sites in the next three days, prepare a plan and submit report within 15-days so that construction work of new fire stations could be taken up on a priority.

CM announces ₹20L ex gratia for widow of BSF jawan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Karwa Chauth turned sour for the wife of a Border Security Force (BSF) head constable as the news of his martyrdom reached her in Firozabad on Thursday.

Sunita Devi’s husband and BSF head constable Vijay Bhan Singh was shot dead by Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) on Thursday, while a BSP patrol was trying to trace an Indian fisherman along India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district.

While Singh died after being hit by a bullet in the head, another constable-cum-boatman suffered gunshot on his right hand.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath mourned the death and announced a compensation of ₹20 lakh for Singh’s widow, ₹5 lakh for his mother and a government job to one of the dependants.

Singh’s family members slipped into a state of shock upon receiving the news of his death.

Tragically, Singh’s wife Sunita was observing fast on Karwa Chauth to pray for her husband’s well-being and long life when the news of his sudden death reached her.

“I spoke to him over the phone on Wednesday. He used to call me every day. My son got a call about his death and started crying. Later, he told me that my husband was no more,” Sunita told reporters late on Thursday night.

A native of Firozabad’s Chamrauli village, Singh joined the BSF in 1990 and is survived by his wife and two sons.

Singh’s brother Mahendra Singh said, “I have spoken to the Commandant, who confirmed his martyrdom. Other than this, we don’t have any other information.”

5% additional DA for state staff

Lucknow (PNS): After announcing bonus and payment of salary for October before Diwali, the Uttar Pradesh government on Friday also announced payment of 5% additional dearness allowance for 18 lakh state employees and pensioners. Sources said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave his nod for payment of 5% additional DA from July, 2019. Now, the state employees and pensioners will get 17% DA, from the existing 12%.



लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण
(ISO 14001: 2004, ISO 9001:2008 प्रमाणित संस्था)
प्राधिकरण भवन, विजय चण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ, (उ०प्र०)
फोन १०- ०८२२-२३०२६६ वेबसाईट: www.ldaonline.in
संख्या : ३ ४ / ई-निविदा / मु०३० / २०१९-२० दिनांक: १८ / १० / २०१९

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत ई-निविदा प्राप्ति (₹० लाख)	की अंतिम तिथि
1.	कबीर नगर देवपुर पारा योजना में निर्माणधीन बहुमजिले भवनों हेतु ०५.०० एम.एल.डी. क्षमता के सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट का निर्माण एवं ०५ वर्षों तक अनुरक्षण / संचालन का कार्य।	1100.00	04/11/2019
2.	जानकीपुरम योजना सेक्टर-जे (विस्तार) स्थित स्मृति अपार्टमेंट के अनुरक्षण का कार्य।	160.64	20/11/2019
3.	शारदा नगर विस्तार योजना में 1000 किलोलीटर क्षमता के 22.0 मी० स्टेजिंग हाइट पर शिरोपरि जलाशय का निर्माण कार्य।	125.00	04/11/2019
4.	मानसरोवर योजना के अन्तर्गत सनराइज अपार्टमेंट में अनुरक्षण का कार्य।	109.69	20/11/2019
5.	बसंत कुंज, हरदोई रोड योजना के सेक्टर-जे में 30 मी० चौड़ी रोड पर एल.ई.डी. स्ट्रीट लाइट लगाने तथा पांच वर्ष के अनुरक्षण, रखरखाव एवं संचालन का कार्य।	82.10	13/11/2019
6.	मानसरोवर योजना के सेक्टर-ओ में स्थित अश्लेषा अपार्टमेंट में अनुरक्षण का कार्य।	60.24	13/11/2019
7.	जानकीपुरम विस्तार योजना की मुख्य सड़कों के सुदृढीकरण एवं मिट्टीली क्रासिंग से एके.टी.यू. (डा० अब्दुल कलाम टैक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटी) तक ड्रिवाइवर एवं पेट्रोलिंग का कार्य।	47.98	06/11/2019
8.	इंदिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान, गोमती नगर में विद्युतीकरण कार्य हेतु सामान्य अनुरक्षण एवं संचालन के कार्यों हेतु इले० एवं हेलपर्स की तीन वर्षीय आपूर्ति का कार्य।	40.73	06/11/2019
9.	पंचशील योजना गोमती नगर में विद्युत आपूर्ति हेतु लाइन व ट्रांसफार्मर लगाने का कार्य (पार्ट-ए)।	32.46	06/11/2019
10.	इन्दिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान, विमुक्ति खण्ड, गोमती नगर में स्थापित सी.सी.टी.वी. कैमरों के त्रिवर्षीय रखरखाव, अनुरक्षण तथा संचालन का कार्य।	23.49	06/11/2019
11.	नजूल पार्को (12 नगर) में कूड़ा निस्सारण का कार्य।	11.53	06/11/2019
12.	गोमती नगर विस्तार सेक्टर-6 में विभिन्न पार्को में सबमर्सिबल बोरिंग का कार्य।	8.82	04/11/2019
13.	गोमती नगर योजनान्तर्गत डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया पार्को में योगा हेतु प्लेटफार्म बनाने व क्षतिग्रस्त लोहे की बेंचों की रिपेयरिंग व अन्य कार्य।	8.75	04/11/2019
14.	गोमती नगर योजना स्थित डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया पार्को में लोहिया जी की मूर्ति के बायीं तरफ स्थित वाटरबॉडी में टूटी हुई टाइल्स बदलने का कार्य (पार्ट-बी)।	8.67	04/11/2019
15.	डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया हॉस्पिटल उपकेन्द्र एवं डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया इन्स्टीट्यूट आफ मेडिकल साइन्स एकेडमिक ब्लॉक के मध्य रोड कटिंग के कारण क्षतिग्रस्त सड़क की मरम्मत का कार्य।	8.23	04/11/2019
16.	वृक्षारोपण हेतु विभिन्न स्थानों पर पौधों की आपूर्ति का कार्य।	8.23	04/11/2019
17.	बसंत कुंज योजना के सेक्टर-आई, जे, एन एवं ओ के ले-आउट प्लान को खसरा प्लान पर सुपरइम्पोज करने का कार्य।	6.73	04/11/2019
18.	हरदोई रोड बसंत कुंज योजना के सेक्टर-बी के ड्रिवाइवर रोड एवं सेक्टर-एच आश्रयधीन योजना के समीप ड्रिवाइवर रोड पर लगी स्ट्रीट लाइट हेतु ए.बी. सी. कन्डक्टर आदि लगाने का कार्य।	4.28	04/11/2019
19.	गोमती रिवर फ्रंट (एल.एच.एस.) पर एस.पी. ऑफिस के बगल में श्रेडर मशीन रखने हेतु शेंड व प्लेटफार्म बनाने का कार्य।	4.17	04/11/2019
20.	ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर योजनान्तर्गत स्थित सुलभ आवास में ब्लॉक सं० सी-8 व सी-7 के मध्य तथा ब्लॉक सं० बी-5 से बी-8 के मध्य डक्ट व पैसेज में सी.सी. फ्लोरिंग व इन्टरलॉकिंग का कार्य।	1.41	04/11/2019

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT.OF NCT OF DELHI				
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-II				
E-BLOCK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092				
PRESS NIT No. 36/ E-II (19-20)				
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put Tender	Tender Processing Fee	Earnest Money
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by providing and laying 250 mm/300 mm dia sewer line and connecting/ replacing old sewer line from shafts of B-2 to B-18 DDA flats, B- block, Dilshad Garden ward 29 E, AC-62 in East-II.	32,13,297.00	500.00	64,500.00

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 458/19-20

Sd/-
EX. ENGINEER (EAST)-II

shubham

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.

Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)

Ph : 0124- 4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website : www.shubham.co

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinafter in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

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

S. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Date of Affixation
1.	Mr. Chandra Mohan Maurya, Maharaj	Rs. 4,05,705/-	25-03-2017	Arazi No. - 87, Kachh Raghunath (Remaining Part - Uran Chak), Pargana-Arauli & Tehsil-Karchhana, Distt. Allahabad-211008	15.10.2019
2.	Mr. Sunil Kumar Pandey, Asha Pandey	Rs. 6,18,684/-	29-03-2017	House No. 29-A Built On Plot No. 29-A, Situated at Part of Arazi No. 1/Min. New Azad Nagar, Sathari Road, Kanpur Nagar-208001	15.10.2019
3.	Mr. Shakeel Rehman, Vaseema Bano	Rs. 13,01,098.95	19-07-2017	Plot At Land Kharsa No-191 (Minjulia) Village Dewariya, Gomti Nagar Extension Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Lucknow-226001	15.10.2019
4.	Sunil Kumar Singh, Anita Singh	Rs. 9,86,172/-	28-07-2018	Flat No. - 401, on - 3rd Floor of constructed over S.M Plot No. - 3, Araji No. 288 & 291, House No. - D 59/199-A-3-E, Having built up Area-1080 Sq. ft. situated at Mauza-Shivpuria, Pargana - Dehat Amanat, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Varanasi-221010	15.10.2019
5.	Deepak Chandani, Rani Chandani	Rs. 5,77,422/-	30-03-2019	Flat No. E 14 Ground Floor, Phase 3 Pandeypur Awasthy Yojna, Ward Saranath, Tehsil & Distt. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221002	15.10.2019
6.	Suraj Gupta, Ramenand	Rs. 9,69,123/-	26-04-2019	Part of House No. 1/183 Jai Mau, Ward Vikramaditya, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226001	15.10.2019
7.	Ghure Lal Sharma, Khushu	Rs. 3,76,007/-	05-11-2018	Arazi No. 63 Mauza - : Alinagar Pargana-Dhus, Tehsil & Distt. - Chandauli, U.P.-232101	15.10.2019

Place : Gurgaon
Date : 18-10-2019

Authorized Officer,
Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd.

KAMLESH TIWARI MURDER CASE

Modus operandi baffles police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The modus operandi in the Kamlesh Tiwari murder case has baffled the cops. They also failed to conclude the time span during which the incident took place inside Kamlesh's office without anybody having an idea. Besides, police laxity was again exposed.

Sources said the assailants seemed to be contract killers. "They had come on a bike. However, police could not get any footage in which the image of the motorcycle was captured. The incident sparked stiff protests and the investigation was stalled. The surveillance cell was also yet to find out details on the number from which Tiwari had got a call from the assailants," the sources said.

They said the number which Kamlesh had got the call from the assailants is a vital clue. "The police are also probing the case on rivalry angle. They said Kamlesh had a dominating personality and it is possible that his murder conspiracy was orchestrated by some of his rivals in political circles or by those whose interests he had harmed in the past. Police are also working on these possibilities," they said.

Old timers in police said, "Apparently, the assailants meticulously planned the



The crowd outside the office of Kamlesh Tiwari in Khurshedbagh on Friday

attack. Though police are claiming that Kamlesh was attacked on some personal enmity which he had with several people in the city and also outside, the killers usually prefer to open fire and that too when their target is on the way. In this case, they reached the office of Kamlesh, had talks with him and later attacked

him soon after his helper Saurashtra left the room to buy paan masala. This indicates that the miscreants had a plan and they executed it with a cool mind, and did not act in haste. The cut wounds indicate their professional preciseness."

A senior official said the modus operandi was different from the those in other murder

cases reported in the recent past. "In the past incidents, the victims were shot at by contract shooters. But in Kamlesh Tiwari murder case, the miscreants chose to slit his throat. The wound on Kamlesh's throat was deep as the trachea was also cut," the official pointed out. The police said they are waiting for the autopsy report.

Meanwhile, protesters heckled BJP leaders when they reached the victim's house on Friday evening and they had to beat a hasty retreat on police's advice. Some protesters also damaged a tempo and one person was injured in the incident. The irate protesters even manhandled the Chowk SHO when he tried to intervene.

Wife names clerics who announced cash reward on his head



The inconsolable wife of Kamlesh Tiwari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Hindu outfit leader Kamlesh Tiwari's wife Kiran Tiwari accused Muslim cleric Mohammed Mufti Naeem Qasmi and Maulana Anwarul Haq (both of Bijnaur) of having orchestrated the murder conspiracy.

In a complaint given to the police, Kiran stated that both the clerics had issued fatwas against Kamlesh in the year 2016 and announced a cash reward of Rs 1.5 crore on Kamlesh's head. She said Kamlesh was sitting in his office on the first floor and she was resting in another room when the assailants reached there around 12.30 pm. "All of a sudden, I noticed that there was no activity in Kamlesh's office and I went there to see

what was wrong, only to find him lying in a pool of blood. "The above-named muslim clerics got my husband killed," she stated in the complaint.

Police spokesman AK Dwivedi confirmed that Kiran had given a complaint in this regard. "The police have accepted the complaint and a case will be registered soon," he said. In protest of the incident, shops remained closed in the area and businessmen chose to stay in their homes. What irked Tiwari's supporters was the police's alleged cold response. The lone witness in the case, Saurashtra, alleged that he kept calling the police control room, but no one reached the scene. "Had the police arrived in time, the miscreants could have been nabbed," he claimed.

He said Tiwari was provided two gunners and one of them was absent. "The only constable was sleeping in a room and this made the assailants reach his office unchecked. "Tiwari was a party to the Ayodhya case in Supreme Court, and he was on the radar of terrorists. As per security norms, the visitors used to be scanned before being allowed to meet Tiwari," he said. As per Saurashtra's claim, Tiwari faced NSA in 2016 but the high court had absolved him of the charges. He said Tiwari contested the assembly elections in 2012 on the ticket of a Hindu outfit from Central Lucknow constituency, but lost.



Senior officers taking stock of the situation after Kamlesh Tiwari's murder

STF, ATS roped in for probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Hours after the grisly murder of Hindu outfit leader Kamlesh Tiwari on Friday, reports that he was on the radar of ISIS ratcheted up pressure on the UP Police and premier agencies like STF and ATS were asked to investigate the case. Tiwari had shot to fame after he gave a controversial statement about Prophet Mohammed in Lucknow in December 2015. Thereafter, a case was initially registered against him at Naka police station and later he was booked under the National Security Act by Lucknow police. After a

month-long trial, Tiwari was arrested and sent to jail. However, the controversy did not end there. A Muslim cleric had announced a cash reward of Rs 51 lakh on Tiwari's beheading. Several other fatwas were issued subsequently.

Sources said Tiwari was in Hindu Mahasabha at that time but his association with the outfit fell apart in due course of time. He then formed Hindu Samaj Party and was its national president. He again came in limelight when the Gujarat ATS nabbed two terrorists (Ubaid Mirza and Kasim) from Surat and during interrogation, they told the

police that they were shown a video featuring Kamlesh Tiwari and tasked with eliminating him. The probe agencies worked on the case but could not get any further lead. "Since then, Tiwari was on the target of terrorists. He had shared his apprehensions about his safety with the Lucknow police a couple of days back as well," the sources said. They said the modus operandi hinted at the role of some seasoned criminals. "The cut wound around Tiwari's throat is very sharp. It is not possible to overpower a man like Tiwari, who was not only stoutly built but was also very athletic," the sources said.

Cantt bypoll: Students make voters aware

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a voter awareness programme held in the state capital on Friday ahead of the Lucknow Cantonment by-elections, a human chain was formed by school students from Mawaiyya to Awadh Hospital. District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, who is also the district election officer, said 72 hours before the bypoll, checking will commence and flying squads will be on high alert. He said the sale of liquor will be monitored by the administration and police.

The DM said all liquor shops within a radius of 8 km from the Cantt Vidhan Sabha constituency will remain closed from 4 pm on October 19 till the day of polling.

Polling parties will be dispatched from Ramabai Ambedkar Rally Shtal on October 20 at 7 am and will have to return to deposit all the paraphernalia after the election by 8 pm on October 21.

The DM said city buses have been arranged, especially for the polling parties and the vehicles will run from the main points of the city, includ-



School students form human chain to raise voter awareness

Pioneer

ing Indira Nagar, Gomti Nagar, Hazratganj, Charbagh and Kaiserbagh from 6 am to 10 am on October 20. The same arrangements will be available for the polling parties from 8 pm to 12 pm from Ramabai Ambedkar Rally Sthal to various parts of the city. There are a total 3,85,072 voters, including 2,09,739 males, 1,75,318 females, and 24 third genders. There are a total of 10 model booths and one 'pink booth'. There are also 2,923 voters with physical disabilities. A total of 91 light and

105 heavy vehicles have been deployed for the bypoll in the district. The administration has completed the training of all sector and zonal magistrates for the by-elections scheduled for October 21.

The DM directed the zonal and sector magistrates to visit their respective sectors before the polling and submit a report in this regard. He also asked them to give details after every two hours about voting percentage on the day of polling. The officials were also asked to get EVMs in case of any fault.

School van driver climbs water tank to press demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A contractual school van driver climbed atop an overhead water tank in Gomti Nagar on Friday and threatened to jump off if he was not regularised. The police reached the scene and it took them hours to placate the driver.

As per reports, Salman of Hardoi has been working as school van driver on contract for several years. On Friday morning, some of the commuters saw him sitting atop the water tank and alerted the police. When the cops sought to know the reason, he demanded that he be regularised and his salary increased. The cops talked to the school owner and brought the situation under control.

FOUND MURDERED

An unidentified man was found murdered and the body found in a pond near a temple in Para on Friday morning.

Reports said priest Ramu was passing by the pond around 10.30 am when he spotted the body and alerted local shop-owners. He said the deceased had head injuries and the body was blood-stained. The police said the man was battered to death by unidentified assailants and his body was dumped into the pond. "We sent the body for autopsy as the identity of the deceased could not be ascertained," the police said. They said the details have been shared with other police stations.

Meanwhile, two-day old body of an unidentified man was recovered from Gomti river in Mahanagar on Friday afternoon. "The body was swollen and prima facie, no wounds could be detected," the police said. A guard deployed in the park alongside the river informed the police about the incident. The body was recovered from near Khatu Shyam temple.

Mahotsav to have J-K as guest state, co-partner

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow Mahotsav, the annual extravaganza, is likely to have Jammu & Kashmir as a guest state and co-partner this year. Secretary, Mahotsav Samiti, Anupam Srivastava said the plan has been mooted by DG, Tourism, Jitendra Kumar and this will be followed in the coming years too.

He said by having Kashmir as a guest state, they will have

the provision of organising a Kashmiri cultural evening witnessing the performance of its artists. "We will also have a food stall serving Kashmiri delicacies, including 'Kashmiri pulao' and 'kehwa', he said.

In the past too, Lucknow Mahotsav has witnessed the presence of many Kashmiri traders selling Kashmiri garments, dry fruits and herbs.

Govt bans use of mobile phone in univs, colleges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued an advisory to colleges and universities on limiting the use of mobile phones on the campuses.

A circular to this effect was issued by Directorate of Higher Education asking these educational institutions to limit the use of phones on campuses and ban their use in classrooms.

The ban is also applicable on teaching faculty of all state universities and colleges.



The Directorate of Higher Education has issued the order to ensure a "better teaching environment for students across all colleges and universities in the state". The government observed that a large number of students and teachers were spending valuable time on mobile phones during college hours and hence, they would no longer be allowed to take or use mobile phones inside universities or colleges.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had banned the use of mobile phones during his official meetings, including Cabinet meetings. The decision was taken after some ministers and officers were found busy reading messages on WhatsApp during meetings.

MD says LMRC getting stable ridership of 65,000 per day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation claims to have achieved a stable ridership of 65,000 passengers per day. LMRC managing director

Kumar Keshav said the stable ridership has gone up while fun ridership has gone down.

"We are getting 65,000 passengers per day on week days and it is a good number. However, the footfall dips on

Sundays. "The regular commuters include businessmen and students. We are getting the maximum number of passengers from Munshipulia, Indira Nagar, Bhootnath and Hazratganj stations," he pointed out, adding that a number of students were boarding the trains from LU station.

He said they have awarded tenders for construction work of the priority section of Kanpur Metro which will begin shortly. "For Agra Metro, we are looking for a consultant for designing and have awarded the tender for the same," he said.

Meanwhile, officials said that the East-West corridor's detailed project report is likely to be taken up by the government shortly. "Once the state government gives the nod, copies of the DPR will be sent to other government departments and then to the Central government," he said.



Sponsored by:
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
www.ministryoftextiles.gov.in

Organised by:
National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
www.nhdc.org.in

Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.

brings

National Handloom Expo

&

SILK FAB

SILK FAB

EXHIBITION CUM SALE

of handloom fabrics

12 – 25 October, 2019 from 11.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Kaiserbagh Baradari, Lucknow

All major credit & debit cards and BHIM/UPI payment accepted

Avail attractive discounts

Promoting traditional handwoven heritage of India

Entry Free

Cotton & Silk Sarees | Salwar Suits | Dress Materials | Dupattas | Stoles | Furnishing

UP **उत्तर प्रदेश** **आयोजना** **कार्यवाही**
को, शुद्धि पत्र, इस कार्यलय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 80 एवं 100/विभाग/गोष्ठा/2019-20 के सम्बन्ध में निम्न शुद्धि पत्र जारी किया जाता है। निविदा संख्या 80 एवं 100/विभाग/गोष्ठा/2019-20 के खुलने की तिथि विस्तारित कर दी गयी है, अब यह निविदा दिनांक 24.10.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक अपलोड एवं स्वीकार की जायेगी, दिनांक 24.10.2019 को 15.00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। निविदा के अन्य विवरण www.etender.up.nic.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। **अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 220 केवीओ उपकेन्द्र परिसर जेल रोड, गोष्ठा। संख्या : 1684/विभाग/गोष्ठा/दिनांक 16.10.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये, साधारण बल के स्थान पर एल.ई.डी. बल का प्रयोग करें"**

■ NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE
DRM (Engg.) N.E. Railway, Varanasi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through On Line (E-Tendering) for the following works:- **Description of work** :- At Deoria Sadar: Civil Work related to installation of escalator (2 Nos.), **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-158, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 70,92,630.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 1,41,900.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 5,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 06 Months, **Description of work** :- Through Ballast Renewal & Deep Screening of Track between Siwan-Thawe (Total = 28.00 KM) (Track Work), **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-156, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 1,86,57,818.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 2,43,300.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 5,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 06 Months, **Description of work** :- Manufacture, Supply and Erection of 30.5 m tall Indian Flag mast in front of Siwan and Deoria Sadar Railway Station, **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-157, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 20,91,672.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 41,800.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 3,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 04 Months, **Description of work** :- Manufacture, Supply and Erection of 30.5 m tall Indian Flag mast in front of Varanasi City, Allahabad City and Mau Railway Station, **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-158, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 31,37,508.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 62,800.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 3,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 03 Months, **Description of work** :- At Ballia : Civil Work related to installation of escalator (2 Nos.), **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-159, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 70,92,630.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 1,41,900.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 5,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 06 Months, **Description of work** :- At Chhapra : Civil Work related to installation of escalator (2 Nos.), **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-160, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 70,92,630.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 1,41,900.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 5,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 06 Months, **Description of work** :- Manufacture, Supply and Erection of 30.5 m tall Indian Flag mast in front of Ghazipur City, Gopalganj and Padrauna Railway Station, **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-161, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 31,37,508.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 62,800.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 3,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 03 Months, **Description of work** :- Manufacture, Supply and erection of 30.5 m tall Indian Flag mast in front of Azamgarh Railway Station, **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-162, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 10,45,836.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 20,000.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 2,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 03 Months, **Description of work** :- Zone Work : Varanasi (Ex) - Aunhar (Ex) (Period Ending 30.06.2020), **E-Tender No.:-** NER-BSS-2019-163, **Approx Cost (₹):-** 35,83,017.00, **Earnest Money (₹):-** 71,700.00, **Cost of Tender Form (₹):-** 3,000/-, **Date of Closing Tender:** 12.11.2019, **Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter** :- 30.06.2020 - E-Tender Notice No. NER-BSS-2019-165 to NER-BSS-2019-163 On line can be submission upto 14:30 hrs. on 12.11.2019. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website www.irgps.gov.in. • In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) CPWO/W-236 (Varanasi)
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

EASTERN RAILWAY					Date : 11.10.2019	
No. S.4/S/DAP/2019-20					Date : 11.10.2019	
NOTICE OF E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2019 OF EASTERN RAILWAY						
SL	Auction Date	Day	Depot	Jurisdiction (Depot & Division)		
01	05.11.2019	Tuesday	HLR	HLR Depot, SDAH Division		
02	07.11.2019	Thursday	JMP	JMP Depot, MLDT Division		
03	08.11.2019	Friday	BESY	BESY Depot, HWH & ASN Divns		
04	14.11.2019	Thursday	BESY	BESY Depot, HWH & ASN Divns		
05	15.11.2019	Friday	HLR	HLR Depot, SDAH Division		
06	15.11.2019	Friday	SDAH	SDAH Division		
07	19.11.2019	Tuesday	BESY	BESY Depot, HWH & ASN Divns		
08	21.11.2019	Thursday	JMP	JMP Depot, MLDT Division		
09	22.11.2019	Friday	HWH	HWH Division		
10	27.11.2019	Wednesday	BESY	BESY Depot, HWH & ASN Divns		
11	28.11.2019	Thursday	SDAH	SDAH Division		
12	29.11.2019	Friday	HLR	HLR Depot, SDAH Division		
13	29.11.2019	Friday	JMP	JMP Depot, MLDT Division		
14	29.11.2019	Friday	HWH	HWH Division		
N.B. : Schedule of E-Auction, other details and terms & conditions are available on the website http://www.irgps.gov.in/					STORES-42/2019-20	
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/ / www.irgps.gov.in/						

Yogi pushed UP into lawlessness, says UPCC chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Kumar 'Lallu' has asked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to immediately step down and return to Gorakhpur mutt for pushing the state into lawlessness.

Lallu's statement came in the aftermath of an apex court observation that it seemed that "jungle raj" was prevailing in UP.

"There is complete lawlessness in UP. Anyone could kill. Now, even the Supreme Court has observed that 'jungle raj' prevails in the state. So if there is any morality left in Yogi Adityanath, he must resign and return to his mutt in Gorakhpur," the UPCC chief said. He said that not only

were criminals striking at will, even men in uniform were killing innocents in the name of encounters or by assaulting suspects in police custody and the government was patronising them. Lallu referred to incidents in Unnao and Shahjahanpur and said that the manner in which the Yogi Adityanath government handled the cases to bail out BJP leaders accused of sexual exploitation or murder, pointed that it was free for all for BJP members in UP.

The UPCC chief further claimed that Yogi Adityanath had himself admitted rampant corruption and poor quality of construction in his rule. "On Thursday, Yogi admitted poor quality of road construction. The CM made the observation after travelling on roads in the Prime Minister's constituency, Varanasi. You can easily assess the condition of roads in other districts. Interestingly, Yogi had to intervene to make things work as his Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya heads the PWD which is entrusted with maintenance of roads," Lallu pointed out.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, गोष्ठा। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना,
अनुमती फर्म/टेकेंडरों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 18.11.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। अनुमती फर्म/टेकेंडरों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 18.11.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 708.00 (कर सहित)। **(1) ई-निविदा संख्या 116/ईएनटीसी(गोष्ठा)/2019-20:** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 220 एवं 132 केवीओ पारेषण लाइनों की धर्मल रूकनिय सम्बन्धी कार्य। बरोहर राशि ₹ 6000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 18.11.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 708.00 (कर सहित)। **(2) ई-निविदा संख्या 116/ईएनटीसी(गोष्ठा)/2019-20:** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 220 एवं 132 केवीओ पारेषण लाइनों की धर्मल रूकनिय सम्बन्धी कार्य। बरोहर राशि ₹ 6000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 18.11.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 708.00 (कर सहित)। **(3) ई-निविदा संख्या 116/ईएनटीसी(गोष्ठा)/2019-20:** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 220 केवीओ उपकेन्द्र बहराइच पर 220 एमवीए कंप्रेसर बैक की स्थापना हेतु 132 केवीओ 'थे' के निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य। बरोहर राशि ₹ 4000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 18.11.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 472.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (नान रिफन्देबिल) एवं ईएनटीसी अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम-पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं. - 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड-PUNB00181000) आरपट्टीजोएएस / एनईएफटी के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम अपलोड तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यूटीडीआर सं. खाते का नाम निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त सम्झा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के भाग-1 में तकनीकी बिड (फन कार्ड, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जॉइंटसाइटी पंजीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुमति इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। बरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का भाग-2 जिसमें दर्द दी जानी है, नहीं खोली जायेगी। भाग-2 में दर्द एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें होती चाहिये। तथा हाई कारी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी भी स्थिति में रिटेंडर को Retender होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क (नान रिफन्देबिल) एवं बरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त सम्झा जायेगा। निविदा का भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय :- (प्राइजबिड दर्द एवं शर्त) दिनांक 18.11.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 18.11.2019 को 15.00 बजे एवं भाग-2 (प्राइज पट्ट) निविदा शुल्क एवं बरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की तिथि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को अस्वीकार / विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोस्तथास्तर-कर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहता है। बरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त निविदाये स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर लॉगआन करें। **अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल 220 केवीओ उपकेन्द्र परिसर जेल रोड, गोष्ठा। संख्या : 1707/विभाग/गोष्ठा/ई-टेंडरिंग नं० - 115 से 116/2019-20, दिनांक - 18.10.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये"**



Children performing at the annual function of St Ann's Convent School on Friday

SCHOOLSCAN



MOTIVATIONAL PROGRAMME

The department of Science and Technology - NCSTC and SKD Academy organised a motivational programme for science students and teachers of Uttar Pradesh through a science exhibition and different projects demonstration from October 14 to

18. It was supported by Indian Society for Chronology. The valedictory ceremony was held on Friday with mayor Sanyukta Bhatia being the chief guest.

ABHIVYAKTI

Abhivyakti, an inter-school art and craft conclave, will be held at Seth Anand Ram Jaipuria School in Alambagh on October 19 and 20. An exhibition will be held in an effort to create awareness about the importance of water conservation. More than 20 schools and 300

students will be participating in the event.

ADMISSION OFFER

Tanya Tandon, a student of CMS, Rajendra Nagar Campus I, has been offered admission by three universities of Germany. Tanya has been offered admission by Friedrich Schiller University (Jena), Goethe University (Frankfurt), and Phillips University (Marburg).



Workshops to promote strawberry cultivation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Strawberry cultivation is considered to be a practice of resource-rich farmers at present. It involves high input cost and there is continuous labour involvement in various practices. Planting material is the most costly input and farmers are having limited technical knowledge for cultivation of this crop. With the season commencing, Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture is holding several workshops and demonstrations for popularising strawberry cultivation in Lucknow and adjoining area so that the produce is consumed in Lucknow and farmers can augment their income.

CISH is organising two workshops — one in the city campus for farmers and hobbyists of nearby areas on October 30, and another in Rehmanpura on October 31. Various aspects like arrangement and selection of planting material, packaging of practices, packaging and marketing issues will be discussed to help promote strawberry cultivation in north India and among the kitchen-garden lovers.

CISH director Shailendra Rajan said sometimes strawberry is a risky crop if a farmer is not able to cope up with risk factors involved in its cultivation. "Therefore, CISH is making efforts to enable the farming community to grow strawberries. Another important factor to be given proper consideration is the selection of a suitable variety and planting material. For this purpose, CISH is handholding the farmers in collaboration with Horticulture University at Solan (Himachal Pradesh)," he said.

Rajan pointed out that in general, planting material is transported from Himachal Pradesh to Uttar Pradesh plains for planting every year. "The supply is maintained by collecting material from the HP entrepreneurs or farmers who are producing strawberry runners. With the increasing demand for cultivation of this crop, the demand for runners is also increasing. Therefore, the possibility of getting standard runners also exists and the profit from strawberry cultivation is drastically reduced if such material is used for



planting. Day by day, competition for the strawberry producers in Lucknow market will also increase. Therefore, they have to produce fruits of desirable quality and of good size. This is possible only by selecting proper varieties, planting material and following proper production technology," the CISH director said. "Developing strawberries in pots attracts the attention of plant lovers very easily as they are ready to pay a good price for this. "One of the entrepreneurs developed by CISH sold strawberry pots at fruiting stage and got Rs 200 for each. The efforts are also made to develop entrepreneurs in poor farmers for production of fruited strawberry pots. This will improve the income of the farmers and garden lovers will purchase to add value to kitchen-gardens," he added.

The CISH director said that strawberry is highly perishable, therefore, its marketing is also difficult. "In the absence of good market, sometimes the producer suffers as they are forced to sell the produce within a day of harvest, otherwise the next day sale price will be reduced in a drastic manner. CISH is trying to network all the poor strawberry farmers and provide a place for sale of their produce in city campus so that farmers can learn about organised marketing and benefits of collective efforts," Rajan said.

CITYBRIEFS

IISF 2019

CIMAP director Abdul Samad said here on Friday that 14 scientists and research scholars from the institute will participate in various programmes at India International Science Fest (IISF 2019). In this festival of knowledge, CIMAP will participate under different themes, mainly based on agriculture, health research, young scientists and outreach programmes. Addressing mediapersons, the CIMAP director said IISF is an annual event, organised jointly by science and technology-related ministries and departments of Central government & Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), and was being held in Kolkata from November 5 to 8 this year. "This is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015. IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad. The theme for this year's festival is 'RISEN India - Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation'. IISF is perhaps the biggest platform

in the country to bring together students, researchers, innovators, artists, and general public to celebrate India's achievements in science and technology. IISF is also an attempt to encourage young minds towards the field of science and to promote networking of stakeholders working towards the propagation of science," Samad said.

ULTRA MARATHON

To Commemorate 20th years of 'Vijay Diwas', Indian Air Force is organising an 'Ultra Marathon', covering a distance of 4,500 kms from Kargil to Kohima. The marathon which kicked off from Kargil War Memorial, Drass (J&K) on September 21 will culminate at Kohima War Cemetery, Kohima (Nagaland) on November 6. As part of the marathon, a team comprising 25 air warriors reached the Bakshi Ka Talab (BKT) Air Force Station in Lucknow on October 17. The team was received by Gp Capt A Raj Thakur, Station Commander, Air Force Station (BKT). The team was flagged for next destination on Friday.

Priyanka's 'pathshala' for new UPCC team

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

After revamping Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee and preferring youth over experience, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is now set to start a three-day 'pathshala' to make the new appointees aware of the party ideology and what is expected from them for reviving the party.

Interestingly, the new UP Congress Committee consists of names, majority of whom were unknown within the ranks and hence the outfit is now popularly being termed by dissenters as "Priyanka Gandhi or Lallu's Congress". After naming Ajay Kumar Singh 'Lallu' as UP Congress chief, the new committee formed ostensibly by Priyanka only has two or three known leaders who figured in previous committees.

Sources claimed that now Priyanka is set to give "lessons" to the new office-bearers and convey to them the party's expectations from them. For the orientation, Priyanka has chosen Congress

top gun and her mother Sonia Gandhi's parliamentary constituency Rae Bareilly instead of UPCC headquarters at Mall Avenue in Lucknow.

Congress sources confirmed that a three-day workshop for the new appointees will be held in Bhuemau Guest House in Rae Bareilly starting October 22.

Besides, Priyanka, Congress working president Sonia Gandhi is also likely to visit Rae Bareilly for a day during which she will be introduced to the new team entrusted with the responsibility of preparing for the 2022 UP Assembly polls.

Earlier, the workshop was scheduled to start from October 14 but it was postponed in the wake of ongoing by-polls in the state.

Sources also said that heads of Congress training department and social media cell would address the participants and answer their queries.

Since the new team is younger than the outgoing team, the party feels that the members would benefit from a briefing.

Office of the Executive Engineer Lift Irrigation Division, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, U.P., Prayagraj -211002				
e-TENDER NOTICE NO- 03/TPC/LID/Prayagraj/2019-20				
Online e-bids on prescribed bid forms in two parts namely (i) Technical bid and (ii) Price bid are invited simultaneously by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh only from Original Manufacturer of Sluice Valves or their Authorised Stockists/Dealer registered with Director of Industries of the State N.S.I.C./Ministry of Industries, Government of India as original manufacturer of Sluice Valves on firm & fixed price up to 04.00 PM on 16.11.2019 and shall be opened at 04.00 PM on 16.11.2019 as stated below. The details for submission of bids are available in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website http://e.tender.up.nic.in . The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids / annual the bidding process without assigning any reason.				
The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronic Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow or with any other nominated agency for participation in the e-Tendering. Those Bidders who are not registered with Director of Industries of the State / N.S.I.C. for bidding item are required to submit Bid Security (EMD) in amount as stated below, prior to the schedule date & time of opening of Technical part of the bid, failing which bid shall not be considered / opened. No deviation / alteration in the technical specifications / conditions stipulated in the tender documents shall be allowed.				
(a)	(i)	Sluice of CI Sluice Valves 750mm Diameter (Item available at division) at Suction Side of Pump House of Tones Pump Canal Head (Village: Gaura, Tahsil: Bara, District: Prayagraj).	12 Jobs	
(ii)	(i)	Manufacturing, Supply and Erection of Telescopic type Double Flanged MS Disassembling Joints of 750mm Dia at Pump House of Tones Pump Canal Head (Village: Gaura, Tahsil: Bara, District: Prayagraj) suitable as per site and according to available drawing.	12 Jobs	
(iii)	(i)	Manufacturing, Supply and Erection of Double Flanged MS Nipples of 750mm Dia at Pump House of Tones Pump Canal Head (Village: Gaura, Tahsil: Bara, District: Prayagraj) suitable as per site and according to available drawing.	12 Jobs	
(b)	(i)	Date & time for Availability of the bid document on website.	24.10.2019 from 15:00 Hours onwards	
(c)	(i)	Period for Bid submission along with Bid Document Fee, Bid Security, Industries Registration Certificate for exemption from EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format.	06.11.2019 from 11:00 Hours	
(d)	(i)	Hard copy of original Bid Document fee, Bid Security & Industries Registration Certificate for exemption from EMD and other supporting documents to be deposited in the office concerned.	From 08.11.2019, 10:00 Hours	
(e)	(i)	Online opening date & time of Financial Bid.	16.11.2019 up to 14:00 Hours	
(f)	(i)	Online opening date & time of Technical Bid.	18.11.2019 at 16:00 Hours	
(g)	(i)	Online opening date & time of Financial Bid.	20.11.2019 at 16:00 Hours	
(h)	(i)	Venue of opening of bid & Pre-bid meeting.	Office of the Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Irrigation Department, GSRSA, Rai Bahadur Ram Charan Das Road, Balrampur House, Mumfordganj, Prayagraj, U.P. - 211002. Ph.No. 0532 2250041	
(i)	(i)	Bid document fee.	Rs.2500.00 (RS Two Thousand Five Hundred) only.	
(j)	(i)	Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit).	Rs-80,000 (Rs. Eighty Thousand) only	
(k)	(i)	Completion Schedule	03 (Three) Months	

Note:- (i) Tender Notice is also available on Information Department website (<http://www.upgovt.up.nic.in>) and Irrigation Department website (<http://www.idup.gov.in>). Tender Documents can be downloaded from e-procurement website (<http://e.tender.up.nic.in>), but a part of tendering system, for renewal of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each Part in the shape of crossed Indian Postal Order / DD in favour of Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Prayagraj. In case the tender fees is not enclosed with the Technical Part, their bid will not be considered.

(ii) In case of any variation in English and Hindi version of this Tender Notice, English version shall be applicable. (iii) In case the date of opening of bids is declared a holiday then e-bids shall be opened on the next working day at the same time.

(iv) Above items are for irrigation purpose only.

U.P. - 144793 DL. 17.10.19

Executive Engineer
Lift Irrigation Division, Irrigation & Water Resources Department, Prayagraj

विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgovt.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD / MES / P&T / Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments.							
S. No.	District	Group No.	Name of Work	Total Cost (Rs. Lakh) (excluding GST)	Period of Completion	Cost of Bid Document including all taxes (In Rs.)	Bid Security (Lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			1. General Repair and Renewal work of the following roads by Hot Mix Plant and Paver finisher.				
			(a) Package No.UPI1101 Sadullah Nagar Chandra Deep Ghat To Salempur Achal Nagar Link Road				
			(b) Package No. UPI128 Sadullaganar Chandra Deep Ghat Road				
			(c) Package No.UPI103 Sadullah Nagar Chandra Deep Ghat To Bilari Link Road				
1	Balra- m- pur	UPI/1 02R	(d) Package No.UPI113 Pipra Mahin To Kutubpur Link Road	165.70	01 Months	Rs. 3500.00	3.40
			(e) Package No.UPI115 Bhagwanpur To Semra Link Road				
			(f) Package No.UPI114 Badalpur Husanabad To Managar (Bhabhanpurwa) Rd.				
			(g) Package No.UPI124 P.B. Road To Pandaria Link Road				
			(h) Package No.UPI105 Utraula Pachhpura To Mahuwadhani Link Road				
			2. General Repair and Renewal work of the following roads by Hot Mix Plant and Paver finisher.				
			(a) Package No.UPI128M.G.B.S.N. Road To Gaddpur Via Etai Rampur Link Road				
1	Balra- m- pur	UPI/1 02R	(b) Package No. UPI141 Kapousa Sherpur To Chamarnpur Road	160.13	01 Months	Rs. 3500.00	3.25
			(c) Package No.UPI101 P.B. Road To Goljait Link Road				
			(d) Package No.UPI107 P.B. Road To Sekhaya Link Road				
			(e) Package No.UPI108 Utraula Tulsiapur To Alipur Buzurg Bhabhanpur Road				
<p>2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 23/10/2019. 3. Cost of Bid Form: Rs 3500.00 per Group (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Chief Executive Officer, UPRIIDA, Lucknow payable at Lucknow. 4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: (a) The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online from 24/10/2019 to 07/11/2019 up to 12.00 noon on website www.pmsgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmsgstenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature, issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender. 5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security (Duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer P.M.G.S.Y. Circle P.W.D. Lucknow as per bid document-in original. (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) of IIT of Office of the concerning Executive Engineer, Office of the Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Lucknow. 96 Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Nirman Bhawan, Lucknow and Office of the Chief Engineer, PMGSY, PWD, Lucknow. 96 Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Nirman Bhawan, Lucknow on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical documents of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand. 6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 07/11/2019 up-to 12:00 Noon. 7. The site for the work is available. 8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmsgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of bids will be opened online at 12:30 PM (time) on 07/11/2019 (date) by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time. 9. The bids for the system shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the date of bid submission. 10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. 11. Work shall be done only with hot mix plant and paver finisher. 12. Defect liability period will be two years.</p>							
Executive Engineer, C.D. (P.F), PWD, Balrampur				Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle PWD, Lucknow			
U.P. : 144807, Dated : 17.10.2019				रिजिस्टर वेबसाइट www.up.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।			

Defence export to touch ₹35K-cr mark: Army chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Government giving a determined push to 'Make in India' in the defence sector to achieve indigenisation, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on Friday said attempts are on to further "lower bureaucratic barriers" and simplify procedures to promote domestic defence manufacturing. He also said the Government is reducing processes and focusing resolutely on the outcome of these processes.

Reiterating what Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said a few days ago, the Army chief said exports of Indian weapon systems will touch the ₹35,000-crore mark by 2024 from the ₹11,000 crore annually at present.

The energy and enterprise of 'Make in India' will be spanned further in defence corridors being set up with a "bouquet of advantages we offer in the form of land clearances and tax concession. The initiative will fundamentally transform the defence landscape in our country," Rawat said. He also urged to the defence industry to provide solutions for the armed forces.

In the last few years, numerous initiatives have been taken and various schemes launched to energise the defence sector in India, so we remain deeply committed to the ethos of indigenisation, Rawat said.

"We are manufacturing weapons and ammunition not just to arm our defence forces but now we are gradually becoming an export oriented industry. Our defence exports currently range just about ₹11,000 crore annually are set to grow to ₹35,000 crore by 2024," he said while addressing the 4th Defence Attaches conclave jointly organised by the Defence Ministry and news



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is received by Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat at the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Friday PTI

portal Bharat Shakti. The theme of the event was 'Enhancing Defence Capabilities through Cooperation'.

Newly-formed IDEEA (Indigenous Defence Equipment Exporters Association) was also launched on the occasion.

Talking of Def Expo 2020 to be held in Lucknow, Rawat said several new technologies will be on display and added, "We will be coming forward to certify some of the equipment on display."

Speaking at the conclave, Vice Chief of Army Lt General MM Naravane said Indian officers posted as Defence Attaches abroad "have been tasked to interact and advertise with host countries of the Indian equipment available."

Addressing the conclave, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh spoke of the foreign cooperation initiatives which include capacity building, training, exchanges and joint exercises. "India is hosting a

large multilateral exercise MILAN 2020 at Visakhapatnam and we have invited 41 countries," he stated.

All patents developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) numbering over 1,700 are now available for use by the Indian industry, said Dr. Sateesh Reddy, Chairman DRDO. He added that the Defence Ministry has just unveiled a policy under which all technologies will be available free of cost for use by the Indian industry.

Rawat also said India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the "wider region" and the Army will continue to partner with friends to "confront any kind of emerging threats."

The Navy chief cited maritime threats such as piracy, which, he said, has "transnational" ramifications. He pitched for having greater maritime cooperation and leveraging "collective military competency" of the world.

Ultrasound machine notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From November 1, next year, import, manufacture and sale of the ultrasound machines will be allowed only under the legal ambit of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The Union Health Ministry has issued a notification in this regard on Thursday according to which the device intended for external or internal use in human beings has been categorised as drug with effect from November 1, 2020.

The step aims to regulate the import, manufacture and sale of the devices to stem the drastic decline in India's sex ratio, as per the Ministry. The move followed recommendation from the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the Government's chief advisory body on drugs.

According to an official from the Ministry, from November next year, the Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO), the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices, will become the approving authority for import, manufacture and sale of ultrasound machines. The companies will also have to apply for permission from the Drug Controller General of India, who is responsible for approval of licences, before the scanners are sold in India.

The health ministry feels that the move is crucial to save the girl child as it will check misuse of such techniques for sex selection after conception. Imported machines have flooded the market, in the absence of any regulatory check, they cannot be tracked.

The Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic



Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act, 1994 currently regulates the sale of ultrasound machines only to entities registered under the law. However, the Ministry

was not finding the existing rules sufficient to deter the medical professionals and the user, to avoid ultrasound to determine the sex of the foetus. Mainly because of its easy availability online as well.

Under the Medical Device Rules (MDR) and the D&C Act the government will regulate additionally the quality import and manufacturing of the equipment, he said.

While welcoming the move, Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator of the AiMeD, an umbrella association of Indian

Manufacturers of Medical Devices covering all types of medical devices including consumables, disposables, however was not happy at the

Government's 'pick and choose policy.'

He said that the manufacturers have been confused with informally and arbitrary choosing of products and notifying them as drugs. "At AiMeD we welcome regulations but not of these kinds. Our members seek a predictable and comprehensive regulatory framework that allows for adequate transition and is predictable. Only then will investments speed up as manufacturers get discouraged to be regulated as Drugs, item by item and not as a category," said Rajiv Nath.

The move is also not in keeping with the Health Ministry- DTAB Roadmap that aimed to regulate all devices in a phased manner and assured an adequate transition period of nearly four years for high Risk and near High Risk Devices. "The one year transition period is not as per the assurance given of four years," he added.

Khadi-Thago organised in Bhutan to promote eco-friendly fabric

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi Government's vision to promote Khadi as a global fabric has received a boost with a proposal to set up Khadi India's first international venture in Bhutan. Indian Embassy in Bhutan, Khadi and Village industry Commission (KVIC) and Royal Textile Academy (RTA), Thimpu has organised an event 'Khadi-Thago', on October 16 to jointly celebrate the textile heritage fo Khadi and traditional Bhutanese fabric on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) curated the fashion show.

Khadi-Thago, organised at the RTA, which is also one of the most prominent tourist spots in Thimphu, witnessed

presence of high-profile audience including Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck as the Chief Guest, Vinai Saxena, KVIC Chairman as the Guest of Honour, Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering, Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors and several other distinguished guests, during the event.

The Indian ambassador Ruchika khamboj said that the objective of this event was to promote environmental friendly fabric Khadi of India with Bhutanese designers, to enhance the Khadi foot print in the country. KVIC chairman Vinai Saxena said khadi means Sincerity, purity, honesty and swaraj.

Indian designers Anamika Khanna, Rajesh Pratap Singh

and Samant Chauhan showcased innovative Khadi-based garment lines along with works of Chadrika Tamang, Kencho Wangmo, Tshering Choden and Sangay Choden of Bhutan. In addition, Anjana Bhargav, Nitin Bal Chauhan, Paras Gairoliya, Payal Jain, Rahul Mishra & Renu Tandon curated special Khadi ensembles which were also displayed in the event followed by Banarasi Satvik Bhojan. Sunil Sethi of FDCI was also present.

Interestingly the four Bhutanese textile designers who showcased their work at the Khadi-Thago, had also visited India on invitation from FDCI.

A Bhutanese designer, Dorothy Gurung, would be opening the first Indian Khadi outlet in Bhutan towards the end of the year.

Govt shows no signs of concern over slowdown: Yechury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that rural household consumption had slumped to a seven-year low, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday alleged the "callous" Government was enthusiastic about writing off unpaid loans of rich borrowers and tax cuts for the super-rich but shows no signs of concern over the slowdown.

Yechury said the signs of the agrarian distress and stagnant rural incomes have been there for long but the Modi government is busy with trying to "divide and polarise".

A media report said in the September quarter, rural India

grew at five per cent in terms of value, sharply slower than 20 per cent reported in the year earlier. Urban India grew at eight per cent compared with 14 per cent in the year-ago period, he said. "A callous Central government shows no signs of concern over the slowdown tumbling into a much graver problem. There is enthusiasm in Modi govt only for tax cuts for the super-rich and writing off unpaid loans of rich borrowers.

"The signs of the prolonged agrarian distress and near-stagnant rural incomes have been there for long. But this govt is busy with trying to divide and polarise", Yechury said in a tweet.

Willing to give some land for Ravidas temple in Delhi, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that it was willing to hand over land measuring 200 sq m to devotees for construction of Guru Ravidas temple in South Delhi but with certain conditions.

A bench of justices Arun Mishra and S Ravindra Bhat took on record the offer made by Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, and asked parties seeking construction of the temple to submit objections, if any, by October 21. At the outset, Venugopal said he had held consultation with all parties including devotees and government officials and Centre has agreed to give the same piece of land considering sensitivity and faith

of devotees for the site.

"That same 200 square metre area of the site can be handed over to a committee of devotees for construction of temple but with certain conditions," Venugopal said, adding that five out of seven petitioners, who approached court against demolition of temple have agreed to the proposal.

He said that only two of the petitioners are not agreeable to the proposal but "the entire belief and faith of the devotees of Guru Ravidas is at the site where he stayed and therefore in the interest of peace and harmony we want to return the site to the devotees". Counsel appearing for one of the petitioner, who have objected to the proposal said that they need to see the offer and file their response.

Don't accept Ayodhya panel 'settlement': Muslim parties

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Muslim parties, sans the Sunni Waqf Board, made clear on Friday that they do not accept the Supreme Court-appointed mediation panel's proposal on purported settlement to resolve the Ayodhya land dispute and expressed surprise over reports suggesting that the Board was willing to withdraw the claim on the site of the mosque.

The mediation panel headed by former apex court judge Justice FMI Kalifulla had filed a report in a sealed cover in the Supreme Court indicating a "sort of a settlement" between the Hindu and the Muslim parties in which the Wakf Board agreed to give up its claim over 2.77 acre disputed land at the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri masjid site if certain conditions are fulfilled.

"We are taken aback by the media reports attributed by



Shahid Rizvi, advocate on record that Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board was willing to withdraw the claim on site of the Babri Masjid," Ejiaz Maqbool, counsel for legal representatives of key Muslim litigants M Siddiq and Misbahuddeen, and four other advocates for Muslim parties said in a statement.

The lawyers said the mediation panel's report was leaked to the media and they do not approve the procedures adopt-

ed in the process and the suggested compromise formula of withdrawal of the lawsuit.

"Accordingly, we must make it absolutely clear that we the appellants before Supreme Court do not accept the proposal made

which has been leaked out to the Press, nor the procedure by which the mediation has taken place nor the manner in which a withdrawal of the claim has been suggested as a compromise," the statement reads.

"This was broadcasted by all Media agencies and newspapers that UP Sunni Central Waqf Board has agreed to abandon their claim subject to certain conditions. This news was obviously leaked out either by the Mediation Committee or

Nirvani Akhara which claim the right on the Mosque or others," it said, adding that the "leak was in total violation of the orders of the Supreme court that had directed that such proceedings should remain confidential."

The statement said it was "difficult" to accept that any mediation could have been done especially when the main Hindu parties (deity 'Ram Lalla' through next friend and others) had clearly stated that they were not open to any settlement and wanted a judicial decision.

"The recent attempts before Mediation Committee were not representative," it said.

On October 16, when a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi reserved its verdict in the case after 40 days of hearing, the mediation panel's report was also submitted to the court.

NDA will make clean sweep in Bihar: Paswan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling NDA will win byelections to all five Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar on October 21, claimed BJP ally and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Friday.

He said a "divided and discredited" Opposition in the State stands no chance to give an equal fight to the ruling alliance.

Polls will be held in five Assembly seats and the Lok Sabha constituency of Samastipur as incumbent MLAs were elected to Parliament during the recent general election while MP Ram Chandra Paswan, brother of Ramvilas Paswan, died of a heart attack.

All three NDA parties — BJP, JD(U) and LJP — are contesting elections. While Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) is contesting on four Assembly seats, the BJP and the LJP have put up their candidates in an Assembly and the Lok Sabha seat respectively. Ram Chandra Paswan's son Prince Raj is fighting from Samastipur.



"All our candidates will emerge victorious. We have run a united campaign and people have full faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar," LJP president Ram Vilas Paswan said.

BJP president this week gave a boost to the unity of BJP-JDU-LJP alliance in the state by dismissing any change in the alliance pattern in Bihar and saying unambiguously that the next assembly elections to the state would be fought collectively under the leadership of JDU leader Nitish Kumar.

Paswan said the opposition 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) is divided and dis-

credited. With unity eluding the grand alliance, some of its partners have put up their candidates after its two main partners, RJD and the Congress, divided all the seats between them.

His party, he said, has also deployed its workers to campaign for the BJP in Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly polls. He expressed confidence that the saffron party will retain power in both the states.

BOX

Leaders from other parties continued to switch over to the BJP. Former MLA Kartar Singh Bhadana from poll-bound Haryana quit the BSP to join BJP on Friday. He said BJP is not new to him as he was with the party earlier. Bhadana is brother of Congress leader Avtar Singh Bhadana and the family has influence, especially in the Gurjar community. Kartar Singh Bhadana has been an MLA from Haryana two times and from Uttar Pradesh once. Haryana is scheduled to have assembly election on October 21 and the counting of votes is due on October 24.

EC replaces observers in Nashik, Ambala for poor performance

Deploys spl observer for Sikkim bypoll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing unsatisfactory performance, the EC on Friday replaced the police observer and a returning officer of Nashik in Maharashtra, and the expenditure observer of Ambala in Haryana, ahead of the October 21 Assembly elections. It also appointed a former IPS officer as a special observer for the Assembly bypolls being held in Sikkim on Monday.

"The Election Commission has replaced police observer of Nashik and one returning officer of Nashik district after reviewing the electoral preparedness of the state of Maharashtra," the EC said in a statement. It said the police observer was removed for "not performing the task of observation satisfactorily".

On the basis of input regarding progress of photo voter slip distribution, which was very important to inform each and every elector timely, it was found that the perfor-

mance of an assembly constituency in Nashik district was "very poor", it said.

Reviewing this, the commission ordered replacement of the returning officer of Nashik West. The new officers will join on Friday itself.

The poll panel also ordered replacement of the expenditure observer of Ambala for "not supervising the enforcement activities in right earnest". It said his overall performance was not found satisfactory.

The EC has appointed retired IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre Vivek Dube as special observer for the assembly bypolls of Sikkim.

Dube has been deputed to specifically report to the EC about the law and order situation and oversee the deployment and other security related issues there. "The commission has taken the decision in view of inputs and complaints received," it said. Three seats in Sikkim are going for by-elections on Monday.

Dube was deputed earlier also as special observer to West Bengal during the Lok Sabha in April.

SC turns away PMC account holders seeking end to cash withdrawal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea filed on behalf of scam-hit PMC Bank account holders seeking lifting of restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on cash withdrawals.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said, "We are not inclined to entertain this petition under article 32 (writ jurisdiction). Petitioner can approach the high court concerned for appropriate relief".

The Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank has been put under restrictions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following the discovery of a Rs 4,355-crore scam.

Deposit withdrawals have been capped at Rs 40,000 over a six-month period, causing panic and distress among depositors.

During the hearing on Friday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government is aware of the seriousness of the situation and the Enforcement Directorate is taking appropriate action against the culprit. Advocate Shashank Sudhi,



appearing for petitioner Bejon Kumar Mishra, said he has filed the petition on behalf of 500 PMC Bank account holders seeking lifting of restrictions imposed by the RBI on cash withdrawals.

On Wednesday, around 50 depositories of the PMC Bank staged a protest outside the RBI demanding revoking restrictions on cash withdrawal, currently capped at Rs 40,000 over a six-month period.

A depositor of PMC Bank allegedly committed suicide in Mumbai on Tuesday while another died of a heart attack a few hours after taking part in a protest by bank customers seeking their money back.

The petition filed before the court sought a direction for issuance of "exhaustive and comprehensive guideline" to

safeguard the banking and cooperative deposits in the eventuality of emergency financial crisis where citizens are financially stranded by acts of a few "unscrupulous persons".

The plea said the Centre and the RBI should be directed to ensure complete insulation and insurance of the hard-earned deposited money of people in various cooperative banks, including nationalised banks, by enacting an appropriate measure of 100 per cent insurance coverage towards the deposited amount.

It said that a high-powered committee should be constituted to look into complete affairs of working and their operation in all cooperative banks in order to have a robust and transparent mechanism which can inspire confidence of common public in cooperative banks.

Real estate firm HDIL allegedly accounted for 70 per cent of the bank's Rs 9,000 crore advances. According to the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing, HDIL's loans turned non-performing assets, but the bank management hid this from the RBI's scrutiny.

Opp slams Goyal for ‘belittling’ Abhijit

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal political parties and civil society have slammed Union Minister Piyush Goyal for attacking Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee for his alleged Leftist leanings.

Faulting Goyal for, “unnecessarily bringing politics to malign a Nobel Laureate who has made India proud” Bengal Congress leader and MP Pradip Bhattacharya on Friday said “it is unfortunate that our Ministers are so uneducated and biased that they do not even

‘It is irrelevant whether the Nyay found political success or not. The question is whether the prescription of Mamata which has won him the Nobel Prize is relevant and affective in conquering poverty’

—Bangla poet Subodh Ghosh

think twice to belittle a Nobel Laureate who has made India proud by unnecessarily bringing politics to malign him.”

Coffing at Goyal he said, “the literacy level of our Ministers is so high that they do not even think twice to invoke Newton’s second law in Albert Einstein’s name,” and wondered “why a stalwart will have to be belittled just because he has Left leanings.”

Earlier while congratulating Abhijit for his remarkable achievements in the field of economics Goyal said, “I congratulate Abhijit Banerjee for winning the Nobel Prize ... (but) you all know that his thinking is totally Left-leaning.” He backed his comments by saying how “Banerjee supported Nyay (poverty alleviation



scheme of the Congress) but people of India rejected that ideology.”

Questioning Goyal’s “political wisdom” the Congress MP said “just because a political party got a mandate and another party did not get it you get the license to negate a Nobel Laureate’s scholarly findings. It is a political party that got the people’s mandate and not the theory of ‘Nyay’ which was supported by

Abhijit Banerjee,” he said. “Considering the sliding economic condition of the country during the BJP’s rule the time is coming when the people who are attacking day will go to him and sit at his feet to take lessons on economic development,” he maintained.

Bangla poet Subodh Ghosh also attacked Goyal for “failing to understand Banerjee’s achievements as an economist.” He said “it is

irrelevant whether the Nyay found political success or not. The question is whether the prescription of Banerjee which has won him the Nobel Prize is relevant and affective in conquering poverty.”

Economist and State Financial Advisor Abhiroop Sarkar said, “it is unfortunate that someone of Abhijit Banerjee’s stature will get such reception from the national government.”

Bengal Guv hits out at State Ministers’ sense of decorum

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Even as the distance between Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (State Secretariat) widened, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar once again lambasted the Trinamool Congress Ministers for repeatedly making adverse comments against him.

Speaking to an audience Dhankhar on Friday said “every time Governor (Dhankhar) does something sensible you (Ministers) come out with a statement defying decorum. I am not a tourist. I am here to discharge my constitutional duties which I will continue doing.”

The Governor was particularly referring to senior State leader and Minister Subroto Mukherjee’s comments questioning his initiative to hold an administrative meeting in North Bengal town of Siliguri. “It is nothing but a gimmick,”

Mukherjee had said adding the Governor was just a “tourist in the State.”

He said “some call me a tourist, others called the Siliguri visit a gimmick” and vowed to “continue discharging” his constitutional duties, reminding that he was not the one who crossed his Laxman Rekha and adding it was upon Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take action on her Ministers.

The distance between the Trinamool Congress and Dhankhar had been widening ever since he personally went down to Jadavpur University to rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was trapped amid agitating students.

Subsequently he told the media about his being “humiliated” by the State Government during the Durga Puja carnival which was hosted by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

An emotional Governor said he “felt insulted at the car-

nival. I am deeply hurt and disturbed. The insult was not to me but to every people of West Bengal. They will never digest such as insult. I am a servant of the people of West Bengal. Nothing can deter me from performing my constitutional duties,” with his voice literally trembling.

“Speaking out of my injured heart” the Governor said “for four hours or more I was there and your press coverage was totally blacked out...This is unheard of. You will never find it anywhere else. Someone told me it was reminiscent of the Emergency.”

Meanwhile, Subroto Mukherjee once again attacked the Centre for breaking all constitutional norms and rules of federalism by bringing the Governor under Z category security to be provided by the central forces. “This is an utter infringement on State’s federal rights,” Mukherjee said.



Hindu Jagran Manch members protest at District Collector’s office against alleged killing of an RSS worker and his family members in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district, in Bikaner on Friday

PTI

Mamata assures legal help to kin of murdered schoolteacher

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday assured the relatives of the murdered schoolteacher of Murshidabad district of providing all legal help if needed in connection with the case.

Six relatives of the dead teacher Bondhu Prakash Paul, whose body was found along with that of his wife Beauty and six-year-old son lying in pools of blood at their house at Jagjun on October 8 during the Durga Puja festival, had met Mamata at the State Secretariat on Thursday.

The killings took on a political colour when the BJP slammed the state government over the incident and claimed



asked for any financial help from her, Rajesh Ghosh, his cousin, told newsmen at the secretariat.

We are happy with the police investigation into the murder and appier now after meeting the chief minister, he added.

Asked they said, “There is no political connection with the family.

A mason, from whom Paul had taken money promising an insurance policy has been arrested for allegedly killing the family.

Earlier in the day, the Paul’s relatives went to the state police headquarters at Bhawan Bhawan in the city and met senior police officers in connection with the case.

Centre should follow economic policies of Narasimha Rao, Manmohan: Gehlot

PTI ■ JHUNJHUNU

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said the country’s economy was weakening and the Centre should follow the policies of former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao and then finance minister Manmohan Singh to upend the downward trend.

He said the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Manmohan Singh and even the husband of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have expressed concern over India’s economy.

In a newspaper article published on October 14, Sitharaman’s husband Prabhakar took a swipe at the BJP-led government over its economic vision and asked it to embrace the economic architecture offered by Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh. “They (central government) should follow the policies of Narasimha Rao and



Manmohan Singh, and start working. Then only the country will saved,” Gehlot said at a public rally here.

“Democracy is under threat... We are becoming weaker economically. The entire country and the world is saying this,” he said, adding, “You can imagine the state of affairs when the finance minister’s husband is writing an article that the government has no understanding of the economic situation.”

Because of the non-visionary policies of the government the country was heading towards a wrong direction. Growth rate is slowing, the chief minister said. “People are chanting

(Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s name despite the fact that there is no business, economy is falling and there are no jobs. Such is the situation, how long will this country tolerate?” he asked.

“We don’t have any enmity with Modi, (Amit) Shah, the BJP or RSS. This is a fight of ideology,” he said.

“They talk about nationalism during elections. Are we not nationalist? Will we have to seek certificate from BJP to become nationalists? Doing politics in the name of religion, provoking people of one religion against another, is this (the way of doing) the politics in a democracy?” Gehlot posed.

In the rally, he called upon the people to vote for Congress candidate Rita Chaudhary in Mandawa Assembly bypoll which will be held on October 21. State Congress president Sachin Pilot and other leaders were also present in the meeting.

WB Govt to run 100 minibuses to reduce commuter sufferings

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Government has decided to run 100 minibuses in the northern outskirts of the city from November one to reduce the hardship of people caused by closing of Tallah Bridge on the arterial B T Road for heavy vehicles, State Minister Suvendu Adhikary said on Friday.

Movement of buses has been stopped across the bridge after experts found it to be in a risk-

ety condition.

The Barrackpore Trunk (B T) Road connects vast parts of the northern outskirts and North 24 Parganas district to the city. Adhikary, the transport minister, said several 24-seater buses have already been put into service to reduce the problem of the people travelling on these routes.

Diversion of bus routes to avoid Tallah Bridge have also led to pulling off services by many operators citing losses owing to increased fuel costs and lack of passengers.

Pilot questions own Govt’s move on mayors’ polls

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan’s Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Friday questioned his own Government’s decision on elections to the posts of heads of urban local bodies.

Taking a stand that appeared to go against the view of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Pilot made it clear he was not consulted on the decision that was notified on Wednesday.

Two other Ministers in the Congress-run State have separately opposed the move that allows people who are not elected councillors to contest for posts like mayors and chairpersons of corporations and municipalities.

The non-councillor candidates still have to be elected by councillors to the top posts.

“This is not a good decision and I do not agree with this. The decision is not practical and not politically right and there is a need to make changes to the decision,” Pilot told reporters in Jhunjhunu.

“We decided to hold indirect election for the posts of mayor and chairperson. This was fine. But suddenly a new decision appeared that I came to know from newspapers. This was not discussed in the cabinet or the legislative party meeting,” he said.

Pilot, who is the Rajasthan Congress president, claimed that the new system, which is being called a



hybrid, will allow people to become urban body heads through the back door.

He said democracy is not strengthened if a candidate who could not win a councillors’ election is allowed to contest for the mayor’s post.

“Our party and the Government have always said that democracy should be strengthened,” he said.

“I do not think such a system has been implemented in any state of the country,” he said, adding that the decision needs to be changed.

A gazette notification to amend the rules on election of mayors and chairpersons was issued on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Food and Civil Supply Minister Ramesh Meena and Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas separately expressed apprehension, saying it could lead

to resentment among party workers. Khachariyawas said the system was injustice to those who worked in the field and won councillors’ elections.

When asked about the comments by these two ministers, Chief Minister Gehlot said everyone is concerned about delivering good governance.

“The cabinet, all MLAs and the entire Government is engaged in that. Elections for the local bodies and the Panchayat Raj are coming. We will fight and will win the elections,” the chief minister told reporters in Jhunjhunu.


Pilot and Gehlot were together in Jhunjhunu where they addressed a rally in support of Rita Chaudhary, who is contesting the assembly bypolls for the Mandawa seat.

Later, they talked separately with the media.

Rifts in Rajasthan Congress surfaced after the Assembly elections last December that were followed by intense lobbying for the chief minister’s post.

While Gehlot was picked by the central leadership for the top post, Pilot had to settle for the deputy’s spot.

Recently, Pilot expressed concern over the law and order situation in the state and his remark were seen as a comment on Gehlot’s performance.



उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा लिखित सूचना इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 70-विभाग 2019-20 मंडल/2019-20 जो कि पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक में किसी अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 24.10.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 25.10.2019 को 12.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम उ०म० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. कक्षा सं०-111 से 114, मू-ल, पारेषण भवन, विमुक्ति खण्ड-II, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ लखनऊ पत्रांक 2002 दिनांक 18.10.19 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएं

MADHYA PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
Registered Office: Block No. - 2, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur, JABALPUR-482008.
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): L48109MP2008NGC014800
Telephone No.: (0761) 2661234 Fax No.: (0761) 2664141
e-mail : mpdt@mpdttransco.nic.in Website : www.mpdttransco.nic.in

NOTICE
LMPPTCL filed a Petition vide Dary No. 439/2019 before Hon'ble Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for determination of Transmission Tariff for FY 2014-15 to FY 2018-19 of the Transmission Lines belonging to the MPPTCL conveying electricity as ISTS lines, for inclusion of these Assets in computation of Point of Connection Charges in accordance with the CERC (Terms & Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2014 and CERC (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses), Regulations, 2010.

2.The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission System are (a) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (b) Mahatma State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (c) Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company Limited (d) Rajasthan Rajya VidyutPrasran Nigam Limited (e) UP Power Corporation Limited.

3.Tariff details:

Transmission Tariff for FY 2014-15 to FY 2018-19 (Rs. in Lakhs)					
Name of the Line	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Shoorpur - Khandwa 132 KV Line	62.69	63.47	15.97	16.48	17.04
Seoni-Pench-1 132 KV Line	25.52	26.60	27.49	28.38	29.33
Seoni-Pench-2 132 KV Line	25.52	26.60	27.49	28.38	29.33
Balaghat-Durgam ghat 132 KV Line	31.77	33.12	34.23	35.34	36.53
Balaghat-Bhangan aon-Bhanda 132 KV Line	14.29	14.90	15.40	15.90	16.43
(Rihandi) 132 KV Line	3.73	3.89	4.02	4.15	4.29
Morea-Agnara 132 KV Line	3.73	3.89	4.02	4.15	4.29

4.A copy of the application/petition made for determination of Tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.mpdttransco.nic.in

5.The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of Tariff contained in the application may be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandrakar Building, 36, Jangpoh, New Delhi-110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its registered office, Block No.- 2, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur, Jabalpur-482008, within 30 days of publication of this Notice.

Place: JABALPUR (M.P.)
Date: 18.10.2019

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
(On Executive Director (C&A))
Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited,
Jabalpur

U.P. SAINIK PUNARVAS NIDHI
GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT, GATE NO. 9, LUCKNOW-226027

File No. 1252/XIII/17(SPN) Dated : 18 October, 2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online e-bids are invited from experienced and registered Firms and Companies for selling of Mango crops of U.P. Sainik Punarvas Nidhi -Atari Farm, Mall, Lucknow for two years i.e. 2019-20 & 2020-21.

2- The details of submission of e-Tender are available in the tender document uploaded on the U.P. Government e-Procurement website www.etender.up.nic.in. The Sainik Punarvas Nidhi reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason thereof. Other details for above e-Tendering are as under :-

Sl.No.	Discription	Date and time
1	Estimated cost of tender	75,00,000.00
2	Date & Time for publication of e-Tendering	18-10-2019 at 2.00 PM
3	Date & Time for closure of online bid submission	07-11-2019 at 12.00 Noon
4	Date & time for opening of Technical bids at U.P. Sainik Punarvas Nidhi, Lucknow.	07-11-2019 at 02.00 PM
5	Date & time for opening of financial bids at U.P. Sainik Punarvas Nidhi, Lucknow.	After Technical Bid date & time for opening of financial bids will be uploaded in website.
6	Tender Form Fee	Rs. 11,300.00
7	Earnest Money	Rs. 75,500.00

2. Bidder are advised to keep looking above website regularly for corrections in bid if any.

(Ravi)
Brig (Retd)
Secretary

U.P.: 144824, Date : 18.10.2019
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

PM slams ex-FM PC for ruining economy

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Singling out the Congress-SNCP alliance leaders for a blistering attack on issues of corruption and alleged links with terrorists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi indirectly slammed former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for “destroying” the country’s economy and banking system and former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel for his alleged with late Iqbal Mirchi, an erstwhile close aide of Karachi-based underworld Dawood Ibrahim.

Addressing a large public rally at Bandra-Kurla Complex in north—central Mumbai, Modi took on Chidambaram and Patel without actually naming them but making an unmistakable reference to the former Finance Minister’s presence in Tihar Jail and the ongoing investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the an alleged property deal between the former Civil Aviation Minister and Hajra Iqbal, the wife of late Iqbal Mirchi.

Castigating Chidambaram



for “destroying” Indian economy and banking system for ten years, Modi said: “Take the case of those (Congress) who had imposed angel tax in the country. Compare them with us: we are making corporate tax in the country conducive to the world. They had imposed hefty corporate tax in the world. Here we are who transfer money directly into the accounts of common people.

“They (congress) were those who had transferred lakhs of crores of rupees of money through `phone banking.

The people in Maharashtra and across the country know who did all this. Those who destroyed the country’s economy and banking system for 10 long years are languishing in Delhi’s Tihar Jail or Mumbai jail. This is just beginning of tyhe cleaning up operation. You will get us speed up the work in the coming day,” the Prime Minister said.

Charging that the Congress and allies failed in doing justice to the victim families of 1993 Mumbai serial blasts and tried to protect those behind the blasts, Modi targeted Patel for

his alleged links with late Mirchi’s family. “Whenever the issue of doing justice to the victim families comes up, the Congress and its allies try to protect the terrorists. Mumbai, Maharashtra and the country will never forget the wounds of 1993 blasts.

The Government of the time did not do justice to the victims. Those behind the blasts fled the country. The reason behind the same has now come into the open.

“Instead of catching hold of the people (Dawood Ibrahim and his aides), these people are

indulging in the trade of mirchi with them. Kabhi mirchi ka vyapar, Kabhi Mirchi se vyapar.. I request the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra to know these and get cautious about the parties they represent. They are not bothered about the prestige of Maharashtra and country,” the Prime Minister said.

He also went onto slam the Congress and its supporters for creating an impression thath it was only the one family (Gandhi Nehru) that brought freedom to the country. “These are the same who had insulted late B R Ambedkar. These are the same people who are doing the same thing with the memorial being built in the name of Chhatratri Shivaji. Right from day one, they are creating hurdles in the way of construction of the Shivaji memorial,” Modi said.

The Prime Minister announced that the work on the mid-sea Shivaji memorial would begin. “The moment we get a green signal from the court, we will start the construction of the memorial,” he said.

Bring back Art 370 when in power, Shah dares Pawar, Rahul

PTI ■ CHANDRAPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar to bring back Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir if they ever return to power.

Addressing a poll rally in Rajura seat here, Shah said the Congress, NCP and other opposition parties did not abrogate provisions of Article 370 due to vote-bank politics.

Article 370 had become the “gateway for terrorists” in the last 70 years, leading to 40,000 killings in J&K, he claimed.

He said the Narendra Modi government was elected with a bigger mandate in 2019 because people had full faith in his leadership and development works carried out by the Centre.

“I am throwing a direct challenge to Rahul Gandhi and Sharad Pawar to restore Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir after



coming to power,” he said.

He said the Congress, despite ruling the country for “70 years” had done nothing for Adivasis and Other Backward Castes, while the BJP government at the Centre had launched a slew of schemes for their welfare.

Vote for the BJP as it stood for development, while parties like Congress and NCP were centred around families, he exhorted the gathering.

The State goes to poll on October 21 while results will be declared on October 24.

Modi misleading nation on Article 370 vote: Cong

PTI ■ MUMBAI

There was no vote in Parliament on the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was misleading the nation on the issue, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma claimed here on Friday.

Addressing a Press conference ahead of the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls, Sharma said the Congress did not need a certificate from the BJP on patriotism, as two of its Prime Ministers sacrificed their lives in the fight against terror.

Modi and the BJP have been targeting the Congress during the campaign for Assembly polls, claiming that the grand old party opposed the scrapping of Article 370.

Article 370 was a temporary provision which was to go in a span of time. Parliament only needs to be notified about it. On August 5-6, the Government informed Parliament and there was no vote.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FATF WARNS...

The FATF blacklist is a shorthand descriptor for the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up (EEFU) list, since it is the last rung of a 4 step rating. Similarly, the FATF “Grey List” refers to gradings of Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCT).

Interestingly, FATF President Xiangmin Liu, who is from China — Pakistan’s “all weather friend” — also referred to Islamabad’s “deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism system”. The global watchdog said all deadlines for Pakistan in the action plan have now expired. “The FATF again expresses serious concerns with the overall lack of progress by Pakistan to address its terror financing risks, including remaining deficiencies in demonstrating a sufficient understanding of Pakistan’s transnational terror financing risks, and more broadly, Pakistan’s failure to complete its action plan in line with the agreed timelines and in light of the terror financing risks emanating from the jurisdiction.” To date, Pakistan has only largely addressed five of 27 action items, with varying levels of progress made on the rest of the action plan,” the FATF statement said.

Pakistan was placed on the Grey List by the FATF in June last year and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019, or face the risk of being placed on the blacklist with Iran and North Korea.

In light of the additional fact of Pakistan’s poor performance on its mutual evaluation, chances of Pakistan exiting the Grey List in the next few years are now reduced to nil and the possibility of a formal blacklisting in February 2020 is highly probable, another official said.

The FATF said Pakistan must demonstrate effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions against all UN 1267 and 1373 designated terrorists like LeT founder Hafiz Saeed, JeM founder Maulana Masood Azhar, and and those acting for or on their behalf. Islamabad also must demonstrate that its authorities are identifying cash couriers and enforcing controls on illicit movement of currency, improving inter-agency coordination including between provincial and federal authorities on combating terror financing risks, it said.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. During the FATF meeting, several countries voiced concern on Pakistan’s failure to do enough to contain terror funding on its soil. According to officials, a key point made by these countries is the absence of a proper understanding in Pakistan of “transnational risk” — risk posed to neighbouring and other nations by designated terrorist organisations based in Pakistan.

The FATF currently has 35 members and two regional organisations — the

European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group and was represented in the Plenary by a team of officials from the ministries of Home, External Affairs and Finance.

RIDE WITH...

Today just three Salvi families are in the trade. But Patola saris are still in demand while the kite-makers of Jamalpur in Ahmedabad are not so much, their creations being supplanted by cheap Chinese imports. These are also vital handicraft skills that we must all do more to preserve. The Hyundai Venue has been a boon considering the roads around Patan and Modhera are a bit on the poor side. There were road-works ongoing but the car negotiated the tough rides without a problem. And even after covering 700 plus kilometres over two days on both highways and urbanised areas, the Venue diesel that is being driven returned an astounding fuel economy of over 21 kilometres a litre and has proven its maneuverability through the narrow lanes of the old city of Ahmedabad.

SC SHIFTS...

and indigenous Muslim students’ organisation — All Assam Goriya-Moriya Yuva Chatra Parishad (AAGMYCP) — filed separate FIRs against Hajela in Dibrugarh and Guwahati.

Chandan Mazumdar, whose name does not figure in the final NRC list, filed the complaint against Hajela at Dibrugarh police station. Mazumdar alleged that he had submitted all documents, but his name was not included in the updated NRC due to “inefficiency and criminal conspiracy of employees”.

The FIR held Hajela responsible for “discrepancies”, as he was tasked with supervising the NRC updation exercise in Assam.

Another complaint was lodged against the NRC coordinator at Guwahati’s Latacil police station by the AAGMYCP, claiming “deliberate” anomalies in the final list. “The names of many indigenous people were excluded from the list, and it was done deliberately by the NRC State Coordinator,” the FIR filed by the students organisation said.

Meanwhile, IG (Special Branch) Hiren Nath said no report was sought from Assam police about threat to Hajela.

“Reports about threat perception to Hajela have not been sought from us. There have been, however, criticism against Hajela in the social media. Various organisations in Assam are vocal on the NRC with many speaking against the NRC and the State Coordinator,” he said.

SAINIK SCHOOLS...

Incidentally, this school was the first one to induct girls in 2016. The girls were given admission in Class IX. Also, this school is the only one which admits boys from Class VII onwards unlike other schools where the children are admitted from Class VI onwards.

The decision comes after the Government allowed women pilots to fly fighter jets and at least seven pilots are undergoing the gruelling training. One pilot Bhawna Kanth is already flying MIG-21s along with her male colleagues. Prior to the induction of women as fighter pilots, they were flying transport planes and helicopters. Same is the case with the Navy where women are flying transport planes and helicopters.

While women officers are serving in various branches of the Army, a decision is yet to be taken for their induction into combat arms like infantry, artillery and armoured corps.

CBI CHARGESHEETS PC, KARTI...

Others named in the chargesheet, include Section Officer Ajit Kumar Dungdung and OSD in Finance Ministry Pradeep Bagga, Peter Mukherjee and chartered accountant S Bhaskaraman.

Initial probe by the CBI had revealed that FDI worth Rs 307 crore but detailed investigation led to a finding of foreign investment in INX to the tune of Rs 403 crore.

The chargesheet has also mentioned that Peter and Indrani allegedly in conspiracy with Chidambaram and FIPB officials disregarded FIPB rules to settle the issue as INX was initially granted an FIPB approval of only Rs 4.62 crore but actual investment in the company stood at Rs 403.7 crore. Under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), INX was liable for a payment of penalty to the tune of Rs 300 crore but the company was saved due to the alleged favours by the then Finance Ministry and FIPB officials. The chargesheet was filed before a special court. It said an illegal gratification of Rs 9.96 lakh was received by Advantage Strategic, controlled by Karti for alleged illegal facilitation to regularise the excess FDI received by INX. The CBI had in May 2017 registered a case for alleged irregularities in granting the FIPB clearance to the INX Media. Based on the CBI’s FIR, the Enforcement Directorate later registered a money laundering case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

One of the then promoters of INX Indrani later turned approver in the case and is a key link in the CBI probe. “Prabodh Saxena and Rabindra Prasad are currently serving as principal secretaries in the Himachal Pradesh Government,” an official said. The name of Indrani appears in the list but she is not booked under any charges as she had turned approver. The remaining accused persons have been booked under IPC Sections relating to cheating, criminal conspiracy and forgery besides graft under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the official said.

The CBI has accused Karti of floating a shell company to receive bribe as consultancy fee and other payments. “Indrani had also alleged to have paid USD 5 million as bribe to the Chidambarams in offshore accounts. We have

sent Letters Rogatory to foreign countries to seek details on the payments,” said an agency official.

Chidambaram, who was arrested from his residence in posh Jor Bagh here on August 22, is presently in ED custody for custodial interrogation in a related money laundering case.

In the chargesheet, the CBI has mentioned that Chidambaram, during his tenure as Finance Minister, had allegedly facilitated a huge transfusion of foreign funds for the TV company and his son Karti had allegedly received kickbacks for the deal, officials added.

ZOO DIRECTOR...

allegations against him for poor handling of the zoo inmates. Renu Singh whose transfer order came on Thursday, too had written to the CZA and the Ministry alleging that the wellbeing of animals was in danger under Bhawal’s care.

On January 8, 2019, in an explosive affidavit filed before the Delhi High Court, a panel led by then CZA member secretary DN Singh (who is retired now), pointed out several irregularities such as fudging of animal death data, not carrying post-mortem in case of unnatural animal death, concealing of animal deaths, and mysterious nature of deaths among others. The panel had sought action against the erring officials.

The panel was constituted in 2017 at the behest of the Ministry following above mentioned string of allegations over a prolonged period of time. Between 2016 and 2017, Delhi Zoo reportedly lost over 320 animals.

SONIA GIVES HARYANA...

AICC sources said Sonia has been advised to avoid public appearances to prevent catching infection as she has not been keeping well. She addressed only a couple of public meetings during this year Lok Sabha campaigns.

Meanwhile, addressing the rally, Rahul alleged that Prime Minister has no understanding of the economy and the world is mocking India due to his Government’s divisive politics that pitted people against each other. He said Modi keeps diverting the attention of the people from real issues facing the country.

“The world is mocking India. The country which used to show the way to the world, used to live with love, used to progress fast...Today one caste is fighting the other, one religion is fighting the other and the country’s pride, its economy, Narendra Modi has destroyed it,” Rahul said.

He also slammed the media, saying it was scared and not showing the truth. “Media persons say ‘we know the truth but we can’t show it because we will lose our jobs,’ he said. Modi had criticised MNREGA and he has “no understanding” of the economy, he alleged.

“Wherever they (BJP) go, they make people fight, be it Hindu-Muslims, Jat-non Jat. A country cannot develop through division,” he said.

Police in forefront of tackling Pak sponsored terrorism in J&K: DGP

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Highlighting the multifarious duties being performed by Jammu & Kashmir Police, its chief Dilbagh Singh on Friday said the force has been in the forefront of tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and law and order situation in the State.

In addition to the fight against terrorism along with other security agencies, the force has been very effective in dealing with unlawful activities, Singh told a group of about 50 IPS officers from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad

here.

The probationary officers were given know-how about the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

“J&K Police is doing multifarious duties and is countering terrorism at different fronts and a large number of terrorists have been eliminated and huge quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized in last three decades,” the Director General of Police (DGP) said.

He said the force has been in the forefront of tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and law and order situations along with all


other security forces working in Jammu & Kashmir.

“Police personnel are doing multifarious tasks which include police bandobast (arrangements), investigation and providing various services to the general people. Besides the police personnel are doing other specialized works to check social crimes and handle social media, terror funding, OGW (overground worker) networks of terrorists and separatists,” the DGP said.

IGP (CRPF Administration) Kashmir Ravideep Sahi, DIG central

Kashmir V K Birdhi and other officers of CRPF and police were also present in the interactive session, a police spokesman said, adding a couple of days back, Additional Director General of Police, Armed, S J M Gillani also had an interactive session with the visiting officers.

While briefing the IPS probationers about the command structure and functioning of J&K Police, the ADGP highlighted the sacrifices given by the police for safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country besides safeguarding the life and property




JOIN INDIAN COAST GUARD

(MINISTRY OF DEFENCE)

AS NAVIK (DOMESTIC BRANCH) 10th ENTRY - 01/2020 BATCH

APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED 'ONLINE' FROM 30 Oct TO 08 Nov 2019



- Applications are invited from Indian male candidates possessing educational qualifications and age as prescribed below for recruitment to the post of Navik (Domestic Branch (Cook & Steward)) in the Indian Coast Guard, an Armed Force of the Union.
- Educational Qualification. 10th Class with 50% marks in aggregate from a board of Education recognised by Central/State Government. (5% relaxation in above minimum cut off will be given for SC/ST candidates and outstanding sports person of National level who have obtained 1st, 2nd or 3rd position in any field sports events at the Open National Championship/ Interstate National Championship. This relaxation will also be applicable to the wards of Coast Guard uniform personal deceased while in service).
- Job Requirements**
 - Cook** They would be required to prepare food as per menu (both vegetarian and non-vegetarian including handling of meat products) and accounting of ration. In addition, they will also be allotted other duties for efficient running of the organisation.
 - Steward** They would be required to serve food in the Officer's messes as waiters, housekeeping, maintenance and accounting of funds, wine and stores handling, preparation of menu etc. In addition, they will also be allotted other duties for efficient running of the organisation.
- Age** 18 to 22 years as on 01 Apr 2020 i.e. born between 01 Apr 1998 to 31 Mar 2002, both dates are inclusive. (Upper age relaxation of 5 years for SC/ST and 3 years for OBC candidates). Selection procedure includes written examination and physical fitness tests, followed by medical examination.
- Applications will be accepted 'Online' only from **30 Oct to 08 Nov 2019 till 1700 Hrs.** Candidates are to logon www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in The Recruitment Zone and State wise examination centres are listed below:-

Ser No.	Zone	Examination Centres	States-Candidates Residing/Domicile
(a)	Northern Zone	Noida	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh & Ladakh.
(b)	North-Eastern Zone	Kolkata	Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura.
(c)	Eastern Zone	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Union Territory of Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
(d)	Western Zone	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Kerala, Goa, Union Territory of Daman & Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.
(e)	North-West Zone	Gandhi Nagar	Gujrat

- Important Instructions.**
 - The candidates are to choose only one choice of Centre from the list mentioned against state to which they belong to. Indian Coast Guard reserves the right to cancel/re-conduct the examination of particular Centre/Centres any time or change the Centre of the candidates for administrative/other reasons.
 - Cut off percentage (%) of a particular state/centre will be decided depending upon the number of applications with higher percentage received.**
 - Last date for 'Online' applications is 08 Nov 2019 till 1700 Hrs. For detailed eligibility criteria, filling up of forms and other details download the full Advertisement from Indian Coast Guard website www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in**
 - Candidate needs to read the complete advertisement. Showing ignorance at the time of registration at examination centre and not meeting eligibility criteria will not be entertained.**

Disclaimer: The terms and condition given in this advertisement are subject to change and should therefore be treated as guidelines only. Details are also available on Indian Coast Guard website www.joinindiancoastguard.gov.in

* Candidates to see Coast Guard Recruitment Website for update. This is an indicative advertisement only.

CAUTION: SELECTION IN INDIAN COAST GUARD IS FAIR AND ON MERIT BASIS. CANDIDATE SHOULD NOT FALL PREY TO UNSCRUPULOUS PERSONS POSING AS RECRUITMENT AGENTS. FOR COMPLAINT AGAINST SUCH PERSONS / AGENTS, CANDIDATE MUST APPROACH THE DIRECTOR (RECRUITMENT) COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, RECRUITMENT CENTER, NOIDA ON TELEPHONE – 0120-2975817.

DAVP/10119/11/0021/1920

PAPER WITH PASSION

Unholy cow

Cow protectionism is turning counter-productive as nobody is owning responsibility for increased stray cattle



It is ironic that in the most heightened time of their protection and vigilantism, cows are becoming pariahs more than ever before. The increasing mechanisation at farms has meant that bulls are no longer needed for heavy-lifting except for reproductive purposes. A ban on cattle slaughter and sales at animal fairs, coupled with the fear of being booked by cow vigilantes on some pretext or the other, have meant that non-lactating cows are now a stressed asset in the farm economy. The cow has, therefore, dropped off the value chain and

many farmers, who frankly cannot afford the costly fodder, are turfing out the old and unproductive herd and abandoning them in open areas or outside village limits. In rural areas, this is creating havoc as starving bovines, out of sheer desperation, raid fields for food, their large numbers enough to wipe out crops of small holdings in no time. Fearing crop destruction, farmers have now added a night vigil on *machans* in their fields to their routine. Some farmers have even been driven to debts and depression with the sudden decimation of the season's produce. In the urban areas, wandering cattle are posing traffic hazards as they raid central verges for food and generally move around disoriented, causing traffic jams and accidents on busy roads. In the end, out of favour and unloved by their keepers, cow protection seems like a selfish human pursuit, good as long as the animals serve a purpose and evicted from a cultural consciousness, one that accords them the status of a mother or *Mata*, the moment they become unprofitable and old. Worse, dying out of starvation and thirst, theirs is a manufactured death routine. As it is, strict curbs on cow movement and use have meant that they are being substituted by buffaloes. With their castaway status following curbs, the indigenous cattle population has declined by 29 per cent from the last cow census seven years ago though that of the milch variety, including cross-breeds, is up by six per cent. *Rakshaks* are many for dead meat but there are none to save the cow. Or build a natural shelter where the old can be kept and fed to last out their lifetime.

Many cities have evolved their own ways to control stray cattle but they are mostly of a rudimentary nature, using cattle catchers to move them from one place to another. Cow sheds and *goshalas* are many, with new ones being set up following the government's renewed protectionism but are mostly unauthorised, overcrowded and closer to human settlements when they should be located near the outskirts to avoid man-animal conflicts. Besides, there must be a uniform code for dairies and sheds in both cities and villages, including the number of cattle and staff required to maintain them. For example, the longevity of their licences and permits must be correlated to the physical health of their cattle and ensuring they do not leave the precincts. Penalties for illegal dairies should be stricter, snapping their water and power lines. Besides, some corporations have also sought to impose fines on errant dairies who cannot rein in their herd and even barcoding cows to trace their keepers. State governments individually have resorted to their own methods. For example, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has decided to make sex-sorted bovine semen available in large quantities so that most offspring is female. Both Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have made abandonment a punishable offence. Yet it is the UP Government, the most driven on cow protection and which had appointed a committee, where policies have been counter-productive. Its committee had suggested practical solutions like a fodder bank, State subsidies for stray shelters, grants for animal upkeep, controlled prices for products prepared from excreta and even asking MPs and MLAs to commit a part of their funds for a higher cause. But even this framework fell prey to bureaucratic corruption. Just recently, the government had to suspend a District Magistrate and four officials for irregularities; they deliberately over-reported the number of cattle in a shelter to misuse public funds. If we are indeed serious about cow protection, then we better look at nurturing cow health and welfare as we would any human resource. For the BJP may promote itself as protector but banning cow slaughter has been encoded in Article 48 of the Constitution. To convert the sacredness of a fundamental duty into political tokenism is the greatest disservice to Kamadhenu, the mother of all cows.

Bangla firing

On the face of it, the BSF-BGB shootout seems to be over smuggling but we cannot let it escalate for strategic reasons



Cross-border firing is something we associate with Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC). So when such a flare-up happens on our eastern borders, considering that the 4,000 km-long India-Bangladesh boundary has largely been peaceful for two decades, then it is a matter of concern. As it turns out, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) opened fire at the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, who had gone for a flag meeting to discuss the arrest of an Indian fisherman.

A BSF head constable died while another trooper got wounded. Though the authorities on both sides were quick to intervene and neutralise the situation, describing it as a one-off aberration, it did remind us of the 2001 armed conflict between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that led to the deaths of 15 of our jawans and three of theirs. Coming as it does in the wake of the just-concluded meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, during which the two countries struck crucial deals to further strengthen bilateral relations, and which has been largely cordial, questions arise if this was motivated. Speculations are rife if this was done to undercut the success of the recent trip where both sides smoothened some creases that had crept into the relationship in recent times. Truth be told, Dhaka has been a valuable ally in helping India build bridges with the Islamic world. Sheikh Hasina has largely been responsible for reining in militant groups operating along fluid border stretches. She has also negotiated the tricky binary between India and China by calling our ties organic and the latter economic. It is in acknowledgement that India has not only embarked on a new phase of economic cooperation with Hasina but has also promised that no immigrant, who doesn't make the cut in the National Register for Citizens (NRC), will be repatriated to Bangladesh. Perhaps, this incident was intended to tarnish her "win-win" sheen. The Opposition BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) has been demonising her latest visit to India and the deals as "anti-state" and a "sellout."

This incident has also shed light on the larger issue of border management, which remains a challenge due to smuggling of fish, narcotics, cross-border human trafficking, cattle thefts and gun-running by cartels on both sides. Though cooperation on this has taken off with both sides conducting meetings biennially, they need to adopt a more humanitarian and interactive approach. The current shootout should not be allowed to aggravate and propel hostilities in a relationship which will get complex in a multi-polar world.



DEBASHISH BHATTACHARYYA

Political parties are central to the functioning of a representative democracy because a multi-party system generates different policy options for the public. The options thus considered are aimed at fulfilling the interests and aspirations of the electorate. The Opposition, especially inter-party coalitions, is a key concept in a liberal democracy. However, interestingly, political parties have one function in common: All of them seek political power to form a Government or to take the role of the Opposition.

The 2019 Lok Sabha elections are over. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) roaring success in both 2014 and 2019 parliamentary elections has made it the largest party, the Congress has been facing debacle after debacle in successive elections. In this year's general election, the BJP won 303 seats and along with its allies, the NDA took its tally to 352 seats. The United Progressive Alliance-led Congress was reduced to 91 seats with it barely crossing the half-century mark with 52 seats. With the BJP's winning percentage reaching 70 per cent (it contested in 437 seats and won 303 of them), the main Opposition party, the Congress, stared at a major existential crisis. The BJP's spectacular win has left the Opposition, the Congress in particular, weak, clueless and irrelevant.

But why is the Opposition so significant? Its importance lies not just in providing a means to express negative reaction to the Government's decisions but to also tirelessly hold the ruling party to account, offer constructive criticism and project a progressive alternative to the Government. On this front, the Congress lacks comprehensive strategy and stamina to take on the might of the BJP's power duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

It's true that people are often accused of seeing the world the way they want it to be rather than how it is. But do we really need binoculars to see the fall of a once great political party? Leaders from the top-level to the low-rung as well as legislators have been quitting the Congress. The prominent among them are airing their views against the party line. Indications are also there of deep intra-party disputes and conflicts. On a close look, however, one will find the real reason why the leaders took the decision to leave the party/air views. And it wouldn't be surprising for those who have a grasp of the reality.

Last April, I had mentioned in an article titled, *Congress Needs to Make a Comeback for Democracy to Sustain Itself*: "In the world's largest democracy, the shrinking political space of a 133-year-old national party is as disconcerting for the party as it is for democracy itself. And, therefore, the Congress' revival is crucial for the nation and challenging for its party leadership. The task is made tougher as sub-optimal leadership faces the task of rebuilding the party and restructuring its shattered image and appeal."

Prime Minister Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should steal ideas from the Congress' Lok Sabha poll manifesto to tackle the economic mess.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



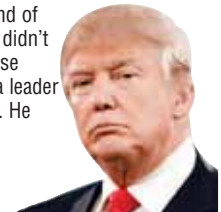
In the age of digital streaming and social media that is slowly but surely isolating us, MAMI binds us without boundaries, inhibitions and fear.

Actor
—Deepika Padukone



He (Erdogan) is a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He did the right thing.

US President
—Donald Trump



India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the wider region. The Army will continue to partner with friends to confront any kind of emerging threat.

Army Chief
—Gen Bipin Rawat



SOUNDBITE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wait for the verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Ayodhya closure" (October 18). A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has reserved its verdict on one of the most sensitive case of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute in Ayodhya. What will follow next is a race against time as the verdict will be delivered in a month's time before Gogoi demits office.

In a democracy, any judicial verdict is premised on facts, which entail reliable evidence, satisfactory proof and eyewitnesses. If indeed a settlement is reached, it will be a victory for parties concerned and the mediators, too. Whatever decision the court takes must be accepted gracefully.

Finally, the country must move out from its past and focus on more important issues pertaining to the economy. The young generation is faced with a serious unemployment crisis. We need a strong economy and not court cases.

Azhar A Khan
Rampur

India's hunger crisis calls for a policy overhaul

This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). Identical findings by the 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and UNICEF's report titled, 'The State of the World's Children 2019' prove beyond doubt that the incidence of malnutrition is alarmingly high in India. They also underline the enormous task before the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), which was launched last year, to fulfill its goal of a "malnutrition-free India" by 2022. That India is among the worst-performing countries on the acute under-nutrition parameter is particularly worrying. Further, over 90 per cent of the children aged between six months and two years are not fed a "minimally acceptable diet." UNICEF data put the stunting rate among India's under-fives at 37.9 per cent, an abysmal index that would be unacceptable for any country.

It is a proven fact that the diet — during the first 1,000 days after conception — lays the foundation for a child's physical growth and mental development. A proper diet in the early stages of life is half the battle won. Quality food and in adequate quantity is vital for a child's immunity and cognitive development. Malnutrition is most often a product of poverty, poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to clean water and igno-

Strict vigilance needed

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Lessons from PMC" (October 17). The purpose of setting up cooperative banks was to further economic development and social

life of the people. While these banks have been able to fulfill their role partially, a major impediment has been the elected members of borrowers, who are more concerned about furthering their own interests.

Cooperative banks offer



rance. It follows that the economic malaise afflicting the country has to be fought to make the fight against "serious levels of hunger" a success. It is a paradox of our times that while granaries overflow, people go hungry. Hunger at a time when more than the required food is available is a failure of the system to deliver. This calls for a strict implementation of the existing policies to ensure that the country's children are given nutritious food.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

attractive deposit rates than commercial banks and this is why they strive on an ecosystem of small business, traders and petty service providers. In a country like ours, where financial literacy is not so high, it is essential that all banks come

under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Central bank must maintain a strict vigil and audit all ailing banks so that scams like PMC never happen again and the faith of the depositor remains intact.

Harvinder Singh Chugh
Via email

Hunger challenge

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). It is unfortunate that despite being the second-largest food producer, India ranks poorly on the hunger levels. To tackle the problem, there is a need for the Government to increase the budget for children's health.

The problem is all the more complex because the food basket differs from region to region. It is, therefore, essential that we have an efficient integrated system for food production, processing, preservation and distribution which can cater to the changing tastes of the nation.

Srishti Mathur
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Why Cong owes an answer

The Congress minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka is thinkable but Indian politics without it is unthinkable. The grand old party may be critically weakened but not wrecked as yet



One and a half years later, the Congress' state of affairs is even worse than what people had feared. I had earlier explained the to-do list for the grand old party, which remains prerequisite till date.

■ The stark reality is that the Congress has, for far too long, functioned as an autocrat, denying many deserving party functionaries their rightful place in the organisation. Loyalty towards individuals doesn't necessarily imply loyalty towards the party. It should take serious note of it.

■ An internally-democratic political party is always good for a democracy. And, therefore, establishing intra-party democratic norms is no longer an option but a necessity. It's likely to prevent disintegration of the party, make politicians accountable and encourage meaningful deliberation.

■ It should get rid of self-seeking and corrupt old guards. There are capable young leaders, who can flush out the party's old, withered arteries.

■ Short-term political advantages have always assured long-term political disadvantages. Compromising politics had the Congress falling from 364 out of 489 Lok Sabha seats in the first-ever general election in 1952 to 44 out of 545 in 2014. While people's expectations from the party are really low, the need for it to rise has never been greater.

Change is as constant a fea-

“FOR THE CONGRESS, THERE ARE ENOUGH POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES. IT'S JUST ABOUT HOW TO MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY FIT, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. IT'S ABOUT SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RIGHT EARNEST AND AT THE RIGHT TIME”

ture in politics as it is in life, it is said. Those who resist such a change will find themselves pushing against a sea of opinion and positioned on the wrong side of history.

Most relevant for present-day Congress is an observation by Mohammed Ayoob, Professor, Michigan State University, who writes that even after two major electoral debacles, the dynasty refuses to give up control and deliberately fails to realise that it is destroying the chances of the Congress bouncing back. The equation of the party with the family has destroyed any possibility of its renaissance.

Buoyed by its stupendous victory in this year's parliamentary elections when the BJP is gearing up for the 2024 general election, targeting 333 MPs, the Congress is seen as a small, snivelling, struggling party. As a matter of fact, the Congress' decline began years ago but accelerated in 2014 with the election of Narendra Modi.

It's not that the BJP-led NDA Government is running flawlessly. Apart from the economic mess, the political culture born out of the personality cult, ultra-nationalism and hate politics concerns the common man the most. Besides, the Government has failed to address other critical issues: From agrarian distress to unemployment to dissatisfaction among the urban middle classes and the poor. India's rank in

the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has slipped further — from 95 in 2010 to 117 this year.

So, for the Congress, there are enough political opportunities. It's just about how to make an opportunity fit, not the other way around. It's about seizing opportunities in right earnest and at the right time.

By giving the reins of the party again to a family member, the Congress might have arrested disintegration within but it will commit a grave mistake if it thinks that it can emerge stronger anytime soon. The party leadership must recognise that something far bigger and deeper is at work in the intra-party realm of politics. In the prevailing political culture, for the Congress, if it wishes to be an alternative to the BJP, even disintegration would be a better option if a wider acceptability of the younger generation eludes the party rank and file.

INC, minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka, is thinkable but Indian politics minus the Congress is unthinkable and if indeed it happens, it would be sad and may be the most unfortunate turn, which may forever change who we are. The Congress may be critically weakened but it is not wrecked as yet.

(The writer is former Deputy General Manager, India International Centre, New Delhi, and General Manager, International Centre, Goa)

FIRST COLUMN

More to this than meets the eye

The Turkish-Syrian border drama could have been masterminded by Russia to get USA out and restore the Assad Govt's control over eastern Syria



GWYNNE DYER

Russia and its Syrian ally Bashar al-Assad win, the Kurds lose, and the United States (US) leaves in disgrace. It has been a hectic few days on the Turkish-Syrian border. After a phone call with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on October 7, Donald Trump abruptly abandoned America's Kurdish allies in Syria. As US troops pulled out of their positions along Syria's northern border, where they had been protecting the Kurds from a Turkish attack, Erdogan moved fast. The Turkish President declared that he would take over a big chunk of northern Syria to drive out the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-dominated militia that has been America's key ally in the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS). Erdogan described the SDF as "terrorists" and a threat to Turkey but they are nothing of the sort.

Syrian Kurds are the majority population in the border region with Turkey. They created the SDF to resist the ISIS' attempts to conquer the region five years ago, after the Syrian regular army pulled out of the region to fight rebels elsewhere in the country. The SDF became America's key local ally in the fight against the ISIS. Over 10,000 Kurds died in that war, while the US gave them air support. By the end of last year they had destroyed ISIS and the whole region was at peace. The local Kurds and their Arab neighbours were running it themselves. The Kurds did want autonomy within Syria but they never demanded independence and they have made no attacks on Turkey, terrorist or otherwise. So why did Erdogan want to attack them?

Erdogan is paranoid about the Kurds, because one-fifth of Turkey's own population are ethnic Kurds, and some of them have waged a guerrilla and terrorist struggle for decades, seeking an independent state. Other Kurdish minorities in the region, including those in Syria, are not at war with the Turks but Erdogan didn't like having the Kurdish-run SDF on his border.

Turkey invaded last Saturday and after about 36 hours the despairing Syrian Kurds did the obvious thing: they asked the Syrian army to come back and save them. They don't love Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad, but it's better than being invaded by Turkey and losing their homes permanently.

But there was something puzzling about all this. Why would Assad's Russian allies approve a Syrian army move that might bring it into direct conflict with the Turkish army? After all, Vladimir Putin has been courting Erdogan as a potential ally (even though Turkey is currently a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member).

The Syrian army is now driving back into the northeastern part of the country unopposed by the SDF. They will re-occupy the whole region (which is Syrian sovereign territory). The Syrian Kurds may still be able to negotiate an autonomy deal with Damascus, on the grounds that they are Syria's only non-Arab minority. In any case, they have no other alternative.

Erdogan can either back down and be humiliated, or he can press on and risk a war not only with the Syrian army but also the Russian air force. That's the way it looks on the surface and maybe that's all that's going on here. But we must also consider the possibility that the whole thing has been a charade, masterminded by the Russians, to get the Americans out of Syria and restore the Assad Government's control over all of eastern Syria.

First, Erdogan puts the frighteners on Trump in the famous phone-call, and Trump abandons the Kurds and starts pulling the US troops out. Then Erdogan launches the threatened invasion, and the Syrian Kurds understandably panic and make a deal with Damascus.

The Syrian army returns to the northern border for the first time in five years without having to fire a shot, carefully avoiding the points along the border where the Turks have already entered the country. Erdogan declares a ceasefire and eventually withdraws his troops, stating that he is satisfied that the Kurdish "threat" has been ended because the Syrian army, not the SDF, now controls the border. Even Iran is satisfied, because this eliminates the possibility that the US forces could be an obstacle to its planned secure corridor across Syria to Lebanon.

There's no proof of this but it makes sense. The Russians are smart enough and Trump is inept or compromised enough. It would explain why the Russians looked like they were backing the Syrians at the risk of alienating their new Turkish friend. Maybe there was no risk. Maybe Erdogan was in on the deal.

And don't worry about a revival of the ISIS. For the thousands of ISIS fighters now held prisoner by the Kurds, there can be no worse fate than falling into the hands of the Syrian army.

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

THE CONGRESS PARTY, WHEN THE BILL CAME IN PARLIAMENT ON ARTICLE 370, WHEN DISCUSSIONS CAME UP, VOTED FOR IT, NOT AGAINST IT.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER

MANMOHAN SINGH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



IN THE PAST SINGH SUPPRESSED FACTS AND PROVIDED COVER FOR THE CONGRESS. IT DOES NOT BEHOVE A FORMER PM TO MISREPRESENT FACTS.

—BJP SOCIAL MEDIA CELL CHIEF

AMIT MALVIYA

Fuelling new partnerships

India must broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production, to cover arrangements with other nations for assured supplies of crude and gas



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite loud talk by successive Governments about increasing domestic production of oil and gas to make India self-sufficient in energy, we are producing less than 20 per cent of our requirement. The balance, over 80 per cent, continues to be imported. This heightens our vulnerability to a point whereby the slightest disruption in any of the major sources of imports (be it imposition of sanctions by the US against Iran or an attack on oil installations in Saudi Arabia) creates major ripples that have the potential to destabilise the country's economy.

The problem is not lack of resources. India has 26 Sedimentary Basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.14 million square kilometres (sq km). But, the lack of a conducive policy environment and cumbersome regulatory processes have deterred global firms (who have the technology, expertise and capital) from investing in their exploration, development and commercialisation. At present, only six SBs covering 0.518 million sq km or barely 16 per cent of the total area are under commercial exploitation. Even these six SBs are sub-optimally utilised.

An overwhelming share of throughput comes from fields discovered over four decades ago in the 1970s, namely Bombay High and the South Bassin fields and so on, with no major discoveries in recent times. The only exception were finds in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin in the early 2000s, touted as ones that would contribute nearly 50 per cent of the country's total gas production. Even that turned out to be a damp squib with the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) ending up with meagre reserves of about two trillion cubic feet (Tcf) against an initial estimate of 10 Tcf.

The Narendra Modi Government has tried to entice global energy giants by assuring a higher price for difficult deep/ultra-deep water fields on the one hand and giving flexibility to operators in choosing new areas with freedom of pricing and marketing under the 2017 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) on the other. It has also tried to simplify processes for approval and reduce bureaucratic red tape. But controls on supply, distribution and use remain, even as multiple pricing regimes, depending on the supply source and hydrocarbon type, give confusing signals.

In the absence of any major breakthrough in securing a jump in production from fields already given under the 1999 New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) and given the lukewarm response to the first three rounds of bidding held under HELP, it is unlikely that India would be able to reduce dependence on imports even by 10 per cent as committed by the Modi Government. The Centre will, therefore, need to explore other options for meeting the country's oil and gas requirements.

The first option involves sourcing a major share of requirements under long-term arrangements with exporters, leaving a small gap, say 10-15 per cent, for buying spot to take advantage of price fluctuations, depending on global-demand supply at any given time.

India being the third-largest importer of oil and gas, we may leverage this to negotiate better prices. Joining hands with another major

“THE MODI GOVERNMENT SHOULD ORCHESTRATE ITS STRATEGY COMBINING THE BEST OF ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS LIKE BOOSTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLIES, LETTING GLOBAL OIL MAJORS OWN EQUITY IN THE COUNTRY'S REFINERS AND RETAILERS AND INDIAN COMPANIES ACQUIRING OIL ASSETS ABROAD FOR ENSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF CRUDE AND GAS TO MEET OUR GROWING REQUIREMENTS ON A SUSTAINED BASIS”



buyer, say China, could further improve the country's bargaining power (but this is easier said than done). However, the threat of disruption always remains; due to the *force majeure* clause in such tie-ups.

A second alternative is for Indian companies to pick up equity stakes in foreign oil and gas assets with arrangements for buy-back. For instance, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), holds participating interest in over 40 assets in 20 countries. RIL, too, acquired assets in several jurisdictions. But this route is subject to a huge downside risk of erosion in the value of investment — as already experienced by both RIL and OVL.

A third alternative is one in which global behemoths such as Aramco — the Saudi Arabian Government-owned biggest petro giant and the world's largest oil exporter — pick up stake in Indian companies which are focussed on refining and marketing of oil products. This route is free from the vulnerabilities inherent under the above two options.

Already, in sync with Saudi Arabia's intent to invest \$ 100 billion in India's downstream sector, including refining, petrochemicals, retailing and so on, Aramco has proposed to acquire 25 per cent equity in the \$ 60 billion West Coast refinery (another 25 per cent will come from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company-Adnoc) and petrochemical project in Maharashtra in which the other 50 per cent will be owned by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

It is also contemplating picking up 20 per cent equity in oil and gas assets of RIL. The most crucial feature of this partnership/joint venture is assured supply of crude oil by Aramco to meet 50 per cent of the requirement of the West Coast refinery. The arrangement is mutually beneficial. While, on one hand, India gets what it needs the most, that is crude in desired quantities on a long-term basis without any disruption, on the other, Saudi Arabia also gets what it needs the most, which is an opportunity to diversify its sources of income, thereby reducing its over-dependence on crude alone. There could not be a more apt example of the two countries exploiting synergies to the advantage of both.

Indian companies can pursue similar arrangements with other major suppliers of crude oil like Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who will also be very keen to reduce their over-dependence on crude alone and make their economies immune to vulnerabilities resulting from price fluctuations.

From our perspective, even if there is loss of output in their crude production facilities, being a co-owner in Indian firms, they won't cut supplies to the country. To take it a step further, the Government may even consider divesting its entire stake in oil refining and marketing PSUs to strategic investors who have ownership and control over crude assets.

As part of its ambitious programme of disinvestment to garner ₹105,000 crore during the current year, it has

decided to divest all of its 53.3 per cent shareholding in BPCL. If, it is sold to say Aramco or Adnoc, this will not only yield a whopping ₹57,000 crore (at current market capitalisation of ₹107,000 crore) but also ensure assured supplies of crude.

The Modi Government may also consider sale of HPCL — at present owned by ONGC which in turn is majority-owned by itself — to global energy majors. The sale of BPCL and HPCL won't face any legal hurdles as the relevant legislations, which led to the creation of these PSUs, have already been repealed in 2016.

While, pursuing these initiatives, India's political class needs to broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production to cover arrangements for assured supplies of crude from all sources. It also needs to unshackle itself from the "socialist era" mindset that crucial assets such as oil must necessarily be owned by PSUs. In a world where supply chains are globally integrated, the focus should be on how best our economic interests are served rather than worrying about ownership.

The Modi Government should orchestrate its strategy combining the best of all available options like boosting domestic production, long-term contracts for supplies, letting global oil majors own equity in the country's refiners and retailers and Indian companies acquiring oil assets abroad for ensuring adequate supplies of crude and gas to meet our growing requirements on a sustained basis.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Vital tools in India's healthcare delivery

While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a largescale impact



NIKHILESH TIWARI

Successful healthcare delivery depends both on the availability of personnel and technologies. Medical devices are an important cog in the delivery system as they equip health service providers with the necessary tools to perform their job effectively. Though the country's healthcare industry has grown significantly over the last decade, our health ecosystem is plagued by the lack of availability and affordability of quality services. In fact, India lags behind Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa and a number of other developing countries in this regard. While technological advancements have expanded to encompass almost every stage of the healthcare contin-

uum, accessibility and democratic availability remains a hurdle. India faces a dual challenge as the rising burden of lifestyle diseases is added to the burden of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Non-communicable diseases are currently responsible for 61 per cent of the deaths in the country, a number that is only set to go up in the coming years. While both the Government and private participants have undertaken several measures to address the lack of quality services, these efforts have been executed in discrete silos.

In this scenario, medical appliances play a key role in offering better screening, diagnosis and treatment along with restoration and monitoring of health indicators to boost prevention. While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a large scale impact.

Technology has improved the complexity and accuracy of screening

of diseases. Portable/point-of-care accessories have made it possible to improve diagnostic mechanisms at the primary healthcare level, provide care at home and resulted in improved health outcomes and patient satisfaction. It has also improved the access to quality care in underserved and remote regions, while also making it possible for patients to avail treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities.

Technological advancements in surgical equipment have enabled doctors to treat highly complex and critical cases and reduce the length of extended hospital stays. It has increasingly made it possible for elective and complex operations such as knee replacement and bariatric surgery to be moved to short stay/outpatient surgery centres. For example, laproscopic surgery procedures remarkably improve outcomes; reduce length of hospital stays as well as cost of treatment.

Rehabilitative centres and hospitals are making it easier for patients to recuperate and return to a relatively

normal life with the help of advanced restorative and assistive devices. Advancements in curative technology have also allowed people with disabilities to lead productive lives.

Advancements in screening devices have enabled patients to monitor their condition at home, keeping a close track on all major health indicators. Furthermore, smart appliances are being increasingly used to remotely monitor patients and diagnose life-threatening conditions early, reducing the need for hospital visits and bringing down the pressure on overburdened healthcare centres.

However, there is a need for a more congenial ecosystem for indigenous manufacturers as medical technology is a significant contributor to the cost of healthcare delivery. According to conservative estimates, medical equipment contributes to at least 30 per cent of the capital of setting up a secondary or tertiary care center. Moreover, diagnostics and medical devices contribute to at least 20 per cent of the cost of medical services. Unfortunately, the

ecosystem is not very conducive for the sector to drive affordability and accessibility. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on devices currently stands at 12 per cent. On the other hand, customs duty is low. This tax policy negatively impacts indigenous production and supports imports, which is counter-intuitive to the 'Make in India' initiative. As the inverted duty structure favors bringing in finished goods over raw material, imports constitute 75 per cent of the industry's sales. As a result, local manufacturers make products at the lower end of the value chain.

The Government must consider revising its tax policy to help local manufacturers gain a larger share of the market. This will also help them make products at more affordable costs.

With a changing regulatory and economic environment, the medical device sector is set to grow in the future and there are a range of factors fuelling it. According to estimates, non-communicable diseases will cause

75 per cent of the deaths in the country by 2025, with an increasing number of people suffering from diabetes, heart disease and progressive lung diseases. The geriatric population is also set to increase and would require a higher need for quality healthcare and medical devices, both at homes and health facilities.

Apart from devising a more congenial tax structure, the country needs to strengthen its regulatory mechanisms and testing procedures to ensure highest standards of quality are met. According to news reports, the NITI Aayog has prepared a roadmap to ensure better regulation of medical equipment under which all devices — imported or locally manufactured — will have to be certified by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). While improving regulation is welcome, the authorities must ensure that the process remains smooth, hassle-free and fast.

(The writer is director of a medical device marketing and distribution company)



FOREIGN EYE



BACK THE GREEN NEW DEAL

For many years, the World Bank and the IMF were the international manifestation of the New Deal. They backed expansionary economic policies and were mindful of the rights of individual countries to govern. There are now proposals, backed by the UN, for a global Green New Deal. It would be a good thing for global economy, the planet and for their own long-term prospects, if the IMF and World Bank chose to back the idea.

(The Guardian editorial)

Sensex, Nifty log longest rising streak since mid-March

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equities rose for the sixth straight session on Friday, the longest gaining streak since mid-March, boosted by unabated foreign fund inflows and positive Brexit developments.

The BSE benchmark Sensex closed 246.32 points or 0.63 per cent higher at 39,298.38. It hit an intra-day high of 39,361.06 and a low of 38,963.60.

The NSE gauge Nifty too rose 75.50 points or 0.65 per cent to settle at 11,661.85.

Both benchmark indices also posted their second consecutive weekly rise.

During the week, the Sensex advanced 1,171.30 points or 3.07 per cent, and the Nifty gained 356.80 points or 3.15 per cent.

Yes Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying up to 8.44 per cent, followed by Maruti, PowerGrid, NTPC, L&T and SBI.

On the other hand, Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Infosys fell up to 1.05 per cent.

PSU stocks were in huge demand on Friday, led by BHEL, in-tandem with a bullish broader market trend.

On the BSE, shares of BHEL, Hindustan Copper,

GOLD FALLS ON WEAK GLOBAL TRENDS

New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices on Friday declined ₹145 to ₹38,925 per 10 gram in the national capital on weak global trends and a strong rupee, as per HDFC Securities. On Thursday, the precious metal had closed at ₹39,070 per 10 gram . Silver also lost ground and fell by ₹315 to ₹46,325 per kg from the previous close of ₹46,640 per kg. In the international market, gold was ruling lower at USD 1,488 an ounce and silver at USD 17.46 per ounce.

MMTC, Shipping Corporation of India and National Aluminium Company climbed.

Also, SAIL along with NBCC, NMDC, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, SJVN and Oil India also advanced.

“BHEL closed up by 22.2 per cent today as news emerged that government is looking to reduce its stake from 63.2 per cent to 26 per cent in the company. Based on the strategic stake sale news of BHEL, other PSUs such as Hindustan Copper, SAIL etc also rallied today in anticipation of government reducing its stake in them as well,” said Jaipal Shetty, fundamental analyst at Bonanza Portfolio.

Shares of Reliance Industries ended 1.37 per cent higher ahead of its quarterly earnings, scheduled to be announced later in the day.

RIL’s market valuation zoomed to ₹9,05,214 crore on

five trading sessions, while domestic institutional investors poured in USD 263 million into stock market.

FIIs purchased 1,158.63 crore shares on Thursday, stock exchange data showed.

Market experts also said that investor sentiment was upbeat after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hinted at further stimulus in FY20.

Meanwhile, the rupee closed almost flat at 71.14 per US dollar on Friday amid hardening crude oil prices and lacklustre global cues.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.12 per cent to USD 59.98 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended on a negative note after data showed that Chinese economy expanded at its slowest pace in nearly three decades in the third quarter. Exchanges in Tokyo, however, settled in the green.

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

Britain and the European Union have struck an outline Brexit deal after prolonged negotiations.

The deal, however, must still be formally approved by the bloc and ratified by the European and UK parliaments.

RIL first Indian co to hit ₹9L cr m-cap mark

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Friday added another feather to its cap by becoming the first Indian firm to hit the ₹9 lakh crore market valuation mark in intra-day trade.

The company’s market valuation zoomed to ₹9,05,214 crore on the BSE during the day. However, at close of trade, the company’s market capitalisation (m-cap) settled at ₹8,97,179.47 crore. Shares of the country’s most valued company rose by 1.37 per cent to close at ₹1,415.30 ahead of its earnings announcement. During the day, it spurred 2.28 per cent to a record ₹1,428.

In August 2018, RIL became the first domestic firm to cross the ₹8 lakh crore mark in terms of market valuation.

TCS is the second most valuable company after RIL with a m-cap of ₹7,19,996.87 crore, followed by HDFC Bank (₹6,72,466.30 crore), HUL (₹4,55,952.72 crore), HDFC (₹3,61,801.97 crore), Infosys (₹3,29,751.88 crore), Kotak Mahindra Bank (₹3,08,708.32 crore), ITC (₹3,02,861.98 crore), ICICI Bank (₹2,82,783.39 crore) and Bajaj Finance (₹2,39,947.60 crore) in the top-10 list. The m-cap figures of companies change daily with stock price movement.

Levi’s expands presence in small towns, strengthens base in metros

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premium denim company Levi Strauss & Co is expanding retail presence in small towns, which it considers as one of the pillars of growth in India, said a top company official.

Besides, the company is strengthening its base in metro and tier I cities by building larger stores.

“Our tier II, III & IV strategy is to continue to expand our reach to the consumer in the market. It’s one of the critical pillars for expansion in the market and growth for India,” Levi Strauss Managing Director (South Asia, Middle East &

North Africa) Sanjeev Mohanty told PTI. According to him, small towns are “one of the key drivers” for the Indian market, which has large number of millionaires.

Levi’s premium assortments and collaborations as Hello Kitty, Super Mario Bros and special assortments as Levi’s made and crafted would cater to metro markets. The company is registering a good growth in women’s segment and expects this trend to continue.

Levi’s brand, which is present in the country since 25 years, has a network of over 450 retail stores and most of them are operated by its franchise partners. The company has a

mixed omni channel retail presence here and is witnessing two to three times higher growth rate from online sales channels as the base is low and is attracting new set of customers.

When asked about the growth in the Indian market, he said Asian market grew around 12 per cent last year and India is keeping pace with that growth. “India is definitely among the top 10 markets globally and from volume point of view, we are among the top five markets,” he said.

According to Mohanty, earlier when the company started to expand, the focus was on tier I and top 20 cities only but now things are changing.

Sebi to auction Sai Prasad Group’s 200 properties

New Delhi (PTI): Markets regulator Sebi on Friday said it will auction nearly 200 properties of Sai Prasad Group firms and three of its directors next month in order to recover funds worth thousands of crores raised by the entity through illicit collective investment schemes.

The regulator has been auctioning properties of the group’s companies and their directors for the past two years. Besides, it has put up on sale, jewellery, ornaments and other valuables of Sai Prasad Group.

In separate notices, Sebi said it will auction 90 properties in Madhya Pradesh, 62 in Odisha and 46 in Maharashtra at a total reserve price of over ₹74 crore. The auction will be conducted

on November 22.

The companies whose properties will be auctioned are Sai Prasad Corporation, Sai Prasad Properties and Sai Prasad Foods, while the directors are Balasaheb Bhapkar, Shashank Bhapkar and Vandana Bhapkar. The properties to go under the hammer include agricultural land, land parcels, office space and commercial premises across the three states.

The regulator has asked the intending bidders to make their own independent enquiries regarding the measurement, nature, type, classifications, encumbrances, litigations, attachments and liabilities of the properties put on auction.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11580.30	11684.70	11553.15	11661.85	75.50	
YESBANK	46.60	52.70	46.00	51.30	3.90	
COALINDIA	198.80	206.50	197.75	206.00	6.60	
ADANIPORTS	410.00	423.80	408.00	422.00	13.05	
MARUTI	7081.30	7450.00	7061.65	7350.00	226.10	
GRASIM	725.50	749.00	718.30	746.00	21.45	
NESTLEIND	14519.10	14943.35	14403.30	14900.00	383.15	
POWERGRID	197.70	203.25	197.00	202.50	4.80	
IT	1428.00	1457.00	1425.40	1452.00	27.65	
BPCL	510.00	534.90	506.75	523.90	9.70	
TITAN	1278.00	1305.00	1274.05	1301.25	24.20	
NTPC	118.80	121.50	118.40	120.90	2.20	
INFRATEL	256.80	263.00	254.00	261.55	4.60	
SBIN	264.40	271.35	263.20	269.20	3.75	
RELIANCE	1404.00	1427.90	1398.70	1416.00	19.50	
TCS	2037.50	2063.90	2022.00	2059.00	28.05	
TECHM	724.45	737.75	722.70	734.35	10.00	
ONGC	140.10	144.50	139.90	142.90	1.50	
UPL	591.00	603.50	588.50	598.00	6.05	
VEDL	148.40	152.20	147.80	149.75	1.45	
BAIFINANCE	410.00	419.00	408.00	413.90	32.20	
HDFCBANK	1225.45	1233.85	1220.35	1229.00	9.00	
KOTAKBANK	1603.80	1619.60	1591.00	1616.00	11.45	
HEROMOTOCO	2629.00	2662.05	2605.85	2645.00	15.80	
GAIL	128.50	134.00	127.80	129.50	0.75	
TATASTEEL	355.95	362.80	351.75	357.70	1.60	
WIPRO	247.85	250.70	247.85	248.80	0.95	
HDFC	2089.00	2102.00	2065.10	2096.00	6.25	
BRITANNIA	3227.85	3259.20	3222.55	3257.20	9.35	
ULTRACEMCO	4268.70	4363.00	4255.60	4272.20	11.75	
ASIANPAINT	1815.00	1824.45	1786.70	1816.80	4.50	
ITC	246.00	247.80	245.10	246.35	0.50	
HINDUNILVR	2100.00	2116.00	2090.70	2108.00	4.15	
GLT	1094.95	1105.45	1088.40	1094.95	1.90	
M&M	589.00	595.50	583.60	594.20	0.90	
AXISBANK	709.85	715.70	705.25	710.35	0.05	
INDUSINDBK	1332.00	1361.70	1317.10	1338.50	-1.60	
SUNPHARMA	401.00	406.50	397.50	400.95	-0.55	
DREDDY	2720.00	2744.95	2710.05	2722.00	-5.40	
INFY	763.80	773.80	760.00	767.50	-2.00	
JSWSTEEL	821.20	825.20	820.30	822.15	-0.80	
BAJAJFINSV	8316.00	8437.60	8230.00	8285.00	-31.65	
IOC	146.10	148.20	144.75	145.55	-0.85	
BHARTIARTL	384.95	386.40	380.50	383.30	-2.55	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3119.00	3119.95	3075.00	3090.00	-21.50	
ICICIBANK	437.70	443.70	435.25	437.10	-3.50	
HINDALCO	187.95	191.35	186.65	186.85	-1.95	
EICHERMOT	20680.00	20680.00	20065.10	20226.15	-265.70	
CPIA	448.00	451.15	440.10	440.20	-6.10	
TATAMOTORS	139.00	141.80	135.60	136.60	-2.90	
ZEEL	248.30	262.75	239.55	249.70	-14.75	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27665.20	28065.10	27605.50	28014.15	386.55	
IBULHSGFIN	198.00	259.95	196.50	235.20	37.25	
NMDC	106.95	111.50	102.70	109.80	7.60	
HDFCAMC	227.95	292.85	267.10	288.60	168.75	
PEL	1460.00	1577.40	1443.00	1544.85	76.00	
GICRE	262.00	289.95	254.70	277.45	13.25	
ASHOKLEY	73.80	78.25	73.05	77.05	3.55	
NIACL	139.80	155.00	130.00	142.70	6.10	
BERGEPAINT	488.00	506.00	487.30	505.15	18.65	
NHPC	23.50	24.10	23.25	24.10	0.80	
PFC	95.20	98.50	94.90	98.10	2.95	
DLF	163.60	169.60	162.80	168.45	4.60	
SBILIFE	905.80	930.00	899.00	927.10	24.20	
AUROPHARMA	470.00	485.45	468.35	477.60	11.15	
SRTRANSFIN	1062.10	1106.40	1058.10	1095.70	25.45	
SREEMATH	1894.00	1879.90	1822.10	1860.00	409.65	
PNB	58.90	60.70	58.50	60.35	1.30	
HINDZINC	213.10	218.90	212.00	216.10	4.55	
LUPIN	726.50	746.15	722.85	739.80	13.30	
SIEMENS	1625.55	1656.00	1620.20	1650.00	27.45	
CONCOR	599.00	620.40	595.20	609.25	9.85	
BAJAJHLING	3688.95	3745.00	3670.05	3744.70	58.55	
IDEA	6.35	6.60	6.25	6.40	0.10	
PETRONET	262.95	267.95	262.60	266.95	4.00	
CADILAH	236.80	242.90	236.70	241.20	3.40	
PGHH	11700.00	11839.00	11560.65	11850.00	156.20	
MARICO	387.75	392.90	385.50	392.50	4.95	
BOSCHLTD	14081.90	14389.00	14062.10	14170.05	175.60	
AVIS	1535.80	1558.90	1528.00	1552.00	16.90	
DISCSLAB	1720.00	1742.60	1717.05	1741.00	18.05	
ICICIPRULI	472.50	478.00	467.20	477.15	4.55	
COLPAL	1535.00	1547.40	1528.95	1543.00	12.60	
DABUR	462.50	467.70	461.00	465.50	3.10	
BANKBARODA	88.90	90.80	88.15	89.55	0.55	
BIOCON	258.00	262.85	255.90	259.25	1.20	
GODREJCP	715.00	730.00	713.00	718.00	3.30	
HAVELLS	686.00	694.70	679.70	687.15	1.35	
AMBUJACEM	208.05	209.80	206.20	207.10	0.20	
UBICI	1322.00	1335.00	1320.40	1323.40	0.80	
ICICI	1252.00	1264.40	1231.00	1243.95	-1.00	
DMAT	1918.00	1964.90	1903.60	1924.05	-1.55	
MCDOWELL-N	632.40	644.80	631.80	634.00	-1.45	
HINDPETRO	313.00	322.35	310.65	313.00	-0.95	
PAGEIND	21480.00	21652.00	21210.00	21480.10	-75.30	
L&TH	86.00	86.50	83.75	85.15	-0.45	
PIDILITIND	1360.00	1378.00	1344.00	1348.05	-9.15	
INDIGO	1729.00	1748.00	1705.00	1724.10	-12.25	
OFSS	3082.00	3129.80	3055.00	3064.00	-26.20	
HDFCLIFE	615.70	616.50	607.00	607.75	-7.40	
MOTHERSUMI	111.00	111.30	106.60	107.20	-2.15	
BANDHANBNK	568.00	568.00	548.00	552.95	-15.55	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	
HDFCAMC	2726.10	2926.95	2669.65	2882.20	
YESBANK	46.80	52.30	46.00	51.40	
IBULHSGFIN	197.35	245.45	196.65	231.50	
RELIANCE	1403.10	1428.00	1399.70	1415.30	
ZEEL	247.95	262.80	239.85	250.00	
BHEL	49.00	57.60	49.00	54.45	
RBLBANK	287.00	298.90	280.05	295.30	
TATAMOTORS	140.00	141.80	135.55	136.70	
BAIFINANCE	412.00	420.00	408.20	418.05	
MARUTI	7105.00	7400.00	7062.95	7318.15	
SBIN	264.50	271.20	263.50	269.65	
RATNAMANI	945.50	945.50	901.25	920.00	
GESHIP*	283.00	298.00	283.00	290.00	
BAJAJFINSV	8362.00	8440.00	8232.75	8263.95	
TATASTEEL	355.65	362.60	351.80	359.90	
BPCL	510.10	534.90	506.60	520.25	
EICHERMOT	20550.15	20668.60	20036.85	20271.75	
FORTIS	136.95	139.90	136.50	138.15	
ASHOKLEY	74.30	78.20	73.20	77.70	
HDFCBANK	1222.30	1233.85	1220.75	1229.20	
ADANIEMT	172.50	175.80	165.20	175.20	
INDUSINDBK	1338.00	1361.00	1317.50	1341.65	
HINDUNILVR	2100.00	2115.85	2091.00	2106.20	
ICICIBANK	438.40	443.55	435.35	437.75	
JINDALSTEL	104.95	108.35	103.70	107.65	
INFY	766.65	773.60	760.10	767.75	
PEL	1467.95	1577.30	1443.25	1556.35	
MCX	100.00	108.25	100.00	106.95	
KOTAKBANK	1603.95	1617.95	1591.05	1615.45	
LT	1428.00	1456.50	1425.80	1448.05	
TCS	2038.00	2064.00	2025.10	2057.35	
TVSMOTOR	439.00	458.90	428.75	456.60	
AXISBANK	710.00	715.20	705.70	709.80	
L&T	86.70	87.60	83.80	85.35	
DLF	163.50	169.50	162.85	168.20	
SAIL	33.60	36.55	33.20	36.20	
NMDC	107.95	110.00	102.75	108.90	
UTTRACEMCO	4260.00	4363.80	4256.90	4295.50	
PUNBHOUSING	408.60	488.80	402.00	478.00	
UPL	591.70	603.60	589.00	599.25	
UNIONBANK	52.25	53.80	51.80	52.10	
BEL	113.50	120.70	112.55	116.50	
VEDL	148.30	152.15	148.00	150.10	
BANKBARODA	89.45	90.80	88.10	89.75	
HDFC	2095.00	2100.70	2065.00	2095.35	
NCC	51.00	54.40	50.40	53.35	
SUNPHARMA	401.00	406.40	397.80	401.00	
ITC	246.50	247.75	245.00	246.50	
MAMAPPURAM	144.50	155.00	144.00	154.55	
BHEL	910.00	963.90	908.00	955.50	
SBIIFE	905.00	930.00	898.95	925.90	
ADANIPOWER	63.00	65.65	62.40	64.10	
JSWSTEEL	223.90	225.05	220.65	223.15	
IDEA	6.32	6.57	6.25	6.39	
3MINDIA	22113.00	23489.90	20750.00	21782.45	
COALINDIA	190.00	206.50	197.90	205.95	
HINDPETRO	313.50	322.45	310.80	313.90	
HDFCLIFE	616.95	616.95	607.00	608.15	
APOLLOHOSP	1484.05	1506.65	1484.05	1508.15	
MOTHERSUMI	111.80	111.80	106.80	107.70	
DMART	918.50	964.50	1905.05	1924.05	
BALKRISND	805.00	875.75	793.60	861.00	
FEDERALBNK	84.70	84.80	83.50	84.65	
NIAL	141.50	154.10	130.95	143.00	
BANKINDIA	63.40	65.30	62.55	64.15	
ESCORTS	647.30	655.50	644.30	650.25	
NBCC	34.20	38.30	34.00	36.90	
COPAL	1534.95	1547.00	1528.85	1541.20	
BATAINDIA	1751.00	1779.50	1738.10	1768.10	
GRAPHITE	280.00	297.75	277.40	291.95	
IOC	147.65	148.10	144.80	145.40	
TATAELSI	712.00	721.90	702.70	708.60	
PNB	59.00	60.70	58.60	60.20	
HNB	938.00	994.00	927.50	971.75	
AUROPHARMA	472.75	485.10	468.95	476.60	
TATAMTRDVR	62.60	63.10	60.50	61.40	
NATIONALUM	40.80	44.00	40.80	43.80	
NITITECH	1408.35	1449.00	1398.50	1434.70	
ASIANPANT	1812.95	1823.85	1788.70	1816.60	
HEROMOTOCO	2629.00	2661.65	2609.00	2645.80	
SANOFI	6120.00	6275.00	5925.00	6100.40	
TATAPOWER	60.00	60.50	59.25	60.05	
JUSTDIAL	607.00	635.90	605.80	634.25	
TATAGLOBAL	280.00	285.25	275.70	281.90	
RNRM	125.75	293.00	272.20	288.60	
LTI	1523.00	1634.00	1523.00	1612.00	
M&M	589.75	595.25	584.00	592.80	
ADANIPOWER	410.00	423.75	408.45	421.70	
CIPLA	148.10	150.00	140.10	143.80	
RECLTD	424.50	431.80	424.00	430.40	
PILITINDIA	1362.00	1377.30	1343.50	1353.25	
ICICI	1246.05	1264.85	1231.00	1243.85	
CANBK	186.55	189.95	185.25	188.80	
INDIGO	1731.00	1747.35	1706.60	1729.00	
MGL	972.00	983.50	961.00	966.90	
GMRINFRA	17.50	19.15	17.45	19.05	
GICRE	263.95	290.10	255.00	278.90	
BAJAJ-AUTO	312.00	312.45	307.60	308.75	
ABCAPITAL	76.70	82.45	76.50	79.90	
TITAN	1287.70	1305.00	1274.40	1300.60	
TORNTPOWER	285.35	291.90	283.05	284.20	
LICHSGFIN	384.00	392.00	377.00	384.80	
ONGC	141.00	144.50	140.00	143.50	
LUPIN	728.00	746.00	723.05	738.80	
DABUR	464.50	468.00	461.40	466.90	
M&MFIN	315.95	328.65	315.95	319.00	
NESTLEIND	14510.00	14921.60	14392.35	14838.30	
ADANI GREEN	88.75	93.50	88.05	89.70	
ATUL	4224.80	4278.00	4166.20	4207.60	
GRASIM	724.75	749.00	718.00	746.50	
ICICIPULI	472.00	477.90	467.00	476.55	
BERGEPAINT	487.00	505.00	487.00	499.05	
HINDCOPPER	33.70	38.75	32.55	38.65	
VOLTA	677.40	697.00	677.40	691.40	
GODREJPROP	999.55	999.55	967.40	974.05	
ABB	1525.00	1565.00	1524.00	1552.65	
SPIECJET	121.70	121.70	119.00	119.50	
DELTA CORP	178.15	191.90	177.30	187.40	
PVR	1845.00	1846.45	1816.00	1827.80	
CEATLTD	974.00	993.40	950.50	965.30	
TECHM	724.85	737.40	723.05	734.25	
DISHTV	17.25	17.25	15.75	16.65	
WIPRO	248.10	250.65	248.10	248.80	
JUBLFOOD	1343.35	1372.00	1332.00	1359.00	
UJJIWANI	310.90	311.05	303.75	306.45	
RHARTTRANS	385.00	386.15	380.50	383.25	
SHRINTXFL	1072.00	1100.60	1058.00	1096.25	
SCIENTIF	1533.40	1558.00	1529.20	1553.10	
AIEMMS	1630.00	1656.00	1624.55	1649.60	
HINDALCO	189.00	191.25	186.75	187.40	
SCI	43.50	47.40	43.00	46.95	
EDELWEISS	86.40	90.80	85.50	89.95	
BRITANNIA	3244.00	3259.00	3224.50	3252.50	
IBREALEST	45.00	46.50	44.25	46.50	
VENKYS	1684.90	1742.00	1673.30	1713.35	
2025	205.25	209.80	206.35	207.65	
IDFCFIRSTB	40.05	40.65	39.50	39.75	
BOMDYEING	75.60	79.85	74.60	77.30	
FINN	119.00	121.50	118.50	121.00	
EVEREADY	38.00	39.75	36.50	39.75	
CONCOR	600.00	620.05	596.00	611.20	
PCJEWELLER	32.40	34.00	32.40	33.30	
SUNTV	497.70	518.65	490.60	517.20	
RAJESHXPO	675.50	677.00	672.00	673.25	
MAHABANK	563.65	566.90	549.00	554.10	
BIOCON	258.00	262.90	255.95	259.55	
GAIL	128.90	130.30	127.85	129.60	
INDHOTEL	153.00	153.00	148.20	149.65	
OPSS	3105.30	3125.00	3058.00	3116.00	
BAJAJCON	262.00	267.00	252.35	264.20	
RAJIND	463.00	476.95	461.30	465.20	
PAGEIND	21440.30	21648.55	21245.05	21497.35	
JUBLIANT	479.90	510.50	472.95	500.45	
CASTROLIND	132.10	136.40	131.80	133.80	
STRTECH	141.95	148.50	141.20	147.25	
WOCKPHARMA	259.05	274.85	258.05	266.30	
HCLTECH	1103.00	1105.65	1088.25	1095.90	
LAKEFLD	197.00	203.00	197.00	202.55	
POWERRUSH	19.00	20.00	19.00	19.00	
BISSUGS	113.50	135.90	115.15	127.05	
GLENMARK	288.90	301.20	287.50	299.70	
ADANIGAS	149.20	153.50	149.20	151.00	
AMARCO	388.95	392.95	385.00	391.65	
PRC	95.10	98.40	94.80	98.15	
GODREJCP	714.70	729.50	713.40	717.40	
PETRONET	262.75	267.75	262.75	267.10	
AVANT	391.40	415.60	389.30	408.35	
MUTHOOTFIN	64600.00	65000.00	63800.00	63960.00	
NAUKRI	653.10	679.00	653.10	675.95	
DEEPAKNI	2298.10	2357.00	2285.65	2301.30	
DIVISLAB	320.00	323.30	312.45	317.80	
OMAXE	1721.00	1742.40	1714.85	1738.70	
HAVELLS	198.00	199.80	185.95	186.90	
RVNL	23.55	24.50	23.45	23.75	
ENGINEERSIN	107.70	114.55	107.70	108.75	
GODREJAGRO	480.50	525.20	480.45	518.90	
ITDC	346.60	368.45	341.65	349.70	
HINDZINC	216.85	218.85	211.90	216.50	
TATACHEM	607.30	618.60	606.00	615.40	
BBTC	1155.00	1198.20	1150.45	1172.35	
MOIL	134.90	154.35	134.90	140.50	
SUNTECK	419.90	419.90	399.05	401.20	
NOCIL	110.90	116.00	110.55	115.10	
MINDTREE	727.00	742.55	727.00	735.60	
KANSAINER	530.00	545.60	520.75	540.95	
BHARATFORG	455.00	455.00	443.05	445.45	
SRF	2674.25	2721.05	2674.25	2691.25	
GODREJIND	393.00	403.80	390.75	399.55	
TORNTPHARM	1661.50	1721.70	1661.50	1682.25	
RAIN	93.10	95.50	91.10	94.30	
IGL	370.90	381.20	370.20	379.80	
APOLLOTYRE	179.00	186.80	179.35	185.95	
JAICORPLTD	82.00	84.50	81.40	83.80	
SUVEN	265.45	284.00	262.50	280.50	
STAR	351.60	355.35	344.80	353.80	
OH	162.90	174.80	162.90	172.95	
CUMMINSIND	575.00	594.95	575.00	583.55	
CANFINHOME	385.95	406.00	386.95	401.80	
CHOLAFIN	286.00	303.85	284.80	301.85	

62 KILLED IN AFGHAN MOSQUE BLAST

AFP ■ JALALABAD

At least 62 worshippers were killed and dozens wounded by a blast inside an Afghan mosque during Friday prayers, officials said, a day after the United Nations said violence in the country had reached “unacceptable” levels.

The explosion, which witnesses said collapsed the mosque’s roof, took place in eastern Nangarhar province and wounded at least 55 people, provincial governor spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told AFP.

He said the dead were “all worshippers” in the blast in Haska Mina district, roughly 50 kilometres from the provincial capital Jalalabad.

A doctor at a hospital in Haska Mina gave a slightly higher toll, telling AFP that “around” 70 bodies had been brought in, along with 50 wounded. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in Nangarhar province.

Witnesses said the roof of the mosque had fallen through after the “loud” explosion, the nature of which was not immediately clear.

“Dozens of people were killed and wounded and were



A wounded man is brought by stretcher into a hospital after a mortar was fired by insurgents in Haskamena district of Jalalabad east of Kabul, Afghanistan. An Afghan official said several people have been killed during Friday prayers when a mortar fired by insurgents blasted through the roof of a mosque.

taken in several ambulances,” Haji Amanat Khan, a 65-year-old local resident, said.

The blast came after the UN released a new report on

Thursday saying an “unprecedented” number of civilians were killed or wounded in Afghanistan from July to September.

The report, which also charts violence throughout 2019 so far, underscores how “Afghans have been exposed to extreme levels of violence for

many years” despite promises by all sides to “prevent and mitigate harm to civilians”.

It also noted the absurdity of the ever-increasing price

paid by civilians given the widespread belief that the war in Afghanistan cannot be won by either side.

“Civilian casualties are totally unacceptable,” said the UN’s special representative in Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, adding they demonstrate the importance of talks leading to a ceasefire and a permanent political settlement. The figures — 1,174 deaths and 3,139 injured from July 1 until September 30 — represent a 42 per cent increase compared to the same time period last year.

The UN laid most of the blame for the spike at the feet of “anti-government elements” such as the Taliban, who have been carrying out a bloody insurgency in Afghanistan for more than 18 years.

July alone saw more casualties than in any other month on record since the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) began documenting the violence in 2009. The first six months of 2019 had seen casualties drop slightly compared to previous years. But the violence has surged so far in the third quarter that it yanked the overall total for the year back on par with the bloodiest since NATO withdrew its combat forces at the end of 2014.

Sanctions on Turkey no longer necessary: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said that America’s proposed economic sanctions on Ankara are no longer necessary after the US and Turkey struck a deal for a five-day cease fire in Syria.

As per the deal announced by Vice President Mike Pence in Ankara on Thursday, Turkey will suspend its operations for 120 hours to allow Kurdish fighters to withdraw from a designated safe zone along the Turkish and Syrian border.

Protesting Turkey’s military offensive in northeast Syria, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to slap sanctions against Turkish officials, raising of steel tariffs and ending negotiations on a USD 100 billion trade deal.

“Sanctions won’t be necessary because Turkey is doing what they’re doing,” Trump told reporters on Thursday as he congratulated his Turkish counterpart President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for reaching a deal with the United States.

“He’s a friend of mine and I’m glad we didn’t have a problem because frankly, he’s a hell of a leader and he’s a tough man. He’s a strong man. He did the right thing. And I really appreciate it. And I will appreciate it in the future,” Trump said, describing the cease fire as a great news.

Terming it as an incredible outcome, Trump said that Turkey had a legitimate problem on the 22 mile (34 kms) strip for many years.

“They had terrorists, they had a lot of people in there that they couldn’t have. They’ve suffered a lot of loss of lives also. They had to have it cleaned out,” he said.

“But once you start that, it gets to a point where a tremendous amount of bad things can happen. So, a process started

and we started to negotiate. I think that obviously, the sanctions and tariffs were going to be very biting. I’m glad we don’t have to do it. We will be taking them off very quickly,” Trump said. “We’ve gotten everything we could have ever dreamed of and we are also going to be able to bring our people back home we will be able to have control of ISIS, we will be able to do whatever we have to do to get the rest of ISIS wherever they may be. They are never going to be ruling us,” he said.

Trump also thanked the Kurds for agreeing to abide by the ceasefire.

“This is a solution that really well, it saved their lives frankly. It saved their lives. So, we’ve done a great thing for our partner. If we didn’t go this unconventional tough love approach they could have never gotten it done. They have been trying to do this for many, many ears. You could have never gotten it done,” he said.

Talking to reporters in Ankara, Pence said that all military operations under Operation Peace Spring will be paused and it will be halted entirely on completion of the withdrawal.

This also includes an agreement by Turkey to engage in no military action against the community of Kobani.

In addition, the United States and Turkey have both mutually committed to a peaceful resolution and future for the safe zone, working on an international basis to ensure that peace and security defines this border region of Syria, he said.

“Further, Turkey and the United States mutually committed to the Defeat ISIS activities in northeast Syria. This will also include an agreement renewed today to coordinate efforts on detention facilities and internally displaced persons in formerly ISIS- controlled areas,” Pence said.

Erdogan says will restart Syria ops evening if deal not respected

AFP ■ ISTANBUL/CELANPINAR

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Friday warned Turkey would restart its operation against Kurdish forces in Syria on Tuesday evening if they do not withdraw from a “safe zone”.

“If the promises are kept until Tuesday evening, the safe zone issue will be resolved. If it fails, the operation... will start the minute 120 hours are over,” Erdogan told reporters during a briefing in Istanbul.

Turkey agreed after talks with the US Thursday to suspend its offensive in northern Syria while Kurdish fighters withdraw from the area.

Fighting continued Friday morning in a northeast Syrian border town at the center of the fight between Turkey and Kurdish forces, despite a US-brokered cease-fire that went into effect overnight.

Shelling and gunfire could be heard in and around Ras al-Ayn as smoke billowed from locations near the border with Turkey and the Turkish town of Ceylanpinar.

The fighting died down by mid-morning while smoke continued to rise.

Elsewhere along the border



calm seemed to prevail, with no fighting heard along the border from Ras al-Ayn to Tal Abyad, a Syrian border town about 100 kilometers to the west.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, reported intermittent clashes in Ras al-Ayn but relative calm elsewhere since Thursday night, when Turkey and the US agreed to a five-day cease-fire to halt the Turkish offensive against Kurdish-led forces in the region.

The agreement — reached

after hours of negotiations in Turkey’s capital of Ankara between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and US Vice President Mike Pence — requires the Kurdish fighters to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border.

That arrangement would largely solidify the position Turkey has gained after days of fighting.

The shelling Friday came even after the commander of Kurdish-led forces in Syria, Mazloum Abdi, told Kurdish

TV late on Thursday: “We will do whatever we can for the success of the cease-fire agreement”.

But one Kurdish official, Razan Hiddo, declared that the Kurdish people would refuse to live under Turkish occupation.

Kurdish fighters have already been driven out of much, but not all, of a swath of territory that stretches about 100 kilometers (60 miles) along the middle of the Syrian-Turkish border, between Ras al-Ayn and Tal Abyad.

But Kurdish forces are still entrenched in Ras al-Ayn, where on Thursday they had been fiercely battling Turkish-backed Syrian fighters trying to take the town.

Whether the Kurdish fighters pull out of Ras al-Ayn will likely be an early test of the accord. Turkish troops and their allied Syrian fighters launched the offensive two days after US President Donald Trump suddenly announced he was withdrawing American troops from the border area.

The Kurds were US allies in the fight against the Islamic State but came under assault after Trump ordered US troops to pull out.

Pompeo discusses Syria moves with Netanyahu

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday as President Donald Trump’s policy changes on Syria sparked concern among Israelis.

Pompeo arrived in Israel after he and US Vice President Mike Pence negotiated a deal that will see Turkey suspend its Syria offensive, but which drew criticism over what many saw as an abandonment of Washington’s Kurdish allies.

Washington’s top diplomat and the veteran prime minister began the meeting on

Friday morning at Netanyahu’s official residence in Jerusalem.

Israelis have been watching Trump’s decisions on Syria closely, concerned that their country too could be abandoned by its most important ally.

Beyond that, Israel has longstanding concerns over whether arch-enemy Iran will move to fill any vacuum in neighbouring Syria, where Tehran has been supporting President Bashar al-Assad in an eight-year-old civil war.

Netanyahu has also had tense relations with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a vocal supporter of

the Palestinian cause.

After the temporary cease-fire was announced, Trump heaped praise on Erdogan, calling him “a hell of a leader.”

Netanyahu has been careful not to be seen as criticising Trump, who has been a key supporter, but last week issued a statement saying Israel strongly condemned Turkey’s “invasion of the Kurdish areas in Syria”.

It also warned “against the ethnic cleansing of the Kurds by Turkey and its proxies.”

Trump triggered the week-long Turkish offensive against the Kurds by withdrawing US troops from northeastern Syria.

Pak blacklists, expels global journalists’ group leader

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan blacklisted and expelled the Asia coordinator of global press freedom group the Committee to Protect Journalists, the group’s executive director said Friday.

Joel Simon called the expulsion of Steven Butler “baffling” and “a slap in the face” to those concerned about press freedom in Pakistan.

Butler was refused entry at the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore despite having a valid visa and was returned to the United States. Butler said he was told he was on “a stop list of the Interior Ministry.” The Pakistani government had no immediate comment Friday.

“Pakistani authorities should give a full explanation of their decision to bar Butler from entering and correct this error,” Simon said in a statement issued by the CPJ. “If the government is interested in demonstrating its commitment to a free press, it should conduct a swift and transparent investigation into this case.”

Butler was planning to attend the Asma Jahangir Conference-Roadmap for Human Rights in Pakistan. The conference this weekend is named for a renowned Pakistani human rights activist who died last year of a heart attack.

Butler had been a regular visitor to Pakistan, working with journalists’ groups throughout the country.

His expulsion at the airport “reinforces our deep and growing concerns about press freedom in the country,” Simon told The Associated Press.

Pakistani journalists have come under increasing censorship in the past year.

Websites have been shut down, including the Urdu website of the US government-funded Voice of America, after it reported on an ethnic Pashtun tribal movement that’s been critical of military operations in regions bordering Afghanistan. Mashaal Radio, affiliated with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, has also been shut down.

Leading newspapers, including the well-respected English-language Dawn Newspaper, have come under pressure, its distributors harassed and prevented from delivering the newspapers.

Journalists and journalist advocacy groups blame the military and its powerful intelligence agency, which they say are seeking to quash critical coverage in general as well as any coverage of the Pashtun movement against the military’s war on terror, particularly in the tribal regions.

The military has denied it is involved in censorship.

“There is no media censorship through ISPR (Inter-Services Public Relations) or ISI,” the country’s main intelligence agency, said military spokesman Gen. Asif Ghafoor in an earlier written response to questions from AP.

Pakistan man gets 5-year jail under new cyber crime law

PTI ■ LAHORE

A special Pakistani court has sentenced a man to five-year rigorous imprisonment for posting blasphemous content on social media, becoming the first such case under the country’s new cyber crime law.

The special court for cyber crime sentenced Sajid Ali, an active member of the Shia sect, after he was charged for posting “sacrilegious, blasphemous and derogatory” material on Facebook in 2017.

He was punished under section 11 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 and 298-A of the Pakistan Penal Code, which deals with the use of derogatory remarks against holy personalities of Islam.

Ali, a resident of Bahawalnagar’s Chishtian tehsil, some 400 kms from Lahore, was booked by the local police on the complaint of people in his locality.

The case was later transferred to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle Lahore over the issue of jurisdiction.

The FIA has termed the sentence a “first-of-its-kind” in Pakistan under the new cyber crime laws.

FIA Prosecutor Munam Bashir Chaudhry produced 12

witnesses including FIA Assistant Director Naeem Zafar who also submitted his technical analysis report.

Most witnesses testified against Ali, he said.

“The first conviction in the country under the new cyber crime laws on charges of posting blasphemous material against companions of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) on social media,” FIA Cyber Crime Lahore head Sarfraz Chaudhry told PTI.

“The court has also directed the government to launch an awareness campaign to aware the people about cyber crimes especially the blasphemous content,” he said.

Blasphemy is considered a sensitive topic in Pakistan and those accused of it often languish in jails for years.

Pakistan has a history of giving stringent punishments to people accused of blasphemy.

Last year, the Supreme court had acquitted Aasia Bibi, the first woman to be sentenced to death under Pakistan’s controversial blasphemy laws, in a high-profile sacrilege case that polarised the society.

The 47-year-old mother of four, now in Canada, was convicted in 2010 after being accused of insulting Islam in a row with her neighbours.

Indian tourist detained in Bhutan for desecrating Buddhist ‘chorten’

Thimphu (PTT): An Indian tourist has been detained by the Royal Bhutan Police for allegedly desecrating a ‘chorten’ in the Buddhist kingdom, according to a media report on Friday.

Abhijit Ratan Hajare, who is from Maharashtra, was part of a 15-bike convoy touring the Himalayan nation, The Bhutanese reported. The group was led by a Bhutanese national.

A ‘chorten’ is a Buddhist shrine, typically a saint’s tomb or a monument to the Buddha.

In photographs and videos published by The Bhutanese on Twitter, Hajare is seen standing on top of a ‘chorten’. A second man Jambay, who was repairing the ‘chortens’, is seen sitting on the ‘chorten’.

The ‘desecration’ incident happened when the bikers were resting at Dochula on Thursday and the team leader was trying to arrange parking space for the bikes, the report said.

The Bhutanese group leader was unaware of the incident, it said.

The police have taken Hajare’s passport and he was called in on Friday for questioning. The royal police have started an investigation.

US to host 2020 G7 summit at a Trump golf resort

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The G7 Summit in 2020 would be held at President Donald Trump’s golf resort in Florida and would cost half the amount than hosting the event at another place, the White House has claimed, rejecting criticism that he “used” his public office to secure big contract for himself.

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney told reporters on Thursday that the 46th G7 Summit, a grouping that comprises of world’s largest developed economies, would be held from June 10 through June 12 at the Trump National Doral facility in Miami, Florida.

Mulvaney asserted that this was the best place to host such a summit of G7 country leaders from France, Germany, Italy,

Japan, the US, the United Kingdom and Canada and it would cost half the amount than hosting at another place.

He said that the Trump National Doral facility was selected from a short list of 12 places, including those in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah.

“It became apparent at the end of that process that Doral was, by far and away the best physical facility for this meeting,” he said.

However, the decision drew immediate reaction from the media.

The Washington Post, in its report, said, “that decision is without precedent in modern American history. The president used his public office to direct a

huge contract to himself.”

The report said that according to Trump organization’s own records, the Doral resort has been in sharp decline in recent years. Its net operating income fell 69 per cent from 2015 to 2017; a Trump Organization representative testified last year that the reason was Trump’s damaged brand.

“Now, the G-7 summit will draw hundreds of diplomats, journalists and security personnel to the resort during one of its slowest months of the year, when Miami is hot and the hotel is often less than 40 per cent full. It will also provide a worldwide spotlight for the club,” the daily said.

“Trump’s decision to select his own resort as host of the international gathering is a sign that he is becoming more brazen

about flouting criticism from Congress and shattering ethical norms that have been observed by previous presidents with regard to separating the duties of their office from their financial well-being,” the report said.

According to The Guardian newspaper, anti-corruption groups have condemned the move.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington said the move was “unbelievable,” especially in the light of ongoing impeachment efforts against Trump, the report said.

Mulvaney clarified that Trump would not be making any profit by organising the event at his golf resort.

“He is not making any money off of this, just like he’s not making any money from work-

ing here. If you think it’s going to help his brand, that’s great. But I would suggest that he probably doesn’t need much help promoting his brand, so we’ll put the profit aside and deal with a perfect place,” he said.

The focus of the event will be global growth and challenges to the global economy, specifically dealing with things like rejuvenating incentives for growth and prosperity; rolling back prosperity-killing regulations; ending trade barriers; and re-opening energy markets, he said.

“So, taking a lot of what we have been doing here domestically with such success and trying to encourage the rest of the world to get onboard as we sit here and our economy does so well. You look all across the world right now, and the rest of the

world is either at or near recession,” Mulvaney said.

“We really do think that we have hit on a formula that works not only here but that would work overseas, where we take the G7 as the opportunity to try and convince other nations that they can have the same successes by following the same model,” he said.

The US hosted the last G-7 summit at Camp David, about 109 kms away from Washington, about a decade ago.

“I understand the folks who participated in it hated it and thought it was a miserable place to have the G7. It was way too small. It was way too remote. My understanding is this media didn’t like it because you had to drive an hour on a bus to get there either way,” Mulvaney said.

US imposes tariffs on EU goods, targeting Airbus, wine and whisky

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States imposed tariffs on a record \$7.5-billion worth of European Union goods on Friday, despite threats of retaliation, with Airbus, French wine and Scottish whiskies among the high-profile targets.

The tariffs, which took effect just after midnight in Washington (0401 GMT), came after talks between European officials and US trade representatives failed to win a last-minute reprieve.

The WTO-endorsed onslaught from US President

Donald Trump also comes as Washington is mired in a trade war with China and could risk destabilising the global economy further.

In the line of fire are civilian aircraft from Britain, France, Germany and Spain — the countries that formed Airbus — which will now cost 10 percent more when imported to the US.

But the tariffs also target consumer products such as French wine, which Trump had vowed to attack in recent months. Wine from France, Spain and Germany will now face 25 percent tariffs.

Speaking in Washington hours before the tariffs were due to come into effect, France's Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire warned the move would have serious repercussions.

"Europe is ready to retaliate, in the framework of course of the WTO," he told reporters shortly after meeting with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund annual meetings.

"These decisions would have very negative consequences both from an economic and a political point of view," Le Maire was due to meet

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer later on Friday.

He also warned the US against starting another front in its trade conflicts and again called for a negotiated solution.

At a time when the global economy is slowing, "I think that our responsibility is to do our best to avoid that kind of conflict," Le Maire said.

The Europeans have long advocated negotiation over conflict and they themselves will be able to impose tariffs next year to punish the United States for subsidising Boeing.

But EU officials had

already offered in July to call a truce on subsidies for plane-makers, in which both sides would admit fault and agree to curtail state aid — to no avail.

The two sides have been involved in a row over the subsidies for 15 years.

The tariffs kick in just days after the United States was given the formal go-ahead by the World Trade Organisation.

As recently as Wednesday, Trump singled out the Europeans for being unfair with the US on trade, but said his door was open to negotiate a settlement.

The Europeans fear above

all that Trump will impose heavy duties on imports of European cars around mid-November.

This would be a serious blow for the German automotive sector in particular, even if giants such as Volkswagen or BMW also manufacture in the United States.

"Our products are very hard to bring in (to Europe)" when Europeans easily import their cars into the United States, Trump said.

The Airbus-Boeing row is just one of several issues stoking transatlantic tensions that quickly descended into acrimony when Trump took office in 2017.

Trump embraced a protectionist agenda, slapping import duties on steel and aluminium from the EU and other allies, while also threatening tariffs on cars.

Trade groups in Europe such as winemakers, German tool manufacturers and whisky producers in Scotland have kept a clamour of protest, demanding Washington reverse tack.

The US leader and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker agreed in July 2018 to a cease-

fire in the conflict to hold trade talks that have so far led nowhere.

The epic legal battle between Airbus and Boeing at the World Trade Organization began in 2004 when Washington accused Britain, France, Germany and Spain of providing illegal subsidies and grants to support the production of a range of Airbus products.

A year later, the EU alleged that Boeing had received \$19.1 billion worth of prohibited subsidies from 1989 to 2006 from various branches of the US government.

China's GDP growth slows to 6 per cent in Q3, slowest since 1992

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's growth slumped to 6 per cent in the third quarter of 2019, its lowest level in nearly three decades, as the world's second largest economy struggled to overcome the impact of a bruising trade war with the US and sluggish domestic demand, according to official data released on Friday.

The GDP figures emerged just one week after the US and China reached a tentative trade truce to avoid more damages to the world's two largest economies.

China's gross domestic product grew at 6 per cent in the quarter ended September, the weakest quarterly growth rate since 1992 and down from 6.2 per cent in the previous quarter, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The slowdown comes despite government efforts to support the economy, including measures such as tax cuts.

The latest figures mark a further loss of momentum in the economy, which had already seen growth languishing at its slowest pace in around three decades.

This week the International Monetary Fund trimmed its 2019 growth forecast for China to 6.1 per cent from 6.2 per cent due to the long-running trade dispute and slowing domestic demand.

Meanwhile, China's GDP expanded 6.2 per cent year on year in the first three quarters of 2019 to about 69.78 trillion yuan (about USD 9.87 trillion), the NBS data showed.

The growth was in line with the government's annual target of 6-6.5 per cent set for 2019, the official Xinhua news

agency reported.

The Chinese economy has maintained overall stability, a senior official from the NBS said at a press conference, while acknowledging that China faces downward pressure amid slower global economic growth and more external uncertainties.

A breakdown of the data showed output of the service sector, which accounted for 54 per cent of the total GDP, rose 7 per cent in the first three quarters of the year, outpacing a 2.9-per cent increase in the primary industry and a 5.6-per cent rise in the secondary industry.

Consumption continued to be the mainstay in driving up demand, with the final consumption contributing 60.5 per cent to the economic growth in the January-September period, the NBS

data showed.

The US and China have recently signalled some signs of progress toward resolving the bruising trade war, with both sides reaching a "phase one deal" earlier this month.

Top trade negotiators for the US and China reached a preliminary trade deal last Friday. It includes a halt on US tariff increases that were supposed to go into effect earlier this week.

US President Donald Trump said that intellectual property, financial services and agricultural purchases are included in the agreement.

But the two sides still appear to be far from striking any sort of comprehensive deal, and the latest announcement does not address some of the biggest trade issues on the table, US media reports said.

Ghana flooding leaves 28 dead

Accra (AFP): Floods caused by eight days of torrential downpours in northeastern Ghana have left 28 people dead and displaced hundreds, officials said Friday.

"At the moment the death toll is 28. About 640 people in some six communities have been displaced and we are providing shelters for them," George Ayisi, spokesman for the National Disaster Management Organisation, told AFP.

"We've counted about 286 collapsed houses during this disaster and that is making life difficult for the people."

Relief items were being transported 800 kilometres (500 miles) by road from the capital Accra to the affected region on the border with Burkina Faso as meteorologists warned the rains could last into November. "We have to just prepare for anything," Ayisi said. So far this year 46 people have been killed in floods in the West African nation, the disaster relief agency said.

EU leaders turn focus to climate, budget issues

AP ■ BRUSSELS

After agreeing on terms for a new Brexit deal, European Union leaders are meeting again on Friday to discuss other thorny issues, including the bloc's budget and climate change.

No decision is expected on the next long-term budget for 2021-2027, though, a topic more divisive than Brexit.

Leaders need to find a compromise that satisfies countries in favour of minimal spending, those arguing that it must at least be maintained at the current level and others fighting for increased contributions from members states to compensate for Britain's planned departure.

The Finnish presidency of the council is expected to present a draft including a proposal on the overall level of financing.

A top French diplomat said the draft will be contested, insisting it's crucial to keep a high level of funding in order to maintain the same level for agriculture and increase money for climate, innovation and migrations issues.

Some other big net contributors, including Germany, disagree and are trying to limit spending from 2021.

The diplomat, who was not authorised to be identified publicly, said that to keep the next budget at its current level, member states will need to contribute at least 1.16 per cent of their gross national income.

The European Commission has set an objective of 1.11 per cent for an overall budget of 1.113 trillion euros, while the European Parliament has proposed 1.30 per cent.

In the wake of the United Nations' climate change sum-

mit, the Council will continue talks on its goal of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 and leaders will also discuss the agenda of priorities set up by incoming European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen. In June, EU leaders failed to agree on a plan to make the bloc's economy carbon neutral by 2050.

Several large European countries — including Britain, France and Germany — have backed the target, but coal-reliant countries in the east, such as Poland, blocked consensus on the proposal, which entails an almost complete phase-out of fossil fuel use.

Meanwhile, after winning the support of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has returned to London to try to secure backing from his fractious Parliament.

Fierce battles in Mexico as arrest of El Chapo's son goes wrong

AFP ■ CULIACAN (MEXICO)

Heavily armed gunmen waged an all-out battle against Mexican security forces Thursday as soldiers arrested — then reportedly released — a son of jailed drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in his home state, Sinaloa.

Security Minister Alfonso Durazo said soldiers on a routine afternoon patrol came under fire from a residence in the state capital, Culiacan.

He said they responded by taking the house and detaining four people inside, including Ovidio Guzman, one of several sons of "El Chapo" who have partly taken over the Sinaloa cartel since he was extradited to the United States in 2017.

Cartel gunmen then "surrounded the house, outnum-

bering the soldiers," and began a massive assault on various parts of the city, Durazo said.

That triggered an hours-long battle that left blazing vehicles strewn across the street and sent terrified residents running for shelter.

"In order to protect the greater good, the people of Culiacan's safety and well-being, the (federal government's) security cabinet decided to suspend said actions," Durazo said in a video message.

According to Mexican media reports, that included freeing Ovidio Guzman.

Neither Durazo nor President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's office immediately responded to requests for further information, and details on the day's incidents remained murky.

Durazo said the security cabinet would travel to Culiacan to personally oversee the next steps. Officials were due to give a press conference in the western city at 6.45 am (1245 GMT) Friday.

Images carried on Mexican television showed army and police personnel under assault by men armed with heavy weapons. Some panicked drivers abandoned their cars in the middle of the street to take cover from the deafening gunfire.

Gunmen blocked roads and highways into the evening, bringing the city of 750,000 people to a standstill, AFP journalists said.

Sources in the Sinaloa state government speaking on condition of anonymity said police officers had been wounded.

They also said an unknown number of inmates had escaped from the Aguaruto prison in Culiacan amid the chaos.

The state government said it was "working to restore calm and order in the face of the high-impact incidents that have occurred in recent hours in various points around Culiacan."

It called on residents to "remain calm, stay off the streets and be very attentive to official advisories on the evolving situation."

"El Chapo," 62, was sentenced to life in prison in July for trafficking hundreds of tons of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana into the United States over the course of a quarter-century.

However, his cartel remains one of the most powerful in

Mexico.

Guzman's extradition unleashed an initial period of instability in the group, as Ovidio and his brothers waged war with cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada for control, leaving a trail of bodies in their wake.

But the situation has since stabilized into a reluctant truce.

Guzman, whose nickname means "Shorty," was re-arrested in 2016 after a brazen prison escape — the second of his career. He is considered the most powerful drug lord since Colombia's Pablo Escobar, who was killed in a police shootout in 1993.

After being convicted in a New York court, "El Chapo" is now serving a life sentence in the notorious ADX federal maximum security prison in

Colorado.

Ovidio and his brothers have tried to fill their father's shoes, but anti-narcotics experts portray them as flashy party boys who have little ability to run the business side of the cartel.

Reports that Ovidio had been arrested and then freed triggered harsh criticism of Obrador's security strategy.

The leftist leader, who took office in December 2018, has struggled to rein in the brutal violence racking Mexico.

Earlier this week, 28 people were killed in two separate gun battles in the restive states of Michoacan and Guerrero.

Mexico has registered more than 250,000 murders since the government controversially deployed the army to fight drug cartels in 2006.

Apple boss Cook meets Chinese regulator after HK app criticism

AFP ■ BEIJING

The CEO of Apple has met with the top market regulator in China, a statement said Friday, a week after the tech giant faced heavy criticism over an app Beijing accused of supporting Hong Kong protesters.

Apple removed HKmap.live from the App Store after a barrage of criticism by Beijing, which is stepping up pressure on foreign companies deemed to be providing support to the pro-democracy movement in the semi-autonomous city.

Chinese state media said the app allowed protesters in Hong Kong to track police — but the move to withdraw it prompted accusations the firm was putting business interests above human rights.

According to a statement on the website of China's State Administration for Market Regulation, Tim Cook met with Xiao Yaqing, the director general of the State Administration for Market Regulation, on Thursday in Beijing.

"The two sides had in-depth exchanges on a wide range of topics including expanding investment and business development in

China, protecting consumer rights and interests, and fulfilling corporate social responsibility," the statement said.

Communist Party mouthpiece The People's Daily said last week in an opinion piece that by stocking the app, Apple was "mixing business with politics, and even illegal acts".

"Apple's approval for the app obviously helps rioters," the article said. "Does this mean Apple intended to be an accomplice to the rioters?" Cook last week defended the decision to remove the app in an email to Apple employees shared online, saying they received "credible information" that the app was being used "maliciously to target individual officers for violence and to victimize individuals and property".

The makers of HKmap.live lashed out at Apple's removal as "censorship" and "clearly a political decision to suppress freedom".

Other international brands have faced criticism in China over the tense summer of unrest in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific, jewellery brand Tiffany, and the National Basketball Association all met with censure for appearing to support the protests.

China calls US outrage over Venezuela UN election 'unjustifiable'

Beijing (AFP): China on Friday denounced the US for calling Venezuela's entry into the UN Human Rights Council "a tragedy", after the South American country won a seat despite criticism from advocacy groups.

The leftist government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has jailed opposition leaders and is accused of using torture and arbitrary arrests as it struggles to hold on to power amid a collapsing economy.

More than 50 countries have switched their recognition to national assembly speaker Juan Guaido as the country's legitimate acting president, including the United States.

But Maduro still has strong support at the UN, from Russia and China in particular.

"What the US said is utterly unjustifiable," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

The election result "reflects the mainstream wishes of international society — it is reasonable and lawful," he told reporters at a press briefing in Beijing.

"We advise the US not to...politicise the human rights issue," he added.

The comments came as rights groups condemned Thursday's election as a slap in the face to the people of Venezuela and the international community.

Johnson returns to London to drum up support for Brexit

AP ■ LONDON

After winning the backing of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in London Friday looking to secure enough support to get the deal through the fractious British Parliament.

Johnson returned overnight for what is expected to be a busy day attempting to persuade lawmakers to vote for the divorce deal at a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament.

It is expected to be a knife-edge vote. Johnson's Conservative Party doesn't have a majority in the 650-seat House of Commons so he will have to rely on support from other parties and independent lawmakers to get over the line.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab started drumming up support early.

"We've got a real opportunity now to get Brexit delivered faithful to the referendum, move on as a Government, and I think as a country, and lift the clouds of Brexit," he told the BBC. Raab said the government has not given up hope of winning the support of its Northern Ireland ally the Democratic Unionist Party, which has rejected the new deal.

But the chances of that appeared slim. The DUP's Brexit spokesman, Sammy

Wilson, said Johnson's Brexit package was bad for Northern Ireland.

"I can give you absolute assurance we will not be voting for this deal when it comes before the Commons tomorrow," he told the BBC.

The deal's fate could largely rest on a group of former Conservative Party rebels expelled from the party earlier this year and members from the main opposition Labour Party, which has 244 members.

Around 20 of them, mainly representing pro-Brexit parts of the country, have previously indicated a desire to back a deal in order to honor the June 2016 Brexit referendum result.

If Johnson's charm offensive manages to corral enough votes to pass the deal, Britain would leave the EU in an orderly fashion on October 31.

If lawmakers reject the deal — as they did three times with an earlier deal presented by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May — a law passed earlier this year compels the prime minister to ask the EU for another extension.

Asked Thursday what he would do if Britain seeks an extension, European Council President Donald Tusk said he would consult the other 27 EU nations in order to reach a decision — leaving open the prospect of another delay.

In first, spacewalk conducted by two women: NASA



This photo provided by NASA shows astronauts Andrew Morgan with Christina Koch and Jessica Meir at the International Space Station on Friday. The world's first female spacewalking team made history high above Earth on Friday, floating out of the International Space Station to fix a broken part of the power network. As Koch and Meir emerged one by one, it marked the first time in a half-century of spacewalking that a woman floated out without a male crewmate. NASA via AP

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir became the first all-female pairing to carry out a spacewalk Friday, following a spacesuit flub earlier this year that caused the historic mission to be aborted.

"Christina, you may egress the airlock" spacecraft communicator Stephanie Wilson told the pair shortly after they

began their mission to replace a power controller at 1138 GMT. The first such mission was supposed to take place in March but had to be cancelled because the space agency had only one medium-sized suit, with a male-female combination performing the required task at a later date.

Traditionally male-dominated NASA's failure to be adequately prepared was denounced in some quarters as evidence

of implicit sexism.

Koch is leading Meir, who is making her first ever spacewalk.

The two will replace a faulty battery charge/discharge unit (BCDU).

The station relies on solar power but is out of direct sunlight for much of its orbit and therefore needs batteries, and the BCDUs regulate the amount of charge that goes into them.

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

PRACTICAL LIVING



For GAURI KHAN, usage of recycled materials and handmade products to make high-end and luxurious designs will continue to be the ultimate decor trend. Sustainable practices and use of renewable resources are here to stay, she tells TEAM VIVA

◆ **Designers have a constant role of making changes in their designs as trends vary with every season. How do you keep yourself updated with the latest decor trends and handle the pressure? What keeps you going?**

The execution of good design is an art by itself. So, in that regard, I think learning the art of design and honing your skills consistently in that area is extremely valuable. Also, with experience, you tend to understand people's minds better. As you travel more, experiences in life equip you to design multiple spaces for people from different backgrounds.

I think most women are masters at juggling roles, be it at work or on the personal front. For me personally, the key is to maintain a certain degree of discipline and also having a supportive partner like Shah Rukh, who makes it easier to handle the pressure.

◆ **How do Indian aesthetics inspire you?**

The sheer variety of culture, art and handicraft changes every few kilometres in a country like India, so what could be more inspirational! India could easily have multiple luxury brands coming out of here, especially since we have excellent craftsmanship. However, I feel the ecosystem around promoting these arts and craftsmen is not adequate enough.

In fact we at Gauri Khan Designs did a project with local Indian artisans called Tattvam, which I am very proud of. It was our collection for Jaipur rugs, designed in collaboration with women weavers of Rajasthan. In January 2018, it was displayed at Maison & Objet, Paris. The weaving traditions have been kept alive by these women. It's so wonderful and exciting to be part of a project that champions both women empowerment and our Indian heritage.

◆ **Indians are increasingly becoming comfortable with global trends and styling. Has it impacted your work ethics?**

India is among the most difficult markets for design because there are vastly different tastes to cater to. However, due to extensive travel and experiences around the globe, Indians are exposed to many more



design elements and are open to more experimentation. So, it's an exciting time to be in the design space as you are constantly learning an evolving with your clients, it's a dynamic process and we have worked with local and Indian designers to cater to our clients tastes.

◆ **How would you define your credo?**

We don't just focus on interiors but on design as a broader concept. At the AD Design Show 2019, our aim is to showcase that our design philosophy can be applied to all areas of life. This includes extending my design philosophy to interiors and commercial spaces like retail outlets, restaurants, spas and turnkey projects. Apart from this we also do product designs, branding, endorsements, working with international designers and collaborations with local craftsmen. We have managed to execute multiple projects all over the country and I want to continue to showcase this kind of variety through our work. This year will be showcasing our premium range of furniture which is new line being launched at the show, different from the range we showcase at the store and will be available online at gaurikhan.in.

◆ **Where are the trends heading in 2020?**

As we enter a new decade, one of the biggest trends seen in the design industry is the usage of recycled materials and handmade products to make even the most high-end and luxurious designs. Sustainable practices and renewable resources have been the focus of the design

industry of late and it's a very positive trend.

◆ **How do you strike a balance between following your aesthetics and factoring in the clients' brief as well, while transforming spaces?**

Being a designer is tougher than it appears, people entrust you with their properties just on the basis of your vision, without any tangible evidence of what you are going to do. To be able to deliver something excellent, not just satisfactory, to a client is my goal and that's what keeps me going.

Design comes to me naturally and instinctively but I did spend a lot of time honing my skills, whether it was designing our own homes and properties to collaborating with friends and then venturing out by myself. Since most of my learning happened on the job while dealing with people from all backgrounds I have a certain sense of comfort and confidence while designing for my clients which brings in that balance.

◆ **If you want to transform the entire set-up with just one thing, what would it be?**

Honestly depends on the set-up, as one needs to know what is missing. But I think a signature piece of furniture, the right kind of lighting or the right pop of wall colour can make all the difference.

◆ **What's the 2019's trend of the year?**

I think practical pieces that adorn your space with an element of design is a great trend. Things with utility don't necessarily have to look boring.

WALKTHROUGH 15 MINUTES



Through Salinger's eyes

A library exhibit offers a glimpse into the author's life and work

As he worked on early drafts of *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel which proved both scandalous and life-changing, JD Salinger considered adding his generation's idea of a trigger alert.

"I think there's going to be a lot of swearing and sexy stuff in this book," warns narrator Holden Caulfield, in a paragraph on page 18 of Salinger's manuscript, part of an upcoming exhibition at the New York Public Library. "I can't help it. You'll probably think I'm a very dirty guy and that I come from a terrible family and all."

"The trouble is," Holden adds, "everybody swears all the time. And everybody's pretty sexy." Salinger apparently changed his mind. He drew a large X through the passage and wrote "delete" in the margins. Starting in 1951, when the book was published, millions of readers would discover the truth for themselves.

The library exhibit, titled *JD Salinger*, opens Friday and runs through January 19 at the historic Fifth Avenue branch in Manhattan. It continues a surprisingly eventful centennial for Salinger, who died in 2010 and avoided publicity for much of his writing life. His literary estate approved new print editions for the first time in decades of the four books he allowed to come out in his lifetime — *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Franny and Zooey*, *Nine Stories* and *Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction*. And for the first time ever, the literary estate authorised e-book editions.

In announcing the exhibit, his son, Matt Salinger, cited the public's lasting curiosity. "When my father's long-time publisher, Little, Brown and Company, first approached me with plans for his centennial year my immediate reaction was that he would not like the attention," Matt Salinger wrote. "He was a famously private man who shared his work with millions, but his life and non-published thoughts with less than a handful of people, including me. But I've learned that while he may have only fathered two children there are a great, great many readers out there who have their own rather profound relationships with him, through his work, and who have long wanted an opportunity to get to know him better."

Drawing upon archives made available by Matt Salinger, the exhibit is not the tell-all that some fans might have wanted. There are no unreleased novels or stories, and no images of Salinger's widow, Colleen Salinger, or of the mother of Salinger's two children, Claire

Douglas. His affair in the early 1970s with author Joyce Maynard, a college student when he befriended her, is not mentioned. But the library does offer an eclectic, revelatory and sometimes quirky range of materials, from a Royal manual typewriter to a bowl Salinger made as a boy to videocassettes of Marx Brothers comedies and other films he liked to watch. A bookcase from his bedroom includes *The Oxford Book of Detective Stories*, a collection of Robert Browning poems and three volumes on *Zen and the Zen Classics*, reflecting his immersion in Eastern religion and philosophy. Letters to his literary representatives document his immersion in the publishing process.

Declan Kiely, the library's director of special collections and exhibitions, said that the materials on display demonstrated Salinger's "meticulousness, possibly bordering on the obsessive," although "obsessive in a good way."

Salinger's career as an author is captured through clippings of his early stories, manuscripts, copies of his books and letters to his publishers. A working draft of *Franny and Zooey* was titled *Ivanoff the Terrible*, subtitled, *An Ontological Comic Drama With a Little Morning Music*, and included an opening section which apparently refers to his years as a counter-intelligence officer in Europe during World War II. (Salinger fans had long wondered whether *Ivanoff* was a separate, unreleased book.)

The one-room library exhibit tracks Salinger's life. There are childhood photos and images from his military service, many highlighting his dark eyes, extended jaw and the hint of a Holden-like smirk. Pictures from the 1960s and 1970s with his children, Matt and Margaret, capture Salinger in middle age, in rural Cornish, New Hampshire. A handful of shots show him in old age. After Salinger's death, an old friend from the military, John L. Keenan, wrote to Matt, telling him about his father's horrifying experiences, which led to his being hospitalised after the war.

"He was among the first American troops to enter Paris, as well as with the first American to cross the German border at the Siegfried Line. He endured the hardship and perils of the battles of the Bulge and the Ardennes forest," Keenan's letter reads. "Though like the rest of us, not happy to be there, he accepted his 'lot' and did more than what was expected of him. He was brave under fire and a loyal and dependable partner. On many occasions in the course of an assignment, although pinned down by artillery, machine gun or small arms fire, he did what had to be done."

"I admired him then and I grieve for him now." —AP



FOOD 'O' CLOCK 20 MINUTES

Flavours of the roots

Celebrity chef SARAH TODD says that the world hasn't yet seen enough of Indian cuisine, which is so rich and diverse. While signatures and favourites might have become well-known, regional cooking needs more exposure. By TEAM VIVA



No matter how much one relishes world cuisine and its impeccable delicacies, when it comes to the most comforting food, it's always Indian. Model-turned-chef Sarah Todd believes so too. She was much loved by the Indian audience when she cooked the country's favourite household dish *Aloo Gobhi* during one of her tasks in season 6 of *MasterChef Australia*.

However, she says that the cuisine still hasn't become a global favourite. "I honestly feel like the world hasn't seen enough of Indian food. I think it should take the centre stage. It has such a rich culture and diversity that the world needs to see it. The many healthy and nutritious facets in Indian cooking haven't really been presented. Traditional Indian cooking is definitely on the rise, globally. It's already becoming well-known for some of its signature favourites but the rest of Indian palate needs to reach the world."

Sarah, who recently launched three restaurants in India — Antares in Goa, The Wine Company in Gurugram, NCR, and The Wine Rack in Mumbai — tells us how she curated the menus for all the three restaurants. "Location is the first aspect I take into consideration. In Goa, we are very focussed on seafood, very tropical and fresh. In Mumbai, again seafood is prevalent to some extent but since it's a metro city, the dishes need to reflect that as well. So we went a little bit more premium with the fact that it's The Wine Rack. Delhi obviously needs a bit of the typical North Indian influence. We have kept that in mind too. I feel like when we are curating the menus, it's

really important to be inspired by the local influences and your surroundings," says the chef, who recently embarked on CRED's four-city tour in the country in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Bengaluru.

So what are the essential elements that she keeps in mind while working? For Sarah, it's important to always find a "way to connect with the audience" whether it's through nostalgia, a new technique, an ingredient or the cooking style. She adds, "I need to find just a few Indian elements for the plate and it can come by blending various modern techniques as well, for instance the classic style of French cooking."

Well, one of her most important influences for her cooking has been travelling across the world and trying various cuisines — both known and unknown. "I just feel that experiencing food from all over the world and trying home food is something that I am really passionate about. I feel that has been the most major influence on my cooking and even my son. He made me think about food from a nutritious point of view. It made me realise that if I want my son to eat healthy food, it has to be tasty as well. So I learnt

how to make healthy as well as tasty food all in one," she says.

Some learnings she also credits to *MasterChef*, the biggest being how to balance a dish, which is due to the constant pressure contestants face at the competitive kitchen. She explains, "So you have to think on your feet. I figured out a way to balance a dish. There are three main aspects that I think usually about. First, balancing flavours and making sure that all the flavours — sweet, tangy, sour and salty — are perfectly layered. Second, textures. In the kitchen,

they always want something crunchy, which they can bite into, and yet it should be smooth so that it melts in your mouth. Third, it should visually appeal. Your dish should look beautiful because you first eat with your eyes. It's the first sense that hits the dish."

There have been many countries and cultures around the world which have recreated *MasterChef* in their own languages and versions. However, the Australia one has been the most successful of all. Sarah believes that it's because of its

multi-cultural aspect. "Australia is a multi-cultural country. When it comes to the variety of dishes, they come from all over the world. This is what appeals to people. Many different styles of cooking and various cuisines has definitely played a huge part in the show's success," she says.

Sarah's journey has been quite a dynamic one. For instance, she has transitioned from being a model to a mother to a *MasterChef* contestant to an author (*The Healthy Model Cookbook*) and then to a chain-

restaurant owner in India. Her stint as a model too has influenced her cooking in many ways. "As a model, people think that they don't eat but it's absolutely untrue. I have been a model for 10 years and I have constantly looked for ways to prepare dishes that are healthy, nutritious and tasty. I used to experiment a lot. I certainly cooked a lot when I was modelling. And travelling and living at so many places, experiencing different cultures also benefited," adds she.

However, the connection with understanding food wasn't new for Sarah. It had a link with her childhood. She says, "We didn't have a lot of money while we were growing up so with our Christmas presents, we used to make huge cookie jars to give to all our families and friends. We used to put a lot of time and effort into it. One year, we decided to buy only presents and not add the cookie jars. I got really upset. It was our favorite gift. It made me realise that food is a strong influence and could be a very emotional gift for someone."

Apart from cooking, modelling and writing, Sarah's favourite pass-time activities are to spend time with her family, eating and travelling.

SHORT CIRCUITS

RANVEER SINGH

Simone has a unique creative expression as a designer. She's also been one of my closest friends since childhood. I wanted to support and celebrate her breakthrough moment in the world of fashion. We share fond memories of growing up together, and it makes me immensely proud to be a small part of her achievements.

TAAPSEE PANNU

I would like to urge people to give an equal chance to films led by females, because only that will initiate change. Until now, we (female actors) get five to 10 per cent payment as compared to the male actors, because audience prefers watching films led by them. I request the audience to help us achieve equality.

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

It is not just in Hindi cinema, but also with the people living in an urban setup who have been caste-blind. Discrimination is so rampant in rural India, that it is disheartening to even witness it. With the response *Article 15* received, I think the Indian audience is now more open to such films.

SOPHIE CHOUDRY

Fitness is a huge part of my life. I think the most important message I want to get across through *Work It Up* is that fitness is not just about being skinny or having six pack abs. It is about your lifestyle, physical and mental health. Just because of my health and wanting to feel good and fit, I do a lot of stage shows as a singer.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA

Elsa is a fictional character who's known to be strongly-opinionated and level-headed, traits that I deeply connect with. This not only made me want to be part of the film *Frozen 2*, but also gives me a wonderful opportunity to present one of the most-successful animated films to our local audiences.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

Full circle

For anyone growing up in the 80s, actor, director, painter, photographer and writer DEEPTI NAVAL was an intrinsic part of the cinematic collage, says SAIMI SATTAR

The warmth of the laughter when you mention Deepti Naval's past co-stars is hard to miss even over the slightly erratic phone line which connects the two metros — the capital and the millennial city. But then, Ms Chamko, as she came to be popularly known after *Chashme Baddoor* (1981) was the quintessential girl next door with her sunshine smile and cheerful demeanour. However, the celebrated actor, painter and photographer, who was last seen in the web series, *Made in Heaven*, avers, "I was not the girl next door in real life. I was a New Yorker where I had gone to college and graduated in Arts as my major subject. I was running around theatre at Broadway and Museum of Modern Art and living in the neighbourhood of Andy Warhol. The sweet image was something that cinema created as this was the kind of girls people wrote about at that time. There was nothing dynamic where the female characters were strong, bold, dynamic and confident. I never got to play anything that came close to my own persona."

However, Naval who recently got the Excellence in Cinema Award at the 21st Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, does agree that actors who were a part of the parallel cinema at that time weren't victimised as much by the division between good and bad characters, something that plagued commercial cinema. "We still got to experiment with the characters that came our way. My very first film, *Ek Baar Phir* was in the grey zone." She played Kalpana, a girl married to a film star, who falls in love with a struggling painter. "The fact that my character has second thoughts about what she was doing and whether it was morally right staying in a marriage of convenience rather than



being with the man she loved, certainly fell in the realm of a grey area. For that matter, the three of us — Shabana (Azmi), Smita (Patil) and I had no qualms about playing those roles. It was a really good time and you reminded me of it," she laughs, her voice taking on a tenor which can be described as richer as she looks back nostalgically. "We discussed each other's roles. Smita was a dear friend. And then there were the directors like Basuda (Bhattacharya), Hrishda (Hrishikesh Mukherjee) and so many more," she says.

Talking of the old times with Naval naturally brings up the name of Farooq Shaikh, with whom she was seen frequently in the early part of the eighties in films like *Katha* (1982), *Saath Saath* (1982) besides *Chashme Buddoor*. Naval remembers, "He was one of the most delightful and adorable co-actors to work with and had a great sense of humour even though he always made people laugh at my expense. He was a sensitive actor and somebody who continued to encourage me and tell me my strong and weak points. He often said, 'Dips, for that is what he called me, you have it in you. Please take your work more seriously.'" But the mention of Shaikh seemed to have

opened another floodgate of memories. "There was Sanjeev Kumar in *Angoor* and Naseeruddin (Shah) in *Katha*. I love the way I am positioned in the film and the way I was working with the two best actors of the time. It was lovely," she adds.

A remake of *Chashme Buddoor* was released in 2013 but she feels that most old films which are recreated are a let down. "Though I encouraged it because David Dhavan is a dear friend but I didn't watch the whole film as it couldn't hold me. I didn't want to wash off the impact of our very original, adorable one," she says.

Since content, which was hitherto considered parallel, has now become mainstream, does Naval feel that this is a better time to be a part of cinema? "Definitely. Today there is a much wider audience for these subjects. We wanted to do so much more but we were always faced with the question whether it will work at the box office or not. But having said that, the films and the subjects were a record of that time and documented it. Today when I see these subjects and the way these films work, we too would have loved to be watched by millions rather than thousands. And I want to be a part of this scheme of things where you can



work on experimental subjects in a much interesting way and for a much larger audience," she says. Naval, who directed Manisha Koirala in *Do Paise Ki Dhoop*, *Chaar Aane Ki Baarish*, has three subjects

that she is looking at helming. "I will float around the ideas and see which one we can raise the money for," she says.

As an actor, Naval sprung a surprise in *NH10* (2015) where she played a Sarpanch, who gets her daughter killed for marrying outside caste, a strange combination of an empowered woman who is intensely regressive. "I didn't see it coming either," she says and laughs.

Even though most people talk about Naval in terms of her association with cinema, she is also a celebrated writer, painter and a photographer. She believes that it was ingrained in her from her childhood as her mother was a painter and her father, a writer. "In my childhood my dad would insist that I read books and my mother would make me sit down on the dining table and teach me to sketch. I inherited it and it depends on how you take it forward," she says.

All of them play an important part in her being. "These are my observations of life. It can only happen when you have a feel for these things. It is not something that you can acquire. It resides within you. I always felt a creative urge to express myself in one way or another. Writing and painting has been with me since my school days. Photography came in college

when I studied the subject."

Naval says that all of these ran parallel in her life. "There were a lot of times, when someone asked me if I had given up acting, during an exhibition at the Jehangir Art Gallery. But there was no concept in my head of having giving up one thing for the other," says Naval.

For her, all of the arts that she practises are deeply connected. "I remember shooting for a film called *Main Zinda Hoon* with Sudhir Mishra and I was so impacted by it that I was reliving a phase of my personal experience on camera. In the film's climax, I land up in a mental asylum and hallucinate that I am talking to my father. But it was real for the character. I went back home and painted that phase of mine where I am sitting, wrapped up in my own world communicating with my father who was long dead and gone," she says and goes on to talk about another work, *Black Wind*, which was a painting first and later became a poem. "It came from a very intense personal experience. I had furiously scribbled down my thoughts and then made the painting. But I felt that it didn't convey enough and went back to the notes and wrote the poem," she explains.

Similarly, she visited a mental institution to do homework for a script that she was working on about an actress who has to play a mentally disturbed character. "I came back and wrote 24 poems on women in mental asylums. If you know my work, you would connect the loose ends. It might not happen immediately but several years down the line," she says.

It is on account of her writing and interest in arts that Naval shared a deep and abiding connect with the firebrand writer Amrita Pritam whom she also portrayed on stage in *Ek Mulaqat* where she was cast with Shekhar Suman who played the role of poet Sahir Ludhianvi. She recalls, "I held her in high esteem. Amrita's work was always very fascinating as she was ahead of her time. She was the sole woman's voice in Punjabi poetry which was dominated by male Sufi poets. She wrote unabashedly about female experience. It was nothing sensational but the fact that she wrote blatantly and boldly at that time made it so. She was a deep thinker. I knew her personally and I was very fond of her. On every single trip that I made to Delhi I visited her where she would be sitting or reclining on her bed and chatting while she smoked her cigarette and talked about life. In the play, I tried to remain as close to her as possible. When people who saw me said that 'aapne Amritaji ko zinda kar diya', that was the best compliment."

Naval believes that Pritam had a great love story between her and Imroz that she hugely admires. Naval says, "For the play they chose the relationship with Sahir, which was also very intriguing and interesting between two talented writers. They had a shared sentiment in language, so the mutual fascination was there for a long time."

Just the way we share a fascination for a certain doe-eyed Ms Naval.

CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES

Deleted pages of history

Actor JARED HARRIS says that it was the first time that he portrayed a real character in *Chernobyl*, for which the research didn't turn out to be as helpful. By TEAM VIVA



You see a real visual flair without it being sensationalised. It took five months to shoot all the five episodes.

■ In that time, how hard was it to go home at night? Do you let it go? Do you kind of wallow in that for five months?

There's no time for wallowing because you've got something enormous the next day. I mean, as soon as something's finished, there's a sort of relief. You get that off your plate. And then you're looking ahead. During the days you're shooting something, if you've got some time off, you're already trying to make sure that you're going to be ready for what's coming down the line.

■ There were no light scenes that can give you a break. How did that go for you?

Yes, I asked for some comedy. I did. I made a pitch to Craig. I said, you know, Russians have a very good sense of humour. And he said 'no, no jokes for you.' He can even write funny but he didn't want to. I really wanted some comic element. All he gave me was one joke.

■ How difficult was it for you to prepare for a role like that?

Well, I was playing a real person and when you play a real character, there's so much information out there — books and videos. But my character, the Soviets had, quite successfully, cut out of the story. They threatened to erase him from the history. And so, in a lot of the books that I read, he wasn't even mentioned. This was probably the first time that I have played a historical character where the research wasn't really that helpful. Craig had a different thing in mind because the character I play is in contrast to Stellan's (Skarsgard) character. I needed to occupy a different space. In real life, what I observed about Legasov was that he had kind of Slavic Soviet swagger about him. He was an alpha male and projected confidence and that was exactly what Stellan's character was. So I had to find something different to serve the narrative. You do all your research but in the end you're not going to play your research, you're going to play what the script demands. And the writer has made decisions on the story. You play the version of the character that the writer has written for you. And that makes for some tense shooting days.

(*Chernobyl will premiere on Star World with a special play of back to back episodes on October 20 at 12 pm.*)

'Entertainment happened by chance'

Fiction and reality TV shows, music videos, films and web series, actor Hina Khan has done it all. But showbiz wasn't a planned move. She says entertainment happened by chance and the journey has been wonderful so far. She was part of one of the longest running TV shows, *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai*. She again won the audience's hearts when she got in the reality shows space with *Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi* and *Bigg Boss*. Her film *Lines* took her to the prestigious Cannes Film Festival this year.

"Entertainment happened by chance to me and the journey so far has been wonderful. My dream is to continue growing as an actor, to transcend boundaries and work on projects which are across the world," Hina said.

Her dreams are clearly coming true as she has taken the next step in the international market by signing an Indo-American film, which is based on HG Wells' novel, *The Country of the Blind*.

"I had never thought of becoming an actor and when my first show happened, it wasn't a plan. I went with the flow and the rest of course followed," said Hina, who has bagged a film by filmmaker Vikram Bhatt.

Bollywood or not, she says she is here to entertain. "Give me a good challenge as an actor and I shall lap it up," said the actor, whose negative avatar in the show *Kasautii Zindagii*



Kay was loved by many.

She also has an interest in doing something in the fitness space. "Fitness is a part of my life and hence doing anything related to it, comes naturally to me. I would love to do something in the fitness space soon but as of now, nothing is there in the pipeline," said she.

—JANS

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes Manchester United will turn their floundering fortunes around, but wants to make sure they have to wait at least another week to do so.

Klopp's men travel to Old Trafford on Saturday already 15 points ahead of their rivals just eight games into the campaign.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has called on his side to rise to the challenge of facing the European champions, citing it as the "perfect game" to motivate his struggling side.

Klopp has sympathy for Solskjaer's view, but he is confident of winning for the first time at Old Trafford as Liverpool boss.

"I don't think there are a lot of teams who would love to play against us at the moment. It looks like Man Utd is the only team that wants to play us, and we have to make sure that is a misunderstanding," said Klopp on Friday.

"I would do the same if the situation was the other way around. This is the game we can change the world, that is the way I would prepare it.

"They are in a situation that they don't like and they want to change it. We just have to make sure that if they want to change it, they start a week later and that's all."

United will be without the injured Paul Pogba and David de Gea, while Anthony Martial and Aaron Wan-Bissaka remain doubts.

And Klopp expects the Red Devils to improve once they get a number of key players back.

"They had a lot of injuries," he added. "A number of really decisive players for them. No one can play the same football when five or six first-team players are out. That will change."

By contrast, Liverpool could head to Old Trafford with a clean bill of health, with goalkeeper Alisson Becker set to return for the first time since the opening weekend of the season, while Joel Matip and Mohamed Salah have recovered from knocks.

"There are two more sessions to come from this afternoon and we have to see," said Klopp on whether all three will start. "Then we'll make decisions, that's how it is. Nothing is fixed."

'MATCH CAN SPARK REVIVAL'

Meanwhile, Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes

Suffer a little longer

Klopp keen to make Red Devils wait for turnaround



Manchester United defenders Luke Shaw and Victor Lindelof celebrates as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah reacts after end of Premier League match AP/File Picture

Nothing to lose in title race: Virgil

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have nothing to lose in the Premier League title race despite amassing an eight-point lead after just eight games, according to defender Virgil Van Dijk.

The European champions are in pole position to end a 30-year wait to win a league title, but Van Dijk believes the pressure is still on Manchester City to win the league for a third straight year.

"I don't think we have anything to lose," Van Dijk told *Sky Sports* ahead of tomorrow trip to Manchester United.

"Man City are the champions, they're defending their title and we want to get it. In my point of view, we just have to go for it.

"We definitely need to enjoy it and be full of confidence, especially with the way we've got these points, having not had the best games but still getting the wins."

City's shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves have allowed Liverpool to surge ahead thanks to their perfect start to the season.

However, Van Dijk remains wary of Pep Guardiola's men, who overturned a seven-point deficit to pip

Liverpool to the title by a point last season.

"There are so many games left, you can't really think about it (winning the title) — it's not realistic," added the Dutch captain.

"I don't watch Man City's games but I have family and friends who text me or say something, especially after the Wolves game.

"That's just part of life but we've learnt from last year that we don't have to look to the others until the end of the campaign. So far, we have been doing well but Man City are definitely not going away."

the visit of rivals Liverpool could help galvanize his struggling side to pull themselves out of their alarming slump.

The difference in current fortunes between English football's two most successful clubs could not be greater, with Liverpool top of the table after eight wins out of eight and also on a run of 17 consecutive league victories, while United have made their worst start to a season for 30 years.

If results go against them today, United could even be teetering just above the relegation zone by the time they kick off tomorrow, but Solskjaer is bullish.

"They're doing well in the league that's for sure but we're looking forward to this game," said the Norwegian on Friday.

"This is a perfect game for the players and the fans. We've had a tough time and a difficult time lately but I am sure we will give them a good game."

United have just nine points from their first eight league matches of this season and are currently 12th in the table.

Stretching back to Solskjaer's permanent appointment in March, they have won only five games out of 21 in all competitions.

It is far below expectations, which the manager knows, but he believes that the work going on behind the scenes will pay dividends eventually.



Lionel Messi & Sergio Ramos in action during El Clasico AP

El Clasico postponed over Catalonia protests

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona and Real Madrid have agreed a new date of December 18 for the Clasico after Spain's biggest football match was postponed on Friday due to protests in Catalonia.

The fixture was set to be Barcelona's first home game since nine pro-Catalan independence leaders were sentenced to imprisonment on Monday for their role in the illegal referendum in 2017.

Barca and Madrid swiftly came to an agreement, hours after the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced they had until 10:00am (0800 GMT) on Monday to find a revised date for the game.

All that remains is for the RFEF to confirm the change with La Liga, although the league would prefer the match take place on December 7.

December 7 is a Saturday and has more potential for broadcasters but it would require moving both Barcelona against Real Mallorca and Madrid against Espanyol.

December 18 is a Wednesday and would clash with the Copa del Rey but neither Barca nor Madrid will be involved at that stage of Spain's domestic cup competition.

In a statement on Friday, Barcelona stressed their belief that the original fixture, scheduled for October 26 at Camp Nou, should have gone ahead.

"The club's desire was to play the Clasico at Camp Nou on the 26th, the date and time previously agreed and the Committee was informed of this in writing," read the Barcelona statement.

"The club has the utmost confidence in the peaceful behaviour of its members and fans who always express themselves in exemplary fashion at Camp Nou."

"Nevertheless, having received the decision of the RFEF Competition Committee to postpone the game citing 'exceptional circumstances' and given that it falls to the clubs to agree a new date for the game before Monday, the club will propose December 18."

Real Madrid later added: "Real Madrid wishes to communicate that the date proposed by both clubs is the 18th of December."

Delhi face Bengal for PKL title



Dabang Delhi's Naveen Kumar & Bengal Warriors' Maninder Singh pose with the Pro Kabaddi League season 7 trophy on the eve of the final

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An exhilarating, three-month long season 7 of VIVO Pro Kabaddi has reached its culmination with Dabang Delhi KC set to battle Bengal Warriors at the coveted title at the EKA Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad today.

Judging by the seasons' performances, both table toppers and maiden finalists have deserved the right to play in the final, after having finished the league stages.

While the likes of Delhi's Naveen Kumar and Bengal's Maninder Singh have walked away with the plaudits, the teams' success on the mat have come largely due to their cohesion.

Delhi's semi-final match against Bengaluru Bulls was an example of how backup raiders Chandran Ranjit and Vijay are vital cogs in the Dabang unit, contributing in both tackles and raids.

Similarly in defence, while Ravinder Pahal and Joginder Narwal grabbed the lime-light, Vishal Mane has gone about doing his work quietly as a cover defender. The seasoned defender now has the opportunity to become the first player PKL history to win the title with three different teams (having

Pro Kabaddi League Final
Live from 8:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 2

already won with U Mumba and Patna Pirates).

Bengal Warriors also have a fair share of unsung heroes. Sukesh Hegde, who will be playing his 100th match, has thrown down the gauntlet to his doubters who called him a 'spent force' with vital raid points whenever his team needed them. K Prapanjan has also had a breakout season for the Warriors as a raider. Both players will be keen to avoid a defeat having suffered a heartbreak while playing for Gujarat FortuneGiants in earlier seasons.

STOPPING UNSTOPPABLE

Both Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors have a wealth of talent as far as raiders go which would mean that the match will come down to which set of defenders play better. In Rinku Narwal and Baldev Singh, the Warriors have a strong corner duo, who have impressed with tackle points this season. Both are relatively inexperienced compared to Delhi's defensive stalwarts Joginder Narwal, Ravinder Pahal and Vishal

"We have a balanced team with Joginder and Ravinder in defense along with Naveen's express raiding skills supported by Chandran Ranjith as well. We are fully prepared to face the toughest match of the season and our eyes are on the trophy."

—VISHAL MANE
(Dabang Delhi defender)

"For any team reaching the Finals of vivo Pro Kabaddi itself is a big deal! Having said that, we are not taking the pressure of the finals and that's what we believe will bring the best game for us on the mat. The team has been practicing and focusing on their fitness and we are confident of lifting the trophy this time."

—MANINDER SINGH
(Bengal Warrior raider)

"This will be a very exciting finals as both the teams will be competing in the finals for the first time. The experience of lifting the trophy is something undefinable and we are confident it will be a match to watch."

—BC RAMESH
(Coach, Bengal Warriors)

"Both teams are very disciplined, and the finals will be a great game to witness."

—KRISHAN KUMAR HOODA
(Coach, Dabang Delhi)

Mane. However, the inexperienced duo will be looking to show that they are no easy pushovers by trying to make a statement against an inform Naveen Kumar who will be targeting his 21st consecutive Super 10. Both the teams are also at the top two in terms of most all-outs conceded this season (net All-Out of +16 for both teams).

Maninder Singh's availability still remains undecided but Bengal Warriors showed that against a talented U Mumba side in the semi-finals that they can produce the goods even without their star raider. In fact, when the teams first met this season, it was Prapanjan who scored a Super 10 after Maninder was substituted for a poor

Murray in Antwerp last 8

AFP ■ ANTWERP

Former world number one Andy Murray cruised into the quarter-finals at Antwerp on Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion, currently ranked 243rd in the world, held serve throughout against eighth seed Cuevas before sealing victory in 84 minutes.

He will take on Romania's Marius Copil — who hit 13 aces past third seed Diego Schwartzman in a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7) win — for a place in the last four.

"I felt a bit better today. I thought I served quite well for most of the match and when I was able to get into the baseline rallies, I felt I was hitting the ball quite clean, which is good," Murray said.

"He served very well, which made it difficult for me to get the breaks, but I thought for me it was a good match."

Italian teenager Jannik Sinner dumped out top seed and 2018 runner-up Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2 to reach his first ATP quarter-final.

Next up for the 18-year-old Sinner is American Frances Tiafoe, a straight-sets winner over seventh-seeded German Jan-Lennard Struff.

"I played a very solid game. He didn't play his best tennis for sure. It's not easy if you make the final the year before and then to come here to play a young player and wild card," world number 119 Sinner told *atp-tour.com*.

"I think I played solid today. I served good on the important points and I think that was the key today."

LOCAL EVENTS

MOHAN BAGS GOLD



Mohan Bhargawa of Uttar Pradesh clocked 1.1.22 to bag the 50m breaststroke (over 8 years) gold medal in the 16th Masters National Aquatic Championship at SAI centre on Friday. Host UP won four gold, seven silver and 10 bronze medals on the opening day. Vanya Chandel clinched the 100m butterfly gold while Garima Kapoor, Abhishek Tiwari bagged the yellow metal in diving events.

Earlier, Addl chief secretary (sports) Mohd Iftakharuddin inaugurated the championship. Others present were UP Swimming Association president Ranjit Singh Judeo and secretary Ravin Kapoor.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Friday named an unchanged women squad, to be led by Rani Rampal, along with the men's team for the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

The 18-member men's squad will be captained by Manpreet Singh and seasoned forward S V Sunil will be his deputy.

Goalkeeper Savita will be the vice-captain of the women's squad.

The two teams are scheduled to take part in the two-legged FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Odisha where the World No 5 men's team will be up against World No 22 Russia, while the World No 9 women's side will face World No 13 USA.

The men's team has two goalkeepers in P R Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

Captain Manpreet leads the forward line which also includes Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Ramandeep Singh.

"After a good preparation tour in Belgium, it was always going to be a very difficult decision to pick the best 18 players for this tour-



Indian men's & women's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh & Rani Rampal HI

name. We have chosen a well-balanced side with a number of good flexible options," said men's chief coach Graham Reid. "We now need to focus on strategies against Russia, and ensure we are at our best when we step onto the field on 1st and 2nd November"

The women's team remained unchanged from its tour of England.

"We have a good balance

and mixture of players in the squad. It is important to stay in the rhythm with the same players who performed well in the preparatory tour. We now focus on making sure that we leave no stone unturned when we take on USA in the two matches," said women's team coach Sjoerd Marjine.

The winners of the Qualifiers will ensure place in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

AKHIL INFRA WIN

Akhil Infra Cricket Club defeated LDA Coaching Centre by 15 runs in the opening match of All-India Sports Galaxy Trophy at Seth AR jaipuria ground on Friday.

BRIEF SCORES:

AICC: 223 (Abhinav Dixit 65, Shubransh 34, Mohd Saif 31; Tejeswa Raj 37/4)
LDACC: Himanshu Asnora 90, Alok Singh 50; Mohd Saif 28/4, Dharmendra 25/2, Sandeep 19/2).

CHESS TOURNEY



All seeded players won their respective matches without any glitches on the opening day of the 1st Christ Church Chess Tournament at Christ Church college on Friday. Earlier, Old Christ Churchians' Association vice-president Sardar Gurjit Singh inaugurated the event.



Indian captain Virat Kohli, right, and teammate Rohit Sharma, center, listen to coach Ravi Shastri during a training session ahead of 3rd Test

Complete Whitewash

In last outing before Diwali, Virat & boys go for Proteas hunt with aim to consolidate lead at top in Test Championship

PTI ■ RANCHI

It would have been a dead rubber but with valuable World Test Championship points on offer, India would be eyeing victory while South Africa would be desperate for some consolation in a wretched tour when the third and final Test starts here today.

There are 40 points on offer and a 3-0 series whitewash, both of which India would be targeting against the hapless visitors.

India, who have 200 points from four games, have a massive 140-point lead over nearest rivals New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the WTC standings. Skipper Virat Kohli has also made it clear that there is plenty to play for in the final Test and the team cannot afford a drop in intensity. Going into the game, India have very few holes to plug, be it their batting or bowling.

The home team could not have asked for more from their top-order with Rohit Sharma showing why he is such an impact player as he feasted on the South African bowlers with twin hundreds in the first Test while opening for the first time.

The *Mumbaikar's* opening partner Maynak Agarwal on the other hand went on to convert his maiden hundred into a double in Visakhapatnam and followed it up with another century in Pune.

Then it was the turn of 'King Kohli' who came to the party in the Pune with a career-best double hundred—a majestic 254 not out—and made it look like a routine job.

Rohit will be eyeing a big score after not firing in the first innings

India vs South Africa
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

of the Pune Test while Cheteshwar Pujara, who has scored two fifties in the series, would be looking to cross the three-figure mark.

That India have lost only 16 wickets while routing South Africa in both the Tests sums up their dominance.

Toss has also been kind to India so far and things are likely to get more exciting if the stroke of luck favours Faf du Plessis in the final Test.

The last time South Africa toured the India, rank-turners had welcomed the side but this time both the pacers and spinners have been able to extract something out of the pitch.

Umesh Yadav made a fine comeback in the Pune Test to return with fine figures of 3/22 with some brief hostile spells as wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha who took some breathtaking catches to aid to the pacer's tally.

Kohli played an extra pacer in Umesh at Pune by benching Hanuma Vihari but only time will tell what combination he chooses for the final Test.

South African captain Faf du Plessis has already predicted the Ranchi pitch to be a turner, bringing a third spinner into picture.

Since Kuldeep Yadav has been ruled out of the match due to a shoulder injury, left-arm spinner Shabbaz Nadeem has been drafted into the squad and he might sneak

into the playing XI as well.

South Africa batsmen showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but they let themselves down in Pune.

It was only the tailenders who showed some character and frustrated the Indian bowling. Du Plessis has urged experiences players like Dean Elgar, Quinton De Kock and Temba Bavuma to bat with responsibility.

Their batting woes are further compounded by the absence of opener Aiden Markram who has been ruled out of the third Test with an injury.

The pace attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander and Anrich Nortje has also not been as effective as expected while the Indian pacers have managed to provide the breakthroughs.

With their senior-most spinner Keshav Maharaj also ruled out, South Africa will find it tougher to stop the Indian juggernaut.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (c), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shabbaz Nadeem, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill.

South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Temba Bavuma (vc), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, George Linde, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi Second.



I share good understanding with Pant: Saha

PTI ■ RANCHI

The cut-throat competition for a place in India's playing XI has not affected Wriddhiman Saha's relationship with his understudy Rishabh Pant as the duo try to help each other with notes on glove work.

Saha was out of the Indian team for 20 months due to a shoulder surgery but his now back to his best as a keeper with some stunning catches in the second Test in Pune.

Six days short of his 35th birthday, the sprightly Saha is often seen helping Pant with keeping drills after his own training, something that has been directed by the team manager.

Ask him if he is mentoring Pant and the ever-reticent Saha replied in negative.

"There's nothing (mentoring) like that. We just discuss normally the way the wicketkeepers discuss. With Sridhar and Pant, we three jointly decide on how to go about our wicketkeeping on a particular type of wicket," he said.

The co-ordination and rapport between them helps it easier for them to work together.

"We always observe each other's wicket-keeping. We work hard in our practice sessions and have a good understanding and co-ordination among ourselves. We always try to point out each other's mistakes. It's been going well so far," he said.

While his keeping has been rated as the best in world cricket, even BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly has spoken about the need to improve on his batting averages.

"Whoever plays in the team wants to contribute. As a wicket-keeper, I look to get sometime in the middle and if I get time I try to build a partnership and score a fifty or so. Everyone tries like that. Sometime it works, sometime it does not," Saha said.

Leading 2-0, Saha said, it's time to complete a whitewash against South Africa.

"I have good memory of the last match. I made 117 in the last match. I remember how I approached the innings. I also remember the Steve Smith incident. If you see we drew it last time. We are 2-0 up in the series so this time we will try to make it 3-0 this time," he concluded.

Faf wants to 'bat big' like India 'Someone else' at the toss



PTI ■ RANCHI

South African captain Faf du Plessis has urged his embattled batsmen to take a leaf out of India's book and "bat big" like the hosts in order to salvage pride in the third and final Test.

"For me it's important that the guys don't feel like there is one week left in India and almost when you get on that plane to South Africa, the Test

series we play now is for Test championship, there is points still up for grabs every Test match. So for me the challenge is more mental," the South African skipper told reporters.

The Proteas' batting showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but disappointed in the second Test. Urging his batsmen to convert their starts, Du Plessis said: "For all of us it is just about converting and I am not different to

any one of those players when I get to 50, I want to get a hundred.

"The fact that I have done it twice already this series, there is no reason for me not to go and get a big one. That's a challenge for myself because I understand that sixties is not going to win Test matches for us. I need to bat big like the Indian team has done and score big runs."

Du Plessis also asked

his bowlers to buck up as India lost only 16 wickets in two Tests, clearly reflecting their dominance.

"From the bowling point of view how can we get 20 wickets, we haven't done that this series. If we do those things then we will compete with India. It is tough when we are losing. We are very competitive people so for us it does take a dent out of your confidence," he said.

RANCHI: Having lost nine successive tosses in Asia, an exasperated South Africa captain Faf du Plessis won't mind sending "someone else" in his place for the toss of the coin in the third and final Test. South Africa have struggled in Indian conditions and not winning the toss in the first two Tests has only made things tougher for them. Opting to bat in Visakhapatnam and Pune, India put up 500-plus totals to virtually bat the visitors out

of the game. "We really want to make sure that we compete with this team in their own conditions. We have done it in stages in the first Test. So, hoping that we can start with the toss tomorrow. "Probably we will change... Send someone else to the toss tomorrow. I can give you that... Because my records so far has not been great," said du Plessis, in a lighter vein, on the eve of the game. Du Plessis said "anything is possible" if his side get to bat first. "If you put big runs in the first innings, that's where it need to stop. Then anything from there is possible. Hopefully that will unfold in the next couple of days and hopefully we can put some runs on. "The pitch looks a little bit drier and cruller so first innings runs will be vital and then anything from there is possible in the second innings," Faf added.

PTI

SINGLES

MODRIC, BALE TO MISS MALLORCA TRIP

MADRID: Real Madrid will be without both Gareth Bale and Luka Modric for this weekend's Liga match against Real Mallorca. Zinedine Zidane confirmed on Friday, Modric and Bale both picked up injuries during the Euro 2020 qualifier between Croatia and Wales. Bale is suffering with cramp in his calf while Modric is recovering from heavy bruising in his right thigh. "Modric is not fit for tomorrow," said Zidane in a press conference. "Gareth Bale is not going to be with us, neither Toni Kroos nor Lucas Vazquez. We have to accept it. There are other players." Kroos injured his foot playing for Madrid against Granada while Vazquez has a calf problem.

JUNIOR BOXERS NOTCH UP 21 MEDALS

NEW DELHI: Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the Asian Junior Championships, clinching a bumper tally of 21 medals, including six Gold and nine Silver, to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. The Indian men's squad fetched two Gold, three Silver and an equal number of Bronze, while the women claimed four Gold, six Silver and three Bronze medals to round off a stupendous performance on Thursday evening. The team ended top in terms of medals won but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) which had a better Gold count of eight.

ENG ROPE JEETAN AS CONSULTANT

LONDON: Former New Zealand spinner Jeetan Patel has been appointed as spin-bowling consultant of England for the upcoming five-match T20I series against the Black Caps. Patel, the native-born New Zealander, who is contracted to Cricket Wellington, has been given dispensation to miss the first three matches of the Plunket Shield season. He will join up with the England squad when they arrive in Christchurch next week.

BULGARIA COACH QUILTS AFTER RACISM ROW

SOFIA: Bulgaria's coach quit Friday over the 6-0 loss to England in a Euro 2020 qualifier which was overshadowed by racist abuse that sparked a storm of protest. Monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes during Monday's match caused indignation in the football world and led to the resignation of Bulgaria's football federation chief. Bulgaria coach Krasimir Balakov, who took over the team in May, said he handed in his resignation during a meeting of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) executive committee. "I said that if I am the problem of Bulgarian football, I am handing in my resignation. There is no way back," the former midfielder told reporters after the meeting. "I will keep my fingers crossed for the next manager as the

Sarfaraz sacked as Test & T20 captain

Babar to lead in T20s while Azhar Ali appointed as red-ball skipper

PTI ■ KARACHI

Sarfaraz Ahmed was on Friday sacked as Pakistan's Test and T20 captain with Azhar Ali and Babar Azam elevated to leadership roles for the upcoming tour of Australia.

In an official announcement on Friday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that experienced batsman Ali would lead the Test side in the two Tests in Australia while Babar Azam would be the captain in the three T20 matches Down Under.

Sarfaraz has been captain in all three formats of the game since the last two years and led Pakistan to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title.

In Tests and ODIs, Pakistan's ranking has slipped under his captaincy while they were whitewashed in the recent T20 home series against Sri Lanka.

Sarfaraz, who was the toast of the nation after Pakistan beat India in the Champions Trophy final, has had a torrid time in the Test and ODI formats in the last two years.

He came under fire recently when a depleted Sri Lankan team swamped Pakistan 3-0 in the T20 series in Lahore.

With his own form suffering with the bat, speculations were rife that the new head coach cum chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq would move to make changes in the captaincy in the three formats but no one was expecting Sarfaraz to be sacked so quickly.

The PCB said the squad for the Australian tour would be announced on October 21.

The PCB also released a short statement from Sarfaraz.

"I wish the best for both Azhar and Babar in their new endeavours and I must



Newly appointed Pak Test captain Azhar Ali

thank my coaches, fellow players and the selectors for having supported me a lot in my tenure as captain," Sarfaraz said. This is the first experience for Babar, 25, to lead the national team in any format.

He has been Pakistan's leading scorer in the last two years in the white ball formats and is also slowly establishing himself in Test cricket.

Azhar, 34, who has played in 73 Tests and 53 ODIs led Pakistan in One-day Internationals between April 2015 and February 2017, winning 12 and losing 18 matches.

He stepped down as ODI captain and was replaced by Sarfaraz in February 2017 after a 1-4 loss in Australia.

PTI ■ RANCHI

He has quit longest format five years back but local boy Mahendra Singh Dhoni is expected to watch the third and final Test against South Africa beginning here today, his manager Mihir Diwakar confirmed.

"Mahi will definitely come and you will see him during the first day's proceedings tomorrow (today). I was there with him in Mumbai and he will fly down tomorrow (Saturday) morning," Dhoni's manager and one-time Jharkhand teammate Diwakar said.

The Jharkhand State Cricket Association president, Nafis Khan, has personally sent an invitation to Dhoni's family.

"We have sent an invitation to his family. *Yeh to unka hi stadium hai* (It's his stadium



only). He is most welcome anytime," Khan said. However his friend, Diwakar, who is the founder of Aarka Sports that runs MS Dhoni Cricket Academy, said Dhoni is likely to come alone as the Indian

team is likely to have dinner at his sprawling farmhouse in Simaliya, in outskirts of Ranchi.

Dhoni has moved from his Harmu residence about two years back and lives with his parents at his farmhouse about 30 kilometres from the city.

Post India's World Cup semi-final exit, Dhoni's whereabouts has been a matter of speculation as the 'Captain Cool' took a sabbatical and opted out of the series against West Indies and South Africa, fuelling retirement speculations.

Dhoni is certainly not going to be picked for the upcoming series against

Bangladesh.

Diwakar said nobody knows about Dhoni's cricket decisions.

"All cricketing decisions are solely made by him. No one other than him knows about his cricketing decisions. You have seen how he stopped playing Tests. It's difficult to predict, and we don't discuss that matter. What will be the difference between common public and friends if we start asking him the same questions?"

Dhoni's childhood coaches Keshav Ranjan Banerjee and Dr Moti Prasad, who is still the sports teacher at the DAV School, also feel people should leave him alone.

Minister should not be involved in selection of players: Rijiju

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday steered clear of the controversy triggered by boxer Nikhat Zareen's demand for a trial bout against the celebrated M C Mary Kom, saying he "should not" get involved beyond advising the federation to make the best choice.

Zareen had written a letter to Rijiju on Thursday, demanding that she be given a trial bout against Mary Kom before the Indian squad for next year's Olympic qualifiers in China is decided.

This was after the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) stated that it

intends to pick six-time world champion Mary Kom (51kg) for the event in China on the back of her recent Bronze medal at the world championships in Russia.

"I'll surely convey to Boxing Federation to take the best decision keeping in mind the best interest of the NATION, SPORTS & ATHLETES. Although, Minister should not be involved in the selection of the players by the Sports Federations which are autonomous as per OLYMPIC CHARTER," Rijiju tweeted in response to Zareen's letter.

Responding to Rijiju's post, Zareen said she hopes for a fair chance.

"Thank you so much sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels for our country," she tweeted.

The BFI introduced a point-based selection system last year under which boxers are now being picked on the back of their performances in various graded tournaments and the national camps.

Trial bouts, a norm earlier, are being conducted only in those weight categories in which the coaches and selectors find the competition to be exceptionally close.

