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BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹3



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Nirbhaya's rapists to get just deserts on Jan 22

4 convicts break down on death warrant; Nirbhaya's parents satisfied with justice

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The rapists and killers of 23-year-old paramedic Nirbhaya will be hanged on January 22 at 7 am in Jail number 3 in Tihar. Three of the convicts are lodged in Jail number 2, while one is in Jail number 4, the official said. The much awaited verdict was delivered on Tuesday by the trial court as the Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) issued the death warrant against the convicts on the death row.

The issuance of the death warrant against the four convicts Mukesh Singh, (32), Pawan Gupta, (25), Vinay Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31) evoked emotional response from Nirbhaya's parents who have been waiting for the last seven years to see justice for their daughter.

As soon as the judge signed the death warrant, all the four convicts broke down in jail.

However, the process of executing them could be delayed as the convicts have 14 days to use their final legal options.

"They will be kept in separate cells in solitary confinement and will be allowed one last meeting with their families," said a jail official.

Nirbhaya's mother Asha Devi and her father, who have waged a relentless battle to see that the rapists and murderers of her daughter are punished, appeared satisfied after the



Nirbhaya's parents flash victory sign outside Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Tuesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

judge reading the final verdict on the brutal gangrape that had outraged the country.

"This judgment will reinforce people's faith in the judiciary and empower women.

My daughter will get justice," said Nirbhaya's mother.

Nirbhaya, who was pursuing Bachelor of Physiotherapy and was named as "Nirbhaya (fearless)", had died 13 days

after she was brutally gangraped on a moving bus by six men, including a juvenile who is now free.

She was subjected to the most inhuman torture with her rapists inserting iron rod in her private parts and then throwing Nirbhaya and her male friend on the road from the moving bus. She and her friend had boarded the bus from South Delhi after a watching movie.

She was found naked and bleeding on the chilly night of December 16, 2012. She died on December 29, 2012 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

The sheer brutality inflicted on her by the rapists had created ripples across the country and became a turning point for laws to ensure safety of women. Then Manmohan Singh-led Union Government had set up a commission headed by former Chief Justice of India JS Verma, who suggested many changes in the laws.

Just before the death warrant, the mother of convict Mukesh had walked up to Nirbhaya's mother and pleaded with her. "I appeal to you to forgive my son. I am begging for his life," she said, holding her sari before her in a gesture of begging. "I had a daughter too. How can I forget what happened with her? I have been waiting for justice for seven years," Nirbhaya's mother responded.

First execution of quartet in Tihar

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The horrific December 16, 2012 Nirbhaya rape-murder case transformed much in India. From laws on rape to relief and rehabilitation measures for rape survivors and the very mindset of the people, everything went for a sea change.

But as the case reaches its inevitable end with the issuance of warrants for the hanging of the four convicts on January 22, the execution chamber of Tihar Jail will also see a major change.

For this, it is necessary to revisit the previous few decades, back to the 1970s, when towards the end of that tumultuous decade, the kidnapping and



brutal murder of the teenage Chopra children (Geeta and her brother Sanjay) in August 1978 had shook the nation, and the then Janata Party Government of Prime Minister Morarji

Desai. The two convicts, Kuljit Singh, alias Ranga, and Jasbir Singh, alias Billa, were caught soon after their dastardly crime and were hanged to death in Tihar in 1982.

After them, the executions of Kartar Singh and Ujagar Singh, the convicts in India's purported contract killing — the sensational Vidya Jain murder of 1973 (1983), Kashmiri militant Maqbool Bhat (1984), Indira Gandhi's assassin Satwant Singh and conspirator Kehar Singh (1989), and finally 2001 Parliament attack case conspirator Afzal Guru (2013) have been the eight people who have undergone capital punishment in Tihar's gallows court.

FAMILY SPEAKS

The seven-year wait will finally come to an end. This will also restore the faith of women in law...The battle for justice was not hers alone but of the entire country

NIRBHAYA'S MOTHER

Though late, the family has got justice...Though the court took almost seven years to complete the entire process, no one can say that he was denied a chance to be heard...It is a big relief for the family

NIRBHAYA'S GRANDFATHER

Jallad from Meerut to hang convicts with Buxar ropes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The four convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape case will be executed in Jail No 3, a senior Tihar Jail official said on Tuesday, hours after a Delhi court issued death warrants against them and declared that they will be hanged at 7 am on January 22.

According to the official, ropes which will be used for hanging them will be brought from Bihar's Buxar Jail. He said the prison authorities are waiting to receive the court

order. Three of the convicts are lodged in Jail No 2, while one is in Jail No 4, the official said. Sources said the jail authorities will approach the Uttar Pradesh prison authority asking for a hangman from Meerut to carry out the executions.

The four convicts — Mukesh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31) — will be kept in isolated cells and will not be allowed to interact with other prisoners.

Their family members, however, can visit them any time, the official said.

GANGRAPE TO GALLOWS

Dec 16, 2012: Paramedical student gangraped and brutally assaulted by six men in a bus and thrown out of the vehicle along with her male friend. The victims admitted to Safdarjung Hospital

Dec 17: Widespread protests erupt. Police identify the accused — bus driver Ram Singh, his brother Mukesh, Vinay Sharma and Pawan Gupta

Dec 18: Ram Singh and three others arrested

Dec 21: Delinquent juvenile held

Dec 21-22: Sixth accused Akshay Thakur arrested in Bihar

Dec 26: Victim flown to Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital by the Government

Dec 29: Victim succumbs

Jan 3, 2013: Chargesheet against five adults accused of murder, gangrape, kidnapping, unnatural offences and dacoity

Jan 28: Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) says minority of juvenile rapist-murderer is proved against the minor

Mar 11: Ram Singh commits suicide in Tihar Jail

Jul 11: JJB holds minor guilty of taking part in the gangrape

Aug 31: JJB convicts the minor for gangrape and murder and awards three-year term at probation home

Sep 10: Court convicts Mukesh, Vinay, Akshay, Pawan

Sep 13: Court awards death penalty to all 4 convicts

Mar 13, 2014: HC upholds death penalty to all 4 convicts

May 5, 2017: SC upholds death penalty

₹2.6 crore assets of head master traced

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday carried out simultaneous raids on the office chamber and houses of the Nabarangpur-based Baragoan Upper Primary School Head master Ranjeet Kumar Panigrahi on the charge of

Heavy transactions detected in IAS officer's accounts

₹70 lakh in three banks between 2012 and 2019

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police which are carrying out further investigations in the graft case of former Horticulture Director Vijay Kumar Upadhyaya, an IAS officer, have detected heavy cash transactions during scrutiny of his bank accounts in private and public sector banks, an official release said on Tuesday.

During the period from 2012 to 2019, cash deposits of around Rs 70 lakh in three banks have been traced. The cash deposits have been made both in counter and through cash accepting machines. There

has been a trend of multiple cash deposits in split up amounts on a single day and on successive days.

Out of total cash deposits of Rs.70 lakh, cash deposits of around Rs 22 lakhs relate to Upadhyaya's tenure as Horticulture Director. Money transactions in a number of linked accounts have been found which are being verified.



Some suspicious accounts have also been found through which illegal gratification is suspected to have been routed.

Requisitions have been placed to all banks to unearth accounts and credit card transactions of Upadhyaya.

BHARAT BANDH TODAY

Min's two-sided claims on BJD support creates flutter

Schools, colleges to be closed; buses, autos to remain off roads

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even though the Bharat Bandh called by 10 Central trade unions is set to affect normal life in the State on Wednesday, Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain's two-sided statement on his party BJD's support to the shutdown created flutters on Tuesday.

Responding to a query of reporters, Swain had first said, "Unemployment and economic slowdown have increased. People are suffering. Instead of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas', 'Sabka Vinas' is taking place. We are extending our support to the farmers and labourers who have given the bandh call."

However a few minutes later, he took a U-turn and said, "My statement in the media a little while ago comes from the fact that I am the Working President of Hind Mazdoor Sabha and taking up the plight of the labourers and working class is my moral duty. But this has in no way bearing to the BJD's decision to either support or oppose tomorrow's strike."

He said he respects what-

ever decision his party supreme CM Naveen Patnaik has taken/will take.

The Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association has decided to suspend bus services till 6 pm on Wednesday. Similarly, auto-rickshaws would stay off the roads. As the protesters are expected to stage Rail Roko, train services are also likely to be disrupted.

Banking services at all public sector banks are likely to be affected.

Besides, shops and other commercial establishments, schools, colleges and other educational institutions would remain closed. The Utkal University postponed all examinations scheduled for Wednesday. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has also decided to postpone its NEET 2020 examination scheduled on Wednesday.

DCP Anup Sahoo assured that the Commissionerate Police would make effort to leave NHs blockade-free and ensure that train services are not affected as well. Total 15 platoons of police personnel would be deployed at important places, including the Secretariat.

Notably, Central trade unions, including AIUTUC, CITU, AITUC and Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), have called the bandh to protest against the Central Government's 'anti-labour' policies, slowdown in country's economy and skyrocketing of prices of essential commodities. They also demand scrapping of proposed labour reforms, a provision of minimum wage of Rs 21,000 per month and revocations of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR).

Emergency services like ambulance and medicine shops, examinees and milk vans would be exempted from the bandh's purview.

Iran Gen's burial procession proves last journey for 56

AP ■ TEHRAN

A stampede broke out on Tuesday at a funeral for a top Iranian general killed in a US airstrike, and at least 56 people were killed and more than 200 were injured as thousands thronged the procession, two Iranian news agencies reported.

The stampede took place in Kerman, the hometown of Revolutionary Guard Major General Qassem Soleimani, as the procession began, said the semi-official Fars and ISNA news agencies, citing Pirhossein Koulivand, head of Iran's emergency medical services.

There was no information as to what had set off the stampede. Online videos showed people lying apparently lifeless, their faces covered by clothing.

Nationwide bandh by trade unions today, Centre warns action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Public sector banks, transport, Government offices in Opposition-ruled States and other services across the country are likely to be hit as several mainstream trade unions have called a nationwide strike on Wednesday, The Government has warned of stern action against strikers.

Ten Central trade unions — INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC,

SEWA, AICCTU, LPE, UTUC — along with various independent federations, associations and Left-wing Government employees' unions had adopted a declaration in September last to go on a nationwide strike on January 8, 2020 against "anti-people" policies of the Government.

Sangh Parivar-supported BMS is not participating in the strike led by Left and Congress supported-trade unions.

CAPSULE



GDP TO GROW AT 5% IN 2019-20: GOVT DATA

New Delhi: The Indian economy is estimated to grow at 5 per cent in 2019-20 as against 6.8 per cent in the previous fiscal, according to Government data.

PM, TRUMP DISCUSS WAYS TO BOOST INDIA-US TIES

Washington/New Delhi: President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have discussed ways to further strengthen the US-India strategic partnership and reviewed "regional security matters", the White House has said. The telephonic conversation between Trump and Modi came against the backdrop of escalating tensions in the Gulf region after the US killed top Iranian commander General Qasem Soleimani.

P5



Inauguration of

ADANI-KISS

Residential Tribal School
Bankisole, Baripada, Mayurbhanj

by

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha

Distinguished Guests

Shri Gautam S. Adani
Chairman, Adani Group

Dr. Priti G. Adani
Chairperson, Adani Foundation

Shri Karan Gautam Adani
CEO, Adani Ports & SEZ Limited and Director, Adani Airport Holdings Limited

Shri Sudam Marndi
Hon'ble Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management
Govt. of Odisha

Shri Bishweswar Tudu
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (L.S.), Mayurbhanj


Shri Prakash Soren
Hon'ble MLA, Baripada

Shri Girish Chandra Murmu
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
Jammu & Kashmir

Shri Achyuta Samanta
Founder, KIIT & KISS

Date: 8th January 2020; Time: 11.00 a.m.

Watch live on Kalinga TV



State begins NPR update process

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has begun a process to update the National Population Register (NPR) with the launch of a pilot survey. A door-to-door survey would be conducted soon as part of the process, an official here said.

“As per instructions of the Registrar General of India, the NPR exercise has been initiated. A pilot survey has been carried out in parts of the State while a door-to-door survey and house-listing will be conducted in mid-April,” he further informed.

Amid fears that the exercise could be a precursor to National Register of Citizens (NRC) implementation, the Union Cabinet had last month given its go-ahead for Census 2021 and NPR updating while making it clear that the apprehensions were unfounded.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, however, insisted that it was the “first

step” towards NRC implementation.

Explaining the format, the Odisha official said the number of fields on the registration form has been increased and several questions rephrased. Unlike 2010, when the NPR was last updated, every applicant this time would have to furnish Aadhaar number, mobile number, voter ID and driving licence.

“In 2010, people were asked by NPR enumerators to provide names of father, mother and spouse, while also stating if they were alive. This time, people will have to provide date, place of birth of parents, mother tongue and other relevant details if born outside country,” he said.

Reiterating that the NPR and the NRC are not connected, BJP State vice-president Samir Mohanty on Tuesday said it is necessary to update the population register for proper distribution of welfare scheme benefits.

Cuttack-bound bus overturns; Seven hurt



PNS ■ JAJPUR

Seven persons were injured when a bus by which they were travelling overturned near Bandhadiha under the Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district on Tuesday.

The bus was carrying around 25 passengers from Golakunda in Jajpur district to

Cuttack. The helper of the bus, who was driving the vehicle, lost control over the wheels, following which it turned turtle.

Locals rescued the injured passengers, who were later taken to the Dharmasala Community Health Centre by a 108-ambulance for treatment.

‘Exclude Keuta, Kaibarta from SC list’

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Asprusya Dalita Sanrakshyana Surakshya Samiti, Odisha organised its annual function at Buddha Vihar here on Monday. Bandhu Sethi presided over the programme.

Former Minister Bhajaman Behera, Er Alekh Chandra Mallick and Samiti general secretary Pravakar Mallick attended, among others.

Various resolutions to place demands before the State Government were passed on the occasion. The demands include exclusion of sub-castes titled Keuta, Kaibarta, Dhibara, Radhi, Niari, Niaree, Ghani, Tiari, Girigira, Girigiria and Jinjira from the SC category and inclusion of Mehentar, Kalandi Baishnab, Bauri Baishnab and Pana Baishnab in the category. They too demanded inclusion of sub-

castes like Deva, Saara and Saura in the ST category.

The Samiti also demanded that investigations into all incidents of atrocities against Dalit minor girls and women expedited and culprits punished at the earliest.

Other demands include construction of an Ambedkar Bhawan in city, free education to SC and ST students and reservations for promotion in regular posts and appointment in contractual posts and provision of homestead land for houses for the landless.

Stating that 70 lakh ST and SC people are being deprived of Government facilities due inclusion of aforementioned sub-casters in the two categories, Mallick said they would be forced to take to the streets and gherrao the Assembly and Naveen Niwas if the demands are not met soon.

Ayushman Bharat: State wants 2 changes

Still awaits Centre's nod
Unnecessary controversy, says Dharmendra

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government is still awaiting the Union Government's response to its conditions for implementation of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme.

According to Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das, the State Government has sought two changes in the provisions of the Ayushman Bharat scheme before implementing it.

Das said the State Government has proposed the Centre not to make Aadhaar card mandatory for the patients to undergo treatment at Government hospitals. However, the Aadhaar card can be made mandatory for private hospitals, he said.

He pointed out that the State has already implemented its own Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) much before the Centre launched its health-care scheme. Under the BSKY, there is no provision of mandatory Aadhaar card for getting treatment.

Secondly, Das said the Centre has decided to cover 62 lakh beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat for treatment at private hospitals, but the State Government has asked to raise it to 70 lakh.

The State Government has already appraised the Centre of its two conditions in a letter in September and then in December last year and is still waiting for its reply.

On the other hand, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has reportedly said, “There is no point in making unnecessary controversy over Ayushman Bharat. The State Government should implement it for the betterment of the needy people of Odisha.”

No liquor, paan, gutkha at Lingaraj temple

Ban effective from Jan 15

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

No one would be allowed to consume alcohol and chew paan and gutkha in the premises of the Lingaraj Temple here from January 15. The temple administration has decided to impose a fine of Rs 100 on a person who violates the ban.

The move is aimed to ensure cleanliness within the periphery of the temple.

Last month, the State Government had announced a special package for the Lingaraj Temple saying that a 66-acre Ekamra Kshetra Yojana has

been launched as part of the beautification of the temple.

Nine projects would be undertaken as part of the pack-

premises, e-auto programme and establishment of a heritage interpretation centre would be carried out.



age. Works on renovation of historic water tanks, modern parking, a Lingaraj Heritage Project, development of Kedar Gouri and Muketswara temple

For the past few days, the district administration has been carrying out an eviction drive around the temple as part of the project.

In Koraput

Missing RWSS JE's body found in forest

Was stressed as salary not paid: Family

PNS ■ KORAPUT

The body of Borigumma Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Junior Engineer Venkateswar Rao, who had gone missing on Monday, was recovered from the Haradaguda forest in Koraput district on Tuesday.

The body was recovered from the forest in the presence of the SDPO.

Notably, Rao had gone to Haradaguda village with an SDO, a Junior Engineer and

two contractors for site selection for digging up of a tube well. But he went missing later and efforts to contact him on his mobile phone proved futile.

After failing to find him till late night, Rao's family member lodged a missing complaint with the B Singhpur police. Rao's wife met Borigumma SDPO in the evening and urged him to expedite the search operation.

“My husband was under mental stress as his salary for the month of December was not released,” said Rao's wife in her statement.

While questions are being raised on how the JE went missing in broad daylight, police have launched a probe into the matter.

Water storage, sanitation restored at Daruthenga

PwC, Gram Sabha work together

PNS ■ BHUBANESHWAR

The PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India Foundation, in association with the Gram Vikas, on Tuesday handed over water storage systems and refurbished sanitation facilities to about 300 families of Daruthenga gram panchayat on the city outskirts, which was severely impacted by Cyclone Fani.

These facilities were reconstructed by community members themselves under the guidance of the Gram Vikas and were inaugurated by MLA Suresh Routray in the presence of PwC chairman Shyamal Mukherjee. The project is part of the PwC Foundation's efforts to provide support to disad-

vantaged communities in times of natural disasters.

Apart from providing safe drinking water, masonry training camps were also organised to help participants, 60 per cent of whom were women, find sustainable livelihood opportunities. Speaking to the families, Mukherjee said, “As part of our corporate responsibility initiatives, our aim is to identify the communities that are most in need. As part of the project, we will provide safe drinking water and help create secure sustainable livelihoods for the people of three villages.”

So far, PwC has reached out to 13 regions in the sub-continent, he said.

Gram Vias ED Liby Johnson said, “Our aim was to



reach out to the rural communities in the periphery of Bhubaneswar city affected by the Cyclone Fani but neglected. The PwC Foundation enabled us to rebuild the best possible infrastructure and rehabilitate communities, schools and Anganwadis.”

Rape accused escapes from Ganjam jail

Prisons DIG conducts probe

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A rape accused escaped from the Chhatrapur Sub-Jail in Ganjam district late on Monday night. The matter came to light after the accused failed to show up for regular activities in the jail on Tuesday morning.

The under-trial prisoner was identified as Kabiraj Behera of Sunathar village under the Purusottampur police station.

Behera had been arrested

on December 7 in a rape case and lodged in the prison since then. But he managed to scale the boundary wall of the jail and fled.

Police have initiated efforts to trace and nab Behera. Investigation is underway to ascertain the circumstances under which he managed to escape from the jail.

Later, getting information a team led by Brahmapur Range Prisons DIG Raghunath Majhi and Brahmapur Senior Jail Superintendent went to the Chhatrapur Sub-Jail and conducted an investigation. They also scrutinised the CCTV footages and held discussions with the sub-jail Superintendent regarding the incident.

‘Stop sale of liquor, non-veg food at Puri Grand Rd’

LoP writes to CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Pradipta Kumar Naik on Tuesday wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urging him to ban sale of non-vegetarian foods and liquor in hotels on both sides of the Badadanda (Grand Road) from the Shree Jagannath Temple to the Mausimaa Mandir in Puri at the earliest.

In the letter, Naik thanked the Chief Minister for undertaking the construction and beautification works in the 75-metre area around the Shreemandir. “The area has been developed and well maintained which is attracting a large number of pilgrims,” wrote Naik.

However, he expressed unhappiness saying many hotels on both the sides of the Grand Road are selling non-vegetarian items and some of them selling liquor too. “There is a great discontentment among the devotees coming to Puri for darshan of Lord Jagannath,” he mentioned.

9,267 more winter birds throng B'kanika

31 MORE SPECIES SIGHTED

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

More birds have come this time to Bhitarkanika National Park than last year. Besides, more types of bird species too have been sighted.

According to DFO, Rajnagar Mangroves (Forest) and Wildlife Division Bikash Ranjan Dash, as many as 105 types of bird species with a population of 1,18,326 thronged to Bhitarkanika in the ongoing winter season as per the report of mid winter waterfall bird status survey -2020, carried out in five forest and wildlife ranges under Bhitarkanika National Park on January 6 under the guidance of BNHS-based ornithologist Dr



S Balchandran. This year 31 types of more bird species and 9,267 more winter feathered guests were spotted by the enu-

merators. As many as 16 enumerator teams were engaged in the mid-winter waterfall migratory bird status survey this

year, stated the DFO. During last year survey, an estimated 1,09,059 migratory birds of 74 types were sighted.

Spiritza Fest concludes in Keonjhar

Various cultural troupes perform

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

The Spiritza Fest 2020 was held on January 4 and 5 at Kali Padia where several cultural troupes performed folk dances, Odishi, Sambalpuri, drama and dance.

Registrar, National School of Drama, New Delhi, Pradeep Mohanty and local MLA Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the festival as guests.

Students trained by dance Guru Aryan and Odishi dancer Prashanti performed Sambalpuri, Odishi and modern dance on the first day. A

short play titled Rani's Birthday with social message was staged by children under the direction of Bachuram Lama. Bollywood actress Lipika Pradhan, fashion designer model Sanlisa Patel, Supei Murmu, Program Executive AIR, Nalini Kanta Sahoo, District Culture Officer, Sapan Mishra, MD, Pascimanchal TV, Rotarian Debabrata Swain graced the function as guests and praised the effort of Spiritza Academy in promoting art and culture in Keonjhar district.

The festival sponsored and supported by Ministry of Culture, New Delhi and other



business organizations at the local level was held for the 5th year to showcase the amateur talents. The winners in different cultural competitions orga-

nized earlier among school and college students were awarded with prizes and trophies in a function on the valedictory day.

NKS convenor urged to end agitation

Govt requested to resolve farmer issues

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While the fast-unto-death of Navnirman Krushak Sangathan (NKS) national convenor Akshay Kumar against slashing of assistance under the KALIA scheme entering its 13th day on Tuesday, some

noted persons urged him to withdraw the agitation.

Dr Bhagaban Prakash, Prof Radha Mohan, Jagadananda and Rabi Das also urged Kumar and his supporters to keep agitation on in some other Ahimsa (nonviolent) way.

At the same time, they also urged the Government to take early steps to resolve various problems being faced by farmers and fulfil their demands as well.

Challenger Trophy at Pallahara



PNS ■ PALLAHARA

The Challenger Trophy Inter-State Cricket Tournament 2020 was inaugurated here on Sunday. First match was played between Bhadrak and Pallahara after inauguration by journalist

Bishnu Prasad Behera.

The final match would be played on January 11. Among others, Duryodhan Garnayak, Santosh Kumar Pani, international football player Netrananda Mahakul, scribe Bhisma Garnayak and lawyer Bishnu Prasad Dash were present.

Centre to fund bypass road to link Gopalpur

State to provide land

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of traffic remaining jammed most of the time on the road connecting the Gopalpur Port in Ganjam district, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has agreed to provide funds for construction of an alternative road (bypass) to ease the congestion.

With the Gopalpur Port becoming functional and vehicles moving in a big number, people are facing tough time on the National Highway-516 connecting the National Highway-16.

At a meeting held here recently, it was decided that the State Government would provide land for the alternative road and the Ministry funds. The decision has come as a

great relief for the people who commute on the 5.35-km stretch of the NH-516 connecting NH-16 at Gopalpur.

The stretch also crosses railway line to the Indian Rare Earth at two different places.

While the MoRTH has sanctioned Rs 163.65 crore for construction of two road overbridges (ROBs), work has not yet started. However, surveys said that the ROBs will not serve the purpose of easing congestion on the road and suggested for an alternative road of 4.5 km constructed from NH-16 at DRDA Office at Chhatrapur to Gopalpur Port.

The new alternate road would by-pass all the affected villages, and construction of ROBs would not be required, opined engineers.

Of 65 acres of land required, 42 acres belonged to State Government, said sources.

Dhanu Yatra

Tradition-bound B'garh residents wow Kansa's laugh

Mythological stories enacted on world's biggest open theatre

RAKESH JOSHI ■ BARGARH

The 71st edition of the world famous Dhanu Yatra of Bargarh has started on December 31. The festival enacting a story of the killing of demon king Kansa will end on January 10.

As the story gets enacted in open-air theatre, the Bargarh town has virtually transformed into Mathuranagar, the capital of King Kansa while the nearby Ambapali village across the Jeera river has become Gopapura, the abode of Lord Krishna. Needless to say, now river Jeera is taken for granted as the Yamuna. Jeera flows between the Bargarh headquarters town and Ambapali.

During the festival, Maharaja Kansa rules the roost in the length and breadth of the town. He also issues orders at his camp courts and everybody bows to him and follows his orders without fail. There is no



excuse for offence in Kansa Maharaja's kingdom. Be it the district Collector or the SP or a layman, everyone has to obey Kansa even as the man who dons the attire of Kansa and utters words in a royal style like the mythical king is just an ordinary person.

The fun and frolic goes on in the biggest open air theater of the world nonstop for the whole length of the yatra speaking volumes as to how much tradition bound the denizens here are. Where the Kansa Maharaja moves on the

elephants back, it turns into a pandal. It could be an open market, a jail or the national highway. The Maharaja takes stock of the situation of his Kingdom by moving from place to place.

From a resplendent pandal in the evening, the Maharaja asks the district officials to ensure smooth functioning of his kingdom and directs them to solve the problems of the residents.

The unique festival of Dhanu Yatra is celebrated after the harvesting season. The

tired farmers get a lot of pleasure during the event. It is a rich and vibrant source of entertainment for the people of the locality and all others who visit the town.

The play enacted during the festival comprises three mythological episodes Krishna Leela, Mathura Bijaya and Kansa Baddha.

King Kansa, the maternal uncle of lord Krishna, invites Krishna and Balaram to witness and participate in the festivity which is held in his capital Mathura. Lord Krishna kills his tyrant uncle Kansa and liberates his subjects from his oppressive rule. The play ends with the death of Kansa. It is believed that the Dhanu Yatra in its present form started in 1948.

During the post-Independence period, the performance was charged with a nationalistic fervor. Kansa symbolized the imperialist British Government of its way out and Lord Krishna stood for the nationalistic aspiration of the people.

13 Ganjam residential school girls flee

Traced in BBSR; admn begins effort for rescue

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

As many as 13 girl inmates of the Utkal Balashram under the Gosaninuagaon police station in Ganjam district fled from the school hostel late on Monday night alleging irregularities in the institution.

Later, location of the girls was traced in Bhubaneswar and one of the 13 girls was rescued. The Commissionerate police launched a search operation to locate the 12 others.

Besides, a team from the Gosaninuagaon police station



and Childline officials have also left for Bhubaneswar to assist in the rescue operation, said an official of the Gosaninuagaon PS.

Later, the Brahamapur Sub-Collector said the first priority is to rescue and bring back the students. A detailed inquiry would be conducted when the girls return to the hostel and action would be taken against those who are found guilty.

"Some of the students have been traced and efforts are on to find out other students," he added.

Mo Sarkar initiative

Surprise visit made at Nayagarh DHH

FACILITIES, SERVICES TAKEN STOCK OF

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The officials under the Mo Sarkar initiative made a surprise visit to the Nayagarh District Headquarters Hospital and took stock of the situation on Monday.

They interacted with the patients and attendants pertaining to the facilities available in the hospital and got feedback from them.

The team members observed that there was increased level of satisfaction among the people and their

confidence had increased after the launch of the Mo Sarkar by the State Government.

They observed the infrastructural facilities, improved and free diagnostic services and availability of medicines under Niramaya.

To observe the efficacy of Niramaya medicine services, two of the team members pretended as patients and stood in queue at OPD and Niramaya counter and observed the doctor-patient interaction and medicine availability.

It was found that specialised services like dialysis, intensive childcare services and nutritional care had improved to the satisfaction of the patients.

MKCG clerk held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Vigilance sleuths on Monday arrested Srikant Kumar Dash, Junior Clerk, Surgery Department, MKCG Medical College, Brahmapur, on the charge of taking bribe of Rs 5,000 from Satyanarayan Sadangi of Ganjam district's Suragigada village for issuance of certificates regarding death of his wife required for insurance (LIC) claim.

The Vigilance officers laid a trap and nabbed Dash red-handed while taking the bribe amount from the complainant inside his office room. His office room and residential Government quarter were being searched, informed an official release.

‘Organic farming can help preserve climate-resilient seeds’

Workshop held in Baleswar's Nilagiri

UBACHAK MOHANTGY ■ BALESWAR

A workshop on crop diversity and organic farming was held in Chandipur near Mitrapur under Nilagiri block on Sunday.

Internationally acclaimed environmentalist, promoter of organic farming and conservation of seed diversity Dr Vandana Shiva attending the event stressed on crop diversity, organic farming and conservation of indigenous seeds.

She lamented that in the greed for more production, farmers are destroying the indigenous seeds by using chemicals.

Organic farming should be system based rather than

individual component based. It should have integrated land management system (forests, range lands, waste lands, rain-fed and irrigated lands), livestock and households. Thus, the organic farming would be pivotal in enhancing ecological integrity, a state which will lead to sustainability, Dr Shiva told.

Dr Shiva, who is founder of the Navdanya Trust, said Odisha had been a birth place of indica varieties of paddy seeds and lamented that most of them perished due to want of conservation and organic farming.

Prof Dr AK Panigrahi, an expert in organic agriculture, who is also associated with Navdanya Foundation, attended the workshop. He claimed once upon a time Odisha had about 25,000 varieties of paddy seeds but now hardly a few are



available due to no conservations.

"In western Odisha one Kamala Pujari has about 200 varieties of paddy seeds and in Niali, one Natabar Sarangi has about 400 varieties of seeds," Dr Panigrahi said, claiming that his seeds bank in Baleswar had 1,017 varieties of paddy seeds which were climate

resilient.

FM University VC Prof Madhumita Das, Prof Bishnu Prasad Dash, Dr Rajashree Dutta and Kusum Panigrahi among others spoke.

Support system for organic farming should be promoted in place of subsidy. This support system should do the work of facilitating, dissemi-

nating and promoting organic agriculture systems in generic sense, the speakers advocated.

They further said that diverse use of seeds not only be adopted for paddy; also for vegetables and other indigenous creatures.

On the occasion, some local farmers were felicitated.

922 selected in B'swar job fair

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A district-level job fair was organised at the Nocchi Business Park here on Tuesday. DRDA PD Ramchandra Jena inaugurated the fair coordinated by District Employment Officer Nimai Charan Mohanty. As many as 1,127 job aspirants including women from across 12 blocks participated in which a total of 922 including 485 direct, of them selected after scrutiny. The rest 437 of the selected would be absorbed after training.

In the fair, besides 19 direct employing companies and 21 training partners participated.

Jena said that under the current changing circumstances the aspirants should acquire employable skills to fit in into the time needed demand.

Climate change issues discussed at Khariar

PNS ■ NUAPADA

A seminar on water and climate change was held by the Chemistry Department of Khariar Autonomous College at Khariar on Monday with Jyotiraj Patra, Project Manager of OXFAM, South Asian Region, and a former student of Khariar College, as chief speaker.

The seminar was also addressed by college Principal Dr Harendra Panda, Dr Tarun Pradhan and Rajlaxmi Rath of Chemistry Department and other professors including Dr PL Barma, C Chandrakar and Pramod Sahu. District Press Club president Ajit Panda was also a speaker.

The seminar dealt in details on various aspects of climate change and its impact on the Earth and human society. The chief speaker spoke about climate problems all over the world and initiatives like

UNFCC, COP 25, etc., taken by the UN and its member-countries to address the problem.

"Climate change is not only an environmental issue; it is more a political and economic issue. It is time to act now with grassroots innovation and action to better use and manage our precious water resources, protect water sources and restore the ecosystems around it. Youths can lead through various initiatives like the Water Youth Action Forum (WYAF) etc." Jyotiraj Patra said.

"The Chemistry Department of Khariar College



has been taking various initiatives on this front. Students are motivated to be engaged on the water and climate change issues in the locality to generate

awareness within the communities to act. We are also collaborating with various district and State-level institutions," said the Principal.

2 die in sponge iron plant gas leak

ROURKELA: Two labourers died following gas leak in a sponge iron factory in the IDC area under the Brahmani Tarang police station in the city on Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Ajay Samad and Francis Kerketa. According to reports, the duo fell unconscious due to leakage of gas while cleaning the furnace. They were rushed to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH), where doctor declared them dead.

Tension gripped the factory premises as workers and locals gathered in front of the factory on Tuesday morning. Policemen have been deployed at the spot to avoid any untoward incident. A case has been registered in connection with the deaths and further investigation is underway.

Man hacks wife to death in Dhenkanal

Accused on the run after incident

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

A man allegedly hacked his wife to death after an altercation between the two at Pangatira village under the Parjang police station in the district on Monday night.

According to reports, Lalit Sahu had married Mita Sahu two years ago after having a

love affair with the woman. But a dispute was prevailing between the two over a particular issue.

Mita's father had filed a police complaint against Lalit, for which the latter became furious. A heated altercation took between the two over the matter, which took a violent turn as Lalit lost his cool and hacked his wife to death with an axe.

Police have sent the body for postmortem and started investigation. Efforts were on to trace the accused, who is absconding after the incident.

All pleadings failed Puri Mangu Mutt survival

500 yrs of history wiped out

JAGPREET LUTHRA

The climbing atop of five Nihang Sikhs on the demolished Mangu Mutt structure at Puri recently caused ripples in the administration. The January 2 is the birth anniversary of the tenth Sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji, which is celebrated with fervour by the Sikhs.

The Nihangs climbed atop the demolished rooms of the mutt and retrieved the emblem of Sikhism, the Khanda, from the debris. The Khanda, a double edged sword, is the military emblem of the Sikhs. It is also part of the design of the Nishan Sahib, and is installed on the top as an ornament or finial. The finding of the Khanda in the ruins was proof enough

that the Mangu mutt was once a Sikh Gurudwara.

After much cajoling and coaxing, the Nihangs were made to come down and were packed off to Bhubaneswar.

The mutt, an abiding symbol of the connection between Sikhism and the 12th century Jagannath Temple, is built on the spot where Guru Nanak, during a visit in 1506, had composed the Sikh Aarti. The Aarti is essentially Guru Nanak's tribute to the grandeur of the Creator, whose glory, he said in the spontaneous composition, could not be expressed through any human offerings or oblations. The mutt was located in front of the Singha Dwar, the main entrance and was within the 75-meter perimeter of the temple's boundary wall which was slated for clearance.

It was a sad day in the lives of conservationist-historian Anil Dhir and lawyer-activist

Sukhvinder Kaur of the High Court of Orissa as they watched the demolition of the Mangu mutt. The five-month-long determined battle for the preservation of the mutt by Dhir and Kaur literally came to a grinding halt in the second week of December as the Government's demolition machinery swung into action. On their part, the duo left no stone unturned in averting the disaster. They knocked on every door possible; they appealed to the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of Odisha, the State Governor, the Collector of Puri, the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Odisha Sikh leadership. In September, after the intervention of the Punjab Chief Minister, the demolition order was temporarily withdrawn.



Ignoring the unbroken campaign for its conservation, in one heartless order, the Odisha Government destroyed 12,000 sq ft of the mutt; now, only a 10x9 sq ft area of the original place remains, besides two half broken rooms.

Ironically, the mutt was demolished at a time when the

Odisha Government was proposing to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Puri. The celebrations were cancelled, and a small seminar was instead held at the Odisha State Archives in Bhubaneswar. Appeals against the demolition were also made in the social

media, and Sikh activists had come all the way from Canada to appeal to the authorities to stop the demolition. In September this year, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh wrote to his Odisha counterpart against demolishing the shrine, but all of it fell on deaf ears. The contradicto-

ry statements made by the spokespersons of the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee and the Sikh Pratidinhi Board of Odisha did not help matters.

While the entire Sikh leadership of Punjab, cutting across party lines, opposed the demolition, the Odisha Sikh leaders toed the Government's line. They, like the State Government, maintain that only the unauthorised structures around the mutt have been erased. However, Dhir says, the shifting of the religious relics from the demolished parts proves that the original structure had been demolished, not just the commercial encroachments.

Post-demolition, a delegation of Sikh MLAs from Punjab met the Odisha CM and demanded that at least the demolished area be handed back to the community. They

also held a protest march in Bhubaneswar in December end. However, no written assurance has been given about the transfer of land to the Sikhs and, according to Dhir, it may be a case of too little, too late.

The activists are now pinning their hopes on an intervention petition in the Supreme Court where a case against the demolition of two other mutts associated with Nanak's Puri visit, Punjabi Mutt and Bauli Sahib is due for hearing on January 8. Dhir, however, is of the view that unless the Sikh political and religious leadership comes forward forcefully, the other two shrines could also face the Odisha Government's axe, and that conservationists may be fighting a losing battle even in court.

(The author is a senior journalist based in Delhi)

Will work for tribal upliftment: OAS topper Panda

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

Debasis Panda of Bonei of Sundargarh district has brought laurels for the locality after becoming topper in the Odisha Civil Services Examinations 2018, the results of which were declared on Monday.

Debasis is the son of Prasanna Kumar Panda and Pramila Dwibedy, who are retired teachers. Debasis was always very good at his studies since his schooling days.

He had passed matric exam from Raja Dharanidhar High School, Bonei by securing 94 per cent marks and had secured 13th rank in Odisha at that time. He had passed +2 science from Kalinga Bharati Residential College, Cuttack by securing 81 percent marks. Debasis thereafter had studied BSC (Agriculture) in OUAT and was a gold medalist. Later, he did post graduate in crop science in Indira Gandhi

Agriculture University at Raipur.

During the preparation of post graduation, Debasis was preparing for Odisha Civil Service examinations. He appeared for first time during the year 2017. This was his second attempt.

"The credit for my success goes to almighty, my parents and my teachers. Youtube helped me a lot during my preparation for the exam. Though I could not crack the OCS exam first time during 2017, I never gave up and worked hard for 2018

OCS exam and succeeded in securing 1st rank in Odisha," said an elated Debasis.

"I will work for tribal people of my district and farming community of Odisha," Debasis said. Significantly, total eight persons including three girls of Rajgangpur of Sundargarh district have cracked the examinations.

NTPC distributes relief materials to 800 PwDs



PNS ■ TALCHER

The NTPC Tacher Kaniha in association with the Utkalmani Gobabandhu Blind Relief Trust, Kaniha distributed shawls, dhotis, sarees and towels among 800 persons with disabilities (PwDs) at Prajamaandal Bhawan, Kaniha on Sunday under its CSR initiative.

Every year PwDs from all over the Odisha gather for the programme which is organised on every first Sunday of the New Year to start its CSR activities.

Talcher Sub-Collector Paresh Chandra Nayak and NTPC Kaniha CGM Sudip Nag distributes the clothes. On the occasion, Nag conveyed New Year greetings and emphasised that the NTPC would extend its support for the welfare of the PwDs in the future also.

Among others, Kaniha BDO Ramesh Chandra Jena, NTPC AGM (HR) KS Sarma, Senior Manager (HR) AK Das and Officer (HR) VA Rao and trust president Sudhakar Pradhan were present.

RBI staff to join Bharat Bandh today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association (AIRBEA) and the All India Reserve Bank Workers' Federation (AIRBWF) would join the all-India strike on Wednesday in solidarity with the country's working class.

The AIRBEA and the AIRBWF strongly hold that the steep fall of national economy, the unprecedented unemployment situation which shows that nearly 40% of the graduates and post-graduates are jobless, sale of profit-making public sectors to private corporates, elimination of huge workforce through closure, early retirement, contractualisation of work, escalating agrarian crisis leading to farmers' suicides, severe plight of unorganised workers, warrant mas-



sive protest and intervention by the toiling people of the country. Hence the strike is fully justified. The two bodies strongly denounce the systematic outsourcing of RBI jobs, rapid shrinkage of the bank, reducing its total staff strength from earlier 42,000 to less than 14,000.

Responding to the call of the all India leadership of the AIRBEA and the AIRBWF, the Reserve Bank Employees' Association (RBEA) and the Reserve Bank Workers' Union (RBWU) Bhubaneswar have also decided to join the strike.

Supriyo to attend rally in B'pur on Jan 10

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would hold Janjagran campaign in Brahmapur on January 10 to clear misconceptions about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), said BJP Ganjam unit president Bibhuti Jena at a Press meet here on Monday.

He said the BJP would campaign in five areas in the State to make the people aware of the facts relating to the CAA and to clear misconceptions which have been created by the Congress and the Left parties.

Jena said Union Minister of



State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Babul Supriyo would take part in the awareness campaign, which would start from Komapalli Square and culminate near Ramlingam Tank here.

Among others, former BJP district president Kanhu Charan Pati, Dr Subash Chandra Dash, Sunil Sahu, N Rajendra Kumar, Sarat Sahu and Amulya Choudhury were present.

Eight detained for opposing rly line work

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Police detained eight tribals for opposing the construction of Sukinda-Anugul - Duburi railway line at villages Rangahudi, Bagharaisahi and Duburi under Kalinganagar police station in Jajpur district on Tuesday.

Around 200 tribals, including a good number of women, came to the construction site and tried to stop the works, but the police stopped them, said IIC Rajendra Patnaik.

The agitators alleged that the authorities have started construction of railway line on their land without their consent.

The detainees were identified as Kailash Mohant (63), Sarat Mohant (46) Raju Mohant (51), Gajendra Mohant (64) Amar Mohant (45), Dhaneswar Mohant(40), Gopal Mohant (60) and Dayanidhi Mohant(38)

Five platoons of police force have been deployed to check any untoward incident, informed the IIC.



When constructed, the 102-km Anugul-Sukinda railway line would connect coal fields in Talcher to Banspani-Sukinda line. Villagers of Duburi, Rangahudi and Bagharasahi have no right, title interest or possession over the land as the railway authorities are building railway line over the Government land, said district Collector Ranjan Kumar Das.

Intellectuals' meet held in Pallahara



PNS ■ PALLAHARA

A block-level intellectuals' conference was organised here on Monday under the chairmanship of Pallahara MLA Mukesh Pal which society leaders, members of different organisation and senior citizen attended.

The suggestion for the development of Pallahara given by the intellectual would be

presented before the State Government, said Pal. The purpose of the conference was to get consent from the invited intellectuals for solution of the major problems of the block. Among others, scribe Rabi Narayan Pradhan, Pallahara Panchayat Samiti Chairman Naba Naik, Sobhangini Pradhan, Lili Pradhan and Nijgarh Sarpanch Nirupama Bose were present.

3 from Nayagarh qualify OAS exam

PNS ■ BHAPUR (NAYAGARH)

Three students of Nayagarh district, including one of Bhapur block, have qualified in the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Civil Services 2018 examination, whose results were declared on Monday.

Satyananda Sadangi of Barabati village in Salapada panchayat has got the 45th rank and Nibedita Nayak of Baliapada village in Badasahara panchayat has got the 124th rank. The other achiever is Ambit Mohanty of Fategarh village.

Issues of cold storages discussed at OCSA meet

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Cold Storage Association (OCSA) held its annual general meeting here on Saturday in which discussions were held on the issues of cold storages which majorly centered on the previous demands which the association had been putting before the Government.

The demands include increasing productivity of agricultural produce, providing subsidies for farmers for inputs and storage costs, waiver of electricity duty, charging electricity tariff at agricultural rates, revival package for cold storages, withdrawal of storage license for Mahua Flower, provisioning of hassle free working capital, linking cold storages to farmers and enhancing productivity of local produces.

The members appreciated the steps taken by the State Government and said that the Government seemed serious on the association's concerns and is working upon various



proposals to bring the industry back to normal. It was decided to appraise the Government for time bound resolutions for the revival.

Besides, the association's election was held wherein Janardhan Sahoo was elected as president, Ranjit Kumar Bala as vice-president, Suvendu Sahu as secretary, Saransh Pansari as joint secretary and Paresh Kumar Gayan as treasurer.

Sahoo said the State is blessed with huge opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors. But farmers and MSMEs should work together to bring a change and contribute towards a clean and healthy environment.

He also assured to boost the sector with combined efforts of all cold storages in the sector and create robust businesses in upcoming days.

Gorekhanath servitors hold agitation

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The Gorekhanath Temple servitors and priests have started an indefinite stir opposing temple management trust's illegal decision to lock the kitchen room from January 1.

The protestors claimed that before locking the kitchen, trust board did not consult with the working servitors.

Managing trustee Sub Collector Jagatsinghpur and Tehsildar Raghunathpur have not ordered closing of the kitchen

but a few officials from management office at temple premises have illegally shut the kitchen room. Reports said that following the servitors stir and closure of kitchen, many devotees expressed unhappiness being deprived of Prasad and Bhog. The servitor's body prepared a 10 -point charter of demands for the temple trust to fulfill or else the agitation would be intensified, said servitors leaders Ramesh Chandra Panda, Birakishor Dash and Rashmi Ranjan Panda.

Youth drowns in pond in Bhapur

BHAPUR (NAYAGARH): A youth drowned while taking bath in a pond in Bhapur block in Nayagarh district on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Bapi Behera (24) of Bhogda village in Dhanachangada panchayat in the district.

On being informed, the Bhapur Outpost police reached the spot and took him to the Bhapur Community Health Centre (CHC) where doctors declared him brought dead.

INBRIEF

ODIA DIPLOMAT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO DOMINICA

Bhubaneswar: Odisha-born diplomat Arun Kumar Sahu has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Commonwealth of Dominica, according to a release of the Ministry of External Affairs. Sahu, a 1996-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. His residence will be in Port of Spain.



JNU VIOLENCE: BPUT STUDENTS HOLD CANDLE MARCH

Bhubaneswar: The All Odisha BPUT Students' Association (AOBSO) organised a candle march here on Monday and criticised the violence at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi. The students, under the leadership of association founder and BYJD president Amaresh Patri, demanded arrest of the culprits and stringent actions against them. Among others, Tarini Prasad Nayak, Basudev Swain, Alok Kumar Behera, Pawan Swain, Ajay Kumar, Acharya Rocky Priyadarshan, Ananta Narayan Jena, Chinmay Das and Partha Sahu were present.



U SAMMILANI MANCHESWAR ELECTION ON JAN 12

Bhubaneswar: The Utkal Sammilani Mancheswar Branch's general body meeting and election would be held at the VSS Nagar Durga Puja Mandap here on January 12. Sammilani general secretary Dillip Dashsharma has requested all members to be present in the meeting and cast their votes.

UDYAM CHARITABLE TRUST HOLDS ANNUAL FUNCTION



Bhubaneswar: The Udyam Charitable Trust celebrated its second annual function at the KIIT campus here on Monday under chairmanship of its founder Dillip Swain. KIIT and KISS founder and MP Achyuta Samanta, trust advisor Santosh Kumar Mohanty and former Chief Secretary Bijay Kumar Patnaik attended as guests. On the occasion, four PwDs were given wheelchairs; four deserted women were given sewing machines, 22 visually-impaired were given white canes, Rs 27,000 to two patients and 17 blankets to destitute people. Among others, Ramesh Chandra Behera, Ajit Kumar Samantray, Sandeep Lenka and Bikram Mallick were present.

Research scholars decry JNU violence



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Research Scholars, Bhubaneswar held a rally here on Tuesday condemning the attack on Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students and faculties.

Atanu Maiti, a research scholar, criticised the violence

in the JNU and said research students and faculties are feeling unsafe in the university.

They demanded arrest of the culprits and stringent actions against them and maintain law and order in academic institutions. Among others, Ganesh Pal and Amarendra Nayak were present.

Himachal gets over ₹284 crore under NDRF

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday thanked the Union Government for approving Rs. 284.94 crore assistance under National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) for meeting out the losses occurred due to incessant rains and floods during last monsoon season in the State. The approval had been given by National Committee held under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah a day before. Thakur said that Central Government had provided Rs. 312 crore assistance to the State Government last year against reported loss of Rs. 2099 crore which comes to around 17 per cent.

Khordha coop secy held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Secretary of Kakarudrapur Service Cooperative Society Khordha. Hemanta Kumar Nayak was arrested in a bribery case on Tuesday.

He was caught red-handed by the officers of Vigilance, Bhubaneswar Division for demanding and accepting illegal gratification of Rs 2,500 from complainant Niranjan Das of Kakarudrapur village, Baliaanta, in order to clear loan dues of Rs 8,000 which Das had taken from the Service Co-operative Society, Kakarudrapur in 2008-09.

The trap was laid by Vigilance sleuths at Nayak's office room. His residential house at Kakrudrapur was searched and a case registered.

Zilla Swasthya Samiti, Bargarh
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha
District Head Quarter Hospital, Bargarh-768028
Phone/Fax: 06646-231763

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
In reference to Advt.No.20/NHM/BGH/2019 & Advt.No.21/NHM/BGH/2019 dt. 27.12.2019 & dt. 31.12.2019 published for establishment of 24X7 Cafeteria at New DHH, Bargarh and Procurement of Electronics & Furniture items. It is to inform you that the last date for submission of Tender is extended up to dt. 13.01.2020 by 4 P.M. All other terms & conditions of tenders published will remain same.
Sd/-
C.D.M & P.H.O, Bargarh

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender Call Notice No. 44/2019-20
B-546 The Executive Engineer, Khurda (R&B) Division, Khurda on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible class of contractors having valid registration certificate for execution of the Civil works as detailed below:
1. Nature of Work : Building
2. No of Work : 03 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6000.00 (Online)
4. Class of Contractor : SL.No.1 "C" & "B" Class Contractor
SL.No.2 & SL.No.3 "D" & "C" Contractor
5. Available of Bid documents in the web site : From Dt. 14.01.2020 at 10.30 AM to Dt. 24.01.2020 at 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bids : Dt 27.01.2020 at 11.30 AM
7. Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in> . Any information regarding Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can be available in the said website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Khurda (R&B) Division, Khurda

34095/11/0010/1920

JNU VIOLENCE

‘Masked’ men will soon be exposed: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said “masked” men involved in the JNU attack will be exposed soon as the Home Ministry has ordered an enquiry into the incident even as it slammed a few “selective ‘anarchists’ raising placard reading “Free Kashmir” in Mumbai.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event, Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said misunderstandings are deliberately being spread in JNU and others parts of the country to incite violence. He hit out at New York Times (NYT) for a report in which the leading US daily claimed that the attackers at JNU had raised chants of “Jai Shri Ram”.

“I feel that the Home Minister has ordered an enquiry and the masked men involved in the JNU attack will soon be unmasked. Also, misunderstandings are deliberately being spread in JNU and in others parts of the country to incite violence, which will also be exposed,” said Javadekar.

On Sunday, a mob of masked men stormed the JNU campus in south Delhi and systematically targeted students in three hostels, unleashing mayhem with sticks, stones and iron rods, hitting inmates and breaking windows, furniture and personal belongings. They also attacked a women’s hostel.

In a dig at the NYT, Javadekar said it seems the NYT consists of the most “ardent bhakts” of Lord Ram as they seem to find him everywhere. He also said he was waiting to read the newspaper’s report on last week’s violence at a historic Sikh shrine in Pakistan.

The Union Minister’s criticism of the US daily came a day

after he hit out at British daily Financial Times for referring to the masked mob that attacked JNU students and teachers as “nationalists”, asking it to stop predicting India’s disintegration at every opportunity.

Tagging screenshots of the NYT report, Javadekar said on Twitter, “It seems @nytimes consists of the most ardent bhakts of Lord Ram as they seem to find him everywhere. On a serious note, waiting to read @nytimes ground reporting of the violence and religious persecution from Shri Nankana Sahib. Which slogans did they hear there?”

In a series of tweets on Monday slamming the British daily, Javadekar had said, “I know it’s a bit too much for you to understand India, but here’s an effort: Stop predicting the breaking apart of India at every possible chance you get. India is a diverse democracy and it has always assimilated all differences to emerge stronger.”

Maintaining that peace has been prevailing and the region is making progress since Article 370 of the Constitution was repealed, Javadekar said, “The

entire country is supporting the move... Few selective anarchists are raising such kind of slogans. Nobody even inside Kashmir raised such slogans. Now if someone outside the region gives such slogan that makes no sense.”

For his part senior BJP leader and Union Minority Affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the ongoing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act were driven

by “pirated propaganda” as the legislation is for providing citizenship and not take it away.

The conspiracy by some people to disturb the secular fabric and unity of the country through the philosophy of “Jhuthmev Jayate (lie will prevail)” will be defeated, Naqvi told reporters here.

Naqvi said the protests influenced by “pirated propaganda” are going on over the Citizenship Amendment Act

(CAA) and the truth is that the Act will provide citizenship and not to take it away from any person.

Appealing to students and the youth, he said they should not get influenced by “evils of misinformation” and must become a part of the effort to strengthen communal harmony and unity of the country. The constitutional, religious and social rights of every Indian are absolutely safe, he said.



BJP plans broader outreach campaign on CAA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP plans to carry out a broader outreach campaign involving interactions like the one Union Minister Piyush Goyal had with Bollywood celebrities in Mumbai to educate all segments of the society about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Party sources said on Tuesday that as many as 70 Bollywood personalities attended the meeting with BJP leaders, including Goyal, on

- Party sources said on Tuesday that as many as 70 Bollywood personalities attended the meeting with BJP leaders, including Goyal, on Sunday and the interaction lasted for three hours
- More such meetings with a cross section of

- society, not just the film industry, will be conducted on the issue, a source said
- The BJP has launched a series of outreach programmes, including meetings with different groups and door-to-door campaign, to mobilise support for the CAA

Sunday and the interaction lasted for three hours.

Bhushan Kumar, Prasoon Joshi, Anu Malik, Kailash Kher, Shaan, Kunal Kohli, Ranvir Shorey, Ritesh Sidhwani, Rajkumar Santoshi, Suresh

Wadekar and Neeraj Shridhar were among those present in the meeting.

“More such meetings with a cross section of society, not just the film industry, will be conducted on the issue,” a

source said.

The BJP has launched a series of outreach programmes, including meetings with different groups and door-to-door campaign, to mobilise support for the CAA.

Indian Cobra with 19 genes is noxious predator: Scientists

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Cobra (Naja naja) has become the first of the ‘big four’ deadly snakes globally to be sequenced.

Researchers have successfully mapped the genome of this highly poisonous snake and decoded 19 key toxic genes that are responsible for its venom that is among the most noxious toxins in the animal kingdom - potent enough to fell an elephant.

Russell’s viper (Daboia russelli), saw-scaled viper (Echis carinatus) and common krait (Bungarus caeruleus) are the other three in the ‘big four’ camp.

The genome sequencing of the Indian cobra is expected to help the scientists develop better antivenom and mitigate the snakebite crisis across the countries particularly India which reports around 2.8 million snakebite cases that lead to about 50,000 deaths annually.

“Targeting these 19 specific toxins using synthetic human antibodies should lead to a safe and effective antivenom for treating Indian cobra bites” said Dr Sekar Seshagiri, President, SciGenom Research Foundation (SGRF) and lead author of the study published in the latest edition of Journal Nature Genetics.

Currently, antivenom is produced by immunizing horses with extracted snake venom and is based on a process developed well over 100 years ago. This process is laborious and suffers from a lack of consistency leading to varying efficacy and serious side effects. Venom is a complex mixture of proteins encoded by genes that have been co-opted by some snakes as they evolved some 100 million years ago.

Globally each year, accidental contact with snakes leads to over 100,000 deaths while over 400,000 individuals suffer permanent disabilities

“It is about time we modernize antivenom development by leveraging genomics, recombinant protein expression and synthetic antibody development technologies. The Indian cobra genome and the catalogue of target toxins are a blueprint needed to do this. For the first time, we now have a full list of venom-relevant toxin



genes of the Indian cobra” said Dr R Manjunatha Kini, Professor, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore and an author on the study.

“The Indian cobra is the first of the ‘big four’ deadly snakes to be sequenced. This is a major step towards understanding its venom components and it will effectively change the way antivenom is developed” said Dr George Thomas from AgriGenome Labs, India. He further added, “This study has provided a very high-quality reference genome that will make assessment of the Indian cobra genetic diversity possible and practical. It will be an important resource for conservation of this revered and feared Indian snake”.

“Obtaining the genomes and the venom gland genes from the other three of the ‘big four’ and the deadly African snakes such as the black mamba, carpet viper and spitting cobras is the logical next step. It will provide a complete platform for developing a safe, universal antivenom for snakebite victims all over India, Africa and other neighbouring countries” added Dr R Manjunatha Kini.

Safe and effective antivenom is a major unmet social need in India and other parts of the world. With the WHO classifying snakebite as a neglected tropical disease (NTD) in 2017, institutions such as the Welcome Trust and the Department of Biotechnology, under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology have announced funding for antivenom development here.

CIC: Disclose names of babus who faced disciplinary proceedings in last 10 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a tough stand, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the Governments at the Centre and States to disclose the names of IAS officers who faced disciplinary proceedings in the last ten years. Observing that “Caesar’s wife should be above suspicion”, Information Commissioner Divya Prakash Sinha said the disclosure of information was in the larger public interest as these officers occupy high Government positions.

“The Commission is convinced with the aspect of larg-

er public interest in disclosure of names of IAS officers against whom disciplinary inquiries have been initiated under Rule 8 of the AIS (Discipline and Appeal) Rules because they occupy high government positions and lead to the famous idiom ‘Caesar’s wife should be above suspicion’ for ensuring transparency and probity in public life,” Sinha said.

The Information Commissioner was adjudicating the RTI appeal of Lucknow-based Nutan Thakur who had sought the list of IAS officers against whom disciplinary enquiries under Rule 8 of the All India Services (Discipline

and Appeal) Rules were initiated since January 1, 2008. The Department of Personnel and Training had provided the list of 14 IAS officers on Central Deputation against whom the disciplinary proceedings were initiated.

“In view of foregoing, CPIO is directed to procure the list of names of the relevant IAS officers sought in the RTI Application working in the State cadres as well from Administrative Vigilance Department Desk of the DoPT and provide the same to the Appellant,” he said. Sinha, however, warned the department official who allowed

WOMEN'S ENTRY IN SABARIMALA TEMPLE

CJI headed 9-judge SC Bench to hear issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday formed a nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde to hear from January 13 the issue of allowing women and girls of all ages to enter Kerala’s Sabarimala temple, along with the other contentious issues of alleged discrimination against

Muslim and Parsi women.

The other judges on the bench are Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, MM Shantanagoudar, SA Nazeer, R Subhash Reddy, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

The nine-judge bench has been set up after a five-judge bench headed by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, by a 3:2 major-

ity verdict, referred the matter to a seven-judge bench while examining the review petition filed against the historic September 28, 2018, judgement which had allowed women of all ages to enter Sabarimala temple.

Besides Justice Gogoi, Justices AM Khanwilkar and Indu Malhotra (the lone woman judge on the Bench)

were in majority while Justices RF Nariman and DY Chandrachud had penned a minority verdict on November 14, 2019.

On the nine-judge bench, which will hear the matter from January 13, there are no judges from the previous benches.

The top court had on Monday issued a notice

informing about listing of the petition filed by Indian Young Lawyers Association seeking review of the 2018 judgement.

However, the names of the judges were announced on Tuesday.

While referring the matter to a larger bench, the five-judge bench had however said that the debate about the constitutional validity of religious prac-

tices like bar on entry of women and girls into a place of worship was not limited to the Sabarimala case.

The top court said such restrictions are there with regard to entry of Muslim women into mosques and ‘dargahs’ and Parsi women, married to non-Parsi men, being barred from the holy fire place of an Agyari.

SC asks Centre to look into PIL on RBI branch

exchanging currency defaced by Kashmiri separatists

New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Tuesday to look into a PIL seeking CBI probe into the RBI exchanging defaced currency notes worth Rs 30 crore allegedly belonging to a separatist group of Kashmir, and said “the issue may be of national importance”.

The top court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to have a copy of the petition and look into it. A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant was hearing the PIL filed by one Satish Bhardwaj, who has alleged that in 2013 the Jammu branch of RBI exchanged the currency notes amounting to Rs 30 crore allegedly belonging to a separatist group called ‘Kashmir Graffiti’.

As soon as the matter came up for hearing, the bench asked for Attorney General K K Venugopal, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta or any Additional Solicitor General.

When no one appeared, the bench told Bhardwaj that it would take up the matter at the end of the day’s work. Bhardwaj said he had approached the CBI for investigation of the matter but nothing has been done so far.

The matter was taken up again by the bench for hearing during which Mehta appeared. The bench told Mehta, “He is saying that agencies are not doing anything. The issue may be of national importance. Please have a copy of the petition and look into it”.

Bhardwaj, appearing in person in his plea, said, “It is

most humbly submitted that the act of Jammu branch of Reserve Bank of India to exchange the defaced/ imperfect Indian currency notes worth Rs 30 crore that too which was done by a separatist group of Kashmir with a main aim of destabilising peace and harmony in the region of Jammu and Kashmir and to create an environment of tension and terror in the minds of common residents of the region is illegal and worth of interference of this court.”

He said a separatist group in Kashmir in its statement on a social networking site Facebook has claimed to have stamped separatist slogans on Indian currency worth Rs 30 crore between May and August, 2013.

PTI



achievements in the relationship in the last few years and reiterated his readiness for further deepening bilateral cooperation, according to the statement.

In Washington, the White House released a readout of the telephonic conversation between the two leaders. “Today, President Donald J Trump spoke

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to exchange New Year’s greetings,” the White House said in a readout.

“The leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the United States-India strategic partnership in 2020, and they also reviewed the regional security matters,” it said.

‘Free Kashmir’ placard holder apologises, bats for J&K peace

Mumbai Police registers FIR against her

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Monday registered an FIR against writer and “story-teller” Mehak Mirza Prabhu for holding a “Free Kashmir” during the anti-JNU violence protests at the Gateway of India in south Mumbai on Monday evening. The Colaba police registered an FIR against Prabhu under section 153-B (Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) of IPC for holding a “Free Kashmir” placard. The Colaba police also registered an FIR against Suvarna Salve, Firoz Mithiborwala, Umar Khalid and other activists for unlawful assembly at Gateway of India, while the MRA Marg police registered an FIR against 31 protestors including Suvarna Salve, Mithiborwala, Umar khalid and others for taking out morcha from Hutatma Chowk to Gateway of India and another FIR against ABVP students

for their protest at Hutatma Chowk in south Mumbai. Earlier in the day, under severe flak from various quarters for holding “Free Kashmir” during the anti-JNU violence protests at the Gateway of India, Mehak Mirza Prabhu apologised for her act and said that through her placard, all she intended to convey that Kashmir be freed from internet lockdown witnessed during the last five months. On a day when former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Fadnavis and hundreds of others slammed her act saying that it was part of an “anti Indian campaign”, Prabhu put out a video on Facebook to explain the objective behind her holding “Free Kashmir” placard at Monday’s protests near the Gateway of India. “The picture created by entire social media came as an absolute shock to me. Placard meant freedom to express themselves(sic), freedom from the internet lockdown which



many people have been voicing for. I was voicing my solidarity for basic constitutional right. No other agenda or motive

ON A DAY WHEN FORMER CHIEF MINISTER AND SENIOR BJP LEADER FADNAVIS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS SLAMMED HER ACT SAYING THAT IT WAS PART OF AN “ANTI-INDIAN CAMPAIGN”, PRABHU PUT OUT A VIDEO ON FACEBOOK TO EXPLAIN THE OBJECTIVE BEHIND HER HOLDING “FREE KASHMIR” PLACARD AT MONDAY’S PROTESTS NEAR THE GATEWAY OF INDIA

Prabhu said in her preface to her video message. The day began with Fadnavis putting out a tweet: “Protest is for what exactly? Why slogans of “Free Kashmir”? How can we tolerate such separatist elements in Mumbai? ‘Free Kashmir’ slogans by Azadi gang at 2km from CMO? Uddhav ji are you going to tolerate this Free Kashmir Anti India campaign right under your nose???” Senior Maharashtra minister Jayant Patil responded swift-

ly to Fadnavis’ tweet and said: Devendraji It’s ‘free Kashmir’ from all discriminations, bans on cellular networks and central control. I can’t believe that responsible leader like you trying to confuse people by decoding words in such a hatred way. Is it losing power or losing self control?”. In quick retort, Fadnavis responded to Patil, tweeting: What a pity! Now separatist tendencies get a Government advocate. Jayantrao, this vote bank politics is not expected from you. Kashmir has already been freed from discrimination and ... certain curbs have been there since decades for security concerns. Be it in the Govt or opposition, for us, the only principle is NATION FIRST!” Shiv Sena spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut said that his party would not tolerate if anybody talks of freedom of Kashmir from India. “I read that the person who held the ‘Free Kashmir’ poster has clarified that she meant the people of Kashmir should be free from restrictions on Internet services, mobile services and

other issues. It doesn’t mean that they advocate freedom from India,” Raut said, while talking to media persons. Meanwhile, in her video, Prabhu said: “First of all let me tell you that I am not a Kashmiri.. My surname is Prabhu. I am a Maharashtra. I am born and brought up in Mumbai. The narrative that is being put out (that I am a Kashmiri) is absolutely wrong. “Like anybody elsewhere who believes in democracy, I had also joined the protest (at the Gateway of India) last evening. There were a lot of groups. Some were singing, while others were raising slogans about all the issues. We were there to express our solidarity with the JNU students. I was going around. People were making placards,” she said. “The first thing came to my mind is that I am here to talk about basic constitutional rights and freedom. Because of the shutdown that there is in Kashmir for the last five months, those rights are not there for Kashmiris. You say that they (Kashmiris) are ours,

we have to treat them as ours. They should get basic rights that we are getting. They should have freedom to express themselves. It was with this thought in mind that I held that “Free Kashmir” placard I was quietly standing with a flower in my hand,” she said. “Some people are saying that I am member of some gang or organisation. I have been paid to stand there. That was not the case with me. You can find out all about me. I am a story teller. All my stories are there on Youtube. You can see for yourselves what are the things I talk about. I am a compassionate person. You see my techtop, you will get know all about my life and what I have been doing all these years,” she said. “The way the whole thing has gone is very scary. I am just a simple person. As a woman, it is scary for my safety right now. Please spread my side of the story among the people. Let’s stop it here. If it has happened to me, it can happen to anyone. I do not want to live with so much of fear,” Prabhu concluded.

BJPCAAGCAMPAIGN

BJP plans more interactions like one with Bollywood celebs

New Delhi: Interactions like the one Union Minister Piyush Goyal had with Bollywood celebrities in Mumbai will continue as part a broader outreach campaign the BJP plans to carry out to educate all segments of the society about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), party sources said on Tuesday. They said that as many as 70 Bollywood personalities attended the meeting with BJP leaders, including Goyal, on Sunday and the interaction lasted for three hours. Bhushan Kumar, Prasoon

Joshi, Anu Malik, Kailash Kher, Shaan, Kunal Kohli, Ranvir Shorey, Ritesh Sidhwani, Rajkumar Santoshi, Suresh Wadekar and Neeraj Shridhar were among those present in the meeting. “More such meetings with a cross section of society, not just the film industry, will be conducted on the issue,” a source said. The BJP has launched a series of outreach programmes, including meetings with different groups and door-to-door campaign, to mobilise support

for the CAA. The objective of the campaign is to counter the Opposition’s drive against the law and inform people about its features amid countrywide protests. According to the Act, people from Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come to India till December 31, 2014, from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan due to religious persecution there will be given Indian citizenship. PTI

JKPCC minority wing condemns Nankana Sahib incident

Jammu: The minority wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) strongly condemned the alleged desecration of Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev, in Pakistan and urged the government to put pressure on the neighbouring country for strict action against the culprits on Tuesday. Talking to reporters, JKPCC minority wing vice chairmen Gurdarshan Singh and Michael Wazir expressed serious concern over the repeated incidents of killings, abductions and attacks on religious places in Pakistan. They strongly condemned the incidents of abduction of girls and women of minority communities, and the killing of Sikh youth Parvinder Singh in Peshawar by unidentified miscreants. The Congress leaders expressed strong resentment over the alleged mob attack at Nankana Sahib and the failure of the Pakistani government to contain radical groups. They described Pakistan as a failed state due to its fundamentalist approach from the very beginning. Ensuring the safety and



security of minorities and protecting their religious and civil rights was the foremost duty of any country, the two leaders said. “Pakistan could never sustain as a successful democracy as compared to India because of its fanatic outlook,” Singh said. He urged the government to put pressure and use its good offices against Pakistan to ensure the safety and security of minorities and their religious places in the neighbouring country and prevent such kinds of condemnable attempts by the radical groups and mischievous elements enjoying the patronage of government machinery. PTI

Case of Swami Chinmayanand transferred to special court

Shahjahanpur: A district court here has transferred the trial of former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand, accused of sexually exploiting a law student, to a special court for MPs and MLAs. The trial against the BJP leader, accused of rape by the student, has been going on at the chief judicial magistrate’s court here. He will appear before the special court in the district for the next hearing on January 20, his counsel Om Singh said. The case file was sent by district judge Ram Babu Sharma to the special court on Monday, he said. The special courts have been set up to fast-track cases against MPs and MLAs. The former Union minister is currently not member of any legislature. Chinmayanand, whose trust runs the college where the law student studied, was arrested under section 376 C of the Indian Penal Code, a charge short of rape. The section relates to abuse of one’s position by a person in authority to “induce or seduce” a woman under his charge to have “sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape”. PTI

Ex-MLAs meet L-G, seek Statehood restoration

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Eight former legislators led by Syed Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday became the first group of mainstream politicians to open the channels of communication with the office of Jammu & Kashmir’s Lieutenant Governor and making a slew of demands including restoration of statehood. The delegation met Lt Governor GC Murmu in Jammu and submitted a 15-point memorandum demanding rights of people over land and jobs be safeguarded, detainees be released and cases against youth be withdrawn among others. Accompanied by former ministers Ghulam Hassan Mir, Mohd Dilawar Mir, former MLAs Javed Hassan Beig, Noor Mohd Sheikh, Choudhary Qamar Hussain, Raja Manzoor Ahmad, former MLCs Zafar Iqbal and Syed Asghar Ali, Bukhari demanded restoration of statehood, protection of rights over land and jobs, immediate

release of detainees and restoration of internet services etc, during their maiden meeting with the Lt-Governor here in Raj Bhawan, Jammu. The cavalcade of these political leaders reached Raj Bhawan, shortly after 2.30 p.m where they remained closeted with the Lt-Governor for about one hour. Drawing attention of the Lt-Governor towards the socio-political and economic situation that emerged since August 5, 2019 (Nullification of Article 370 and reorganisation of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir), the delegation leaders submitted in their memorandum that the majority of its residents are yet to reconcile with this decision. Highlighting the demand for restoration of statehood, delegation led by Altaf Bukhari claimed, “majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir feel hurt and there are vocal concerns wherein they feel their decades long privileges were uncere-



A delegation led by Syed Mohd Altaf Bukhari meets Lt Governor GC Murmu at Raj Bhawan in Jammu on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

moniously curtailed”. The delegation leaders also maintained, “To win over the confidence of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the centre will have to re-examine its decades old policies vis-a-vis Kashmir”. Referring to the emotive issue of safeguarding rights over land and jobs, the delegation leaders maintained that the most important issue can be addressed by tangible legal and constitutional safeguards that

can be put in place by virtue of which protection of Domicile Rights including that of reservation for the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir in the matter of employment and that of admissions to professional courses is ensured. To fulfil the aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir, the delegation leaders also demanded withdrawal of cases against youth, restoration of

JK Bank’s functional dominion, reviving horticulture and agriculture sectors, support for industry and manufacturing sector, tourism and allies industries and their revival, restoration of internet, relief for general trader including shop keepers, bus and Raxi owners, relief for unemployed youth and National Highway and Regional connectivity within J&K and cap on airfares.

Saba Karim’s son detained for knocking down 1

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Former Test cricketer Saba Karim’s son Fidel was detained On Monday for allegedly knocking down a 24-year-old pedestrian near Kemp’s Corner junction in south Mumbai. The incident took place at around 6.30 am when Fidel Karim – who is in his mid twenties -- was proceeding from Kemp’s Corner to downtown south Mumbai. Fidel, who was in the third lane, tried to overtake another vehicle and while doing so, he allegedly knocked down a female pedestrian who was crossing the road. The mishap took place before Fidel could apply the brakes. There was not much of traffic on the road when the mishap happened. The injured lady, identified as one Siddhi M, was rushed to



the nearby Jaslok Hospital. It was not immediately known as to the nature of injury she had suffered in the mishap. Fidel was detained for questioning by the Gamdevi police. The police had not registered an FIR against Fidel till the evening. “We are waiting for the injured lady to regain consciousness so that we can record her statement. We will initiate further action after we record the statement of the injured person,” a senior police officer said. PTI

Raj releases 4th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi scheme

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Government has released the fourth instalment of Rs 118.93 crore under the Centre’s Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme in the bank accounts of 5,94,694 farmers, according to an official statement released on Tuesday. Farmers are given ₹6,000 per year in three instalments of ₹2,000 each under the scheme aimed at providing financial support to small and marginal farmers across the country. State Cooperatives Registrar Neeraj K Pawan said the state government has deposited four instalments through the PM Kisan Nidhi portal amounting to ₹3,073.14 crore in the bank accounts of farmers. In the first three instalments, 47.09 lakh, 46.06 lakh and 36.34 lakh farmers were provided with the benefits under the scheme, respectively. PTI

NON-PAYMENT OF SALARY

AI pilots to take decision on ‘strike or insolvency’

Mumbai: Air India’s narrow-body pilots union ICPA has decided to conduct a secret ballot to take a call on whether its members should strike work or press for insolvency proceedings against the company in the wake of non-payment of salary dues by the company, a source said. In a communication to its members on Tuesday, the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) said that “in spite of several requests to clear our illegally withheld 25 per cent dues, there seems to be no intent to clear the dues immediately... It has been decoded by the Central Executive Committee (CEC) to conduct a secret ballot, as per the constitution of the ICPA, to make a decision between strike or NCLT to safeguard our

interest.” The grouping represents nearly 800 Air India pilots who fly narrow-body planes. The ICPA decision came on the day the ministerial panel approved the Expression of Interest (EoI) as well as the share-purchase agreement for Air India’s privatisation, as per an official. Late last year, the Association had written to the minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri asking the government to clear their legitimate dues without any further delay. In a warning, the grouping had said, “Our patience is running thin and we are in no position to continue working with uncertainty looming large at Air India.” PTI

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Spl.Trg/MGL/materials/DIET/UNICEF/412/2018/105 Date:07.01.2020 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web/Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of Multi Grade Multi Level Materials (MGML). To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule. Sd/- Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19

Ganges delta may see water level rise of up to 1.4 m by 2100: Study

London: The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta covering parts of eastern India and Bangladesh, and home to 200 million inhabitants, may experience a water level rise of up to 140 centimetres by the end of this century, a new study says. The findings of the study, published in the journal PNAS on Monday, provides refined regional estimates of water level rise, and land subsidence -- the gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth’s surface -- and may lead to better flood mitigation efforts in eastern India and Bangladesh. According to the researchers, including those from CNRS in France, this region is the largest and most densely populated delta in the

world, and one of the most vulnerable places to climate change. However, they cautioned that the extent and impact of water level rise there remain poorly known. This delta, which covers nearly two thirds of Bangladesh, and part of eastern India, is already regularly prone to flooding, the study noted. The region also frequently experiences intense monsoon rainfall, rising sea levels, river flows, and land subsidence, according to the researchers. Until now, the scientists said, it has been difficult to disentangle these various factors. Forecasts carried out so far have been based on highly regional measurements of



water level, they added. Aggregating this data over geographical areas, they filtered out local effects and offset quality differences between gauges. Over time, the scientists

obtained more refined estimates for water level changes. According to the study, between 1968 and 2012, water levels increased by three millimetres per year (mm/year) on average, a little more than the global mean sea level rise, which was two mm/year during the same time period. The researchers then estimated the contribution of land subsidence —obtained by subtracting the measurements of relative water level obtained previously from the absolute sea level. Their calculations revealed that the maximum land subsidence in the delta between 1993 and 2012 was between one and seven mm/year. These values, the scientists said, are lower than some local

measurements —between one and two centimetres per year (cm/year) in Dhaka, Bangladesh —which have been used as a reference until now. The study cautions that if subsidence continues at the same rate, and even under a greenhouse gas mitigation scenario, water level rise in the delta, depending on the area, may reach 85-140 cm by the end of the century compared to the period 1986-2005 -- twice as high as the projections provided in the latest IPCC report. According to the researchers, the study may lead to better forecasts of water level in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta and improved flood mitigation efforts. PTI

Support anti-CAA, NRC protests but not bandh: Didi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she was in favour of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), but her party, Trinamool Congress, will not support bandh.

The Left parties had on

December 26 last year called for a nationwide strike on January 8 and a seven-day protest from January 1 against the CAA, National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The State Government issued circulars warning the Government staff against joining the strike — saying absence

from work could lead to the deduction of a day's salary (causing breakage in service-career) — the TMC brass wondered in private whether the party should descend on the streets as it did every time to thwart a bandh at the risk of earning the wrath of the Muslim voters.

The Chief Minister earlier

said, "I support the cause of the bandh but I am not for this bandh culture itself. So I will not allow any strike to take place in Bengal," Banerjee said though the critics said the Chief Minister's voice did not sound confident enough while issuing the Government fatwa so to say.

"The bandh is definitely taking place and I don't think the Chief Minister will be so imprudent to oppose it at the cost of exposing herself as a true friend of the BJP and Narendra Modi," CPI(M) Legislature Party leader Sujan Chakrabarty said adding, "she had issued a circular but that will not be taken seriously

The Left parties had on December 26 last year called for a nationwide strike on January 8 and a seven-day protest from January 1 against the CAA, NPR and NRC

because despite the public posturing against CAA-NRC her concern is not genuine, thanks to the hidden relationship she has with the BJP... scam-tainted TMC is afraid of the BJP Government because its neck is in the hands of the Central Government which is with

using Sharada and Narada and other scams against it."

Even the TMC leaders were not forthcoming on the issue of directly opposing the bandh.

A senior TMC leader and an MLA said "I don't see any reason to descend on the streets to confront the pro-bandh people. The Government has already made public its decision."

Meanwhile, State BJP president Dilip Ghosh accused the Chief Minister for allowing the bandh to become a success in Bengal in order to "provide some oxygen to a moribund CPI(M) in order to divide the anti-TMC votes."

If someone is your chowkidar, I am your pehredar, says Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said Bengal in coming days would play an important role at the national level before ascribing to herself the role of "pehredar" (janitor) who would "fend off the bad specter" of Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register for Citizens.

"If someone (read Prime Minister Narendra Modi) is your chowkidar (watchman) I am your pehredar who will protect your rights. Till I am there no one will be able to take away your rights," the Chief Minister said iterating "there will be no CAA, no NRC, no NPR in Bengal. Till I am there I will not allow such things to happen in Bengal."

Saying that the Indian citizens have a birth right to be Indians and no one can take away that birth right Banerjee said "we are Indian citizens not by the grace of anyone. We don't live at the mercy of any-



one. We live in India because we are Indian citizens. That is our right and I will not allow anyone to take away that right."

Reminding that she was the custodian of the people's rights Banerjee said, "I will not allow anyone to harm your interests." She was addressing a public rally at Pathar Pratima in Sunderban area of South 24 Parganas.

Saying that her agitation against National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR) would go on indefinitely, Banerjee said that she would go any distance to preserve the people's basic

rights. "Remember Bengal in the coming days is going to play a major role in the national politics. And I as your Pehredar ensure you that ... I will not allow anyone to tamper with the status quo," she said.

In a related development Kolkata on Tuesday saw three huge rallies taken out by members of the civil society and students from various places. Among the civil society members who walked in the procession were film star Kaushik Sen, directors Anik Dutta and Anjan Dutta, painter Wasim Kapoor and others.

Meanwhile, the State Government on Tuesday had to call off a health department programme piloted by the Anganwadi workers in the interior regions of Murshidabad district where large number of people gathered and drove away the government staff suspecting they were collecting data under the CAA-NRC scheme.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee clicks a picture of a sand sculpture of NO NRC and NO CAA on the beach at Sagar Island in South 24 Pargana district of West Bengal on Tuesday

Court rejects Karti's discharge plea in tax evasion case

Asks IT Dept to frame charges against Karti, wife Sreenidhi

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Special Court for the trial of MPs and MLAs in Chennai on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by Karti Chidambaram MP and his wife Dr Srinidhi in connection with a tax evasion case and ordered the prosecution (Deputy Director of Income Tax Investigation) to go ahead with the framing of charges.

When the plea by the Chidambarams came up for hearing on Tuesday, judge D Lingheswaran found merit in the evidence submitted by the prosecution and hence dismissed the request by the couple. The judge asked the prosecution to frame charges and ordered Karti and Srinidhi to be present in the court on January 21. If they fail to be present on that day, the judge said that warrant would be issued against them.

The Income Tax Department's contention was that Karti, (son of former finance minister and Congress strongman P. Chidambaram) and his wife Dr Srinidhi had received Rs 1.35 crore in cash towards the sale of a plot of land at Muttukad near Chennai but the same was not disclosed by them while filing tax returns.

The argument of Karti and

his wife was that the said transaction was completed and tax returns were filed in 2015 itself. The Deputy Director of Income Tax (Investigation) Chennai had filed a complaint against the duo in September 2018 before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (Economic Offences) under sections 276(c)1 and 277 of the Income Tax Act. The case was later transferred to the special court for trial of MLAs and MPs.

During the hearing, the Income Tax Department told the court that Karti received Rs 6.38 crore in cash while his wife received Rs 1.35 crore in cash for the same of the land.

It was also alleged that Nalini Chidambaram (Karti's mother) received the payment in the form of cheque while the son and his wife received cash.

It may be remembered that the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate had conducted a joint raid at the office and residence premises of Karti in December 2015 and had seized several documentary evidences including electronic materials related to the transaction of money. The department had submitted the entire data to the court.



AMARAVATI CAULDRON

Farmers' protests over shifting of capital turn violent

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The farmers' agitation in protest against the shifting of the Capital from Amaravati turned violent on the 21st day on Tuesday. Stepping up their pressure on the Government, about 5,000 people took out a rally on the National Highway 9 at Chinna Kakani and squatted on the road.

Tension built up in the area when the agitators attacked the car in which Macherla MLA Pennelli Ramakrishna Reddy was travelling. The car was damaged and the MLA's gunmen were injured in the attack. The protesters used stones and sticks to carry out the in what appeared to be a well-planned attack. The protesters surrounded the MLA's car coming from the service road on which the car was moving.

A huge traffic jam was



caused on either side of the highway due to the incident.

Later, addressing a Press conference, Ramakrishna Reddy said that TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu had engineered the attack and that this kind of tactics would not work. "If the farmers have any grouse, they should stage peaceful protests in a democratic manner and come for talks with the Chief Minister,"

he said.

Naidu was using the goondas to intimidate people only to protect his lands in Amaravati, Ramakrishna Reddy said and challenged him to come for a direct fight anywhere in the State. "I am the son of Palnandu. You will never succeed in threatening me," he challenged Naidu.

The police have begun the exercise of identifying the peo-

ple who attacked the Macherla MLA. They are said to be using drones and CCTV cams to bring the culprits to book.

Earlier in the day, the police kept TDP leaders under house arrest in Guntur and Krishna districts. TDP MP Kesineni Nani and former MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao were not allowed to come out of their houses. In Guntur, TDP MP Galla Jayadev was

kept under house arrest.

Former ministers Nara Lokesh and Kollu Ravindra were arrested in Vijayawada. Lokesh expressed solidarity with Vijayawada-East MLA Gadde Rammoan whose 24-hour hunger-strike in protest against the shifting of the Capital from Amaravati ended at 11 a.m. Lokesh entered into an argument with the police

asking them on what grounds they were attacking him.

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu condemned the house of TDP leaders and called the action undemocratic. He said it showed how autocratically the State government was acting against the Opposition leaders who expressing solidarity with the agitating farmers.

'Buxa Bird Fest' begins in Bengal



Over 50 birdwatchers from across the country and abroad have registered for the 2020 edition of the four-day festival that began on Monday, Ujjwal Ghosh, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

Jalpaiguri: The fourth 'Buxa Bird Festival' has begun in Buxa National Park in West Bengal's Alipurduar district, officials said.

Over 50 birdwatchers from across the country and abroad have registered for the 2020 edition of the four-day festival that began on Monday, Ujjwal Ghosh, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), north Bengal said.

"More than 300 rare species including the Great Hornbill, Sultan Tit and Greater Spotted Eagle visit the national park during this period," Ghosh said.

Bird enthusiasts watch and click photographs of the migratory birds that come from colder regions in the northern hemisphere.

"I am excited to watch and click photographs of rare avian species. Buxa is a heaven for bird enthusiasts," Debashish Halder, a birdwatcher from Hooghly district said. **PTI**

Hizbul terrorist gunned down in Awantipora exchange of fire

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A local terrorist, associated with the pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit, was killed on Tuesday morning in an encounter with security forces in South Kashmir's Charsoo village of Awantipora, police said.

The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Churswo village of Awantipora in the early hours of Tuesday following a information about the presence of the terrorist there, they said.

The terrorist has been identified as Zahid Hassan of Arwani, Anantnag, the police said.

He was asked to surrender by the security forces but he chose to engage them in a gun-battle, they said, adding that the ultra was killed after a brief exchange of fire.

According to local reports, "after the joint team of security forces trapped him inside a civilian house, several appeals were made to him to lay down his arms and surrender before the security forces".

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (ELECT.)
Zonal Office Building, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer (Electrical), Najafgarh Zone on behalf of the Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation invites online two bids for the open tender on item rate basis from the contractors/specialized firms for the following work: **NIT No. EE/Electrical/Najafgarh Zone/2019-20/23, Date : 06.01.2020**
**Name of Work :- Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning with post commissioning 5 year operation and maintenance of one Biogas Electricity Generating System of 5 tonne capacity Bio-Degradable Waste at 'Waste to Wonder', Millennium Park, Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi Central Zone under SDMC. Tender Amount : Rs. 2,85,60,728/- Earnest Money : Rs. 5,88,000/- Time of Completion : 6 Months & post commissioning 5 years O&M, Start date of sale of tender : 06.01.2020, Bid clarification date : 13.01.2020 at 1500 Hrs., Last date of tender purchase : 20.01.2020 upto 1200 Hrs. Any corrigendum with respect to the mentioned tenders shall be uploaded online only. No separate press publicity will be done for this. All details are available on : <http://www.tendervizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER>
R.O. No. 156/DPI/South/2019-20 **EEE/NGZ****

The MD, TTDCL, Agartala, Tripura invites 03(three) Nos e-proposal from the eligible bidders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Maintenance of FRP made 20 Seater Speed Boats powered with 40.0 HP, 50.0 HP and 10-12 Seater Rescue/Recovery Boats powered with 40.0 HP 4 Stroke OBM engines, up to 05.30 P.M on 17/01/2020. For more details, kindly visit <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> or contact to this office through e-mail.
ICAC-2136/2019-20

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of Male **Namely:** Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, **Age:** 32 years, **Height:** 5' 5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Red Colour shirt blue banian & Grey Colour lower. who was found dead at Service Road near Monkey Bridge, Jamuna Bazaar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No.-32-A dated 31.12.2019 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.**
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
Sd/- SHO
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
DP/851/N/2020
Tel. No. 011-23967889

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sanjay, S/o Late Surjeet Singh, R/o:** H. No. A-47, Street No. 5, East Nathu Colony, Shahdara, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 51/18 u/s 354/A/509 IPC & 12 POCSO Act**, registered at P.S. Maan Sarovar Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Sanjay** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sanjay** has absconded (or is concealing him self to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sanjay** accused of **FIR No. 51/18 u/s 354/A/509 IPC & 12 POCSO Act**, is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **7.02.2020**.
By Order
Sh. Devendra Kumar Sharma,
Additional Session Judge 06,
Court -5, Shahdara Distt.
karkardooma, Delhi
DP/1338/SHD/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-46-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with i) improvement to circulating area PHG side near exit I & II, old RPF Thana, Near flag and exit of Ajmeri Gate circulating area at New Delhi Station.
	ii) Provision of porch upto escalator and providing pedestrian pathway from entry to escalator near FOB III at New Delhi Station.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 63.73 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs.127500.00
Date & time of submission of tender	03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
76/2020	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-ELECT-44-T-2019-20-E3 : Electrical work in connection with (i) Development of porch and other improvement works at HNKM Station. (ii) Construction of new booking office at exit road near PF office at HNKM Station.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 14.94 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 29900.00
Date & time of submission of tender	03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
73/20	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of Work and its location	30-Elect-46-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with i) improvement to circulating area PHG side near exit I & II, old RPF Thana, Near flag and exit of Ajmeri Gate circulating area at New Delhi Station.
	ii) Provision of porch upto escalator and providing pedestrian pathway from entry to escalator near FOB III at New Delhi Station.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 63.73 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs.127500.00
Date & time of submission of tender	03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
76/2020	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public is hereby informed that my client M/S AMBER MAKERS PVT LTD having its registered office at WZ-143, Naraina, New Delhi-110028 Through its director Mr Atishay Jain S/o Mr Abhoy Kumar Jain resident of D-79 Naraina Vihar New Delhi-110028, intends to Sell House number 2B 2nd Floor, J Block, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 to Mr Rishav Gupta S/o Mr Raj Kumar Gupta and Ms Sheetal Gupta W/o Mr Rishav Gupta Both R/o B-3/5, Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063. In case any person has any right, title, interest, claim of whatsoever nature by way of sale, gift, lease, heirship, possession or by any other nature in respect of aforesaid property, the same should be known in writing to me at the address mentioned below with the documentary proof within 14 days from the date hereof, failing which it shall be construed that such claim is waived, abandoned.
Naveen Sharma (Advocate)
Ch. No. 186-A, W. Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)
(Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhand)
117A, 117B, 117C, 117D, 117E, 117F, 117G, 117H, 117I, 117J, 117K, 117L, 117M, 117N, 117O, 117P, 117Q, 117R, 117S, 117T, 117U, 117V, 117W, 117X, 117Y, 117Z, 117AA, 117AB, 117AC, 117AD, 117AE, 117AF, 117AG, 117AH, 117AI, 117AJ, 117AK, 117AL, 117AM, 117AN, 117AO, 117AP, 117AQ, 117AR, 117AS, 117AT, 117AU, 117AV, 117AW, 117AX, 117AY, 117AZ, 117BA, 117BB, 117BC, 117BD, 117BE, 117BF, 117BG, 117BH, 117BI, 117BJ, 117BK, 117BL, 117BM, 117BN, 117BO, 117BP, 117BQ, 117BR, 117BS, 117BT, 117BU, 117BV, 117BW, 117BX, 117BY, 117BZ, 117CA, 117CB, 117CC, 117CD, 117CE, 117CF, 117CG, 117CH, 117CI, 117CJ, 117CK, 117CL, 117CM, 117CN, 117CO, 117CP, 117CQ, 117CR, 117CS, 117CT, 117CU, 117CV, 117CW, 117CX, 117CY, 117CZ, 117DA, 117DB, 117DC, 117DD, 117DE, 117DF, 117DG, 117DH, 117DI, 117DJ, 117DK, 117DL, 117DM, 117DN, 117DO, 117DP, 117DQ, 117DR, 117DS, 117DT, 117DU, 117DV, 117DW, 117DX, 117DY, 117DZ, 117EA, 117EB, 117EC, 117ED, 117EE, 117EF, 117EG, 117EH, 117EI, 117EJ, 117EK, 117EL, 117EM, 117EN, 117EO, 117EP, 117EQ, 117ER, 117ES, 117ET, 117EU, 117EV, 117EW, 117EX, 117EY, 117EZ, 117FA, 117FB, 117FC, 117FD, 117FE, 117FF, 117FG, 117FH, 117FI, 117FJ, 117FK, 117FL, 117FM, 117FN, 117FO, 117FP, 117FQ, 117FR, 117FS, 117FT, 117FU, 117FV, 117FW, 117FX, 117FY, 117FZ, 117GA, 117GB, 117GC, 117GD, 117GE, 117GF, 117GG, 117GH, 117GI, 117GJ, 117GK, 117GL, 117GM, 117GN, 117GO, 117GP, 117GQ, 117GR, 117GS, 117GT, 117GU, 117GV, 117GW, 117GX, 117GY, 117GZ, 117HA, 117HB, 117HC, 117HD, 117HE, 117HF, 117HG, 117HH, 117HI, 117HJ, 117HK, 117HL, 117HM, 117HN, 117HO, 117HP, 117HQ, 117HR, 117HS, 117HT, 117HU, 117HV, 117HW, 117HX, 117HY, 117HZ, 117IA, 117IB, 117IC, 117ID, 117IE, 117IF, 117IG, 117IH, 117II, 117IJ, 117IK, 117IL, 117IM, 117IN, 117IO, 117IP, 117IQ, 117IR, 117IS, 117IT, 117IU, 117IV, 117IW, 117IX, 117IY, 117IZ, 117JA, 117JB, 117JC, 117JD, 117JE, 117JF, 117JG, 117JH, 117JI, 117JJ, 117JK, 117JL, 117JM, 117JN, 117JO, 117JP, 117JQ, 117JR, 117JS, 117JT, 117JU, 117JV, 117JW, 117JX, 117JY, 117JZ, 117KA, 117KB, 117KC, 117KD, 117KE, 117KF, 117KG, 117KH, 117KI, 117KJ, 117KK, 117KL, 117KM, 117KN, 117KO, 117KP, 117KQ, 117KR, 117KS, 117KT, 117KU, 117KV, 117KW, 117KX, 117KY, 117KZ, 117LA, 117LB, 117LC, 117LD, 117LE, 117LF, 117LG, 117LH, 117LI, 117LJ, 117LK, 117LL, 117LM, 117LN, 117LO, 117LP, 117LQ, 117LR, 117LS, 117LT, 117LU, 117LV, 117LW, 117LX, 117LY, 117LZ, 117MA, 117MB, 117MC, 117MD, 117ME, 117MF, 117MG, 117MH, 117MI, 117MJ, 117MK, 117ML, 117MN, 117MO, 117MP, 117MQ, 117MR, 117MS, 117MT, 117MU, 117MV, 117MW, 117MX, 117MY, 117MZ, 117NA, 117NB, 117NC, 117ND, 117NE, 117NF, 117NG, 117NH, 117NI, 117NJ, 117NK, 117NL, 117NM, 117NO, 117NP, 117NQ, 117NR, 117NS, 117NT, 117NU, 117NV, 117NW, 117NX, 117NY, 117NZ, 117OA, 117OB, 117OC, 117OD, 117OE, 117OF, 117OG, 117OH, 117OI, 117OJ, 117OK, 117OL, 117OM, 117ON, 117OO, 117OP, 117OQ, 117OR, 117OS, 117OT, 117OU, 117OV, 117OW, 117OX, 117OY, 117OZ, 117PA, 117PB, 117PC, 117PD, 117PE, 117PF, 117PG, 117PH, 117PI, 117PJ, 117PK, 117PL, 117PM, 117PN, 117PO, 117PP, 117PQ, 117PR, 117PS, 117PT, 117PU, 117PV, 117PW, 117PX, 117PY, 117PZ, 117QA, 117QB, 117QC, 117QD, 117QE, 117QF, 117QG, 117QH, 117QI, 117QJ, 117QK, 117QL, 117QM, 117QN, 117QO, 117QP, 117QQ, 117QR, 117QS, 117QT, 117QU, 117QV, 117QW, 117QX, 117QY, 117QZ, 117RA, 117RB, 117RC, 117RD, 117RE, 117RF, 117RG, 117RH, 117RI, 117RJ, 117RK, 117RL, 117RM, 117RN, 117RO, 117RP, 117RQ, 117RR, 117RS, 117RT, 117RU, 117RV, 117RW, 117RX, 117RY, 117RZ, 117SA, 117SB, 117SC, 117SD, 117SE, 117SF, 117SG, 117SH, 117SI, 117SJ, 117SK, 117SL, 117SM, 117SN, 117SO, 117SP, 117SQ, 117SR, 117SS, 117ST, 117SU, 117SV, 117SW, 117SX, 117SY, 117SZ, 117TA, 117TB, 117TC, 117TD, 117TE, 117TF, 117TG, 117TH, 117TI, 117TJ, 117TK, 117TL, 117TM, 117TN, 117TO, 117TP, 117TQ, 117TR, 117TS, 117TT, 117TU, 117TV, 117TW, 117TX, 117TY, 117TZ, 117UA, 117UB, 117UC, 117UD, 117UE, 117UF, 117UG, 117UH, 117UI, 117UJ, 117UK, 117UL, 117UM, 117UN, 117UO, 117UP, 117UQ, 117UR, 117US, 117UT, 117UU, 117UV, 117UW, 117UX, 117UY, 117UZ, 117VA, 117VB, 117VC, 117VD, 117VE, 117VF, 117VG, 117VH, 117VI, 117VJ, 117VK, 117VL, 117VM, 117VN, 117VO, 117VP, 117VQ, 117VR, 117VS, 117VT, 117VU, 117VV, 117VW, 117VX, 117VY, 117VZ, 117WA, 117WB, 117WC, 117WD, 117WE, 117WF, 117WG, 117WH, 117WI, 117WJ, 117WK, 117WL, 117WM, 117WN, 117WO, 117WP, 117WQ, 117WR, 117WS, 117WT, 117WU, 117WV, 117WW, 117WX, 117

All eyes on Delhi durbar

Will AAP be able to retain its novelty factor? Does the BJP need to reinvent its campaign pitch?



Now that the Delhi elections have been announced, coming as they do bang in the middle of a student-led churning in India against the status quo of habit in politics, the focus is on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). This is its litmus test as it did stir up the political process when its leaders began the transformation story with “India Against Corruption,” drew in civil society and students, attempted a pan-India blitz, even nudged in an alternative narrative but failed to make a big splash nationally. But it still got Delhi and learnt tough lessons from its missteps — being deserted by its acolytes with higher ambitions, repeating the mistakes of the Indian politician’s playbook, blaming the Centre for vindictive power plays, even earning the ire of voters who thought that they had been short-changed. Yet AAP won the war of perception by delivering the toughest part of governance. That’s performance. This is its only credo and novelty. This election will prove whether that can be pro-incumbency in a highly polarised context. There can be no doubt that it has shown incremental success in converting the old rhetoric of *bijli*, *sadak* and *paani* of its predecessors into the Delhiite’s new aspiration. Power reforms were the reason the Congress, then led by Sheila Dikshit, got mass acceptability between 1998 and 2013. The focus was on improving the quality of power supply through privatisation of the electricity distribution sector. And when that frayed at the edges, the mess was a fertile ground for the AAP to emerge as a champion of people’s right to a good life. It questioned the privatisation model, alleging financial irregularities by distribution companies to inflate tariffs at public expense. The reduced power bills will top AAP’s performance sheet. Or free water within consumption limits. It has set the nation’s agenda in education reforms by allocating 26 per cent of the Budget to education, upgrading standards and performance of Government schools and introducing the “happiness curriculum.” The *mohalla* clinics have revolutionised health delivery modules, the night shelters have eased the woes of the homeless and doorstep delivery of services have endured with the citizenry. And while the Urban Development Ministry has now approved regularisation of unauthorised colonies, the AAP Government has to be credited for making it inevitable by upgrading their infrastructure. Of course, it has been socialist to consolidate its votebank but it has already talked about decongesting and redesigning road infrastructure and launched free wi-fi to appeal to urban sensibilities. Some PWD projects are almost complete. Many observers had thought that the tidal personality cult of Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha elections last May, which swamped every Opposition leader, including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and pushed back AAP to third place in voting percentage, would be the end. But Kejriwal was quick to seize the trade winds, stopped blame games or even talking about Modi and steered clear of lambasting Hindutva. Instead, he’s been seeking votes on the basis of his performance, asking people not to vote if they don’t like his work and emphasising he was only concerned about Delhi and not the nation. This self-deprecatory and localised, neighbourhood approach has foxed the BJP.

Lack of State leadership is the BJP’s Achilles’ heel, besieged as it is with faction fights. It suddenly finds itself without a credible counter-narrative on deliverables as it has predictably pitched its campaign on Modi’s personality and its hyper-nationalist agenda. With Kejriwal choosing not to fall for the BJP’s tested provocation on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the students’ protests, the lofty vision of a Ramrajya would fall flat without an alternative Delhi development plan. In fact, the BJP’s aggressive adversarial pitch and “everybody hates Modi” plan have fallen flat with Kejriwal choosing to disengage from any area that crosses paths with the Centre, even full Statehood and police, and sticking to his territorial limits. The problem is the BJP has misread Delhi as a barometer of the national pulse without realising that its people are the most vote-conscious, their loyalty pledged only to whoever has the better Excel sheet. That’s why its candidate Kiran Bedi lost to Kejriwal in 2015 despite the break-up between the Congress and AAP. Besides, AAP has cultivated caste/regional groups like Purvanchalis, Jats and Uttarakhandis and women, something that both the BJP and the Congress haven’t been able to harmonise. The Congress has lost the gameplan after Dikshit’s death and may not even be a vote-cutter but push the elections to a bipolar duel. February 11 will tell us what won hearts in the end.

Doctors’ oath

As doctors were stopped from treating injured JNU students, IMA asks if we are in a civil war



The Indian Medical Association (IMA), which has always been adamant about staying away from politics simply because it should not colour the way doctors react and treat their patients, has come out against the violence at JNU in strong terms. Questioning the “New Truth in India” as AIIMS doctors and nurses were stopped by goons from attending to injured students, it has asked, “How does it reflect on the nation, if it cannot protect its doctors and nurses reaching out to the injured? Is this a civil war? What is the message that goes out to the nation?” The IMA has clearly decided not to be a silent majority and speak out as a responsible community. This is the same IMA, which in August 2019, had accused the medical journal, *The Lancet*, of committing a “breach of propriety” while commenting on “a political issue,” when it slammed the Narendra Modi-led Government for its clampdown in Kashmir. But now that doctors, too, are at the receiving end of a police State, it is bent on upholding the Hippocratic oath, one which binds them to the business of saving lives, even of the enemy’s. The IMA had even questioned police action inside hospitals on December 22, during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, calling the crackdown “a new low in the civic life of the nation.”

So does the medical body’s slow change of stance mean that realisation is slowly dawning in civil society that we have to speak and stand up against the acts of subversion of democracy that we are witnessing in our lifetime? Perhaps, the IMA change in stance has been influenced by the fact that junior doctors in premier institutes like AIIMS have also participated in protests and solidarity marches against the CAA. Perhaps, it has woken up to the need for addressing the students’ angst and concerns as citizens and not shoving them under the carpet. This is in sharp contrast to the JNU administration, which is yet to take any step to engage with protesting students. No arrests have been made. Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar is at best indifferent to the plight of those under his care and has not visited the injured faculty members and students. Neither has any police officer been sacked for inaction, nor has any probe been initiated against the cops’ partisan role during the violence and claims by a fringe Hindu group, the Hindu Raksha Dal, that it was responsible for the mayhem in JNU. The country cannot afford to be dumbed down anymore.

opinion

08

Blowing in the wind

Wind energy can not only help achieve a sustainable future but also meet economic and social objectives. India must make the best use of this opportunity



RK **PACHAURI**

India has ambitious plans for investing in wind power. A recent news report indicated that the Government announced its aim to set up 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030. This, it was indicated, would substantially reshape the global energy market dynamism and support the background of current plans to install 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, of which 60 GW would come from wind. Currently, the largest capacity in wind energy is installed in China with a surprising second place being achieved by the US. Interestingly, the State of Texas, which has been a pioneer in the development of hydrocarbon resources and supply, is today leading all the States of the US in terms of wind energy capacity. This is clearly a reflection of the economic attraction of tapping wind energy in a State where oil and gas have been in favour for many decades now. The third place among countries with wind energy capacity is occupied by Germany and India follows in the fourth place.

It is particularly significant that Denmark is the leader in wind energy innovation and has been harnessing to a remarkable extent the potential that exists in that country. In this respect, perhaps, Denmark features as the first country to develop and implement a strategy for building an energy system independent of fossil fuels. This renewable form of energy already accounts for more than one-third of the total electricity consumption in Denmark. What is particularly significant is that wind power has been integrated with the rest of the energy supply system.

It is anticipated that by 2021, Denmark would be able to achieve 60 per cent of the wind energy supply as part of its total energy from all sources. Denmark’s achievement has been the result of vision on the part of the Government, widespread public support as well as collaboration across various industries. For instance, the Energy Innovation Cluster is Denmark’s cluster organisation and a network for innovation related to energy production. It facilitates collaboration among companies and sources of knowledge, such that the country uses the latest technology and creates innovative solutions that help society at large. Can India achieve a similar place in the world on technologies, which would define the future of human activities?

Recently, the world’s largest floating wind turbine began generating power off the coast of Portugal. This involves connecting the first of three 8.4 megawatt (MW) turbines. The project itself is connected to a substation in Portugal through a 12-mile cable, which is secured with chains to the sea bed 100 metre below. The benefit of a floating offshore installation such as this is that wind speeds are generally much higher in those locations which are a distance away from the coastline and the cost of a floating installation eliminates the need for anchoring the wind energy platform to the bottom of the sea. The prospect is that



perhaps more than a dozen additional floating offshore wind projects may be commissioned in Europe by 2022, even though there are some concerns about overestimating wind farm capacity offshore.

The developments in wind energy technology bring out the power of innovation and the underlying direction that visionary management and Government policies can provide. It was decades ago that as the Minister of External Affairs, Dinesh Singh had asked this writer a question on what prospects exist for wind energy in our country. The Minister was apparently interested in wind as a source of energy and had possibly been reading some material on this subject.

A detailed assessment was carried out by this writer on the scanty information available on wind speeds in different parts of the country and a conclusion reached that wind energy probably had no potential in India given the unsuitable wind speeds and unsophisticated technology of the time. Indeed, for several years, wind energy developments made no sense for us but with the evolution of technology, particularly the economies of scale that were built into large-scale turbine units, the economics of wind energy technology has been completely transformed. Encouraged by the develop-

“RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE US HAVING TARGETTED AN IRANIAN GENERAL WOULD LEAD TO A HARDENING OF GLOBAL OIL PRICES. THERE IS A VALID FEAR THAT ANY FURTHER ESCALATION OF CONFLICT COULD LEAD TO FURTHER PRICE INCREASES, WHICH WOULD IMPACT UNFAVOURABLY ON INDIA’S ALREADY UNSATISFACTORY RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH”



SOUNDBITE			
I am your <i>pehradar</i> (custodian), if anyone comes to take away your rights, he will have to do it over my dead body.		It is heartening to see people come out and raise their voice without fear. It is necessary for people to express their point of view to bring about change.	
West Bengal CM —Mamata Banerjee		Actor —Deepika Padukone	
The New Year has begun with our world in turmoil. We are living in dangerous times. Geopolitical tensions are at their highest level and this turbulence is escalating.			
UN Secretary General —Antonio Guterres		CPI(M) general secretary —Sitaram Yechury	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dangerous turn of events

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Night of broken glass” (December 7). Termining the incident at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as unfortunate would be an understatement. We do not know who the masked men were but they caused havoc, injuring both students and teachers and they did not even spare an ambulance that stood outside. Such violence on university campuses goes against the ethos of a democratic country as ours. Nothing can justify this act and strictest punishment must be given to the guilty, who dared enter the campus and vandalise it. Nevertheless, the Delhi Police should not have remained a mute spectator. Since around 700 police personnel were already deployed at the JNU gates due to anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protest, it was perplexing to see no action from them. The growing violence in various universities across India — BHU, Jadavpur and Jamia — is a dangerous trend that needs to be stopped as early as possible.

Bal Govind
Noida

Campuses have become dens of politicking

This refers to the editorial, “Night of broken glass” (December 7). The violence at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is highly condemnable and unpardonable. It raises questions about the ability of the administration to provide security to the students. Incidents of violence are increasing day by day on university campuses in our country. Only recently, unruly scenes were witnessed at the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi and the Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh. It is most unfortunate, however, that these prestigious “temples of learning” have become dens of political activities for various political parties. The failure of the police to protect innocent students and academics from armed goons raises serious questions about its capability, efficiency and intent. Despite the fact that most of the incident was caught on camera and the masked people remained inside the campus for long enough, the police is yet to make any arrests. But then, it’s not their fault. The police have always acted on “orders from above” and that has come to be the Indian ethos.



There’s a lot that happened in JNU before the cameras were switched on. Both the “before” and “after” stories are sordid tales of an administrative failure to stop clashes from turning into arson. It is incumbent on the Government to ensure that the university becomes a place of learning once again and regains its lost aura.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

On the rampage

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Night of broken glass” (December 7). After the police barged into the Jamia Millia Islamia university and attacked hapless students, now it was the turn of around 30 lumpen elements, who entered the

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus and attacked the students and teachers, too.

The tragedy is that all of this happened right under the nose of the Delhi police, which functions under direct control of the Union Home Ministry. More shocking is that instead of chasing the masked goons, the police remained a mute spectator. The

pattern of violence at JNU exposes the nexus between the administration and the police.

Making use of the police force to achieve political ends is dangerous. One shudders to think where our nation is headed to and what is in store for the law-abiding citizens.

Tharcius S Fernando
Chennai

Mishandling situations

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Night of broken glass” (January 7). It is shameful that students do not feel safe within college campuses. Incidents at the Jamia Millia Islamia university and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have raised questions about their security. In the case of the latter, why did the police not do anything to stop the miscreants at the entry gate itself where they were deployed? How long will it take to arrest the culprits?

Sujit De
Kolkata

Word of caution

Sir — While the world grapples with the aftermath of a seemingly whimsical act by the US in killing the commander of another sovereign nation, it is easy to be pulled into unwanted situations as far as India is concerned. It must tread cautiously.

Yash
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

There’s nothing anti-Hindu in it

Faiz’s poem *Hum Dekhenge* that attacks oppression was written in the times of martial law in Pakistan. IIT-Kanpur’s administration should have known that



MARKANDEY **KATJU**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur has set up a panel to consider whether the poem *Hum Dekhenge* by the famous Urdu poet Faiz is anti-Hindu. This followed the recitation of the poem by students of IIT-Kanpur on December 17, 2019, on their campus during a gathering in support of the students of Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi, who were assaulted by the police during their anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) agitation. One need not go into the inanity of such a step by the IIT authorities who seem to have no understanding of Urdu poetry or of this particular poem.

No poetry in England, America, France, Germany, Russia and in any language, whether it is English, German, Hindi, Sanskrit, Bangla, Tamil and so on, in fact, no poetry in the world, expresses the voice of the human heart in such a powerful and yet elegant manner (*andaaz-e-bayaan*) as Urdu poetry does.

Mirza Ghalib is regarded by many as the greatest Urdu poet of all times and Faiz the greatest Urdu poet of the 20th century. I had the privilege of meeting Faiz once when he visited my hometown Allahabad in 1981 and was honoured at a massive function on the Allahabad University’s lawns.

Urdu poets often express their thoughts not in direct language but indirectly, through hints and allusions. Urdu *shers* (couplets) often have a literal, superficial meaning but they also have a deeper, real meaning which is conveyed by indication, suggestion and metaphors. It is this deeper, real meaning which the poet is seeking to convey. But to understand it, one has to ponder deeply and apply one’s brains to understand what the poet is trying to say. This is particularly done by poets in times when it may be dangerous to talk directly, such as during martial law. It was during this time that Faiz’s poem *Hum Dekhenge* was written.

Take for instance Faiz’s *sher*: “*Gulon mein rang bhare baad-e-nauba-haar chale. Chale bhi ao ki gulshan ka kaaroobaar chale.*” Now the literal meaning of this couplet is: “Among the colourful flowers, the new spring breeze is blowing. Come, so that the work of the garden can be done.” But that is only the superficial meaning of the couplet. The word “*gulshan*” literally means garden but here it means the nation. So, the real meaning of the *sher* which the poet is conveying is this: “The objective conditions in the country are ripe. Come forward patriots, the country needs you (for a revolution).”

Similarly, when we read Urdu poetry we must rack our brains and try to understand what it is really that the poet is seeking to convey. Coming now to Faiz’s poem *Hum Dekhenge* one must remember it was written during General Zia-ul-Haq’s oppressive martial law regime when it was dangerous to talk directly. So part of the poem uses traditional Islamic imagery. However, it is used to attack Zia’s dictatorship and restore democracy, not for establishing orthodox Islam. The poem was sung by Iqbal Bano, deliberately wearing a sari (regarded by some as an Indian and unIslamic dress for Pakistani women), despite the ban on public recitation of Faiz’s poems at that time. In fact, Iqbal Bano was later banned from singing anywhere in Pakistan. Many from the audience were rounded up, grilled and detained.

Some of the lines of the poem which are now being described as anti-Hindu are: “*Jab arz-e-khuda ke kaabe se sab but uthwaaye jaayenge. Hum ahl-e-safa mardood-e-haram masnad par balthaye jaayenge.*” The literal meaning of this couplet is, “When from the abode of God (Kaaba) all icons will be removed. Then, we the faithful, who were debarred from sacred places, will be placed on the royal throne.” It is alleged that these lines are anti-Hindu as Hindus worship idols, and these lines are clearly against idol worship. But this is only a superficial understanding. What it means is that self-styled icons of power will be thrown out and God’s beloved or common people will rule. Faiz was a life-long communist and he could hardly have meant that he wanted Islamisation of society. In fact, it was his antagonist General Zia who wanted Islamisation. To understand these lines we must see the context and also see the couplets preceding and succeeding them.

Before these lines, the verses in the poem are: “*Jab zulm-e-sitam ke koh-e-giraan, rui ke tarah udh jaayenge. Hum mehkoomon ke paaon tale, yeh dharti dhad dhad dhadkegi.* (When these high mountains of tyranny and oppression turn to fluff and evaporate. And we oppressed, beneath our feet will have this earth shiver, shake and beat.)” The succeeding lines are: “*Sab taaj uchaale jaayenge, sab takht giraaye jaayenge.* (When crowns will be thrown off and overturned will be thrones.”

It is obvious from this that there is nothing anti-Hindu in this poem and it is the height of absurdity to regard it so. It is a poem powerfully attacking the oppressors of the people and expressing a conviction that one day the oppressed will become the rulers of their own destiny as have been promised to the people. The administration of IIT, Kanpur, which is otherwise a reputed institution, has made itself a laughing stock before the whole country by setting up a panel to review if the poem is anti-Hindu or not.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.)

I BEGAN MY CAREER AS A STUDENT WORKER BUT HAVE NEVER SEEN A SITUATION WHERE THE CAMPUS IS BEING ATTACKED TO GAG PROTESTS.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE



THE COMMUNISTS DESERVED THIS. THEY ARE GETTING PAID IN THE SAME COIN. THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN THIS.

—BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT
DILIP GHOSH

Foster debate, not violence

The hooligans who vandalised JNU must be arrested. This might give some kind of closure to aggrieved students. But we need to rekindle the culture of debate and dialogue



GAUTAM **CHOUBEY**

As one gets down to write about one of the most disturbing episodes in the history of university politics in independent India, it becomes difficult to aim for balance. When bloodied faces of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) girls and menacing images of masked mobs brandishing hammers, machetes, iron rods and sticks flash across one’s mind, how does one show restraint in expressions?

It is possible that a few readers might misconstrue my opening observation as a clever but pliant pretext to dodge public condemnation of the attack on JNU. Some might even argue that if I were to write anything other than a spirited declamation of the State and the JNU administration, I would be doing the institution a great disservice. However, if no denunciation of violence is sufficient — and the horror of it cannot be summarised in language — must public intellectuals be endlessly polemical in their writings and speeches? Ever since the JNU crisis escalated, we have been swarmed with accusatory articles of two varieties: One that calls for clampdown on “urban Naxals” and the “*tukde tukde*” gang, that allegedly thrive in JNU’s subsidised campus, and a second that accuses a State-corporate nexus of attempting to privatise higher education and muzzle voices. I feel emboldened to argue that it is precisely this practice of using public forums to launch no-holds-barred assaults on adversarial viewpoints that has aggravated the crisis. This may not be the occasion to philosophise but to me, the sight of masked-assailants targeting political adversaries suggests a heightened state of intolerance and a complete refusal to communicate.

Simmering intolerance: As has been repeatedly pointed out, the crisis in JNU, to a great extent, is a fallout of a hostile rhetoric that has been doing the rounds on news channels and social media. The nature of this rhetoric is such that it refuses to allow even the slightest concession to its opponent. It is, therefore, no surprise that over the last few years, even as India kept debating “intolerance”, tolerance has been the greatest casualty. For months on end, agitated citizens tuned in to news debates, hoping to find answers to issues that had suddenly come to seize the public sphere. But the domineering news anchors and the blaring experts offered precious little other than orchestrated shouting duels. For a sizeable segment in India, which includes students, shopkeepers and senior citizens, such inflammatory debates, accessed through TVs and smartphones, provide an escape from the monotony of their placid lives. To argue after Professor Craig Jeffrey, this has been our “national timepass” or the politics of waiting in India. It is, therefore, all the more important that on a day such as this, we refrain from indulging in competitive intolerance or freestyle rhetoric.

While it is indeed a painful truth that balanced attempts at seeing the other side in contentious debates are socially not so rewarding but given the circumstance, it has become imperative. Occasional self-criticism, reflection and survey of the socio-political trends, which have dragged us to this point, will, perhaps, throw up strategies to escape this quagmire.

Breakdown of communication: Let us also admit that over the past two decades, in spite of the giant strides that we have taken in the field of mass communication, our ability to communicate has diminished significantly. If intolerant rhetoric is public enemy number one, breakdown of com-

“FOR ANYONE WHO HAS STUDIED AT PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES, SCENES SUCH AS THOSE WITNESSED BY JNU ON JANUARY 5 ARE COMMONPLACE. THE PRESENT OUTCRY OVER JNU, WHICH IS BEING PROJECTED AS THE LAST CITADEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN INDIA, TENDS TO OVERLOOK THIS REALITY. WHILE THE SLIGHTEST SUGGESTION OF STATE INTERVENTION IN DELHI-BASED INSTITUTIONS PROVOKES MASSIVE OUTPOURING OF GRIEF AND INDIGNATION IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF MEDIA, ACTIVISTS FROM DELHI HAD TURNED A BLIND EYE WHEN UNIVERSITIES ACROSS INDIA WERE BEING SYSTEMATICALLY DISMANTLED



munication occupies the second spot.

Further, those little conversations that we manage to have with our adversaries are so toxic that they end up pushing us in back into our respective cocoons, instead of helping us crawl out of them. As we debate, we interrupt, hoot, caricature, abuse and threaten.

In *Think Again: How to reason and argue*, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong argues that these days, people do not have close friends with radically different political views. It is indeed true that today, the majority prefers to live in communities, both real and virtual that are similar with respect to religion, politics, news sources and even social media networks. Moreover, if at all we encounter people with views hostile to our own, we avoid interacting with them. Consequently, the ideological schisms that divide us have widened more than ever. The world, including India, has transformed into a parliament of ideas with little possibility of syncretic exchanges and every chance of violent confrontations.

If you ever speak to the JNU alumni, you will find that the stories of campus camaraderie that cut across political ideologies and all other affiliations are aplenty. Most will admit that while the campus debates were always intense, they never even bordered on hatred, let alone violence. However, of late, things have taken a rather unfortunate turn. Shortly after the violence on January 5, a friend from JNU posted something to the effect that hereafter she would banish all BJP/RSS sympathisers from her life and that she would never ever interact with any of them or engage them in debates. If dialogue is not the way forward, how then do we propose to take

things further and resolve the crisis?

Beyond JNU: This breakdown of communication inside the campus is matched by a similar disruption of communication with the world beyond. People outside the campus, even academicians based in prominent regional centres, are upset because media houses and activists have persistently refused to engage with the plight of universities beyond Delhi. For anyone, who has studied at provincial universities, scenes such as those witnessed by JNU on January 5 are commonplace. The present outcry over JNU, which is being projected as the last citadel of knowledge and democratic values in India, tends to overlook this reality. While the slightest suggestion of State intervention in Delhi-based institutions provokes massive outpouring of grief and indignation in certain sections of media, activists from Delhi had turned a blind eye when universities across India were being systematically dismantled. And those responsible for destruction of the likes of Patna University, Allahabad University and Lucknow University, among others, were socialists and the self-proclaimed followers of Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan (JP). According to Andre Beteille, the JP Movement did not lead to any significant moral cleansing of the students.

Student politics today: In 1970, writing on university politics in India, PG Altbach dismissed student activism as a spent force. He felt that it had lost its pre-independence idealism and sense of purpose. Although Altbach was proven wrong by the JP Movement, yet it is fair to argue that the months preceding Emergency saw the last major show of

student unity. Since then, these movements have been spontaneous, sporadic and mostly disjointed. This can be attributed to a number of factors. First, owing to the expansion of institutions of higher education, the student population has become much more heterogeneous than earlier. Second, emphasis on commerce and technical education, as opposed to liberal arts and social sciences, has rendered them largely indifferent to socio-political issues. Third, our public institutions, such as the Parliament and judiciary, have become much stronger than earlier. Fourth, the extent and practice of students activism is not the same everywhere. Those based in metropolitan centres are more aware of politics and, therefore, more prone to activism. This difference has been further sharpened by an ever-widening rural-urban divide. Fifth, to most onlookers, student politics is a waste of time, resources and a breeding ground for corrupt politicians of the future. It is no surprise that calls for banning campus politics have become so ubiquitous in public discourses. Given the glorious legacy of student politics in India, this is highly undesirable. However, under the changed circumstances, some initiation in campus behaviour, culture and political socialisation should be made a part of orientation programme.

The hooligans, who vandalised JNU, must be arrested. This might give some kind of closure to the aggrieved students. But we need to rekindle the culture of debate, dialogue and cordial disagreement too.

(The writer teaches at the University of Delhi and is a commentator on public sphere and cultural politics)

Population explosion must be next target

Prime Minister Modi should not only mobilise the support of other political parties but also of the chief ministers. If India wants to be a superpower, then addressing the population explosion is imperative



KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Will there be a move to contain the population explosion in the country? After Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort that “keeping one’s family small is an act of patriotism” hinting at some measures to contain the population, there were expectations that a Bill might be introduced in this regard in the upcoming Budget Session.

Addressing the issue for the first time in his Independence Day speech, Modi expressed concern over the steep rise in India’s population and said that the Centre and

States should look at measures to deal with it. “The time has now come that we should take such challenges head on,” he announced from the ramparts of the historic fort.

Currently, the population of India is at 1.37 billion and will overtake that of China, the world’s most populous country by 2027. However, millions still do not have access to clean water, food, healthcare and education, thanks to the unmanageable numbers. Plus, more mouths mean more strain on the resources.

However, now that there are pan-India protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), it is doubtful whether the Prime Minister would open up one more front. Just as the CAA and NRC are perceived to be targeting the Muslims in the country, this too will be seen as an attempt to target the biggest minority community in India. In any case, the “P-word” is a very sensitive subject and no politician wants to touch it after the forced ster-

ilisation drives during the Emergency. It became an election issue and Indira Gandhi lost that election.

The Union Health Ministry even changed the name of the Family Planning Department to Family Welfare Department. Moreover when even China, known for its rigid family planning programmes has opted for an overhaul of its earlier one-child norm, why should India be pushing for family planning programmes?

Besides, the Economic Survey 2018-2019 says, “India is set to witness a sharp slowdown in population growth in the next two decades. Population in the 0-19 age bracket has already peaked due to a sharp decline in total fertility rates (TFR) across the country.” Nine States have already reached the replacement rate of 2.1 or below. All of India will have reached a TFR of 2.1 or below by 2021. Almost all major States, including even populous ones like Haryana and Bihar, are said to have experienced a significant deceleration in

population growth. High fertility rates persist in 72 districts, a little over 11 per cent of the country’s 621 districts. Although India’s population continues to grow, the pace of net addition is decreasing.

The southern States have genuine concern as they have sought a negative growth and are consequently at a disadvantage, as when delimitation takes place or when the Finance Commission allocates resources, one of the criteria is population. The five southern States even held a conclave to project their problems. So special incentives should be given to the States that adopt a negative population growth target.

Those who are against any harsh measures to contain population argue that the one billion plus population would yield a demographic dividend. For poor families, more hands mean more income. Also, it has brought in higher per capita entitlements. Second, the migration from the north and the eastern

States has helped maintain growth in the South and the West, where fertility rates are low.

However, Rakesh Sinha, a nominated Rajya Sabha member has tabled a Private Member’s Bill called The Population Regulation Bill, 2019, in the Upper House, which he hopes might be taken up in the upcoming Budget Session. The Bill advocates penalties ranging from denial of financial benefits to ineligibility for elected offices and discontinuation of food subsidy and other such things. There are also incentives for those who undergo sterilisation after having two children. The financial memorandum of the Bill estimates ₹10 crore as annual recurring expenditure. Last year 125 parliamentarians submitted a petition to the President to implement a two-child norm. If the Bill gets support, then the Government could adopt it with some amendments. However, while the BJP might support the Bill, hoping that it will consolidate the Hindu votes, the secular parties would not

go along with it because of their own vote bank politics, as they believe that the measure is to target Muslims. But in view of the brute majority of the BJP in the Lok Sabha this measure could be pushed through.

Containing the population explosion is imperative and every citizen has a stake in it. It is not enough just to provide contraceptives to women to enhance demographic transition; it should be accompanied by awareness, availability of food, employment and healthcare. Overpopulation is a huge problem that India is grappling with for long. Political compulsions and vote bank politics have so far deterred our Prime Ministers from taking up the issue. It is a good sign now that Modi is willing to change the narrative.

He should not only mobilise the support of other political parties but also of the chief ministers. If India wants to be a superpower, then addressing the population explosion is imperative.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



WE HAVE ONLY ONE HOME

From space, we get a proper appreciation of our world and its vulnerability. Until we sent probes to Mars and Venus, we thought our nearest planetary siblings could easily support life. Instead, spacecraft showed that Venus is an acid-drenched, scorching vision of hell while Mars was found to have lost most its atmosphere. Space exploration tells us there is no Planet B and no chance of starting over again if we continue to make a mess.

(The Guardian editorial)

FY20 GDP growth at 5 per cent: Govt

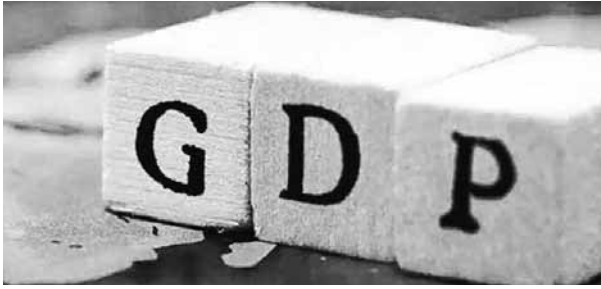
FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The growth in real GDP during 2019-20 is estimated at 5 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 6.8 per cent in 2018-19, the Government said on Tuesday.

The figures show massive drop in growth rates following deceleration in the key sectors of industry and core sectors and now presage an 11-year drop in GDP growth. In Q2, the growth had dropped to 4.5 per cent.

"The Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12) in the year 2019-20 is likely to attain a level of ₹147.79 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2018-19 of ₹140.78 lakh crore, released on 31st May 2019. The growth in real GDP during 2019-20 is estimated at 5 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 6.8 per cent in 2018-19," the Statistics & Programme Implementation Ministry said.

The National Statistical



Office, under Ministry, released the First Advance Estimates of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2019-20, along with the corresponding estimates of expenditure components of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Real GVA (Gross Value Addition) at Basic Prices is estimated to increase from ₹129.07 lakh crore in 2018-19 to ₹135.40 lakh crore in 2019-20. Estimated growth of real GVA in 2019-20 is 4.9 per cent as against 6.6 per cent in 2018-19.

The sectors, which registered a growth rate of over 4.9

percent, are, 'Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and Other Utility Services', 'Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services related to Broadcasting', 'Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services' and 'Public Administration, Defence and Other Services' at 5.4 per cent, 5.9 per cent, 6.4 per cent, and 9.1 per cent respectively.

The growth in the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing', 'Mining and Quarrying', 'Manufacturing' and 'Construction' is estimated to be 2.8 per cent, 1.5 per cent, 2 per cent and 3.2 per cent, respectively.

Sitharaman tells traders GST will be 'simplified' further

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that the Government will resolve issues concerning traders and that GST would be further simplified.

Speaking at the second day of the National Traders Convention of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), Sitharaman assured them that the Government is making all attempts to simplify and rationalise the GST tax structure to the extent that even an ordinary trader can comply with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) provisions.

"Under the chairmanship of the Revenue Secretary, a committee has been constituted, which is working day and night to explore the ways and means to simplify GST", she said.

Traders from across the country are attending the three-day convention.

Sitharaman lauded the role of the trading community for increasing the GST tax data.

CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said the body has set itself a target of enhancing the number of traders registered under GST to



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks during National Traders Convention at Ramlila ground in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

2 crore.

Sitharaman said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed the trading community as his priority and in line with this, various announcements have been made by the Government to facilitate traders on growing their businesses.

The Finance Ministry is seized of the problems being faced by traders in the taxation system and the Government would do its utmost for providing maximum relief to traders, she said.

According to Sitharaman, while traders bring in tax revenue earners and no prudent government would like to annoy them, they, however, also need to bring their businesses into system and modernise their existing business formats.

The Government plans to hold big shopping festivals across the country and will involve CAIT so that traders may get more opportunities to showcase their products, she added.

Housing sales saw marginal rise in 2019: Knight Frank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Despite a slowdown in the economy, housing sales witnessed a marginal rise in 2019 across eight major cities to nearly 2.46 lakh units, according to property consultant Knight Frank.

Releasing its latest report, India Real Estate: H2 2019, Knight Frank said that "despite headwinds of economic slowdown, Indian real estate sector has recorded an overall growth in 2019".

The residential property market in top eight cities recorded a growth of 1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in sales volume in 2019.

Total sales volume was recorded at 2,45,861 units in 2019 over 2,42,328 in 2018 as

affordability improved, and developers aligned themselves with the needs of homebuyers by reducing ticket-sizes and unit-sizes in a bid to encourage sales, the consultant said.

"Housing market grew last year beating all odds," Knight Frank India Executive Director (Valuation and Advisory, Retail and Hospitality) Ghulam Zia told reporters.

Housing sales increased in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad, but dropped in Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata.

According to the report, Bengaluru saw maximum rise in housing sales of 10 per cent at 48,076 units.

Housing sales in Chennai increased by 6 per cent to

16,959 units, while the national capital region saw 5 per cent rise at 42,828 units.

"Steady sales volumes is a positive sign for the reeling NCR residential market," said Muddasir Zaidi, Executive Director (North) Knight Frank India.

Average housing prices rose by 4-5 per cent last year, but it is still lower than 2015 level, Zaidi added.

Hyderabad witnessed 4 per cent rise in sales to 16,267 units and Ahmedabad reported 3 per cent increase at 16,713 units.

However, Kolkata saw a decline of 12 per cent in housing sales at 11,266 units.

Housing sales in Mumbai and Pune fell by 5 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively. Sales of

apartments stood at 60,943 units in the financial capital and 32,809 units in Pune.

New residential unit launches rose by 23 per cent YoY in 2019 to be recorded at 2,23,325 units.

In the office segment, leasing of space rose by 27 per cent to touch record 60.6 million square feet (msf), backed by a surge in leasing activity by the information technology sector.

New supply of office space surged by 56 per cent in 2019 and was recorded at 61.3 msf.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said, "2019 can be seen as a relatively positive year

for the real estate sector.

The historic rise in the office transactions is a significant growth indicator for the office market as it represents the continued commitment of domestic and global corporations in the country's growth potential despite the ongoing economic slowdown."

The residential sector also overcame the negative market outlook by registering a growth in sales volumes as well as new launches, he added.

"Economic headwinds such as slower GDP growth, reduced industrial output, poor consumer sentiments, amongst others, presented significant challenges to the residential market throughout the year.

"However, the slew of recent fiscal and monetary incentives by the Government and Reserve Bank of India, seem to have had an arrestive impact on the real estate sector," Bajjal said.

₹ regains 11 paise against USD on easing crude

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Tuesday reclaimed some lost ground, rising 11 paise to close at 71.82 against the US dollar as receding fears of a larger conflict in the Middle East helped crude oil prices ease.

Besides, a rebound in the domestic equity markets also supported the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a positive note at 71.73 against the US currency.

During the session, the domestic currency stayed strong and swung between a low of 71.87 and a high of 71.68. It finally closed at 71.82, showing a gain of 11 paise over its previous closing.

The Indian unit had slipped 13 paise to 71.93 against the greenback on Monday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength

against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.12 per cent to 96.78.

Brent futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.62 per cent to \$68.48 per barrel.

Experts are of the view that oil prices retreated as major crude exporter Iran stayed away from retaliation after the US assassination of a top Iranian general.

On a net basis, foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth ₹682.23 crore, while domestic institutional investors bought shares worth ₹311.19 crore on Tuesday, data available with stock exchanges showed.

The 10-year government bond yield was at 6.55 per cent.

Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 72.0919 and for rupee/euro at 80.4531. The reference rate for rupee/British

pound was fixed at 94.2890 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 66.74.

"Rupee traded volatile in range of 71.68-71.87 during the day with both side moves on news of Iranian assessing 13 retaliation scenarios against the US to take revenge. With 'crude oil already on boil', any steps Iran takes shall hamper the markets globally and directly rupee shall have the volatile moves up ahead," said Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst (Commodity & Currency) at LKP Securities.

"72.00-72.25 shall keep acting as a crucial barrier for USD/INR pair whereas 71.60-71.40 as supports," he said.

On the equity market front, the BSE benchmark Sensex ended 192.84 points, or 0.47 per cent, higher at 40,869.47. While, the broader Nifty rose 59.90 points, or 0.50 per cent, to finish at 12,052.95.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely: Unknown, S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age: 45 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Brown colour shirt, Black colour pant and Black colour Jacket** has been found dead at Central Verge, HC sen road, near Gurudwara Sheshganj Sahib, Chandni Chowk, Delhi on 31.12.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 15A dated 31.12.2019 has been lodged at Police Station Kotwali, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kotwali, Delhi North Distt., Delhi Tel. No. 011-23953442, 23977100

DP/852/NI/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Ankur Rai, S/o: Rakesh Kumar Rai, R/o: Unknown, was found on 07.12.2019 at Near Rath Hospital, Nangloi-Najafgarh Road, from the are of P.S. Ranholia, Delhi.** He was taken to Asha Kiran Mand Budhi child home, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 02-A, dated 07.12.2019** has been registered at P.S. Ranholia, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the address & family of boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of found boy is as under:

Name: Ankur Rai, Age: 15 Years, Height: 5'8", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: Mentally Unsound, Wearing: Blue colour jacket, blue half nikkar and hawai chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this found boy please inform P.S. Ranholia, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO Police Station, Ranholia, Delhi DP/2993/OD/19 Ph: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:

1. Name of work with its location	Hiring of three M.U.V (Toyota Innova/Chevrolet Tavera/Maruti Ertiga/Tata Safari/Mahindra Xylo/Scorpio or Similar Vehicle) One Each for station Director of New Delhi, Delhi Jn., and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Stations Respectively for Emergent+Other Multifarious Duties for 2400 KMS and 300 Hours of Duty per Month, Per Vehicle, for a period of One year and No Claim for any other Charges, Taxes Etc. Shall be Entertained By the Railway at Any Later Stage and on Any Ground Whatsoever.
2. Approximate Cost of work	Rs. 39,200/- per month per vehicle or Rs. 14,11,200/- GST for three vehicles for one year.
3. Date and Time of submission of e-tender bid and opening of e-tender	03.02.2020 at 11.00 hrs.
4. Cost of Tender document & 18% GST	Rs. 2,360
5. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 28,300
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	https://reps.gov.in/& Tender no.: Vehiclehiring01-2020

No.: IC/01/Hiring/MUV/Emergent duties/SD-NDLS-DLH-HZNM/219 Dated: 06.01.2020 68/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Karan S/o Rakesh R/o H.No. 248, Gali No.8, A-Block, Utsav Vihar, Karala, New Delhi Aged-10 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 07.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Begumpur, Delhi vide **FIR No.367/19 Dated 28.10.2019** registered at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Clothing: Unknown Clothes.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Begumpur, Delhi at E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in**

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Begumpur, Delhi DP/3600/RD/2020 Tel.: 011-27579029, 27579030



Karan

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY & HER CHILDREN



General public is hereby informed that one lady (along with her three children) (1) namely **Heena Devi, W/o Shri Ravi Vishwas, R/o Bablu Ki Jhuggi, Gali No. 2, Chitra Vihar, Delhi, Age 29 years, Height 5', Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Strong Build, Identification she have no left eye, Wearing Red colour saree & blouse,** (2) daughter namely **Tulsi, Age 8 years, Height 3', Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Thin Built, Wearing Black colour frowk,** (3) son namely **Sumit, Age 6 years, Height 2'6", Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Medium Built, Wearing Black colour T-shirt & blue colour jeans pant and** (4) Son namely **Amit, Age 5 years, Height 2', Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Medium Built, Wearing Black colour T-shirt & blue colour jeans pant** has been missing from area of PS Preet Vihar, Delhi since 11.11.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 05-A dated 12.11.19 has been lodged at PS Preet Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about these missing lady and with her three children may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS : Preet Vihar, Delhi Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 22510291, 22506100

DP/7214/ED/19

12,000 tonne onion imported so far: Paswan

STATES TO GET AT ₹49-58/KG FOR RETAIL SALE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has so far imported 12,000 tonne of onion and it is being offered to states at ₹49-58 per kg for retail distribution and to check prices, Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Tuesday.

To boost domestic supply

and contain price rise, the Government is importing onion through State-owned MMTC and also facilitating private imports.

"We have imported so far 12,000 tonne of onion from countries like Turkey and Afghanistan," Paswan told reporters.

Of this import, 1,000 tonne has already been distributed to Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala, he said. By the end of this month, additional 36,000 tonne of imported onion is expected to arrive in India which will help ease pressure on prices, he

added.

Retail onion prices, which were ruling over ₹100 per kg in most cities since last two months, have started softening now on arrival of imported onions and new kharif crop.

Onion prices in Delhi are ruling at ₹70/kg on Tuesday, as against

₹118 per kg on December 19, 2019. Similarly, prices in Mumbai have dropped to ₹80 per kg from ₹120 per kg in the said period, as per the Government data.

Onion prices have shot up due to 25 per cent fall in the kharif production.

Sebi comes out with system audit framework for exchanges, clearing corp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In order to keep pace with the technological advancements in the securities market, Sebi on Tuesday came out with new framework on system audit for market infrastructure institutions (MIIs), stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories, wherein they need to inform about major non-compliances.

The decision has been taken based on discussions with stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories along with recommendations of Sebi's Technical Advisory Committee.

In a circular, the regulator has asked MIIs to conduct an annual system audit as per the prescribed framework and terms of reference.

Also, they have been asked to maintain a list of all the relevant Sebi circular and directions, among others, pertaining to technology and compliance under a stipulated time frame

and the same need to be included under the scope of system audit.

Further, they have been asked to submit information with regard to exceptional major or minor non-compliances observed in the system audit and categorically highlight those observations pointed out in the system audit (current and previous) which remain open.

The system audit report, including compliance with Sebi guidelines and exceptional observation format along with compliance status of previous year observations, needs to be placed before the governing board of the MIIs and then the report along with the comments of the MIIs management needs to be communicated to Sebi within a month of completion of audit.

Further, along with the audit report, MIIs need to submit a declaration from their managing directors or chief executive officers certifying

the security and integrity of their IT systems.

With regard to the audit process, Sebi said the audit needs to be conducted according to the norms, terms of reference and guidelines issued by it. The governing board of the MII will appoint auditor who can perform a maximum of three successive audits. However, such auditor will be eligible for re-appointment after a cooling-off period of two years.

Further, during the cooling-off period, the incoming auditor should not include: Any firm that has common partner with the outgoing audit company. The period of the audit will not be more than 12 months. Further, the audit will be completed within 2 months from the end of the audit period.

According to Sebi, the overall timeline from the last date of the audit period till completion of final compliance by MII, including follow-on audit, if any, should not exceed

Regulator has asked MIIs to conduct an annual system audit

one year.

In exceptional cases, if MII is of the view that compliance with certain observations may extend beyond a period of one year, then the concerned MII shall seek specific approval from the governing board, it added.

In respect of auditor selection norms, Sebi said the auditor must have minimum 3 years of demonstrable experience in IT audit of securities industry or financial services sector - banking, insurance and fin-tech.

The auditor should have the capability to undertake forensic audit and undertake such audit as part of annual system audit, if required and must not have any conflict of interest.

Sebi said a detailed report with regard to the system audit needs to be submitted to it. The detailed report should include executive summary with details about unit where the audit is conducted and the findings.

‘Regulators should not depend on Govt grant’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Regulators in the country must have their own sources of income so that they do not have to depend on grants provided by the government, capital markets watchdog Sebi's former Chairman UK Sinha has said. In his new book 'Going Public: My Time at Sebi', Sinha has said that financial independence is the basic requirement for the functioning of an independent regulator. A regulator should have its own source of income and flexibility to utilise it without looking up to the government for funds, he has written. "There have been some recent developments to take away this freedom and ask Sebi to park its income in the Consolidated Fund of India or in the Public Account, and to seek prior approval of government before incurring any capital expenditure. Such efforts are not conducive in creating a strong and independent regulatory environment," he said.

The Sebi Act provides for the regulator to levy fees and charges and create its own fund. The board of Sebi prepares its annual budget, where it can revise the rates of fees upwards and downwards based on its estimate of money required for its activities dur-

ing the year. The Sebi board also has representation from the government. The former IAS officer said all other regulators also must have their own sources of income and not survive on the receipt of grants from the government. There have been reports that the government was pushing Sebi to transfer 75 per cent of its surplus to the Consolidated Fund of India, but Sebi is believed to have opposed the proposal on concerns about loss of autonomy. There have also been concerns in the recent past about autonomy of another major financial sector regulator, the Reserve Bank of India.

In the book published by Penguin India, Sinha said independence of a regulator should not be defined only with regard to independence from the government and its officials. It should also be seen in the context of independence from any outside influences, including those from market participants and business corporations, he said. Sinha said there have been concerns about market capture of regulators in other parts of the world and the senior leadership and the boards of the regulators have to remain extra cautious on this account. "Another dimension of independence is internal independence. Although the

law permits this, the quasi-judicial function of Sebi needs to be separated from executive supervision," he said. With regard to accountability, Sinha said independence and accountability go hand in hand. "Today, there is no satisfactory arrangement for a performance appraisal of a regulator like Sebi. The media does it. The government does it through the presence of their representatives in the Sebi board or while answering questions in Parliament," he said.

According to Sinha, Parliamentary supervision over the regulators is a superior option to ensure accountability. The standing committee of Parliament for different ministries may have to take up this responsibility in a regular and structured way. Regulations formulated by Sebi are required to be placed before Parliament at the earliest. The Parliament has the right to reject or modify, but the same never happens. Hardly any subordinate legislation gets modified or rejected, Sinha has mentioned in his book. The Parliamentary committee on subordinate legislation has a huge task of reviewing not only the regulation framed by the multiple regulators but also the rules framed by various ministries under different laws.

Mkt in recovery mode amid no flare-up in US-Iran tensions

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian bourses too staged a recovery after two sessions of sharp losses on Tuesday, following somewhat calmed global markets as no further escalation in US-Iran tussle soothed investor nerves. At the closing bell, the BSE benchmark Sensex was 192.84 points or 0.47 per cent higher at 40,869.47. After opening the session on a bullish note, the 30-share gauge went on to touch a high of 41,230.14 in early deals — rallying over 553 points during the session.

Likewise, the broader Nifty closed 59.90 points or 0.50 per cent up at 12,052.95. The 50-share NSE barometer swung over 159 points during the day. On Monday, the domestic stock market had suffered its worst single-day loss in about six months. Signs of easing Iran-US tensions helped moderate global crude oil prices, in result prompting the Indian rupee to gain some lost ground.

In the Sensex kitty, Ultratech Cement was the top gainer, rising 2.10 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries Sun Pharma, NTPC and Asian Paints. On the other hand, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Nestle India, Hero MotoCorp and PowerGrid ended in the red. Sectorally, BSE

realty, basic materials, energy, finance and metal indices rose up to 1.83 per cent; while telecom, teck, IT and consumer durables indices slipped up to 0.97 per cent. In the broader market, BSE midcap and small-cap indices rallied up to 0.99 per cent.

"Iran is under pressure from world leaders not to escalate the issue further. Due to ease in tension in the Middle East, market recovered from yesterday's losses. Oil prices cooled as Iran a major crude exporter stayed away from retaliation. The first advance estimates for FY20 GDP by MoS is expected at 5 per cent which is already factored by the market, not impacting further," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Brent crude oil futures fell by nearly 0.26 per cent to USD 68.73. The Indian rupee appreciated by 11 paise to 71.82 against the US dollar on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Pentagon on Monday distanced itself from US President Donald Trump's assertions that he would bomb Iranian cultural sites despite international prohibitions on such attacks. Iran's parliament, meanwhile, passed a bill on Tuesday designating all US forces "terrorists" over the killing of a top Iranian military commander in a US strike last week.

Next ranking of states for ease of doing biz in March

New Delhi (PTI): The Commerce and Industry Ministry is likely to release the next index to rank states and union territories (UTs) in terms of ease of doing business in March, a senior official said. "It will be released in end of February or March. Due to elections, the release got delayed," the official said.

The exercise is aimed at triggering competition among states to improve business climate in order to attract domestic and global investors. State governments are taking several steps such as setting up single window system for approvals to improve ease of doing business.

The parameters include areas such as construction permit, labour regulation, environmental registration, access to information, land availability and single window system. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in collaboration with the World Bank conducts an annual reform exercise for all states/UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). In the last ranking released in July 2018, Andhra Pradesh topped the chart. Telangana and Haryana were at the second and third positions, respectively.

LIQUIDATION PROCESS

Secured creditor can't sell assets to entities ineligible for insolvency plan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A secured creditor cannot sell assets of a company undergoing liquidation process to any person barred from submitting an insolvency resolution plan, as per a new amendment made to the norms by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Besides, a secured creditor will have to contribute its share towards insolvency resolution and liquidation process costs and workmen's dues within 90 days of the liquidation commencement date, an official release said on Tuesday.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provides for time-bound and market-linked resolution process for stressed corporates. In case the resolution process does not materialise, then the entity goes for liquidation. The release said the IBBI has notified changes to the liquidation process regulations with effect from January 6. The amendment also provides a process for a stakeholder to seek withdrawal from the corporate liquidation account.

"The amendment clarifies that a person, who is not eligible under the code to submit

a resolution plan for insolvency resolution of the corporate debtor, shall not be a party in any manner to a compromise or arrangement of the corporate debtor under section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013," it said.

Further, a secured creditor cannot sell or transfer an asset, which is subject to security interest, to any person who is not eligible under the code to submit a resolution plan for insolvency resolution of the corporate debtor. "The amendment provides that a secured creditor, who proceeds to realise its security interest, shall contribute its share of the insolvency resolution process cost, liquidation process cost and workmen's dues, within 90 days of the liquidation commencement date," the release said. Also, the secured creditor has to pay excess of realised value of the asset, which is subject to security interest, over the amount of its claims admitted, within 180 days of the liquidation commencement date. According to the release, where the secured creditor fails to pay such amounts to the liquidator within 90 days or 180 days, as the case may be, the asset should become part of the Liquidation Estate.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	12079.10	12152.15	12005.35	12052.95	59.90	
VEDL	152.80	156.80	152.55	156.05	3.50	
ZEEL	265.00	271.35	263.35	267.65	6.15	
ULTRACEMCO	4199.55	4254.00	4164.05	4239.95	82.85	
UPL	584.95	604.00	583.05	599.00	10.05	
RELIANCE	1519.00	1534.50	1513.50	1526.95	25.45	
HDFCBANK	1258.90	1271.45	1252.25	1261.00	20.05	
SUNPHARMA	441.40	448.00	437.55	447.05	7.10	
NTPC	119.25	121.55	119.25	120.75	1.85	
HDFC	2401.25	2428.80	2380.20	2420.00	35.90	
ASIANPAINT	1711.00	1740.10	1711.00	1730.65	23.50	
WIPRO	253.25	256.35	250.20	255.00	2.85	
ADANIPORTS	384.95	389.75	382.40	384.05	3.85	
KOTAKBANK	1661.05	1674.75	1650.40	1668.00	15.45	
TECHM	770.00	778.50	760.60	776.65	6.25	
GRASIM	738.20	756.00	736.50	742.30	5.30	
BRITANNIA	3033.90	3054.00	3028.00	3038.00	15.95	
AXISBANK	728.00	738.00	721.05	726.95	3.70	
JSWSTEEL	266.15	270.15	263.10	265.50	1.20	
MARUTI	7100.00	7165.60	7026.40	7075.00	32.60	
BAJAJFINSV	9125.00	9265.00	9065.05	9080.00	37.30	
TATASTEEL	475.50	484.60	473.55	475.20	1.95	
M&M	528.90	532.00	523.05	526.65	2.15	
HINDUNILVR	1919.25	1931.00	1918.00	1922.00	6.55	
CIPLA	469.00	470.00	465.65	468.35	1.60	
IT	1328.00	1339.50	1313.75	1321.15	4.40	
HCLTECH	582.00	587.75	579.05	583.90	1.90	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3045.50	3072.00	3030.10	3045.00	7.35	
BAFINANCE	4055.00	4092.00	3996.20	4005.90	9.20	
TCS	2200.50	2214.65	2183.80	2205.00	4.55	
ITC	236.05	237.90	234.60	235.50	0.40	
TITAN	1170.95	1173.85	1152.05	1159.35	0.75	
DRREDDY	2890.00	2910.00	2871.05	2880.00	1.15	
COALINDIA	206.50	208.20	204.35	205.75	0.05	
IOC	125.30	127.45	124.10	124.80	-0.10	
GAIL	124.90	126.05	123.85	124.20	-0.15	
YESBANK	45.70	46.40	43.95	45.05	-0.10	
ICICIBANK	531.30	535.60	521.65	524.15	-1.55	
EICHERMOT	20950.00	21349.80	20713.80	20800.00	-60.45	
HINDALCO	210.55	213.20	207.70	208.70	-0.60	
SBIN	324.45	327.00	315.40	317.90	-1.10	
ONGC	125.60	127.70	125.40	125.75	-0.50	
HEROMOTOCO	2378.00	2399.90	2337.00	2353.70	-14.45	
NESTLEIND	14223.55	14546.75	14260.85	14319.00	-97.65	
TATAMOTORS	187.00	189.40	182.30	184.35	-1.30	
INDUSINDBK	1488.45	1508.00	1441.20	1458.00	-11.40	
POWERGRID	193.15	194.50	191.15	191.30	-1.80	
BHARTIARTL	452.00	455.30	443.10	445.05	-4.60	
INFY	738.00	742.60	725.10	729.30	-9.55	
BPCL	467.90	474.75	459.85	462.05	-7.10	
INFRATEL	242.50	246.90	237.15	238.35	-4.40	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	28049.55	28347.30	27971.75	28101.20	206.30	
SHREECEM	21097.15	22050.00	20951.00	22005.15	940.75	
PFC	114.00	118.80	114.00	117.00	4.10	
L&T	114.00	117.00	113.50	116.50	3.95	
INDIGO	1327.15	1384.00	1327.15	1366.00	38.90	
MOTHERSUMI	143.00	146.70	142.50	144.80	3.75	
ASHOKLEY	81.00	82.45	80.60	82.05	1.70	
AUROPHARMA	446.50	454.95	446.50	452.00	8.50	
DLF	223.00	227.45	222.50	225.15	4.20	
HDFCLIFE	623.60	643.70	623.60	629.95	10.40	
GODREJCP	70.90	71.60	70.90	70.85	10.75	
PETRONET	268.00	272.15	266.45	270.90	4.05	
PEL	148.00	150.00	146.00	148.00	20.55	
GICRE	242.20	244.15	240.95	241.90	3.15	
ACC	345.00	346.05	343.60	345.10	17.55	
IBULHSGFIN	140.25	141.40	140.25	140.35	308.80	
AMBAJACEM	198.10	202.55	196.70	199.10	2.20	
DMART	1805.00	1837.50	1805.00	1810.00	20.10	
DABUR	450.30	456.00	449.15	452.75	4.75	
PIDILITIND	139.10	143.85	139.00	140.00	12.30	
COLPAL	1441.30	1453.10	1437.35	1447.50	12.05	
CADILAHC	256.30	260.00	253.05	257.10	2.10	
HDFCAMC	3082.00	3150.00	3060.00	3087.15	23.50	
SIEMENS	1479.95	1497.35	1475.00	1485.85	11.35	
PNB	62.10	63.10	61.00	61.85	0.45	
HINDZINC	212.60	215.60	210.20	213.35	1.50	
BERGEPAINT	491.95	502.50	489.65	493.50	3.30	
GSKCHLTD	14850.05	14999.95	14697.80	14890.00	71.20	
DIVISLAB	1838.00	1851.75	1832.60	1846.85	8.50	
SRTANSFIN	1121.55	1151.00	1112.90	1122.40	9.90	
MARICO	331.10	336.10	331.10	333.00	1.25	
ICICIPRULI	476.20	484.80	475.00	477.00	1.50	
BANKBARODA	97.60	98.15	94.75	96.00	0.20	
SBILFE	99.90	100.00	98.00	98.45	1.85	
ICICIGI	1385.00	1400.45	1380.00	1387.00	1.40	
NHPC	23.95	24.10	23.95	23.95	0.00	
HINDPETRO	250.00	253.70	239.30	244.00	-0.65	
LUPIN	764.00	772.60	752.55	759.50	-2.60	
OFSS	2676.10	2736.20	2661.50	2673.95	-14.65	
UBL	1277.10	1287.90	1265.20	1270.00	-1.10	
NIACL	151.50	152.45	147.50	147.90	-7.10	
PAGEIND	22910.00	23150.00	22619.50	22724.90	-183.20	
IDEA	6.00	6.20	5.90	5.95	-0.05	
MCDOWELL-N	571.50	573.65	562.45	565.75	-5.70	
CONCOR	565.05	567.70	554.75	556.30	-5.90	
HAVELLS	648.25	656.90	639.00	640.20	-6.95	
BANDHANBNK	50.90	50.90	49.30	49.10	-6.30	
BAJAJHLING	3450.05	3480.85	3380.05	3404.00	-46.05	
NAMJCHD	130.00	130.90	124.25	127.55	-1.85	
BIOCON	292.70	294.70	275.20	283.40	-4.40	
PGHH	11360.00	11360.00	11018.55	11025.00	-192.00	

BSE 500

ScrIP	Open	High	Low	LTP		206.15	208.25	204.45	205.60
BAFINANCE	4050.00	4092.00	3999.40	4007.40		21.30	21.90	21.30	21.50
ICICIBANK	530.10	535.50	520.05	520.70		35.95	36.35	35.50	35.80
RELIANCE	1520.00	1534.00	1514.45	1525.05		699.95	699.95	676.50	678.00
HDFCBANK	1258.30	1271.75	1252.20	1260.85		1482.90	1498.00	1474.00	1478.25
SBIN	324.00	327.00	315.55	318.25		79.75	81.30	78.30	79.80
IBULHSGFIN	310.05	317.30	303.70	308.20		2380.00	2395.90	2337.80	2349.35
TATAMOTORS	187.50	189.40	182.30	184.75		612.00	622.40	610.05	611.95
YESBANK	45.70	46.45	44.40	45.10		662.00	673.05	662.00	666.05
TATASTEEL	477.00	484.60	473.60	475.65		378.50	382.20	372.80	375.40
HDFC	2400.00	2428.00	2380.55	2413.05		83.00	83.60	76.25	82.10
POWERGRID	193.15	194.45	191.15	191.80		698.10	715.70	698.10	708.15
SUNPHARMA	442.00	448.00	437.90	446.35		22.95	23.70	22.95	23.30
RBLBANK	342.00	351.75	340.45	344.05		466.00	470.00	463.85	468.75
BPCL	469.90	474.75	460.00	460.95		770.05	778.65	760.65	777.50
INDUSINDBK	1476.00	1507.40	1443.00	1461.60		644.80	663.00	636.25	639.70
INFY	739.05	742.35	725.15	727.75		24.00	24.00	23.25	23.75
BANKBARODA	97.15	98.10	94.75	96.10		105.70	114.40	104.70	

No decision on withdrawal of troops yet: US Def Secy

Washington: The US has not taken any decision to withdraw American troops from Iraq, Defence Secretary Mark Esper has said, shortly after the US military in a letter to Iraqi officials said that the US forces would be relocating “to prepare for onward movement”.

Some 5,000 US soldiers are deployed in Iraq as part of the international coalition against the IS terror group. The Iraqi Parliament on Sunday passed a resolution to terminate the agreement that allows for American troops in the country.

Iraq’s move comes in response to the killing of Maj Gen Qasem Soleimani, the 62-year-old head of Iran’s elite al-Quds force and the architect of its regional security apparatus, in a US drone attack in Baghdad on Friday.

The strike also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy chief of Iraq’s powerful Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force.

In a letter released on Monday, Marine Corps Brig Gen William H Seely said the US forces “respect your sovereign decision to order our departure”.

Seely said the US-led coalition would “be repositioning forces” and the American troops would be relocating “to prepare for onward movement”. “In order to conduct this task, Coalition Forces are required to take certain measures to ensure that the movement out of Iraq is conducted in a safe and efficient manner,” the letter stated.

However, shortly after the letter was released, Defence Secretary Esper said no decision has been taken yet to leave

Iraq. “There has been no decision whatsoever to leave Iraq. There’s no decision to leave, nor did we issue any plans to leave or prepare to leave,” he told reporters here on Monday.

The US remains committed to the campaign to defeat the Islamic State group in Iraq and the region, Esper said.

Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, during an off-camera briefing, told reporters that the letter incorrectly implies withdrawal and it was sent by “mistake”.

“It (the letter) was a draft, it was a mistake, it was unsigned, it should not have been released,” he said. **PTI**

Germany to withdraw some troops from Iraq

Berlin: Germany will withdraw some of its troops deployed as part of the anti-IS coalition in Iraq, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday, in the latest fallout over the US drone strike that killed a top Iranian general.

About 30 soldiers stationed in Baghdad and Taji will be moved to Jordan and Kuwait, a Defence Ministry spokesman told AFP, adding that the withdrawal will “begin shortly”.

Germany has deployed about 415 soldiers as part of the anti-IS coalition, with about 120 of its troops stationed in Iraq. Germany’s move came after the Iraqi parliament passed a resolution asking the government to end its agreement with the US-led coalition. **AFP**

US strike on Iran could have consequences in N Korea

Seoul: The US strike that killed Iran’s top military commander may have had an indirect casualty: a diplomatic solution to denuclearizing North Korea.

Experts say the escalation of tensions between Washington and Tehran will diminish already fading hopes for such an outcome and inspire North Korea’s decision-makers to tighten their hold on the weapons they see, perhaps correctly, as their strongest guarantee of survival.

North Korea’s initial reaction to the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani has been cautious. The country’s state media was silent for several days before finally on Monday

issuing a brief report on the attack that didn’t even mention Soleimani’s name.

The Korean Central News Agency report didn’t publish any direct criticism by Pyongyang toward Washington, instead simply saying that China and Russia had denounced the United States over last week’s airstrike at the airport in Baghdad.

The North’s negotiations with the US have been at a stalemate since last February, when a summit between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump collapsed over disagreements about exchanging sanctions relief for nuclear disarmament.



From left, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab meet to discuss the situation in Libya at the EEAS building in Brussels on Tuesday **AP**

Geopolitical tensions at their highest level this century, says UN chief

United Nations: Amid escalating US-Iran tensions over the killing of Iran’s most influential general Qassim Suleimani, the UN chief has voiced concern over the geopolitical tensions, saying such conflicts are at their highest level this century and nations are taking unpredicted decisions that have a profound risk of miscalculation.

“The New Year has begun with our world in turmoil. We are living in dangerous times,” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told reporters here on Monday.

“Geopolitical tensions are at their highest level this century. And this turbulence is escalating,” he said.

Warning that even nuclear non-proliferation can no longer be taken for granted, he said the “cauldron of tensions” globally is leading more and more countries to take “unpredicted decisions with unpredictable consequences and a profound risk of miscalculation”.

Tensions are escalating between the US and Iran after Maj Gen Qassim Suleimani,

who led the powerful Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, was killed in an American drone strike in Baghdad on Friday.

The strike was authorised by US President Donald Trump. Iran has vowed to avenge the killing of the elite Quds Force commander, and on Sunday it indicated that it would no longer be bound by the restrictions on its nuclear programme, outlined in the 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA. The deal was debated in the Security Council just last month.

On Sunday, the Iraqi parliament also passed a non-binding resolution calling for US troops to leave the country, in a clear response to the killing of the Iranian general on their soil. In response, Trump has threatened Iraq with sanctions if forced to withdraw its forces, and also threatened on Twitter, to destroy multiple sites of “cultural” significance within Iran, if there are reprisal attacks against Americans. **PTI**


UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: “UJJWAL”, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, & Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No : 06/EE(C&M/MB-II/Joshiyara/2019-20
Name of work : Demolishing & reconstruction of Suman Grammar Junior High school at Joshiyara, Uttarkashi
Estimated Cost : Rs. 7684639.00(IncludingGST)
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs 192200.00
Tender Fee : Rs 5900.00 (Including GST)
Date & time of availability of bid document on website : 06.01.2020 from 17:00 Hrs
Last date & time of submission of bids on website : 27.01.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs
Last date & time of submission of hard copies of bids : 28.01.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs
Date & time of opening of bids on website : 31.01.2020 at 11:00 Hrs
For any other detail, kindly visit-e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"
प.सं. ०९ दिनांक ०६.०१.२०२० E.E.(C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara
" Avoid wasteful use of Electricity "

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. DME/O&F/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. M-1-OT-ISO-ART-RR-MB-19, Closing Date & Time 29.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs and will be opened on the same day at 15:30 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website www.irps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards Tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment mode like Net Banking, Debit / Credit cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual / offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.

Name of Work	*Certification, Training & Implementation of ISO 9001:2015 for Accident Relief Train (ART), Accident Relief Medical Van (ARMV)/Self Propelled Accident Relief Medical Van (SPARMV) & RDI, ISO 9001:2015, 22000:2005 & 14001:2015 for Running Rooms and ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 for DRM office of MB Division".
Tender Type	Open
Bidding System	Single Packet System
Tender Closing Date & Time	29.01.2020 15:00 hrs.
Date & time of Uploading Tender	03.01.2020
Pre-Bid (Yes/No)	No
Pre-Bid Query Date/Time	Not Applicable
Advertised Value	Rs. 5,59,298.30 (Inclusive of all taxes and charges excluding GST)
Tendering Section	O & F
Bidding Style	Single Rate For Each Schedule Item
Bidding Unit	(IN%) ABOVE/ BELOW / AT PAR
Earnest Money	Rs. 11,200.00
Validity of Offer	45 Days
Tender Doc. Cost	Rs. 2000.00
Period of Completion	36 Months
Bidding Start Date	15.01.2020
Contract Type	Works

No: M-1-OT-ISO-ART-RR-MB-19 Date: 03.01.2020. 62/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI - 110001
Ministry of Railways, Government of India invites applications from eligible persons for the post of Director (Infrastructure), Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL).
For detailed advertisement, kindly refer to www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard. Applications (02 copies), along with enclosures may be sent to:
Director (Deputation)
Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)
Room No. 110-A, Rail Bhawan
NEW DELHI-110001
Last date for receipt of applications is **05 PM on 07.02.2020**. Applications received late will not be considered and no correspondence entertained in this regard. **79/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location30-ELECT-49-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with:
i) Construction of 120 bed barracks for RPSF companies at DKZ.
ii) Provision of 80 beds capacity ladies barracks at RPF line Dayabasti with allied works.
iii) Replacement of type-I overaged and dangerous and sub-standard quarters with type-II at TKD (Total 25 units).
Approx cost of the works inRs. 47.00 lacs
Address of the officeSr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest MoneyRs. 94000.00
Date & time of submission of tender03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs
Website & notice boardwww.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
75/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India (Insolvency) Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF GAYATRI INFRA PLANNER PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1) Name of corporate debtor ("CD")	Gayatri Infra Planner Private Limited
2) Date of incorporation of CD	16-Dec-2011
3) Authority under which CD incorporated	Registrar of Companies, Delhi
4) Corporate Identity No. of CD	U45404DL2011PTC0300950
5) Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of CD	1/7098, 2nd Floor, Gali No. 5, Shivaji Park, Shahdara, Delhi East, Delhi 110032
6) Insolvency commencement date of CD	2-Jan-2020
7) Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	30-Jun-2020
8) Name and registration number of the Insolvency Professional acting as Interim Resolution Professional	Manish Sukhani IBB/IPA-001/IP/000668/2017-18/11137
9) Address and e-mail of the Interim Resolution Professional, as registered with the Board	B 213, Orchard Road Mall, Royal Palms, Aarey Colony, Goregaon (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra, INDIA 400065. Email: ca.m.sukhani@gmail.com
10) Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	B 213, Orchard Road Mall, Royal Palms, Aarey Colony, Goregaon (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra, INDIA 400065. Email: CIRP@IPPL@gmail.com
11) Last date for submission of claims	22-01-2020
12) Classes of creditors under Sec. 21(6A)(b)	Allottees under Real Estate Project
13) Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorized Representative of creditors in a class	1. Anil Tayal IBB/IPA-001/IP-P01118/2018-19/11818 2. Vijay K. Sawera IBB/IPA-001/IP-P01766/2019-20/12708 3. Brij Nandan Kalra IBB/IPA-003/IP-N00014/2017-18/10103
14) (a) Relevant Forms are available at:	Web link: www.ibbi.gov.in/downloadform.html Physical Address: as provided against point no.10

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of **GAYATRI INFRA PLANNER PVT. LTD.** on **02-01-2020**. The creditors of **Gayatri Infra Planner Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before **January 21, 2020** to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10. The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means (by Email). A financial creditor belonging to the class as listed against entry no. 12 shall indicate its choice of authorized representative from among the 3 Insolvency Professionals indicated against entry no. 13 to act as authorized representative of the allottees under real estate project in Form CA. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Manish Sukhani
Interim Resolution Professional
for Gayatri Infra Planner Private Limited

Date : 08-Jan-2020
Place: Mumbai

Willing to testify before Senate: John Bolton

Washington: Months after he was fired by US President Donald Trump, former national security advisor John Bolton on Monday said he is ready to testify before the Senate on Trump’s impeachment trial.

The surprising move by 71-year-old Bolton adds a new dimension to the ongoing impeachment proceedings against Trump, who is only the third president in the US history to face such an attempt to remove an elected president from power.

“I have concluded that, if the Senate issues a subpoena for my testimony, I am prepared to testify,” he said in a statement on Monday night.

The House, he said, has concluded its Constitutional responsibility by adopting articles of Impeachment related to the Ukraine matter.

“It now falls to the Senate to fulfil its Constitutional obligation to try impeachments, and it does not appear possible that a final judicial resolution of the still-unanswered Constitutional questions can be obtained before the Senate acts,” he said.

Bolton said accordingly, “since my testimony is once again at issue, I have had to resolve the serious competing issues as best I could, based on careful consideration and study.”

He added that during the present impeachment controversy, he has tried to meet his obligations both as a citizen and as a former national security advisor.

Unlike the House of Representatives, where the opposition Democratic party enjoyed a majority, the ruling Republicans have majority in the Senate.

The Democrats have alleged that they do not expect a fair trial in the Senate. The charges have been denied by Senate Majority

leader Mitch McConnell. Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer, on the Senate floor demanded that Bolton be subpoenaed during the trial for his testimony. He described, Bolton as one of the key witnesses with knowledge of the president’s dealings with Ukraine, about how decisions were made to withhold security assistance, and how opposition within the administration to that delay that Trump seemed to want, was overcome.

“Given that Mr. Bolton’s lawyers have stated he has new and relevant information to share, if any Senate Republican opposes issuing subpoenas to the four witnesses and documents we have requested they would make absolutely clear they are participating in a cover up, in one of the most sacred duties we have in this Congress, in this Senate. And that is to keep a President in check,” Schumer said. On the other hand, McConnell has suggested the Senate follow the 1999 example of beginning the impeachment trial first and then deciding on witnesses and documents after the arguments are complete. **PTI**

Solemani’s name will soon be mentioned with them too, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Dongguk University.

“North Korea would say that the ‘imperialist’ nature of the United States would never change, and that there is no other option for them other than to strengthen its nuclear deterrent while bracing for long-term confrontation,” said Koh, an adviser to current South Korean President Moon Jae-in. **AP**

UK, French, German, Italian FM’s meeting on Iran, Libya

Brussels: The Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, Germany and Italy along with the EU diplomatic chief will hold talks in Brussels Tuesday on the Iran and Libya crises, officials told AFP.

The British Foreign Ministry said the talks would cover the fallout from the US killing of a top Iranian general as well as Tehran’s latest step back from the 2015 nuclear deal.

The situation in Libya, where strongman Khalifa Haftar’s forces have seized the coastal city of Sirte, is also the agenda.

The emergency meeting comes as the EU scrambles for ways to contain the growing tensions in two major flash-points on its periphery, as Iran threatens revenge for the death of Qasem Soleimani in a US drone strike in Baghdad on Friday.

British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab will hold a one-on-one meeting with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, who has warned Iran against retaliating over Soleimani’s death, before joining the German and Italian Ministers for talks on Libya.

“The foreign secretary is travelling to Brussels today for talks with his European counterparts on the situation in the Middle East following the death of Soleimani and on the escalating conflict in Libya,” the British Foreign Ministry said.

“The E3 will then meet to discuss the tensions between the US and Iran with all three pushing for de-escalation,” it added, referring to Britain, France and Germany as the three European signatories of the Iran nuclear deal. **AFP**

In face of Iraq turmoil, Kurds wait before placing bets

Baghdad: Things are moving fast in federal Iraq, as pro-Iran factions flex their muscles and authorities seek to oust foreign troops. Amid the chaos, Iraq’s Kurds are watching apprehensively before placing their bets.

Caught between the US and Iran and wary of being accused of seeking independence from Baghdad, the autonomous government of northern Iraq’s Kurdish region (KRG) has kept relatively mum on latest developments.

They include a US drone strike that killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad

and a federal parliament vote to oust foreign troops, all against the backdrop of months of anti-government rallies.

But statements from the KRG and from Iraq’s Pesident Barham Saleh, himself a Kurd, have been limited to calls for restraint and “respecting the sovereignty of Iraq”.

And on Sunday, not a single Kurdish lawmaker attended the federal parliament’s vote to oust foreign troops, declining to take a stance on the controversial issue.

“Iraq’s Kurds have adopted the short-term strategy of wait-

TRUMP’S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

Willing to testify before Senate: John Bolton

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INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI - 110001
Ministry of Railways, Government of India invites applications from eligible persons for the post of Director (Infrastructure), Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL).
For detailed advertisement, kindly refer to www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard. Applications (02 copies), along with enclosures may be sent to:
Director (Deputation)
Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)
Room No. 110-A, Rail Bhawan
NEW DELHI-110001
Last date for receipt of applications is **05 PM on 07.02.2020**. Applications received late will not be considered and no correspondence entertained in this regard. **79/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location30-ELECT-49-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with:
i) Construction of 120 bed barracks for RPSF companies at DKZ.
ii) Provision of 80 beds capacity ladies barracks at RPF line Dayabasti with allied works.
iii) Replacement of type-I overaged and dangerous and sub-standard quarters with type-II at TKD (Total 25 units).
Approx cost of the works inRs. 47.00 lacs
Address of the officeSr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest MoneyRs. 94000.00
Date & time of submission of tender03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender03.02.2020, 15.00 Hrs
Website & notice boardwww.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
75/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT
E-Tender Notice No. DY.CEE/CON/ SCL/14/2019; Dated: 01-01-2020. Open tender through e-Tendering system are invited from valid electrical contractor and supervisor license for the following work:
Tender No: EL-CON-SCL-10-2018-B5.
Name of works: Power Supply arrangement on 33 KV by lattice steel Tower to proposed Hortoki Railway station and Tunnel No. 6, 8, 10 and from Tunnel No. 10 to Tunnel No. 12 in connection with Bhaibrabi - Sairang New BG line project.
Tender value: ₹5,27,78,806.90, Earnest money: ₹4,13,900.00. Completion period: 180 days. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 30-01-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 30-01-2020. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.irps.gov.in & www.nrflyconstruction.org.
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/CON/ SCL, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the information of general public that my client Mr. Kapil Mohan Sharma & Mrs. Neelima Sharma has purposed to be purchase a Flat No. 107, GF, Block-2CA, Pocket-16, Janakpuri, New Delhi from Mrs. Seema Sharma, who owned the property from Mrs. Sadhna Narsinhana D/o Late Satya Pal Sharma who became the owner by virtue of law of inheritance & on the basis of unregistered Will after death of her father Mr. Satya Pal Sharma. No probate order has been obtained.
Original documents i.e. Possession Letter, NOC & Possession Slip issued by DDA & Will executed by Mr. Satya Pal Sharma has been misplaced. Our client has also lodged a NCR on 01.06.2020 for the same.
Any person having any right, interest or claim in respect of the said property are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned on below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents on the basis of which claims are made, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Clients.
C.K. Jha (Advocate)
Office No. UB-36A, Antriksh Building, 22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi.
Mob. No. 9811295674



Innovation is key

Universities and schools need to invent new ways of teaching and learning that can create a lucrative environment for the students, says NITISH JAIN

For all those who believe 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', remember Kodak? The world's biggest film company that went bankrupt in spite of developing the world's first digital camera Mavica? And, at the other end of the spectrum, you have Adobe, a company that put its most successful product — Photoshop — on the cloud, moving from a product-based revenue model to a subscription — based one. Innovation is risky. Yes. But choosing to stay complacent is an even bigger risk.

When it comes to innovation, disruption and transformation, it is a sad but true fact that education is usually the last to catch up. Let me ask you — does a 400-year-old university system make sense in a world that is constantly being disrupted by technology? When the purpose of education itself is to produce change agents and leaders of tomorrow, how can our universities continue to adopt an ostrich-like mentality, continuing to pretend that conformity is better

than change? Can't technology be tasked with making education more engaging, personalised and cost-effective?

If the purpose of education is to provide talent for the jobs of tomorrow, it begs the question — what sort of talent do new-age companies need? The ones who have all the answers or the ones who would ask the right questions. Professor Google already has all the answers, so in reality, all they need are people to ask the right questions. And, this isn't as simple as it sounds. Ask the wrong question and get the wrong answer. Students need to be able to critically analyse issues with ingenuity and creativity. Only then can they discover what the right question to ask is.

This gets us to the interesting question — so what really needs to change in education? The game has shifted from knowledge to skills. Passive learning is passé. Universities and schools need to pioneer new ways of teaching and learning that can cre-

Schools are using emerging technologies that replicate a classroom-like experience at homes and workspaces. This is useful for working adults who need to sharpen their skills but don't have the time to go to a physical campus

ate a lucrative environment for the students. Students should come to class every day prepared to practice and sharpen their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In-class assessments test their 21st-century skills; skills most sought by new-age companies. The traditional lecture-driven learning systems that most universities continue to use are now becoming redundant.

Change is being led by small product companies, not full-service universities. EdTech companies have introduced a lot of interesting tools to that end. Kahoot, for instance, enables the professor to ask questions to which all students reply using a tablet. This gets the full classroom to think critically versus a conventional system where a professor asks and only one student speaks. Coupled with gamification, it makes learning more fun and highly engaging.

Newsela is another app that seeks to help those with reading difficulties. Class Dojo provides teachers with a

platform to track student behaviour and assign positive and negative remarks. Furthermore, professors can send instant messages to specific parents and share photos from the class. Students can choose their own avatar.

Schools are using some of the most cutting-edge emerging technologies today that replicate a real classroom-like experience at the homes and workspaces for students. This is particularly useful for working adults who need to sharpen their skills but don't have the time to go to a physical campus.

These are examples of just a few EdTech products that could be used by schools and universities looking to create a 360-degree shift in the learning experience. There is a growing divergence between the right talent and obsolete talent. Universities who are quick to adapt would be the winners in the 21st century.

The writer is President, SP Jain School of Global Management

QUOTE OF THE DAY

My mother said I must always be intolerant of ignorance but understanding of illiteracy. That some people, unable to go to school, were more educated and more intelligent than college professors.

— Maya Angelou

FINE ARTS COURSES

The Delhi Collage of Art (DCA) invites applications for admission to its degree course in Fine Art (BFA) and Super Professional Diploma programme in Fine Art (DFA).

The programmes provide disciplines of painting and applied art at the undergraduate level to help each student develop as a full-fledged artist.

Duration: Four years

Eligibility: Class XII pass from any stream who wants to work in Fine arts industry can apply for the course.

This programme starts by providing fundamental clarity and then advances to expose the participants to all essentials of banking & finance.

How to apply: Log on to www.delhicollageofart.com or application forms & brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi Collage of Art, B-7/7 Basement, Ring Road Rajouri Garden, New Delhi.

Last date to apply: January 31, 2020.



UG-PG PROGRAMMES

KIIT Group of Colleges invites applications for admission to various courses in 2020-2021 session. The courses offered are BTech (CSE ECE, EEE, Civil Engineering & Mechanical Engineering), MTech (ECE & CSE), MBA, BBA & BCA.

Eligibility: Candidates must have appeared/passed Class XII examination for bachelors degree, and appeared/passed graduation for masters degree programmes.

How to apply: Log on to www.kiit.in or call on 9811-62-67-67.

Last date to apply: June 30, 2020.

Future news worldwide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The applications are open for Future News Worldwide 2020, an international conference for the next generation of journalists run by the British Council in partnership with some of the world's leading media organisations.

A total of 100 fully-funded places are available for the brightest young student bloggers, vloggers, photojournalists and reporters from across the globe to take part in the two-day event at Sky Central — the global headquarters of the Sky Group in Isleworth, London in July 2020.

Future News Worldwide 2020 will offer an equally rich and packed programme for the next generation of newsmakers and content creators. Judging by last year's entries, which saw over 3000 applications received, competition for places will be strong.

The opportunity is available to undergraduate and post-graduate students from any country who are between 18-25 years as of July 1, 2020. Applicants should be able to speak English at an advanced level and need to demonstrate passion about following a career in journalism.

Applications can be made by visiting www.britishcouncil.org/future-news-worldwide.

The deadline for submitting the applications is February 14, 2020.

‘Plenty of opportunities for veterinary sciences’

There is a growing demand for veterinarians these days. ARUNA SINGH tells you how students can make it a lucrative option

If you love animals and are comfortable living around them, then you can explore the options of education and career in veterinary science and animal care.

Veterinarian is basically a doctor who cares for the health of animals. Veterinarians treat the injuries and illness of pets and other animals. They provide treatments for animals that is similar to the job of a physician. Veterinary science deals with the health and wellbeing of animals; it covers everything from preventative care to psychological assessment to complex surgical procedures.

Now-a-days, there is a growing demand for veterinarians. People both in the rural and urban area are keeping pets, both for livelihood and protection.

NATURE OF WORK

- Examine animals to diagnose their health problems
- Treat and dress wounds
- Perform surgery on animals
- Test for and vaccinate against diseases
- Operate medical equipment, such as x-ray machines
- Advise animal owners about general care, medical conditions, and treatments for their animals.



■ Prescribe medication

To get a career in this field candidates can obtain bachelor degree in Veterinary Sciences and in addition, there are other courses available in related subjects at the diploma, master degree and PhD levels.

To be eligible for the course, a candidate should have passed the Class XII examination with Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Perversely, veterinary council of India All India Pre Veterinary test for admission in veterinary science and husbandry. It was the examination of

three hours duration and contained 180 objectives types question from PCB group. The selection is made process on the basis of entrance examination. If you want to take such an admission in a private college, then you can take direct admission too.

OPPORTUNITIES

After doing this course, there is a lot of potential in India as well as abroad. You can work in government and non-government organisation. You also work in a private

clinic and hospitals. Dairy research institutes, dairy, piggery and poultry farms also require services of veterinarians.

In urban areas people need the services of veterinarians owing to the practice of keeping pets (dogs, cats and parrots) in the affluent and upper class homes. The government also employs veterinarians as public health professionals whose services are utilised in zoos, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Defense Services use horses, dogs and camels. Therefore they too need

the services of veterinarians.

In addition, there are the academic sections in various institutions, where experienced professionals are recruited to train the new entrants to the field.

FUTURE PROSPECTUS

Due to the commercialisation of veterinary industry and the liberalisation policies of the Indian government, this industry is growing very much. One can work in the field of Government and non-government veterinary hospitals, animal husbandry department, poultry farm, dairy industry, milk and meat processing industry, seed industry, pharmaceutical sector and animal biotechnology.


SALARY

The remuneration of a veterinarian depends on the kind of practice and the animals which are under treatment. In government veterinary centers, fresh graduates are appointed as a junior veterinary surgeon. Their average gross starting salary ranges between ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 per month. Depending upon the years of experience the salary will also increase.

The writer is from Delhi Paramedical and Management Institute

Numbers can help

ITCOUNTS



In order to become successful entrepreneur, a person should follow seven steps:

Step 1: One should first of all know his name number, psychic number & destiny number.

Step 2: Calculate the chronological age by subtracting the date of birth from the date of start of the work.

Step 3: We should see the month number also, which should also vibrate harmoniously with his destiny number. The friendly numbers of the destiny number 5 are 1,3,5,4,6,7,8,9 and enemy number is 2.

Step 4: The period in which business is to be started, month & date which is to be selected should vibrate harmoniously with the destiny number/psychic of the person/entrepreneur.


Step 5: The name of the firm/company or brand name, which should be kept by the person should be such that, its name number should be friendly with his Destiny number.

Step 6: Another thing which is important is the name of the person should vibrate harmoniously with the name of the brand.

Step 7: The address or the place where the project is to be launched or work is to be started. The number of the place should vibrate harmoniously with destiny number of the person.

If a person follows these small precautions, his chances of becoming successful will certainly increase. Though he has to work in the right way but his luck will be in his favour. In fact, due to lack of knowledge of numerology, people start planning of the new launch at any time of the year, convenient to them. They also select date & month which is more convenient to them and their relatives, irrespective of which date, month & year vibrate harmoniously with his destiny number/psychic number. That is why their chance of becoming successful decrease & they fail in their mission.

The writer is a renowned entrepreneur, motivational speaker and numerologist



JC CHAUDHRY

Two-day national conference

A two-day national conference of Corporate CS of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India was inaugurated at Mumbai, Maharashtra on January 4, 2020 and was concluded on January 5, 2020 with much gusto.

Attended by around 500 participants from across the nation, the National Conference comprised three Technical Sessions on areas of professional interest and various Motivational and Special Sessions.

Two special sessions were dedicated to expectations of the board: CS as catalyst to board functioning and cyber theft.

The valedictory session of the convention was graced by Chief Guest

Subhash Desai, Minister for Industries & Mining, Maharashtra and Guest of Honour Rajasekhar V K, Member, NCLT.

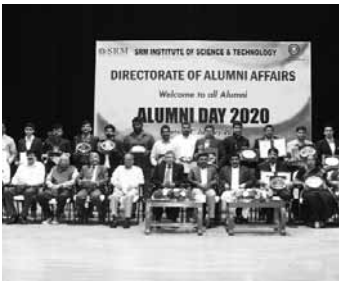
Commending the role played by the professionals of this brigade, Desai said that, "Company Secretary is a professional entrusted by Corporates and extended arm of Regulators who is responsible for looking after the efficient administration of the company. The Company Secretary takes care of all the compliances with statutory and regulatory requirements."

He also said that the Company Secretary is a vital link between the management and various stakeholders of the company.

Alumni day at SRMIST

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology honoured 27 of its eminent, distinguished, and notable alumni at its annual alumni day that was held in the campus in Kattankulathur on January 4, 2020. Three other graduates were presented with endowment medals instituted by the 1991 batch.

The welcome address was presented by Alumni Director, R Venkataramani. He urged old graduates to instigate awards, scholarships, and mentor jobs for deserving students. "Apart from mentoring, you should also be a guardian. You are also national and international



Founder-chancellor of SRMIST Dr TR Paarivendhar, President of SRMIST Dr P Sathyanarayanan, VC SRMIST Dr Sandeep Sancheti, deans and directors share the stage with 27 alumni at SRMIST's Alumni Day

ambassador of SRMIST and your welfare will be taken care of by management," he says.

"This is the time to rejoice in the success of our past and to recall and reignite those memorable university days," said Dr Sandeep Sancheti, Vice-Chancellor of SRMIST.

President of SRMIST, Dr P Sathyanarayanan said: "It is a pleasure to be here. I am sure the classrooms and places where you hang out would bring out nostalgic memories. The campus is not just about the buildings, but it is about the embodiment of all the memories and aspirations of the present students."

Celebration time

On the occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti on January 2, 2020, IP University celebrated the auspicious day with full fervour. A special prayer was organised for prosperity and shabad kirtan was also organised to mark the occasion.

The Vice-chancellor of the University Prof Mahesh Verma delivered special speech on the life and his sermons on the occasion. The Registrar Ravi Dadhich, Controller of Finance Rinku Gautam and other senior officers and faculty members



Dignitaries of IP university celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti

were also present on the occasion. Books on the teachings of Guru Gobind Singhji were also distributed.

XAT Analysis

The score of this exam used by institutes like SP Jain, IMT Ghaziabad, XIM Bhubaneshwar and GIM Goa for their Business and Human Resource Managment programmes was moderately easy to difficult, says ANKUR JAIN



The XAT 2020, conducted by XLRI Jamshedpur for admission to their Business Management and Human Resource Management programmes, was conducted on January 5, 2020. The score is also used by many reputed institutes like SP Jain, IMT Ghaziabad, XIM Bhubaneshwar and GIM Goa as a part of their admission process.

In terms of the pattern, it was similar to the last year's paper. The total number of questions this year was 75. The paper had two parts — Part-I and Part-II.

- Verbal and Logical Ability
- Decision-making Ability
- Quantitative Ability and Data Interpretation

Part-II comprised of General Knowledge

The duration of the test was 165 minutes for the first part and 15 minutes for the second.

All questions carried equal marks with negative marking (one-fourth of a mark for a wrong answer). There was a negative marking of 0.1 for un-attempted questions, for such questions over and above eight. Though the directions clearly stated the above-mentioned marking scheme however within the paper it was showing zero as negative marking for set-based questions. We believe that it was an error and the marking scheme would remain as what was mentioned in the directions.

The section on General Knowledge did not have any negative marking and the marks scored in this section would be used for evaluation only after the initial screening — these will not be used for the short-listing of candidates for the group discussion, written ability test round.

The verbal and logical ability section was a mixed bag of moderately easy/difficult and difficult questions. The vocab-based questions were not challenging. The RC passages were not difficult to follow and they were of shorter length than those of last year. But the RC questions involved a lot of critical thinking.

The VA segment had a total of 11 questions. Of the five critical reasoning (CR) questions, two could surely be attempted without going wrong.

Of the two para formation questions, one was easy (the answer options could be used to arrive at the right order) while the other had lengthy sentences and it was relatively challenging to spot the logical connections between the sentences. One of the two should have been surely attempted without going wrong.

Both the passages could be attempted with the help of the thought flow of the context itself without going wrong.

The CR questions tested the candidate on intent of the speaker, inferences and rela-

The vocab-based questions were not challenging. The RC passages were not difficult to follow and were of shorter length than those of last year. But the RC questions involved a lot of critical thinking

tionship between studies. These CR question types on the XAT resembled the GMAT CR question types.

There were four RC passages, each having three questions. There was a poem of having two questions. The poem posed an Inference question. The second question based on the poem was: Which will not serve as a title to the poem?

Three of the RC passages had mainly inference based questions and vocabulary based questions — explanation or implication of a term.

One of the passages sense of

self had a further application question in addition to inference questions.

The cut-off in this section is expected to be around eight marks for XLRI Bm (male candidates). There were 21 questions in decision-making (DM) section, from seven sets — each set is of three questions.

The sets were simple and easy to comprehend. The easier part, however, ended there. The questions were subjective and the answers choices were not too easy to eliminate.

This year's DM section is as difficult as it was last year. The questions that needed ranking the statements had very close choices. Careful reading was required for all the sets to avoid mistakes.

By spending about 30 to 35 minutes one would be able to attempt about 15 questions with 80 per cent accuracy.

We expect the cutoff in this section to be around eight marks for Bm programme.

The Quantitative Ability (QA) and Data Interpretation (DI) section had a mix of a few easy and mostly moderate-difficult questions. A few questions (the one on hare and tortoise, the one on time and work involving three persons, the question based on probability and a few questions from Geometry-Mensuration) turned out to be challenging and lengthy and required a thorough understanding of

concepts.

In contrast to the last year, almost no question in this set required intensive calculations.

In a major departure from the pattern that XAT stuck to for the last many years, questions from Data Sufficiency (DS) were missing (test takers have become used to seeing two DS questions every year in the XAT).

The section was similar in difficulty level compared to last year's QA-DI section, though the questions were definitely lengthier compared to last year. There were six questions from two DI sets. While the table-based set was very easy, the set involving countries and their GDP was time-consuming and had a strong flavour of reasoning too.

With the section being a notch lengthier, the number of attempts is bound to go down marginally.

The cut-off in this section for general category is expected to be around 11 marks for Bm. The section had mix of questions from areas like History, Geography, Sports, Business and Constitution.

As the section is not used for shortlisting, there will be no cut-off requirement for this section. However, those who attempted 12-13 with about 80 per cent accuracy can consider themselves to have done well.

The writer is Chief Knowledge Expert, TIME, Delhi

‘Need to be trendy is the driving force’

Budding designers must be taught the difference between inspiration and plagiarism, says AKSHRA DALAL

■ How the art and fashion industry has evolved in recent years?

Art and fashion are both creative domains and have always shared an intimate relationship. From Schiaparelli's collaboration with Dali to Louis Vuitton's Artycapucines Collection, Art has always served the purpose of inspiration for designers. Since art is a free form of expression it helps designers in pushing their boundaries as creative individual as there is a scope of exploration and novelty. From taking historical art movements and artists as inspirations to collaborating with young and independent artists, designers have come a long way and this amalgamation of two fields is only getting stronger by each passing day.

■ What are the challenges facing the industry in terms of skills needed?

Right now the industry is struggling to become a circular economy. The need to create environmentally conscious yet trendy designs is the driving force. But with fashion becoming more and more affordable and with increasing competition, industry does not need new designers they need thinkers and innovators who will help in making this industry a circular one.

■ What should the institutes do to make students job-ready?

Institutes should focus on quality over quantity. Value of hard work and positive attitude should be incorporated at early stages and so does the knowledge about copyright infringement and intellectual property rights. With social media and technology, we have access to each and every designers work but students must be taught to understand the difference between inspiration and plagiarism.

■ What are the skills that the industry is looking for today?

The industry currently is looking for people who can make a difference and multitask. Apart from an out of the box and lateral thinking towards problem, an eye for details, great artistic skills, knowledge about latest fashion trend and a general awareness about fashion and art industry is a must. Designers must develop unique skill sets to have a competitive edge over others. Designers who have innovative ideas to break away from the monotony and create something ecologically conscious as well, would have an edge over others.

■ Do we really need to put emphasis on the ory in courses like fashion and art?

Theory is as important as the practical aspect in fashion and art or may be even more



Akshra Dalal
Director, JD Institute of Fashion Technology

than practical. Introduction to the framework, conditions and tools they will be using within and in their interpretation is important. The goal of theory is to make them understand previous interpretations and criticism and to help them in thoughtful observations. When people look at a design or art they think about it and it becomes essential for them to know the concept and theories so they can put that work in context and explain their thoughts.

■ What are the future plans?

It all started with a dream, a vision to create a powerful student body, with exceptional skills to make their imagination come alive. Long term goals are to develop Indian design education to match growing industry needs and stay relevant in a dynamic global environment. In keeping with latest developments in global markets and societies we train students to design keeping in mind the three pillars of purposeful innovation, ethics and sustainability. We aim to strengthen it every year so our brand and our students are always on the cutting edge of change.

The goal is to always collaborate with like-minded educational partners in the world so our students widen their horizons and pursue truly international careers. We are proud to have kick-started this journey with KOE-FIA, Rome, Italy followed by University of Arts, London. We have collaborated with London College of Fashion for a styling program and Chelsea College of Arts & Science as well.

Burnout as a modern day health hazard. Such is the rise in this phenomenon of professionals working themselves to hell that World Health Organisation recently recognised burnout as an occupational phenomenon impacting health of individuals. Burn-out has been described as a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed.

Feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion; feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job; and reduced professional efficacy are characteristics of this condition. A survey of 2,000 Americans found that 36% of respondents experienced on-the-job burnout every single week while another 56% felt burnt out on the job at least

once a month. While we do not have a similar extended survey conducted in India, anecdotal evidence suggests the problem is deep rooted here as well.

According to the WHO, depression and anxiety alone cost global economy approximately one trillion dollars annually due to lost productivity. In fact, the WHO has deemed depression a leading cause of disability. Approximately one-third of the mental health cost burden is related to productivity losses, including unemployment, disability, and lower work performance.

From Neutron Star to a Star: The bright star in us begins to fade exactly as does the neutron star. The neutron star is known to be the brightest, and it works really hard to be big, bold, and impactful, till all the hydrogen

MIND IT

runs out. And then it just bursts. The similarity is uncanny and we need to take heed and build resources to conserve our energy and provide us with long lasting productive health.

Remember, that it is the luminary employee that spontaneously combusts. It is the leader who has spent little time nurturing all the other aspects of his life. It is time that we promote the values key to good health and help provide nurturing work environments for our employees.

Having spent almost two decades in the business of wellbeing, our company defined

the wellbeing hexagon. It is only when we incorporate a structure of wellbeing through the verticals can one completely flourish. Optimum health is skewed when any of these factors is given less credence than the other/s.

What is important to remember is that a decline of optimal health in any one of the vertical leads to an imbalance and the other pillars compensate for the loss of one until they burnout as well. Over the years organizations have initiated efforts to improve physical health of employees, thereby only focusing on one pillar of health for an individual. But only tending to physical health

and skill development programmes tied in with leadership training, as currently done by HR, will not solve the problem. The mindset of employers needs to shift to a new understanding of being the principal providers for good holistic health practices.

Tackling burnout crucial to improving productivity: As consultants, we have documented internally the facade of wellbeing in corporates. There is no holistic structure being adopted. Most companies are creating a jigsaw puzzle of programmes, primarily App based that allows for metric and mathematical impact, but doesn't really implement deep change, especially since they have only 4% of employee sustainability and interaction.

Employers need to become mindful of

the burden that employees face. The experience of an overworked mind leads to a lack of motivation, unforeseen errors, lack of positive interactions with the community. Mental health problems have an impact on employers and businesses directly through increased absenteeism, negative impact on productivity and profits, as well as an increase in costs to deal with the issue. In addition, they impact employee morale adversely.

Investing in the holistic health care is not an option now, it is a necessity. It ensures that employees are better equipped to understand how to utilize their abilities positively.

The writer is Dr Prakriti Poddar, Managing Trustee of Poddar Foundation and Director Poddar Wellness Ltd



sbs.admissions@strath.ac.uk
Application deadline:
Deadline for consideration
will be July 31, 2020.

The Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow invites applications for MBA Deans Excellence Scholarships for 2020. Candidates for the full-time MBA programme in Glasgow will automatically be considered for these scholarships.

Number: Up to 5
Value: £15,000
Eligibility: Applications are invited from exceptional candidates who are prepared to act as ambassadors for the Strathclyde FT MBA. Who can demonstrate through their ideas outlined in their application and interview how they would contribute to bring the class together through teamwork to create community, from the outset, in order to achieve the ultimate earning (and social) experience for the group as a whole. Leadership/management skills or potential, overall quality of the application and financial need will also be considered

For more information: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/strathclydebusinessschools-scholarships/mbainternationaldivisions-scholarships/sbsfulltime-mba-deans-excellence-awards/> or contact

The UK-based University of Dundee launches the Jainti Dass Sagar Memorial Scholarship for Excellence worth £5,000, to be awarded to one Indian undergraduate student

Combined with the university's existing Global Excellence Scholarship, the winner of Jainti Dass Sagar Memorial Scholarship for Excellence to get a total benefit of £10,000. The scholarship is available for 24 subjects.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, the applicants must be Indian-domiciled and studying an undergraduate programme in any of the University of Dundee's Academic Schools in September 2020. Moreover, the applicants must meet the Global Excellence Scholarship Undergraduate criteria and have a confirmed Global Excellence award from the University of Dundee.

For information visit: <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/scholarships/2020-21/jainti-dass-sagar/> or contact: contactus@dundee.ac.uk

Application deadline: On applications received before April 30, 2020. Successful applicant will be notified by the end of May 2020.

TELECALLING AT INTELLIFY

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3,000-₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776788
Application deadline: January 14, 2020

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR) AT DE CHEVALERIE EN ROUGE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776789
Application deadline: January 15, 2020

PHP DEVELOPMENT AT INTELLIFY

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776790
Application deadline: January 15, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT COLLEGE OF MARIN

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 /Month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776791
Application deadline: January 15, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT GETMYUNI

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776785
Application deadline: January 15, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT ZEON TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776786
Application deadline: January 15, 2020

MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT AT KAHA TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2776787
Application deadline: January 15, 2020

STUDY ABROAD ‘Focus on post-study work scenario as well’

Planning to study abroad? ROHIT SETHI lists destinations that students can look at

The global education hubs have created study abroad programmes that attract students from around the world. Factors like world-class faculty, practical skills

and extensive research-based learning programmes have made

destinations such as Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Germany most preferred.

The career focused students of today are looking for more than just top-notch education. While choosing their overseas destination for studies, they also focus on the kind of post-study work scenario with the motive of enhancing their career prospects.

The facility of working in the same country immediately after completing the course can enhance a student's plans. They also get an understanding of the course's applicability in the host country.

Several education hubs have implemented post-study work visas that allow students to land their dream job in a foreign land. For lakhs of Indians who

choose to go overseas for their education every year, finding post-study work opportunities as well as securing permanent residence are the most important considerations.

How do UK, Canada, Australia, Singapore and Germany — compare?

Canada: A favourite destination due to its quality of education.

UK: The UK has recently pushed it further by offering a two-year post-study work permit to the international students and affordable tuition fees.

Australia: Australia offers a three-year post-study work permit to international students for the regional area to balance the workforce throughout Australia, which further leads to a pathway to Permanent Residency in Australia.

Germany: It has the lowest tuition fees when compared to the above countries and is best for students looking to study in the automotive and heavy machinery sector.

Singapore: Students after completing studies, need to apply for a 12-month pass, and the whole process is cumbersome for the students, and higher living costs further slide its position to the bottom.

The writer is Director, ESS Global-Study Abroad Consultant

IN BRIEF

ESE ANALYSIS: IT WAS EASY TO MODERATE

The Engineering Services Examination (ESE) is conducted by UPSC every year for recruiting engineers to work for the Government. Candidates who clear the paper get opportunity to work as Class One officers in the public sector such as Indian Railways, Telecommunication and Defense Service of Engineers. The ESE is considered as one of the toughest exams in India as there are only a handful of posts and competition is quite high. The exam constitutes of a two-stage written exam — Prelims and Main, followed by an interview. This year, the ESE preliminary

exam was held on January 5.

The Prelims had two papers: Paper 1: General Studies and Engineering Aptitude. It consists of 100 questions with a total of 200 marks. Candidates get two hours to solve it.

Paper 2: Engineering Discipline Paper. It consists of 150 questions with a total of 300 marks. Candidates get three hours to solve it.

Candidates who clear the Prelims will be eligible for the Mains.

Students are required to attempt a total of 35-40 questions to clear the exam.

SMART MICRO COACHING LAUNCHED

The Enerjee Eduventure launched a smart micro coaching for tricity's students. Under this, the students will be taught stress management along with learning techniques and working knowledge. Announcing this, EnerJEE founder Nishant Porwal said that their aim to make the education system of the country better and provide good quality education for

the students also to make tricity — Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali a quality education hub. On the other hand, for the poor students, EnerJEE Smart Learning technique is going to start a new initiative of free coaching in Chandigarh and Panchkula.

The objective of opening this institute in Panchkula is the surrounding four States;

to provide better quality education to the students of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal and Chandigarh.

An app — EnerJEE — was also launched for students as doubt clearing programme. "Students can clear their doubts at any time from the faculty. By which students will get rid of stress and they will be able to spend maximum time for practice," Porwal said.

SHIFT IN SKILLS FOR HEALTH TECH JOBS

With the advent of new technologies and innovative care delivery models, there is a major shift in skill requirements for health tech jobs of the future. Shailendra Bassi, director Recruitment, Optum Global Solution said: "The deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced data analytics, Internet of Things (IoT) as well as other emerging technologies and data-driven tools, are creating a high demand for professionals

with a background in data analytics. Similarly, with changing business models, the demand for full stack developers with proficient and diverse coding skills is also increasing. Hence, the primary ask of the health tech sector in coming year is about the need of diverse workforce that has to be reskilled/upskilled. Consequently micro as well as classroom learning is expected to be a major trend in 2020."

AFP ■ AUCKLAND

Serena Williams found her power Sgame after a sluggish start as she overcame qualifier Camila Giorgi to open her 2020 season with a straight-sets victory at the Auckland WTA Classic on Tuesday.

With an eye on the Australian Open later in the month, the 38-year-old worked her way into a blistering performance that proved too much for the 1.7 metre (5ft 6in) Italian.

She described her first match since losing the US Open final in September as "solid" rather than spectacular.

"Spent a long time off from tournament play, match play, so solid is pretty good. It's a great start to build on," she said after sealing her 6-3, 6-2 victory with her eighth ace against the 99th-ranked Giorgi.

"It's really good that I still have some power left in my arms and my legs."

Williams said her preparation had been helped by playing doubles with Caroline Wozniacki the previous evening which allowed her to adapt to the blustery Auckland weather.

"I knew it was going to be really tough but I think the doubles really helped. I got to come out here and play a little bit in these conditions and get used to them."

While Williams is the undisputed face of American tennis, she has been joined in Auckland by the new wave of US tennis stars, headed by the tournament third seed Amanda Anisimova who did not disappoint. The 18-year-old needed 78 minutes to dispose of Kateryna Kozlova of the Ukraine 6-3, 6-4.

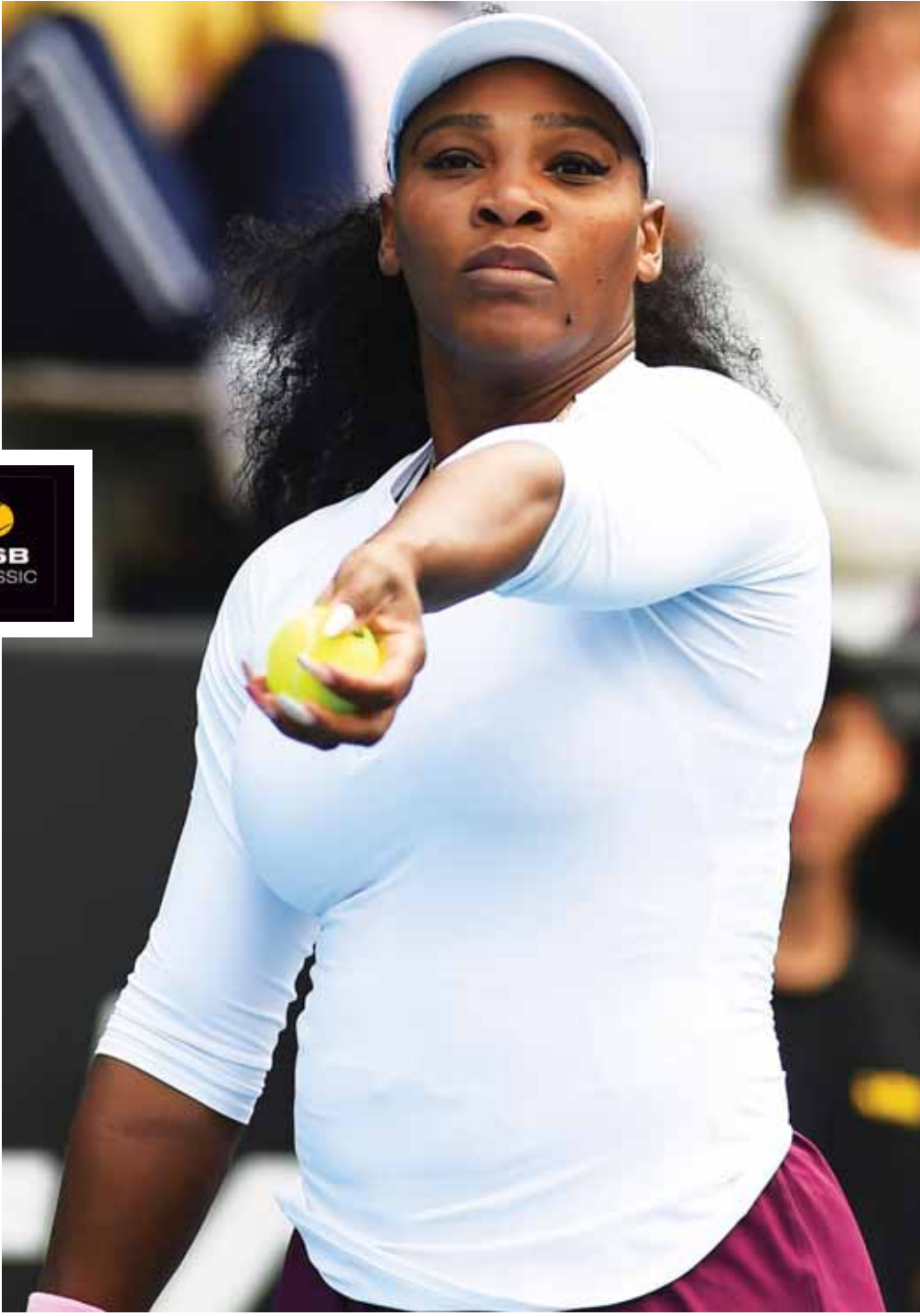
The top five seeds were all in action on Tuesday and along with Williams and Anisimova, Petra Martić, defending champion Julia Goerges and Caroline Wozniacki also progressed to the second round.

Second seed Martić from Croatia had trouble at the start against 21-year-old American Usue Arconada and dropped the first set before prevailing 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Wozniacki cruised against New Zealander Paige Hourigan with a 6-1, 6-0 victory in 53 minutes while Germany's Goerges came from 2-5 down in the second set to beat Greet Minnen of Belgium 6-1, 7-6 (7/4).

Serena off to 'solid' start

Williams eases past qualifier to kick-off her 2020 campaign with straight-sets victory



Serena Williams serves during her match against Camila Giorgi at the ASB Classic in Auckland

AP

Osaka opens year with tough win

AFP ■ BRISBANE

Japanese star Naomi Osaka came from a break down in the third set to overcome Greece's Maria Sakkari in the first round of the WTA Brisbane International on Tuesday.

Sakkari sniffed an upset when she won the second set in a tiebreak then broke Osaka's opening service game of the third set, but the former world number one dug deep and won 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in a two-hour opening-round clash.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová came back from a poor first set to defeat Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 6-1, 6-0, while American qualifier Jennifer Brady downed Russia's Maria Sharapova.

Sharapova was granted a wildcard into the event but although winning the first set, she eventually succumbed 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/3).

Sixth-seeded Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens also progressed in three sets, beating Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Eighth seed Madison Keys



Naomi Osaka plays a shot during her first round match against Maria Sakkari

AP

served brilliantly in her impressive 6-3, 6-2 win over Czech qualifier Marie Bouzková.

Russian qualifier Liudmila Samsonova caused an upset when she beat former US Open champion Sloane Stephens.

Samsonova recorded her first victory over a top-30 player with her 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 win.

In other matches, Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan beat Croatia's Donna Vekić 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 and Estonian Anett Kontaveit overpowered Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei 6-4, 6-1.

Smoke delays unlikely at Aus Open

MELBOURNE: Smoke from bushfires is unlikely to delay the Australian Open tennis Grand Slam, organisers said on Tuesday, insisting they have pulled out all the stops to protect the health and safety of players.

With the opening major of 2020 due to start at January 20, Melbourne has been blanketed by haze in recent days from blazes burning to the east — part of Australia's bushfire crisis.

Novak Djokovic, president of the ATP players council, said organisers should consider delaying the tournament, as a last

resort, if conditions did not improve.

But Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley said he did not see this as likely. "There has been a lot of speculation about whether the smoke from the bushfires will affect the Australian Open," he said.

"All the information we have at the moment, with qualifying coming up next week, is that the forecast is good, we don't expect any delays and we've implemented additional measures to ensure the Australian Open will be able to run as scheduled."

AFP

Arsenal move past Leeds

AFP ■ ARSENAL

Mikel Arteta said he saw two sides of the Arsenal team he has inherited after a greatly improved second-half performance secured a 1-0 win over Leeds to reach the FA Cup fourth round on Monday.

The Gunners made Leeds pay for their profligacy with a host of wasted first-half chances before Reiss Nelson scored the winner 10 minutes into the second period.

However, Arteta was not impressed by his side's start to the game and claimed he had learned a lot from how they reacted to beating Manchester United 2-0 on New Year's Day to kickstart his reign in charge.

"Now I'm really pleased but we saw two different teams from the first to second half," Arteta told the BBC.

"I tried to tell them exactly what they were going to face and after 32 minutes we had



Arsenal players celebrate after beating Leeds United in FA Cup match

AP

won one duel.

"We changed our attitude, desire and organisation at half-time and then we were completely different."

"I saw them react when they lost against Chelsea and saw them react when they had won just one game, so I have to be on them."

Leeds will hope more reg-

ular visits to the Emirates are in store as they top the Championship and showed why by dominating the first 45 minutes.

Arteta's half-time team talk roused a response from Arsenal as Alexandre Lacazette also hit the crossbar from a free-kick.

"He shouted a lot. He was not happy because we knew they'd play like this and we didn't respect what he had said," said Lacazette on Arteta's half-time dressing down.

The Frenchman was captain for the night in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's absence through illness and led from the front after the break as he also had a hand in the winner.

Lacazette was played in by Nicolas Pepe and his deflected cross found its way to Nelson to convert just his second Arsenal goal.

Nelson was then replaced by another talented youngster in Gabriel Martinelli, who came closest to adding to Arsenal's lead with a low shot that was well saved by Illan Meslier.

However, one goal was enough to secure the Gunners a fourth round trip to Bournemouth.

PL biggies avoid each other in 4th rd

LONDON: League One Shrewsbury could host European champions Liverpool in the FA Cup fourth round later this month as holders Manchester City take on Fulham.

The Shrews host Bristol City in a third round replay next week with the winners earning the right to take on the runaway Premier League leaders. Chelsea also face lower league opposition as Frank Lampard's men travel to Championship side Hull.

United must overcome Wolves at home on January 14 for the right to face either Watford or League One Tranmere Rovers.

Spurs will travel to Southampton, if they beat Middlesbrough.

League Two Northampton, the lowest side in the English football pyramid sure of their place in the last 32, host Wayne Rooney's Derby.

AFP

Verstappen to stay at Red Bull

AFP ■ LONDON

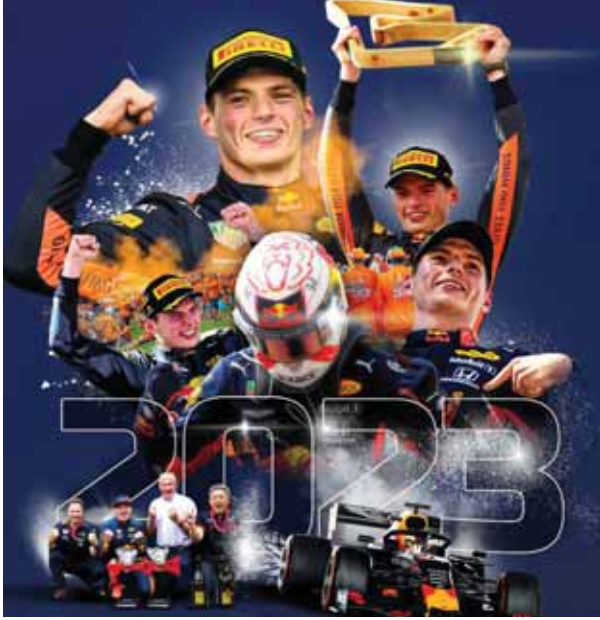
Max Verstappen has signed a new contract with Red Bull until 2023, the Formula One team announced on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Dutchman's deal was due to expire this year, and he had been earmarked as a potential candidate to replace Lewis Hamilton at Mercedes if the six-time world champion, also out of contract at the end of the season, moves to Ferrari.

But Verstappen, an eight-time Grand Prix winner, has now committed his long-term future to Red Bull.

Verstappen, who finished third in the drivers' championship last season, tweeted: "Very proud and happy that @redbullracing will stay my home until 2023. We started this journey together and they have supported me from day 1."

"I want to win with @red-



bull and @HondaRacingF1, our goal is to fight for a World Championship together. The best is yet to come! #YesBoys."

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said: "Max has proven what an asset he is to the team."

Lukaku double keeps Inter top

AFP ■ NAPLES

Romelu Lukaku scored twice as Inter Milan held on to top spot in Serie A on Monday with a 3-1 win over Napoli to keep the pressure on Juventus who earlier swept past Cagliari with Cristiano Ronaldo netting his first hat-trick in the Italian top flight.

Antonio Conte's Inter ended their 23-year wait for a league win in Naples to stay in pole position, level on points with Juventus after 18 games, but ahead on goal difference.

Lazio are third, six points adrift but with a game in hand, after stretching their winning run in the league to nine matches on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Brescia.

"It's an important victory, winning away to Napoli is never easy," said Conte after his 100th Serie A win as a coach but first in Naples.

"Napoli have in recent years always been behind Juventus, while Inter was a long way back. This year we have reduced the gap."

Inter's three goals all came from mistakes from Napoli, runners-up the past two seasons but only eighth this term.

Lukaku broke through on 14 minutes with a powerful solo run through the Napoli defence, with goalkeeper Alex Meret fumbling the



Romelu Lukaku celebrates with Inter teammate Lautaro Martinez and coach Antonio Conte

AP

second into goal in the 33rd minute. Polish striker Arkadiusz Milik pulled a goal back for Napoli four minutes before the break.

But Lautaro Martinez added the third after the hour mark, following another mix-up in the Napoli defence, to give Inter their first win at the Stadio San Paolo since October 1997.

"We made lots of mistakes and scored three goals on our own," said Napoli coach Gennaro Gattuso.

"The lads are worried because they are used to challenging for the Scudetto and this year it's like this."

Liverpool sign Nike kit deal

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool on Tuesday announced they had struck a huge new kit deal with Nike to replace New Balance from the 2020-21 season, underlining the Premier League club's growing strength on and off the pitch.

The US sportswear giant will supply playing, training and travel wear for Liverpool's men's, women's and academy teams and the coaching and Liverpool FC Foundation staff from June 1.

The club did not give a figure for the "multi-year partnership" but The Athletic reported in October that it would earn Liverpool up to £70 million (\$92 million, 82.2 million euros) a year.

The Athletic reported that Nike would pay Liverpool a flat fee of £30 million per season, well short of the reported £40 million New Balance currently pays.

But with royalties of 20 percent on net sales of merchandise — reduced to five percent for footwear — plus bonuses for winning the Champions League and Premier League, Liverpool will be earning substantially more under the new deal.

Reports in the British press on Tuesday said the Nike deal would net the club £80 million per year, eclipsing Man United's Adidas contract, worth an annual £75 million.

AFP

Poor start for Indian shuttlers



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in action during their game

BWF

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Lakshya Sen failed to qualify for the main draw while the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty crashed out in the first round as Indian shuttlers got off to a poor start at Malaysia Masters here on Tuesday.

Rising player Lakshya went down to Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-11, 18-21, 14-21 in a hard-fought match in the men's singles qualifiers that lasted 49 minutes.

Lakshya's compatriot Shubhankar Dey also failed to make the men's singles main draw after

losing 15-21, 15-21 to Malaysia's Liew Daren in the qualifiers of the Super 500 tournament.

The biggest upset of the day for India was the ouster of the world number 12 men's doubles duo of Rankireddy and Shetty, who fought hard before going down to world number 19 Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi of Malaysia.

The India duo lost 15-21, 21-18, 15-21 against the lower-ranked local pair in a first round duel that lasted 52 minutes.

It was a bad day in office for the Indians as the women's doubles pair of Pooja Dandu and Sanjana

Tai excited to play against Sindhu

CHENNAI: World number 2 shuttler Tai Tzu Ying finds the format of the Premier Badminton League exciting as she looks forward to locking swords against world champion PV Sindhu in the cash-rich tournament.

Asian Games Gold medalist Tai Tzu — playing for Bengaluru Raptors — is one of the top global stars taking part in the PBL season 5 which begins with a match between Sindhu's Hyderabad Hunters & Chennai Superstarz.

"I had a great time playing in PBL last time. The format of the league is very exciting and that is why I like to play in the league. I am very excited to join the Bengaluru Raptors team for PBL season 5," said Tai.

"I hope lot of fans will come to the stadiums to watch the matches and my fans around the world will follow it on TV and online. I look forward to playing against all teams, especially against P V Sindhu," added the former world number one women's singles shuttler from Chinese Taipei.

Sindhu's Hyderabad Hunters and Tai Tzu's Bengaluru Raptors can meet each other on January 31 in the third leg in Hyderabad. Tai Tzu has a favourable career head-to-head record against world number 6 Sindhu, having won 11 of the 16 matches between the two. But the Indian had beaten Tai Tzu in the quarterfinal of the World Championships before eventually winning the tournament.

PTI

Santosh also failed to make the main draw.

Dandu and Santosh lost to the Indonesian pair of Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti and Ribka Sugiarto 15-

21, 10-21. Today, top singles players including PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Parupalli Kashyap will open their campaign.

Rohit up for NZ challenge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A lethal bowling attack that executes its plans to near perfection makes New Zealand one of the toughest places to play cricket, says top India batsman Rohit Sharma but also asserts that he is ready for the challenge coming up next month.

After three hundreds, including a double against South Africa in his first Test series (0-1) but we gave a good fight. But this bowling attack of ours is completely different from what we had back then," Rohit said.

"For me personally, it's going to be a challenge without doubt, facing the new ball bowlers and the guys who bowl in the middle overs," he said.

Rohit has been keenly watching New Zealand's recent series against Australia.

Even though New Zealand were soundly thrashed 0-3, Rohit loved the fact that their bowling unit is more consistent in executing plans compared to some of the other international attacks.

"...They come up with plans and stick to them. It's one thing to make a plan without being able to execute it and another to make a plan and implement it to the T. That makes a lethal bowling combination."



Rohit Sharma in a file picture

PTI

Rohit gives pep talk to Mumbai Ranji team

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Senior India player Rohit Sharma on Tuesday gave a pep talk to the Mumbai Ranji Trophy team, which has suffered back-to-back defeats at home.

Mumbai lost to Railways first by 10 wickets at the Wankhede Stadium and were then thrashed by domestic heavyweights Karnataka at the Bandra-Kurla Complex ground by five wickets on Sunday.

A source in the Mumbai team, who was present on the occasion, said India's limited overs vice captain "spoke to the Mumbai Ranji team on how to overcome the current situation" at the suburban BKC facility.

He comes to the BKC for training and had batted in the nets on Sunday.

Mumbai coach Vinayak Samant, bowling coach Pradeep Sundaram and team manager Ajinkya Naik were also present on the occasion.

The 41-time domestic champions will take on Tamil Nadu in an away game at the M A Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai from January 11.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who is travelling to New Zealand with India A squad, won't be available for the game.

In the combined Group A and B standings, Mumbai are languishing at the 13th spot as of now, having won one game and lost two. Only five teams from combined A and B Group can make to the knockouts.

Taylor credits Crowe for rise in Tests

PIANS ■ SYDNEY

After he became New Zealand's leading Test run-scorer, an emotional Ross Taylor has credited former Kiwi skipper Martin Crowe for influencing and shaping his skills in the longest format of the game.

Taylor achieved the feat on the fourth day of the third Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday. The 35-year-old has 7,174 runs from 99 Tests and 174 innings, averaging 46.28, including 19 centuries and 33 fifties.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Taylor said he had always believed himself to be a white ball batsman but it was Crowe who helped him become a serious Test batsman. "My goal was to play one Test match," he said.

"I guess it's an emotional time because my mentor Martin Crowe, that was one of the goals he put down for me was to be New Zealand's highest Test run-scorer. To be honest, I didn't believe him, but I'd have loved for him to be here and help celebrate," Taylor expressed.



Shardul Thakur, right, celebrates the dismissal of Lasith Malinga, left, during the second Twenty20 match in Indore

AP

PIANS ■ INDORE

The Indian bowlers fired in unison on Jasprit Bumrah's return to international cricket with Navdeep Saini shining bright as they restricted Sri Lanka to 142/9 in the second T20 international at the Holkar Stadium here on Tuesday.

All eyes were on the returning Bumrah after India captain

Virat Kohli decided to field first after his counterpart Lasith Malinga called wrong at the toss.

Bumrah, who has been out of action after India's tour of the West Indies in July-August due to a stress fracture on his back, started off with a wide in the first ball of the match and was hit for a four in the second as he finished conceding seven

runs.

Danushka Gunathilaka and Avishka Fernando hit boundaries off him in the fourth over as India's premier pacer looked a bit rusty starting off but in the end bowled a superbly disguised slower one to castle Dasun Shanaka in the 17th over.

Bumrah was taken for 12 in the final over by Wanindu Hasaranga (16 not out) who hit

Master Stokes

AFP ■ CAPE TOWN

Ben Stokes produced an explosive spell of bowling as England beat South Africa by 189 runs inside the last hour of the fifth day of the second Test at Newlands on Tuesday.

The win levelled the four-match World Test championship series. South Africa were bowled out for 248, with the last wicket falling when only 8.2 overs were left in the match.

Stokes took the last three wickets in the space of 14 balls to clinch the victory. He finished with three for 35.

South Africa defied the England bowlers for most of the day. Only three wickets fell before tea as South Africa defended grimly after starting the day on 126 for two after being set an improbable 438 to win.

Opening batsman Pieter Malan, making his debut, made 84 in 369 minutes and 288 balls before he fell to Sam Curran with the second new ball. But he was the only player to be dismissed before lunch and tea.

It meant England needed five wickets in the last session, with a minimum of 31 overs to be bowled.

Quinton de Kock fell to a rare loose shot after he and Rassie van der Dussen had batted together for more than two hours. De Kock, who made 50, had been troubled by Joe Denly's leg-spinners into rough outside his off stump -- but fell to a short ball which he pulled to midwicket.



Van der Dussen batted for 194 minutes and 140 balls, scoring only 17, before falling to a smart tactical move by England. He had been batting solidly against Stuart Broad when James Anderson moved to leg slip and Van Der Dussen promptly glance the next ball straight to Anderson.

Stokes produced an inspired spell of fast, hostile, short-pitched deliveries to have Dwaine Pretorius and Anrich Nortje caught in the slips off successive balls before he took the final wicket when Vernon Philander was caught at gully.

Burns out of Lanka tour

LONDON: England opening batsman Rory Burns will miss the tour of Sri Lanka in March after undergoing successful surgery on ruptured ligaments in his left ankle, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old suffered the injury playing football -- part of the squad's warm-up routine -- last Thursday on the eve of the second Test against South Africa in Cape Town.

There was a lot of criticism of England's practice of playing football following the injury to Burns and it has now been banned by head coach Chris Silverwood with the support of Ashley Giles, England's director of men's cricket.

Burns' injury was the second relatively serious injury to an England cricketer playing football prior to a game in just over a year.

Jonny Bairstow was injured and missed several matches during a tour of Sri Lanka in October 2018.

"England opening batsman Rory Burns has undergone successful surgery on ruptured ligaments in his left ankle," read the ECB statement.

"Surgery took place in London on Monday afternoon.

"The Surrey captain is expected to be out of action for up to four months. He will miss England's Test tour of Sri Lanka in March and is aiming to return to play with Surrey in the County Championship at the beginning of the 2020 season in April." AFP



'Nothing tougher than playing India in India'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Considered another Australian legend in making, young batsman Marnus Labuschagne is keen to test his skills against India, which he says is the toughest place to travel on a cricket assignment.

Labuschagne, 25, had a remarkable Test summer during which he scored four hundreds in five Tests, including a double century against New Zealand in the just-concluded third Test.

As the focus shifts from the red to white ball format, Labuschagne is gearing up for a tough test after being named in the Australian squad for the three-match series, starting January 14 in Mumbai.

"Whenever you play India, it's a tough series because they're a very tough opposition. They've got great batters and bowlers, so it's going to be a challenge," Labuschagne was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia website.

"But as a player you always want to test yourself against the best opposition in the toughest conditions, and there's nothing tougher than India in India."

Just 14 Tests old, Labuschagne is likely to claim the third position on the ICC Test rankings, behind India's Virat Kohli and his compatriot Steve Smith.

He has already drawn comparisons with these modern-day greats but Labuschagne played down the plaudits.

"For people to speak like that is amazing, but there's a lot more work to be done before anything like that can be talked about," he said.

"Kane Williamson, Virat Kohli, Steve Smith -- those guys have been doing it for five, six, seven years. To have one good summer doesn't make you a great player. So for me it's about trying to be consistent and trying to get Australia to win games."

Labuschagne said competing in Sydney where conditions favoured spinners was a good preparation before the India tour.

"It's probably good preparation coming from (playing on the SCG) going to India ... that's probably the closest we have in Australia to spinning conditions. But with the format change, and the wickets will be different.

"I've got a lot of experience to lean on with guys who have played five, six, seven years of IPL and Test tours over there for Australia, so there's a lot to learn."

SINGLES

LEHMANN QUILTS SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER HACK

SYDNEY: Former Australia cricket coach Darren Lehmann quit social media on Tuesday after his Twitter account was hacked and used to post "vile" content, including anti-Iran messages. The 49-year-old is now coach of Brisbane Heat in Big Bash League and he was focused on their upset win over Sydney Thunder on Monday when the incident occurred. The person responsible used his account to promote anti-Iran messages and propaganda to Lehmann's 341,000 followers. Lehmann said he was stunned and upset by what happened, with Twitter having since resolved the problem and removed the content.

DE ROSSI RETIRES FROM FOOTBALL

BUENOS AIRES: Veteran former Italy international Daniele De Rossi announced his retirement from football, just six months after joining Argentine giants Boca Juniors. De Rossi played only seven matches for the Buenos Aires outfit, scoring once, but said he needed to return home for family reasons. "I need to go home. I'm leaving Boca and football," said the 36-year-old former Italy and Roma midfielder. "I'm leaving a club that has entered my heart, this sport, my passion." De Rossi, who suffered several injuries during his time in Argentina, insisted that he has "no serious health problems" but merely felt "the need to be closer to my family, to my daughter. I miss them and they miss me."

PRAJNESH OUT FROM BENDIGO CHALLENGER

BENDIGO: Prajesh Gunneswaran fought hard before going down against Japanese Taro Daniel in the second round of the Bendigo Challenger event on Tuesday. Prajnesh lost 4-6, 6-7(4) to the Japanese, ranked 16 places above him at number 122 at the \$162480 ATP Challenger event. The Indian could convert just one of the six break chances he created while he saved six of the eight break points he faced in the one-hour-30-minute contest. "It was a close match but I had a lot of chances but I could not convert. I made a lot of errors. I was aggressive and tried to attack and that was the positive from today's match," Prajnesh said.

BRAVO NAMED FACE OF 10PL-WORLD CUP

DUBAI: West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo was named the face of the third edition of the 10PL-World Cup of tennis ball cricket, to be held in Sharjah from March 8-13. A total 20 teams will compete in the week-long tournament, to be held under the aegis of the Sharjah Cricket Council. "I am delighted to be the face of the 10PL World Cup of tennis ball cricket tournament. I have learnt a lot of my key tricks that I am sure many of the players in the tournament will employ, especially the use of slower ball and yorkers," Bravo said.

TURAN RETURNING TO BARCA FROM BASAKSEHIR

BARCELONA: Turkish international Arda Turan ended his loan spell with Basaksehir Istanbul on Tuesday and will return to Barcelona after two years marked by violence on and off the pitch. "During a meeting yesterday, our player Arda Turan asked approval from our president Goksel Gumusdag to leave to write a new chapter in his career," the club said in a statement, adding that Gumusdag approved the request. Turan, 32, joined Basaksehir in January 2018 on loan from Barcelona where he had struggled to impose himself since leaving from Atletico Madrid in 2016.

SAINZ SECURES 33RD CAREER STAGE WIN

JEDDAH: Spain's two-time champion Carlos Sainz, driving a Mini, shot into the overall lead after winning on Tuesday's third stage of the Dakar Rally, his 33rd stage victory in the race being held this year in Saudi Arabia. Sainz clocked 3hr 48.01sec around the loop-shaped 404km route setting out from the future megalopolis of Neom, in the north of the kingdom close to the Jordanian border. The 57-year-old Sainz beat home Qatar's defending champion Nasser al-Attiyah, in his Toyota, at 3:31. AGENCIES