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STRENGTH OF AN INSTITUTION

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SPORT 15
INTER BEAT AC MILAN 4-2 IN SERIE A CLASH

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Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 41
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

SUNNY LEONE BAGS THREE AWARDS
13 VIVACITY



Competing theories: Exit polls vs late turnout surge

Exit polls predicted huge majority for AAP, but some theorists doubt claims as voters after 3pm were left out for assessment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Exit polls may have predicted an Aam Aadmi Party's sweep in the Delhi Assembly poll, but empathetic claims by top BJP leadership of a "lotus" bloom has injected an element of interest in the counting proceedings on Tuesday.

The pro-AAP camp will take heart from the fact that many of the exit polls have given it 60 plus seats in the House of 70. The India Today-Axis My India poll, which hit the bull's eye on more than one occasion in the recent past, has gone to the extent of predicting 68 seats for the AAP in the best possible scenario.

Minister Amit Shah and State BJP president Manoj Tiwari don't agree to the exit polls' predictions. They have stuck their necks out and claimed that the BJP will get between 45 and 48 seats and comfortably form a Government. The Delhi BJP unit is also reported to have ordered a 47 kg laddoo, hoping they will get no less than 47 seats, sources said.

While a few politicians accept defeat till the last vote is counted, questions are doing the rounds: Why would Amit Shah of all the persons would put his prestige on stake if he believed in the findings of the exit polls?

The skeptics are counting on claims of "late" evening

surge of voters to trash the exit polls, saying they captured the voting trend up to only till 3 pm. However, such surge in voting is a universal trend in India and there is no empirical evidence to suggest that even if voters turnout in large number in the evening they would en masse vote for any political party only.

Delhi BJP leaders and their poll managers say Delhiites voted in two phases: The first being between 8 am and 3 pm when the AAP had a clear lead. However, thereafter, BJP's voters started pouring in, they claimed. Neelkant Bakshi, the political adviser to Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, posted a series of tweets with



Security personnel at Atal Adarsh Bengali Girls Senior Secondary School, one of the counting centres for the Delhi Assembly polls, on the eve of the results in New Delhi on Monday

TESTING GROUND

- The pro-AAP camp will take heart from the fact that many of the exit polls have given it 60 plus seats in the House of 70
- The skeptics are counting on claims of "late" evening surge of voters to trash the exit polls, saying they captured the voting trend up to only till 3 pm

names of the Assembly constituencies where according to him the BJP will win.

The BJP is also claiming that the entire AAP leadership is unusually quiet after the polling, which is an indication that the party has not got the desired result.

The BJP leaders also claimed that the five per cent decline in the voting compared to the 2015 poll is also a

cause of worry for the AAP as they feel that AAP voters did not come out to vote. In 2015, the polling percentage stood at 67.17 while the overall poll percentage in 2020 is 62.59.

Late surge, EVM tampering, silent voters — these are some of the theories doing the rounds on the eve of the counting of votes. For good measures, they have kept interest alive in the counting.

Indians on quarantined ship send SOS to PM

'Save us asap' asks one; 160 crew members, 8 passengers on ship off Japan

PTI ■ TOKYO

An unspecified number of Indians, who were among 3,711 passengers and crew members on board a cruise ship quarantined off Japan due to diagnosis of coronavirus cases, have sent an SOS video message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rescue them as soon as possible.

"Please somehow save us as soon as possible. What's the idea if something happens (to us)...I want to request the Government of India and Prime Minister (Narendra) Modiji, please segregate us and bring us back home safely," said Indian crew member, identified as Binay Kumar Sarkar.

Quoting Sarkar, on board Diamond Princess, NDTV news channel said there are 160 Indian crew members and eight Indian passengers on the ship. Sarkar, in a video recorded from the ship, appealed to the Indian Government and the UN to segregate the Indians on board on urgent basis.

"None of them have been checked (for coronavirus),"

Sarkar, a chef from Bengal, said in Hindi. He was flanked by five of his Indian colleagues who were wearing masks.

Around 60 people tested positive of the virus on Monday, taking the total number of those infected on the cruise ship Diamond Princess — which had arrived at the Japanese coast early last week and was quarantined after a passenger who de-boarded last month in Hong Kong was found to be the carrier of the novel virus on the ship — to 130. Authorities had initially tested nearly 300 people when the ship arrived at the Japanese coast.

Indian Embassy in Tokyo on Monday tweeted the information about the Indians on the ship. "Many Indian crew & some Indian passengers are on board the cruise ship Diamond Princess quarantined off Japan due to Coronavirus (nCoV)," it tweeted, without giving a specific number of Indians on the ship.

"In this context, for any query please contact First Secretary (Consular)



The quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess anchors at the Yokohama Port on Monday, Yokohama. Japan's Health Ministry said on Monday that about 60 more people on the quarantined cruise ship have tested positive for coronavirus

@IndianEmbTokyo at fscons.Tokyo@mea.Gov.In @CPVIndia @MEAIndia @PMOIndia, it said.

Those on the ship have been asked to wear masks and

allowed limited access to the open decks as they are advised to remain in the cabins most of the times to contain the spread of the virus, according to media reports.

According to an AFP report, people on board the ship are facing difficulty due to the quarantine measures, particularly those in windowless interior cabins and others who require medication for various chronic conditions.

The Japanese Health Ministry said on Monday that around 600 people on board urgently needed medication, and around half received supplies over the weekend, it said.

Meanwhile, the operator of the ship on Monday vowed to refund all 2,666 passengers due to the onboard outbreak of the new coronavirus. Carnival Japan Inc, the Japanese branch of Princess Cruise Lines Ltd, which operates the ship, said refunds will be offered via travel agencies through which the passengers made their bookings.

The company will additionally cover all costs incurred by those quarantined aboard the ship since last Tuesday, when passengers were originally scheduled to disembark at Yokohama.

See P4: China praises PM Modi's letter to Xi on coronavirus assistance

Opp raises din over SC ruling on SC/ST quota in promotion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government and the Congress on Monday sparred in Parliament over the Supreme Court ruling that States are not bound to provide quota in appointments and promotions.

As tempers began to fray and Opposition and treasury benches clashed with each other, the Government informed the Lok Sabha that it was not a party to the case, but insisted the issue was being discussed at the "highest level".

The BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) sought that the reservation for SCs/STs should be put in the 9th schedule so that none could make any change in it and another ally Apna Dal also asked Government to ensure that reservation continues irrespective of SC ruling.

The Janata Dal (U) rejected Opposition's charge of BJP being anti-reservation saying it was the Modi Government which brought an ordinance to neutralise the SC ruling on SC/ST Atrocities Act. The

Not party to case, but discussing issue at 'highest level', Govt informs LS



Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury speaks in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Monday

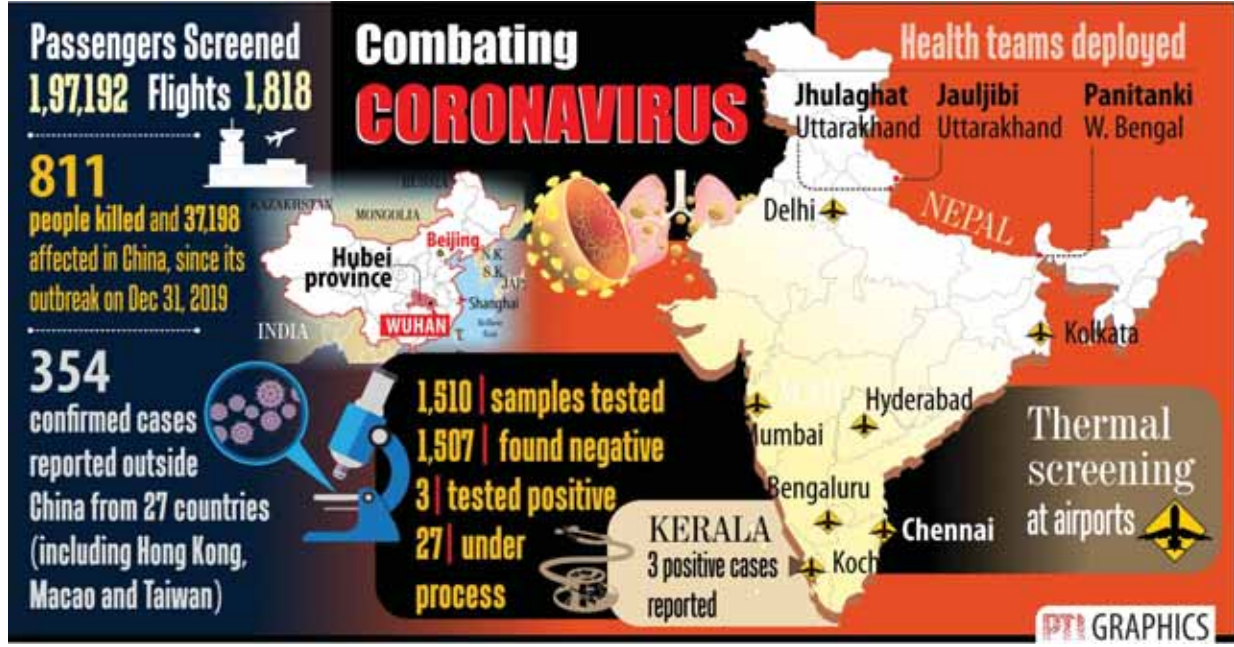
Opposition parties demanded that the Centre file a review petition before the apex court.

After the Opposition accused the Centre of failing to defend the reservation system, Social Justice Minister Thawarchand Gehlot told the Lok Sabha that the Modi Government was not a party to the case, which is about a 2012

decision of the previous Congress Government in Uttarakhnad, and asserted that the Central Government is "committed" and "dedicated" to reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs.

The Congress hit back at Gehlot and accused him of misleading the Lok Sabha. The party also decided to move a privilege motion against him. Outside Parliament, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said it was in the DNA of the BJP and the RSS to try and erase reservations. He asserted that his party will not allow doing away with quota.

Continued on Page 4



1st affected Indian on the mend

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Much to the relief of the health authorities here, the first patient in the country to be affected by the deadly coronavirus is recovering well and her samples that were sent to the Kerala unit of National Institute of Virology (NIV) have tested negative.

Health officials are awaiting test reports from NIV, Pune. At present, the medical student, who recently returned from Wuhan in China, is being treated at the Thiruvallur Medical College in an isolation ward after testing positive for the coronavirus on January 30.

Her condition was "stable", they said.

In Kerala as of now, 34 people are in isolation wards across various hospitals in the State.

"The blood test result of the first patient from Thrissur, from the National Institute of Virology (NIV) testing centre at Alappuzha, shows a negative result. But we need confirmation from the NIV at Pune," said a senior medical officer from the Kerala Government.

After the first positive case was reported from Thrissur, two other Keralaite students from Wuhan had tested positive in Alappuzha and Kasaragod districts.

"A total of 3,252 are still under observation across the State, of which 3,218 are under home quarantine," said a release issued by the Health Department which has sent at least 345 samples for testing at the NIV Pune and so far 326 results have returned negative.

With various fake news on coronavirus doing the rounds, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said "fear psychosis" is being created over the pathogen and dismissed the suggestion that migratory birds could be the reason behind its spread.

Continued on Page 4

Students protest against groping at Gargi, FIR lodged

'Cops deputed outside campus didn't rescue us from molesters'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After large number of students of the all-women Gargi College on Monday held a protest against the alleged molestation of students by a group of men at a cultural festival on the campus, the Delhi Police said it has launched a probe into the incident and is scanning CCTV footage.

They confirmed later in the afternoon that they received a complaint from the college

authorities. A case has been registered at the Hauz Khas police station.

Over 100 students held a protest outside the gate of Gargi College on Monday. As per posts of students and teachers on social media, during the college festival "Reverie" around 6.30 pm on Sunday, a group of unruly, drunk men mobbed the entrances of the college and forced their way in.

Students alleged that the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Delhi Police personnel were deployed close to the gate through which the men entered the college.

Continued on Page 4

Shaheen Bagh protesters can't block public road: SC

SC refuses to pass order; fumes over infant's death, asks if 4-month old can walk to protest site

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Protesters cannot block public road that causes inconvenience for others and there cannot be an indefinite period of protest in such an area, the Supreme Court said on Monday on anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh, but it declined to pass an interim direction on pleas for removal of protesters. The court observed that that people are entitled to protest but it has to be done in an area identified for agitations.

"You cannot block the pub-



lic roads. There cannot be indefinite period of protest in such an area. If you want to protest, it has to be in an area identified for protest," the SC said.

The apex court also took up the issue of the death of an infant son of a protester. The four-month-old baby had passed away in his sleep on the

night of January 30 after her mother returned from Shaheen Bagh protest site.

"Can a four-month-old child be taking part in such (Shaheen Bagh) protests?", the court asked while warning two women lawyers for making "explosive submissions" that children participating in the protests against the Citizenship Amended Act (CAA) are being called names, "terrorist", "gad-dar" (traitor), "Pakistani".

"Don't make explosive submissions. Please do not make such statements. We do not want people to use this platform to further create problems," said a Bench, comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant, when two women advocates — Shahrulkh Alam and Nandita Rao — started making submissions.

Continued on Page 4

Anti-CAA agitators scuffle with cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several students and residents of Jamia Nagar on Monday scuffled with Delhi Police personnel near Holy Family Hospital after they were stopped from carrying their anti-CAA march towards Parliament. Police said the protesters did not have permission to march towards Parliament.

Amid heavy deployment of security personnel in and around the Jamia Millia Islamia, the protesters began their march from JMI's gate number 7. The protesters clambered over barricades, ensuing a scuffle. However, the protesters finally dug in their heels and sat on "dharna" outside the university.

Detailed report on P2



Police personnel hold a woman protester during their march against the CAA near Jamia in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Anti-CAA protesters throng Jantar Mantar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To mark their protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), hundreds of protesters, including students and civil society members, poured onto the streets in central Delhi on Monday.

The protesters, around 11 am, from Mandi House, started marching towards Jantar Mantar where they reached around 12.30 pm via Barakhamba Road and Tolstoy Road. A large number of police and paramilitary personnel walked along with them. They were carrying placards and banners of all sizes and colours with message which read reject CAA and NRC and 'we Indians standing against NRC and reject Citizenship Amendment Act'.

The protesters carried the photographs of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad and social reformer Savitribai Phule, and demanded that the government revoke the black



Protesters shout slogans during their march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar against the amended Citizenship Act, NRC and NPR in New Delhi on Monday

law. The protesters were raising anti-CAA, anti-government and anti-BJP slogans. According to police, the protesters do not have permission to take out a march. The protest call was given by

the Welfare Party of India. The protesters, however, claimed that they had the permission and would march till Jantar Mantar. The wife of Dr Kafeel Khan, who was in September

acquired all negligence and corruption charges in the Gorakhpur BRD Hospital tragedy, and brother of Sharjeel Imam, arrested on sedition charges, also participated in the march.

Children as young as 10, senior citizens, civil society members and university students also filled the streets and ran the length of central Delhi, shouting anti-CAA and anti-government slogans.

Mohammad Shareef, who came here from Kanpur, said his son Mohammad Rais (30) was shot dead by police when while returning after offering namaz.

"On December 20, Rais was returning home after offering namaz. He used to sell 'papad' and also worked in marriage functions. During the commotion, Rais started running when the police shot him," said Shareef.

Another victim Aftab Alam's mother said her son did not participate in any protest. "After the death of his father, my son used to work as a mason. He was shot dead by the police when he went to offer namaz in Kanpur. The incident took place at Babu Purwa area and the bullet hit on his left side of the chest," she said.

Siraj Talib, the national secretary of the Welfare Party

of India, "We are protesting against the CAA and the NRC. We have permission, I have spoken to police and we are marching towards Jantar Mantar."

Riyasat Malik (20), who works in a private organisation, said that he along with around 80 women, came here from Sunder Nagri to support the anti-CAA protest.

"Just like Shaheen Bagh, scores of women in Sunder Nagri are also sitting in protest against this newly amended law. They got to know about this march yesterday and came here in its support. This would not stop here and the government will need to revoke this law," Malik said.

Abdul Ghaffar (61), who came to join the protest from Ghaziabad, said they want the government to listen to them.

"The Government has already cleared its stand after amending the law, but now we want them to listen us as well. We are not fighting with them, they are our leaders and our government also. We want to tell them our grievances," said Ghaffar.

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 - एक या समस्त ई-निविदायें बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार उप निदेशक (वि०/याँ०), राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ को होगा।
 - एसे राजपत्रित अभियन्ता/अधिकारी, जिनको राज्य सरकार अथवा केन्द्र सरकार की सेवा से सेवा निवृत्त हुए दो वर्ष से कम अवधि हुई हो, को ई-निविदा डालने का अधिकार नहीं होगा।
 - टिकर बोर्ड पर रेट प्रदर्शित करने के लिये टिकर बोर्ड को मण्डी की वेब-साइट से कनेक्ट करना होगा अर्थात् इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करनी होगी कि लगाया गया टिकर बोर्ड मण्डी परिषद की वेब-साइट से दरें प्राप्त कर प्रदर्शित करें, इस हेतु आवश्यक साफ्टवेयर/हार्डवेयर, इन्टरनेट/सिम इत्यादि का प्रबन्ध फर्म को अपने ख्य पर करना अनिवार्य होगा।
 - ई-निविदा मूल निर्माता कम्पनी की ही मान्य होगी। इस हेतु ओ०ई०एम० का प्रमाण-पत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। अन्यथा निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी।
 - फर्म के सुपरवाइजर/कर्मचारी द्वारा मण्डी परिषद के किसी भी मशीन एवं उपकरण को क्षतिग्रस्त करने की स्थिति में क्षति की प्रतिपूर्ति फर्म के देयक से अथवा जमानत धनराशि से कटौती करके की जायेगी।
 - नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (NGT) के निर्देशों के क्रम में कार्बनडिक्शन एवं डिमोलेशन रुल्स 2016 के अनुरूप समस्त मानकों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा।
 - फर्म को एल०ई०डी० टिकर बोर्ड की 05 साल तक अवधि की वारन्टी देनी होगी।
 - फर्म को कार्य पूर्ण होने के एक वर्ष के पश्चात जमानत धनराशि का 50% दो वर्ष के पश्चात जमानत धनराशि का 20% तथा तीन, चार एवं पाँच वर्ष के पश्चात क्रमशः 10-10-10 की दर से धनराशि अवमुक्त की जायेगी।
 - फर्म द्वारा मण्डी समिति के अपरेटर को प्रशिक्षित किया जायेगा। अधिकतम 03 माह में प्रशिक्षण देना अनिवार्य होगा।
 - फर्म द्वारा फौजदारी (निर्माण कार्यशाला) में एल०ई०डी० टिकर बोर्ड का निरीक्षण मण्डी परिषद के अभियन्ता से कराना होगा एवं MTC उपलब्ध कराना अनिवार्य होगा।
 - फर्म द्वारा टिकर बोर्ड के संचालन में बाधा/ब्रेकडाउन की स्थिति में 48 घण्टे (दो दिन) के अन्दर उपस्थित होकर प्रत्येक दशा में 04 दिवस में संचालन सुचारु रूप में करना अनिवार्य होगा।
 - ई-निविदा उन्हीं फर्मों की मान्य होगी जिनके पास सरकारी/अर्द्धसरकारी संस्था में एल०ई०डी० टिकर बोर्ड लगाने का अनुभव होगा। इस आशय का प्रमाण-पत्र भी अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
 - फर्म द्वारा प्रयोग में लाये जाने वाले एल०ई०डी० पैनल IS: 13252(Part I): 2010 एवं संबंधित IS में दिये गये मानकों/विशिष्टियों के अनुरूप होने एवं एल०ई०डी० पैनल का BIS एकीकृत लेब से परीक्षण करवाकर इस आशय का प्रमाण-पत्र/टेस्ट रिपोर्ट अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।

उपनिदेशक/ (वि०/याँ०)

NCB invokes rarely used law to detain habitual drug traffickers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the apprehension of a Nigerian national in Bengaluru, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has begun invoking a rarely used stringent law for preventive detention of repeat offenders in drug-related crimes.

The foreigner, involved in at least three cases of cocaine trafficking, was detained by the sleuths of the federal anti-narcotics agency on Saturday and is the first case of detention in the country under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act over a period of five years.

According to NCB official,

under this 1988 law, the NCB can detain a repeat or habitual drug crime offender for an initial period of 45 days after which the accused has to be produced before an advisory panel that comprises three high court-judges.

If the advisory board approves the NCB action, the accused can be kept in preventive detention up to an year to ensure that he does not indulge in narcotics crime and if the board does not approve the action, the detenu has to be released immediately.

During this detention period, the accused cannot get bail or any relief that can set them free.

"Kenneth Jideofur, a Nigerian man, has been

detained under the PIT-NDPS by the agency in Bengaluru. He had arrived in India on a medical visa in 2018 and subsequently his involvement was found in three cases of drug trafficking," said Rajesh Nandan Srivastava, the NCB Deputy Director General (operations).

"This detention is the first case of successful implementation of the legal framework provided under the PIT-NDPS to curb drug crime cases," the officer said.

Officials in the agency said the NCB will now increasingly use the law to ensure effective check on drug crimes, criminals and narcotic syndicates operating in various parts of the country.

G'gram gets 25 new buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram has got 25 new buses for 5 new routes of the Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GMCBL) in Gurugram.

These five new routes will cover all the major junctions including Sec-90, Rampura Chowk - IFFCO Chowk, Indusind bank (CyberCity), Gurugram Bus Stand, Farukh Nagar, Mudrika, Sikander Pur Metro Station, Vatika Chowk (Sohna Road), R. P Chowk - Sec 55/56 Metro and Huda City Centre Metro Station, Railway Station.

"These new routes have been created based on feedback from Gurugram residents and keeping in mind the mobility requirements of residents. With the addition of these routes, GMCBL will be serving on 18



routes with a fleet of 150 buses," said a senior GMCBL officer.

The bus will be incorporated with a mobile application to enable passengers to get all the information about the routes, fares and location of buses on their mobile phones.

With the mobile application, one can also book a ride on the bus of his/her choice and timing. The bus service will run at a frequency of 9 minutes

during peak hours and 18 minutes during non-peak hours. It will follow a strict timeline as punctuality is the essence of the service.

In order to provide the people of Gurugram city with the facility of public transport, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) has been created by the government, GMDA, Gurugram Municipal Corporation and HSIIDC.

The first route of this city bus service was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on September 2, 2018.

The passengers of this bus service would have to pay ₹10 till 5 stops, then ₹20 from 5 to 20 stops and ₹30 if they travel more than 20 stops. Digital ticketing facility has been started in these buses, where a discount of ₹2 is being given on the purchase of a digital ticket.

Ex-Noida engineer Yadav Singh held again in corruption case

PTI ■ NOIDA

The CBI has arrested former New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (Noida) chief engineer Yadav Singh on Monday in a two-year old corruption case for allegedly awarding projects worth ₹116.39 crore to private companies during his tenure, in return of regular bribes from them, officials said.

The case has been registered on the allegations of criminal conspiracy and misuse of official position as well as accepting bribe regularly by Singh from the accused con-

tractors and firms while awarding contracts.

"It was also alleged that the then chief maintenance engineer (CME) in conspiracy with other officers/officials of the Noida as well as with the said contractors had awarded several contracts worth ₹116.39 crore (approx.) to the five firms in gross violation of tender norms and procedures of the Noida," the CBI said.



2 dengue, 6 malaria cases reported

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With winter on wane, the cases of vector-borne diseases have started surfacing in the national Capital. Two cases of dengue and six cases of malaria have already been reported in this month, according to South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC). The data released by SDMC on Monday shows three cases of chikungunya were recorded each in January and February.

Mosquito breeding was reported in at least 74 households and 208 legal notices were issued to various households, shops and industrial units till February 8 this year.

While last year, mosquito-breding was reported at 17,9,972 households in the city and 14,2,997 legal notices were



sent to various people and establishments after mosquito-togenic conditions were found in their houses or premises.

Last year, 2,036 dengue cases and two deaths were recorded. A seven-year-old girl and a young man had died of dengue in November last year. According to the report, two cases of dengue were recorded

by the SDMC till February 8 this year.

Delhi Government's initiative started last year to check houses for stagnant water, had garnered a massive support from public and several other well-known personalities across the country, including cricketers, Bollywood actors and famous journalists.

According to municipal health officials, domestic breeding of mosquitoes is one of the main factors responsible for people contracting these vector-borne diseases.

Dengue and chikungunya are caused by the bite of Aedes agypti mosquito, which breeds in clear water, while Anopheles mosquito, which causes malaria, can breed in both fresh and muddy water.

MARCH TO PARLIAMENT STOPPED

Jamia students hurt in protesters-police face-off near varsity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several students and residents of Jamia Nagar on Monday got into a scuffle with the Delhi Police after they were stopped from carrying an anti-Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) march towards Parliament. Some students said they sustained injuries during the face-off with police. Police said the protesters did not have permission to march towards Parliament.

Despite repeated appeals from the police and Jamia Millia Islamia administration, the protesters refused to end their agitation. Amid heavy deployment of security personnel in and around the university, the protesters, including several women, began their march from JMI's gate no 7. The protest call was given by the Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC), an organisation of Jamia students and



Police stop protesters during anti-CAA-NRC-NPR march near Jamia on Monday

alumni.

The protesters raised slogans like 'Kagaz Nahai Dikhayenge' (We will not show documents) and 'Jab Nahai Hum Goron Se Toh Kyun Dare Hum Auron Se' (When we did not fear the British, why should we fear others).

Men formed a human chain on either sides of roads as women walked ahead, waving the tricolour and raising slogans of 'Halla Bol'.

"It has been two months since we are protesting. No one from the government has come to talk to us, so we want to go

to talk to them," said burqa-clad Zeba Anhad. A scuffle ensued as policemen tried to stop the protesters. Many of them jumped over barricades to continue their march towards Parliament.

Jamia proctor Waseem Ahmed Khan appealed to the

students to disperse and not meddle with the police. "The message has been sent. I request students in the crowd to go back to the university. Respect the law and peacefully go back," he urged the students.

The CAA allows easier citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Parsis and Jains who came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh before 2015 to escape religious persecution there. Those opposing the CAA contend that it discriminates on the basis of religion and violates the Constitution. They also allege that the CAA along with the NRC is intended to target the Muslim community in the country.

However, the Central Government has dismissed the allegations, maintaining that the law is intended to give citizenship to the persecuted minorities from the three neighbouring countries and not to take away anyone's citizenship.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that Sh. Harpal Singh Kalra lost his Title Deed bearing No. 2542/2006 under Book-1, Jild No. 710 pages No. 873-894 which was registered on 24-03-2006 in the office of the Sub-Registrar-1, Noida Accordingly F.I.R. was made online on 29-01-2020 at about 15:29 PM bearing No. 007580/2020 to Uttar Pradesh Police e-F.I.R. for the property situated at Flat No. 23A, Block A-3, Sector-71, Noida.

If anybody claims for the aforesaid property then he/she should claim by with proper documents written to the undersigned with in 15 days from the publication and after expiry of 15 days no claim shall be entertained in future.

Sovon Siddhanta
Advocate
Pavilion Court No. 9
Flat No. 705, Jaypee Green, Wishtown,
Sector-128, Noida - 201304
Phone: 9643704922, 9433004922
Email: siddhanta.sovon@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

1. The Physical Possession under SARFAESI ACT was taken on the property of Chandner Having loan number LBDEL0002364207. The date of possession being 27-08-2019.

2. The Physical Possession under SARFAESI ACT was taken on the property of Bamdeo Mishra Having loan number LBND00002385629. The date of possession being 28-08-2019.

Due to inadvertent and typographical error the physical possession publication which was published in Hindi and English edition of the newspaper on 01-09-2019, it was mentioned as symbolic possession. Please note the same has to be read as physical possession.

Dated: 11-02-2020
Place: Delhi/NCR
Sd/-
Authorizing Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

CM SEEKS HARSH PUNISHMENT FOR ACCUSED

Gargi groping incident unfortunate: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after girl students of the Gargi College alleged that they were molested by a group of men during the annual fest on February 6, Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday termed the incident "extremely unfortunate", saying the accused must be given stringent punishment and safety of students be ensured.

The students of the all-women Gargi College were allegedly molested by a group of men who had gate-crashed a cultural festival. The incident came to light after some students took to Instagram to narrate their unpleasant experiences during the college fest. "The misbehaviour with our daughters at Gargi College is extremely unfortunate. This cannot be tolerated at all. The culprits should be given strin-



gent punishment. It should be ensured that the children studying in our colleges are safe," Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia also took to twitter to condemn the incident. "What happened in Gargi festival is disgusting! Such festivals are opportunities to celebrate the cultural diversity & talent in Delhi. But the obvious anti-social elements saw this festival as another chance to inflict harassment & violence on students!" he said.

The students, who held a protest on Monday, alleged that the intruders groped and

dragged girls and performed obscene acts, while security and police personnel stood there like mute spectators.

Senior AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said it is shameful that such an incident took place in the national capital. "BJP has 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', is this the way they (Centre) will save girls. Professors, students are writing on social media. What are the police doing," he asked.

According to the students, the college management did not take any action even after the matter was reported to it on February 7, prompting them to take to social media to narrate their ordeal.

The students alleged that Rapid Action Force and Delhi Police personnel were deployed close to the college gate from where some of the men entered the college, but they did nothing to control the unruly crowd.

Arrest molesters asap, demand Cong, BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Condemning the alleged molestation of students at the all-women Gargi College during a cultural festival on February 6, The Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress on Monday demanded that the culprits be arrested at the earliest.

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said the college administration should immediately provide CCTV camera footage of the campus to the police. "What happened at Gargi College is highly condemnable; culprits should be apprehended at the earliest. College admin should get CCTV footage and release the same to investigation agency and media on priority. So that culprits can be booked," Tiwari tweeted.

Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra slammed the police and the Government for "failing" to protect women. "I am very much anguished by the Gargi college incident. What



could be more sorrowful that the girl students are not safe in their own college in the national capital. Its highly shameful that Delhi Police silently watched the atrocities against women. The Centre and Kejriwal Government can not escape the responsibility of women safety," Chopra said in a tweet.

The college students were allegedly molested by a group of men who had gate-crashed a cultural festival on February 6. The incident came to light after some students took to Instagram to narrate their unpleasant experiences during the college fest.

Delhi Police registered a case in this connection on Monday after receiving a complaint by the college authorities.

DU admin, cops must act to make girl students feel safe on campus: DUSU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) on Monday met the Gargi College principal, professors and college union members to call for an immediate enquiry regarding the shocking incident during the Annual College Fest of Gargi - 'Reverie', last week.

Several students of Gargi College reported incidents of groping and molestation during the third day of the annual fest on February 6. As per various posts on social media, the college girls reported that numerous middle-aged drunk men gate-crashed the event and mobbed the entrances around 6:30 pm. Scores of female students reported assault to the hands of those men who appeared to be in their early 30s.

According to Akshit Dahiya, president, DUSU, the Delhi University (DU) has witnessed similar incidents of



harassment in the past as well.

"Between then and now, the administration has remained completely inert. The DU administration and Delhi Police, both, must act to ensure that female students feel safe and secure within the University premises," said the DUSU president.

"Similar fests are scheduled to be organized across a bevy of Delhi University colleges in

coming months. We demand the provision of strict security for the upcoming fests. Stringent action must be taken against such anti-social and anarchist forces at the earliest," said Pradeep Tanwar, Vice President of DUSU. Shivangi Kharwal, Joint-Secretary, DUSU, expressed infiriation and called for an immediate enquiry to identify the culprits and punish them.

To prevent air pollution, Kejriwal asks workers not to burst crackers after win

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day ahead of election results, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday asked AAP volunteers not to burst firecrackers during victory celebrations to prevent air pollution.

Party functionaries said though preparations are underway to celebrate the victory in the polls, whose results will be announced on Tuesday, Kejriwal has asked party volunteers not to burst firecrackers as it contributes to pollution.

Other preparations to celebrate the victory, including ordering sweets and namkeens, are also underway at the party headquarters in ITO, they said.

Exit polls predicted a big victory for Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party with some indicating that it can even repeat its 2015 landslide when it had bagged 67 seats and reducing the BJP to three. Congress had drawn a blank.

Reducing air pollution is one of the main guarantees given by AAP in both the party's manifesto as well as in guarantee card.

Mercury to rise in 3 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The minimum temperature in the national Capital is expected to enter double digits in the next two to three days, the weatherman said.

On Monday, the city recorded a minimum of 6 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal for this time of the year.

The maximum temperature settled at 21.9 degrees Celsius, a notch less than the season's average. On Tuesday, the maximum temperature is likely to increase to 23 degrees Celsius, while no change is expected in the minimum temperature. Mist or shallow fog is predicted in the city in the



morning.

The overall air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded in the 'very poor' quality (309). An AQI between 201-300 is considered 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe'.

"The overall Delhi AQI is in the lower end very poor category on 10th February morning as forecasted. SAFAR model

suggests a marginal deterioration in AQI to the middle-end of the very poor category for Tuesday. Under the influence of a fresh Western disturbance improvement in AQI to lower end of very poor to poor category is expected from 12th February. A poor AQI is forecasted on 13th February," SAFAR forecast.

Court extends custody of Sisodia's OSD till Feb 14

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Monday extended till February 14 the custodial interrogation of Gopal Krishna Madhav, OSD to Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, in a bribery case.

Special Judge Santosh Snehi Mann extended the custody after the accused was produced before the court by the CBI on expiry of his earlier custodial interrogation.

The agency sought seven days' further custody to unearth the larger conspiracy.



It told the court that it has a long list of transporters who were reportedly asked to pay bribe to get GST exemption.

According to the CBI, Madhav, posted in the GST

department of Delhi government since October 2019, was arrested on Thursday evening on the basis of the information provided by a middleman, nabbed on Wednesday, who allegedly collected bribes from transporters on his behalf.

Sources said the agency has not found Sisodia's involvement in the case so far.

Madhav, who joined the service as Head Clerk in August 2003 in the Education Department, was posted as officer on special duty (OSD) in Sisodia's office since 2015, the agency said.

Woman claims harassment for feeding 90 street dogs

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Preeti Dhawan, a resident of Pitampura in north West Delhi, is facing constant harassment, threats for feeding around 90 street/stray dogs. Rather than being recognised for feeding hungry stray dogs, the good Samaritan is being hounded by the locals who are up in arms against her and also blaming her for encouraging the scourge of stray dogs in the locality.

Dhawan has lodged a First Information Report (FIR) with the Maurya Enclave Police station against Vikram Malhotra, Sunny Malhotra, Pran Nath Malhotra, Gaurav Verma and Sidharth Verma for attacking and abusing on January 30, while two of the harassers have been charged under sections 506/ 509 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Dhawan is now facing a new challenge as entry of dogs has been completely restricted in the society.



Talking to *The Pioneer*, she said that a plan has been made to relocate the street dogs. "On January 21, when I returned home with my family, we saw stones outside my house which they had used to target dogs," she said. "When I objected, they started abusing me, I prepared a video to submit it to RWA president however, one of them also teased me."

Preeti, a complainant, who lives in QD block of the colony, said that people there have planned to feed poison to stray dogs.

Unwilling to give up her fight to save the street dogs, Dhawan has approached

NGOs and has written to Member of Parliament Maneka Gandhi.

"For this I have been facing constant persecution, threats and harassment from my neighbours and residents and already three cases have been registered against them resulting in FIRs against three and two of them have been charged as well," she said. "Now these people are taking their revenge against me and they have put gates in all four corners of my colony, without any permission from any local body, so that the dogs cannot come in to their locality to have their food and are also having some evil plans to relocate the dogs," she added.

Explaining the condition of dogs, she added, "The dogs are suffering as the guards have also been ordered to shoot them away or beat them with sticks. Our RWA president and neighbors order guards to beat dogs one dog has a big lump on his leg guard beat the dog it's high time."

Security upped for vote counting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi poll body is all set for the counting of votes and declaration of results on Tuesday. Tight security arrangements have been put in place for the counting of votes polled in the high octane Delhi Assembly elections held on February 8. The counting will take place on Tuesday and the results will also be declared on the same day.

According to the data shared by the election commission, there are total number of 21 counting centres which are located at Common Wealth Games (CWG) Sports Complex in East Delhi, NSIT Dwarka in West Delhi, Meerabai Institute of Technology and G B Pant Institute of Technology in Southeast Delhi, Sir CV Raman ITI, Dheerpur in Central Delhi, and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Bawana in North Delhi, among other places.

As per the officials, there will be 333 counting observers



and 2600 counting staffs will be engaged across all the centre. There were 13,780 polling booths in Delhi where the polling took place.

Security personnel kept guard at strong rooms storing electronic voting machines

(EVMs). Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh, a day ahead of the polls, had said all EVMs have been tested and they are "foolproof and non-tamperable".

The final voter turnout was announced nearly 24 hours

after the polling ended in the Delhi CEO Office are gearing up for the counting of votes and adequate arrangements have been made at the centres spread across 21 location in the national capital, spanning 11 districts.

Critical and vulnerable polling locations numbered 545 and spanned 3,843 booths. In view of the ongoing anti-citizenship law protest in Shaheen Bagh, the Delhi CEO's Office had put all five polling stations in the area under the "critical" category.

Delhi saw a total voter turnout of 62.59 percent, 0.5 percent less than the 2015 assembly elections which had a total voter turnout of 67.17 percent. Three constituency, Ballimaran, Seelampur and Mustafabad recorded the highest poll percentage with 71.6 per cent, 71.2 per cent and 70.55 percentage. The lowest voter turnout is recorded in Delhi Cantonment Assembly Seat with 45.36 percent.

Over 1.47 crore people were eligible to vote in the Delhi polls, including 2,32,815 in the age group of 18-19. Voters in various categories included males (81,05,236), females (66,80,277), service voters (11,608), third gender voters (869), and senior citizens (aged 80 and above) voters (2,04,830).

MoU to integrate Ayurveda, Western medical sciences signed

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

In an experiment to integrate Ayurveda and Western medical sciences to study cancer biology and therapy, reconfigurable computing, systems biology approaches for cancer, drug development and discovery and so on, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States of America (USA's) Open Health Systems Laboratory (OHSL), to set up an International Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Computational and Biomedical Sciences.

The study and research will be initially funded by an initial funding of Rs 10 crore from the OHSL.

The objective is to build a global team science consortium by leveraging the best of biomedical informatics to address key questions of biomedical sciences. The CoE is being setup on the above areas, with



a view towards bringing together excellence in knowledge and expertise for the advancement

of cutting edge scientific research," said an official. Official added that the

research activities of the CoE will be initiated with the initial funding from the OHSL. In

addition to the initial funding, IIT Delhi and OHSL will jointly seek funding from national and international resources.

The MoU was signed by Professor V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi and Anil Srivastava, President, OHSL, USA on 9th February 2020.

Professor BR Mehta, Dean R and D, IIT said there is a large scope for interaction and collaboration with OHSL in the areas of Life Science, Ayurveda, and Computational Biology.

"Both partners will benefit immensely with such collaborations and the CoE will be the natural culmination of the long association between IIT Delhi and the OHSL. The focus will be on international collaboration in multidisciplinary research areas. The research activities undertaken through this MoU will make best utilisation of already existing infrastructure, expertise and vast experience of both the collaborating partners," said Srivastava.

US Embassy teams up with NGO to address air pollution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to address air pollution in India, the US has given 58 low-cost air-quality monitors and 14 weather stations to a Delhi-based NGO, which would be set up in educational institutions in select second and third-tier cities as well as in rural areas.

The air quality and weather data acquired from these devices will be used to analyse the trends of pollutants outside the major urban centres and build environmental awareness and capacity with in smaller communities.

In line with its goal to work with Indian partners in improving air quality, in late 2019, the US Embassy here distributed 58 low-cost air-quality monitors and 14 weather stations to the Society for Indoor Environment, a Delhi-based NGO.



These units will be set up in educational institutions in select second- and third-tier cities, as well as rural areas, across north India, an Embassy statement said. "We are very excited with the implementation of the low cost monitor

initiative in India. We are thrilled to partner with the Society for Indoor Environment and with host institutions to help spread awareness on air quality and build capacity to monitor it in

local areas," the statement said. Air quality monitoring sites are generally located in large cities, and smaller communities often lack awareness of the scale of air pollution and remedial and preventive measures they can take to protect themselves from adverse environmental and health effects, it said.

To build capacity within these communities, staff from each host institution will be trained in installing and handling the equipment, as well as collection and compilation and analysis of all generated data, the statement said.

At quarterly intervals, the data will be presented and discussed with local residents, helping spread awareness about the role of air quality monitoring, the importance of keeping the air clean, and the prevention of illnesses associated with air pollution, it said.

2 CRPF men martyred, Naxal killed in Bijapur

Raipur: Two commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force were killed and six other CRPF personnel, including an officer, injured in an encounter with Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Monday, officials said.

A Naxal was also died in the gun-battle, they said. The gunfight started around 10.30 am in a forest in Irapalli village under Pamed police station limits, located over 400km from here, when security forces were out on a counter-insurgency operation, Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P told PTI.

Separate teams of security forces, numbering around 800, had launched the operation in the Maoist core areas of Sukma and Bijapur districts on Sunday, he said.

One of the patrolling teams, comprising personnel from the CRPF's 151st and CoBRA's 204th battalions, had launched the operation from Tippapuram camp in the forests along the border of Sukma-Bijapur districts, the IPS officer said.

On Monday morning, this



patrolling team busted a Maoist camp near Irapalli and was advancing through the area when it came under fire from Naxals, triggering a fierce gun-battle between the two sides, Sundarraj said.

The exchange of fire lasted for about two hours after which the ultras escaped into dense forest, he said.

"Two constables - Vikas Kumar and Purnand Sahu - were killed in the gunfight, while six others, including an officer, sustained injuries", he said. While Kumar was a native of Banda district in Uttar Pradesh, Sahu hailed from Rajnandgaon district in

Chhattisgarh, the IGP said.

The body of a Naxal along with a weapon was recovered from the encounter spot, he said, adding the identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained.

The injured CRPF personnel were identified as deputy commandant Prashant Kumar, head constable Ajit Singh and constables Giriwar Oraon, P Pawan Kumar, Bibha Basu Mahata and Pawar Pandurang, Sundarraj said.

The martyred constables and the injured personnel were part of the 204th battalion of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), an elite unit of

China praises PM Modi's letter to Xi on coronavirus aid

Beijing: China on Monday appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's letter to President Xi Jinping offering solidarity and assistance to deal with the deadly coronavirus outbreak, saying it "fully demonstrated" New Delhi's friendship with Beijing.

In a letter to Xi, Modi expressed solidarity with the president and people of China over the outbreak of the virus that has claimed over 900 lives in the neighboring country.

"We thank and appreciate India's support for China's fight against the NCP Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia, the official name for coronavirus," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said. "India's acts of goodwill fully demonstrate its friendship with China," Geng said during an online media briefing while replying to a question on Modi's letter to Xi. Prime Minister Modi also offered India's assistance to China to face the challenge, besides conveying condolences over the loss of lives due to the outbreak.

The prime minister also conveyed to Xi his appreciation for facilitating the evacuation of around 650 Indian citizens from the worst-affected Hubei province last week.

A sizeable number of countries have evacuated their citizens from China and restricted movement of people and goods to and from China.

India too has put restrictions on the movement of people to and from China as part of precautionary measures to contain the spread of the virus.

"We stand ready to work with India and other members of the international community to jointly tackle fight the epidemic and safeguard regional and global public health security," Geng said.

Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri told the Indian media here on Monday that India was in touch with Chinese officials to find out the immediate requirements to deal with the epidemic. The death toll in China's coronavirus outbreak has gone up to 908 with 97 new fatalities reported mostly in the worst-affected Hubei province and the confirmed cases of infection crossing 40,000, Chinese health officials said on Monday.

A team of international experts led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) would arrive in China on Monday night to assist the Chinese health officials to contain the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

"I've just been at the airport seeing off members of an advance team for the @WHO-led 2019nCoV international expert mission to China, led by Dr. Bruce Aylward, a veteran of past public health emergencies," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a tweet. **AGENCIES**

US approves sale of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System to India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has approved the sale of an Integrated Air Defence Weapon System to India for an estimated cost of USD 1.9 billion to modernise its armed forces and to expand its existing air defence architecture to counter threats posed by air attacks.

The Trump Administration has notified the US Congress of its determination to sell India the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS), the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said Monday.

The entire system is estimated to cost USD 1.867 billion, the State Department has told the Congress in a notification.

"India intends to use these defence articles and services to modernise its armed forces, and to expand its existing air defence architecture to counter threats posed by air attack," the State Department said. The

proposed sale comes amidst the massive military modernisation by China which is also flexing its military muscles in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

It also comes ahead of a possible visit by President Donald Trump to India later this month.

Trump is set to visit India on a two-day trip between February 23 and 26 and both sides are in the process of fine-tuning his schedule, according to sources in New Delhi.

India and the US are set to seal a trade deal during Trump's planned visit, they said.

The proposed sale IADWS will contribute to India's military goal to update its capability while further enhancing greater interoperability between India, the US, and other allies, the State Department added.

According to the notification, India had requested the US to buy an IADWS.

Do not bar students from taking exams due to non-payment of fees: J'khand CM



Ranchi: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday directed all the school managements in the state not to prevent any student from appearing in Class 10 and 12 board examinations due to non-payment of fees, an official release issued here said.

His directive came after several such incidents, where students defaulting on payment of fees were not allowed to sit for the exams, were reported from across the state in the past.

Chairing a meeting of the Education and Literacy department, Soren asked the officials to ensure that such incidents are not repeated during the upcoming board examinations, it said.

The Chief Minister said the rule applies to all public, private and Coal India Limited-run schools, the release added. **PTI**

KISHTWAR TERROR CASES NIA summons Cong leader to appear before it today

PTI ■ JAMMU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has summoned senior Congress leader and former minister G M Saroori to appear before it on February 11 for questioning in connection with the terror incidents in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir, officials said.

Saroori, 67, is Jammu and Kashmir Congress vice president and three-time legislator from Indrawal constituency of Kishtwar.

The communally sensitive Kishtwar was rocked by a series of terror incidents since November 2018 after the hilly district was declared terrorism-free over a decade ago.

The terrorists made their appearance felt in Kishtwar town when they shot dead senior BJP leader Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit Parihar on November 1, 2018, while RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his PSO were assassinated on April 9, 2019. The terrorists also snatched the service rifle of the deputy commissioner's PSO Daleep Kumar on March 8 and the rifle of PSO of People's Democratic Party (PDP) district president Sheikh Nasir Hussain on September 13, last year.

The NIA is investigating the terror cases in the district. The first major success against the terrorists operating in the district was registered on September 28 last year when security forces killed three ultras, including the mastermind behind the killings Osama Bin Javed, in an encounter in Batote area of Ramban district.

The major breakthrough came when the terrorists were fleeing an offensive by the security forces which saw a dozen Hizbul Mujahideen militants and their overground workers arrested and several of their hideouts busted in Kishtwar district.

In September last year, Saroori's brother Mohammad Shafi was among a dozen persons booked in two separate FIRs for their alleged links with Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit in the district.

Ways to propagate yoga to larger groups discussed at IYA meet

Coimbatore: Ways and means to disseminate yoga to larger groups by creating the right infrastructure that can help transmit the practices without dilution were discussed at a meeting got up by the Indian Yoga Association here on Monday.

The role of institutional partnerships, government sup-

port and promotion of Yoga as a sport were also discussed at the IYA's second governing council meeting, held at Isha Yoga Centre on the outskirts.

The meet brought together heads of various institutions and organizations that actively promote the spread of Yoga as a non-religious and scientific tool to enhance human well



being, an Isha release said.

Isha founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Dr HR Nagendra, Chancellor, SVYASA Yoga University, Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President, Paramarth Niketan, among others, attended the meeting, chaired by IYA Chairman Baba Ramdev Sri Sri Ravishankar,

Founder, Art of Living participated in the meeting through video conference.

IYA is a self-regulatory body of leading Yoga organizations in India.

The United Nations has declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, which is observed in over 175 countries. **PTI**

Students protest against...

From Page 1

According to students, there was a complete lapse of security. "The students were groped, molested and even assaulted by the men who appeared to be in their mid-30s. The college had claimed to have made security arrangements. I don't think such an incident has taken place on any college campus across the country," said a student who doesn't wish to be named.

Another student said some men jumped over the gates, some broke open the gates and some jumped over walls. "They were drunk and went berserk," she said.

"The men groped and dragged girls and performed obscene acts. Some girls ran towards washrooms. The men followed them and locked them inside," she added.

The students alleged that they were threatened by the intruders, who also made objectionable remarks and used cuss words. They also claimed that auto drivers, who had parked their vehicles outside the main gate of the college, also entered the campus.

"The college had hired bouncers for security. The college security was also standing right there and watching it all. My friend, who was molested, rushed to a security guard and pleaded him for help but he did not move," a BA student said.

The students said they reported the matter to the college management but in vain.

"The next day, on Feb 7, we took up the matter with teachers and college management. The management said they had 'taken note' of it. They didn't promise to take any action, after which many students shared their horrific experiences on Instagram," a BSc student said.

Students said Delhi University colleges

have witnessed repeated instances of eve-teasing and sexual harassment during college festivals. However, the university hasn't taken them seriously, which led to the February 6 incident at Gargi College.

Delhi Commissioner for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal reached the college to take stock of the situation. The DCW has issued a notice to the college and the Delhi Police for inaction.

Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, said appropriate action will be taken in the matter.

"Police are scanning footage of CCTV cameras to collect evidence and speaking to students to ascertain facts. The inquiry is being conducted by Additional DCP (South) Geetanjali Khandelwal," said the DCP.

"After receiving a complaint from the college authorities on Monday, a case has been registered at the Hauz Khas police station under IPC sections 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrong-ful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention)," said the DCP.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the incident extremely unfortunate while Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said those involved in the act were outsiders and the college administration has been asked to take strict action against them.

The Delhi units of the BJP and the Congress demanded that the culprits be arrested at the earliest.

Shaheen...

From Page 1

A Bench comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph issued notices to the Centre, the Delhi Government and the Delhi Police asking them to respond to the pleas seeking removal of protesters from Shaheen Bagh and ensuring smooth traffic flow on the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch.

When the counsel appearing for the petitioners urged the court to pass some direction since there was inconvenience to the public, the Bench said, "It cannot be done ex-parte. We will hear the other side... If you have waited for over 50 days, wait for some more days."

The top court posted the matter for further hearing on February 17.

"There is a law and people have grievance against it. The matter is pending in the court. Despite that some people are protesting. They are entitled to protest," the court said, adding, "It should be done in an area which is designated for protests. You cannot create inconvenience for the people".

"Can you block a public road? You cannot block it. Suppose there is a public park, you cannot hold protest there," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by advocate Amit Sahni, who had approached the high court seeking directions to the Delhi Police to ensure smooth traffic flow on the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch, which remains blocked by anti-CAA protesters since December 15. Besides Sahni, advocate Shashank Deo Sudhi, appearing for former BJP MLA Nand Kishore Garg, also made a plea for some directions for removal of the protesters.

When the bench headed by Justice Bobde said it was taking suo motu cognizance of the letter written by a national bravery award winner Zen Gunratan Sadavarte, seeking that minors be barred from participating in any type of protest and agitation, advocates Shahrulkh Alam and Nandita Rao interrupted claiming that children participating in the protest are being called names, "terrorist", "gaddar" (traitor), "Pakistani", in schools.

"They (children) come home crying," the advocates submitted.

The intervention by the advocates did not go down well with the bench, which said, "We will not hear you on this. Don't make such types of irrelevant arguments."

Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta opposed them saying, "Can it be a ground for sitting on dharna with a four-month-old child or can they oppose this on the ground that children are being called names like gaddars in school."

The bench asked, "A four-month old infant had gone to protest? But tell us which four-month-old child goes on its own to protest sites." The bench said the two lawyers were deviating from the main issue of which it has taken cognizance of.

"We are not considering either CAA or NRC. We are not considering the abuses like Pakistani hurled in schools," the bench said.

The bench made it clear that it was not stifling anybody's voice. "We are not stifling any voice. This is a properly constituted suo motu proceedings by the Supreme Court of India," it added.

"We have the highest respect for motherhood, and highest concern for children. Don't make arguments to raise and create guilt. A child has died. Instead of causing more trouble, mothers should back this cause," the bench said.

The lawyers had submitted that "these women (who are sitting at protest site) live in slums and have no option but to take their children along to the protest site".

1st affected Indian on...

From Page 1

Speaking ahead of the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of wild animals, to be held next week in Gujarat, Javadekar said there was no relation between migratory birds and the virus.

"Let's not create a fear psychosis on the subject. There is no connection of coronavirus with migratory birds. As far as diseases or viruses from birds and animals are concerned, the conference will discuss these issues," he said.

The Union Health Ministry has screened over 1.97 lakh passengers travelling in 1,818 flights for coronavirus as a precautionary measure.

Issuing a suo motu statement in Lok Sabha, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said screening of passengers has been initiated at 12 major seaports and all minor ports in the country to identify passengers and crew members coming from China and to isolate them in case they are found symptomatic.

In view of a confirmed case in Nepal, the Government has initiated screening at all integrated check posts from Nepal in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Land Port Authorities, the health minister said.

China reported the outbreak of coronavirus on December 31, 2019. As of February 9, a total of 37,198 confirmed cases and 811 deaths have been reported in China. A total of 354 confirmed cases have been reported outside China from 27 countries (including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan).

Opp raises din over SC ruling on SC/ST quota in promotion

From Page 1

Gehlot made it clear that the Centre was not asked to file an affidavit in the matter and said the issue is being discussed in the Government at the "highest level" and it will take "appropriate steps" in the matter.

When the Minister said the Supreme Court ruling was on an order issued when the Congress was in power in Uttarakhand, members of the Opposition party shouted "shame-shame" and walked out of the House.

As soon as the Question Hour started, Opposition members led by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury sought to raise the issue. He was also joined by members from other parties, including the DMK.

The Supreme Court has held that States are not bound to provide reservation in appointments and there is no fundamental right to claim quota in promotions.

The apex court was dealing with pleas regarding Uttarakhand Government's September 5, 2012 decision to fill up all posts in public services in the State without providing reservation to SC/STs. The order was quashed by the High Court.

Hitting back at the Opposition, the Government said the Congress

is trying to politicise a sensitive issue. "This is my charge that the Congress is politicising the sensitive issue," Defence Minister and deputy leader of the House Rajnath Singh said.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Kalyan Banerjee (TMC) targeted the Government, saying there has been an onslaught on SC and ST reservation since the Modi Government came to power.

Chirag Paswan of LJP, an NDA constituent, said the Government should immediately interfere in the matter and put the reservation subject in the Ninth Schedule so that no one approaches the Supreme Court on these issues. He said the order of the court and the behaviour of Opposition on the matter impacting a big population of the country.

While A Raja (DMK) said there are reasons to believe that the Government is not in favour of reservation, Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan Singh) (JDU) rejected Opposition charge that Government is anti-dalit and drew attention to Government's intervention during SC verdict on SC/ST Act. Ritesh Pandey (BSP) alleged the central government is against SC/ST and dalits.

Anupriya Patel (Apna Dal)

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice
No. 1/Track/2020 Dated 06.02.2020
 On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Procurement Tenders from RDSO approved vendors:
S.No. 1, Open Tender No./Due on :- 5942020 Due on 13-03-2020.
Description of Material:- Manufacturing and supply of 10125 mm curved switches with Zu-1-60 UIC 880 gauge tongue rails with elastic fasteners and spring operated setting device (RDSO/T/6216, complete with all fittings, for 1 in 12 BG 60 Kg turnout for fan shaped layout on PSC sleepers i.e. all fittings including GRSP for switch portion as per RDSO Drg. No. RDSO/T-6155 with Alt-4 of RDSO's standard layout Drg. No. T-6154 with Alt-3, conforming to IRS specification No. IRS T-10-2016, excluding standard Fish Plates, Fish Bolts and Nuts, Elastic Rail Clips and Insulating Liners. **Consignment Qty.:-** Gonda 100 Sets, **Delivery period :-** 14 Months, **Estimated tender value (Rs.):-** 48469000.00, **Earnest Money (Rs.):-** 969380.00
Note :- 1.0 The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on <https://ireps.gov.in> up to 11.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2.0 Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3.0 In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.
Dy. Chief Engineer/TP
CPROW-362 Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complaint
SMS on Mob. No.:- 09794845955
Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

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राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उग्रप्र
 किसान मण्डी भवन, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ
 पत्रांक-वि०/याँ०(325)/2020-1838 दिनांक-10.02.2020

ई-कोटेशन सूचना

विभिन्न मण्डी स्थलों में विद्युतीकरण/मैकेनिकल कार्यों के अन्तर्गत एच०टी० पोल, क्यूबिकल बोर्ड, टी०पी०एम०ओ०, लाइटिंग असेम्बलर, 11 के०वी० ड्राप आउट फ्यूज, पिन/डिस्क इन्वोल्यूटर एम०एस० आर्म/चैनल, वाटर क्लर, स्टेबलाइजर, केज, आर०ओ०, पी०वी०सी० वाटर टैंक, कंट्रोल, केबिल, पैनेल, डी०जी० सेट, गिलिय, जी० आइ०/एम०एस० पाइप आदि तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य की नान शिड्यूल सामग्रियों की दरों के निर्धारण हेतु निर्माता / अनुमवी फर्मों से ई-कोटेशन दि० 02.03.2020 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक आन लाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 3.30 बजे खोली जाएगी। ई-कोटेशन दिनांक 02.03.2020 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ऑन लाइन भरकर अपलोड की जा सकती है। इसके उपरान्त वेबसाइट स्वतः बन्द हो जायेगी। संबंधित आवश्यक प्रपत्र ई-कोटेशन के साथ ही अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। उपनिदेशक (वि०/याँ०)

Economy in ICU, perilously close to collapse: PC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Projecting a dismal picture, former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday said the "economy is in ICU" and "perilously close to a collapse" attended to by "incompetent doctors". He also said the economy is facing twin problems of rising unemployment and declining consumption, terming them as "two elephants" in the room but the Government continues to live in denial.

Making these remarks while initiating a debate in the Rajya Sabha on Budget for 2020-21, he offered Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman the same advice that Narendra Modi as BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate had offered him in November 2013.

On November 2, 2013, a very distinguished political leader said and I quote: "Economy is in trouble. The youth wants jobs. Devote more time to the economy, not on petty politics. Please focus on the job at hand. Very wise advice. I can't do anything better than reading this piece of



Former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram File Photo

advice to the Finance Minister," Chidambaram quipped.

He said the need of the hour was to revive demand and incentivize investment. Moreover, more money has to be put in the hands of the masses rather than classes and do away with 'tax terrorism,' Chidambaram said.

According to him, the economy was facing structural problems but the Government continues to believe they were cyclical in nature. Modi government's chief economic adviser for four years, Arvind Subramanian, has stated that the economy is in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). But "I would say the

patient has been kept out of the ICU and incompetent doctors are looking at the patient," Chidambaram said. Tearing into the Budget, the former finance minister said the BJP government lives in denial, refuses to acknowledge its mistakes and has an "outdated" predisposition towards protectionism and a strong rupee, and is against bilateral as well as multilateral trade agreements.

Chidambaram called demonetisation of old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes as well as the hurried implementation of a "flawed" Goods and Services Tax (GST) with wrong design, rates, structure and procedure

and an unprepared system as "monumental blunders" that ruined the economy.

He urged the Government to realize its mistakes and have an open mind to debate it. While GDP has fallen to an 11-year low of 4.5 per cent in 2019 July-September quarter, agriculture is growing by just 2 per cent, while consumer price inflation has risen from 1.9 per cent in January 2019 to 7.4 per cent in a matter of 11 months.

Also, food inflation is at 12.2 per cent. Bank credit is growing 8 per cent with non-food credit rising by 7-8 per cent and credit to the industry by just 2.7 per cent.

Credit to agriculture has declined from 18.3 per cent to 5.3 per cent and that for MSMEs from 6.7 per cent to 1.6 per cent, he said.

He quipped that every competent doctor that the Modi government could ever find has left the country and listed out former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governors Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel, former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian and former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya as persons who quit during the

Dayanidhi remark on Sanskrit sparks furore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

DMK leader Dayanidhi Maran's remark questioning the relevance of Sanskrit sparked a furore in Lok Sabha on Monday with treasury members demanding that he apologise, while the Chair directed that the objectionable comment be removed from the records.

During a debate on the Union Budget, Maran said crores of rupees were being spent on Sanskrit and asked as to what has the Government done for the classical language Tamil.

Maran also made a controversial remark about Sanskrit which was strongly objected to by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, who said that one can criticise the Budget or the Finance Minister, but it was not right to speak in an indecent manner about Sanskrit.

MPs urge Govt to take steps to stem slump, generate jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raising serious concern over the "bad state of affairs of economy", declining growth, falling investment, Opposition MPs in Lok Sabha on Monday asked the Government to take corrective measures to arrest the slow-down and generate employment.

The MPs were speaking at the second day of debate on Budget and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will reply on Tuesday afternoon in Lok Sabha and evening in Rajya Sabha, the last working day of the first part of Budget Session.

Participating in the debate on the Union Budget 2020-21 in Lok Sabha, BJD member B Mahtab called for financial sector reforms to revive rapidly declining investment. "We are measuring GDP growth.

More the investment, the growth would be faster and quicker," he said, adding that adequate corrective measures were necessary to boost growth which is estimated to slip to five per cent in 2019-20. Banks were not in a position to lend to infrastructure, Mahtab said and asked the government not to lose sight of wider reforms in the public sector.

"There is a need to bring competition within the banking sector," he said.

NCP's Supriya Sule termed the budget as "long and tiresome" and said it has exposed the failure "of this Govt when it comes to fiscal health".

She said the Government talks about achieving USD 5 trillion economy but "we are not even barely crossing five per cent (growth)". Former Union Minister

Preet Kaur (Cong) said the presumption of 10 per cent nominal GDP growth and 12 per cent rise in tax collection seems unrealistic given the low economic growth and falling exports.

However, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi said there is a balance between intent and content, and vision and provision in the Budget. "We have moved from policy paralysis to policy action under the Narendra Modi government," she said adding the focus is on growth and the Budget will strengthen the foundation of Indian economy in the new decade.

The Budget promotes six major sectors against the backdrop of current economic scenario, she said. It will help facilitate investment, spur consumption while giving a push to infrastructure and flip to agriculture sector, she added.

Envoys to visit J&K to get clear view of ground situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a counter to Pakistan's inconsistent campaign in foreign capitals against India's move on Article 370, the Government has decided to send a fresh batch of foreign envoys to visit Jammu & Kashmir this week to facilitate them in getting a first-hand account of the ground situation in the erstwhile State which lost its special status on August 5 last year.

The fresh batch of foreign envoys will visit Jammu & Kashmir later this week and those who will be part of the delegation include envoys from European Union and the Gulf countries, official sources said without any further elaboration on the specific date of the visit or the composition of the visiting team.

The first batch of 15

envoys, including the US Ambassador to India, Kenneth I Justerhad, had visited Jammu and Kashmir last month on a two-day visit.

The first batch of the envoys included those from the US, Latin America and Africa. But diplomats from Australia and several Gulf nations as also the European Union could not make the cut but were desirous of visiting the Valley at a later date.

Parliamentarians from the European Union had visited Jammu and Kashmir in October in order to assess the ground situation. The Parliamentarians, on a private visit, were briefed by the security forces on the situation there.

The Parliament had on August 5 abrogated the special status to J&K under Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile

state of Jammu & Kashmir into union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Following India's move, Pakistan had launched a vitiated campaign against the move across major capitals as the repeal of the special provision paved the way for full integration of the terror-hit territory with the Indian Union.

In the wake of continued propaganda and the telecom restrictions, a number of countries had voiced concern over Internet shutdown and detention of political leaders. However, Pakistan could not get much traction despite a pitched campaign against India due to lack of credibility in Islamabad's arguments.

Pakistan's role in terror funding and human rights abuse has been under the gaze of various multi-lateral bodies.

CBI to probe into impersonation of principal secy to PM by unidentified caller

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case to probe alleged impersonation of PK Mishra, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, by unidentified conman seeking favours from the regional administrator of Mahe in Puducherry. It is alleged that Aman Sharma,

The regional administrator of Mahe Region in Puducherry, Aman Sharma received a call on his mobile phone from an unknown number and the caller, claiming to be Mishra, sought some favours for his daughter studying at JIPMER, according to the complaint from the PMO which is now part of the FIR.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) referred the matter to the CBI through a letter on November 27 last year saying it is a clear case of impersonation.

Nearly two-and-a-half months after receiving a complaint, the agency has registered an FIR against unidentified persons under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and cheating by impersonation.

Paswan hails SC order upholding amendments to law on atrocities against Dalits & Tribes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister and LJP leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Monday hailed the Supreme Court order upholding the constitutional validity of the amendments to make a law on atrocities against Dalits stringent and asserted that the Centre is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

"I welcome the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to uphold SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018. The Central Govt is committed to protecting SC/STs from atrocities and their constitutional rights, and today the apex court has also put its stamp on it," Paswan said.

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Act saying a court can grant anticipatory bail only in cases where a prima facie case is not made out. A preliminary inquiry is not essential before lodging an FIR under the act nor is the approval of senior police officials, said a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra.

Modi to Rajapaksa: River Ganga at heart of Indian civilisation, culture

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa that the River Ganga is at the heart of Indian civilisation and our cultural and economic lifeline, after the latter commended Modi for the "Namami Gange effort".

Modi made the remarks on Twitter, replying to a post by Rajapaksa about his Sunday's trip to Varanasi where he got the "honour" of visiting the Ganga. "Before leaving #Varanasi, I had the honour of visiting the sacred River Ganga. I commend PM @narendramodis #NamamiGange effort, not only because of the rivers spiritual and cultural significance but also because it



is host to approximately 40% of #Indias population," Rajapaksa tweeted, attaching a picture of his visit. In his reply, Modi said the "Ganga is at the heart of our civilisation. It is our cultural and economic lifeline. I am glad you spent time in Varanasi and also went along the Ganga. The experience would have been wonderful." The Namami Gange programme was launched in 2014 to clean the river and improve its flow.

SC upholds constitutional validity of SC/ST Amendment Act 2018

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday upheld the constitutional validity of SC/ST Amendment Act, 2018 saying a court can grant anticipatory bail only in cases where a prima facie case is not made out.

A preliminary inquiry is not essential before lodging an FIR under the act nor is the approval of senior police officials, said a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra. Justice Ravindra Bhat, the other member of the bench, said in a concurring verdict that every citizen needs to treat fellow citizens equally and foster the concept of fraternity.

Justice Bhat said a court can quash the FIR if a prima

facie case is not made out under the SC/ST Act and the liberal use of anticipatory bail will defeat the intention of Parliament. The top court's verdict came on a batch of PILs challenging the validity of the SC/ST Amendment Act of 2018, which was brought to nullify the effect of the apex court's 2018 ruling, which had diluted the provisions of the stringent Act.

The apex court had in January last year refused to stay the 2018 amendments to the SC/ST Act, which restored the provision that no anticipatory bail be granted to the accused in offence lodged under this law. In its 2018 verdict, the apex court had taken note of the rampant misuse of the

stringent SC/ST Act against government servants and private individuals and said that there would be no immediate arrest on any complaint filed under the law.

Violent protests had taken place across the country after the apex court's verdict in which several persons lost their lives and many were injured.

Parliament on August 9, 2018 had passed the bill to overturn the apex court March 20, 2018 judgement concerning certain safeguards against arrest under the SC/ST law.

Later, the Centre had filed a petition in the top court seeking review of its March 2018 judgement.

Kerala Govt asked to reply on Maradu flat owners plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Kerala Government on pleas by Maradu flat owners, whose apartments were recently demolished for being constructed in violation of coastal regulation zone norms, seeking setting up of a tribunal for exact valuation of the land.

A bench of justices Arun Mishra and Indira Banerjee issued notice to the Kerala Government on the application filed by the flat owners, who sought exact valuation of their property.

Senior advocate PS Patwalia, appearing for some flat owners, said a retired apex

court judge should be appointed as a tribunal judge for assessing the exact valuation of the property.

He said otherwise they will be at the receiving end for not being able to get the price, which they have paid to the builders of the apartment.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, also appearing for another set of flat owners, sought a similar relief and said that a tribunal should be appointed to assess their loss.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for some home buyers, said on the apex court directive they have been paid an interim compensation of ₹25, lakh but the exact value was much more and they need to be paid more for the loss.

CENTRE TO STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES Register vehicles that are certified by Govt based on Motor Vehicle Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of complaints that some of the States have been registering even prototype vehicles, the Centre has issued an advisory to all the State Transport Authorities to register vehicles that are certified by the Government based on the Motor Vehicle Act. Directives also come ahead of the Centre all set to implement Bharat Stage VI vehicle emission with effect from April 1, 2020.

The Road Transport Ministry in its advisory has stated that it has come to the notice to the Ministry that in some States, vehicles are not being registered in spite of

vehicles having Valid Type Approval (Road Worthiness, Certificate from authorized testing agencies) and that each model of the vehicle is subjected to physical inspection by the State Transport Department before their registration in the States. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued an advisory to all State /UT Administrations to implement system of vehicle registration as per Rules notified under the Central Motor Vehicle Act 1988.

A senior MoRTH official said that all authorized testing agencies carry out testing of prototype of the model and pro-

vide the type approval certificate and in this regard a specific quality certificate for compliance with pollution standards, safety standards of components and road worthiness are issued.

Manufacturers of all kinds of motor vehicles as also E-rickshaws and E-carts will have to give detailed declaration about the make and emission levels of the vehicle they have manufactured. Through a recent notification, Ministry amended Form 22 through which manufacturers provide the Initial Certificate of Compliance with Pollution Standards, Safety Standards of Components Quality and Road-Worthiness certificate for all vehicles.

Asian Elephants, Bengal Floricans in UN endangered list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican from India will be among 10 endangered species of migratory animals/birds from across the world which will be included in a special UN list for protection under the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)—an international treaty to protect such species throughout their range countries.

Their inclusion besides a range of issues affecting migratory species will be discussed at a triennial UN conference on conservation of migratory species of wild animals (COP13) in Gandhinagar from February 15 to 22 which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hosting CMS COP-13 is a significant step towards wildlife conservation in India. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the CMS COP13 which will be attended by representatives



Asian Elephant/Asian Elephant

from 130 countries besides eminent conservationists and international NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said at a press conference.

The theme of CMS COP13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home." The CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by 'Kolam', a traditional art form from southern India. In the logo of CMS COP-13, Kolam art form is used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur falcon, hump-



Bengal Florican

back whale, and marine turtles.

The mascot for CMS COP13, "Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard" which is a critically endangered species that has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The CMS listing makes member countries responsible to work towards protecting these animals/birds, conserving their habitats and controlling other factors that might endanger them. Currently, 173 species from across the globe are listed in CMS Appendix I, which deals with migratory

species threatened with extinction. Besides three species proposed by India, the other seven to be considered include Jaguar (proposed by Costa Rica, Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay), White-tip Shark (Brazil), Little Bustard (EU nations), Uril (Tajikistan, Iran and Uzbekistan), Antipodean Albatross (New Zealand, Australia and Chile), Smooth Hammerhead Shark (Brazil) and Tope Shark (EU nations).

Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international cooperation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention. A total of 518 species are listed in Appendix II, but this listing also includes entire species groups including subspecies. Besides, many of those in Appendix I are also listed in Appendix II.



President Ram Nath Kovind visited Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya in the Rashtrapati Bhawan complex on Monday where he interacted with students, teachers and staff. This was President Kovind's maiden visit to the school and he was accompanied by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathanan (KVS) Commissioner Santosh K Mall. The President inaugurated a centre for artificial intelligence supported by technology giant Intel Pioneer Photo

DETENTION OF J&K LEADERS UNDER PSA

Omar's sister moves SC, challenges his detention

New Delhi: Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's sister on Monday approached the Supreme Court, challenging his detention under the J&K Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978 saying the order of detention is "manifestly illegal" and there is no question of him being a "threat to the maintenance of public order".

In her plea, Sara Abdullah Pilot has said that exercise of powers by authorities under the CrPc to detain individuals, including political leaders, was "clearly mala fide to ensure that the opposition to the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution is silenced".

It said the intent of exercise of power was to "incarcerate not just him (Omar Abdullah) but the entire leadership of the National Conference, as well as the leadership of other political parties, who were similarly dealt with including Farooq Abdullah, who has served the State and the Union over several years... Stood by India whenever the situation so demanded".

The plea has sought quashing of February 5 order detaining Omar Abdullah under the

PSA and also sought his production before the court.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Pilot, mentioned the matter for urgent listing before a bench headed by Justice NV Ramana.

Sibal told the bench that they have filed a habeas corpus petition challenging the detention of Omar Abdullah under the PSA and the matter should be heard this week.

The bench agreed for listing of the matter.

In her plea, Pilot has said that on the intervening night of August 4-5, 2019, Omar Abdullah was put under house arrest and it was later learnt that section 107 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 was invoked to justify such arrest.

"There has been a grave violation of Articles 14, 21 and 22 of the Constitution," the plea said, adding, "similar orders of detention have been issued by the Respondents (authorities of union territory of Jammu & Kashmir) over the last seven months in a wholly mechanical manner to other detainees, which suggest that there has been a consistent and concerted effort to muzzle all political

rivals".

It said there could be no material available to detain a person who has already been detained for previous six months and the "grounds for the detention order are wholly lacking any material facts or particulars which are imperative for an order of detention".

It said the provisions of PSA were "wholly violated" and none of the conditions laid down to justify a detention order exists, "nor is even adverted to".

"It is rare that those who have served the nation as members of Parliament, Chief Ministers of a state, ministers in the Union and have always stood by the national aspirations of India are now perceived as a threat to the State," the plea said.

"In fact, a reference to all the public statements and messages posted by the detenu (Omar Abdullah) during the period up to his first detention would reveal that he has kept calling for peace and co-operation — messages which in Gandhi's India cannot remotely affect public order," it said.

Didi slams Centre for slapping PSA on 2 ex-CMs



Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday expressed sadness over slapping of the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, saying "they are getting ill-treatment".

"Very sad case, the slapping of PSA on Omar, Mehbooba. I am really sorry for that. I am shocked. They are two very senior politicians. And how they are getting ill-treatment. It's a shame for all of us," Banerjee told media persons here.

The PSA was slapped on Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on February 7. The dossier citing grounds for slapping the PSA on Mehbooba Mufti says she is known as hard-headed scheming person and for actions like glorifying militants in her speeches and creating fears among the majority population, based on cheap politics.

Reason for PSA shows BJP's intellectual, moral bankruptcy: Tarigami

Jammu: CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami termed on Monday the grounds for booking former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti under Public Safety Act (PSA) 'hilarious' and said it shows the "intellectual and moral bankruptcy" of the BJP Government at the Centre.

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's considerable influence over people, including the ability to attract voters to polling booths despite poll boycott calls and the potential for channelling energies of public for any cause, has been cited in support of his detention under the stringent PSA.

His political opponent and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti has been accused of making anti-national statements and extending support to organisations such as the Jamaat-e-Islamia of the state, which has been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Tarigami, in a statement here, said, "The PSA dossier of Mehbooba states that the 'green colour of party (PDP) flag' reflects radical origin. Was not the colour of PDP flag same when the BJP entered into an alliance with it to share the power in Jammu & Kashmir in March 2015?"

He also said that Omar Abdullah's PSA dossier states his ability to convince the electorate to vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycott calls by separatists and militants.

"Is it a crime to have influence over voters and convince them to vote despite threats by militants and separatists?" Tarigami asked and asserted that in a democratic setup every leader has influence over people and voters which is not considered as crime in any part of the country or the world.

No basis to charge them, says Priyanka

New Delhi: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday said it is 'pretty clear' the Government has no basis to charge Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti under the Public Safety Act and the two former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers must be freed.

Since when has becoming a 'daddy's girl' and encouraging people to vote become a crime against the nation, Priyanka Gandhi asked on Twitter.

Her attack came after Abdullah's 'considerable influence' over people, including the ability to attract voters to polling booths despite poll boycott calls and the potential for channelling energies of public for any cause, was cited in support of his detention under the stringent PSA.

His political opponent and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti has been accused of making anti-national statements and extending support to organisations such as the Jamaat-e-Islamia. She was also reportedly referred in the report as being called by the masses as 'Daddy's girl' and 'Kota Rani'.

"Since when has being a 'Daddy's girl' and encouraging people to vote become a crime against the nation? I would be proud to be both!" Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet.

"It's pretty clear that the government has no basis for charging Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti with PSA. They must be freed," she said.

Another NC leader booked

Srinagar: Hilal Akbar Lone, National Conference (NC) leader and son of party MP Muhammad Akbar Lone, booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on Monday.

In the last five days, six mainstream leaders from the region belonging to National Conference and People's Democratic Party (PDP) have been slapped with PSA, which allows detention of any individual for up to two years without a trial or charge. The total number of mainstream leaders booked under the detention law has now mounted to seven.

On Thursday, two former Chief Ministers — Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti — were booked under PSA.

Earlier, NC leader Ali Muhammad Sagar and senior PDP leader Sartaj Madni were booked under PSA. On Saturday, senior PDP leader and former minister Naem Akhter was also booked under the same law.

Around 50 politicians, including three former Chief Ministers — Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, were placed under detention on August 5 last year when Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state of J&K was bifurcated into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

CAA-NRC-NPR

Ex-CJI: Enough protests held, solution must be through Constitutional means

Gandhinagar: Underlining that respecting the unity and integrity of the country is perhaps the 'most important fundamental duty', former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Monday said enough protests have been held on the new citizenship law and that people should not create 'two parallel forums' when the SC is already seized of the matter.

Addressing students of the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) here, the former CJI also said that everybody has the right to express views on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), but "the resolution of the issue must be through Constitutional means".

Referring to the protests over the CAA in his home State Assam, the former CJI said there were elements who wanted to harm the integrity of the country, but the student community there called off the violent protests within days, which improved law and order situation overnight.

"Perhaps the most important fundamental duty is the respect of the unity and integrity of the country. There are issues in this, and why hype them. The Citizenship Amendment Act... It is an

issue. You may have a view about it, I may have a view about it, and our views may not match. I have the right to express your view, you have the right to express your view. Fine. But the resolution must be through Constitutional means," he said.

Former CJI Gogoi further said the matter (challenge to CAA) is pending before the Supreme Court. "Trust your judges. They will decide, according to the Constitution," he added.

Several petitions have been filed challenging the constitutional validity of the Act including by RJD leader Manoj Jha, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi.

"Protests have been held, viewpoints have been expressed. Enough. You cannot have two parallel forums, the Supreme Court and someone else," he said. On December 18, the apex court had agreed to examine the constitutional validity of the CAA, but refused to stay its operation.

Assam was the first State where protests broke out after the CAA was passed by Parliament in December last year.

Allahabad High Court dismisses plea against notices to protesters

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Monday dismissed a petition challenging recovery notices served on anti-CAA protesters for alleged damage to public property.

The Lucknow Bench of the High Court said such matters are already sub judice before the Supreme Court so there was no occasion to file the instant petition here.

The order was given by a division bench of Justice Pankaj Kumar Jaiswal and Justice Karunesh Singh Pawar on the writ petition filed by a protester, Mohammad Kaleem.

The petitioner had challenged a notice issued by the UP government for the recovery of damages allegedly caused to public property during a recent protest in the city against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The petitioner had stated that the notice was illegal.

Opposing the plea, the government counsel submitted that it was a mere notice to which the petitioner should reply before the issuing authority and secondly same matters are pending before the apex court so the petition is not maintainable in the HC.

Act cannot be questioned or deliberated in any manner: Bedi

Puducherry: Two days ahead of the Congress Government's move to bring in an anti-CAA resolution in the Assembly, Lt Governor Kiran Bedi on Monday shot off a letter to Chief Minister V Narayanasamy, saying the Act passed by Parliament is applicable to the Union Territory and "cannot be questioned or deliberated in any manner".

She said this after three nominated legislators from the BJP, V Saminathan, KG Shankar and S Sellaganapathy, met her and submitted a petition, bringing to her notice the Government's move to bring in a resolution in the assembly on February 12 against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The legislators had already presented a petition to the Speaker VP Sivakolundhu on February 6, requesting him not to permit any discussion or a resolution against CAA

December 12, 2019.

She said the legislative power of the Puducherry Assembly does not extend to discussing or deliberating the matter of citizenship as it falls squarely within the domain of Parliament and the Central Government.

"The matter of CAA is already under adjudication before the Supreme Court," she said. Bedi said that as per Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Puducherry Legislative Assembly 1966 "a resolution of any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India is not admissible under Rule 105 of the above mentioned rules".

The Lt Governor said she had also enclosed a copy of the petition with her letter to the Chief Minister.

INBRIEF

MEET TO START BUILDING RAM TEMPLE ON FEB 19
New Delhi: Fixing the date for the beginning of the Ram temple's construction and appointment of two trustees are on the agenda of the 'Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra', a trust formed by the Union Government for building the temple in Ayodhya, in its first meeting on February 19.

ONLINE COURSE FOR BABUS STARTED
New Delhi: The Centre has started an online training course for bureaucrats working across the country on the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the contemporary world, a personnel Ministry order said. The topics of the course include ethics and morality, non-violence and pacifist movement.

'PANCHI' CULTURAL FESTIVAL HELD
New Delhi: Empowering Minds - Society for Research and Development (EM), an NGO working to empower the people from the poor sector held a two-day children's cultural festival 'Paanchi' at Vaishali in Ghaziabad recently wherein students from its community schools and others participated in various inspirational sessions such as story-telling, laughter and dance. The aim is to boost the overall personality of the impressionable minds, said Richa Mohan, NGO's president.

RETURN PLEA OF SURPLUS LAND REFUSED
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any order on a plea by Noida Authority seeking return of 277 acre surplus land, worth ₹8,000 crore, given to embattled realty firm Unitech Ltd on lease for housing projects which have not been built.

PLEA AGAINST WHATSAPP PAYMENT SERVICE TRIAL
New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking stay on the alleged trials of WhatsApp payment service being carried out by the instant messaging app on one million users in India, saying they cannot be "reduced to guinea pigs".

NOTICE ON PLEAS SEEKING FIR AGAINST POLICE
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to Union of India, Bar Council of Delhi, Delhi Government and others, after hearing a petition-seeking registration of FIR against every member of third battalion who entered Tis Hazari premises without District Judge's permission.

Why is Church not opposing Article 30, asks Goa BJP leader

PTI ■ PANAJI

They run educational institutions with the money I pay as tax," Sawaikar, the Goa BJP's general secretary, said.

Article 30(1) lays down that religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions.

"The archbishop should also demand that Article 30 of the Constitution be scrapped," Sawaikar said, and went on to claim Ferrao's statement was "divisive", had no "logic or rationale" and was based on "ifs and buts".

The archbishop's representatives or the spokesperson of the Centre for Social Justice and Peace (CSJP) were not available for comment.

BJP leader and former Lok Sabha MP Narendra Sawaikar on Monday called Goa Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao's statement against the Citizenship Amendment Act as 'divisive' and asked why the latter was not objecting to Article 30 of the Constitution which gives minorities the right to establish educational institutions.

Ferrao on Saturday had asked the Centre to scrap CAA and drop any plans of carrying out the National Population Register and National Register of Citizens exercises.

"They (minorities) claim all benefits under Article 30.



Advocates stage a protest against the new Citizenship Act, outside the Collector's Office in Ahmedabad on Monday

Police tries to remove protesters from Kanpur park

Kanpur (UP): Tension prevailed here after police allegedly tried to remove anti-CAA protesters forcibly from Mohamed Ali Park in the Chamanganj area in the wee hours on Monday.

Continuing their stir, the protesters has accused police of resorting to a lathicharge.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Vivek Srivastava said the protesters had agreed to end their agitation on Saturday after assurance by the district administration that cases against them will be withdrawn.

However, many stayed back despite ending their stir after reciting the national anthem with the DM, the ADM added. He said police then asked the protesters to vacate the park by Sunday night. Kanpur DM Brahma Deo Ram Tiwari denied reports of any lathicharge on the protesters.

Locust attack damaged crop on 1.49 lakh hectares: Raj Min

Jaipur: Crop on over 1.49 lakh hectares has been damaged in various districts due to the locust attack since May, Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Lal Chand Kataria informed the state assembly here on Monday.

He, however, said no significant damage was caused to the kharif crop due to a prompt action by the authorities when swarms of locust entered Jaipur on May 21 last year.

"Fresh locust swarms entered the country in December 2019 due to wind intensity and lack of effective control over locusts by neighbouring country Pakistan," he said.

Over 250 tribals in Valparai in Coimbatore were on Monday stopped from taking out a march to the city to press for their long-pending demands, police said.

The demands were: provision of rights on forest, patta (deed) for their habitats, land for agriculture and also alternative place in reserved forest areas.

The tribals, including women, from 16 settlements gathered to march to the city, covering 120 km in the early hours of Monday, and petition the Collector on their demands.

However, a large number of police deployed there prevented them from proceeding and all of them squatted in front of a Gandhi

Over 250 tribals stopped from march to Coimbatore

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

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₹5 lakh fine slapped on Centre, States for failing to file reply on PIL for community kitchen

New Delhi: Irked over repeated failures of the Centre and States to file their replies, the Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily and imposed cost of ₹ five lakh on them for not complying with its directions to file their affidavits on a PIL seeking setting up of community kitchens across the country.

A bench of Justice NV Ramana, Ajay Rastogi and V Ramasubramanian, during hearing in the morning, said if the Union of India and the States file their affidavit in the next 24 hours then they will have to pay only Rs one-lakh fine, whereas those who still fail to submit it by then will have to pay ₹5 lakh fine.

The top court said that five states — Punjab, Nagaland, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand — and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar, who have filed their responses on the PIL filed by Arun Dhawan, will not pay any fine. Advocate Ashima Mandla, appearing for the petitioner said that five months have passed since the apex court had issued notice and except for five states and one union territory, no other states and UTs have filed their response.

कार्यालय उप निदेशक (वि.याँ.)
राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उ०प्र०
किसान मण्डी भवन, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ
पत्रांक-वि०/याँ(३२५)/२०२०-१८३९ दिनांक-१०.०२.२०२०

ई-कोटेशन सूचना

विभिन्न मण्डी स्थलों के चिन्हांकन हेतु हेड/कैटी लीवर रेट्रो रेफ्लेक्टिव बोर्ड की आपूर्ति/स्थापना कार्यों के अन्तर्गत पिल्सिथ, एम०एस०/जी० आई० पाइप, रेट्रो रेफ्लेक्टिव शीट आदि तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य की नान शिड्यूल सामग्रियों की दरों के निर्धारण हेतु निर्माता / अनुभववी फर्मों से ई-कोटेशन दि० ०२.०३.२०२० को अपराह्न १.०० बजे तक आन लाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न ३.३० बजे खोली जाएगी। ई-कोटेशन दिनांक ०२.०३.२०२० को अपराह्न १.०० बजे तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ऑन लाइन भरकर अपलोड की जा सकती है। इसके उपरान्त वेबसाइट स्वतः बन्द हो जायेगी। संबंधित आवश्यक प्रपत्र ई-कोटेशन के साथ ही अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
उपनिदेशक (वि०/याँ०)

Lecturer set afire by stalker dies

Kin seek speedy justice
TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Tension prevailed in Daroda village of Hinganghat taluka of Maharashtra's Wardha district on Monday, as a 24-year-old lecturer succumbed to burns at Orange City Hospital & Research Institute (OCHRI) in Nagpur, a week after she was set ablaze by her spurned suitor near her college in the nearby taluka town.

The news of the victim woman's death sparked unrest in her village, where the people took to street to condemn her death and stopped the ambulance carrying her body from the Nagpur-based hospital to her native village. Some villagers resorted to stone pelting.

However, a 300 member-strong police force deployed specially in the village brought the situation under the control.

An intense drama unfolded in Daroda village after the parents of the victim woman had refused to take her body till they got a written assurance from the State Government that the accused Vicki Nagrale (27) — who had doused the victim woman with petrol and

set her on fire on February 3 in broad day light— would be dealt with sternly. Some irate villagers were demanding that the accused be burnt alive. However, the parents agreed to accept the body after State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh assured them that the accused would be punished.

Hundreds of people turned out for the victim woman's funeral held in the village later in the evening, amid gloom and emotional scenes.

Earlier at 6.55 am, the victim woman — who had been battling with life for a week — succumbed to burns at OCHRI. "At around 6.30 am; patient again had bradycardia and in spite of prolonged Cardiopulmonary resuscitation as per ACLS guidelines; patient could not be revived and was declared dead at 6.55am today," Dr. Anup Marar, Director of OCHRI.

"Probable cause of death kept was Septicemic shock in patient of 35% Grade III Deep Dermal burns with Inhalational Injury. MLC was duly conveyed and body was handed over to police authorities for post mortem and allied formalities," Dr Marar said in



a statement issued later in the day.

Dr Marar said that the victim woman, who was on ventilator since February 7, remained critical all through as she had respiratory distress and fluctuations in Blood Pressure. Her condition deteriorated further in the early hours of Monday, after oxygen levels in her blood dipped alarmingly low.

In his reaction to the death of victim woman and subsequent developments at her native village, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said: "We will not show any mercy to the accused. Many a time, the trial in this kind of cases takes time. We will not allow such a delay to take place in this case. We will prove the guilt of the accused in a quickest possible time and execute him."

"It is rather unfortunate we could not save the victim woman from being set ablaze in such a savage manner. Nor could we save from succumbing to burns. This incident is a big blot on Maharashtra," deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said in his condolence message.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra government has announced a financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased woman and a job to one of the members of the bereaved family.

Making an announcement to this effect, Minister of State for Women and Child Welfare Bachhu Kadu said: "We will prosecute the accused through a speedy trial and hand him out a stern punishment"

It may be recalled that the victim woman suffered nearly 40 per cent burns after the

accused Vicki Nagrale — who was laying in wait for her near college at Hinganghat— took petrol from his two-wheeler and poured it on her and set her on fire, at around 7.30 am on February 3. After she shrieked for her, the bystanders doused the burning victim woman with water and extinguished the fire. By then, she had been badly burnt.

The police investigations have revealed that the victim woman — who was a Botany lecturer in a Hinganghat-based college — and the accused used to travel to taluka town in Wardha district by the same bus. The accused had some month ago expressed his love for the victim woman, who spurned him.

Nagrale, who landed a job in the Railways, is married with a six-month-old daughter. He used to harass her for the past three months. The victim woman's father had taken the accused to task, after her fixed marriage proposal fell through.

Nagrale, who would normally travel to Hinganghat with the victim woman by bus, had arrived earlier than her near college on Monday morning.

Parents, son commit suicide after daughter's inter-caste marriage

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking incident, the parents and brother of a girl who eloped with her lover from a different caste and married him, committed mass suicide by jumping into well in Vivekananda Nagar locality of Gadchiroli town in eastern Maharashtra on Monday.

Devastated after hearing that their 24-year-old daughter eloped with her boyfriend and married him in a nearby temple on Saturday, Ravindra Nagorao Vargantiwar (50) and his wife Valshali (43), along with their son Sairam (19), plunged into a well.

Acting on the information received from the local residents, the police rushed to the mishap site and extricated the three bodies from the well and sent them for post-mortem.

The police investigations have revealed that the girl, whose parents and brother committed mass suicide, was in love a boy from the neighbourhood belonging to different caste for quite some time. On Saturday, she told her that

The police investigations have revealed that the girl, whose parents and brother committed mass suicide, was in love a boy from the neighbourhood belonging to different caste for quite some time. However, her father told her in unequivocal terms that he did not approve her proposed inter-caste marriage with her lover. After hearing the news of her inter-caste marriage, her upset parents and brother took the extreme step of jumping in a nearby well.

she would marry the boy whom she loved.

However, her father told her in unequivocal terms that he did not approve her proposed inter-caste marriage with her lover. Unmindful of the opinion expressed by her father, the daughter left home and married the boy at a nearby temple.

After hearing the news of her inter-caste marriage, her upset parents and brother took the extreme step of jumping in a nearby well.

Five remanded in jail custody for minor's gang-rape

Kolkata: A city court on Monday rejected the bail prayers of five persons accused in the gang-rape case of a 12-year-old girl and remanded them in judicial custody till February 24.

Second Additional judge, POCSO court, Alipore, Sonia Majumdar sent the five to judicial remand. They were earlier in police custody following their arrest.

Four of them were accused of raping the girl, while the fifth one — the owner of the house where the incident took place — was charged with abetment to the crime.

Opposing their bail prayer, public prosecutor Radha Kanta Mukherjee submitted that it is a heinous crime of gangraping a class VII student and investigations are in a nascent stage.

Enlarging them on bail would impact the probe, Mukherjee told the court. Judge Majumdar then rejected their bail prayer.

The incident occurred at a house in Ekbalpore area of the city on Thursday. The four rape-accused were arrested on Friday while the owner of the house was nabbed later. **PTI**

Free power to those with quarterly consumption of up to 75 units

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what the critics called an effort to comeback to power in the upcoming municipal elections in the State besides generating goodwill for the next year's Assembly elections, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday walked in the footsteps of her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal by announcing free power for an earmarked section of the society among other populist schemes.

Announcing the "conditional" power scheme called 'Hasir Alo' (smiling light) State Finance Minister Amit Mitra said that the households with a quarterly consumption of up to 75 units would get electricity free of cost. The scheme is expected to benefit 35 lakh poor households Mitra said adding ₹200 crore have been allocated for the purpose.

In a Budget apparently aimed at the have-not gallery her Government also announced a cluster of Left-leaning measures that ranged from almost free-of-cost provident fund for the unorganized sector to suggesting waiver of agricultural income



WEST BENGAL BUDGET 2020-21

West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra presents the State Budget for 2020-21 in the State Assembly in Kolkata on Monday **PTI**

tax for two fiscals and constructing houses for the permanent workers engaged in the moribund tea industry of North Bengal.

The ruling Trinamool Congress had earlier attacked the Centre for giving nothing to the tea workers of North Bengal from where the BJP had won all the five parliamentary seats. ₹500 crore for have been set

aside for the housing scheme for tea garden workers, named 'Chai Sundari' the Finance Minister said adding the scheme will benefit around three lakh workers in 370 tea gardens of North Bengal.

The "Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha" was launched to provide Provident Fund (PF) at neg-

ligible rate of ₹25 per month for the poorest of the poor. The Government will contribute ₹30 per month as PF to this new scheme. At the age of 60 years, on death or discontinuation, the amount can be drawn along with the interest.

Apart from this the

Government also allocated ₹200 crore for the next financial year for the MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) parks. Under Karma Saathi Prakalpa the Government will provide soft loans to unemployed youth for setting up small ventures.

The Government also announced setting up of a new university in Scheduled Tribe dominated area of Jhargram. Two other universities will also come up at Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Caste dominated areas. This apart the three new civil service academies will be set up in Kolkata, Durgapur and Siliguri.

Meanwhile at the post-Budget media meet Banerjee attacked the Central Government for coming out with a religion-centric Budget and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to avoid what she called "politics of vendetta" and work with the opposition parties.

"It is our duty to work together to improve the economic condition of the country and if needed Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak to the oppo-

sition parties," Banerjee said adding the Union Government should try to improve the financial health of the country instead of spreading politics of hatred.

"Whatever RBI is saying is a sensitive matter. The union government should look after the economy, instead of being busy in the politics of hatred. The Prime Minister should take everybody along, if needed hold discussions with opposition parties," she said after her Government presented the Budget.

Attacking the State Budget opposition leader Abdul Mannan said that it was full of "high sounding nothing" as "they have announced a whole lot of schemes but have not said as to where the money will come from."

Left Legislative Party leader Sujan Chakrabarty dared the Government to "come out with the details of planned expenditure instead of non-planned expenditure," adding how the present Government had been moving towards a debt trap with a cumulative debt burden of ₹4.6 lakh crore in a matter of just 8-9 years.

Gujarat ATS nabs 1993 serial blasts accused in drug case

Ahmedabad: A prime accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, who is a close associate of the terror attack's key conspirator Tiger Memon, was arrested from the airport in Maharashtra's capital by the Gujarat ATS in a drug seizure case, a senior official said on Monday.

Munaf Halari was arrested from the Mumbai international airport on late Sunday night by a team of the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), he said.

The 55-year-old, travelling on a Pakistani passport, had arrived from Nairobi and was supposed to catch a Dubai-bound flight from Mumbai, said Assistant Commissioner of Police (ATS) KK Patel.

Halari is wanted in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts in which around 260 people were killed and more than 700 injured in what was one of the worst terror attacks in India.

Halari was on the radar of the Gujarat ATS following the arrest of five Pakistani nationals in January off the Gujarat coast with drugs worth Rs 175 crore, he said.

The questioning of the Pakistani nationals had revealed the role of Halari in drug smuggling, the ACP told reporters at Gujarat ATS headquarters here.

"Munaf Halari is also a prime accused in the Mumbai serial blasts case of 1993 in which a Red Corner Notice had been issued against him. He had played a vital role in the serial blasts. **PTI**

बिहार सरकार

Bihar Education Project Council
 Shiksha Bhawan, Campus of Bihar Rashtra Bhasha Parishad, Saidpur, Rajendra Nagar, Patna - 800004, Tel. No.0612 2667163, website: www.bepccsa.in

Short Tender Notice for Inviting Quotations for supply of goods/services for Bihar Diwas- 2020

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed/experienced registered firms/agencies for the following services in Gandhi Maidan, Patna and S.K. Memorial Hall, Patna:-

- Package I** - Hiring of Bedding/Furniture on rental basis.
- Package II** - Fabrication of temporary wall with GI Sheet & Filling & Labelling of soil as required.
- Package III.A** - Construction of Gate/Pavilion/Pandal/Stall etc on rental basis.
- Package III.B** - Construction of Gate/Pavilion/Pandal/Stall etc. using Indian Hanger on rental basis.
- Package III.C** - Construction of Gate/Pavilion/Pandal/Stall etc. using German Hanger on rental basis.
- Package IV** - Generator/Electrical Lighting Services.
- Package V** - Digital Sound System for Gandhi Maidan.
- Package V.A** - Digital Sound System for S.K. Hall/ Prem Chandra hall.
- Package VI** - Sound system etc.
- Package VII** - Hiring of Bus services on rental basis.
- Package VIII** - Cleaning Services.
- Package VIII.A** - Security Services.
- Package IX** - Printing of I.Card/Invitation Card etc.
- Package IX.A** - Printing of Flex Materials.

Detailed separate bid documents for the each of the above packages may be obtained from the Chief Accounts Officer, Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, Saidpur, Rajendra Nagar, Patna on any working day up to 27.02.2020 (02.00 PM) free of cost.

The bid documents may also be downloaded from our website www.bepccsa.in

Pre-bid conference will be held on 20.02.2020 (Thursday) at 03.30 pm in the Conference Hall of Bihar Education Project Council, Patna.

Bid documents separately for each package sealed in separate covers and marked as "Part-I Technical Proposal" and "Part-II Financial Proposal" with relevant goods/ services/ supplies (package wise) must be submitted in the office of The State Project Director, Bihar Education Project Council, Saidpur, Rajendra Nagar, Patna - 4, up to 28.02.2020 (Friday) till 02.00 PM. All sealed technical bid/ quotations received up to 28.02.2020 (Friday) before stipulated time will be opened on the same day in the office at 03.00 PM in the Conference Hall of Bihar Education Project Council, Patna. The opening date and time of financial bid/quotations will be communicated well on time. The bidders or their representatives may present at the time of opening of Technical and Financial Bid.

(Sanjay Singh)
 State Project director

PR. No. 15522 (Ni.Ni.) 2019-20

आओ सब मिलकर बात करें, बंद हो दहेज, शुरुआत करें!

BSY allocates portfolios, Ramesh Jarkiholi gets irrigation Dept

Bengaluru: Four days after the cabinet expansion, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Monday allocated portfolios to the 10 newly inducted ministers including Ramesh Jarkiholi, who got the plum major and medium irrigation department, which he was pushing for.

The Chief Minister retained the Department of Public Administration, Bengaluru Development, Intelligence Department, Finance and portfolios not allocated.

According to a Government press release, Anand Singh got food, civil supplies and consumers affairs portfolio, Srimant Patil was given textile while K Gopalaiah has been assigned small scale industries. Byrathi Basavaraj secured the Urban Development Department barring Bengaluru-related civic affairs while ST Somashekhar was given the charge of the cooperation department.

The BJP Government assigned

'The sentiments of the MLAs should be taken care of. Many MLAs have spoken to me on various issues highlighting the regional balance in the portfolio for the development of their region'

forest department to BC Patil, medical education to Dr K Sudhakar, municipal administration was given to K C Narayana Gowda and labour department to A Shivaram Hebbar.

The ten BJP MLAs, all defectors from the Congress and JDS, were inducted as ministers last Thursday, with the Chief Minister rewarding them with Cabinet berths for helping the BJP bring down the Congress-JD(S) coalition and come to power in July last year. "Neither have I asked him nor as he enquired with me (regarding portfolio allocation). I had told him that whatever portfolio he gives me I will perform my duties sincerely. **PTI**

I got the cooperation department, which is an area I have some experience," Somashekhar said. Byrathi Basavaraj said had not exerted pressure demanding any portfolio. Meanwhile, discontentment started brewing with BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil raising the issue of addressing the regional balance in the cabinet.

"The sentiments of the MLAs should be taken care of. Many MLAs have spoken to me on various issues highlighting the regional balance in the portfolio of their region," he said.

Two other BJP MLAs--Umesh Katti and Mahesh Kumathalli--once again made a pitch for cabinet berth.

Katti said he has always been an eligible candidate for a ministerial post. Kumathalli once again reminded Yediyurappa of his promise to make him a minister when the bypolls were taking place in December last year. **PTI**

Coronavirus: 34 of 37 in isolation wards in Maha discharged

Mumbai: Thirty-four of the 37 people admitted in isolation wards in Maharashtra hospitals for suspected exposure to the novel coronavirus have been discharged after their samples tested negative for the infection, Health Minister Rajesh Tope said on Monday.

The samples of these 37 people were sent for testing at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune.

In a release issued on Monday, the state health department said currently two people were in an isolation ward in Pune's Naidu Hospital and one in Sangli district hospital.

It said 23,350 people have been screened at the Mumbai International Airport since January 18, including 166 who arrived in the state from areas affected by the new strain of coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which has wreaked havoc in China. "Of the 37 persons admitted in isolation facilities in the state on suspicion of coronavirus infection, 34 have been discharged. Last evening

(Sunday), a person was admitted to the Naidu Hospital due to minor cold and cough," Tope said.

As per information shared by the state health department, all people coming from China's Wuhan city, the epicentre of the 2019-nCoV outbreak, have been isolated and tested for the virus as per Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare guidelines.

Those coming from affected areas are being monitored for a period of 14 days from arrival, and 72 of these 166 have completed the two-week follow-up, the state government release said.

Minister Tope asked people to contact state control room number 020-26127394 or toll free number 104 in case they had queries on the 2019-nCoV. The death toll in China's coronavirus outbreak has gone up to 908 with 97 new fatalities reported mostly in the worst-affected Hubei province, Chinese health officials said on Monday. **PTI**

UP BJP leader seeks ban on burqa, links it to Ravana's sister

Aligarh (UP): A BJP leader Monday demanded a ban on burqa, calling it a security threat and provocatively linking it to demon king Ravana's sister Surpanakha.

"Burqa should be banned in the country as has been done in several other countries," Raghuraj Singh, who holds a rank equivalent to a minister of state in the Uttar Pradesh government, told reporters.

Singh claimed burqa is not worn in countries like Sri Lanka, China, the US and Canada and said it should be banned in India as terrorists can take advantage of it.

The BJP leader said people are sporting burqas in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh protest against the new citizenship law, and added, "The burqa helps terrorists, thieves and

anti-socials elements to hide behind it."

"Burqa is a threat to national security and has to be banned to crush terrorism," Singh said.

Without citing his source, Singh linked burqa to Surpanakha, the demon who has her face disfigured in Ramayana. According to Singh's version, Surpanakha fled to hide in the Arab desert.

"As her nose and ears were chopped, she used a burqa to hide her face," he said, adding it is not necessary for humans.

"In Mecca, a shivalinga was set up by Guru Shukracharya, who was the guru of devils, and from there the burqa tradition started," he said. **PTI**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely: Deepak, S/o: Lekha Raj, R/o: Village Paryawali Ps. Ramghat Distt. Bullandshahar, U.P.** has been missing since **11.06.2017**. In this regard a case **FIR No. 078/17 dated 14.06.2017** has been lodged at PS South Campus, Delhi. The description of the missing boy is as under: **Age:** 15 years, **Height:** 4', **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Red colour shirt, grey colour pant and sports shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-Mail ID - cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. South Campus, Delhi**
Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **Ph.: 011-26177179,**
DP/7146/SW/19 **7065036223**

PAPER WITH PASSION

Enemy of the people

If Omar Abdullah's ability to convince people to shun militants and vote in elections is treason, what is nationalism?



This has got to be a first — Democratically elected leaders, who have been Chief Ministers and Union Ministers, labelled as traitors and, therefore, shaming the political wisdom and popular will that have gone into strengthening the Constitutional definition of our democracy as a "union of States." The Narendra Modi Government may have abrogated Article 370, demoted the status of Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory and promised to usher in development and peace long denied to it but cannot justify why it still relies on laws of the old regime to run it. Instead of using its mandated Central authority to set new legacies, it is still stuck in a tit-for-tat demonisation of the people and defanging the old political leadership, their presence an excuse for its continuing stasis. Either it has selective amnesia about Kashmir's status, past and present, or it is looking for a convenient tool to control the political narrative in the Valley on its terms. Or drive it to further ruin as just another manifestation of its otherisation politics, its only justification for being a "party with a difference." And in that effort, it doesn't matter if it looks hypocritical, inconsistent or one might say, even bizarrely blunderous. What else can explain its use of the Public Safety Act (PSA) to book three former Chief Ministers, National Conference (NC) leaders Farooq and Omar Abdullah, and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti? The law was passed in 1978 to crack down on timber smugglers, by the state government led by Sheikh Abdullah, who founded the NC. Over the years, it has been interpreted indiscriminately to curb dissent and separatist leaders. And now Omar and Mufti have been booked, bracketed as separatist threats, and await trial indefinitely. One can understand the dynastic hatred involved in arresting Omar under a law passed by his grandfather. But beyond the theatrics of a "great fall," it is the dossier of charges that defies reason and borders on the ridiculous. Omar's crime is the capacity to influence people and his ability "to convince his electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycotts." If this swaying ability, something that the Atal Bihari Vajpayee regime prized to build a bridge over the conflict, is not nationalism, then one wonders what is. If his persistent calls to resolve the conflict through democratic processes and political empowerment are not Centrist, then one wonders what separatism is. For these abilities, which the current regime could have used to transition into a new narrative in Kashmir, are now seen as a liability than an asset. If he has such great mobilisation powers, then wouldn't the Government have been better advised to use them for its gains in the absence of an alternative leadership to hold off terrorists? The dossier also mentions his comments on social media against the decisions on Articles 370 and 35-A, which had the potential of disturbing public order. Truth is such criticism and dissent have been voiced by all Kashmiris, political pundits and analysts across the country and Omar hasn't said anything original or incendiary. If anything, his last tweet before detention was an appeal to Kashmiris to "keep calm." Now this blanket assumption of his criticism as nothing short of terror portends a clampdown on even routine dissent as an unacceptable sin. By this logic, any criticism of Kashmir policies may disqualify any one of us as a citizen and subject us to the assessment, like in Mumbai, of a taxi driver, who may report us to the police. Mehbooba, with whom the Modi 1.0 had an alliance, has been punished for her stand against Article 370, 35A and cow lynchings.

Frankly, Mehbooba's views, too, have been no different from the general observations made by everybody who has exercised the democratic right to disagree. Besides, by levelling such a woolly chargesheet, the Government is itself subjecting itself to a flurry of questions. How can it explain why in its earlier avatars, it had coopted both Omar and Mehbooba as valued allies without assessing their threat potential to national security? Was it opportunist then and a realist now or is it the other way around? With this in-your-face victimisation, the Government is only foisting some kind of martyrdom on both Omar and Mehbooba, whom Kashmiris have distrusted as New Delhi's puppets throughout their political careers. Particularly Omar, who has endeared himself as a genial and engaging fighter, is becoming the face of quiet resistance in the vacuum that is the Valley. Either the Government wants that secessionist undercurrent to continue as it does its political economy, or it simply wants to create another enemy of the people as an excuse for non-performance. The BJP's one-time acolytes may cost it dear.

Quota wars again

The SC has stirred up a hornet's nest by ruling quotas in jobs and promotions are not mandatory



In a ruling that will have widespread ramifications in a country that has always been emotive about the quota issue, the Supreme Court has said that reservation in jobs and promotions is not a fundamental right and that the Government is not bound to provide diversity logic for appointments and promotions to public posts. It also said courts cannot give directions compelling States to reserve jobs or positions for Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SC/STs). In fact, States willing to provide quotas will have to get relevant data on under-representation of SC/STs in public jobs and ensure the creamy layer is not unduly benefitted at the expense of the most deserving. Understandably this has stirred up a hornet's nest with the issue being raised in the Parliament and the Opposition Congress demanding that the Union Government either file a review petition in the apex court or amend the Constitution to make reservation a fundamental right.

While the quotas have been politicised over the years, the apex court has merely tried to make them practical, choosing to separate educational quotas from jobs, where efficiencies depend on merit and performance. It has also tried to pass on the agency to the Executive to decide which of the SC/STs really need protection and encouragement. It is true that except for the "creamy layer", where generation after generation of those who have benefitted from the quota system have left poverty and deprivation far behind, the plight of the majority of the SC/STs has remained the same even over seven decades after Independence. Problem is by passing the decision-making to States, the quota clauses can be tweaked for political rather than social gains and further fragment the backward castes. That's why our founding fathers, keenly aware of the inequities prevalent over centuries, made provisions for their uplift. In fact, even prior to India's independence and the inclusion of reservations in the Constitution, several princely states provided benefits to the lower castes in some form or the other, which are present even today. Plus, this is a constitutional matter that should have been heard by the full Constitution Bench and not just a two-judge Bench of the apex court. In a matter that will have an impact in the entire country, the SC/STs should be represented properly, else it will be injustice against them all over again.

Strength of an institution

The peaceful resolution of the Ayodhya conflict within the Constitutional framework is a sterling example of our pristine democratic traditions and our evolution as a democracy



A SURYA PRAKASH

Finally, after many centuries, the decks have been cleared for the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya with the Union Government setting up the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra trust to oversee the construction of the temple and to manage its affairs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Parliament that the constitution of the trust — which was a historic step — was in line with the Supreme Court's verdict.

While handing over the disputed land to the Hindus, the apex court directed the Government to formulate a scheme within a period of three months from the date of its judgment. It said the scheme should envisage the setting up of a trust with a board of trustees or any other appropriate body. Further, the scheme should make necessary provisions with regard to the functioning of the trust, including management, power of trustees and the construction of the temple. The possession of the inner and outer courtyards should be handed over to the trust and the Union Government would be at liberty to make suitable provisions with respect to the rest of the acquired land. Further, the court directed that a suitable piece of land measuring five acres be handed over to the Sunni Central Waqf Board. This land could be allotted "at a suitable, prominent place in Ayodhya." It said the Union Government and the State Government should act in consultation with each other to effectuate the above allotment within the stipulated period. The Government announced all these measures last week, as was directed by the top court.

The creation of the trust for the construction of the Ram temple is also in a sense the fulfilment of the solemn promise given by the then Government in September 1994 when PV Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister, that if it was found that a Hindu temple existed under the Babri Masjid, the Government would return the acquired land to the Hindus.

The Union Government's commitment before the court at that time said: "If the question referred to is answered in the affirmative, namely, that a Hindu temple/structure did exist prior to the construction of the demolished structure, Government action will be in support of the wishes of the Hindu community. If on the other hand, the question is answered in the negative, namely, that no such Hindu temple/structure existed at the relevant time, then Government action will be in support of the wishes of the Muslim community."

Subsequently, almost a decade later, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which was given the task of excavation to ascertain the veracity of the claims and counter claims, came up with evidence of pillars and other artefacts associated with a Hindu temple below the demolished masjid.

The assurance given by the Union



Government in this regard was unambiguous and completely devoid of any "ifs and buts." Given the sensitivity of the issue and the fact that this was a matter of faith for the Hindus — who believe that the disputed piece of land is the birth place of Ram — the Government's affidavit was a big risk. It meant that the Hindus would need to produce proof or hope that it existed below the demolished structure, which would lend credence to their belief regarding the *janmasthan* of Lord Ram.

On the face of it, this was wholly unreasonable because the Hindu faith would be tested on the anvil of scientific evidence and if they failed the test, they would lose their claim to the birthplace of Ram. Was the Union Government right in binding the Hindus to such a scenario? It also seemed as if the Government was giving the commitment on behalf of the almost one-billion strong Hindu community.

Yet the Hindus went along with this proposition and it is difficult to find a parallel to this in any part of the world. Although the outcome was a toss-up and could have hurt the belief of the Hindus regarding Lord Ram's birthplace, which had prevailed over the millennia, the Hindu majority took this in its stride. It also waited patiently for the higher judiciale-

THE QUIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT BY MUSLIMS IS ALSO A POINTER TO THE RESILIENCE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND THE GENERAL SENTIMENT ACROSS COMMUNITIES AND ACROSS THE LAND REGARDING THE SUPREMACY OF THE VERDICT

ry to give its verdict on whether their faith regarding the *janmasthan* was justified. If ever one wanted proof of the secular, democratic credentials of the Hindu community, this was it. Its silence over the Narasimha Rao Government's affidavit and the patient wait for the judicial verdict on a matter of faith showed that for the majority, the Constitution was above everything else.

Eventually, the Hindu-majority found that neither of the faiths — in Lord Ram's birthplace and in the fairness of the Supreme Court — were misplaced. The court held that "the faith and belief of Hindus since prior to the construction of the mosque and subsequent thereto has always been that *janmasthan* of Lord Ram is the place where Babri Mosque has been constructed." It said that this faith and belief had been proved "by documentary and oral evidence."

Similarly, the quiet acceptance of the Supreme Court judgment by Muslims is also a pointer to the resilience of our democratic system and the general sentiment across communities and across the land regarding the court's supremacy when it comes to interpreting the Constitution and the laws and in settling such vexatious disputes.

This is indicative of the

robustness of our Constitutional way of life. The peaceful resolution of this centuries-old conflict within the framework of our Constitution is a sterling example of our pristine democratic traditions and of how evolved we are as a democracy. This needs to be celebrated.

The Prime Minister alluded to this when he said recently that following the Ram Janmabhoomi judgment, the people of India had displayed remarkable faith in democratic processes and procedures. The grand temple, when built, will symbolise not only India's civilisational glory but also its commitment to democracy and harmony.

Let there be no confusion. One may not find another example of this kind elsewhere. It is, therefore, pathetic to listen to some malcontents, whose political ambitions have been thwarted by the people of India in the Lok Sabha election held last year, who are constantly trying to run down our democracy because the people have rejected them. It is even more disgusting to hear lectures on democracy in the Western media, which has never shown the spine to talk about the plight of religious minorities in 60 Islamic nations.

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

SOUNDBITE

If India was not partitioned, the Muslim League would have made things difficult for us to function. Also, the Government situation (then) would have worsened by the week.

Former Foreign Minister — K Natwar Singh



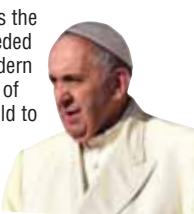
I don't have a set idea on what I want to do or specifically not do. I don't want to be categorised as an actor who does a certain type of roles.

Actor — Alaya F



Human trafficking exploits the weakest. Education is needed on the healthy use of modern technology and suppliers of such services must be held to their responsibilities.

Head of Catholic church — Pope Francis



I say the economy is not in ICU but it is waiting to be pushed into the ICU. It is being kept outside and looked after by incompetent doctors.

Congress leader — P Chidambaram



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kerala shows the way

Sir — The Kerala health department that functions under the leadership of Minister KK Shailaja must be complimented for the exemplary and stupendous work it has done to contain the dangerous novel coronavirus after three individuals, all students, tested positive for the infection.

The Health Minister, who boldly led the medical team to counter the deadly Nipah virus epidemic two years ago, is back in action to fight yet another deadly virus. Kerala's preparedness and response to coronavirus has been so comprehensive and swift that other States are taking lessons from it. Two years ago, health officials and volunteers, police, pan-chayats and other local bodies, politicians, Press and even the common people alerted and supported one another to contain the Nipah virus. The same is being repeated for coronavirus. Around 2,239 individuals are under surveillance and 84 are in hospitals. A tracking system monitors everyone coming to the State from high-risk destinations and also those who have come in contact with suspected cases. Five

Imbibe the spirit of the Constitution

It is an uplifting feeling that the Oxford University Press has chosen *Samvidhan* (Constitution) as the Hindi word of 2019. *Azaadi* or freedom may well have ended up as the runner-up. The Indian Constitution is among the world's best Constitutions. It is not just a written text; it is an imagination and a dream. The notions of justice and freedom are its cornerstones. It embodies India's collective genius, manifests it and bears witness to it. It not only puts humanity above everything else but also breaks the "narrow domestic walls", to borrow a phrase from Rabindranath Tagore's *Gitanjali*.

Nowadays the Preamble to the Constitution is recited at the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sits-ins and rallies. It has become an inseparable part of the ongoing people's movement to regain "space" for all. The Constitution makes it unambiguously and abundantly clear that the "human flotsam and jetsam" are not expendable. Predicated on human equality, the Constitution has the needed strength to guarantee and ensure human dignity to all in our caste-ridden society. The spirit of the Constitution imbued by the people is the inoculation against the misuse of powers by the Government of the day whatever its political or ideological hue. "We, the People" — two key words written in the Preamble —



clearly establish and express the sovereignty of the people. People are no "subjects" for political parties or Governments to treat them as they wish. They cannot be deprived of their Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and rights. The Parliament, simply because the party in power has majority, cannot enact laws which are antithetical to the tenets of the Constitution. The CAA, the NRC and the NPR are inconsistent with the Constitution. The Hindutva ideology does not sit comfortably with the Constitution. The Modi Government should rescind the discriminatory and unconstitutional CAA.

G David Milton Maruthancode

international airports in the State, sea ports and railway stations have been put on alert and medical teams are ready 24x7 to trace, track and transport doubtful cases for check-up and treatment. Awareness, confidence,

grit and determination undoubtedly help to overcome such health crisis. Half the battle is won when there is no panic and unnecessary pressure.

M Pradyu Kannur

Stand with China

Sir — It is agonising that China is facing global isolation as nations across the world have imposed travel restrictions due to

the outbreak of coronavirus. Besides significant threat to its economic growth, serious repercussions on the social life of the Chinese people, too, are a cause for concern. Already, conflicts, suspicion, mistrust and disharmony have risen. Baseless rumours about the spread of the virus are doing the rounds. But sensible people will realise that no country is free from any kind of outbreak. At this hour of crisis, people must remain calm. Other nations must show solidarity with China and extend all help.

Venu GS Kollam

Stupendous feat

Sir — Novak Djokovic must be congratulated for his latest feat where he defeated the Austrian, Dominic Thiem. Prior to this, he also defeated Roger Federer in the semi-final in straight sets. If he continues with this sublime form, chances are ripe for him to surpass Nadal and Federer in 2020.

Vinti Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Not another Corbyn please

Jeremy, the English Sanders, put Johnson, Britain's mini-Trump, back in office. That's not the outcome the Democrats want in US polls



GWYNNE DYER

Psephology — the statistical study of elections and trends in voting — is the darkest of the dark arts and you can lose your soul if you delve into it too deeply. But sometimes you have to do it a bit and this is one of those times. Recently, the US Senate acquitted President Donald Trump of both charges in his impeachment trial on a straight partisan vote, with only two members of the 53-strong Republican majority even voting to hear more evidence. But this doesn't mean that the other 51 really think Trump is innocent. They may be cowards but they're not stupid.

Republican Senator Lamar Alexander acknowledged that Trump's attempt to blackmail Ukraine's President into launching a fake investigation that would smear Joe Biden, then the leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, was "inappropriate." In fact, he had only voted to shut the trial down because "there is no need for more evidence to prove what has already been proven." It just wasn't a grave enough offence to justify impeachment, Alexander said, and besides, there is an election next November. "I believe that the Constitution provides that the people should make that decision in the presidential election that begins in Iowa on Monday," he concluded. Alexander was only brave enough to say even that much because he will retire from the Senate this year. But he is right in saying that the upcoming presidential election is the only way that Trump can now be brought to book. That would require the Democrats to nominate a candidate who can actually beat Trump. Does such an animal actually exist?

The shambles of last Monday's Democratic "caucuses" in Iowa, the first step in the process of choosing the party's presidential candidate, leaves much unclear but it is becoming obvious that Joe Biden, the early front-runner and alleged "safe pair of hands", is not the right man. If you think a middle-of-the-road candidate is the best bet to beat Trump, Pete Buttigieg is your man. He came first overall in the Iowa caucuses with 27 per cent of the votes, Biden trailed far behind with 16 per cent.

If you think that only a radical break with the Democrats' traditional MOR stance can beat Trump, then you also have two choices: Left-wing Bernie Sanders (who actually says the word "socialism" in public), or Centre-Left Elizabeth Warren (who at least doesn't flinch when Bernie says the S-word).

Again, however, there was a gulf in Iowa between the two more radical candidates: Sanders got 25 per cent of the vote, Warren only 15 per cent. These numbers may change slightly when Iowa finally sorts out the mess in the vote-counting but probably not by much. They may change a lot more when the primary elections move to states that are not, like Iowa, 90 per cent white and relatively prosperous (meaning slightly below the US median household income but with much less inequality than in most States).

However, it would require a minor miracle for the leaders and the trailers to change places in either case. So let us assume that the real choice, after a few more primaries, is starting to look like it's between Sanders and Buttigieg. Which of these men is likelier to beat Trump?

Money is a big factor in any US election and Sanders can certainly raise money, as he showed in his 2016 run for the nomination. Maybe Buttigieg will turn out to have the same knack now that he's a front-runner but that remains to be seen. There are a couple of problems with Bernie Sanders. He would be 79 if he took office next January (and he had a heart attack last October). More importantly, he may frighten as many voters as he excites. Think: Who in politics does he most resemble?

What other Left-wing politician in an English-speaking country spent decades in the political wilderness, trying to sell hot-gospel socialism to a largely inattentive audience? Who then suddenly caught the attention of the nation's despairing youth, trapped in a stagnant, low-wage economy and built a national following that suddenly delivered him onto the main stage? And who led his party into a national election on a radical Left-wing programme — and went down to the worst electoral defeat it had suffered in half a century?

Jeremy Corbyn, the English Bernie Sanders, that's who. It was Corbyn who put Boris Johnson, Britain's mini-Trump, back in office for another five years with a huge majority in Parliament. That's not the sort of outcome the Democrats want.

So what will the elders of the Democratic Party do if they find that Sanders, not Buttigieg, is the popular favourite going into Democratic Convention in July. They will probably throw their support behind Michael Bloomberg, the ultimate MOR candidate. It could work. He's far richer than Trump.

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

THE BJP AND ITS IDEOLOGICAL MENTOR, THE RSS, ARE AGAINST RESERVATIONS TO THE WEAKER SECTIONS OF SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY.

—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE CENTRE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING AND WAS NEVER MADE A PARTY TO THE CASE.

—UNION MINISTER THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Not so strategic disinvestment

Unless there is an economic turnaround and the bureaucratic machinery moves with alacrity to make preparations for conducting PSU sales, the Govt will not reach the ₹2,10,000 crore target



UTTAM GUPTA

Bouyed by the success of disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) during 2017-18 and 2018-19 (when the Centre garnered over ₹100,000 crore and ₹85,000 crore respectively), for the current year, the Modi Government had set an ambitious target of getting ₹1,05,000 crore. A major slice of these proceeds was to come from "strategic disinvestment" or transfer of a sizeable portion of ownership (this could go up to 51 per cent, implying privatisation) and management control to a private entity.

The crucial "strategic disinvestment" proposals included divestment of all of the Government's shareholding in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) 53.29 per cent; Containers Corporation of India (ConCor) 30 per cent; Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) 63.75 per cent; North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) 100 per cent and THDC India Limited 75 per cent. However, the results are disappointing. As per the revised estimates (RE) given in the Union Budget for 2020-21 on February 1, proceeds from disinvestment are ₹65,000 crore-₹40,000 crore short of the Budgetary Estimates (BE). However, till date, the Government has garnered only ₹18,000 crore. One wonders where it will get the balance ₹47,000 crore even as the sale of BPCL, CONCOR and SCI (these three undertakings alone were projected to account for over 75 per cent of the target) is unlikely to get consummated before March 31.

For 2020-21, Sitharaman has set an over-ambitious target of ₹2,10,000 crore which is double the BE for 2019-20 and more than three times the RE for 2019-20. Apart from the strategic sale of the above-mentioned three PSUs, the Union Government has also taken a major decision to list and sell shares of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which is 100 per cent owned by it and accounts for nearly three-fourths of the life insurance business. Besides, it has also resurrected its plan for sale of Air India which was abandoned during 2018-19 due to lack of interest among potential investors. The Government seems to be betting big on LIC and BPCL. Considering the likely valuation of about ₹900,000 crore (at 30 per cent of its assets estimated at ₹30,00,000 crore), the sale of 10 per cent shares in LIC could yield about ₹90,000 crore. Further, divestment of 53.29 per cent shareholding in BPCL is estimated to yield about ₹60,000 crore (at current market capitalisation of over ₹1,10,000 crore). These two add up to ₹150,000 crore. For the balance, it could bank on sale of 100 per cent Air India (plus Air India Express and 50 per cent of Air India's stake in ground-handling company AI Singapore Terminal Services Limited (AISATS), CONCOR and SCI *et al.* The task is daunting.

Prima facie, the sale of a small percentage of shareholding in LIC may sound easy to push as the Government can argue that majority ownership and control will continue to be with it even after this divestment. But, this is easier said than done. The proposed Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the LIC will have to be preceded by amendments to the LIC Act, particularly three sections — Section 24: It deals with the way the corporation handles its corpus (own fund in which all of its receipts are credited thereto and all payments made therefrom); Section 28: It lays down the policy on dividend distribution (how the surplus is to be distributed) and Section 37: It provides Government guarantee on all its policies. The policy on dividend distribution could be a bone of contention.

BESIDES, THE PSU-SPECIFIC FACTORS, THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET IS CONSTRAINED BY 'LACK OF APPETITE' IN AN OVERALL SUBDUED ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERISED BY PLUNGING GROWTH, DEMAND COMPRESSION, DECELERATION IN INVESTMENT AND ABOVE ALL A NOT-SO-BUOYANT PERCEPTION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD



At present the LIC pays five per cent of the surplus to the shareholder (Government), while the remaining 95 per cent gets distributed among policyholders. In case of private insurance companies however, the shareholder gets 10 per cent of the surplus even as the rest 90 per cent goes to policyholders. The external investor could insist on bringing LIC on par with other insurance companies by modifying the dividend distribution norms. The former may insist on increasing the share of shareholder in surplus from existing five per cent.

According to existing rules under Section 37 of the Act, "Sums assured by all policies issued by the corporation including any bonuses declared in respect thereof...shall be guaranteed as to payment in cash by the Central Government". One wonders whether post-dilution of the Government's shareholding, the sovereign guarantee to the policyholders would be retained.

As per the LIC Act, "The paid-up equity capital of the corporation shall be ₹100 crore provided by the Central Government after due appropriation made by Parliament by law for the purpose". This needs to be increased appropriately in order to prepare it for the proposed IPO and sell even a 10 per cent stake. The preparations in this regard are bound to be time-consuming and may stretch till the end of fiscal 2020-21. That apart, considering that most of the parties across the political spectrum have opposed stake sale in the LIC, it is doubtful whether the Government will be able to get the amendment Bill passed, more so when it is in the minority in the Upper House (the chances of this being taken up as Money Bill in which case, it doesn't have to go to the Rajya Sabha are dim). As regards BPCL, while divestment

of majority stake in it won't face any legal hurdle (necessary amendment to the relevant law was made in 2016), the potential buyer will look for exercising its due role even in undertakings where BPCL holds significant stake. For instance, it holds 12.5 per cent stake in Petronet LNG India along with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) and Gas Authority of India (GAIL) holding 12.5 per cent each. Though branded as a private company, its Chairman is Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MPNG). The acquirer of BPCL will insist on changing this arrangement.

Likewise, in a city gas distribution firm, Indraprastha Gas (IGL), BPCL has 22.5 per cent along with GAIL which also holds 22.5 per cent. However, the chairmanship of IGL is decided by GAIL (which will continue to be majority-owned by the Union Government even as BPCL is divested). As in the case of Petronet LNG India, the new owner of BPCL will insist on having a role in deciding the management of IGL.

If the Government is unwilling to bring about these changes, this will lower valuation or lead to dissipation of interest. Late last year, the political brass was contemplating to sell BPCL stake to IOCL on lines similar to the so-called strategic sale of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) during 2017-18 (then, the Union Government sold 51.11 per cent of its shareholding in HPCL to ONGC which is majority owned by itself).

But, the idea was dropped. It may be revived (in a desperate bid to achieve the target) if during 2020-21 also investors don't evince interest. As regards, Air India, the Government has removed some major bottlenecks which led to the failed move in 2018-19. Now, it is offer-

ing 100 per cent of its shareholding, hived off over 60 per cent of total debt from its balance sheet and dispensed with other riders such as three years' lock-in period on disposition of shares by the acquirer and so on. However, there still remain many irritants, the most serious being a condition relating to retention of employees.

Besides, the PSU-specific factors, the Government's ability to achieve the target is constrained by "lack of appetite" in an overall subdued economic environment characterised by plunging growth, demand compression, deceleration in investment and above all a not-so-buoyant perception about opportunities ahead.

The appetite was missing even during periods of high growth; for instance in 2017-18 when GDP growth was over seven per cent yet, the Government was forced to sell all of its stake in HPCL to ONGC (this alone yielded ₹37,000 crore out of a total of ₹100,000 crore). Now, with growth plummeting to less than five per cent during 2019-20 and muted recovery projected for 2020-21, the appetite would be even lower.

Unless there is dramatic turnaround in the economy, the bureaucratic machinery moves with alacrity to make the required preparations for conducting the sale and Opposition parties extend cooperation in getting necessary laws/amendments passed, it is unlikely that the Government will reach anywhere near the ₹2,10,000 crore target. The shortfall on this score alone could cause at least 0.5 per cent slippage in fiscal deficit (target for 2020-21 is 3.5 per cent) which anyway will be under threat due to unrealistic projections for tax collections during the year.

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

Where to invest in an economic slowdown?

It's time to go out there, keep your asset allocation in mind and go ahead with your investments to make a handsome gain in the next four to five years



SANTOSH JOSEPH

changes in the country's economy. The first grand move happened towards the end of 2016 when demonetisation was announced, followed by implementation of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). These three major announcements and shift in policies have been the primary reasons for these unusual times in our economy.

In addition to these three reasons, multiple global scares like China-US trade wars, oil spikes, tensions with neighbouring countries, geopolitical risks and uncertainty of elections during the early part of 2019 can be looked as additional factors for weak demand. When we analyse these data points beyond just the numbers, it indicates that all this is leading to a tectonic shift in the way our economy was structured in the first place. Our economy has a large segment that is still unorganised, fragmented and localised. Many of our businesses were not under the tax ambit and sectors like real

estate didn't have a regulatory framework. When RERA and demonetisation were introduced, it curtailed the cash economy or what we call the parallel economy. When GST was introduced, many small and medium businesses which were not under the tax ambit could no longer get away with not paying taxes. All these changes have led to a level playing field for other players who were following the rules of the land and taxation policies removing any unfair advantage for those who were not paying them. This led to consolidation, formalisation and the industry became a lot more organised. There are some industries that benefited from the GST whereas some of them had to make initial readjustment of a slightly higher input cost. Overall it will be right to say that this was a very positive move for a developing economy like India as it gives a level playing field for businesses across sizes to benefit from a unified policy. How does one invest in the backdrop of this formalisation, organisation, consolidation

and slowdown? I believe that in a couple of quarters from now, this downturn could turn around. With the revival of the GDP and consumption growth back on track, the key driver that led to the deceleration in the GDP will be back to take it forward, gradually before we significantly uptick. The demand recovery will bring in the GDP growth along with inflation. This should take us back to a nominal GDP of 11 to 12 per cent. We have all the initial signs of green shoots that are emerging. The Government is aware of the challenges being faced by industries and several steps have been taken to address the issues. Similarly, active and dynamic policies by Central bankers, the Government and policymakers also indicate that the right steps are being taken towards clearing the challenges. All this presents attractive opportunities for a serious investor looking for the long-term. A downturn is also a great reminder for people to not get carried away during the good times. We need to understand that ups and

downs are a cyclical part of the economy. If one had to take a three to five-year horizon and more, India is in a great spot domestically and globally. There is a lot of foreign interest that's coming into the country and domestic demand is sure to come back. Many medium and small businesses that are nimble and agile have the ability to disrupt and offer great products because we have access to domestic and international markets. Technology is a key enabler for businesses to tap new markets and introduce new offerings. One can look at investing in equities or even quality debt funds to participate in this move.

We are all hoping that within a few years, India will be the next superpower economically. The growth rate that it has is significantly better than many other emerging markets. If people should align their investments with the key sectors that will contribute to the growth of the economy, one can benefit significantly. Here are some options where people can invest:

Equities: Equities offer great growth for a disciplined investor. As opposed to popular misconception that putting money in equity is risky, done right this asset class can generate tremendous value in the long-term. There are multiple options available for people to invest in equities. Buying shares from the stock market, investing in Mutual Funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) are some. Investment can be done in lumpsum or in a staggered manner via systematic investment plan (SIPs). Equity investment has the potential to beat inflation and deliver superior risk and tax adjusted returns in the long term. Dividends, bonus, splits all add further value.

Fixed Income: Like equities, Fixed Income comes with a variety of options. These are popular and hugely-accepted. Depending on the choice, one can opt from a combination of PPF, FD, Tax-free Bonds, Company Deposits and Government securities. Fixed income offerings of mutual funds

have all the above options in very convenient schemes and it makes sense to take the mutual fund route for simplicity and efficiency. The hallmark of this asset class is stability and while some of these are backed by the Government too. So there's plenty to choose from.

Real estate: This may offer good opportunities in certain pockets because a growing economy means that there will be a lot more demand for housing and commercial real estate. With listing of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) gaining popularity and more to come, many well-known real estate players are listed on the markets. One could invest in physical real estate, invest in share of these companies or even participate in their REITs.

It's time to go out there, keep your asset allocation in mind and go ahead with your investments to make a handsome gain in the next four to five years. (The writer Founder and Managing Partner of a leading wealth management solutions company)

Market falls for second day as virus worries persist

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equities fell for the second straight session on Monday in line with global markets that continued to reel under mounting death toll and economic damage from the deadly coronavirus.

At close, the BSE Sensex was down 162.23 points, or 0.39 per cent, at 40,979.62. The index swung about 373 points during the day.

Likewise, the NSE gauge Nifty ended lower by 66.85 points, or 0.55 per cent, to 12,031.50.

Indices were mainly dragged lower by heavy losses in auto and metal stocks.

On the Sensex chart, Mahindra and Mahindra crashed over 7 per cent, fol-



lowed by other major laggards including Tata Steel (5.80 per cent), ONGC (2.84 per cent), Sun Pharma (2.39 per cent) and Hero Motocorp (2.34 per cent). In contrast, Bajaj Finance,

per cent in January. While metal shares bore the brunt of growing concerns over the rising cases of coronavirus. The industry body said that the Indian auto sector is apprehensive about coronavirus outbreak disrupting component supplies from China, but a clear picture will emerge only in the next few days after factories in the country reopen.

According to various reports, coronavirus has killed more than 900 people and infected over 40,000 across mainland China.

Market mood remained jittery amid rising apprehension about economic fallout due to Chinese coronavirus globally as the increase in casualty figures surpassing SARS outbreak has raised alarm bells about its severity, Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research (Investment Services) - AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers, said.

Rupee strengthens by 10 paise on lower crude, weak dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Monday rose by 10 paise to close at 71.30 against the US dollar amid easing crude oil prices and weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said while weak dollar and easing crude oil prices supported the rupee, heavy selling in domestic equities weighed on the local unit and restricted the upmove.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a positive note at 71.36. During the day, it saw a high of 71.28 and a low of 71.43.

The Indian currency settled higher by 10 paise at 71.30 against its previous close of 71.40 on Friday.

"Indian rupee gained on lower crude oil price and dollar inflows related to DMart's QIP. Rupee remained resilient to higher dollar index amid strong foreign fund inflows in equity market," said V K Sharma, Head PCG and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

Sharma further said that "broadly, local currency is consolidating in the range of 72 to 71 a dollar". CPI and IIP would be keenly watched local data point this week, he added.

Asian markets fall on coronavirus impact woes

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Markets across the Asia-Pacific were in the red on Monday with investors worried about the impact of the China coronavirus outbreak on the global economy.

The virus has killed more than 900 people, infected 40,000 across mainland China and spread to more than two dozen countries in what has been termed a global health emergency. It has also jolted major supply chains for everything from food and household supplies to car and electronics parts. Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index closed 0.6 per cent down, while Hong Kong pared some losses, ending the day 0.6 per cent lower after tanking 1.1 per cent at the open.

Elsewhere, Sydney slipped 0.1 per cent, Seoul was down 0.5 per cent and Singapore was 0.7 per cent lower. Shanghai, however, rebounded after opening 0.5 per cent lower and was up 0.5 per cent at the close. Taipei, Jakarta, and Mumbai were also under water.

Investors around the world have been watching with concern as China, the world's second-largest economy, battles the novel coronavirus, which emerged at the end of last year in the central city of Wuhan.

The domestic impact was reflected in China's inflation figures released Monday, which showed the highest rise in consumer prices in more than eight years, with food prices spiking more than 20 per cent.

FM holds meeting with industry on direct tax dispute resolution scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday met industry representatives on the proposed direct tax dispute resolution scheme that provides an opportunity to taxpayers to pay outstanding taxes and get waiver of interest and penalty.

With over ₹9 lakh crore worth direct taxes locked up in litigation, the government last week introduced "Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020" in the Lok Sabha. Once passed by Parliament, the scheme would be notified and rules would be

framed.

"During the meeting, industry associations gave their suggestions for the scheme," a source said. Separately PHD Chamber of Commerce President DK Aggarwal in a statement said that the last date for the scheme should be extended by a month till April 30, 2020.

The scheme "will benefit many taxpayers and can generate more than ₹2 lakh crore for the Government in the coming times if it is broadened and exclusions are minimum under this scheme," he said.

Under the proposed scheme, taxpayers willing to settle disputes shall be allowed a complete waiver of interest and penalty if they pay the entire amount of tax in dispute up to March 31, 2020, after which 10 per cent additional disputed tax shall have to be paid over and above the tax liability.

Further, where the tax arrears relate to disputed interest or penalty only, then 25 per cent of disputed penalty/interest shall have to be paid only if the payment is made by March 31, 2020, beyond which the same shall be enhanced to 30 per cent.

Bad loans of public sector banks fall to ₹7.27L cr at end of Sept 2019: Nirmala

New Delhi:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said public sector banks' (PSBs) bad loans came down to ₹7.27 lakh crore at the end of September 2019, on host of measures taken by the government to improve financial health of the banks in the country.

"The Government has instituted comprehensive reforms in PSBs to improve, governance, underwriting, monitoring and recovery, and has leveraged technology in all aspects of banking, resulting in reduction in their NPAs," Sitharaman said in written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

She said bad loans of PSBs stood at ₹7.27 lakh crore at the end of September 2019, down from ₹8.96 lakh crore at the end of March 2018.

"Record recovery of ₹2.03 lakh crore over the one-and-half year period ending September 2019, 12 out of 18 PSBs reporting profit in the first half of the current financial year, and the highest provision coverage ratio in seven-and-half years," she said.

She said the Banking Trend Report published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December observed that the health of the banking sector hinges on a turnaround in macroeconomic conditions.

Further, the RBI's Financial Stability Report stated that the capital adequacy ratio of scheduled commercial banks has improved significantly from 14.3 per cent in March 2019 to 15.1 per cent in September 2019 following recapitalisation of state-owned banks. PTI

Domestic passenger vehicle sales drop 6.2% in January

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Domestic passenger vehicle sales declined 6.2 per cent in January as vehicle demand continued to be stressed by rising cost of ownership and slower GDP growth, automobile industry body SIAM said on Monday.

Passenger vehicle sales last month stood at 2,62,714 units against 2,80,091 units in the year-ago month, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Car sales last month were also down 8.1 per cent at 1,64,793 units compared with 1,79,324 units in the January last year. Vehicle sales across categories registered a decline of 13.83 per cent to 17,39,975 units from 20,19,253 units in January 2019, SIAM said.

"Sales of vehicles continue to be stressed due to rising cost of vehicle ownership and slower growth in GDP," SIAM President Rajan Wadhwa said.

Vehicle prices have gone up as manufacturers gear up for the transition to stricter emission norm BS-VI from BS-IV beginning April 1. Besides, many companies had increased prices in January citing rising input costs.

Wadhwa further said, "We are hopeful that the recent announcements by the government on infrastructure and rural economy would support growth of vehicle sales going forward, especially in commercial vehicles and two-wheeler segment." According to SIAM, total two-wheeler sales in January fell 16.06 per cent to 13,41,005 units compared with 15,97,528 units in the same

month last year. Motorcycle sales last month declined by 15.17 per cent to 8,71,886 units from 10,27,766 units a year earlier.

Scooter sales during the month stood at 4,16,594 units against 4,97,169 units in January last year, a decline of 16.21 per cent.

SIAM further said, sales of commercial vehicles were down 14.04 per cent to 75,289 units in January as against 87,591 units in the year-ago month. Commenting on the overall sales performance, SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said wholesalers declined in all segments, barring three-wheelers.

In passenger vehicles, he said post-festive season sales decline has been less, although the industry is still in the negative territory.

BSNL, Air India, MTNL highest loss-making PSUs in FY19; ONGC most profitable: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC were the top three profitable PSUs in 2018-19, whereas BSNL, Air India and MTNL incurred highest losses for a third consecutive year, according to a survey tabled in Parliament on Monday.

The Public Enterprises Survey 2018-19, which maps the annual financial performance of all central PSUs, revealed that the top 10 companies in the red claimed a whopping 94.04 per cent of the total losses made by all the 70 loss-making CPSEs during the year.

The top three profit making PSUs including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC contributed 15.3 per cent, 9.68 per

cent and 6.73 per cent, respectively to the total profit earned by all profitable CPSEs.

State Trading Corporation of India, MSTC and Chennai Petroleum Corporation which were profit making CPSEs in 2017-18, incurred losses in 2018-19 and also feature among the top ten loss-making firms, the survey found.

Total income of all CPSEs during 2018-19 stood at ₹24,40,748 crore compared to ₹20,32,001 crore in 2017-18, showing a growth of 20.12 per cent. The contribution of CPSEs to the central exchequer by way of excise duty, customs duty, GST, corporate tax, interest on central government loans, dividend and other duties and taxes stood at ₹3,68,803 crore in 2018-19 as against ₹3,52,361 crore in 2017-18, showing an increase of 4.67 per cent.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

APPLICATION
Application are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the Policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (details available at the Department website: tcpharyana.gov.in).

PAYMENT TERMS
1. With application: Booking amount, i.e. 5% of the total cost of flat.
2. On Allotment: Additional 20% of the total cost of flat.
3. Balance 75% of the amount in six equal half yearly installments over three year period. Any default in payment, after due date, shall invite interest as provided in Rule 15 of the HRERA, rules 2017. (from 1st Allotment date)

PROJECT DETAILS
PROJECT: Developers: MS JOTINDRA STEEL AND TUBES LTD.
APPROVALS: License No.: 52/2019 of 03.2019 & 106/2019 of 10.09.2019
BUILDING PLAN: Approved Dated: 24.04.2019 & 28.01.2020
PROVISIONS: Project Area: 6.081 & 4.681 Acres LOCATION: Sec-45, Fbd No. of Flats: 876 & 696 No. of Towers: 17 & 13
*Rs. 4000/- *PSF (Rs. 500/- PSF upto 100 sq.ft. balcony) +GST.

SPECIFICATIONS
Drawing/Lobby/Flooring: Floor Tiles/PS Wall/Ceiling: OBD Bed Room Floor: Tiles/PS Kitchen Floor: Tiles/PS Wall/Ceiling: Tiles upto 2 feet high above Marble/Tile Counter and OBD in balcony area Counter Top/Platform: Stone/Tiles/Plaster Finish/Fittings & Fixtures: Single Bowl Stainless Steel Sink & CP Fittings/Balconies Floor: Tiles/PS Toilet & Bath Floor: Tiles/PS Wall: Tiles/OBD Doors & Windows: M.S./UPVC/Aluminium/Flush Doors Door Frames & Window Frames : Hardwood/MS-2 Section/UPVC/Concrete/Aluminium frame windows etc. OTHER DEVELOPMENT: Common Area Flooring: Stone/Tiles/PS

APARTMENT DETAILS (FOR GENERAL PUBLIC)

S.No.	Type	Total Flats	Carpet Area (in sq.ft.)	Balcony Area (in sq. ft.)	Sale Price (in INR)	Booking Amount
1.	D*	-	645.40	100	26,31,600	1,32,896
2.	D	16	454.60	100	18,68,400	94,355
3.	E	16	433.14	100	17,82,560	90,000
4.	A	300	645.90	120	26,33,200	1,33,000
5.	B	300	645.80	120	26,33,200	1,33,000
6.	C	34	302.70	100	12,60,800	63,870
7.	F*	15	642.70	100	26,20,800	1,32,350
8.	G*	15	643.70	100	26,24,800	1,32,553

APPLICATION TIMELINES
Application can be procured & submitted at: MS JOTINDRA STEEL AND TUBES LTD., 14/3, Mathura Road, Faridabad, Haryana-121010 by paying an application fee of Rs. 1000/- (incl. GST). Last date of submission for booking is 11 February 2020

ELIGIBILITY:
1. Any person can apply but person which includes his/her spouse or his/her dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban Areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi shall be given first preference in allotment of flats. 2. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law. 3. Any applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, the flat will have choice of retaining only one flat.

ALLOTMENT CRITERIA:
1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of colourer concerned. 2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspaper in which the original advertisement was issued. 3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (available at the Department website: tcpharyana.gov.in).

Jotindra Steel and Tubes Ltd., 14/3, Mathura Road, Faridabad-121010, Haryana | Ph: 959929/309

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Meera D/o Bhagwan Das, R/o A-5 Gali No.5 Shani Bazar road Prem Nagar 3rd Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 04.12.2019 from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar. In this regard a **DD No. 2-A Dated 04.12.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Meera. **Father's Name :** Bhagwan Das, **Age :** 23 years, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Wearing :** Red Sweter and Blue Jeans.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368639
Fax : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3696/RD/2020

SHO P.S., Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-25489080

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Payal D/o Mukesh R/o Jhuggi No. C-1B/642, Anna Nagar, Near Railway line Tilak Bridge station, Delhi Aged-13 Years** 10 months has been reported missing since 21.01.2020 vide **FIR No. 16/2020 u/s 363 IPC Dated 25.01.2020** lodged at Police Station IP Estate, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 4'4", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Cream colour kurta and black colour pajami.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, IP Estate, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
SHO, IP Estate, Delhi
Tel: 011-23370928, 23232294
Fax No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
DP/6911/CD/2020 Mob.: 8750870426

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Mukesh, S/o: Late Bhuri Singh, R/o: H.No. 117, Ambika Enclave, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 15.01.2020 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 38-A dated 16.01.2020** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under: **Age:** 30 years, **Height:** 5' 8", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Red colour sweater and blue colour pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
DP/3090/OD/2020 Ph: 011- 25946710, 7065036129

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Geetanjali D/o Love Singh R/o K-54, Rajeev Nagar Exth. Begumpur, Delhi Age-17 years 5 Months, Height-5', Face-Oval, Complexion-Fair, Wearing-Blue Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Salwar, Chappal** in her feet has been missing/kidnapped since dated 25.01.2020, from the area of P.S. Begumpur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 35/2020 dated 26.01.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
Ph: 011-27579033, 27579030
DP/3689/RD/20

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. Pc)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused two persons namely 1. **Ajay Garg S/o Sh. Rajeshwar Parsad Garg, 2. Smt. Archana w/o Ajay Garg both R/O Flat No. 26, Pocket-B-11, Sec. 23, Rohini, Delhi** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 149/14, DT. 04.04.2014 u/s 420/34 IPC, PS Naraina, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest there upon issued that the said accused 1. **Ajay Garg, 2. Smt. Archana** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused 1. **Ajay Garg, 2. Smt. Archana** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused persons 1. **Ajay Garg, 2. Smt. Archana** of **FIR No. 149/14, DT 04.04.2014 u/s 420/34 IPC, PS Naraina Delhi** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.03.2020.

By order
Ms. Ankita Lal, Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 20, 1st Floor, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/8612/WD/2020

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Neeraj S/o Ashok Kumar, R/o 35 2nd, Neb Sarai, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 809/15, u/s 304-A/279 IPC**, has been registered at **P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Neeraj** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Neeraj** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Neeraj** accused of **FIR No. 809/15, u/s 304-A/279 IPC, P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before 30.03.2020.

By Order
Sh. Puneet Nagpal, Metropolitan Magistrate-07, Room No. 289, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/3097/OD/2020-(Court Matter)



HEALTH

CoronaCheck

A new test kit to detect coronavirus, that takes just 15 minutes, has been developed at Tianjin University of China. It will help save time in screening out potential patients. It is developed in collaboration with Beijing Biotech company. The kit is undergoing clinical trials and will be sent to the health regulator for approval



SAY BYE-BYE TO WRINKLES

With age, skin becomes weak and visibly loose that results in wrinkles. DR AJAY RANA shares tips that can help to keep aging signs at bay

Wrinkles is a natural part of aging and are most prominent on skin areas which is exposed to sun, such as the face, neck, hands and forearms. There are many factors like smoking or prolonged exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays can make them worse. The neck skin is thin and faces the exposure of UV rays. Due to which, it shows signs of aging sooner than other parts of the body. The dermis, the layer on the neck area that contains collagen, is very thin, making it more prone to aging than other parts of the body. There are many technologies which are now used to get rid of these neck wrinkles. Fractionated CO2 lasers work beautifully to help make the neck skin look younger, less wrinkled, and tighter. Wrinkles are the thin lines and creases that form in any area of the skin. Some wrinkles become so harsh and especially noticeable around eyes, mouth and neck.

As our skin gets older, it naturally becomes less elastic and more fragile. Due to this, decreased production of natural oils dries your skin and makes it appear more wrinkled. Ultraviolet radiation speeds the natural aging process, is the primary cause of early wrinkling of the skin. Regular exposure to UV light breaks down skin's connective tissue such as collagen and elastin fibers, which lie in the deeper layer of skin.

With age the skin gets weakens and the skin of the neck become thin, visibly loose, and accumulates wrinkles. Apart from the natural aging process and hereditary factors of the body, there are other factors that intensify the appearance of wrinkles in the neck.

Skin of the neck contains thinner which is more sensitive to sun damage and other environmental factors that negatively impact the skin. Many bad habits can also affect our skin adversely. Smoking accelerates the aging process of the skin that brings on wrinkle formation earlier than the natural aging process and deepens existing wrinkles. It dehydrates the skin which slows down normal cell processes that keep the skin healthy.

These habits starve the skin of the nutrients and oxygen supply that it requires and narrows the blood vessels. Smoking inhibit the supply of Vitamin A to the skin, which prevents the skin from shedding old skin cells and generating new ones. Both habits dramatically damage the skin's elasticity and collagen production, which help in the formation of thin and wrinkled skin, especially in the neck area.

- Some tips to get rid of neck wrinkles:**
- While cleaning your face, also clean the neck. It helps in removing the dirt, toxins of the neck.
 - Avoid using soap, as it can change the pH balance of the skin. Use a gentle, creamy cleanser instead of soap.
 - Protect the neck from the harmful rays of the sun and apply sunscreen to the neck.
 - Work on exfoliating your neck once a week. It removes dead skin cells and keeps skin fresh.
 - Always keep the skin hydrated so that the wrinkles are less visible, and it also helps prevent creases from forming.
 - Botulinum toxin injections and esthetic surgery may also be used to reduce neck wrinkles.
 - Use retinol-based neck cream and serum with Vitamin C. These act as antioxidants and protect against the effects of UV rays by increasing the collagen factor.

The writer is Dermatologist & Aesthetic Medicine Physician and Founder-Director of ILAMED



BE SAFE

A study finds that globally 23% deaths caused by acute respiratory infections can be prevented through proper handwashing habits. PIONEER HEALTH reports

Proper hand washing may seem trivial to some, but it is more important than many realise — in schools, in healthcare facilities, and in the home. Particularly at a time when lethal Coronavirus — a variant of the common cold virus — is making alarming headlines. The death toll in China from the novel coronavirus epidemic has jumped to 908 and the number of confirmed cases has risen over 40,000, according to reports on Monday.

Experts say it is not the masks but hand washing that will help in to keep the disease at a bay. The WHO has come out with a guidelines on handwashing with soap to prevent Coronavirus.

"One of the most important ways of stopping respiratory outbreaks such as this is washing hands," David Heymann, who led WHO's infectious disease unit at the time of the SARS epidemic in 2002-2003, said recently at a Chatham House press briefing in London.

That's because "if you touch a patient, if you shake hands, if you touch a door that has a droplet on it — which could theoretically happen — then you touch your face (or) your mouth and you become infected."

"So, handwashing is the most important. Second, people who are suspected as being patients, be very careful when you are dealing with them. Avoid face-to-face contact and wash hands when you're treating," Heymann says.

The outbreak of the deadly Coronavirus, which is thought to have originated in Wuhan, China has been recognised as a global health emergency.

Apart from Coronavirus, there are many other reasons to wash hands too — it is a most important protective health measure.

Experts say that this is often neglected but it is the most cost-

HANDWASHING IS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO REDUCE RISK OF HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS WHICH OCCUR AT A RATE OF ONE IN EVERY FOUR HOSPITAL VISITS IN INDIA

effective intervention that can help avert 40 per cent of diarrhoeal disease deaths and 23 per cent of deaths due to respiratory infection deaths.

The UNICEF India points out the importance of hand washing, noting its connection with diarrhoea — the most common cause of infectious disease outbreaks in India and the second most common cause of death among children under five worldwide according to the WHO. Every day, at least 1,300 children die due to diarrhoea and diseases linked to infections of the respiratory tract. Of these deaths, 320 happen in India.

As UNICEF notes, of the 1.5 million child deaths which occur yearly due to diarrhoeal diseases, 40 per cent can be prevented by handwashing with soap at critical times — including before eating or preparing food and after using the toilet.

Similarly, acute respiratory infection deaths can be prevented 23 per cent of the time by proper handwashing practices and the habit can also be linked to a number of improved health outcomes. New born survival rates improve by 55 per cent if proper handwashing practice is followed, whilst controlling the spread of infectious diseases and viruses ranging from pneumonia to

severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) can be bolstered if handwashing is helped.

Handwashing is also among the most simple ways of reducing the risk of hospital-acquired infections, which occur at a rate of one in every four hospital visits in India. Hygiene has been pinpointed as a major driver of this. Doctors say that for viral infections including the common cold and flu, the most effective way to protect yourself is regular handwashing with warm water and soap plus the vigilance to resist touching your nose and mouth.

In view of importance of this simple but important health practice, the WHO has announced October 15 as the Global handwashing Day, a day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. However, despite Government stress on this important hygiene practice, handwashing habits in India are poor among the populace. According to a study in 2017, "only 26.3 per cent washed hands before child feeding, 14.7 per cent before breastfeeding, 16.7 per cent after disposing child faeces, and 18.4 per cent after cleaning a child's bottom."

Hygiene mantra

- To wash your hands properly, the WHO suggests scrubbing your palms with a large dollop of soap before interlacing and clapping the fingers, then scrubbing around the thumbs and the backs of your hands.
- The whole process should take 40 to 60 seconds.
- Handwashing should be practiced as a daily habit and routine.
- Wash hands with soap after using a washroom, before and after cooking and eating and petting an animal.
- Keep a hand sanitiser handy with you to make sure you never have unclean hands.
- Discuss importance of handwashing with your children.



DOCYARD

DR ADITYA GUPTA

Director, Neurosurgery & Cyberknife Centre
AGRIM INSTITUTE FOR NEURO SCIENCES,
ARTEMIS HOSPITAL, GURGURAM



Cyberknife therapy can help

Cancer spread to the brain is one of the feared complications of cancer that poses significant mortality and morbidity in the patients with advanced cancer. This occurs when the cancer cells travel through the blood stream or the lymph system from the original tumour and metastasize (spread) to the brain. This is known as metastatic cancer. For example breast cancer that has spread to the brain would be referred to as metastatic cancer and not primary cancer.

According to Globocan 2018 report, issued by the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC) associated with World Health Organisation (WHO), over 28,000 new brain tumour cases are reported annually in India. Around 24,000 patients lost their lives battling such deadly and cancerous tumours.

The following can be the symptoms of brain metastasis but many patients may experience additional complications caused by the original tumour and its related manifestation.

Increased pressures within the skull: In most of the cases symptoms are caused by the expansion of lesions and increased ICP (Increased Cranial Pressure). The most common symptoms of ICP are headaches, vomiting, and disturbance in consciousness.

Headache: It is the initial symptom in more than half of the patients with brain tumour and this is faced by the most of the patients at some point in their life.

Vomiting: This is an occasional accompaniment with the headaches. It is far more common in children.

Seizures: It is an uncontrolled and electrical disturbance in the brain. It causes changes in the mental behaviour, movements and level of consciousness. These are almost associated with 35 per cent cases of brain tumours.

Virtually any systemic malignancy can metastasize to the brain, but there are some which have greater tendency to do so. Melanoma (a type of skin cancer) has a tendency metastasize to the brain. Other cancerous tumours in skin, breast renal and colon can also metastasize the brain. Some differences are seen in the types of primary malignancies responsible for metastasis of the brain in both the genders. In males, lung cancer is the most common source of brain metastasis whereas breast cancer is the most common source in females.

Why Cyberknife M6 over other traditional methods of treatment?

The treatment varies with the size and type of tumour. The primary sites of malignancy are extent to both locally and in rest of the body, the general individual health and presence of other medical problems. The goals of the treatment involves improve body functioning, controlling the cancer and its satellite its tumour within the brain.

Cyberknife M6 is performed in a non-invasive manner with a higher brain surgery recovery time. The characteristics of M6 to pinpoint the exact location of the tumor in real time using 3-D imaging techniques during the treatment of brain tumor and ablating the tumor without any cut marks has proven outcomes to overtake the traditional methods of treatment. With the flexibility of the treatment to be done in one to five sessions each of 30 minutes duration provides comfort to the patient and the maximum level of restricting the tumour from spreading further.

The main advantage of cyberknife radiation therapy is that it directly alters the individual deposits inside the brain without affecting the brain functioning. For treatment of metastasis such as melanoma, radiation therapy (cyberknife) may be the only option.

WARMFOODS

DATE: Dates are full of nutrients and are a great source of antioxidants. They are good for managing blood sugar levels and may help people with Type-II Diabetes to maintain their blood sugar and fat levels.

Dates are also known for reducing blood pressure. They are also a good source of magnesium. Both ripe and dried dates are an excellent source of Vitamin C along with Vitamins such as B1, B2, B3, B5 and A1. Vitamin C is a potent antioxidant that helps ward off infections and keeps

your immunity strong against cold. Dates contain a brain booster and they also help to maintain bone mass.

They make for a great snack in winter as they also help in building immunity and keeping your body fit and healthy. Not only this, dates also help to keep your skin glowing.

To make a mixture, take one teaspoon of tomato juice with one and a half teaspoon of lemon juice. Apply this mixture on your dark circles and wait for 10 minutes.

Wash with cool water. Do this for a couple of weeks to see results.

DadiKaKehna

Dark circles under the eyes are a common and persistent problem. ROSHNI DEVI tells you how home remedies can tackle this tough problem within a couple of weeks with simple ingredients



If you are the kind of person who gets bothered by dark circles under the eye, worry not. There are several natural ways by which one can get rid of them easily.

One of the simplest way is to use tomato. The fruit that is used as a vegetable, has natural bleaching properties that lightens skin effectively.

To make a mixture, take one teaspoon of tomato juice with one and a half teaspoon of lemon juice. Apply this mixture on your dark circles and wait for 10 minutes. Wash with cool water. Do this for a couple of weeks to see results.

Here is another vegetable that does wonders — potato.

Grate a couple of chilled potatoes and extract the juice. Soak a cotton ball in the juice and place it on your closed eyes.

The cotton should covers the dark circles. Wait for 15 minutes and rinse well with water. Do this for two-three weeks.

Rosewater not only helps rejuvenate the skin but can also reduce dark circles.

For best results, soak two cotton pads in rose water and place them on closed eyelids. Repeat the process for at three weeks. Almond oil can benefit. Take a little amount of almond oil and gently massage it over the dark circles. Leave it overnight for better results.



TIPTOP

To raise cancer awareness among people on the occasion of World Cancer Day, February 4, BLK Super Speciality Hospital, in association with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Spring Hope Cancer Foundation, organised a day-long programme 'Beat the Cancer'/Cancer Paraajit' at Talkatora Stadium.

Over 1,000 cancer warriors gathered and shared their experience, showcasing their battle for life in the form of play, dance and a fashion show.

On the occasion, BLK Super Speciality Hospital also launched the next leg of its Community Outreach Programme — 'Know Cancer, No Cancer'(KCNC) and unveiled the findings of the year-long Cancer Screening and awareness campaign in which it screened nearly 50,000 people spread across Delhi-

NCR and neighbouring states.

The KCNC data, released on February 4, revealed that oral cancer is the most common cancer among people especially smokers and tobacco users. Out of 16 people, precancerous cells were found in one person.

On an average, one cancer patient was found out of 200 people screened. Data also revealed that Breast and Cervical cancers are the most common cancer in women and 15 per cent people screened, were found obese. Obesity, according to experts, is a prominent risk factor for cancer. The KCNC data also pointed out that to check the rising incidence of cancer people need to be made aware of advanced facilities for early diagnosis, treatment, and care.

"International research has highlighted the climate and health co-benefits that arise from consuming a diet that is rich in plant foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains and legumes. We wanted to understand if this holds true here in New Zealand, and to tease out which eating patterns could offer the greatest co-benefits in this context."

The research shows that a population-level dietary shift could, depending on the extent of changes made, offer diet-related emissions savings of between 4 to 42%.

SLIMLINE

The increased uptake of plant-based diets in New Zealand could substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions while greatly improving population health and saving the healthcare system billions of dollars in the coming decades, according to a new University of Otago study.

Lead researcher and Otago medical student Jono Drew explains the global food system is driving both the climate crisis and the growing burden of common chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes,

STUDYCENTRE

Family conflict and parental monitoring are significant predictors of suicidal thoughts in children as young as nine and 10-year olds, says a study.

The majority of children surveyed in the study had caregivers who either did not know, or did not report, the suicidal thoughts of the children in their charge.

Historically, the belief has been that people don't need to ask kids about suicidal thoughts before adolescence, said Deanna Barch, Professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, US.

"Our data suggests that's absolutely not true. Kids are having these thoughts. They're not at the same rates as adults, but they are nontrivial," she added.

The study, published in the journal *JAMA Network Open*, looked at 11,814 children between ages nine and 10 from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study, a longitudinal study in the US on adolescent brain health in which caretakers also participate.

Dividing suicidal thoughts and actions into several categories, researchers found that 2.4 to 6.2 per cent of the children reported having thoughts about suicide, from wishing they were dead to devising — but not carrying out — a plan.

When it came to actions, they saw 0.9 per cent had tried to commit suicide; 9.1 per cent reported non-suicidal self-injury. In more than 75 per cent of cases the caregivers did not know about the child's experience, said the study. IANS

Coronavirus toll reaches 908, WHO sends team to China

Beijing: The death toll in China's coronavirus outbreak has gone up to 908 with 97 new fatalities reported mostly in the worst-affected Hubei province and the confirmed cases of infection crossing 40,000, Chinese health officials said on Monday, as a team of international experts led by the WHO is set to arrive in Beijing to help contain the epidemic.

According to China's National Health Commission, 91 deaths were reported in Hubei province, the epicentre of the epidemic, two in Anhui, and one each in Heilongjiang, Jiangxi, Hainan and Gansu.

There were 97 deaths and 3,062 new confirmed cases of the lethal infection on Sunday, it said.

A total of 908 people have died of the disease and 40,171 confirmed cases of the outbreak have been reported in 31 provincial-level regions so far, it said.

Another 4,008 new suspected cases were reported on Sunday. A total of 296 patients became seriously ill, the commission said, adding that 6,484 patients remained in severe condition and 23,589 people were suspected of being infected with the virus. A total of 3,281 people have been discharged from hospital after recovery, it said.

The commission said 3.99 lakh close contacts had been traced, adding that among them, 29,307 were discharged from medical observation on Sunday, with 1.87 lakh still under medical observation.

By the end of Sunday, 36 confirmed cases, including one death, had been reported in Hong Kong, 10 confirmed cases in Macao and 18 in Taiwan. Overseas, over 300 cases of coronavirus have been reported, including from three from Kerala. A team of international experts led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) would

arrive in China on Monday night to assist the Chinese health officials to contain the spread of coronavirus outbreak.

"I've just been at the airport seeing off members of an advance team for the @WHO-

led 2019nCoV international expert mission to China, led by Dr Bruce Aylward, veteran of past public health emergencies," WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a tweet. **PTI**

UK CALLS VIRUS 'SERIOUS' HEALTH THREAT; WILL DETAIN PEOPLE

London: Britain has declared the new coronavirus that emerged from China a "serious and imminent threat to public health" and announced new measures Monday to combat the spread of the disease.

The UK Department of Health and Social Care said people with the virus can now be forcibly quarantined and will not be free to leave.

It named two British hospitals as isolation facilities for those affected by the disease and designated the Chinese city of Wuhan and the surrounding

Hubei province where the virus first emerged as a "infected area." "The incidence or transmission of novel coronavirus constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health, and the measures outlined in these regulations are considered as an effective means of delaying or preventing further transmission of the virus," the agency said in a statement.

It added that the changes were designed to ensure the health and safety of medical workers who came into contact with infected patients. **AP**

65 more cases on Japan cruise ship, says Govt

Tokyo: Another 65 people aboard the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship moored off Japan have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus, the health ministry said Monday, bringing the total number of known infections to 135. The Diamond Princess has been in quarantine since arriving off the Japanese coast early last week after the virus was detected in a former passenger who got off the ship last month in Hong Kong.

"Test results from 103 people have now come out and 65 of them are confirmed positive for the new coronavirus," the ministry said in a statement without giving further details such as their nationalities. **PTI**

WHO warns overseas coronavirus spread may be 'tip of the iceberg'

Geneva: The head of the World Health Organisation said on Monday there have been "concerning instances" of coronavirus among people with no travel history to China, warning that it could be the "tip of the iceberg", as he urged all countries to prepare for the possible arrival of the novel virus that has killed over 900 people.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus lauded the doctors, nurses and health workers for doing "their utmost" at personal risk to contain the epidemic, terming them "true heroes" of the outbreak that first surfaced in December in Wuhan city in China's central Hubei province where millions of people are under lockdown in a bid to stop it from spreading. **PTI**

EU calls emergency talks

Brussels: The European Union will host an extraordinary meeting of health ministers on Thursday, along with a WHO envoy, to discuss the novel coronavirus outbreak.

So far, only around 30 cases of the new strain have been detected in Europe. "Now is the time to join forces to stop this epidemic," said European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic. The EU Ministers discuss ways to prevent the virus' spread and 'adopt conclusions in relation to the EU response to the novel coronavirus outbreak'. **AFP**

Boko Haram kills, abducts dozens in northeast Nigeria

Kano (Nigeria): Boko Haram jihadists killed at least 30 people and abducted women and children in a raid in northeast Nigeria's restive Borno state, a regional Government spokesman said on Monday.

The attack Sunday evening targeted the village of Auno on a key highway linking to regional capital Maiduguri.

The jihadists stormed in on trucks mounted with heavy weapons, killing, burning and looting before kidnapping women and children, state government spokesman Ahmad Abdurrahman Bundi said.

They aimed at travellers who had stopped for the night and torched vehicles.

The attackers "killed not less than 30 people who are mostly motorists and destroyed 18 vehicles", Bundi said in a statement after visiting the scene. The attack, some 25 kilometres (15 miles) west of Maiduguri, occurred in an area where fighters from the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) have been active, mounting roadblocks to target security forces and civilians. **AFP**

Palestinians withdraw request for UN vote on US Mideast plan: Diplomats

United Nations: The Palestinians have abandoned their request for a vote at the UN Security Council on Tuesday on rejecting the US Mideast plan, over a lack of international support, diplomats said.

Introduced by Indonesia and Tunisia, the resolution risked not having nine out of 15 votes in its favor, the minimum required for adoption provided there is no veto by a permanent member, the diplomats told AFP. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is set to take part Tuesday in a session on President Donald Trump's January 28 plan, which paves the way for Israeli annexation of much of the West Bank but also allows for a demilitarised Palestinian state.

The sudden Palestinian withdrawal of their request came after the United States -- which enjoys veto power as a permanent member -- proposed a series of amendments that could come for a vote at the session attended by Abbas.

In proposals seen by AFP, the United States would significantly alter the text to remove references to 1967 lines being the basis of peace.

It would also cut out a line stating that Jewish settlements built in the West Bank since 1967 are illegal, a position taken by virtually every country except the US and Israel.

The United States is also seeking to eliminate language that equated East Jerusalem with the occupied West Bank.

The Trump plan calls for recognition of the contested holy city as Israel's undivided capital, while establishing a Palestinian capital on its outskirts. While recognising that the Trump plan "departs from the internationally endorsed terms of reference and parameters," the US wants the resolution to state that the Security Council "welcomes discussion on this proposal to advance the cause of peace."

"Discussions are continuing on the text," a diplomat said on condition of anonymity. **AFP**

Israel attacks Hamas 'terror targets' after projectile: Army

Jerusalem: Israeli forces attacked Hamas positions from the air early on Monday, the army said, after militants in the Palestinian enclave fired a projectile at the Jewish state.

The "aircraft and fighter jets targeted a number of Hamas terror targets in the southern Gaza Strip," a statement from the Israeli army said, noting a Hamas "training compound and military infrastructures" were included in the attack.

There were no reports from Gaza of casualties or damage.

On Sunday night, a projectile was launched from Gaza at southern Israel, triggering air raid sirens and sending thousands to bomb shelters.

A spokeswoman for the regional council in Shaar Hanegev, just northeast of Gaza, said the projectile apparently hit an open field.

Palestinian attacks have

increased since January 28 when US President Donald Trump released his vision for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict -- a plan firmly rejected by the Palestinian leadership in both the West Bank and Gaza.

It would grant Israel a number of its long-held goals, including full control of disputed Jerusalem and a green light to annex all settlements and other parts of the West Bank.

In exchange the Palestinians would be offered a state in the remaining parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinians in Gaza, an enclave ruled by the Islamist movement Hamas, have launched rockets, mortar shells and balloons rigged with explosives at southern Israel on a near-daily basis since the plan was unveiled.

Israeli strike in Syria jeopardised civilian jet: Russia

Moscow: Russia's Defense Ministry said on Friday that a passenger jetliner in Syria was endangered by Israeli fighter jets that used it as shield while striking the suburbs of Damascus the previous day.

The allegation comes as tensions run high in Syria, where fighting has escalated in the northern province of Idlib.

Syrian government forces, backed by the Russian military, have clashed with Turkish troops that support the opposition there after failing to observe a cease-fire.

A spokesman for the Israeli prime minister did not respond to a request for comment. Israel rarely acknowledges strikes carried out in Syria.

Israel has repeatedly struck Syrian and Iran-linked targets in Syria in recent years and has vowed to push back against increasing Iranian influence in its neighboring country.

The news of the alleged near-miss came amid jitters just a month after a Ukrainian passenger plane crashed shortly after take-off from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board.

Iran said the plane was mistakenly shot down by its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. In a statement released Friday, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the strike was carried out 2 am local time Thursday. **AP**

Merkel's party in crisis as successor quits

Berlin: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's designated successor unexpectedly threw in the towel Monday, plunging her conservative party into deeper crisis as it struggles to agree on its future political direction after losing votes to the far right.

Annegrit Kramp-Karrenbauer told leading members of the Christian Democratic Union that she won't be seeking the chancellorship in next year's election, upending Merkel's plans to hand her the reins after more than 15 years in power.

Merkel's spokesman Stefan Seibert told reporters in Berlin that Germany's long-time leader stood by her decision not to run for a fifth term in 2021, despite the latest development.

Kramp-Karrenbauer's announcement reflects the growing split with the Christian Democrats exposed last week in its handling of the election of a governor in the state of Thuringia.

There regional party lawmakers voted with the far-right Alternative for Germany party to oust the left-wing incumbent, ignoring advice from Berlin leadership.

The move broke what is widely regarded as a taboo in post-war German politics around cooperating with extremist parties.

Annegrit Kramp-Karrenbauer is still Germany's defense minister. It was unclear how the latest developments would affect Merkel's earlier plans for her succession. **AP**

Israel accused of torturing Palestinians after fatal bombing

Ramallah: One of the men was hospitalized with kidney failure and 11 broken ribs. Another was nearly unrecognizable to his wife when he was wheeled into a courtroom. A third was stitched up after being attacked by a security dog.

Then the three Palestinians were returned to their Israeli interrogators. They had been swept up in a sprawling manhunt launched after a roadside bomb killed a 17-year-old Israeli girl and wounded her father and brother as they hiked down to a spring last August in the occupied West Bank. The attack

raised fears of a sophisticated militant cell that might strike again, and Israeli interrogators appear to have treated it as a ticking time-bomb scenario. Israeli and Palestinian rights groups say there is strong evidence that they tortured several detainees in violation of Israeli and international law.

The allegations against Israel are the most serious to come to light in years, and the rights groups say they point to a loosening of constraints two decades after the Israeli Supreme Court outlawed most forms of torture. **AP**

US charges 4 Chinese military members in Equifax breach

Washington: Four members of the Chinese military have been charged with breaking into the networks of the Equifax credit reporting agency and stealing the personal information of tens of millions of Americans, the Justice Department said Monday, blaming Beijing for one of the largest hacks in history.

The 2017 breach affected roughly 145 million people, with the hackers successfully stealing names, Social Security numbers and other personal information stored in the company's databases. The four -- members of the People's Liberation Army, an arm of the Chinese military -- are also accused of stealing the company's trade secrets, law enforcement officials said.

The case comes as the Trump administration has warned against what it sees as the growing political and economic influence of China, and efforts by Beijing to collect data on Americans and steal scientific research and innovation.

"This was a deliberate and sweeping intrusion into the private information of the American people," Attorney General William Barr said in a statement. "Today, we hold PLA hackers accountable for their criminal actions, and we remind the Chinese government that we have the capability to remove the Internet's cloak of anonymity and find the hackers that nation repeatedly deploys against us," he added. **AP**

CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED						
Regd. Office-456, Aggarwal Metro Height, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034						
CIN-L65993DL1990PLC040101						
website : www.cubicalrealitors.com			E-mail : cubfinsr@yahoo.com			
Extract of the statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended December 31, 2019 (Rs. In Lacs)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended		
		12/31/2019 (Un-audited)	12/31/2018 (Un-audited)	31-03-2019 (Audited)	31-03-2018 (Audited)	31-03-2019 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	32.92	288.68	367.00	367.00	367.00
2	Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	17.50	49.77	58.28	58.28	58.28
3	Net Profit / Loss for the period after tax	12.95	36.82	42.63	42.63	42.63
4	Equity Share Capital	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40
5	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-34.75	-34.75	-34.75
6	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (of Rs. 2/- each)					
	Basic	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07
	Diluted	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07

Note- The above is an Extract of the Detailed Format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full Format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Website of Bombay Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com & on Company website at www.cubicalrealitors.com.

By Order of the Board of Directors for CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
ASHWANI KUMAR GUPTA
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN-00348616

DATED : 10TH FEBRUARY, 2020
PLACE : DELHI.

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED						
Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P.						
CIN-L17291UP1979PLC004804						
PH: 0591-2223008/18, Fax-0591-2223009, Email:info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com			Website: www.psteeiltd.com			
Extract of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter Ended 31/12/2019 (Rs in lakhs)						
Particulars	Quarter ended			Year Ended		
	3 months ended (31.12.2019)	Preceding 3 months ended (30.09.2019)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (31.12.2018)	Year to date figures for current period ended (31.12.2019)	Year to date figures for the previous year ended (31.12.2018)	Previous year ended (31.03.2019)
Total income from operations (net)	4978.68	3376.38	5463.38	10993.78	10577.31	12758.47
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax and Exceptional items	229.30	174.85	213.66	469.98	367.34	472.14
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and after Exceptional items	229.30	646.02	213.66	941.15	367.34	472.14
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional items	177.80	548.08	177.24	773.2	304.94	393.56
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	177.80	548.08	177.24	773.2	304.94	396.88
Equity Share Capital (Face value Rs 10 each)	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
Other equity	-	-	-	-	-	3005.14
Earnings per share for discontinued & continuing operations (of Rs. 10/-each):						
(a) Basic	1.73	5.34	1.73	7.54	2.97	3.84
(b) Diluted	1.73	5.34	1.73	7.54	2.97	3.84

Notes:

- The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on February 10, 2020.
- This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The company is engaged in the blankets business, therefore, there is only one reportable segment in accordance with the Accounting Standards on Segment Reporting (Ind AS 108).
- The blankets business is seasonal in nature and accordingly financial results for the quarter are not representative of the whole year.
- Previous year/ quarter figures have been regrouped wherever required.
- There is an exceptional income as shown at point no. 7 above accrued on account of acquisition of land and building by the Government of India under National Highways Act 1956. Accordingly the profit and EPS for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2019 do not reflect the true figures. However, such acquisition by the government does not adversely affect production activities of the company.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Unaudited Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.prakashwoollen.com)

By Order of The Board For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited
Vijay Kumar Gupta
Whole Time Director & CFO
DIN: 00335325

Place : Village Amhera (Amroha)
Date : 10th February 2020

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED						
(Formerly, Himalaya International Limited)						
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008						
Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178						
E-mail id: cs@himalyainternational.com website: www.himalyainternational.com			Amount Rs. In Lacs			
Statement of Standalone Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended December 31, 2019						
SL. NO.	PARTICULARS	QUARTER ENDED			NINE MONTH ENDED	
		Un audited	Un audited	Un audited	Un audited	Audited
		31.12.2019	30.09.2019	31.12.2018	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
1.	Total Income	2277.06	2190.66	2029.00	6440.97	9332.00
2.	Net Profit before Depreciation, finance cost, exceptional items and Tax	560.98	759.80	253.00	1802.81	1453.00
3.	Net Profit for the period before Tax and exceptional items (after finance cost)	271.11	298.40	(50.00)	590.79	114.00
4.	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after exceptional items)	271.11	298.40	(50.00)	590.79	(7073.00)
5.	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	271.11	298.40	(50.00)	590.79	(6954.00)
6.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	271.11	298.40	(50.00)	590.79	(7015.77)
7.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29
8.	Earnings Per Share Before extraordinary items					
	i Basic in Rs.	0.47	0.52	-0.09	1.02	-12.22
	ii Diluted in Rs.	0.45	0.49	-0.08	0.97	-11.62
	After extraordinary items					
	i Basic in Rs.	0.47	-11.96	-0.09	1.02	-12.22
	ii Diluted in Rs.	0.45	-11.37	-0.08	0.97	-11.53

Notes:

- * Operating expenses include raw-material consumed, packing, labour, power & fuel.
- ** G & SA. (General, Sales & Admin Exp. of India & USA) Administrative, selling & distribution expenses & repair & maintenance expenses in India and Custom, Ocean Freight, Trucking, Warehousing, Insurance, Payroll, sales commission, Office Utilities and other official expenses at USA.
- ***Other Income: - An Amount of Rs. 278 Lacs was Received as advance for warrants issued on 18 Jan 2018. The Subscribers did not pay the balance 75% Amount within the requisite 18 Month period and the option to convert to equity shares lapses in July 2019. The amount was credited under share application money and has been transferred to other income and Incentive scheme of MEIS & Subsidy on ocean freight also taken in other Income.

By Order of the Board For HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Sd/-
Man Mohan Malik
Managing Director

DATED: 07.02.2020
PLACE: Gurgaon

PRADYUMNA STEELS LIMITED	
CIN: L27109DL1972PLC319974	
Regd. Office: Flat No. 702, 7th Floor, Kanchnernga Building, 18, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001	
Phone: +91 11 23310001-05, E-mail: hcsindi@yahoo.co.in, Website: www.psteeiltd.com	
PUBLIC NOTICE	
This notice is given in terms of compliance of notification no. DNBR (PD) CC.No. 05/03.10.001/2015-16 dated 09th July, 2015 and other applicable circulars/notifications/directions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and letter reference no. CMS-VII/05.08.000/2019-20 dated 24th January, 2020 issued to Pradyumna Steels Limited (PSL) which is registered with RBI as a Non-Deposit accepting NBFC, having certificate of Registration No. B-14.03401 dated 07.02.2018.	
PSL has appointed Mrs. Sushama Mukherjee (DIN: 08388012) as Managing Director of the company with approval of all Directors/shareholders of the company, who is having vast expertise in the field of commercial matters which will help to scale up the business activities of the Company.	
Any person including creditor having any objection to the proposed change in Directorship of the company may write in the company at its registered office and the Department of Non-Banking Supervision (DNBS), Reserve Bank of India, 6, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001.	
For Pradyumna Steels Limited Sd/- Rajendra Prasad Mody Director	
Dated : 10.02.2020 Place : New Delhi	
BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI	
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001	
OA No. 1490/18	Date : 22.01.2020
CORPORATION BANK	Vs MR. PRAMOD KUMAR & ORS.
Applicant	Respondent
To, Defendant	
3. M/s Malha Realtors Pvt. Ltd.No. 710-711, Devika Towers Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad UP-201011 Also At : 310, Vardhaman City-II, Plaza Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-02	
4. M/s Nyay Vihar Sahakari Awast Samiti A-3/49, Bhajanpura, Pusta Khajoori Chowk, Delhi-53	
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs.27,81,364/- (RUPEES TWENTY SEVEN LAKH EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FOUR ONLY) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 15.04.2020 AT 10.30 A.M.	
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.	
By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi	

Trend Glazer

Sunny Leone bags three awards

Actor **SUNNY LEONE** received three honours at the 13th edition of Asian Business and Social Forum in Thailand.

She was feted with the Asia One Women empowerment Award, 40 under 40, Influential Asian Award and India's Fastest Growing Brand award for her cosmetic line *StarStruck*.

The actor said: "My cosmetic line is a reflection of me and my team. We have worked really hard to get every aspect of it right. The award completely belongs to the team and Daniel that has got the brand global recognition."



'The film *Bhuj: The Pride Of India* has a brilliant script and essaying the role of an Air Force officer is totally new for me. It's challenging. My director Abhishek ji is extremely clear in his head about this character. The film shows the independence of women back in 1971. I am extremely proud to be associated with this project.'

—Ihana Dhillon



Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA**, appeared on the reality show *Bigg Boss 13* along with Neena Gupta and Jitendra Kumar to promote their new film *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*. The presence of the star cast of the forthcoming rom-com lightened the situations in the house, with less than five for the finale.



Right now, the final seven contestants are trying their best to keep it together even as show host Salman Khan starts off the season's last *Somwar Ka Vaar* with a bang.

Carrey spooked by Alexa

Actor **JIM CARREY** is not a fan of artificial intelligence.

Carrey said he's uneasy about the technology while promoting his new *Sonic the Hedgehog* film, said, "I don't know about you, but (Amazon's virtual assistant) Alexa freaks me out a little bit."

"She'll be floating around the bedroom soon saying, 'No, not like that,'" he added.

Carrey appears in the new film as the iconic villain, Dr Robotnik, a mad scientist character who appears in the classic video games.

"I was just having a blast. You know, I was just really happy to be doing absolute insanity again," he said.



Asia breaks the barrier

While *Parasite* registered a historic win and JANELLE MONAE addressed the diversity issue through her opening number, the 92nd Academy Awards made way for new faces and opinions to emerge and take the limelight

MAKING OSCAR HISTORY



Parasite cast

The film took Hollywood's top prize on Sunday night, along with awards for best director, best international film and best screenplay. In a year dominated by period epics — 1917, *Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood*, *The Irishman* — the film academy instead went overseas, to South Korea, to reward a contemporary and unsettling portrait of social inequality in *Parasite*.

True to its name, *Parasite* simply got under the skin of Oscar voters, attaching itself to the American awards season and, ultimately, to history. The win was a watershed moment for the Academy Awards, which has long been content to relegate international films to their own category. Multiple standing ovations greeted Bong's several wins. "I am ready to drink tonight," Bong said, prompting roars from the crowd. Unexpectedly called up again for best director, Bong saluted his fellow nominees, particularly Martin Scorsese, and concluded: "Now I'm ready to drink until tomorrow."

The victory for the film — which had echoes of the surprise win by *Moonlight* over *La La Land* three years ago — came in a year when many criticised the lack of diversity in the nominees and the absence of female filmmakers. But the triumph for *Parasite*, the Palme d'Or-winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival, enabled Hollywood to flip the script and signal progress, nevertheless. No Korean film had ever won an Oscar before.

In doing so, the film academy turned away another history-making event, again denying Netflix its first best-picture win despite two contenders in *The Irishman* and *Marriage Story*, and a big-spending awards campaign blitz.

South Koreans reacted with joy after the good news came as their country struggles to guard against a new virus and counter North Korea's nuclear threat.

The film's win made history in South Korean film industry too. *The*

class satire is the first non-English-language film to win best picture in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards, and is the first South Korean film to ever win an Oscar.

South Korean social media were overwhelmed with congratulatory messages. Bong, *Parasite* and other Oscar-related news also dominated search terms throughout Monday at major internet portal sites, which had been preoccupied with the outbreak of a virus in China that has killed more than 900 people and sickened tens of thousands of others, mainly in China.

"It's happy news, like welcome rain, to the Republic of Korea, which is depressed, stagnant and thrown into despair due to 'Wuhan pneumonia,' the main opposition Liberty Korea Party said in a statement. Wuhan is the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak.

President Moon Jae-in and his advisers began a regularly scheduled meeting by clapping their hands to celebrate Bong's wins. Moon later tweeted that he is proud of Bong and his staff and "particularly grateful to them for giving courage and pride to our people who are overcoming difficulties."

"I think this was a great opportunity to let the world know the true value of Korean movies," said office worker Cho Sung-ho, 54. "I think it is very meaningful that the Academy Award this time has acknowledged the superior quality of Korean films." Actor Priyanka Chopra said that this win is a call for representation. She believes that this signals the fact that it is time for wider representation in Hollywood, beyond the cinema that only the US makes. "It's the time of representation. As people and as entertainers. Our craft has the power to transcend borders and languages, and tonight *Parasite* demonstrates exactly that. Congratulations to the entire film for shattering the glass ceiling and making history as the first non-English film to win Best Picture," she wrote on her social media.

"I've been selfish, I've been cruel at times, hard to work with. I'm grateful that so many of you in this room have given me a second chance."

Eminem, take two

Also getting a second chance was rapper Eminem, who stunned the crowd by showing up for a surprise performance of *Lose Yourself* — 17 years after it won best original song from the film *8 Mile*.

Backstage: Dazed winners and sweet reunions

A whole other show happens just a few feet to the right of the main Oscars stage in the wings where presenters gather, ecstatic winners get a moment to process what just happened and the production staff stays busy making sure everything is going to plan. Here are a few moments that the cameras didn't catch at the 92nd Academy Awards.

"WHOSE IS THIS?"

Joaquin walked offstage in a bit of a daze, with tears still in his eyes from his emotional acceptance speech. Jane Fonda, waiting to present the best picture award, was among the few familiar faces in the wings of the *Joker* star who stopped to give her a hug and a kiss.

Phoenix looked down at the golden statuette in his hand and said, "Whose is

this?" The woman escorting him to his next stop said gently, "It's yours."

STEVE MARTIN GETS READY

Steve Martin made sure to get to the wings extra early for his and Chris Rock's show opener Sunday but his promptness also meant he had a little time to kill.

He offered support to Janelle Monae's background performers. "You'll do a good job," Martin said with a thumbs up. "But you're supposed to say break a leg." And he even took a moment to allow himself to enjoy the performance, watching on the monitors with a big smile. But he quickly turned back to thinking about his imminent moment on stage. "As long as I have my opening line, I'm fine," he said, continuing to pace.



Scarlett Johansson



Brad Pitt



Joaquin Phoenix

List of Awardees

- Best picture: *Parasite*
- Best actor: Joaquin Phoenix, *Joker*
- Best actress: Renée Zellweger, *Judy*
- Best director: Bong Joon Ho, *Parasite*
- Best supporting actor: Brad Pitt, *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood*
- Best supporting actress: Laura Dern, *Marriage Story*
- Animated feature: *Toy Story 4*
- Documentary feature: *American Factory*



Billy Porter

A breakdown of the gowns, bling and beauty

A look at fashion highlights from the big night:

The gowns

Scarlett Johansson, Renée Zellweger, Charlize Theron, Cynthia Erivo and Regina King served up standout looks.

King's pale pink Versace with just the right amount of silver embellishment was a flawless fit. Johansson's Champagne-hued Oscar de la Renta was a strapless wonder with strand details at the top. Theron's black Dior Haute Couture offered one shoulder up and one down, along with a high side slit. Erivo shut it down in a white custom Atelier Versace one-shoulder bustier gown. Zellweger didn't disappoint in a white symmetrical body hugger from Armani with one long sleeve.

"Regina King and Cynthia Erivo really did the ballgown right," said Justine Carreon, senior market editor for Elle.com. "Cynthia Erivo had those kind of modern paniers on the hips. Regina had a pink princess moment, but it still had a very modern neckline." Nobody took any big risks, she said, though there were some statements made.

YOUNG HOLLYWOOD DIDN'T DISAPPOINT

Janelle Monae stunned in silver Ralph Lauren with a hood, long sleeves and about 170,000 Swarovski crystals. Florence Pugh wore a tiered gown in welcome green from Louis Vuitton. Billie Eilish donned fuzzy, oversize Chanel jackets and pants to go with her bright green and black hair. Timothée Chalamet detoured from a slew of classic black tuxedos in a custom Prada navy gabardine jacket with satin racing stripes and matching trousers.

"She always brings such drama to the carpet in such an elegant way," E! style correspondent Zanna Roberts Rassi said of Monae's look. Monae, along with Eilish and Billy Porter (in a golden feather top and orange ball skirt), show trends aren't everything. The



Renée Zellweger

trend was to be yourself."

"It's less about trends. It's more about showing who they really are. Billie Eilish and Billy Porter tend to just stick to their guns. When it comes to fashion, they don't let themselves be confined to any box. It's true that Eilish loves a logo, but that's true of her generation, from Gucci to Louis Vuitton," she said.

VINTAGE REPRESENTED, BUT JUST A TAD

Margot Robbie hit the carpet in Chanel from the brand's spring 1994 haute couture collection. It was a black fitted bustier gown with detached sleeves that practically touched the ground. A pearl pendant was front and center.

The bling

There was an abundance of statement necklaces on women (Mindy Kaling, Julia Louis, Zazie Beetz) but there was also a show of "gents jewelry," said Claibourne Poindexter, jewelry specialist.

From Porter in multiple bracelets and rings from Swarovski to men bringing back the lapel brooch (Chalamet's vintage Cartier), "there is no doubt that men are embracing jewelry for the first time in a long time," he said.

Among other favourites: Anthony Ramos in a long necklace and lapel brooch worn with a white suit. As for the women, Greta Gerwig wore diamonds and emerald from Bulgari, as did Beetz. Theron wore a diamond drop necklace by Tiffany & Co. weighing in at more than 20 carats. Louis-Dreyfus wore more than 60 carats set in platinum from Harry Winston. Vintage represented in a small way, thanks to Rebel Wilson's gold and diamond double row necklace by Pomellato to Chalamet's 1950s ruby and diamond clip, Poindexter said.

"Over the last several years we've seen a consistent increase in gentlemen who wear jewels as a great way to diversify their style on what is arguably a more difficult wardrobe to show individuality in," he said. Gerwig's emerald beads and diamonds has her "following in the footsteps of many powerful women in film," Poindexter said. "From Elizabeth Taylor in her own Bulgari emerald and diamond jewels purchased on a visit to the Bulgari boutique with Richard Burton to Monica Vitti posing for Karen Radkai in a full suite of oval shaped emerald and diamond jewelry in 1963, Bulgari has had a long reputation of being a favorite among the film and jet set," Poindexter said.

The beauty

The Oscars are often a parade of nudes, sheers or pale pinks, especially in nail polish, said Cat. "So I was excited to see so many actresses go for a bolder look. Black nail polish in particular reigned supreme, with a variety of cool iterations," she said.

—Agencies

Writers of colour

Barnes & Noble suspends reissues of classics with new images

Barnes & Noble is withdrawing a planned line of famous literature reissued with multicultural cover images that has been met with widespread criticism on social media.

"We acknowledge the voices who have expressed concerns about the Diverse Editions project at our Barnes & Noble Fifth Avenue store and have decided to suspend the

initiative," Barnes & Noble announced.

The author Adriana Herrera had called the books, scheduled to be launched this week, "the classics in blackface."

Diverse Editions, a joint project between Barnes & Noble and Penguin Random House, featured 12 texts, including Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*. The words are the same, but on the cover, major characters are depicted with dark-skinned illustrations by artists of "different ethnicities and backgrounds," as per Barnes &



Noble.

It was announced at a time when the publishing industry is already facing scrutiny over the novel *American Dirt* and its depiction of Mexican life and culture.

"Absolute TONE-DEAF decision-making," Mexican-American writer David Bowles, a leading critic of *American Dirt*, tweeted about *Diverse Editions*.

The decision also comes in

February, which is the Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements.

To much disbelief online, the organisers of *Diverse Editions* had said they used artificial intelligence in reviewing more than 100 older books and determining whether the race or ethnicity of a character is specifically stated. Few would argue that Alice from *Alice in Wonderland* or the title characters of *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* are fitting for a tribute to black history.

"They could have Googled, chosen a dozen books by actual Black authors that are classics and sent those out with fresh covers and a big event," author Milkki Kendall tweeted. "Add in bringing in contemporary Black authors to discuss

these works and the whole thing is a win. They didn't do the easy or logical thing."

Barnes & Noble acknowledged that the new covers were "not a substitute for black voices or writers of colour, whose work and voices deserve to be heard. The book-sellers who championed this initiative did so convinced it would help drive engagement with these classic titles," as per the bookstore chain. "It was a project inspired by our work with schools and was created in part to raise awareness and discussion during Black History Month, in which Barnes & Noble stores nationally will continue to highlight a wide selection of books to celebrate Black history and great literature from writers of colour." —AP



RURAL RHYTHMS

Printmaker and photographer JYOTI BHATT's excursions to different villages inspired him to create a personal language of symbols through intaglios that came from indigenous cultures. By UMA NAIR

Photographer, archivist, printmaker and visual historian, Padma Shri Jyoti Bhatt belongs to the arc light of Indian artists who have spent six decades exploring India's indigenous arts. Over the years, it is Bhatt's investigations of rural and tribal designs that have influenced the motifs he has used in his printmaking. He has been actively engaged with intaglios since the mid 60s and these images constitute an important chapter in the history of printmaking in India. They demonstrate great artistic sensibilities, creativity and a unique understanding of traditional cultures. Each print can be seen as an artwork in its own right as well as a historical document. His works set him apart as an ethnographer.

Through his show of original intaglios at Bihar Museum, starting today, he goes back in time. Here are some excerpts:

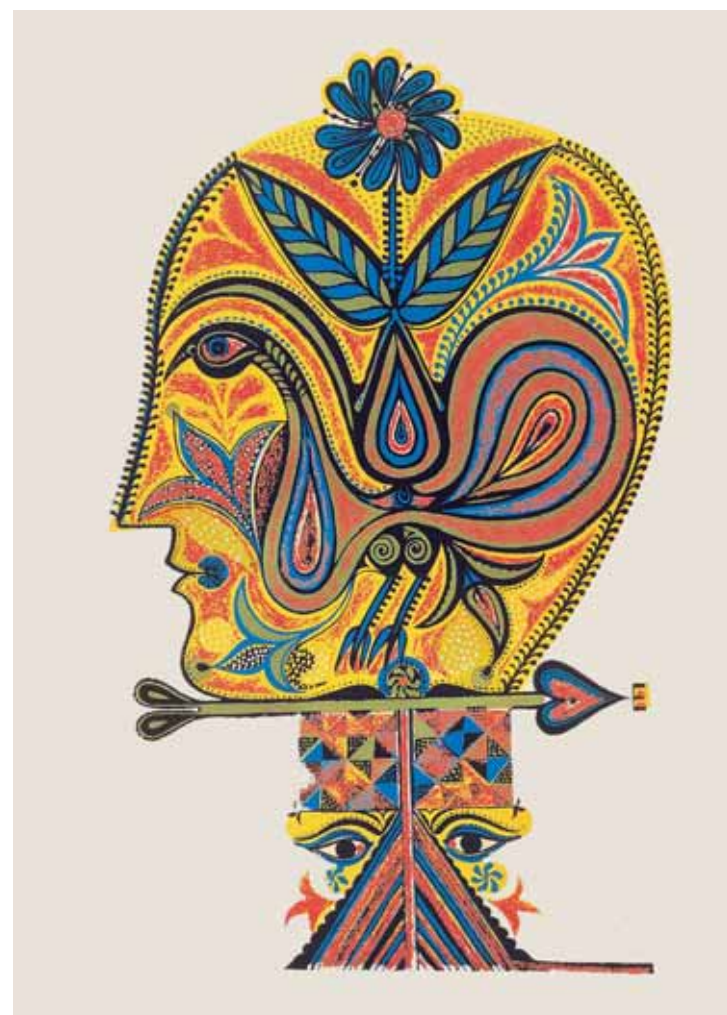
Tell us about your photograph documentation that began in the 1960s.

In 1961, I won an Italian government scholarship to study at the Accademia Di Belle Arti in Naples for two years. From Italy, I went to the Pratt Institute in New York, where I received a Fulbright fellowship. I was trained in the graphic arts and began to take a particular interest in printmaking.

When I returned in the 1960s, I was asked to take photographs of the Gujarati folk art for a seminar at the Bhartiya Vidhya Bhavan in Mumbai, keeping the disappearing rural arts in focus. I was asked to chronicle the arts and indigenous practices of rural parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar from 1967 to 1995. I travelled extensively, visiting villages and tribal regions, photographing folk arts and craft traditions in their local areas, as well as people who inhabited these spaces. Those folk and craft traditions became part of my intaglios.

It is said that at the MS University in Baroda, you became a catalyst for other artists picking up printmaking as a genre. Would you like to reflect on those days in the 1960s?

When I began, my early works were influenced by cubism as well as lighthearted and colourful pop art



kind of imagery. It was inspired by traditional Indian folk designs.

It was in 1966 that I returned to MSU Baroda with a thorough knowledge of the intaglio process that I had gained at the Pratt Institute at Brooklyn, New York. I found intaglio exciting. The thought that so many prints could be made was a sense of commonality I believed in because I didn't like the idea of elitist art. This caused friends such as Jeram Patel, Bhupen Khakhar and Gulam Mohammed Sheikh to follow the same process. At the Faculty of Fine Arts in Baroda, we were soon known as "The Baroda School" of Indian art.

When we look at your work, we can also find a wide repertoire of historical evidence. How did you explore such a wide variety of prac-

tices?

I knew that when I began, I had to include whatever I could capture on my frame. Cultural evidences have a wide canvas so I was looking at tribal musicians and women who had mastered pottery, to artists and dancers, weavers, wall painters and even children. Sometimes I would walk into a makeshift hut and see the wet wall and suddenly see the calf ready to shut his eyes and sleep. That is how I got the image, *Calf* (Madhya Pradesh, 1983). Their cattle were as important to them as their family members. When it comes to art traditions, people and their environs are the most important.

Your photographs pay great attention to background details...
I was looking at a world that was



full of rural rhythms in the simplest of circumstances. For instance, in *A tribal house from rural India* (South Gujarat, 1987), a mother and her child are sitting against a wall in their hut. Resting next to them are tools and impediments, some household appliances and weapons used by the tribal folks. The tools are shown as an impression on the wall. And I observed that the villagers were so simple yet full of their own elemental ideas. Life in the village has its own tranquil pace and their creative pursuits are what engaged me throughout.

Your prints reflect the ingenuity of indigenous iconography. Please reflect on this journey.

My focus has always been on the surroundings. When I look at it now, I see that it presented a holistic perspective in an age where traditions are vanishing. Everything had its own

significance. You call it a slice of history but I would say that it is a living moment in the lives of the humble.

Printmaking for me became a process of rich imagery and a residue of living traditions. I recall how in Rajasthan, the intricate floral patterns of a *rangoli* or a *mandana*, painstakingly created by a woman in the courtyard of the house, were important statements of a rural lifestyle that we hardly see anymore.

Many of the artforms I photographed even as late as 1994 are not visible anymore. The number of people who made them have lessened. Most of these traditions have started losing their essence. For instance, people now buy *Kolam* — the *Rangavalli* designs — in the form of plastic stickers from shops within South Indian temples, which, ironically, have supported this tradition the most. I used the designs in my prints as a motif for longevity.

In later years, in my etchings, intaglios and screen prints, I also tried to explore a personal language of symbols that belonged to indigenous cultures — peacock, parrot, lotus, stylised Indian gods and goddesses, and some unending variations on tribal and village designs — which became part of my iconography. Now I am happily exploring inkjet digital printing and holography. I like the multiplicity of print. I am happy that many art lovers can buy my prints.

(Manushya aur Prakriti runs till February 27 at Bihar Museum.)



A fresh perspective

An exhibition of paintings and sculptures *Trails of Materials* explores the journey of three artists through various objects and recycled waste. By TEAM VIVA

Medium and material often lead an artist towards evolution, change and transition. It has been seen as the precursor to every kind of growth. It reveals the concept that lies within the artwork. The interesting part is that it raises questions about the boundaries often drawn around a particular style, material or presentation.

Three artists — Satish Sharma, Anju Kaushik and Rubkirat Vohra come together to explore their journey through objects in a group show of paintings and sculptures — *Trails of Materials*.

While Satish has been painting for two decades, he has traversed the works that recall the musings of Vincent Van Gogh, moving on toward abstraction which celebrates pure colour and texture. His canvases evoke a three-dimensional form that celebrates earth in different shades — a deep madder red, the aquamarine of seashore blues, solemn slate greys and the darkened shades of a black night.

Satish says, "For me art is breaking out of boundaries. I felt it first when I switched to abstracts. The act of throwing colour on canvas, let it take its own shape and form was liberating. It opened up my mind and journey to unknown beginnings."

The artist has also been moving towards monochromatic expressions with a preference for brighter colours.

Anju's new works are more about the sculptural, with a preference for high-relief surfaces. She prefers working with discarded objects, transforms them with plaster of Paris, concrete and wood. The act of reclaiming old, rusted and discarded objects and giving them new life is particular to Anju's practice. The objects challenge the idea of what is rejected elevating it from what may appear to be a part of mundane existence.

Anju's works are often connected into a loose narrative, where she makes a comment on the environment, where a fossilised fish shape is

a poignant reminder of urban detritus and waste. A hunk of concrete is brushed with paint, nails, wire and placed upon a concrete bracket creating a new relationship between the elements of waste. "Every time I look around, I find bundles of empty bottles, canes, plates, nails, building materials and other junks. It makes me think that there is still some life in them. I get new ideas from them. Through my painting, I give a new identity to the waste and change them into three-dimension sculpture."

Rubkirat enjoys working with metal and wood, creating composite forms from a malleable lead that has a low heat point. The abstractions hint towards architectural forms and human existence. The objects are aesthetic, disassociated from the world of narrative. Ranging from oils, charcoal on canvas, metallic objects to delicate constructions from wire and linear drawing work, it evokes her feelings. One could say that her inner voice experiments with objects.

Rubkirat says that her work is contemporary and not in the historical architectural forms. Although she conforms to her inner self, her art is deeply immersive lending a serene calmness to the viewer as though stemming from her own contentment and realisation.

Her "abstruse creations" are created with nails, metal, wood, wires, charcoal, canvas, fire. It lends a sense of satisfaction to the viewer. Together, the works of these three artists bring home a fresh perspective on the materiality of objects. We may appreciate how these objects and their materials communicate across cultures and temporal boundaries, moving in some instances beyond the intentions of their creators. The materials have the ability to transport the viewer into discovering their own narrative behind the presented narrative, but they may also hone in on the story that the artist is keen to tell us in their own language and materiality.

To serve public awareness for the arts and provide opportunity to artists to widen their web of influence in the market that is, at the moment, regressive and stagnating, curator Neeraj Gupta, president of the Delhi Art Society, brings forth a show of sculptures and paintings for public space.

From history to canvas

Curator NEERAJ GUPTA brings forth a show of sculptures and paintings for public spaces. By U NAIR

Public art spaces

Public Art includes about 17 artists who are seasoned sculptors as well as painters.

Neeraj Gupta's elephant flits through time and tide, raising questions and inviting introspections that waft through our everyday idioms and practices. While Anjali Khosa Kaul creates a synergy of sorts with her series that depict forest botanical creations in wood, Bhola Kumar's stone creation has about it a stealthy gravitas as it's about dimensions and depth. Brajesh Verma explores history and time with a work that goes down into the roots of Sumerian culture to give us words that are integral to sovereignty — strength, courage, freedom and eminence — and echoes of antiquity.

Nature and the human form

Arun Pandit's *Couple* is influenced by Rodin and Brancusi. His *Patina* creates a rooted synergy of sorts as it speaks about the beauty of bronze and the paths of life and its many learnings.



Bhaktibhushan De's *Nature's Sorrow* is an evocative work that talks to man about nature's strength and its eternal quality of recycling. It also talks about the harmony that man needs because it has been destroyed by man's greed.

Madhab Das creates the most enduring form of the human figure. Here, man is lost, deprived and full of despair. Kavita Nayyar's terra-

cotta works are symbolic of her love for nature. Her prowess as an artist of measure and substance is seen in detail.

Simran KS Lamba's *Trees* created out of tree trunk and copper give us tenets of man and nature and the unerring power of trees. He OR IS IT SHE brings back the words of Hermann Hesse who said, "Trees are sanctuaries." Rajesh Sharma creates an emblematic



symbol of man with his sculpture that is made of steel circular rods. It presents man in a dual setting who is balancing different things. Uttam Pacharne's brass piece echoes the emblematic essence of nature.

Evocative paintings
Kalicharan Gupta, the abstract maestro of Delhi, creates paintings that spell the quasi realistic language of the dispersion and scattering of light and colour fields. He brings alive both modernist and

impressionist moods.

Sangeeta Gupta, the poet, thinker and abstractionist, creates a set of platters that she paints upon with acrylic to create a conversation.

Ranjeeta Kant's painting speaks about the universal debacle of infanticide. Within the realism of the human failing, here, we see the poignancy of the miracle of life and the suggestion of beauty of living rather than death.

The multi-faceted Naresh Kapuria, who has worked with so many media, creates a stirring amalgamation of composition, contours and colour facets with his work that straddles many scenes and times as it oscillates through the pendulum of time.

Artist Prem Singh creates paintings that celebrate the lyrics of spring in an impressionist manner evoking the magic of hillsides and flowers blooming in spring.

The most important facet of this exhibition is to lend a thought for art that must travel through time and be made visible to an audience. The most important part of an artist's creation is the end result when the work is gazed upon by thousands. Public art for a city is about history, memory, metaphors and moods and it enlivens art practices and lasts long.

(The show is on till February 17 at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC.)

IC presents *A House for Mr Yabako*, an exhibition of photographs by Peeyush Sekhsaria, which showcase a man's journey of building his home, where he dreams of returning to after a tiring day at work and looking at his children play.



Vidita Singh presents *Art of the Automobile*, an exhibition of paintings that honours vehicles as moving pieces of art.

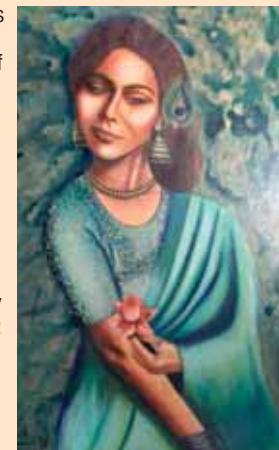


Teamwork Arts presents *Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night*, which is a unique concert series that forefronts diverse music forms through an eclectic mix of artists and sounds from all over the world.



Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival brings over 160 international puppetry companies with some of the greatest stories to celebrate its 18th anniversary.

Sabrina Gill presents *A Melody in Colour*, a collection of delicately worked portraits and landscapes on different media. The compositions are realistic in style and steeped in the enriching experiences of a life well-travelled as well as a spiritually inclined mind.



WATCH OUT

New King in Milan

Lukaku stars in Inter's second half comeback as Conte men move top of Serie A with 4-2 win against city rivals

AFP ■ MILAN

Inter Milan moved top of Serie A on Sunday after storming back from two goals down to snatch a 4-2 win over AC Milan in a pulsating derby at the San Siro.

Inter pull level on 54 points with Juventus, who lost 2-1 at Hellas Verona on Saturday, but are ahead of the champions on goal difference thanks to a thrilling second half turnaround after Ante Rebic and Zlatan Ibrahimovic had put Milan 2-0 up at the break.

Lazio are just a point behind in third after Felipe Caicedo scored the only goal in a hard-fought win at Parma earlier on Sunday.

"It's a special night because in the first half we were in great difficulty like we hadn't been this season. There was the risk of taking a hammering," said Inter boss Antonio Conte.

"Credit to these lads because they were able to resist the blows which means that we are ready for something good."

"It's absolutely too early to talk about things that we can still dream of today."

Milan had dominated the first half with Inter struggling to deal with Ibrahimovic, who soared above Diego Godin before knocking down for Rebic to tap the opener past Daniele Padelli.

Stefan De Vrij blocked another cross to deny Rebic a second tap in but Franck Kessie flicked on for a waiting Ibrahimovic to turn in the second.

The comeback began five minutes after the break when Brozovic lashed home a stunning volley and two minutes later Mattias Vecino finished off an Alexis Sanchez pass



Inter's Romelu Lukaku celebrates with teammates after scoring his side fourth goal against AC Milan during Serie A game



FIGURATIVELY

4 Inter have lost one or less game and won 16+ games after the first 23 Serie A matches played only for the fourth time in their history: 1988/89 — W18 L1 (they won the title), 2006/07 — W20 L0 (they won the title), 2007/08 — W18 L0 (they won the title), 2019/20 — W16 L1 (currently at top)

4 Inter have won four consecutive Serie A games against Milan for their first time since 1983

2 Inter have won just the second ever Serie A game against AC Milan after being trailing by 2+ goals, the first one was on Nov 1949 (6-5)

6 Romelu Lukaku is the sixth foreign player to score in each of the first two Milan derbies for Inter in Serie A in the three points for a win era after Djorkaeff, Ronaldo, Simeone, Ibrahimovic and Miliuto

38 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (38 years, 129 days) is the oldest ever goalscorer in a Milan derby in the Serie A history

5 Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been directly involved in five goals in his four Serie A games against Inter for AC Milan (four goals, one assist)

18 Lazio are unbeaten in their last 18 league games: they have never played so many matches without defeats in their history in Serie A

"It's difficult to explain. The first half was almost perfect, the second half the opposite. We conceded the first goal and the squad lost faith, then conceded a second and everything fell apart"

— ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC

then demonstrated why they were after the break."

LAZIO IN MIX

Caicedo kept Lazio's own dream of a first Scudetto in 20 years alive as a 1-0 win over Parma moved the Romans second in Serie A.

Simone Inzaghi's side are right in the title discussion after extending their unbeaten run to 18 league games.

Their last Serie A defeat was in September to Inter Milan, who they host next weekend at the Stadio Olimpico.

"We are trying to stay in there, fighting against the battleships. With this spirit, we can advance very well," said Inzaghi.

"Sunday will be a great game against a great team."

Caicedo broke through just before the interval as the Ecuadorian volleyed home after Parma failed to clear a ball into the box.



Lionel Messi, left, gestures in front of Betis' Marc Bartra during La Liga match at Benito Villamarín

Messi can do it all

Leo leads Barca with hat-trick of assists to beat Betis and keep pace with Real

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Lionel Messi gave a hat-trick of assists on Sunday as Barcelona ended their turbulent week with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Real Betis to stay in touch with Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

Madrid's 4-1 win at Osasuna put pressure on Barca to respond, only for Betis to twice lead at the Benito Villamarín through a penalty from Sergio Canales and brilliant solo effort from Nabil Fekir.

Yet both times Barcelona hit back as Frenkie de Jong and Sergio Busquets pulled them level before Clement Lenglet headed in with 18 minutes left, all three goals teed up by Messi.

Fekir and Lenglet were then sent off in a frantic contest by the end of which, Barca had the victory they so desperately needed following a difficult few days for the club.

Messi had put himself at the heart of a political spat this week by publicly taking exception to comments made by sporting director Eric Abidal, who suggested the players were the cause of the decision to sack Ernesto Valverde last month.

Barcelona were then beaten by Athletic Bilbao and knocked out of the Copa del Rey before the semi-finals for the first time in 10 years on Thursday.

"In Bilbao we played well but they knocked us out," said coach Quique Setien. "This win will give us motivation and extra energy for the future."

To make matters worse, winger

FIGURATIVELY

3 Lionel Messi is the second player to achieve a hat-trick of goals (2) and a hat-trick of assists (1) in the five major leagues in Europe this season, after Timo Werner (two goal hat-tricks and one of assists)

2 FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi is the second player to reach double figures for both goals (14) and assists (10) in the top five European leagues this season, after Jadon Sancho (12 & 13)

2 Nabil Fekir is the first Real Betis player to score in each of his first two appearances against Barcelona in La Liga in the 21st century (two goals)

416 Lionel Messi has made 416 starts in La Liga, more than any other player born outside of Spain in the La Liga's history (Donato 415)

Ousmane Dembele suffered another hamstring injury, which is likely to keep him out for the rest of the season, while centre-back Samuel Umstiti appeared in court too, for alleged damages to a rented villa.

It meant defeat against Betis was unthinkable, particularly for Setien, who could ill-afford another setback against the team he managed for two years between 2017 and 2019.

Instead, Barca turned the tide, with a chaotic performance that might have been punished by better opponents, but that keeps them three points behind Real Madrid, who had earlier won at a canter in Pamplona.

Guardiola set for City summer squad refresh

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola admitted his side could be set for an overhaul in the summer after falling 22 points behind Liverpool at the top of the Premier League.

Guardiola will definitely lose David Silva, who has already announced he will leave the club after a decade at the end of the season.

However, the Catalan coach does not believe he needs the same degree of change as after a difficult first season in Manchester when the arrival of six new players inspired a romp to the title with a record 100 points.

"This group of players has done something unique — they have won the last six of the last seven domestic trophies in England. I admire them and I suffer with them when they don't get what they deserve," said Guardiola.

"Of course we have to do something because David Silva is leaving and in some other positions we are going to do it, but I don't know how many or how much because the market is always difficult."

"There are still are two or three months to go and things can change a lot in that time."

City could still turn a hitherto disappointing campaign into a glorious one as they face Aston Villa in the League Cup final in three weeks' time, have progressed into the fifth round of the FA Cup and are preparing for a blockbuster Champions League last 16 clash with Real Madrid.

"There are still incredible nice things still to fight for," added Guardiola. "We are in the EFL Cup final in three weeks, we are still in the FA Cup, we want to try and finish second in the league and we have two big games against Real Madrid in the Champions League."

One of those who could be sacrificed by City to make room and resources for summer signings is John Stones.

The England international has been scarcely used by Guardiola this season despite a lack of cover at centre-back due to the departure of Vincent Kompany and injury to Aymeric Laporte.

Cavani nears double-century

- 77 Kylian Mbappé has scored 77 goals in Ligue 1 since his very first one on 20 February 2016 with Monaco, more than any other French player in the Top 5 Euro leagues in that period
- 18 Angel Di Maria has been involved in 18 goals in Ligue 1 this season (8 goals, 10 assists), at least seven more than any other midfielder in the top-flight

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain survived the absence of Neymar and a Lyon fightback to win Sunday night's Ligue 1 clash 4-2 at a stormy Parc des Princes, helped by Fernando Marcal's truly stunning second-half own goal.

Runaway leaders and defending champions PSG were cruising at half-time with Angel Di Maria and Kylian Mbappé giving them a two-goal advantage against a Lyon side enduring a disappointing season.

Then Marcal comically blasted the ball into the roof of his own net just after the break, leaving Lyon looking at another heavy defeat in Paris, where they lost 5-0 in this fixture last season.

However, Martin Terrier and Moussa Dembele quickly pulled goals back, and PSG needed a late strike by substitute Edinson Cavani to secure the points.

"Normally after a goal like that the game is over," said coach Thomas Tuchel of the own goal. "But we were



Edinson Cavani celebrates after scoring PSG/Twitter

not disciplined enough and it was a lesson for us that it's never over."

PSG's performance showcased why they can ill afford to be complacent heading into their Champions League last 16, first leg match away to Borussia Dortmund on February 18, even if sporting director Leonardo insisted to Canal Plus that the tie was "not life or death" for the Qatar-owned club.

They will hope to have Neymar back by then. The world's most expensive player sat out a second consecutive match due to a rib complaint.

"We play a lot of games and errors happen but I don't know if it's the time to be too critical," Tuchel added. "The

Brandt risks missing PSG clash

DORTMUND: Borussia Dortmund winger Julian Brandt faces a race to be fit for the German side's Champions League last-16 tie against Paris Saint-Germain after the club confirmed on Sunday that he had suffered an ankle injury.

Dortmund said Brandt had suffered torn ankle ligaments and will miss Friday's league clash at home to Eintracht Frankfurt.

They have not said whether the German international will be fit for their Champions League first leg at home to PSG on February 18.

Dortmund are already without captain Marco Reus, who suffered a leg injury in their German Cup loss at Werder Bremen last month. AFP

team was great and we can't forget we were without lots of key players."

Without Neymar — as well as his injured compatriots, Thiago Silva and Marquinhos, in defence — Tuchel's side made it eight straight wins and stretched their unbeaten run to 21 games in all competitions.

Lyon, meanwhile, have not won in three and this result leaves the seventh former champions in ninth place.

They are eight points adrift of the Champions League qualifying spots and their upcoming European double-header against Juventus looks certain to be a step too far for them. AFP

Leipzig hold Bayern in top of table clash



Leipzig's Dayot Upamecano, left, and Bayern's Serge Gnabry challenge for the ball during Bundesliga match

AFP ■ MUNICH

RB Leipzig held Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich to a goalless draw at the Allianz Arena on Sunday to stay just one point behind the defending champions in the title race.

Leipzig worked tirelessly to thwart the hosts, for whom victory would have opened up a four-point gap after third-placed Borussia Dortmund's 4-3 loss at Bayer Leverkusen.

Bayern are bidding to win an eighth straight league title.

They were awarded a second-half penalty which was then reversed when VAR showed Robert Lewandowski had been offside.

Second-placed Leipzig often rode their luck to repeatedly frustrate Bayern, but wasted a series of second-half chances themselves.

"The problem was that both teams could live with a 0-0 draw," admitted Bayern forward Thomas Mueller.

"In the end, neither team wanted to take the absolute risks, which meant we didn't play to our strengths."

Bayern coach Hansi Flick expects this season's title race to go to the wire.

"The Bundesliga will be tense until the end," he said.

"There are a few teams with a chance. We want to keep our position, but it's going to be a hard path to stay on."

Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann said his side showed the bravery required to win in Munich.

"In the second-half, we had much clearer chances to win the game," he said.

"We were brave, defended high up and had a good grip on the game."

Leipzig striker Timo Werner, who missed a golden opportunity on 63 minutes, rued his team's missed chances, including a skied effort by captain Marcel Sabitzer.

"In the beginning, it seemed just a matter of time before we scored," admitted Werner.

"But in the second half we played as our coach (Julian Nagelsmann) wanted and were the better team. We could have won."

Praneeth & Co eye medal, crucial points at Asia Team C'ship

PTI ■ MANILA

Unfazed by coronavirus fears, a full-strength Indian men's team has landed here to compete at the Asia Team Championships from today, eyeing a medal-winning performance which will give players crucial ranking points in the Olympic year.

The Indian women team, which was supposed to be led by young shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod, chose not to travel for the competition, fearing the spread of coronavirus, which has claimed over 900 lives in China so far.

A 44-year-old Chinese tourist from Wuhan had died on February 1 in Philippines, which has reported three virus cases so far. The two others were discharged from hospital after their



B Sai Praneeth in action for Bengaluru Raptors during PBL 2020

tests were reported to be negative.

Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth and 2019 world championship Bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth will lead the Indian team which also has HS Prannoy, Subhankar Dey and young Lakshya Sen.

The Indian men's team, which won the Bronze medal in the 2016 Championship, was initially clubbed with two-time defending champions Indonesia and hosts Philippines in Group A but with China and Hong Kong not playing due to a travel ban on them by the Philippines, the draw was re-worked at the team managers' meeting on Monday.

India are now placed in

Group B alongside Malaysia and Kazakhstan. The top two teams in each of the four groups will make it to the quarterfinals.

India, who had lost to China 1-3 in the last edition in 2018, will begin their campaign against Kazakhstan today before taking on Malaysia on Thursday. This is only the third edition of the Asia Team championship, which serves as Asia qualifiers for the Thomas and Uber Cups.

Praneeth and Co are expected to have an easy outing against Kazakhstan, who are not a prominent badminton nation, but the clash against Malaysia will be an interesting one.

Malaysia boast of a young team, comprising

world No 14 Lee Zii Jia, 2014 Youth Olympic Games Gold medallist Cheam June Wei and Leong Jun Hao, a former three-time Silver medallist at World Junior Championships. In doubles, Malaysia have world No 17 pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi, who claimed the Thailand Masters title last month, and the pair of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin Mohd Rumsani, who were part of 2018 Asian team Championship Bronze medal winning team, in their team.

कार्यालय उप निदेशक (वि./याँ.) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उ०प्र० किसान मण्डी भवन, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ पत्रांक-वि०/याँ०(325) / 2020-1840 दिनांक-10.02.2020

ई-कोटेशन सूचना

विभिन्न मण्डी स्थलों में नलकूप निर्माण के अन्तर्गत इल्लिम, एम०एस० पाइप, लोवरिंग, वेलिंग, मोटर पम्प सेट, वाल्व, पी ग्रेवेल, चैन पुली, वायर रोप, कंट्रोल केबिल, पैनल, जी०आई०/एम०एस० पाइप आदि तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य की नान शिड्यूल सामग्रियों की दरों के निर्धारण हेतु निर्माता / अनुभवी फर्मों से ई-कोटेशन दि० 02.03.2020 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक आन लाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 3.30 बजे खोली जाएगी। ई-कोटेशन दिनांक 02.03.2020 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ऑन लाइन भरकर अपलोड की जा सकती है। इसके उपरान्त वेबसाइट स्वतः बन्द हो जायेगी। संबंधित आवश्यक प्रपत्र ई-कोटेशन के साथ ही अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। उपनिदेशक (वि०/याँ०)



Mayank Agarwal bats during India's optional nets session at Bay Oval. BCCI/Twitter

PRIDE AT STAKE

India hope for top order blitzkrieg to avoid 3-0 whitewash

PTI ■ MT MAUNGANUI

India would expect its top order to fire to avoid a series whitewash when it clashes with a high-flying New Zealand in the third and final One-day International at Bay Oval today.

Despite missing inspirational skipper Kane Williamson in the line-up due to a shoulder injury, the hosts shrugged off the T20 series debacle to claim the ODI series.

New Zealand, though, will have the experience and leadership of Williamson for the final game as he has passed the fitness test.

"He certainly had a full workout and all is on track for tomorrow. He's looking good to be ready to play. We'll have one final look at him in the morning and make sure nothing happens overnight," New Zealand stand-in head coach Shane Jurgensen said on the eve of third ODI.

The major difference between the two sides has been the top-order's impact.

With Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan missing due to injuries, Virat Kohli missing out on scoring big and KL Rahul batting later in the order, India's traditional ODI strength was neutralised without New Zealand having to do any hard work.

Openers Prithvi Shaw and



Jasprit Bumrah chats with Indian head coach Ravi Shastri during team's optional practice session on Monday. BCCI/Twitter

"He (Williamson) certainly had a full workout and all is on track for tomorrow (Tuesday). He's looking good to be ready to play. We'll have one final look at him in the morning and make sure nothing happens overnight,"

— New Zealand stand-in head coach SHANE JURGENSEN said about Williamson's availability for 3rd ODI

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND AT MOUNT MAUNGANUI				
Team	Played	Won	Lost	Success%
India	2	2	-	100.00
New Zealand	8	3	5	37.50
India v NZ	2	2	-	100.00
HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS				
India	324-4	in 50 overs v New Zealand	26-01-2019	
New Zealand	371-7	in 50 overs v Sri Lanka	03-01-2019	
HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES				
India	87	Rohit Sharma v New Zealand	26-01-2019	
New Zealand	138	Martin Guppiti v Sri Lanka	03-01-2019	
BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES				
India	4-54	Kuldeep Yadav v New Zealand	26-01-2019	
New Zealand	5-40	Matt Henry v Sri Lanka	05-01-2016	

Faisal Features

Mayank Agarwal have shown only momentary flashes of brilliance and have not replicated the kind of starts the Indian batting has grown accustomed to from its top-order.

Rohit's absence has been a major factor in India's defeat in this series. The opener averaged 57.30 in ODI cricket in the past 12 months, having a major impact on Indian fortunes in this format.

In that light, the burden of scoring runs has been placed squarely on Kohli in this series. With 66 runs in two innings, he did not come through for once and the rest didn't rise to the occasion either.

All of it resulted in reversal of fortunes on the limited-overs leg of this tour, as India had arrived here at Mt Maunganui a week ago leading the T20I series by a 4-0 margin. They went on to drub the Black Caps 5-0, but now find themselves in the same position at the same ground.

It is also a reversal of results from the Men in Blue's last visit here in 2019 when they won the ODI series 4-1 but lost the T20I series 2-1.

India's previous ODI series loss in New Zealand was 4-1 on the 2014 tour here.

Shreyas Iyer, with a hundred and a half-century, has

mirrored Ross Taylor's rich form in Hamilton and Auckland. But Iyer lacked the finishing touch as compared to Taylor's experience. He couldn't see India's chase through in Auckland like the senior Kiwi batsman did in Hamilton.

India may also look to experiment a bit before the Test series.

Rahul, Shaw, Iyer, Kedar Jadhav and Yuzvendra Chahal did not take part in the optional practice session on Monday.

Kohli was first into the nets against both pace and spin. Manish Pandey was in the nets beside him, while Rishabh Pant had a long session once again.

Pant has not played limited-overs cricket since he suffered a concussion against Australia. If India goes as per routine plan, he is in danger of missing out entirely from playing white-ball cricket on this tour.

In the bowling department, all pacers were present for training, except Mohammed Shami.

New Zealand have added leg spinner Ish Sodhi and pacer Blair Tuckner to the squad for this match. Sodhi played in the first ODI at Hamilton, bowling Kohli with a googly.

They were part of the New Zealand A team playing an unofficial Test against India A but did not take part on the fourth day's proceedings. Tim Southee (stomach bug), Mitchell Santner (stomach bug) and Scott Kugeleijn (viral fever) are hoping to recover in time for the third ODI.

Pakistan crush Tigers by innings in 1st Test

AFP ■ RAWALPINDI

Pakistan completed a crushing innings-and-44-run victory over Bangladesh on the fourth morning on Monday, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 168 in their second innings after resuming the day on 126-6 as Pakistan's pace and spin attack was too hot to handle despite a flat Rawalpindi stadium pitch.

Fast bowler Naseem Shah, who at 16 years and 359 days became the youngest bowler to take a Test hat-trick on Sunday, finished with 4-26 and was declared man of the match.

Despite Naseem being unavailable to bowl on Monday with rib pain, Pakistan mopped up the last four wickets in 90 minutes, inflicting their 10th defeat on Bangladesh in 11 matches with one draw.

Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali said home wins — only possible in recent months, after the resumption of Test cricket in Pakistan following a decade's isolation over security concerns — were important to boost confidence.

"It's an important win and home wins always increase confidence within the team," said Azhar. "We have to play important away series including one in England (July-August this year) so we will carry this confidence."

"Naseem and other bowlers bowled superbly and it was an outstanding batting display, so all in all it was a complete team effort."

Bdesh skipper Mominul Haque started the day by square-driving paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi for his fifth boundary in the first over, but then fell leg-before in the same over for 41.

Liton Das (29) and tail-ender Rubel Hossain kept hosts at bay for 11.5 overs before Abbas trapped Rubel leg-before for five.

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah dismissed Das lbw and had Abu Jayed for three to finish with 4-58 and complete the win.

With the win, Pakistan gained 60 points in the ICC World Test Championship, taking their tally to 140 points.

Understanding ground dimensions must in NZ: Thakur

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Understanding the peculiar dimensions of the grounds and negotiating the wind factor is a must for bowlers to succeed in New Zealand, reckons India pacer Shardul Thakur.

"There are no grounds alike in New Zealand, so it is very important to understand the ground dimensions. How to bowl, etc. In each game, as a bowler, you may have to change your plan because the last game in Auckland, straight boundaries were short. Before that in Hamilton, the side boundary was short. The dimensions of each ground are different and you have to bowl accordingly. Here in the next game, we will get a bigger ground compared to the others," said Thakur ahead of final



Shardul Thakur bowls at nets during India's practice session. PTI

ODI game.

Thakur feels the conditions make New Zealand one of the toughest places to play cricket in.

"It is very difficult because you don't get to play

on grounds like this every day. That's why they say New Zealand is a difficult country to play cricket in. I feel that when you practice in the nets you have to practice in the manner in

which you are going to bowl the next day.

"Mentally too, it is crucial to be prepared because if you are not prepared mentally, the opponent can take you by surprise. So both things are important. If you see, their batsmen use the wind and the short side," he added.

India will be aiming to avoid a 0-3 whitewash today and with the series already out of reach, Thakur feels he and his teammates can play even more freely.

"When you play international cricket, every game matters for every player. When you are 2-0 down, you can express yourself even more — our skills, our variations in bowling. Batsmen can play their shots, can execute shots and express themselves. That's how we will approach it."

Not many chinks in Virat's armour

Southee praises Kohli & credits helpful pitches for getting him out most number of times

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

He has dismissed Virat Kohli the most number of times in international cricket and New Zealand pacer Tim Southee on Monday credited helpful pitch conditions for the feat he "didn't know" about.

Including Saturday's ODI in Auckland, Southee has now dismissed Kohli nine times across formats.

"He is obviously a class player and doesn't have many weaknesses. I think the wicket had a little bit of assistance with the new ball and if you put it in the right areas, there was enough there to ask a few questions. It is about assistance and the pitch conditions..." Southee said on the eve of the third ODI.



Virat Kohli reacts after he was bowled out by Tim Southee in second ODI. AP

"It is your job to take wickets... And Virat is a great player and he has been in great form. Especially in run chases he is exceptional, so I guess it's always nice to see the

back of him. I didn't know that was the most..." he added.

Southee said his side's 2-0 series win over India in the current three-match contest shouldn't be a surprise to anyone as the Black Caps, consecutive ODI World Cup finalists, have been playing well in this format for a while now.

"...They have been two great games of cricket and the ODI side has played some good cricket for a while even though we have been missing some important guys," he said referring to injuries to key players such as regular skipper Kane Williamson.

"The guys have played great ODI cricket for a while now, although it was our first time since the World Cup. But the group has played well for a long time," he added.

Rahane scores 101 in drawn game

PTI ■ LINCOLN

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane warmed up for the Test series in New Zealand with an unbeaten 101 for the touring A side in the drawn four-day game against New Zealand A on Monday.

In response to New Zealand A's 386 for nine, India A reached 467 for five in 109.3 overs when the game ended in a draw on the fourth and final day.

The end of the second unofficial Test also marked the end of the A tour. Rahane stayed unbeaten on 101 off 148 balls and his knock comprised 15 fours and a six.

Shubman Gill, who has scored a double hundred in the first game at number four, continued his good run with the bat, making another hundred on day three, this time as an opener. Resuming day four at 107, Gill, who too is part of the Test

squad, went on to make 136. Rahane took over from there and got much needed time in the middle ahead of the first Test beginning in Wellington on February 21. A practice game will also be played before the series-opener.

Vijay Shankar also made a valuable contribution with a 66-run knock. Test number three Cheteshwar Pujara had made a solid half century on day three. He could only score a run on day four and was dismissed on 53.

Among the other Test regulars, off-spinner R Ashwin bowled 37.5 overs in the New Zealand innings, conceding 98 runs for two wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand A 1st innings: 386 for 9 in 131.5 overs (Daryl Mitchell 103, Glenn Phillips 65; Sandeep Warrier 2/50). **India A 1st innings:** 467/5 in 109.3 overs (Shubman Gill 136, Cheteshwar Pujara 53, Ajinkya Rahane 101 not out; Blair Tuckner 1/71, Ed Nuttall 2/98).

Bangladesh govt to organise public reception for U-19 side

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh government will organise a "public reception" to celebrate the country's Under-19 World Cup triumph, its first in an ICC tournament across all levels.

In a high-voltage title clash, the end of which was marred by unruly celebrations by the champions, Bangladesh stunned favourites and defending champions India by three wickets in Potchefstroom on Sunday for the country's biggest victory in its cricket history.

"The date will be set after the team returns. The reception will be held at



Suhrwardy Udyan, the country's Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader was quoted as saying by the Daily Star.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina, Quader told scribes at the Secretariat on Monday.

No Bangladesh team had won a world event before the country's U-19 side broke the jinx with victory over the three-time defending champions.

India's cricketing battles with Bangladesh have been marred by acrimony since the 2015 World Cup quarter-final at the MCG.

Having scripted their biggest triumph on Sunday, some Bangladeshi players got carried away while celebrating.

While their captain Akbar Ali apologised for the "unfortunate incident", his Indian counterpart Priyam Garg felt it is something that should not have happened.

Jaiswal, Bishnoi, Tyagi named in ICC team of tournament

PTI ■ DUBAI

The prolific Yashasvi Jaiswal and highest wicket-taker Ravi Bishnoi were among three Indians named in the ICC U-19 World Cup Team of the Tournament on Monday.

Besides left-handed opener Jaiswal and leg-spinner Bishnoi, right-arm pacer Kartik Tyagi was the other Indian to feature in the 12-member team, led by World Cup-winning Bangladesh skipper Akbar Ali.

Jaiswal claimed the Player of the Tournament award after he played a crucial role in guiding India to the final.

With 400 runs to his name in six innings at an astounding average of 133, he topped the scoring chart comfortably, finishing 114 runs ahead of closest competitor Ravindu Rasantha of Sri Lanka.

Bishnoi topped the wicket-taking chart by claiming 17 in six matches with a miserly average of 10.64, while Tyagi, on the other hand, terrorised opposing batsmen throughout the tournament with his swing and scalped 11 wickets at an average of 13.90.

The official team of the tournament features representatives from six sides with the likes of Afghanistan opener Ibrahim Zadran and West Indies' Nyeem Young in it.

In Akbar, Shahadat Hossain and Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Bangladesh also has three representations in the squad, while Afghanistan and West Indies have two players each.

Canada's Akil Kumar has been included as the 12th man.

The team was selected by an adjudication panel of five, which included commentators Ian Bishop, Rohan Gavaskar and Natalie Germanos joined by ESPN Cricinfo correspondent Sreshth Shah and ICC representative Mary Godbeer.

Warner bags Allan Border medal

On comeback, opener beats Smith by one vote to Australian cricketer of the year award

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

An emotional David Warner on Monday won the Australian cricketer of the year award beating teammate Steve Smith by one vote in their first season following the ball-tampering ban that brought their rollicking careers to a one-year halt.

Dashing opener Warner won his third Allan Border Medal with 194 votes, with former Test captain Smith getting 193 votes and fast bowler Pat Cummins coming third with 185.

Ellyse Perry claimed her second Belinda Clark Award at the Australian Cricket Awards here.

Considering his stunning return to the game following a year's suspension, an emotional Warner held back tears during his acceptance speech.

"I couldn't be any prouder to stand



Ellyse Perry and David Warner pose with Belinda Clark and Allan Border medal resp during Australian Cricket Awards ceremony. Cricket Australia/Twitter

here and receive the award... (and) to see the rest of the other guys doing so well."

Warner said, according to Cricket

Australia. "I really had a hunger and determination to come back and really put my foot forward... So to have a summer like that really put a smile on my face."

"I know I've let you guys down in the past. It's just been remarkable to come back," Warner was quoted as saying by foxsports.Com.Au.

The dashing opener added, "With the World Cup, to not go the whole way was disappointing. The Ashes, retaining that was fantastic — I obviously didn't turn up and I apologise for that — but I really had the hunger and determination to come back and do the best for our team.

"To come back and have a summer like that and just contribute, it really put a smile on my face — and I hope it did for you guys as well."

Warner had previously won the cov-

eted individual prize in 2016 and 2017. He polled a total of 194 across the Test, ODI and T20I formats to finish ahead of former captain Smith and nine votes clear of Cummins.

Warner now joined a select list of multiple winners of the Allan Border Medal, which includes Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke, Shane Watson and Smith.

Meanwhile, Perry won the Belinda Clark Award after her teammate Alyssa Healy bagged both the T20 and ODI Player of the Year awards for women's cricketers.

Australia's limited-overs skipper Aaron Finch claimed the male ODI Player of the Year award, while Marnis Labuschagne won the male Test Player of the Year

Award. Warner also claimed the male International T20 Player of the Year Award.



shafaliverma17 The reason I took up this game was because of Sachin sir. My whole family has not just idolised and but literally worshipped him. Today is a special day for me that I got to meet my childhood hero. It was a dream come true for me. @sachintendulkar

Indian women cricket team's youngest member Shafali Verma has fulfilled her childhood dream when she met her idol Sachin Tendulkar. The 16-year-old clicked a picture with Tendulkar and uploaded it on her Instagram account with a heart-warming post