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N KOREA SAYS WILL RESUME
US TALKS IF DEMANDS FULLY MET

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CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 2020; PAGES 8+4 ₹3

sunday pioneer

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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Govt needs to nail CAA lies, silence won't work

It is still too early to be certain as to whether the furore over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act will be a short-term blast or will have a lasting effect on the politics of the country. The trends as yet are contradictory but the patterns are worth exploring.

First, it is clear that the main body of support for the anti-CAA protests has come from the Muslim community. Without this support, the size of the protests would have been modest and may not have had any sizeable impact. Muslim support has given the protests both its body and its muscle. However, while providing the crowds, the Muslim community has made important political adjustments to secure incremental support. The question is: are these shifts purely tactical or do they symbolise a more profound review of the community's political stand?

Let us look at some of these shifts. The past few weeks have seen vigorous assertions of their Indian-ness by the Muslim community. The protest marches have seen generous use of the national tricolour flag and gatherings have ended with a respectful singing of the national flag. On top of that, Muslim leaders have proclaimed their allegiance to the Indian Constitution and all that it stands for. There has been a radical overhaul in the public projection of Muslim leaders too. The MP for Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi, for example, has emerged as an articulate voice of the community. This rise to national fame has also coincided with a move away from his earlier status as the militant leader of a minority ghetto. He has now become a respectable mainstream leader, holding forth on profound questions of constitutional propriety. The liberals have come to love him and his political pedigree — as the leader of a party that was once inextricably associated with the separatist Razakars of the Nizam's territories — has been whitewashed. Owaisi now projects himself as the leader of a community that voluntarily chose to remain in India because of the Constitution.

The Government has so far believed that the protests will fade out sooner rather than later. However, while patience may work, it is equally important that the government undertakes a massive publicity blitz aimed at telling everyone what the CAA is all about and why it does not pose a threat to India's Muslim population. Charges of making an Indian stateless is too grave to be responded with silence

This is not to deny that there have been other trends too. Religious war cries and pro-Azadi slogans have also featured in the protests. Muslim leaders have also chosen strategic silence on the question of whether their opposition to Hindus from Bangladesh securing fast-track citizenship is total or conditional on this facility being extended to all illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. There has also been a stubborn refusal by Muslim intellectuals to accept that it is conditions of intolerance by neighbouring Islamic nations that prompted the Hindus and other minorities into coming to India. This has prompted the assertion that the allegiance to the Indian flag and Constitution is tactical and that once it has shown the Narendra Modi government its place, the old identity politics will resume.

Certainly, there is the unresolved issue of whether in future the Muslim involvement in political life will be centred on 'secular' political parties or whether the Owaisi model of a separate pressure group will find acceptance. Mamata Banerjee, for example, has decided that in West Bengal she will do her utmost to keep Owaisi out.

The second issue centres on students and liberals who have given the protests an acceptable face and been responsible for the sympathetic media treatment of the agitation. It is heartening that the students and liberals are concerned over any possible distortions to the secular character of the Indian Constitution — although they are wrong in identifying the CAA as a departure. In the process, however, they have demonstrated spectacular insensitivity towards those who were turfed out of their homes by religious bigotry. They have also shown a bewildering degree of contempt towards Parliament and a legitimately elected government, not to mention alternative points of view. In some places there has also been a marked propensity for violence.

Most important, there is an emerging view of student vanguardism that centres on the idea that the youth, in alliance with Muslims and free-floating liberals, will be the agents of change in India. This is complemented by a belief that all those who disagree with their flawed certitudes are automatically fascists undeserving of any hearing.

Finally, there are the mainstream opposition parties which, at this juncture has a limited agenda of embarrassing the Modi government and reducing its manoeuvrability. These parties are happy using Muslims and students and piggybacking on them for the moment, at least until the Parliament session. However, Parliament will ensure there are deep divisions which can't be papered over.

For the Centre, the anti-CAA stir is a formidable challenge and its impact should not be minimised, at least in a section of the urban middle classes. The government has so far believed that the protests will fade out sooner rather than later. However, while patience may work, it is equally important that the government undertakes a massive publicity blitz aimed at telling everyone what the CAA is all about and why it does not pose a threat to India's Muslim population. Charges of making an Indian stateless is too grave to be responded with silence. It needs a quick response. Equally necessary are communications on the rules of the CAA and horrific implications of any state government not cooperating in the National Population Register exercise.

Scrap CAA: Didi to Modi

Mamata terms meeting a courtesy call on PM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid allegations of "sabotage" and "meek surrender" levelled by the Congress and the Left Front, TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after the PM landed in Kolkata and requested him to withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA.

While protests, black flags and angry chants of "Modi, go back" greeted Modi as he arrived on a 2-day visit here on Saturday, nicety was not abandoned as Mamata shared dais with him while remaining insistent on annulment of the new citizenship law.

Emerging from the meeting, Mamata defined her con-fabulation with the Prime Minister as a "courtesy call" during which she squeezed in a couple of pecuniary demands in favour of her State and a request to withdraw the CAA.

The meeting came amid a bitter showdown between the BJP and the TMC — over a host of issues including CAA. Moments later, Mamata was present at an anti-CAA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a meeting in Kolkata PTI

protest nearby, where she said the PM had asked her to come to New Delhi to discuss the vexatious issues.

In both the cases, the Prime Minister assured her of a future discussion in Delhi, the Chief Minister claimed. "I met the Prime Minister... it is a part of constitutional courtesy... I meet the President too when he comes to Kolkata. In fact, I sent our Minister Firdad Hakim to receive him at the airport. This is protocol. You have to send a Minister-in-waiting."

While CPI(M) Politburo

member Md Salim alleged at a massive protest rally that Didi had gone to show her allegiance to Modi, Mamata vouched for the genuineness of the meeting iterating the courtesy call apart, she has placed a demand of ₹38,000 crore which is long overdue from the Centre. "He has assured me that he will go through the relevant papers in Delhi," she said.

The Chief Minister also said, "I told him that though he being the guest of the State it was inappropriate to raise the issue at this point of time...I

requested him to withdraw the CAA which is hurting the unity and integrity of India."

From the dharna podium, Mamata dared the Centre to implement the CAA saying "this will remain in the form of notification as no State will comply with it... and Bengal will be the last State to be a party to this anti-people divisive law."

She would continue to agitate endlessly "till I am alive" taking along with us the regional parties "until the Act is not taken back... that is my pledge," Mamata said attacking the Left and the Congress for taking the movement to a violent path.

Axe divisive Acts: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress too on Saturday demanded the withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act besides an inquiry by a high-powered commission into the incidents connected with the anti-CAA protests, and the stoppage of the ongoing process of National Population Register (NPR).

Addressing the CWC meeting, Congress president Sonia Gandhi termed the CAA a "discriminatory and divisive" law whose "sinister" purpose was to divide people on religious lines. She also said that the NPR in form and content was "disguised NRC". Detailed report on P5

Shah dares Opp to show any Section in CAA that takes away citizenship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

Alleging that the falsehood spread by the Opposition parties against the CAA has resulted in anarchy in the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Communists to show him any provision in the legislation that would take away the citizenship of Muslims in the country.

"The Opposition does not have any other issue, so they are spreading misinformation and falsehood on CAA. This has resulted in anarchy in the entire country," he said.

His statements came in the wake of violent protests in parts of India over the CAA, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR).

"Persecuted minorities have to come to India to save themselves. However, the previous Governments did not give any facilities to these migrants thinking that it would make others unhappy," he said at the inauguration of various projects of the Gujarat Police here.

Under global push, Iran admits it shot Ukrainian jetliner



File photo of crashed Ukrainian plane. AP

World demands full account, Ukraine seeks punishment

Tehran: Iran's Revolutionary Guard on Saturday acknowledged that it accidentally shot down the Ukrainian jetliner that crashed earlier this week, killing all 176 aboard, after the government had repeatedly denied Western accusations that it was responsible.

While Ukraine on Saturday demanded that Iran punish the guilty and compensate victims, Iran has invited the US, Ukraine, Canada and others to join the crash investigation as global pressure mounted on it. The plane was shot down

early Wednesday, hours after Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on two military bases housing US troops in Iraq in retaliation for the killing of Iranian Gen Qassem Soleimani in an American airstrike in Baghdad. No one was wounded in the attack on the bases.

A military statement carried by state media said the plane was mistaken for a "hostile target." The military was at its "highest level of readiness," it said, amid the heightened tensions with the United States.

"In such a condition, because of human error and in an unintentional way, the flight was hit," the military said. It apologised and said it would upgrade its systems to prevent future tragedies.

Police identify 37 more JNU suspects from WhatsApp group

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Special Investigation Team (SIT) identified nine suspects responsible for the JNU violence, the sources in the Delhi Police on Saturday said that the SIT has identified 37 more suspects from a "WhatsApp" group that was created during the violence on the campus.

Meanwhile, the JNU administration on Saturday conducted security audit of hostels to assess how many outsiders and unauthorised persons are staying on the campus. Vice-Chancellor M Jagadish Kumar met students on the campus and rued that some activist students backed by a group of teachers have defiled the peaceful atmosphere, forcing some students to vacate hostels.

He also said that the JNU administration has taken adequate steps to ensure the safety and security of the students residing on the campus.

However, the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) accused the police of inaction.

According to a police source, the 37 suspects identified do not belong to any political group active in JNU. "Those identified are students of JNU who were in favour of the semester registration process and wanted to



The illegal luxury apartment Holy Faith H20 being razed to the ground by the controlled implosion in Kochi on Saturday AP



File photo

enroll themselves. The group had 60 members and 37 of them have been identified," said a source.

"These identified persons will be called for questioning and after that it will be cleared if they are associated with any of the student outfits," said the source.

ABVP's secretary, JNU unit, Manish Jangid, who had earlier alleged that he was attacked by Left-wing students, was part of "Unity Against Left" WhatsApp group and some other ABVP members were also in this group," said another source. However, Jangid claimed that on January 5, after he was attacked by some people, his phone broke and he had no knowledge about being added to that group.

"When my phone got

Will reclaim POK if Army is ordered so: Gen Narvane

'Forces owe allegiance to Constitution'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the Government's renewed emphasis on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), newly-appointed Army chief General Manoj Narvane on Saturday recalled a Parliament resolution in this regard to assert that the Army was ready to carry out the mandate even as he outlined the need for a 'rebalancing' act with equal focus on China too, not confining to just Pakistan.

Stressing the need for rebalancing, the Chief mentioned about the threat of two-front war with Pakistan and China and said Siachen is the closet point for "collusion" between those two countries.

It is, therefore, important to keep Siachen in India's possession, he said adding the Army is rebalancing its weaponry to the northern borders facing China. India dominates all the heights at Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, which is the wedge between China on the one side and Pakistan on the other.

With his predecessor General Bipin Rawat being criticised for giving "political



Army Chief General MM Naravane during the annual press conference in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

statements", the new Army chief also sought to put the records straight saying the armed forces owe allegiance to the Constitution and its preamble. He said the conduct of the 1.3-million-strong Army is guided by its "allegiance" to the Constitution and its core values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Asked about senior Ministers in the present regime talking about taking back POK, Naravane referred to a parliamentary resolution passed in 1994. He said the entire erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir belongs to India.

CAPSULE

EIGHT DEAD IN CHEMICAL FACTORY BLAST IN MAHA

Mumbai/Palghar: At least eight persons were killed in a huge explosion at a chemical factory at Boisar in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Saturday evening, a police official said. Boisar is over 100 km from Mumbai.

CURATIVE PETITION OF 2 TO BE HEARD ON JAN 14

New Delhi: A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court will hear on January 14 curative petitions of two of the four death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya case.

'1.5L DIE IN 5L ROAD ACCIDENTS ANNUALLY'



Nagpur: Every year, around 1.5 lakh people are killed in five lakh accidents that take place across the country, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said, and expressed remorse that his Ministry could not reduce these numbers despite taking several measures.

PRESIDENT TSAI WINS TAIWAN ELECTIONS

Taipei: Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen declared a landslide victory in Saturday's election as voters delivered a stunning rebuke of Beijing's campaign to isolate the self-ruled island and handed its first female leader a second term.

SHOW TIME

This is how reality should be shown



CHHAPAAK
*ing: Deepika Padukone, Vikrant Massey
Rated: 8.5/10

Powerful, sensitive and grounded, that's Meghna Gulzar's highly emotive and simple true story on acid violence victims, *Chhapaak*. To do a full length feature on a subject from which you intrinsically turn your eyes and mind away, to go 70mm with seared disfigured skin and to put on screen the glamour girl to portray the life and times of Laxmi, an acid victim who spent a lifetime fighting for a face not just over her neck but also in courtrooms and campaigns for the 152 recorded victims so far, means that the director and producer had both courage and conviction in equal measure.

Chhapaak does not wrench your guts but it makes you feel deeply for these unsung victims of the most cruel violence that can be unleashed on young girls and with not even half the focus of the media on them unlike rape cases which have churned both anger, protests and national movements from time to time.

Deepika Padukone, who helms the film, comes out as a powerful actor despite being a

big star and she shows simple gumption and un-fussed determination to step into the skin of Laxmi, howsoever disfigured it may have become.

Meghna takes you through the struggles of the acid victim with equal absence of fuss and that's what makes this film powerful and sensitive, not to mention a trigger for deep introspection on our outdated and dogged laws who, as the lawyer says on screen, "can ban the sale of eggs in UP but not the sale of acid" which is the cheapest, most easily available tool to ruin the lives of so many young girls.

It's films like *Chhapaak* that forgive Bollywood for all the song and dance it generally serenades in. It is films like these that may be rare but show the acumen of a film industry which has scant time for anything meaningful, least of all meaningful cinema.

Padukone as the producer has treaded in front of the camera without even once playing to the gallery, with either needless songs or melodrama that a subject like this is often clothed in.

The *Chhapaak* title song is wonderfully worded and sung and signifies the goodness of such cinema.

'I try to upgrade myself and my craft'

Known for playing varied roles, SHIVIN NARANG speaks with CHANCHAL GOYAL about his career trajectory, love for Delhi's food and upcoming projects

■ What is your role in Beyhath 2?
I play Rudra Roy, a businessman. He is family oriented. The character is intense and full of different emotions. He is a man of his words. He is hurt and holds a lot of grudges against his father.

■ Do you share any similarities with your character?
Yes. One thing in common is that we both are family oriented. Just like my character, I too value all my relationships.

■ How did acting happen to you?
I was always fond of Bollywood movies but never thought of trying my hands on acting.

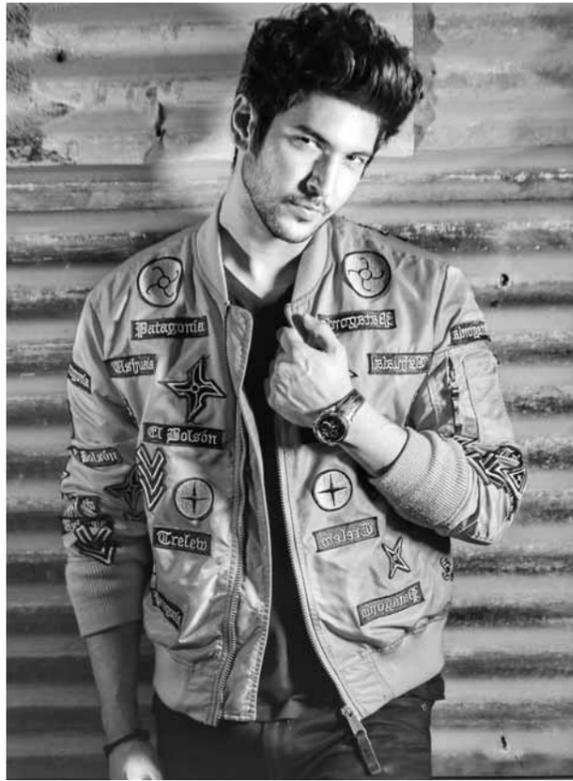
After some years, I decided to give it a chance. I got a portfolio done and posted my pictures on Facebook. A modeling agency saw those pictures and called me for some assignments. After that, I got an audition call for my first show — *Sivreen Guggal* — *Topper of the year*. Initially I thought it was a fake call, but then I thought to give it a try and shifted to Mumbai. Fortunately, stars were in my favour, I cleared the audition and was signed for the show.

■ Did your family support you in your decision?
Yes, they did. In fact when I broke the news to my mother, she broke into tears. It was surreal for her.

■ What all preparations did you do for acting?
I started working on my craft, learnt new skills and worked hard. Initially when you get into acting, you crave for fame, but after that the actual process begins you start working upon yourself to deliver your best.

I would give the credit to my parents for convincing me to do the hit show — *Veer ki Ardaas: Veera* on Star plus. I was initially reluctant to do that show as it was a family drama and I wanted to do more youth oriented shows.

It made me believe that listening to your parents not only helps you in personal life but also helps you to succeed professionally.



■ If not an actor, what else would you have been?
I was always into sports. I am a National level shooter. If not an actor, I would be definitely doing something related to sports.

■ What do you miss about Delhi?
I miss Delhi's food, especially *chole bhature*. Mumbai has its own flavour, but Delhi food holds a special place in my heart.

■ Apart from acting what else keeps you busy?
When I am not working, I watch movies. Recently, I tried my hands in Gymnastics. I try to learn skills which help me in upgrading myself and my craft.

■ How has your journey been so far in the TV industry?
It is going to be eight years now. It was interesting. Full of highs and lows. I have evolved as an actor and as a human being. I am fortunate enough to have met some great souls. My journey gives me a feeling of contentment and I thrive to work upon myself and improve every day.

■ What all challenges did you face?
Challenges are there in everything that we do. But God has been kind to me. I was fortunate to work with some great people.

I had to take a year sabbatical when my father was not keeping well back in 2017. I was with him for his medical treatment and did not work. It was a tough time for me, but I came out strong. Now everything is back on track and I am doing well both in professional and personal life.

■ What kept you going?
I can't explain that feeling in words, but when you are passionate about something and have your emotions attached to it, it gives you the power to keep going.

■ What are your upcoming projects?
I have recently finished shooting for *Khatron ke Khiladi 10 (KKK 10)* in Bulgaria. The show will air in February. I shot a movie for a digital platform. It will release soon. The plot is set on the backdrop of 1983, the story is unconventional and I will be seen in a different avatar.

■ What made you say yes to KKK 10?
I have turned down the offer many times. But the team kept approaching me every year. This year round, when I got the offer, I thought of giving it a try. That's how I landed in the show.

Also I like to challenge myself and come out of my comfort zone and this was the best opportunity. Initially I was scared but then I convinced myself to face my fears.

■ A lesson that you took back home from the show?
I have become more confident. I have learnt to face my fears and prepared myself to take up new projects.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Where as the undersigned being the "Authorised Officer" of Punjab and Sind Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of said notices.

The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rule on the date mentioned against each account.

The borrowers / guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Properties and any dealing with the Properties will be subject to the charge of the Punjab and Sind Bank, for the amounts, other charges, costs, expenses and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of Act, in the respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the NPA Accounts / Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of the Demand Notice	Date of the Possession	Amount Outstanding
(1) M/s Rikhi Ram Om Prakash through its Prop. Sh. Om Prakash S/o Sh. Rikhi Ram S/o Ram Lal (ii) Sh. Kamaldeep Singh S/o Sh. Kulwant Singh (iii) Sh. Surinder Sharma S/o Sh. Jugal Kishore Branch: Mule Chak, Amritsar	One Plot bearing Private no. 25 Silver Plate no. M-5/1567, Khata no. 974 min, having length 50.9' on East side 48.4' on West side and width 20' on North Side and South side, area measuring 110.33 sq. yards i.e 4 Marla bearing Khadra no. 974 min and bounded and abutted as per sale deed on East: Plot no. 26, West: Plot no. 24, North: 16' wide Passage, South: Property of Unknown, situated at backside Indra Colony, Abadi Bhagat Singh Avenue, Chahal Road, Amritsar-1, vide Sale deed dated 27-05-1996 duly Registered in the Office of Sub Registrar, Amritsar, Document no. 1849, Book no. 1, Volume no. 7407 at Page no. 39 entered on 29.05.1996	05-10-2019	07-01-2020	Rs. 5,09,711/50 as on 05-10-2019 + interest, other charges & less recovery if any, till date affected
(2) (i) Jasmer Singh S/o Gian Singh (ii) Harmandeep Singh S/o Jasmer Singh (iii) Mrs. Harjit Kaur W/o Jasmer Singh and (iv) Mortgagor Harjit Kaur W/o S. Jasmer Singh Branch: Kala Ghanapur, Amritsar	(A) Property Plot area measuring 78.22 sq. yards and bounded as per Sale deed East: Ownership of others, West: Gali, North: Joginder Singh, South: Remaining Area vide Sale deed dated 29-01-2016 duly Registered with the Office of Sub Registrar, Amritsar - II vide Document no. 14023, Book no. 1, Volume no. 6570 at Page no. 3436. (B) Property Plot area measuring 149.33 sq. yards and bounded as per Sale deed East: Ownership of others, West: Gali, North: Remaining area, South: Ownership of others vide Sale deed dated 29-01-2016 duly Registered with the Office of Sub Registrar, Amritsar - I vide Document no. 14046, Book no. 1, Volume no. 6570 at Page no. 8990. Total area 227.55 sq. yards and bearing Khadra no. 313 min, Situated in the area Rakha Kala Ghanapur, Sub Urban Abadi, Navi Abadi, Tehsil and Distt Amritsar Owned by Mrs. Harjit Kaur. [Date: 12-01-2020] Place: Amritsar Sd: Authorised Officer	02-09-2019	08-01-2020	Rs. 14,06,191/10 as on 31-01-2019 + interest, other charges & less recovery if any till date affected

SARVA HARYANA GRAMIN BANK
Branch: Hathin Distt. Palwal
Phone No. 01275-261428

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Notices are hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices on the dates mentioned below in the table and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

The borrowers and guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on the date mentioned below in the table.

The borrowers and guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank for the amount and interest thereon.

Name of Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s)	Description of the properties mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount O/s
Borrower Smt. Jamshida W/o Sh. Maksud Guarantors 1. Sh. Rijwan S/o Sh. Maksud 2. Sh. Mukeem S/o Sh. Maksud 3. Sh. Aakil S/o Sh. Maksud 4. Sh. Harshad S/o Sh. Billa	All that part and parcel of the property measuring 10 Marla having 10/163th share in equal share vide Khewat/ Khata no 1306/1452, Rect. No 77, Kila no. 11/12 (0-14), 19(7-9) total measuring 8K 3Mshare of applicants comes to 10Marla situated within the Municipal Limits of Hathin, Tehsil Hathin, Distt. Palwal owned by Sh. Rijwan, Sh. Mukim & Sh. Aakil all Sons of Sh. Maksud w.e.f. 31.10.2018 expenses, costs, charges, etc.	29.10.2019	08.01.2020	Rs. 4,52,336/- (Rs. Four Lac fifty two Thousand three hundred thirty six Only) and interest thereon
Borrower Smt. Islami w/o Sh. Rustam Guarantors 1. Sh. Rustam s/o Sh. Gulab 2. Sh. Ritesh Kumar s/o Sh. Asha Ram	All that part and parcel of the property measuring 5 Marla having 1/3rd share vide Khewat/ Khata no 408/453, Rect. No 76, Kila no. 13/11/11/2/2(0-15) total measuring 15 Kanal and share of applicant comes to 05 Marla situated within the Municipal Limits of Hathin, Tehsil Hathin, Distt. Palwal owned by Smt. Islami W/o Sh. Rustam.	07.01.2019 29.10.2019	08.01.2020	Rs. 9,70,953/- Rs. nine lac seventy thousand nine hundred fifty three only (Rs. 1,76,468/- (Rs. One Lac seventy six Thousand four hundred sixty eight Only and interest thereon w.e.f. 30.04.2017 vide notice dated 07.01.2019 and Rs. 7,94,485/- (Rs. Seven Lac ninety four Thousand four hundred eighty five Only) and interest thereon w.e.f. 31.10.2018 vide notice dated 29.10.2019 respectively) expenses, costs, charges, etc.

This notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank. Authorised Officer Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank
Date : 10.01.2020 Place : Hathin, Haryana

TELLYTALE



KAKKAR'S MEET NARAYANS
This weekend *Indian Idol Season 11* will have double celebration as Bollywood's most adored singers who had ruled for more than two decades Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan will be gracing the sets of the show. A fun filled banter tickled between Udit Narayan and Neha Kakkar when he was teasing Neha taking his son Aditya's name. Marking a joyous new year celebration the entire team welcomed them whole heartedly with a bang.

Udit Narayan especially mentioned that he has been following the show since its starting and believes: "All the contestants are extremely talented." He further mentioned that there was another reason which made him come on the stage that was he is keen in making Neha his daughter in law. Not only Udit Narayan but Aditya's mother Deepa Narayan also came on the sets to convince Neha to become the *bahu* of Narayan *Khandaan*.

Even Neha's parents came on the sets. In a humorous way, they too agreed for Neha and Aditya's marriage which made Aditya very happy. To which Neha teasingly replied what fun it would be, if she agrees so early in the season.

'GYM COMES BEFORE HOME'
Actor Nishant Singh Malkani who plays Akshat Jindal from in *Guddan Tumse Na Ho Payega* has impressed one and all with his acting skills on the show. While Akshat and Guddan's (played by Kanika Mann) romance and Antara's (played by Dalijet Kaur) re-entry has caught the audience's attention, it is the actor's ripped body that has also been the talk of the town! Be it his bare-bodied sequences or his social media posts, everyone has appreciated Nishant's macho physique. But what is the secret behind his ripped look?

Nishant spills the beans on his fitness regime and shares that he is a fitness fanatic, who never misses hitting the gym. He also reveals that he doesn't follow a diet plan, but does follow a routine just like his idol Hrithik Roshan and that is truly the secret to his hot bod. The actor says: "I do not follow a diet plan per se, but I do eat healthy. Importantly, I avoid junk and sugar. However, I must add that I practice a routine of intermittent fasting. Basically, I don't eat for 16 hours and then there is a fixed eight-hour period when I eat. Hrithik Roshan, who I have been following for several years, also follows the same routine and you all know how fit he is! He is the inspiration for me taking up this routine."

Nishant also has a special chef to take care of his dietary needs. As he adds: "I have hired a full-time chef who accompanies me through the day. He takes care of my food on the sets and at home too. He organises all my meals." But that's not it! Apart from this diet routine, the actor also makes sure he never misses out on working out, again following the footsteps of Hrithik. "Everyday, after shoot no matter what time I pack up, I go to my gym. So, gym comes before home for me," signs off Nishant.

'PLAYING A MOTHER WAS CHALLENGING'
It is often said: No one teaches you how to be a mother; you are simply thrown into motherhood. Same is the belief of Akshita Mudgal as Gayatri, who is currently portraying the role of a mother on Sony SAB's family entertainer *Bhakarwadi*.

With the entry of Abhijeet (Gautam Rode) and his

Krishna is sleeping on my lap, holding me tight, and in his sleep he asks Gayatri 'aap meri maa ho na?' Gayatri was supposed to say 'yes' with very heavy emotions and when the director narrated this scene to me and asked me to just imagine the kid and then deliver the dialogue, I instantly got emotional and cried. When I saw the telecast too, I was emotional and had tears in my eyes. So, I feel I have that motherhood within me and I believe every girl has it in her," she adds.

Talking about her preparation for this role, Akshita shared: "At our homes, we see how our mothers care about us and loves us. There are a lot of little things a mother does like if we come home late at night, from work, she gets up early to wake us up on time. There are many different elements that come with this word 'mother', including love, affection, anger and pampering. So, I took inspiration from my own mother observing how she takes care of me and my siblings and I hope I have done justice to the role of a mother as it is one of the purest relationships in this world."

SONAM IS REYHNA'S STYLE ICON
Mannohini Season 2 has kicked off with a brand-new twist to the tale in terms of a 20-year-leap recently. The new characters of Shiv (played by Karam Rajpal),



Anyana (played by Vaishali Takkar) and Mohini (played by Reyhna Pandit) have already caught everyone's attention and the current romantic track between Shiv and Anyana has got their fans hooked. Reyhna, in particular, is not only appreciated for her acting skills but her unique fashion style off-screen.

So, who inspires Reyhna Pandit's glamorous look off screen? Well, the young fashionista admitted to stalking Sonam Kapoor on her Instagram. Talking about her style icons, she said, "Sonam Kapoor is probably the most fashionable person I have ever seen. In Hollywood though, it is, of course, DuaLipa. I love how she dresses up and styles herself. Another person I admire is Rosalina who is a singer and a pop icon." With such icons, what is Reyhna's favourite fashion *mantra*? Reyhna revealed: "I prefer to be comfortable with whatever you are wearing and carry anything and everything with grace and confidence, which I believe is the key to carry any outfit — Indian or Western."

We know that fans would swear by her quirky fashion quotient indeed.

Saraswati College of Education
VIII, Mandoli Po, Kaliyana Distt. & Teh. Ch. Dadri
Approved by N.C.T.E. & Affiliated to C.B.L.U. Bhiwani

CORRIGENDUM
in continuous to our advertisement for the post of Principal, Asstt. Professor & Non-Teaching Staff in Amar Ujala & The Pioneer dated 17-12-2019, Interested candidates may apply upto 15 days. Other terms & Conditions will remain as such.
Director, Ashwani Ghasola
Email : Saraswati.collegemandoli@gmail.com
Mob. 9466907686, 8607667686, 9416690205

15 acid attack survivors attend screening of Chhapaak

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Fifteen acid attack survivors from Punjab attended a special screening of the movie Chhapaak, organised by the Social Security, Women and Child Development Department of the state at Zirakpur near here.

Talking to reporters, Women and Child Development Minister, Aruna Chaudhary said that she salutes the bravery and courage exhibited by the acid attack survivors in the face of heavy odds and added that Punjab Government is undertaking every step necessary to ensure safe and secure public places for

women.

The minister said that as per the report of the bureau of investigation, there are 40 cases registered in connection with the acid attacks. Out of these, in 11 cases the conviction has been pronounced. The minister added that the Social Security, Women and Child Development Department provides a pension of Rs. 750 to all persons who have been disabled due to the acid attacks. Under the scheme of financial assistance to women acid attack victims, a pension of Rs. 8000 per month is being provided.

Chaudhary said that in accordance with the present policy of the Home

Department, there is a provision of compensation of Rs. 3 lakh per victim and so far, the Home Department has disbursed compensation to the tune of Rs. 8300000 to 40 victims. Furthermore, the Health Department has notified the Punjab Possession and Sale Rule, 2014 to regulate the possession and the sale of acid.

Principal Secretary of the Department Raji P. Shrivastava, Director Gurpreet Kaur Sapra, Inspector General of Police, Vibhu Raj, amongst others attended the show.

The Deepika Padukone movie was organised in collaboration with Dhillon plaza Zirakpur at INOX plaza.



Newly-elected Chandigarh Mayor meets Governor, raises issues of city

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Raj Bala Malik, Ravi Kant Sharma & Jagtar Singh Dhillon (Jagga) newly elected Mayor, Senior Deputy Mayor & Deputy Mayor, Chandigarh made a courtesy call to V. P. Singh Badnore, Governor, Punjab and Administrator, UT, Chandigarh on Saturday.

The Administrator discussed various issues regarding development of city. The Mayor raised the issues regarding implementation of 4th Delhi Finance Commission's recommendations and also regarding allocation of sufficient budgetary Grant-in-Aid to Municipal Corporation so that normal development works and other important infrastructure projects can be taken up by the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh on priority and the issues in future may be taken up in a better way.

eras and surveillance are being taken up under Smart City project.

The Mayor also requested the Administrator to continue the monthly meetings of Co-ordination Committee at the level of Adviser to the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh where issues pending with Chandigarh Administration due to inter departmental queries can be sorted out so that Municipal Corporation can undertake these projects in a better and speedy way.

The Administrator said the committees constituted for development of 13 villages and headed by nominated councilors of MCC must start their function and development plan for each village. He said that projects and plan would be chalked out at the earliest so that facilities and infrastructure of these villages can be developed at par with sectors of the city.

He said cleanliness not only means sanitation drives but includes segregation of waste and proper management of Municipal Solid Waste that has to be the top most priority and the MCC should involve public at large in these projects to ensure their participation in maintaining the beauty of the city.

IN BRIEF

JJP BECOMES A STATE PARTY IN HARYANA

Chandigarh: Election Commission of India has enlisted Jannayak Janta Party as a State Party in Haryana. The commission has issued a gazette notification of adding JJP in list of State Parties in the state where it won 10 seats in the last assembly polls. Party president Nishan Singh said that he is especially thankful of the people of the state for it is because their vote and support that JJP has reached this stage. The party was temporarily allocated the election symbol of 'key' which was subsequently made permanent on being recognised within only 11 months of its formation. JJP received 15.34 per cent votes thus in winning 10 seats in the Assembly elections held two months ago. JJP was registered in March 2019.

HP GUV RELEASES POETRY BOOK OF GURMEET BEDI

Shimla: Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Saturday released the collection of poems - "Meri hi koi aakriti" written by Gurmeet Bedi, currently working as Deputy Director in the Press Liaison Office of Information and Public Relations Department, Chandigarh. The collection of poems, which became part of the world book fair, has also been translated into German language. The Governor congratulated Bedi for winning many awards at the national and international level and hoped that he would continue to enrich the literary world with his writing in future. He said that literature was mirror of society and makes society sensitive and the state government is also committed for preservation and promotion of literature, art and culture. There are 63 poems in this poetry collection which have been published and discussed in magazines of the country.

GET TOGETHER HELD IN HONOUR OF IAS CHAUDHRY

Shimla: A get together of senior officers of Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officers in the honour of recently retired IAS officer Upma Chaudhary was held at New Delhi on Saturday. Upma Chaudhary was felicitated on the occasion by presenting a Himachali cap and shawl. She served the state government and the central government in important positions. She remained DC Solan, Secretary, Principal Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary of important departments in Himachal Pradesh Government. She retired from the position of Secretary to Government of India Ministry of Youth Services and Sports. She also served as the Director of Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussorie. The function was attended by former Chief Secretaries of Himachal Pradesh A.K. Goswami, Vineet Chawdhary and B.K. Agrawal, former Secretary of Government of India and Vice Chairman DDA Tarun Kapoor and other senior officers. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sanjay Kundu and Vivek Mahajan were also present on the occasion.



SHIMLA YOUTH CONG PROTESTS

Shimla: Shimla youth Congress activists on Saturday cleared the roads blocked by snow, alleging that the district administration failed to fulfill its duty. The activists led by youth Congress president Virender Banshu also held a protest outside Deputy Commissioner Amit Kashyap's residence on Jakhu road near Takka bench and the Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) here. Himachal Youth Congress general secretary and Shimla in-charge Nishant Thakur also took part in the protest. The party workers alleged that the district administration failed to remove snow from the city roads even after 72 hours. People are facing a lot of inconvenience, at least one person was killed and several others were injured after skidding off the snow-covered slippery roads in the state capital, they added. If the roads are not cleared in the next two days, the youth Congress said it will gherao the DC and Shimla Municipal Corporation offices.

'SPURT' IN CRIME : SURJEWALA SLAMS HRY GOVT

Chandigarh: Senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala has slammed the BJP-led government in Haryana, claiming that as per the latest NCRB data, crime had increased in the state. "The spurt in heinous crimes during the BJP rule has been proclaimed by the latest National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data for 2018," he said in a statement here. The Congress leader claimed that the state recorded 1.08 lakh cases of different crimes in one year. "The state has got the dubious distinction of recording the third highest crime rate in the country as 381 cases were reported per 1 lakh population, far higher than the crime rates of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," Surjewala said. Criminal incidents have increased for the fifth consecutive year in a row, he claimed and cited NCRB figures.

2 Pakistani boys to be repatriated on Jan 14

Chandigarh: A 17-year-old Pakistani boy, who has been languishing in a juvenile home in Punjab's Hoshiarpur town for inadvertently crossing the international border in 2018, will now reunite with his family after two years on January 14, officials said on Saturday.

He will be handed over to the Pakistan Rangers at the Attari-Wagah joint check post between India and Pakistan. He belongs to Pakistan's Kasur district.

A case relating to repatriation of the Pakistani boy Mubshar Bilal is pending

before the Punjab and Haryana High Court and is listed for the next hearing on January 15.

But ahead of the hearing, the Union Home Ministry, in a communication to the juvenile home authorities, has said Mubshar, popularly known as Mubarak, along with another Pakistani boy Sajjad Haider who is in a detention centre in Delhi, will be repatriated.

Legal-cum-Probation Officer Sukhjinder Singh told IANS that the boy was acquitted by the juvenile justice

board on September 4, 2018.

Now, on the direction of the Union Home Ministry he would be released, he said.

The boy's counsel Gurpreet Sandhu, who is based in Chandigarh, told IANS that the boy, who belongs to a very poor family, was found sleeping by the Border Security Force (BSF) under a tree on the Indian side of the border in Tarn Taran district on the night of February 27, 2018.

His house is located just 20-25 feet away from the Indian territory.

Sandhu said in the last hearing on December 17, 2019 the high court had fixed January 15 as the next date of hearing on his plea.

He said the boy's case was narrated by a journalist in Pakistan to Bathinda-based lawyer Harpal Singh Khara during his visit there.

Khara approached Sandhu to file a writ petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking his release.

The boys will be handed over to their families at the Attari-Wagah border at noon.

IANS

AAP to move motion to scrap Power Purchasing Agreements

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday challenged the Capt Amarinder Singh government for holding an open debate on high power tariff in the state, saying the private power agreements inked by the erstwhile government could be scrapped in just five minutes.

Talking to reporters, senior leader Aman Arora, Kultar Singh Sandhwan and Meet Hayer and Jai Krishan Singh Rouri (All MLAs) said that the agreements signed

between the private players and the Badals involved a scam worth crores of rupees, saying that earlier Sukhbir Singh Badal and now Capt Amarinder Singh was pocketing huge 'profits', which was why the latter had neither nixed the anti-state PPOs nor reviewed the accounts, as he had promised to the people of the state before coming to power in 2017.

"If the Capt government could scrap the water sharing agreements and the 2100 government-run service centres paying Rs 220 crore to BSL

company, why couldn't it scrap the PPOs in Punjab", Arora asked.

Commenting on the one-sided PPOs, Arora alleged that SEPKO, a Chinese company installed thermal plants in Sasan in Gujarat and at Talwandi Sabo in Punjab with similar technology and budget, saying Sasan was paying 17 paise per unit while Talwandi Sabo was coughing up 8 times more, precisely Rs 1.42, forcing the common consumer to pay Rs 9 per unit, which, he said, was on the higher side compared to other states.

Similarly, citing the Thermal plant at Rajpura and Mudra Port power plant in Gujarat, saying that hefty kick-back was being usurped from private players, saying that the agreement on the thermal power plant also involved a bigger scam, Arora said.

The Sunam MLA said that the AAP would move Private Member Bill in the coming assembly session to scrap all power pacts, which, he said, would put across the perspective of all political parties including the government, indicating whether they were

in favour of the common consumer or the power mafia ruling the roost in the state.

Arora said that, after open admission by former power ministers, Rana Gurjit Singh and Gurpreet Singh Kangar, of paying worth several crores annually to the power plants under the agreement, the 7-page letter shot off by his cabinet colleague Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa to Amarinder Singh pointing out the flip side of the pacts was significant.

Meet Hayer said that the Capt Amarinder government

was in no mood to scrap the PPOs, for simple reason that he was allegedly pocketing huge 'amounts' leaving the people to pay high tariff for electricity.

Kultar Singh Sandhwan on the occasion said that the meters installed in the state were not weather friendly and therefore there was loot upon loot over the power. Jai Krishan Singh Rouri said that the Arvind Kejriwal government had been providing cheapest electricity in Delhi by scrapping all deals with the private players there.

Drones in Punjab matter of concern: DGP

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The echo of the drone attack by the US on Iran killing the Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani was heard in Punjab on Friday. Just about a week after the attack, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta minced no words to say that the increasing use of drones was indeed a "matter of concern", especially as far as the VIP security is concerned.

To make the matters worse, a drone was hard to detect. The DGP said that a drone makes a little noise and there was no technology to detect its presence, making visual spotting the only effective method to check its presence.

The State has been on high alert since the outbreak of drone activity along the Indo-Pak border in August when the drones were first sighted, followed by the recovery of two in August and September.

The state police is working in close coordination with the Border Security Forces (BSF) to check the drone activity across the border.

Admitting drones to be a "threat", Gupta said that drones are of different specifications and capacities according to its



make.

"VIP security is a matter of concern. Especially, as the recent instances are there where the drones are being used to attack," said DGP while mentioning the US killing Iranian army commander, besides other similar cases.

At the same time, he expressed serious concern over its "easy availability" and "simple operation" of drones.

"The drones are not difficult to operate. Moreover, one can even order it from a website and get it. One does not require any special skills or training to operate a drone, in fact one can learn and it by going through the instructions," said the DGP.

He pointed that one of the three persons arrested by the Punjab Police, Army soldier Rahul Chauhan, had bought a drone from OLY website.

Chauhan has revealed that he bought a black coloured, partially damaged Drone - Aspire 02 model - during the second half of 2019 from OLY for about Rs 1.50 lakh, which was partially damaged. After repairing the drone, he sold it on OLY for about Rs 2.75 lakhs. From these sale proceeds, Rahul purchased a new Drone - DJI Inspire 02 model for about Rs 3.20 lakh from Pune and sold it to a criminal residing in Amritsar for Rs 5.70 lakh. He purchased another Drone - DJI Matrice 600 - for about Rs 5.35 lakh, and stored it in Karnal, from where it had been recovered," said the DGP, indicating at the easy availability of the drones.

Regarding countering the drones, the DGP said that technologies to immobilize drone were available and efforts

were on to develop them indigenously in the country too.

"As of now, we solely depend on visual spotting which is sole reliable method. These drones don't have any light on it, and even its sound is not much. The sorties were made at night and spotting a drone at night is not an easy task," he said adding that but the BSP personnel, and villagers have spotted the drone activity near the border.

The state police chief maintained that there are various technologies available. "One is cutting off the signal, like if beam, which is operating the drone, is cut through electromagnetic. Then there are guns also. Various countries, like Israel, also have developed various anti-drone equipments," he said.

Efforts were being made to develop in-house solutions in the country, he added.

Following the increasing incidents of drone hovering inside Indian territory on Indo-Pak border, the state police department was considering to buy anti-drone equipment from Israel to detect such devices and jam communications between them and their operators.

Centre releases over ₹1,455 cr for four-laning of Kiratpur-Nerchowk Chowk

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Centre has released funds for remaining work of four-laning of Kiratpur to Nerchowk national highway and the work would be completed soon, Himachal chief minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Saturday.

He said that he had taken up the matter in this regard with Union Surface Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and this decision was the outcome of the same.

Thakur said that Rs. 1455.73 crore has been tendered for balance work on four laning of Kiratpur to Nerchowk section of NH-21 greenfield alignment excluding Sundernagar bypass on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).

He said that national highway authority (NHAI) tendered the remaining work of this road on Friday on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) and the company that will construct this national highway will also maintain it for 15 years. He said that the work on 29 kilometers has already been awarded and is under progress.



The Chief Minister said that the government of India had entrusted to the NHAI the development, maintenance and management of National Highway No. 21. The Authority had resolved to augment balance work for four laning of Kiratpur to Nerchowk section of NH-21 on design, build, operate and transfer basis. It has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of a private entity as the bidder to whom the Project may be awarded.

Tourist rush, snow-laden roads halt Himachal

Shimla/Manali: The weekend rush of tourists to enjoy the snowy landscape, coupled with slippery roads and lack of traffic management in picturesque tourist resorts, mainly Shimla and Manali in Himachal Pradesh, have brought them to a halt, literally.

The result: Long traffic jams adding to the problems of the commuters.

For the third consecutive day, tourist spots beyond Shimla like Kufri and Narkanda have been out of bounds owing to all major roads being under a thick blanket of snow.

So was Manali where all the prominent tourist destinations towards the Solang ski slopes have been closed to traffic. Road connectivity to

Manali was restored fully on Friday.

Officials said work is on to resume the traffic after clearing the snow piled on the roads but it will take a day or two for normalcy to return.

As per the State Disaster Management Authority, more than 800 link roads, comprising nearly 600 in Shimla region alone, are blocked.

The government advised motorists to check weather conditions before they venture out on the high hills as chances of snapping of road links are still high.

Shimla and its nearby spots like Kufri and Narkanda and the popular tourist resorts of Manali and Dalhousie are still covered in a thick blanket of snow.

"It took 10 hours to cover

65 kms between Narkanda and Shimla due to lack of traffic management and slippery road conditions," Akshay Sood, a resident of Shimla, told IANS.

He blamed tourists for irresponsible driving and traffic snarls.

Sood along with his family was stuck in Narkanda for the past three days after closure of road links due to snowfall.

"I was charged Rs 900 by a porter for carrying my luggage from my hotel to the car parking that was just 500 metres away. There is no mechanism to regulate them. They are robbing the tourists," Abhay Singh, a tourist, said in Shimla.

Officials said roads in the higher reaches of Kinnaur,



Shimla, Chamba, Mandi, Kullu and Sirmour districts were severely hit by heavy snowfall and work was on to

reopen them.

In the state capital and tourist resorts like Manali and Dalhousie, internal roads were

too slippery for traffic as these were laden with snow. Even walking in the streets was risky.

Although the Shimla Municipal Corporation has cleared the snow on Cart Road and some VIP roads, most of the other roads have not been cleared yet.

Due to the slippery condition of roads and pathways in Shimla, many pedestrians, most of them tourists, were getting injured. Two Shimla residents died after slipping from snow-laden pathways.

Tourists have been facing much difficulty in Shimla and Manali as most of the parking lots are slippery and covered with a good quantity of snow.

The Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) has been operating buses for Rohru and Chopal areas in Shimla district via Rajgarh in Sirmour district.

Officials said vehicular

traffic on the Shimla-Theog-Rohru road via Kharapathar, the shortest route, remained suspended for the fourth day as a thick layer of snow covered the road.

Buses from Shimla town to Rampur and Kinnaur district were plying via Dhamsi.

A day earlier, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, who reviewed the situation, directed authorities to ensure that all essential services are restored in the areas affected due to heavy snowfall.

Sixty six people, including sick, old and pregnant women, were airlifted from Lahaul-Spiti to Kullu.

The Met Office here has forecast more snowfall across the state from January 12, with chances of a heavy spell a day later.

IANS

JJP to contest Delhi Assembly elections

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After winning 10 seats in Haryana assembly elections two months ago and becoming a part of the BJP led Government, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) has decided to contest the assembly polls in Delhi also.

The announcement was made after meeting of Delhi Election Committee of JJP in Haryana State Guest House, Delhi.

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister and JJP Delhi in-charge Dushyant Chautala announced to fight the elections.

The JJP will formally bring out its poll manifesto for the elections and the committee which prepared manifesto for Haryana Assembly, will prepare the manifesto

for Delhi elections. Besides, five separate committees headed by senior leaders will screen the candidates for the elections.

JJP leader Digvijay Chautala said that JJP has taken this decision with the consent of all party leaders. He said JJP has been consistently active in Delhi and it has also formed its units in Delhi. He said that JJP will fight for the poor people, farmers and labourers in the polls.

The JJP leader said the clean image of Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and hard work of party workers will work of the party. He said the committees will submit its reports to party leadership within three days.

On the question of coalition with BJP, Chautala said that JJP is running Haryana Government in alliance with BJP and it respects the coalition dharma. He said that if the coalition talks with BJP will take place, the party will again hold meeting but the final decision will be taken by party founder Ajay Singh Chautala.



NGT Chairman, Justice (Retd.), Adarsh Kumar Goel, Haryana Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora, Additional Chief Secretary of the Environment Department, Dheera Khandelwal along with other officials sitting on the stage during the Two-Day Regional Conference on Environment held in Gurugram on Saturday

NGT Chairman calls for economically sustainable mode

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairman Justice (Retd.) Adarsh Kumar Goel on Saturday called on the state governments to adopt an economically sustainable mode for keeping the environment clean, involving common masses and transferring them

responsibilities because the government alone can not do everything.

He said that a Clean environment is a fundamental right of citizens envisaged under Article 21 of the constitution which provides 'Right to Life' and it should be ensured by the 'State'. He clarified that by the state he

meant all the people and stakeholders of the state and not the government functionaries alone.

He was delivering his Keynote address on the second day of the 'Regional Conference on Environment' organized at Gurugram. Policymakers and stakeholders from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi participated in this two days Regional Conference. Chairpersons of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) as well as Municipal Commissioners and Senior Officers, Engineers from Municipal Corporations and Pollution Control Boards of

HE WAS DELIVERING HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE 'REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT' ORGANIZED AT GURUGRAM. POLICYMAKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS FROM HARYANA, UTTAR PRADESH, AND DELHI PARTICIPATED IN THIS TWO DAYS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

districts of UP and Haryana falling in Delhi NCR region participated in the conference.

Justice Goel expressed hope that the resolution was taken on the appeal of Justice

Tracks passing through Haryana after a month, would be completed and Haryana would become a model state.

Haryana Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora informed about the steps taken by the Haryana government for mitigation and solid waste management. Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department, Dheera Khandelwal welcomed the guests and participants and the environmental concerns in present times. Principal Secretary of Urban Local Bodies Mr V Umashankar briefed about the breakout sessions held on first day of the Conference.

OFFICE OF THE MARKET COMMITTEE, GOHANA PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all in general that Booth No. 265 size 12x27.5 situated in NGM, Gohana was allotted to Sh. Radhey Shyam Garg S/O Sh. Baru Ram Garg R/O ward no. 6, Vikas Nagar, Gohana in open auction vide allotment order no. 1430 dt 18.11.1998. Now Mrs. Suman Lata wife of Sh. Radhey Shyam gave an application in this office that her husband expired on 01.11.2017 so ownership of above said booth may be transferred in her name. Details of legal heirs of Sh. Radhey Shyam Garg is given below:- 1. Suman Lata W/O Radhey Shyam Garg, 2. Vijay Garg S/O Radhey Shyam Garg, 3. Shivam Garg S/O Radhey Shyam Garg. All the above legal heirs has requested by giving affidavit to transfer the Booth no 265 in the name of Smt. Suman Lata. So through this Public notice all in general are informed that if any person or any legal heirs of Radhey Shyam Garg S/O Sh. Baru Ram Garg has any objection in this transfer then he/she must submit his objection in written to this office within 30 days of publication of this public notice otherwise the process of the change of ownership in the name of Smt Suman Lata w/o Radhey Shyam Garg will be started and after that No objection will be considered in this regarding. Secretary - cum - E. O., Market Committee, Gohana

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all that Mr. Sachin Garg & Tarun Kumar S/O Late Sh. Suresh Kumar, R/O House No. 2682, MG-2A, Situated in Sector 11-12, Part-2, New Housing Board Colony, Panipat have Applied for LAP Loan at Industrial Bank Ltd. Amrit Handloom, House Building, G.T. Road, Panipat Haryana-132103. If any Individual/Financial Institute has any Issue Regarding Mortgage of above mentioned Property or misplaced Conveyance Deed No. 2702, Dated 30.10.1991 & Allotment Letter No. 2961, Dated 24.08.1991, they can Raise objection Within 7 Days of this Publication at below address: Industrial Bank Ltd, Amrit Handloom, House Building, G.T. Road, Panipat, Haryana-132103 Mob. 80534-70007

Lost & Found

I, Nirmala Devi W/o Veer Kumar Goyal, R/O Ismailabad Sub Tehsil Ismailabad, Distt. Kurukshetra, inform that we have lost our registry No. 1659 dtd 11.03.2011 whose old owner is Babli Garg W/o Madan Lal and new owner is Nirmala Devi W/o Veer Kumar Goyal, has been lost somewhere in Ismailabad on dated 20.12.2019. If found contact our Phone No. 70157-05857.

LOST AND FOUND

I, No 15621867PK NK Gopal Gurjar S/O Uday Lal Ji of Unit 15 Guard C/o 56 APO Mirthal R/O Vill & PO, Gurgarbadiya, The Distt Mandasaur (MP) declare that I have lost my Gun Licence No. 115/DMU/AL/ARMS anybody found this Licence Contact at my above address Mobile 6284228117.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer of ownership in respect of constructed Property No. 125 built on old Plot no. 125, Sector 14, Sonapat in respect of 100% share upon the intestate death of Sh. Surinder Kumar Kalia. Sh. Surinder Kumar Kalia who was the owner of the subject cited property to the extent of 100% as per record have died on 22/04/2009 and has no registered or un-registered will. Sh. Rajesh Kalia & Ginesh Kalia S/O Late Surinder Kumar Kalia R/O No. 125, Sector 14, Sonapat intend to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the legal heirs. If any person is having objection against the transfer of the subject property, he/she can submit objections in writing to the Estate Officer, HUDA, Sonapat along with supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise the Estate Officer may sanction mutation of the property as per HUDA policy and may not entertain subsequent claim if any. Rajesh Kalia & Ginesh Kalia (LEGAL HEIRS)

LOST & FOUND

I Balwinder Singh #439, Sector 13, Khanpur Kharar declare I lost my GPA Dt, 7.12.2005 Vasika No. 5172, Registry Dt 11.2.2011, Vasika No. 9126 in Mohali, if found please call: 998886197 with in 7 days. LAR No. 001699 Dt. 11.1.2020.

BHAI SURENDER KUMAR MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION JIND

(Approved by NCTE and affiliated with CRSU Jind) E-mail: imdgl8@gmail.com, 9466815001 URGENTLY REQUIRES FOLLOWING STAFF (1) Principal-1 (2) Assistant Professors in (a) Perspective in Education-04, (b) Pedagogy Subjects-08, (c) Physical Education-01, (d) Music/Dance/Fine Arts-01, (e) Librarian-01, (3) Office Assistant/Computer Operator-01, (4) Lab attendant-02 (5) Office cum Accounts Assistant-01 (6) Store Keeper-01, (7) Technical Assistant-01, (8) Supporting Helper Pay Scale and qualification as per NCTE and CRSU norms. Apply to the President and also send one copy to Dean, CRSU Jind apply for your CV within 10 days

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main examination of year 2010-11, Roll No-2205579 of 10th class, issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Prabhjot Kaur D/o Jaswant Singh, R/O Sangala (Sakshpur), Amargarh (Sangrur): 94177-63105

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of Roll No-2100307 of 10th class & Roll No-2600258 of 12th class name of Pargat Singh issued by CBSE has been actually lost. If someone Find Please Contact to Pargat Singh S/O Tarlochan Singh, R/O #2180C, Street Baldev Nagar, Ambala, (HR), Mob. 8708420904

PUBLIC NOTICE

We Gulshan Kumar Dhamija S/O Late Sh. Ram Lal Dhamija & Ranjna Dhamija W/o Gulshan Kumar Dhamija R/O # 32-34 Bank Road, Pari Hotel Ambala Cantt inform that our son Ashim Dhamija, his wife Arpana Dhamija are out of our control. So we disown both of them from our movable / immovable properties. If anybody deals with them will do so his / her at their own risk.

I, Kamlesh W/o Sh. Balkishan R/O H.No. 761, Bada Halwai Hattar, Near Bada Jain Mandir, Sonapat declare I leaves with my daughter and my son Amrit and his wife Yogita and grand son Aditya are out of my control. So I disown them from moveable / Immoveable property. Any body deals with them at own risk.

I, Kamal Jit S/O Charan Lal R/O 1872, New Indira Colony, Manimajra, Chandigarh declare that my son Shami & his wife Astha is out of my family control I disown them from my moveable / Immoveable property if any body deals with them will do so on his / her own risk and responsibility.

I, Chanderkla W/o Late Ratan Lal R/O Gali No. 2, Geeta Ashram walli, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar declare that my daughter Rajrani @ Babli are out of my control. I disown her from all my moveable / Immoveable properties. Anybody deals with him at their own risk in future.

We Ram Singh S/O Sh. Sheo Chand Ram & Smt. Jeeto Devi W/o Sh. Ram Singh R/O H.No. 551, New Housing Board colony, Sirsa declare that our son Raman Deep Kania & his wife Rajwinder Kaur are out of our control. We disown them from all our moveable / Immoveable properties. We have no social, family relation with them. If anybody have any connection with them at own risk.

I, Ashish S/O Krishan Lal Resident Village Dehra, Tehsil Samalkha, District Panipat declare that both Krishan Lal and Krishan Kumar are the same person which is the name of my father. In all my documents, they should be known and understood only.

I, Prabhjot Kaur W/o S. Harvinder Pal Singh Residence of House No. 1561, Phase 10, Mohali, Punjab do hereby declare that my name mentioned in some of my documents as Prabhjot Kaur and in some of them mentioned only Prabhjot. The both names pertain to me and in future my correct name is Prabhjot Kaur.

I, Kirna Devi W/o Sh. Surender Pal R/O Village and PO Umri, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra declare that my name is Kirna Devi in my Aadhaar card, Voter card and other documents which is correct, whereas in my birth certificate my name is Salochna. Both Kirna Devi and Salochna is the one and the same person.

I, Preethpal Singh S/O Bharat Singh R/O House No. 42, Village Palsora, Chandigarh. declare that Preethpal Singh and Preethpal Kapoor are one and the same person. That in future I will be known as Preethpal Singh.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nisha D/o #53/6, Gandhi Nagar, Jind (Haryana) have changed my name to Indra Sharma.

I, Karambir S/O Ishwar Singh R/O H.No. 10/11, Subhash Nagar, Manimajra, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Karam Veer Singh.

I, Usha D/o Sh. Krishan R/O # 101/1, Subhash Nagar, Manimajra Chandigarh have changed my name to Minku Singh.

I, Nisha D/o Sarwan Kumar R/O H.No. 04, Kamal Park, Sodal Road, District Jalandhar Punjab, India. have changed my name from Nisha to Nisha Desor All concerned note.

I, Mooinuddin D/o Hari Bajwadin, House -253, Saini Vihar, Phase-1, Baltana, Tehsil Derabassi, Mohali have changed my name Seema Mahant D/o Prem Lata.

I, Taranpreet Kaur alias Puja D/o Amreek Singh R/O # 1066, Phase 3B2, Mohali have changed my name from Taranpreet Kaur alias Puja to Taranpreet Kaur.

I, Narinder Kalra S/O Late Sh. Bhagwan Dass R/O # 29-A, Saraswati Nagar, Singhawala Road Ambala City have changed my Name from Narinder Pal to Narinder Kalra. In future I know as Narinder Kalra.

I, Kuldeep Singh S/O Harbaksh Singh R/O 30-A, New Model Town Po Rlyon And Silk Mill Near GNDU Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Singh.

I, Davinder Singh Kahlon S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O H.No. A-185 A-Block G.T. Road New Amritsar. Have Changed My Name To Davinder Singh.

I, Manjinder Kaur Kahlon W/O Devinder Singh R/O H.No. A-185 A-Block G.T. Road New Amritsar. Have Changed My Name To Manjinder Kaur.

I, Devinder Singh S/O Harbhajan Singh R/O H.No. A-185 A-Block G.T. Road New Amritsar. Have Changed My Minor Son Name Gurpreet Singh Kahlon To Gurpreet Singh.

I, Kirti Luthra W/O Gourav Babbar R/O 119, Gali No.19, New Pawan Nagar, Amritsar. Have Changed My Name From Kirti Luthra To Kirti Babbar.

I, Sukhwinder Sharma S/O Ram Parkash R/O H.No.336, Lane No.2, Green Field Avenue Majitha Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Sukhwinder Kumar.

I, Jugaad S/O Sat Paul Singh R/O Village Mugri Kot Po Adwial Tehsil And District Amritsar Have Changed My Name Jugaadh Singh.

I, Anmol S/O Sanjeev Kakar R/O H.No. 859/13, St. No. 5, Sharifpura, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Anmol To Anmol Kakar. All Concerned To Be Note.

I, Jaspreet @ Sukhdevi W/O Pawan Kumar R/O H.No.5661/20, Street No.7, Nawankot Ps Lahori Gate Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Jaspreet Kaur.

I, Gurvinder Singh S/O Surjit Singh R/O LK-12/1459 Gali No.6, Sultanwind Road District Amritsar have changed my name to Gurvinder Singh.

I, No. 6487352K Hav/Chef Chandeshwar Ojha P/O 533 ASC BN C/O 56 APO have changed my name from Amith Ojha to Amit Kumar Ojha & his date of birth from 04.07.2005 to 04.03.2005 in my Army record.

I, No. 6487352K Hav/Chef Chandeshwar Ojha P/O 533 ASC BN C/O 56 APO have changed my wife's name from Kanchan to Kanchan Devi & her date of birth from 01.01.1978 to 05.05.1977 in my Army record.

I, Lakshay Massey S/O Stephanson Massey R/O Village Dinpur PO Dharwal Distt Gurdaspur 143519 have changed my name to Lakshay Randhawa Dt. 09/01/2020 before Magistrate, Gurdaspur. Concerned please note.

I, Aarti Mahant D/o Seema Mahant, House -249, Saini Vihar, Phase-1, Baltana, Tehsil Derabassi, Mohali have changed my name to Mohd Ismail.

I, M.Anitha spouse of No. JC-311857M NB Sub PC. Murugan residing at 19 Engr. Pct. C/O 56 APO, have changed my name from M.Anitha to J.Anitha and my DOB is 20-06-1978 vide affidavit no AK103626 dated 16-10-2019 before Notary Pathankot.

I, Valla Rajni spouse of No 14826536 RANK NK/MT Name Shankara Rao Valla R/o Vill Gottamanagal Puram, Poth Gottamanagal Puram, Teh Palakonda, Distt Srikakulam, State Andhra Pradesh hereby declare that I have changed my Name from Valla Rajni to Valla Rajani vide affidavit dated 11/01/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Santi Lata spouse of No 14924184P RANK HAV Name Bijay Kumar Debarma R/O VILL Purba Laxmi Chara, Po Behala, Bari, Teh Behala, Bari Distt Khowla, State Tripura hereby declare that I have changed my Name from Santi Lata to Santi Lata Debarma vide affidavit dated 30/12/2019 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, SR. 6642783 EX HAV Mohinder Singh S/O Sadhu Singh # 83, Jandli Colony, Model Town, Ambala, Haryana. Declare That Please Correct My Wife Name Sarbati Devi Instead Of Sharwati Devi In My Service Record.

I, Ashok Arora S/O Dayanand Arora R/O H no 2 Shakti Colony Karnal, declare that I had changed my son name from Gunmay Arora to Kabir Arora.

I, Lukhwinder Kaur W/O Unique Singh Vill Atri Bhan PO. Dargabad Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak, Distt. Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name To Lakhwinder Kaur.

I, Service No. 3993797H, Rank.Have Mohinder Singh Unit 12101 INF. BDE. GP (Camp) C/O 56 APO. I have changed my son's name from Bishal Kumar to Vishal Kumar before Notary Pathank.

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Classified Advertisement Contact : 94174-19351

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice No. MCF/RBL/Tender/ Pipe bending & Cutting/2019-20/C236II Dt- 08.01.2020 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Bogie & Wheel, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:- Description of work: Cutting, Bending & Threading of SS pipes and Aluminium pipe for Furnishing & Bogie Shop as per scope of work. Approx. Value: ₹ 1,02,40,728.73 EMD: ₹ 2,01,200.00 Cost of Tender document: ₹ 5,000.00 only. Quantity of work: As per schedule. Completion period of work: 12 months or earlier. • Period of submission of tender document: From 15.01.2020 to 29.01.2020 • Date & time of closing of Tender: 29.01.2020 at 11:45 hrs. • Date & time of opening of Tender: 29.01.2020 at 12:00 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Bogie & Wheel

E-Tender Notice No. 30/2019-20 (Open) of DyCE/MCF/RBL Deputy Chief Engineer/MCF/RBL, for and on behalf of The President of India invites "E-Tenders" for following works. SN 1 Name of work: Provision of barbed wire fencing of ECO park phase-I, (Approx. length 2943 M) Tender No.: 49/2019-20 Approx Cost in: ₹ 39,54,233.02 Earnest Money: ₹ 79,100.00 Cost of Tender document: ₹ 3000.00 Date of Opening of tender: 31.01.2020 Completion Period of work: 06 months • Tender/ Bid shall be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed for this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. • Earnest Money Deposit & Tender Document Cost will be accepted separately only online payment through net banking in f/o FASCAO/MCF/RBL or Gate Way Payment through IREPS Portal. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit Receipts & FDR etc. are not allowed. • For detail, please log on Indian Railway IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in Deputy Chief Engineer-I

Tender Notice No. 300-G-MCFORHPMELCO-03 Date: 09.01.2020

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. GM (G), Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open tender based on Two packet system in prescribed tender format from capable bidders through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for the under mentioned work. 1. Details - 1 Name of work: Housekeeping & Maintenance of Officers' Rest House (ORH) & Supervisor's Rest House (SRH) at PME office near Langda Fatak, Talkatora Road Lucknow for a period of 03 years (1096 Days) as per scope of work. 2. Place of work: Officers' Rest House at PME Office near Langda Fatak, Talkatora Road Lucknow. 3. Approx. cost: 1,79,94,083.87 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Nine Lacs Ninety Four Thousand Eighty Three and Paise Eighty Seven Only). 4. Cost of tender documents: ₹ 5,000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand only). 5. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,40,000.00 (Rupees Two Lacs Forty Thousand only). 6. Quantity: 03 Years (1096 days). 7. Period of completion: 03 Years (1096 days). 8. Period of submission of tender document: 22.01.2020 to 05.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs. 9. Date & Time of Closing of tender: 05.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs. 10. Date & Time of Opening of tender: 05.02.2020 at 15:30 hrs. 11. Pre Bid Meeting: Date: 20.01.2020, Time: 11:00 Hrs. Venue: Dy. GM(G)/MCF/RBL in Administrative Building of Modern Coach Factory at Langda Raebareli. 12. Validity of tender: 1. 60 days from the date of opening of tender. 2. Price variation clause is applicable. 3. Participation by Association of Partnership (AOP)/Joint Venture (JV) firms is not allowed for this tender. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & Condition are available at Indian Railway IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. Dy. General Manager (G)

e-Advertised Tender Notice No. 10/ET/2019-20 Date: 10.01.2020

SN	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
01	12190482	Kit of Assembly Components to Air Spring type flat Bogie.	300 Set	04.02.2020
02	12190484	Kit of Components for Air Spring type Bogie Bolster for flat Bogie	500 Set	04.02.2020
03	12190509	Set of forge item of flat bogie assembly	1000 Set	04.02.2020
04	04190412	Elbow Equal 15 Bore	32400 Nos	30.01.2020
05	04190071	Elbow Equal 25 Bore	5724 Nos	30.01.2020
06	03190024	Pipe 42x2 in Length of 6000 MM	41261 Mtr.	23.01.2020
07	04190410	Hex Double Nipple 20 Bore	48994 Nos.	23.01.2020
08	05195017	Hex Nipple 25 MM Bore	19793 Nos.	23.01.2020
09	05195022	Supply & Installation of 750V.3-Phase Power Contactors.	30 Set.	22.01.2020
10	05195023	Harness of Underframe & Roof Arrangement for LHB EOG LFCWAC Type Coaches	19 Set.	28.01.2020
11	05195023	16 Pin Control Coupler/Connector Having IP65 or Better Ingress Protection.	100 Set.	22.01.2020
12	07201001	Liquidified Petroleum Gas Bulk (LPG)	200 MT	27.01.2020
13	03201014	Attachment wall for lav. Accessory of LHB type Coaches	5744 Nos.	06.02.2020
		Attachment wall complete LH colour satin blue	3467 Nos.	
		Attachment wall complete RH colour satin blue	1595 Nos.	
13	04190079	Austenitic Steel Seamless pipe OD 48.26x2.77MMx4000MM	1025 Nos.	30.01.2020
14	11190346	Set of Bracket Complete of Destination Board for LHB Coaches	600 Set.	05.02.2020
15	11190352	Slop	400 Nos.	11.02.2020
16	11190355	Frame Part Complete for Power car LHB	100 Nos.	11.02.2020
17	11190351	Bracket Complete	400 Nos.	11.02.2020
18	11190350	Mounting Bracket for LHB Coaches	100 Nos.	11.02.2020

Corrigendum No. 01

Sl No	E-Tender No.	Short Description	Due date may be read as
01	20 Dated 20.12.2019	13190239A & 20.01.2020	Due date may be read as 20.01.2020 instead of 06.01.2020
02	E-Tender No. 08/ET/2019-20 Dated 20.12.2019	13190269A & 17.01.2020	Due date may be read as 17.01.2020 instead of 10.01.2020
03	E-Tender No. 07/ET/2019-20 Dated 06.12.2019	12190533 & 27.01.2020	Due date may be read as 27.01.2020 instead of 06.01.2020
04	E-Tender No. 07/ET/2019-20 Dated 06.12.2019	04195005 & 03.01.2020	This Tender has been cancelled
05	E-Tender No. 07/ET/2019-20 Dated 06.12.2019	04190355 & 18.01.2020	Due date may be read as 18.01.2020 instead of 30.12.2019

Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in & www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in Serving customers with a smile

Capt reiterates demand for VGF from Centre for biomass power and solar hybrid power projects

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Pointing out that the Punjab Government had already submitted a detailed proposal on the subject, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has written to the Centre reiterating his demand for viability gap funding (VGF) for Biomass Power Projects and Biomass Solar Hybrid Power Projects to check stubble burning in the State.

Capt Amarinder, in a letter to the Union Minister of State for Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh, has sought his personal attention towards framing of scheme or guidelines for promoting biomass power projects by providing one-time viability gap funding in a phased manner, and for a pilot Biomass Solar Hybrid Power Project by Ministry New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), as suggested by the State Government on several occasions.

"This would go a long way in complying with the directions of the Supreme Court for tackling the problem of stubble burning in Punjab," stressed Capt Amarinder.

Armed forces owe allegiance to Constitution, says Army Chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With former Army Chief General Bipin Rawat being criticised for giving political statements, his successor General Manoj Naravane sought to put the records straight on Saturday saying the armed forces owe allegiance to the Constitution and its preamble. His comments came on the backdrop of growing perception of politicisation of the armed forces over the last few years.

Addressing his maiden news conference after assuming charge earlier this month, Naravane said the conduct of the 1.3 million-strong Army is guided by its "allegiance" to the Constitution and its core values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Elaborating upon his focus as the chief, Naravane said it will be "ABC" - "allegiance, belief and consolidation," noting that protecting the core values of the Constitution will remain the driving force of his personnel.

"We swear allegiance to the Constitution of India. Be it officers or jawans, we have taken oath to protect the Constitution and that is what should guide us in all time and



File Photo

all our actions," the Army Chief said.

"What it translates into is also the core values which are enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution which are justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. That is what we are fighting for," he said.

The Army is deployed on the border safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity, "it is to secure for our people these core values. And, I think, that is what we and I would like to say that we need to keep in mind," he added.

The present Army Chief's observations come at a time when former chief Rawat was

criticised for wading into political issues and not remaining neutral.

Last month, he triggered a row publicly criticising people leading protests over the new citizenship law, saying leadership is not about guiding masses to carry out arson and violence across the country.

He was slammed by opposition parties as well as veterans who stressed that the armed forces must follow the decades-old principle of serving the country and not any political force.

Meanwhile, Naravane also said his other focus areas would be TTPQ which he explained as

Light Combat Aircraft lands on INS Vikramaditya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major breakthrough, the Naval variant of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1 Tejas under development successfully landed for the first time onboard aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on Saturday.

"After completing extensive trials on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF), Naval version of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) did a successful arrested landing onboard INS Vikramaditya at 10:02 hrs today," the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said in a statement. Commodore Jaideep Maolankar did the maiden landing, it added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in a tweet, said the successful landing of the aircraft on INS Vikramaditya is a

great event in the history of Indian fighter aircraft development programme. With this feat, the indigenous developed niche technologies specific to deck based fighter operations have been

proven, which will now pave the way to develop and manufacture the twin engine deck based fighter for the Indian Navy, the Navy said.

The Naval LCA recently successfully completed take



off and landing trials on the SBTF in Goa.

The contributions of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) include the landing gear, arrestor hook and support staff controlling at SBTF Goa along with Indian Navy, said R Madhavan, Chairman and Managing Director of HAL.

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh had stated in December that the DRDO has offered to develop a new twin engine deck based fighter for the Navy based on the experience of the Naval LCA and it should be ready by 2026. The Navy is in the process of finalising the Quality Requirement for the new twin engine deck fighter.

The Naval LCA-Mk1 made its maiden flight in April 2012 and two prototypes have been flying as part of the

development.

The SBTF, which replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, was built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier after before they move on to the actual carrier.

Naval LCA is designed with stronger landing gears to absorb forces exerted by the ski jump ramp during take-off, to be airborne within 200m and land within 100m as against 1000m required for normal runways.

The Navy currently operates Russian Mig-29K fighters from INS Vikramaditya which will also fly from the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant once it enters service. The Navy is also evaluating global tenders for 57 carrier based twin engine fighter aircraft.

He said the personnel were the "greatest strength" in the Army, adding "quality and not quantity will be the mantra, be it the selection of personnel or equipment."

Meanwhile, the Army Chief said the focus of training will be on preparing the Army for future wars which he said will be network-centric and

deliver bigger punch with the resources we have.

also backed the CDS and said in Chennai on Saturday the forces have started taking steps to build a new joint infrastructure & bring jointness. He also said the idea is to synergise and bring the cost down, and

ISI revives Afzal Guru Squad for attack on Indian forces

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Along the Line of Control (LoC) and in the hinterland in J&K and improving situation on the ground, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has shifted terror tactic and revived the Afzal Guru Squad in their bid to execute attacks against the Forces.

As part of the new strategy, ISI's key terror affiliate Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has constituted assault teams of the Afzal Guru Squad which included both Pakistani (foreign) terrorists and local Kashmiri militants in order to achieve an improved "success" against the forces.

The Squad had last hit forces at the Indian army camp at Sunjuwan where the terrorists had killed six soldiers even as three terrorists and a civilian lost their lives and 20 others (14 soldiers) were injured on February 10, 2018.

After the Sunjuwan attack, the security forces eliminated all the members of the Squad including mastermind of the

Sunjuwan attack Mufti Waqas. The attack coincided with the death anniversary of Afzal Guru's hanging for the 2001 Parliament terror attack.

The reorganisation of the terrorist ranks comes as the security situation on the ground has begun improving months after the erstwhile State of J&K was reconstituted into two Union Territories-J&K and Ladakh and Article 370 of the Constitution that granted special status to the State was nullified, officials said.

They said Shia Muslims in Kargil and Budgam protested against the killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in a drone strike by the US in Baghdad last week.

The Kashmir Valley is currently dominated by Wahabism and Salafism and the Shias holding protest march especially in Budgam indicates other sects are now raising their voice.

The protests by Shias could also signal a desire amongst a section of the community to return to their roots that was essentially Sufi Islam, a senior

security official said.

The official said markets in Srinagar are now open even after 6.30 PM which is also indicative of the people's realization of the changed security environment in the Valley.

"Besides the elimination of the terrorist leadership, an improved security situation on the ground can wean away the local youth from joining the ranks of the jihadis. The foreign terrorists also mistrusted the local militants. To offset this, the ISI is seeking to put in place a matrix hit groups under the Afzal Guru Squad to stay relevant. The Forces, however, will have to continuously remain vigilant to further bolster the improvement in the security situation," another official said.

The JeM has also released a hit-list which includes an SSP, a doctor with a paramilitary, one professor and a journalist.

The JeM has vowed that the three terrorists killed by the security forces this month during their infiltration bid belonged to the revived Afzal Guru Squad.

ANTI-CAA PROTESTS

Cong wants probe by high-powered panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress too on Saturday demanded the withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act besides an inquiry by a high-powered commission into the incidents connected with the anti-CAA protests, and the stoppage of the ongoing process of National Population Register (NPR).

Addressing the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, Congress president Sonia Gandhi termed the CAA a "discriminatory and divisive" law whose "sinister" purpose was to divide people on religious lines. She also said that the NPR in form and content was "disguised NRC".

Sonia said thousands of young men and women, especially students have realized the "grave harm" that implementation of the new Citizenship law will cause. They have taken to the streets braving the cold as well as police brutalities, Sonia Gandhi said.

The grand old party also passed a resolution stating the BJP-led NDA Government has



Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi flanked by (L-R) AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, senior party party leaders AK Anthony and Mallikarjun Kharge during Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on Saturday

used brute State power to suppress voice of students and youth and the Prime Minister and ruling party have betrayed the trust of the youth.

The CWC resolution demanded that CAA should be withdrawn and process of NPR be stopped forthwith as situation in some states is alarming and turning them into police states, notably Uttar Pradesh and the Delhi.

Apart from Sonia, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, top party leaders P

Chidambaram, Anand Sharma, AK Antony, KC Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jyotiraditya Scindia were among those present at the meeting but Rahul Gandhi was conspicuous by his absence being his third miss to a crucial party meeting after he relinquished the party chief post taken over by her mother Sonia.

As the students' protest gains momentum, Sonia said it is clear that the Government is digging in its heels. "Not a day

passes without the Home Minister and on some days the Prime Minister himself making provocative statements," the Congress president said.

"The situation in some states is alarming, turning the states into police states, notably in Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi," she said.

Coming down hard on the National Population Register (NPR), Sonia told Congress top brass not to be under any illusion that it was a "benign exer-

cise". "In form and content, NPR 2020 is a disguised NRC," she said.

She also hit out at the government over the state of the economy and the situation in J&K.

"It is a matter of anguish and concern that the people in J&K continue to be denied their fundamental rights while the Government makes farcical claims of normalcy and arranges guided tours of diplomats," she said.

The CWC also deliberated upon the social, economic and international challenges confronting the country. Almost every institution in the country - Delhi University, JNU, Jamia Millia University, Banaras Hindu University, Allahabad University, AMU, and many others have seen massive protests, it noted.

It also expressed deep concerns over the recent developments in the Gulf region where tensions have spiralled between the US and Iran over the killing of top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani.

'Hot water' DIG transferred to Manipur, Nagaland sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF has transferred DIG DK Tripathi, accused of throwing hot water on a jawan who served it to him at a training centre, to the Manipur and Nagaland sector with immediate effect, according to an official order issued by the paramilitary.

The transfer has been done pending a detailed probe into the incident, Tripathi has been transferred to the Manipur and Nagaland sector from his current posting in Mokamaghat, Bihar.

The purported incident took place early this month at

The jawan, constable Amol Kharat, is reported to have suffered scalding injuries to his face and chest

the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Recruit Training Centre in Bihar's Rajgir district. The jawan, constable Amol Kharat, is reported to have suffered scalding injuries to his face and chest.

The DIG has been transferred after a preliminary

inquiry report into the incident was submitted by an Inspector General-rank officer. A full investigation into the incident was underway, officials said.

The contents of the preliminary inquiry report were not immediately known but officials said a recommendation for a detailed and full probe was made.

Earlier, an official communication by the force had said that the DIG, who was staying at the officers' mess of the Rajgir-based institute for an official work, had ordered hot water to drink. Constable Kharat, who was on duty at the facility, served him the water

in a thermos flask.

The officer is said to have burnt his mouth on drinking the water without applying his mind to mix cold water before drinking. After this, Tripathi summoned Kharat and the DIG "threw" hot water on the jawan's face and on his winter jersey.

As per the previous trend in the Force, officers are hardly made accountable even in cases involving serious lapses in operational roles. All the officers probed for the 2010 Dantewada Naxal attack, in which 76 paramilitary jawans were killed, have been exonerated, sources said.

Andhra police foils self-immolation attempt

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Tension gripped the Capital region as the police foiled a self-immolation attempt by a man who was taking part in a demonstration at Tullur on the 25th day of the agitation on Saturday.

The protester, who was identified as Johnny, poured kerosene on his person and tried to set himself ablaze. However, the alert police responded quickly and foiled the suicide attempt.

Meanwhile, the police deployed more forces and the farmers continued their protests in the rest of the Capital villages. The agitators

raised 'Jai Amaravati' slogans. However, the police foiled their attempt to take out rallies saying that protest programmes were banned as Sections 144 and 30 were in force in the area.

A man taking photographs by mingling with protestors created a furore. When farmers asked him who he was, he gave incoherent replies but finally told them that he was a Special Branch constable and that he was under instructions from the police to take snaps of the protest programmes.

A woman suffered a fracture in one of her hands in the lathi-charge on the protestors at Mandadam on Saturday morning. Later in the day, a

woman named Yarremaneni Sree Lakshmi was injured in a similar incident in the Capital region. She was rushed to the Ayush Hospital in Vijayawada by "108" ambulance service. The other people, who were taking part in the agitation, said the police had clubbed her with batons in the stomach.

Meanwhile, tension gripped Velagapudi when women opposed the police from entering a house to arrest a man accused in attack on Macheral MLA at Chinnakakani recently. The women had a heated argument with the police who went there without a warrant. When the situation went out of control,

the police beat a hasty retreat.

Meanwhile, the YSRCP government has decided to table the High-Power Committee report in the Assembly during a special session to be held on January 20. Prior to that, the Cabinet meeting to be held on January 18 will discuss the three-Capital concept.

Though the farmers' agitation has entered the 25th day on Saturday, the government continues its silence over the Capital issue.

Against this backdrop, TDP led by its president N Chandrababu Naidu, has intensified its agitation against the shifting of the Capital.

SC to hear curative petitions of 2 death-row convicts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court will hear on January 14 curative petitions of two of the four death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya case.

A bench of Justices NV Ramana, Arun Mishra, RF Nariman, R Banumathi and Ashok Bhushan will hear the curative petitions filed by Vinay Sharma (26) and Mukesh Kumar (32) at 1.45 pm on Tuesday.

Curative petitions are decided in-chambers by the judges. It is the last and final legal remedy available to a person.

Mukesh Kumar and Vinay Sharma had filed curative petitions in the apex court on Thursday.

Two other death-row convicts, Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan Gupta (25), against whom death warrants have been issued by a Delhi court, have not filed curative petitions.

A 23-year-old paramedic student, referred to as Nirbhaya, was gang-raped and brutally assaulted on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi by six people before being thrown out on the road.

She died on December 29 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. A Delhi court had on Tuesday issued death warrants against the four convicts and said they would be hanged on January 22 at 7 am in Tihar jail.

NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU DATA Over 3,800 foreigners arrested in 2018

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In 2018, over 3,800 foreigners were arrested in the country with West Bengal alone reporting 35 per cent of the total crimes committed by them, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

Altogether, 3,822 foreigners - 2,859 males and 963 females - were arrested in 2018 across India, the data stated.

The NCRB recorded 2,128 crimes committed by foreigners in 2018 across the country, while the numbers stood at 2,242 in 2017 and 1,226 in 2016.

During the same year, 517 crimes were committed against foreigners in India, up from 492 in 2017 and 382 in 2016.



Delhi alone reported over 36 per cent of such cases in 2018, the NCRB said.

Among all States and Union Territories, West Bengal reported 744 crimes committed by foreigners, constituting 35 per cent of the total number of such crimes across India.

Delhi reported 203 crimes (9.5 per cent) committed by foreigners, followed by 175 in Karnataka (8.2 per cent), 147 in Himachal Pradesh (6.9 per cent), 138 in Goa (6.5 per cent) and 134 in Maharashtra (6.3 per cent), the data showed.

The maximum number of reported cases, 999 in number, were registered under the Foreigners Act, 1946, and Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, followed by 273 cases under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 148 under the Passport Act and 113 of cheating, the data showed.

There were also 16 cases of murder, seven of rape, six of kidnapping and abduction and five of human trafficking. In terms of crimes committed

against foreigners, Delhi reported 189 cases (36.6 per cent), followed by 63 in Maharashtra (12.2 per cent), 62 in Uttar Pradesh (12 per cent), 51 in Tamil Nadu (9.9 per cent), 34 in Goa (6.6 per cent) and 28 in Karnataka (5.4 per cent), the data showed.

The total crimes against foreigners included 259 cases of theft, 52 cases of assault on women with intent to outrage modesty, 27 cases of rape, 12 cases of human trafficking and 11 of murder, the data stated.

The NCRB, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for collecting and analysing data on crime, as defined by the Indian Penal Code and special and local laws in the country.

Rajasthan Govt withdraws decision to give temporary bar licenses to hotels

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Government has withdrawn its decision taken last week to give temporary bar licences to hotels and restaurants on 30-foot-wide roads in view of "public sentiment", Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Saturday, after activists slammed the move as encouraging liquor consumption.

The Government had issued a notification on changes made to bar license rules last week, which paved way for hotels and restaurants on 30-foot-wide roads getting temporary bar licences.

The decision was immediately criticised by several social

activists and organisations, who said it will encourage liquor consumption.

Following the protest, Gehlot asked officials to withdraw the notification on Friday. The chief minister also asked them to prepare a plan for effective reforms and transparency in excise system, according to an official statement.

On Saturday, he told reporters the decision to withdraw the notification was taken "in view of public sentiment."

Gehlot said he was aware that some liquor shops remain open even after 8 pm, the closure time, and the government was trying to curb the practice.

Ukraine demands punishment for Iran plane downing

Kiev: Ukraine on Saturday demanded that Iran punish those guilty for the downing of a Ukrainian airliner and compensate victims while praising Tehran for cooperating with the "objective" investigation.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky was due to discuss the incident with his Iranian counterpart President Hassan Rouhani at 5:00 pm local time, his press office said.

"We expect Iran... To bring the guilty to the courts," the Ukrainian leader wrote on Facebook, calling also for the "payment of compensation" and the return of remains.



People stand at flowers and candles are placed in front of portraits of the flight crew members of the Ukrainian 737-800 plane that crashed on the outskirts of Tehran, at a memorial inside Borispiil international airport outside Kyiv, Ukraine on Saturday AP

Tehran admitted Saturday that it accidentally downed the Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) plane, killing all 176 people on board on Wednesday, shortly after launching missiles at bases hosting US forces in Iraq.

Rouhani said Tehran "deeply regrets this disastrous mistake". Tehran has invited the United States, Ukraine, Canada and others to join the crash investigation.

Kiev said that Iran had cooperated with its experts and it expects an objective probe.

Tehran has handed Ukrainian experts enough data including "all the photos, videos and other materials" to show the investigation "will be carried out objectively and promptly," Zelensky's office said.

"The political part of the work is finished," it added.

It published photos of experts examining the scene and close-ups of holes in the fuselage and shrapnel damage. Ukraine said Friday its

experts dispatched to Iran had been granted access to the flight's black boxes, debris from the plane, the crash site and to recordings of conversations between the pilot and the airport control tower.

Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's national security and defence council, which is coordinating the probe, told AFP Kiev did not yet have evidence on where the missile was produced, only that it was "launched from Iranian soil."

Zelensky said earlier that Ukraine hoped the inquiry would be pursued "without deliberate delay and without obstruction." He urged "total access" to the full inquiry for the 45 Ukrainian experts, and in a tweet also sought an "official apology".

UIA chief Yevhenii Dykhne said at a press conference in Kiev on Saturday that Tehran should have closed the airport due to the escalation of tensions in the region following the US assassination of a top Iranian general.

"It's absolutely irresponsible... If you're playing at war, they were obliged to close the

airport," Dykhne said.

He wrote on Facebook that the Ukrainian crew and the aircraft "were the best." Iran's official IRNA news agency published a statement from the military saying the Boeing 737 was mistaken for a "hostile plane" at a time when threats were at the highest level.

The majority of passengers on UIA Flight PS752 from Tehran to Kiev were Iranian-Canadian dual nationals but also included Ukrainians, Afghans, Britons and Swedes. Many in Kiev have compared the crash to the 2014 downing of Malaysian Airlines MH17 killing 298 people over eastern Ukraine where pro-Russian separatists are fighting government forces.

Moscow has denied the findings of international investigators that a Russian BUK missile hit the Malaysian flight.

"Iran has shown itself to be more civilised than Russia," pro-western Ukraine MP Volodymyr Arieiev wrote on Facebook.

"Tehran has admitted its guilt in three days while Russia continues to try to get out of it," AFP

Japan PM leaves for Middle East trip amid US-Iran tensions

Tokyo: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday left Tokyo for a five-day trip to the Middle East, aiming to help ease tensions in a key region for Japan.

During his visit, Abe will hold talks with leaders in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman, according to Japanese officials, Xinhua reported.

These countries are seen by Japan as important players in stabilising the situation in the region.

"Based on the friendly relations Japan has built with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Oman, I will call on the leaders to seek stability in the region through talks and rational measures," said Abe.

The visit precedes Tokyo's dispatch of Maritime Self-Defence Forces (MSDF) per-

Japan PM leaves for Middle East trip amid US-Iran tensions

sonnel and hardware to the region to conduct "information-gathering" operations.

The MSDF's operational areas include the Gulf of Oman and part of the Arabian Sea.

Abe said he wants to explain and garner support from the three countries for the dispatch to the region since it is vital to ensure the safety of Japanese commercial ships operating there.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to return to Japan on Wednesday.



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Trudeau demands 'accountability' after Iran plane admission

Ottawa: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Saturday closure and accountability were needed after Iran said it had unintentionally shot down a Ukrainian plane, killing 176 people.

He also demanded "transparency, and justice for the families and loved ones of the victims," of whom many were Canadian dual nationals.

"This is a national tragedy, and all Canadians are mourning together," Trudeau's office said in a statement. AFP

Downing of jet 'unforgivable mistake', says Iran's Rouhani

Tehran: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani Saturday said his country "deeply regrets" the shooting down of a Ukrainian airliner, which he described as "a great tragedy & unforgivable mistake".

"Armed Forces' internal investigation has concluded that regrettably missiles fired due to human error caused the horrific crash of the Ukrainian plane & death of 176 innocent people," he added on Twitter. AFP

Iranian FM sorry for plane 'disaster', cites 'US adventurism'

Tehran: Iran's foreign minister Saturday offered his country's "profound regrets, apologies and condolences" after the armed forces admitted shooting down a Ukrainian airliner due to "human error".

"A sad day," Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter.

"Human error at time of crisis caused by US adventurism led to disaster," he said.

"Our profound regrets, apologies and condolences to our people, to the families of all victims, and to other affected nations." AFP

Khamenei orders military to address 'shortcomings' over downed plane

Tehran: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the country's armed forces to address "shortcomings" after a Ukrainian passenger jet was mistakenly shot down, his office said.

"I emphatically advise the general headquarters (of the armed forces) to follow up on shortcomings" to ensure this kind of error does not happen again, said a statement on his official website, adding he expressed his "sincere condolences" to the families of the deceased. AFP

Analysis: Pelosi's delay tests public opinion on impeachment

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Democrats know they don't have the votes to convict President Donald Trump when the Senate convenes as the Court of Impeachment. But they are pursuing the case in the court of public opinion.

It became a defining moment — one that stunned Washington — after the House impeached Trump when Speaker Nancy Pelosi declined to immediately transmit the charges to the Senate.

The abrupt move vexed the Republican president and his party, annoying some, angering others, and caused a political firestorm as the days turned to weeks. It was approaching a month.

It was also a strategy. On Friday, it neared an end with Pelosi announcing the House would take steps next week to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate for the president's trial.

While the delay produced an avalanche of theories and strategies about the sudden impasse, it hasn't much changed the widely expected final verdict: Trump's acquittal of charges he abused power and obstructed Congress in pressuring Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden.

Yet in the lull, something

else happened. New evidence and documents emerged, including emails showing more of the administration's internal deliberations over Trump's actions. Former White House national security adviser John Bolton announced he would be willing to appear, if a subpoena was sent.

Attention shifted from the airy Constitutional arguments for and against impeachment to the earthy details of how to conduct the rare Senate trial, only the third in the nation's history.

There's nowhere near the 67 votes needed for conviction in the Senate, where Republicans with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell hold a slim 53-47 majority.

But a handful of Republican senators who will decide how things go are suddenly infused with new power, and clouded with political risk. Just 51 votes will set the rules. As McConnell works to hold them in line, Democrats will try to sway four GOP senators, particularly those up for reelection this year, to join in calling for a more witnesses and documents that McConnell is reluctant to allow.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins said Friday she is discussing with her colleagues a possible process for hearing

new testimony. Alaska GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski has expressed discomfort with the leader's close coordination with the White House. Utah Sen. Mitt Romney said he'd like Bolton to appear.

Rather than the swift Senate trial that was expected to have started by now, Trump's impeachment has become a serial disruption to the presidency that is grinding into 2020.

"Many things have been accomplished," Pelosi said this week.

The stated goal of Democrats was a public airing of the trial rules before Pelosi names House managers to present the case to the Senate. How much time will they be given? For how many days? Will there be more witnesses and testimony allowed? Those are all answers Pelosi's delay did not fully resolve. McConnell will only provide when he is ready.

The ever tight-lipped Republican leader sees no reason to deviate much from the last time the Senate convened as an impeachment court for the historic undertaking, for Bill Clinton's trial in 1999. His plan is to start the trial and have the senators decide later if they want to hear more testimony.

GLOBE TROTTER

KENYAN POLICE FOIL AL-SHABAAB ATTACK
Nairobi: Kenyan police said they fought off an attack by suspected Al-Shabaab extremists on a police post in Kenya's Mandera county.

18 TALIBAN MILITANTS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN
Kabul: Afghan forces, during a cleanup operation, have killed 18 Taliban militants in the country's Takhar province, officials said on Saturday.

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER 550-MN YEAR OLD GUT
New York: Scientists have discovered oldest-known fossilized digestive tract — 550 million-year-old — in the Nevada desert in the US that could be a key find in understanding the early history of animals on Earth.

SANDERS TAKES NARROW LEAD IN KEY STATE: POLL
Washington: US Senator Bernie Sanders is narrowly leading in the Democratic presidential primary field in Iowa, with state's party caucuses kicking off the 2020 presidential nominating calendar next month, according to a new poll.

'PRINCE HARRY TO JOIN MEGHAN IN CANADA SOON'
London: The UK's Prince Harry will join his wife Meghan Markle in Canada as early as next weekend, giving rise to fears that they may never return to live in the UK following their explosive statement that they were stepping back as senior royals and would work towards becoming financially independent, a report said.

Qaboos, the sultan who shielded Oman from region's turmoil

Muscat: Oman's Sultan Qaboos, who died on Friday aged 79, transformed the former Arabian Peninsula backwater into a modern state and sought-after mediator while shielding the sultanate from a region in turmoil.

The intensely private sultan -- the longest-reigning ruler in the modern Arab world -- left no apparent heir and the royal family was charged with selecting a successor.

Instead however they opted for the sultan's own choice, his cousin Haitham bin Tariq, who was named in a sealed letter that Qaboos had prepared in case of a deadlock.

Qaboos was born on November 18, 1940, into the centuries-old Al-Said dynasty in the southern provincial capital of Salalah, in an isolated country on the margins of the modern world.

Older Omanis recall the capital Muscat had no electricity or running water and the gates of the medieval city were locked at dusk.

The young Qaboos was sent abroad for his education to Britain, attending the elite Sandhurst Royal Military Academy from where he graduated in 1962.

He went on to join a British infantry battalion in Germany, returning home to bide his time under the close watch of his father, Sultan Said bin Taymur.

On July 23, 1970, Qaboos deposed his father in a palace coup, pledging "a new era" for the nation.

Oman is strategically locat-



ed on the Strait of Hormuz -- the narrow seaway through which much of the world's oil supply passes -- and between regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Qaboos maintained good ties with both nations, a balancing act that made his capital a must-stop for Western and Arab diplomats as well as military chiefs alike.

The sultan's first foreign trip was to Iran, whose shah -- along with the British -- helped him quell the Marxist insurgency he inherited from his father in the restive Dhofar region.

Those ties endured through Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution that ushered in a Shiite theocracy.

Muscat would serve as the back channel for talks between the United States and Iran in the lead-up to a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Qaboos also worked to preserve ties with Saudi Arabia and the rest of the wealthy six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to which Oman belongs, but stuck to his principle of non-interference. AFP

N Korea says will resume US talks if demands fully met

AFP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said on Saturday it had received Donald Trump's letter wishing a happy birthday to leader Kim Jong Un, but warned it will return to nuclear talks only when Washington fully accepts its demands.

The US president and Kim have held three meetings since June 2018 but negotiations have been largely deadlocked since the breakup of their Hanoi summit last February.

Kim Kye Gwan, North Korea's foreign ministry adviser, said Trump's congratulatory letter had arrived in the isolated, nuclear-armed state directly from the US.

"As acknowledged by the world, it is true that the personal relations between (Kim Jong Un) and President Trump are not bad," he said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

However, it would be "absent-minded" to expect Pyongyang to resume dialogue because of that warm personal relationship, the statement continued.

"We have been deceived by the US, being caught in the dialogue with it for over one year and a half, and that was the lost time for us," the adviser said.

On the gridlocked nuclear talks, he said that reopening dialogue would only be possible in the case of Washington's "absolute agreement" on the issues raised by North Korea.

But the senior official was sceptical that the US would accept these demands, saying: "we know well that the US is neither ready nor able to do so. We know... The way we should go and will go on our way."

At a meeting of his ruling party in December, Kim Jong Un declared an end to North Korea's moratoriums on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests.

The leader also threatened a demonstration of a "new strategic weapon" soon.

Saturday's statement on KCNA came a day after South Korea's presidential security adviser said Trump had asked Seoul to deliver his birthday message for Kim.

Texas to reject new refugees under Trump order

Houston: Greg Abbott, the Republican Governor of Texas, has said that the State would not accept new refugees under President Donald Trump's resettlement programme.

In a letter to the State Department on Friday, Abbott said that Texas had done "more than its share in assisting the refugee resettlement process", and argued that the state should be focused on "those who are already here, including refugees, migrants, and the homeless", the BBC report said.

On that basis, Abbott said



he "cannot consent to initial refugee resettlement" in 2020, but added that the decision "does not deny any refugee access" to the US.

Refugees who are already settled in other states, Abbott said, would be allowed to move

to Texas if they choose.

Texas has large refugee populations in several of its major cities. In the 2018 fiscal year, Texas took in 1,697 refugees - more than any other state, but a large drop from 4,768 in the previous fiscal year.

Abbott's decision means Texas will become the first US state known to do so, the BBC report added.

In September 2019, President Trump announced that states must actively consent to any resettlement of refugees after June 2020.

So far, the Governors of

more than 40 other states have said they would opt in to the government programme.

Trump has made reducing immigration a key aim of his administration. He has slashed the number of refugees allowed into the country for the 2020 fiscal year to 18,000 - a record low.

About 30,000 refugees were resettled in the US during the previous fiscal year.

The previous lowest admissions figure was in 2002, after the 9/11 attacks, when about 27,000 refugees were allowed into the US. IANS

Bushfires bring fears of 'new normal' to life Down Under

Sydney: A grim summer of fire and smoke has sullied Australia's outdoors and healthy image, and left many fearful for the future.

For the unfortunate few, three long months of bushfires have brought almost unfathomable pain — homes lost, lives destroyed, families ripped apart.

But for many millions more the crisis has also shattered the long sunny days typically filled with beaches, barbecues and backyard cricket.

Sporting events were cancelled, windows shuttered against weeks of menacing toxic haze and barbecues banned to prevent even more fires.

Famed beaches like Bondi were partially blackened, as the tide washed the ash of incinerated eucalypts back to shore.

Holidays were cancelled as entire towns were shut off, highways were



bumper-to-bumper with fleeing tourists and petrol stations mobbed as fuel ran out during the largest peacetime evacuations the country has ever seen.

"We've seen the whole Australian way of life over summer across the continent upended," social researcher Rebecca Huntley, who has surveyed Australia's attitudes to the changing climate, told AFP.

"Instead of looking at the end of

the year as a time to relax, (Australians) are getting quite anxious." Images of military evacuations and frightened families huddled on beaches under red skies have challenged many people's previously idyllic idea of the continent.

Huntley said the severity of the fires was challenging the perception that living in Australia meant having a high quality of life, with Sydney and Melbourne long-ranked as among the most liveable cities in the world.

Now residents have become expert at reading wind forecasts and fire maps to predict whether their kids will be able to play outside tomorrow.

The Christmas dinner table featured debates about specific anti-pollution masks and air purifiers, topics often associated with daily life in New Delhi or Bangkok. AFP

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC KATHUA
Telephone: 01922-238973, Email ID: mdlvrtic@gmail.com

GIST of e-Tender
e-NIT No: 27 of 2019-20 Dated: 09-01-2020 due on: 21-01-2020
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Kathua invites e-tenders from well reputed contractors/workshop holders in two covers for Reconditioning of slipring assembly along with its allied work of 1500HP 6.6KV HT motor of unit No. 03 and 04 installed at LIS Basantpur. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. Website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) from 09-01-2020 (17.00 hrs).

- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 10-01-2020 (10.00 hrs) to 21-01-2020 (16.00 hrs) in two covers.
- The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 22-01-2020 (14.00 hrs) or any other convenient date in the Office of Executive Engineer Mech. Divn. RTIC Kathua.
- The intending bidders should keep a check on bid website for any change in the technical specifications/terms and conditions if any.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
No. DIP/J-12203/19
Date: 11.01.2020
Mechanical Division Ravi Tawi Irrigation Complex Kathua

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NITNo.EDJ/211of 2019-20 Dated 08-01-2020

For and on the behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors/agencies registered with Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for each of the following works:-

S.No.1 Name of Work :- Electrification Work of Additional Block of State Guest House Canal Road Jammu.

Name of Division :- PWD (R&B) Electric Division. Jammu

Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs) :- 127.47

Cost of document (in Rs.) :- 1000/-

Earnest Money (in Rs.) :- 254940/-

Time Allowed for completion :- Linked with civil works

Time and date of opening of tender :- 18-01-2020 At or after (2 : 00 PM)

Class of Contractor :- "A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

- Date of Issue of Tender Notice :-** 08-01-2020
- Period of downloading of bidding documents :-** From 09-01-2020 to 17-01-2020, 4:00 P.M
- Bid Submission Start Date :-** 09-01-2020
- Bid Submission End Date :-** 17-01-2020 up to 4:00 P.M

Sd/- Executive Engineer
No. DIP/J-12175/19
Date: 11.01.2020
PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu

Serena aims for double glory



Serena Williams prepares to serve AFP ■ AUCKLAND

in a three-set semi-final 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Top-seed Williams, at her impressive best, rapidly eliminated third-seed Anisimova 6-1, 6-1.

It highlighted the gulf between the 38-year-old, the women's tennis figurehead for the past two decades, and the next generation of players led by the 18-year-old Anisimova.

"I was definitely in the zone today. I knew I was playing a really great player and an even better person and I knew I had to come out serious," Williams said.

"It feels really good. I've been working hard for a couple of years, I tend to be really hard on myself but considering everything, I'm doing pretty good."

Former World number one Wozniacki, who has announced she will retire after the Australian Open, arrived at her penultimate tournament determined to win in Auckland at her seventh attempt to add to her 30 WTA titles.

Instead, it was the 25-year-old Pegula, the world 82nd-ranked player who won her only WTA title at the Washington Open last year, who came out on top.

Wozniacki has one chance left to win a title in Auckland when she partners Serena Williams in the doubles final today.

Serena Williams delivered a masterpiece in her semi-final at the WTA Auckland Classic on Saturday, needing only 43 minutes to down rising star Amanda Anisimova and set up a showdown against Jessica Pegula.

The unsung and unseeded Pegula stunned Caroline Wozniacki

Alexandrova wins maiden WTA title

SHENZHEN: Ekaterina Alexandrova won her first WTA singles title after the in-form Russian defeated Elena Rybakina in straight sets in the final of the Shenzhen Open.

The fifth seed won 6-2, 6-4 in 73 minutes to begin her season and her Australian Open preparations with a bang. The 25-year-old Alexandrova, ranked a career-high 34th in the world, collapsed to her knees after dismissing seventh-seed Rybakina.

"I didn't expect the first set to be so easy so I knew the second set would be so much tougher," said Alexandrova, who is poised for the top 30 in the world.

"In the second set I think she



Ekaterina Alexandrova reacts after win WTA

played well but after I got the break to make it 4-4, she got a bit nervous. "It feels amazing to win my first title, I don't know what to say. The first title is always special." AFP



Novak Djokovic of Serbia falls to the ground after winning the match point against Daniil Medvedev of Russia during their ATP Cup match in Sydney on Saturday

GOOD VS BETTER

Nadal's Spain meet Djoker's Serbia in ATP Cup final today

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic will face each other in the final of the inaugural ATP Cup after winning epic three-set matches on Saturday to steer Spain and Serbia into the decider.

World number one Nadal ground pumped-up Australian Alex de Minaur to guide the Davis Cup champions through their semi-final while Djokovic battled past Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

Under the format of the innovative team event in Sydney, the top-ranked singles players from each country play each other, ensuring the two legends clash for a 55th time since their first showdown in 2006.

World number two Djokovic leads the head-to-heads 28-26, including beating his arch-rival in the Australian Open final last year.

Nadal outlasted De Minaur 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 after unflappable teammate Roberto Bautista Agut tamed Nick Kyrgios 6-1, 6-4.

Djokovic had an equally tough

time against impressive fifth-ranked Medvedev, coming through a top-draw contest 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 on the back of Dusan Lajovic beating Karen Khachanov 7-5, 7-6 (7/1).

"Alex was playing at a very high level and for me my energy was a little bit lower than usual. But it has been a very emotional evening and a pleasure playing here," said Nadal.

"We know it's going to be a super tough final (against Serbia)," he added. "Novak likes a lot to play here, he's had a lot of great results. So let's see. We have a good team too."

EXCEPTIONAL

Sixteen-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic, who is targeting an eighth Australian Open title this month, had looked on track for a comfortable win against Medvedev after sailing through the opening set and breaking in the first game of the



Rafael Nadal celebrates defeating Alex de Minaur AP



Naomi Osaka congratulates Karolina Pliskova AP

Pliskova sees off Osaka

AFP ■ BRISBANE

World number two Karolina Pliskova will defend her Brisbane International title after edging Naomi Osaka in an epic three-set semi-final at Pat Rafter Arena on Saturday.

Pliskova triumphed 6-7 (10/12), 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 win in a two hour, 48 minute marathon and will play eighth seed American Madison Keys in the decider.

"That was one of the best matches that I've played on this court," Pliskova said.

"It was a great standard, and she's always tough to play against."

"I think I did a good job to stay in there after a tough first set, and in the second I just kept fighting and it paid off."

In the first semi-final, Keys held firm when it counted to defeat two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 and make her first Brisbane final.

SINGLES

INJURED DEL POTRO OUT OF AUS OPEN

MELBOURNE: Former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro pulled out of the Australian Open as he continues to struggle with his recovery from knee surgery. The 31-year-old Argentinian, who made the last eight at Melbourne Park in 2009 and 2012, has not played since slipping and hurting his knee on the grass in the Wimbledon tune-up at Queen's in June. "Our two-time quarter-finalist Juan Martin del Potro has withdrawn from AusOpen 2020 as he continues to recover from a knee injury," the Australian Open tweeted. "Wishing you all the best with your recovery. We hope to see you back in Australia soon."

MARSEILLE WITHIN FOUR POINTS OF PSG

MARSEILLE: Kevin Strootman scored a late winner as Marseille edged out high-flying Rennes 1-0 on Friday to move within four points of Ligue 1 leaders PSG. Andre Villas-Boas' men clinched victory in a tight encounter when Dutch midfielder Strootman volleyed into an empty net after Dimitri Payet's 84th-minute free-kick hit the post. The visitors stretch unbeaten run to nine games and moved eight points clear of the Bretons with the win.

XAVI ON TOP OF BARCA WISHLIST

BARCELONA: Barcelona have asked former captain Xavi to take over from the under-pressure Ernesto Valverde as head coach, Spanish media reported. The club's sporting director Eric Abidal has reportedly spoken to the boss of Qatari side Al Sadd about arriving on a two-year-deal, with radio station Cadena Ser claiming the former midfielder could return this season if Valverde is sacked. Al Sadd's general manager Turki Al-Alai refused to rule out a move back to Barca for Xavi.

WAWRINKA LOSES IN DOHA SEMIS

DOHA: Stan Wawrinka's bid for a first ATP title since May 2017 was ended by a three-set loss to unseeded Corentin Moutet in the Qatar Open semi-finals. World number 81 Moutet will face Andrey Rublev in the final after downing top seed Wawrinka 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. "In general it was a good tournament, I would say, for many reasons," Wawrinka told *atptour.com*. "I think in general I'm playing well and moving well. Now I'm going to leave to Australia, one week there to get ready, and hopefully do some big things there."

CUTRONE JOINS FIORENTINA ON LOAN

FLORENCE: Italy international striker Patrick Cutrone has completed his loan move from Wolverhampton Wanderers to Fiorentina. The Serie A club said the 22-year-old has joined on an initial two-year loan with an obligation to make the move permanent. The deal is reported to be worth in the region of 20 million euros (\$22 million). Cutrone moved to the Premier League club last July from AC Milan on a four-year contract but struggled to make an impact starting mostly on the bench with just nine starts in 24 appearances.

KOHLI MOVES UP IN T20 RANKINGS

DUBAI: India opener K L Rahul retained his sixth position while captain Virat Kohli moved up a place to ninth in the batting chart of the ICC T20I players rankings. Rahul, the highest-ranked India batsman, has gained 26 points and is now on 760 rating points, just six behind Glenn Maxwell after scores of 45 and 54. Kohli is in ninth position while Shikhar Dhawan, too, has climbed a rung to be placed 15th. Player of the Series Navdeep Saini has rocketed 146 places to 98th while Shardul Thakur has re-entered in 92nd position. AGENCIES

I am also back in picture, says Dhawan

PTI ■ PUNE

"I am also back in the picture," India opener Shikhar Dhawan said after his fluent fifty in the third T20I against Sri Lanka and insisted that zeroing in on the second opener is the team management's "headache".

With Dhawan back in form in the shortest format, the Indian team management and captain Virat Kohli will have the headache of picking from three in-form openers — K L Rahul and Rohit Sharma being the other two.

Asked about the race for the opener's slot, Dhawan said, "All the three players (Rohit, KL and me) are doing well. Rohit had an excellent 2019. Rahul has been doing well since 1-2 months and he is a good player and 'mei bhi picture mei aagya hu, maine bhi aaj acha kar diya hai' (And I have also entered the fray and have done well today)."

"Toh picture achihi ban rahi hai abhi (the picture is looking good), khair yeh sardardi meri nahi hai (but this is not my headache). So I don't think about it, because that thing is not in my hands. What is in my hands is to perform and play well."

"I am happy and satisfied that I got two opportunities and



Shikhar Dhawan raises his bat after completing his half-century PTI

was able to express myself. Baki coaches aur captain ke upar hai, toh unki sardadi mei kyun hai? (Rest is on the coaches and the captain, then why should I take their headache)," Dhawan told reporters in the post match conference.

The swash-buckling Delhi batsman, however, feels being a left-hander augurs well for him.

"Absolutely, that (left-hander) is advantage because it disturbs bowlers' line and length and it has its own impact," he said.

Shikhar also says that India are seeking complete mastery

Gavaskar questions Dhoni's long break

NEW DELHI: Sunil Gavaskar on Saturday questioned M S Dhoni's sabbatical from the game since the World Cup semifinal loss in July, asking "does anybody keep himself away from playing for India for that long?"

The 38-year-old has not played since India's heartbreaking defeat in 2019 World Cup semis but is likely to make a comeback with the IPL.

Asked if Dhoni can make India's T20 World Cup squad,

Gavaskar said, "Fitness is something that I can't tell you anything at all. The question that needs to be asked is of MSD himself. He has not made himself available to play for India since 10th of July (9th actually)."

"That is the important question. Does anybody keep himself away from playing for India for that long? That is the question and therein lies the answer," said the former India captain.



Hardik Pandya bowls during nets session Hardik/Twitter

Hardik to wait for Ind return

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With all-rounder Hardik Pandya's anticipated return getting delayed after he failed the fitness test, India's limited overs squads are unlikely to be tinkered with much for the upcoming six-week tour of New Zealand.

Starting January 24, India will be playing five T20 Internationals, three ODIs and two Test matches, and squads for the tour will be picked today.

Pandya was expected to make the Indian squad after remaining out of action for four months due to a back injury but the all-rounder could not clear the mandatory fitness test, indicating that it will take him more to recover from the surgery he recently had.

India will be playing eight white ball games in New Zealand, and it will be interesting to see if the selectors pick a 16 or 17-member squad, instead of 15.

With the India A team's shadow tour coinciding with the seniors' visit, it gives the selectors an option to draft players on SOS basis if the need arises.

The selectors will primarily focus on zeroing in on the core for white ball cricket considering that this is a T20 World Cup year.

While the T20 squad that played against Sri Lanka in the just-concluded series all but picks itself, Pandya was expected to be included once he proved his fitness in the warm-up games. However his failure to clear the fitness test is an indication that he is far from ready for interests.

It will be interesting to note if the ODI team is an extension of the T20 squad.

In case the Indian team looks for technical solidity, Ajinkya Rahane could make a comeback, but if the team management is thinking in terms of treating 50 over games as an extension of T20 series, Mumbai player Suryakumar Yadav's explosive power hitting at No 5 or 6 could be an option. Both Surya and Sanju Samson are in the A squad.

The Test squad wears a very settled look with the only contention being the third opener's slot.

Picked as a reserve for the home series, the young Shubman Gill deserves to be the third opener, but K L Rahul's current form and experience in Test cricket could also be considered.

Carey keen to emulate MSD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Wicket-keeper batsman Alex Carey wants to perfect the art of taking the games deep and finishing them off for Australia just like the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni has done it for India.

"I still have lots of areas in my game I want to improve on and get better at. I know I will probably bat middle to lower order so it's trying to finish games off for Australia.

When you look at the best in the world like MS Dhoni, you want to learn as much as you can from him," said Carey.

"I was lucky enough to play against him (Dhoni) last year, just the way he took the game deep and won the games for India. I aspire to do that one-day," Carey told reporters after visitors first practice session at the

Finch aim to play till 2023 WC

SYDNEY: Australia's limited-overs captain Aaron Finch has set his sights on continuing playing till the 2023 World Cup, saying he would look to realise that "goal" if form and fitness permit.

By the time the 2023 World Cup comes, Finch will be 37.

"I'd love to be, no doubt. At 33 now, I think my game

is in as good a place as it's ever been. That's (playing 2023 World Cup) a definite goal of mine. That will come down to form and fitness; the desire won't be any less than it is," Finch was quoted as saying by *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"I know it's a cliché, taking it one year at a time, but that's 100 per cent a goal of mine down the track." PTI

Wankhede Stadium. The 28-year-old Carey admits that the series against India will be a tough one, especially facing the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami.

"Coming back to India, you know it is going to be a tough contest through the middle. We will probably have lots of spin through the

Mulani, Tare rescue Mumbai

CHENNAI: Shams Mulani (87) and Aditya Tare (69, batting) raised a 155-run partnership with fighting half-centuries to help Mumbai finish the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Group B match against Tamil Nadu at 284 for six.

Electing to bat after winning the toss, the visitors were in a spot of bother as lanky left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore (3/77) and Ashwin (3/58) struck at regular intervals to leave them five down.

Kishore got into the act first and picked up the first three wickets in the opening session. Ashwin was wicket-less till the lunch break but made his presence felt after the break, dismissing debutant Hardik Tamore (21) & Sarfaraz Khan (36).

Tare, who joined Mulani in the middle started slowly and looked to play himself in. After defying Ashwin, Kishore and the rest of the Tamil Nadu attack for the rest of the middle session, they came into their own in the final session.

Mulani displayed his full range of strokes and played a few attrac-

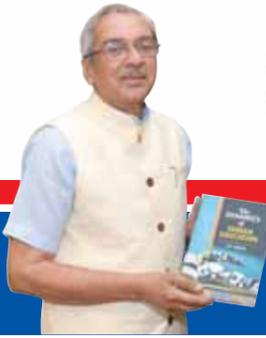


Aditya Tare raises his bat after fifty PTI

tive hooks and pulls as the host bowlers ran out of ideas.

However, Ashwin struck against the run of play, dismissing Mulani, caught by Aparajith in the slips off the penultimate ball of the day. PTI

What is important is to believe in something so strongly that you're never discouraged
— Salma Hayek



FROM THE INSIDE

Dynamics of Indian education

A book that offers a contemporary discourse on practically every aspect of education and education system



Be practical than perfect

It is best to stay practical rather than go overboard in search of perfection and reject all available options



Pictures from an earlier exhibition of 96 photographs by Bourne & Shepherd (27 prints) and Johnston & Hoffmann, mostly of Calcutta (long, long before it was renamed Kolkata) as it looked in the high noon of the British Raj in late 19th and early 20th century. The exhibition was held by the Victoria Memorial Hall in 2018

BABUS, BORDELLOS, AND GASLIT NIGHTS

Calcutta Nights was written almost a hundred years ago and first published in Bengali as *Raater Kolkata* (by Hemendrakumar Roy) in 1923. Much of this book is set in a time which stretches back even further to the first two decades of the twentieth century. Calcutta was still the capital of British ruled India then — a bustling metropolis with a dark underbelly, where untold dangers lurked behind the glamour and shine, writes RAJAT CHAUDHURI in the introductory chapter of his book. An edited excerpt:

Calcutta. Second city of the British empire, India's most important urban centre, Paris of the East, melting pot of all races, pride of Bengalis, cradle of the renaissance, city of palaces!

Day and night, multitudes pass through the streets-flowing like a stream. Alongside ancient palanquins from mythical king Mandhata's times, bullock-carts and pedestrians, run ultra-modern electric trams, buses and motorcars while aircrafts fly above, casting shadows on her expanse. Spectacles dangling on their noses, shod in fancy shoes and with fashionable hairstyles, the cane-wielding *kapure-babus* — the upper class gentlemen with social capital and recognition only on the outside; impeccably attired in western clothes over their swarthy forms; the great specimens of *ingo-bongos* or the anglophile Bengalis; donning curious hats and a variety of dresses the Parsis, Gujaratis, Marathis, Sikhs, Pathans, Kabulis, Nepalis, Bhutanese, Punjabis, Mongols, Japanese, Chinese and Marwaris among a variety of human specimens from the entire East; English, Scotch, Irish, French and Americans among aggressive specimens of western races, and alongside these, half-naked Oriyas, and completely naked groups of Naga mendicants ... such a curious kedgeeree of humanity is not to be found anywhere in the world. At one side colourful mansions reach out to the sky, and in their shadows lean mud walls of cottages plastered with dung cakes — a rare sight anywhere else. On one flank of the street, like wealth personified, are well-dressed, nonchalant, vehicle-riders, blessed sons of Lakshmi — the Goddess of Wealth — ignorant to the sorrows and scarcities of the world, and on the other side, right there in the dust of the street, lying on blankets riddled with holes, worshippers of permanent destitution, hooded-eyed, skin-and-bones bands of poor beggars, gasping their last and waiting for death. And right in front of their drooping eyelids, beating huge drums — the *dhaaks* and *dhols* — and blowing trumpets, wafting flowery perfumes, their kilted scarves and drapes billowing, pass bands of the groom's party of a marriage ceremony. Where else can one see such a crooked smile on the lips of destiny? Life and death live here together, like thorn and blossom on the same branch.

It was about Calcutta that acclaimed poet Satyendranath Dutta said:

*Ei Kolkata-Kalikakshetra, kahini ihar sobar sruto,
Bishnu chakra ghurechhe hethae, Maheshher padodhule e puto
Hindur kali achhen hethae, Musalmaner Moula Ali,
Chari koney sadhu pir charijon muskil asan cherag jali
Sakal dharma milechhe hethae samanyaer mantra-surey
Swagata sadhak-bhakta-brinda marater Baikunthapurey*

Roughly translated it reads: "This Kolkata

— Kalika's ground, everyone has heard its story, Bishnu's discus spun here — Mahesh's feet made it holy. Here's the abode of the Hindu's Kali, and Maula Ali of the Musalman, Four pirs and sadhus at four corners, light the lamp of redemption, All religions have merged here, in a tune of hymn and harmony This earthly paradise welcomes, every worshipper and devotee.

And truly Calcutta on first acquaintance looks like a city which is a pilgrimage for sadhus, a place for religious practice of devotees, and an abode of the sacred. Hindu temples of Kali, Tara, Mahadev, Sani, Jagaddhatri, Sitala, Buddhist viharas, Jain shrines of Paresnath, Christian churches, mosques of Muslims are scattered all over — holding their heads up against the smoke swathed sky — a diversity of styles of different ideologies. At every step, a temple or the other with their crowds of devotees draws the attention of pedestrians. Scenes of religious rituals and routine prayers being offered morning and evening abound, amidst the blowing of conches, the clamour of visitors. By observing the polished floors, the bright gold ornaments of the deities, and the softness and signs of indulgence in the bearings of temple attendants, it does not take time to realise that most of the Hindu gods and goddesses are well-off.

But without a sharp eye, no one would be able to decipher the extent of wrongs, the extent of vileness and brutality concealed beneath this outward shield of religiosity. Despite Chitteswari of Chitpur at one end and Kalikadebi of Kalighat at the other keeping watch on the domain of Calcutta, every day Satan and his sinful followers enter the city in hordes, pulling wool over their divine eyes.

Poet Satyendranath says:

*Ei Kolkata byagrhubahini chhilo he ekoda bagher basa
Bagher moton manush jahara tahaderi chhilo jawa o asha!*

("This Kolkata on a tiger rides, 'twas once a tiger's den Those men who were tiger-like, would come and go often!")

Just as in those times there were people who were like tigers, this day too there is no dearth of tigers in human garb in Calcutta. Rather the legions of these tiger-people have grown. But they are more tiger-like in their cruelty and beastliness rather than in vigour and energy. These tigers and tigresses are scattered all across the city — through the day they move about in groups amongst us. Always alert and waiting for prey, like an invisible pestilence. We don't know them, but they have every bit of information about us at their fingertips. When at night the curtain of deepest darkness descends on the heart of Calcutta, these tigers and tigresses employing trickery, attack us unawares. Tigers of the wild crave human flesh, but these human tigers want the substance of our souls. And once someone's soul comes into their clutches, he cannot be saved. Easy-going parents from villages, you send your naive children to Calcutta to become worthy humans. But often, under the influence of these tigers and tigresses, their humanity is drained and



“NO ONE SHOULD BE FOOLED BY THE OUTWARD SHEEN, THE GLAMOROUS BEAUTY, THE LIGHT AND LAUGHTER, THE MOCK-RELIGIOSITY, THE CROWDS AT TEMPLES, CHURCHES AND MOSQUES OF CALCUTTA. HOW MUCH DARKNESS HAS CONGEALED AT THE LAMP'S BASE — TODAY WE WILL REVEAL SOME OF THOSE SECRET SCENES”



A young Hemendra Kumar Roy with his wife Renuka; Courtesy: The Roy family archives

they return home transformed into a beast or a ghost.

No one should be fooled by the outward sheen, the glamorous beauty, the light and laughter, the mock-religiosity, the crowds at temples, churches and mosques of Calcutta. How much darkness has congealed at the lamp's base — today we will reveal some of those secret scenes. We spend our lives cradled by this Calcutta; our lives, our deaths, our marriages are in sync with the rhythms of this Calcutta, our hearts are full with pride and we feel honoured being residents of Calcutta. Yet how many among us have seen the true face of Calcutta? How many of us dare to roam about in the silence of the deepest night amongst Calcutta's scary and impassable forest of palaces? How many are interested to know about the romances unfolding, the fascinating

incidents, the tragedies being played out around us each day? What is the value of a report in the morning newspaper? Braving great dangers, time and again avoiding the knives of hoodlums, in the spirit of adventure, I alone, like a creature of darkness, just a short and stout stick on my person, have regularly roamed the streets of Calcutta from evening till the end of night. Without bothering about moral corruption, I have entered evil and forbidden places with no hesitation. My long experience cannot fit into these pages. Here I will provide some glimpses, some hints. If readers enjoy, then in future I will try to describe different facets of Calcutta in greater detail.

Excerpted with permission from *Calcutta Nights (Raater Kolkata)*, a 1923 book by Hemendrakumar Roy, translated into English by Rajat Chaudhuri, Niyogi Books, ₹295



IF ONE CANNOT ENJOY READING A BOOK OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THERE IS NO USE IN READING IT AT ALL — OSCAR WILDE

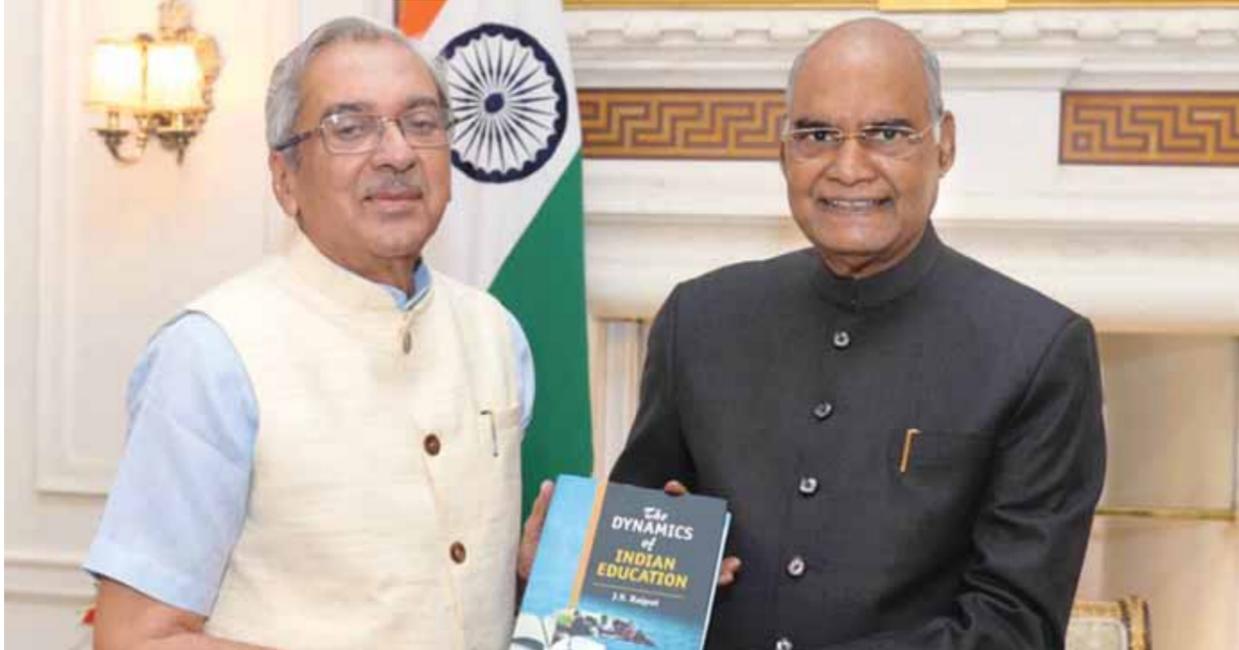
In his book, *The Dynamics of Indian Education*, the author has explored the vast canvas of critical concerns that form the basis of educational change and transformation, writes SUDHIR SINGH

Evolving a dynamic education system

India is awaiting a new national education policy (NEP); the last one was prepared in 1992. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of former Cabinet secretary TSR Subramanian in October 2015 to prepare the draft of NEP. This Committee submitted its report in April 2016. This five member Committee had four retired bureaucrat and only one academic member; the author of the present book under review, Professor JS Rajput. Subsequently, MHRD appointed a more-broad-based Committee under the Chairmanship of eminent scientist Dr K Kasturirangan. Its report, submitted in May 2019, was made available to public domain on the same day, and MHRD invited public comments on this draft as well. It has received numerous inputs from every section of the society. Hopefully, these would help the government to take a comprehensive view of the changes required in education policy.

The last four-five years have seen education issues being seriously discussed and deliberated upon at every stage and level throughout the country. During this period, the writings of Professor JS Rajput in print media, in English and Hindi as also his lectures and books have contributed in enhancing the relevance of such interactions and their output. The Book *'The Dynamics of Indian Education'*, released on August 1, 2019 by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, is one amongst these.

Every family wishes to know more about education, good education, and quality education. The demand now is no more only for 'education and school', but for "good quality education; imbued with skill acquisition; in a good School". Just some sixty years ago, people were reluctant even to send their children to schools, and had to be particularly persuaded to send girls to schools. The attitudinal transformation itself is a great achievement. India needs to evolve a visionary, futuristic and pragmatic education policy that could respond to the national requirements and aspirations of the young and aged in a fast-changing globalised world. These are the critical times for the country to have a fresh look on its education system and revamp it on modern lines. Our education systems must remain deeply rooted



Former Director, NCERT, Prof. JS Rajput presenting his book, *The Dynamics of Indian Education*, to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, in New Delhi

to culture, and simultaneously committed to new knowledge.

A cursory perusal of the topics contained in the book clearly indicate that the author — a veteran educationist — has dexterously explored the vast canvas of critical concerns that form the basis of educational change and transformation. These require regular dynamic inputs based upon experiences gained and the future vision to remain relevant. Education systems just cannot afford stagnation at any stage over even a short period. The content of this book clearly appreciates our Post-Independence achievements in education. We have near total enrollment in schools, in spite of over-threefold increase in the population!

The book also brings forth how the ancient Indian tradition of knowledge acquisition, and dissemination received widespread acclaim across the seven-seas; we were the Vishwa-Guru! We must aim to rise to that pedestal again.

Ancient India contributed not only in philosophy and spirituality, it contributed in sciences, mathematics, Astronomy and every other relevant area. The objective was "welfare of one and all — *Sarva Bhut Hite Ratah*". The distinguishing features of Indian tradition of knowledge generation, creation, dissemination and utilisation emerge very clearly in this book.

It pleads for restoration of respectful bonds amongst the State and intellectuals, and particularly to give school teachers their due. The author articulates his anguish and pain in the context of deterioration in quality of education, loss of the credibility of teacher education institutions, and reports on the increase of unethical instances in schools and universities. However, it also indicates how the system could be enthused with new inspiration and dynamism through a dynamic reform process.

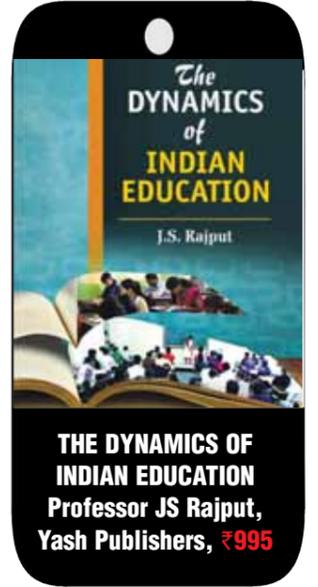
The author firmly believes that

social cohesion and religious amity are two major responsibilities before the education system. He is known to have initiated a movement to let every child be familiarised with the basics of all the religions. Children should know the commonalities and learn to respect differences wherever these exist. No rituals and dogmas are to be taken up in schools. That shall remain family responsibility. India is globally respected for its valued tradition of acceptance of diversity and presents a rare example of various religions co-existing together for ages!

It also emerges from this book that teacher preparation must be based upon the educational philosophies of Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, and several other Indian luminaries. It is now globally recognised that every country should develop its own education system, that borrowed and transplanted systems only bring disaster and

disconnect with culture, history and heritage. So finally education must be 'rooted to culture and committed to progress'!

The neglect of right curricular approach to India's history, heritage and culture has resulted in an unprecedented in an all round decline in values, morals and ethics. The moral crises often makes lakhs of children suffer for no fault of theirs. Leakage of board examination papers causes immeasurable misery and pain to children and families. If the system fails to prevent sale of teacher training degrees, it would be impossible to prevent quality deterioration through other means and measures. The need for creating 'educational leadership' at each stage hardly needs overemphasis in a system that has to respond to innumerable diverse situations. It clearly emerges that India must pay more attention to its education system, particularly to public school education system, giving due priority to



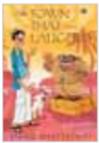
teacher preparation. It would; ipso facto; enhance the quality of higher education, research and also innovations and entrepreneurship.

This book contains 97 chapter titles, spread over 314 well-printed pages. One wonders why the contents of this book were not arranged in around a dozen chapters, dealing the major issues in one place. Even in the present format, some eight to ten sections could have been created at the editing stage. This book is a significant addition to the contemporary discourse on practically every aspect of education and education system. It is full of practical experience, epistemological comprehension as also of the finer philosophical inputs wherever necessary. It could be a treasured handbook for every section; from professors of education to school teachers and concerned parents. Professor Rajput is known for his regular writings in Hindi and English, and also for lectures and talks. This book is one more instance of his commitment to educational change and transformation.

The reviewer teaches political science at the Dyal Singh College of Delhi University

NEW ARRIVALS

THE TOWN THAT LAUGHED
Manu Bhattathiri
Aleph, ₹599



Change is coming to the tranquil town of Karuthupuzha, nestled deep within the lush Kerala countryside. Paachu Yemaan, the Inspector of Police, who has terrorised the town for decades has retired. Desperate to find him something to do, his wife, Sharada, and the good-hearted Barber Sureshan decide that ex-Inspector Paachu's post retirement project will be the reforming of the town drunk, Joby. What the two good Samaritans haven't counted on is the chain of extraordinary events that their project is about to set in motion.

DRAUPADI: THE TALE OF AN EMPRESS
Saiswaroopaa Iyer
Rupa, ₹295

Witnessing estrangement and betrayal within her own family makes her perceptive and intuitive beyond her years. Complicated marital relationships, humiliation unheard of and a pledge of revenge, all culminating in a war — her ordeal seemed never-ending. Yet she stands up to it all — never succumbing, never breaking. One of the most unforgettable characters of the Mahabharata. Draupadi shows what a woman is capable of.

THE GOPI DIARIES
Sudha Murty
HarperCollins, ₹299



The Gopi Diaries is a series of three books for children about a dog called Gopi. Told in Gopi's voice, the first book, *Coming Home*, begins with Gopi going to his new home, and tells the story of how he settles down with his loving, human family. How Gopi sees the world around him and what he thinks of the people in his life give the story a truly unique flavour. Written in Sudha Murty's inimitable style, these are books children and adults will treasure as the simple stories talk of basic values even when told from a dog's perspective.

Tiny birds of different colours and sizes would flock in the nest, far above the ground, atop a tree, in the midst of woods, which could withstand rains and winds; birds per force fleeing from the prying eyes of hunters would reach the Nest. They would flip and chirp and flap their frail and weak wings, unsure of flying back. One had to "vitalise these little birds by strengthening their wings and avoid the hunters — men".

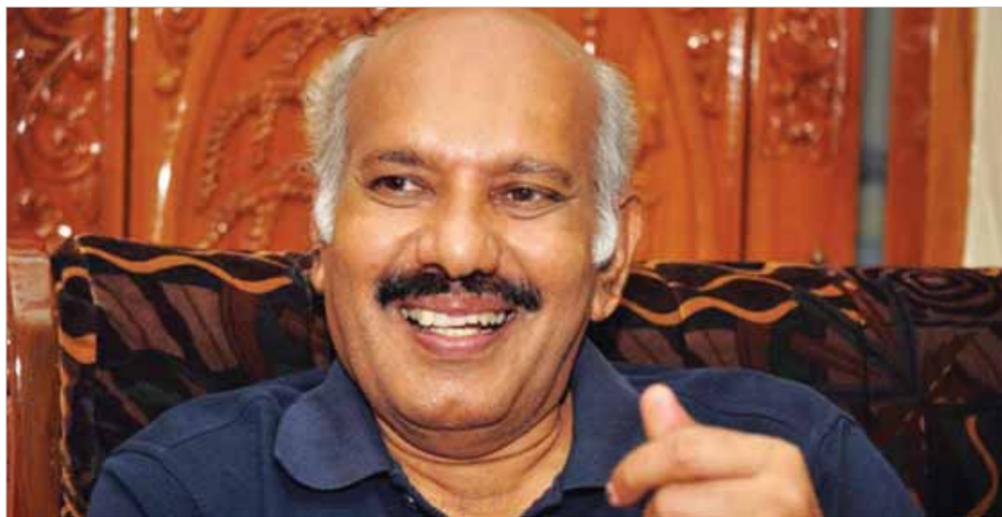
The nest would have all kinds of birds — good and bad, heroes and villains, shapes and shades of different feathers. They would be nurtured with compassion and spirit of co-existence. In time, they would fly away. This inspiring and lofty idealism was what made Madam Agatha, a nun who left the monastery, and hostel warden to start and run *The Cuckoo's Nest*, the first English novel, by Sethu (A Sethumadhavan), one of the best among contemporary Malayalam fiction writers. He is equally at ease and adept and evocative in English as evident from this novel.

The novelist has always been a strong promoter of feminism, be it his stories or novels, and always empathised to the extent of clearly taking sides. So is it in *The Cuckoo's Nest*, where the young and desolate inmates are empowered to live gloriously, "like a mother bidding goodbye to her daughter, a mother bird watching her tiny ones flying away, flapping and spreading their wings.... Never to return". Madam Agatha had trained her inmates to "dream the mountain and not the valley".

The message of optimism is commendable as narrated in an excellent and convincing manner for emulation. The reader is moved by the manner in which total darkness and gloom in the lives of nearly a dozen inmates of the Nest was overcome into bright sunshine by empowering the girls through a model charitable institution, run entirely on donations from well-wishers,

The Nest is strongly perched

The first English novel by the noted Malayali writer A Sethumadhavan, popularly known as Sethu, is a landmark by its superb craft and theme, says K. KUNHIKRISHNAN



known and unknown.

Madam Agatha stands out as a colossal and influential character in the novel and she is able to weather the storm and rains and occasional cyclones holding onto her Nest firmly with pragmatic and high ideals mustering support from well-meaning quarters and close friends and she is the profile of intent and strong will, having walked out of the monastery (when even survival itself is not easy).

There is another character, Kadambari, who has come from Devagiri, a small town in Tamil Nadu, where she was an adopted daughter, but had to leave home after a gruelling experience. Kadambari has another mother in Madam Agatha and she is

finally given to shoulder the responsibilities of the Nest. Other characters in the novel are profiled to represent the oppressive circumstances in which young females are made to suffer agonies. In portraying them, the novelist has put his narrative excellence into perfection with arresting readability, as is his wont.

The profiling also attains universality and pan-Indian appeal transcending geographical and psychological barriers. Each character, be it, Col. Annie Fernandez, the crippled army doctor, Sarala, Secretary of Nest, Karuppappa, security guard, who are not inmates *per se* but closely associated, is etched indelibly and stands out.

Residents of Nest, Lisie, Gouri, Sabeena, Ranjini, Apoorva, Kamakshi-Kamalakshi (twins), Didi, Parveen Singh, Seetha etc are all from different backgrounds and faiths (But Nest is strictly secular in every sense) and each one's tale of woes is touching.

Except in the case of Parveen Singh, who meets with a tragic death due to her intense love for Salim, all others are enabled in every sense to undergo life in better circumstances. Two instances where the lovers (Sabeena and Seetha) reunite with their love through social media are motivating and revealing. Each character has a history of pathos and untold miseries and they reveal the cur-

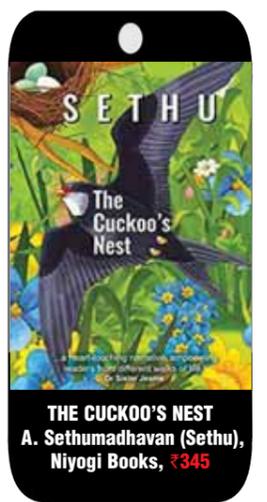
rent social fabric, which is heavily skewed against the downtrodden women. The tale of woes of each inmate of the Nest has been dexterously condensed demonstrating the mastery of the novelist in his art of storytelling. The weaving around of the plot and characters almost in lyrical style in the novel marks Sethu's dexterity at its best.

"Life is nothing but an open-ended story. Won't it be better to leave some doubts as they are and make the reader ponder on them later? After all, aren't such clueless riddles the very element that makes life interesting?" asks Didi, the wheel chair-bound optimist Jewish inmate of the Nest, with a Third Eye to Apoorva, who is in the Nest due

to the quarrel of her Bengali father and Tamilian mother. The novelist reflects: "the writer.... naturally expected his readers to be reasonably intelligent so that they would be able to find out a solution of their own".

At the end Madam Agatha asks: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, have I failed?" Riposte is that the story is a brilliant literary work bringing out the divine elements of conveying improvement over societal values. Going by any literary values, *The Cuckoo's Nest* is a profound work, placing the novelist in the pinnacle of his glorious career.

The reviewer is a noted writer and veteran broadcaster. He was DGG, Doordarshan, and associated with several TV channels



Al-Shabab raises its ugly head again

Somalia, a country in the Eastern most part of the African continent in the Horn of Africa, is facing the rage of the Islamic jihad spearheaded by Al-Shabab. It lies along the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean which makes it more vulnerable to external attacks even from the sea front.

The group has about 5,000-9,000 trained cadre, apart from sympathisers and radical supporters all across Somalia. Its main target is to topple the internationally recognised Government of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, in power since 2012, and establish a Sharia-based state. The Al-Shabab has been successful in transforming itself primarily from a terrorist unit to an insurgent group and finally raising itself to the status of a proto-state actor.

However, depending on circumstances, it can take any of these forms. That is how it has grown and become a potential threat to the survival of the fragile Government of Somalia.

The dastardly car bomb attack by the Al-Shabab last Saturday once again raised the ghost of Islamic terror in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. It killed more than 79 people, and injured at least 125 people. Claiming responsibility for the attack, one of the group's spokesperson Sheikh Ali Mohamud said, "...the Mujahideen carried out an attack...targeting a convoy of Turkish mercenaries and apostate militia who were escorting them." This attack was the biggest to hit Somalia since a truck exploded in 2017 near a fuel tanker in Mogadishu, creating a fireball which killed nearly 500 people.

Al-Shabab in the Arabic language refers to 'The Youth'. The group is allied to Al-Qaeda. In a paper titled, "Breaking the Bonds between Al-Qaeda and its affiliate organisations", Daniel L Byman wrote in 2012, "In February, 2012, the Somali-based Shabab formally declared its loyalty to Al-Qaeda, a move that capped the transformation of Al-Qaeda's relationship with Somali militants into a more substantial partnership. In the early 1990s, Al-Qaeda tried to work in the collapsed Somali state, but often found the violent civil war there overwhelming, so much so that its operatives were unable to make significant inroads. It did, however, kept



Security forces and others stand by the wreckage of vehicles after a vehicle bomb attack on a security checkpoint located near the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia on January 8

AP

Somalia as a part of a regional base for its attacks against the US and UN peacekeepers and strikes in Kenya against the US and Israeli targets."

This indicates how Al-Shabab has grown from Al-Qaeda and gradually expanded its wings, becoming a multi-state actor. At its zenith, Al-Shabab controls nearly 81,000 square miles or about one third of Somalia. However, the Islamic State (ISIS) at its peak, used to occupy only over 30,000 square miles, covering areas in three countries of Iraq, Libya and Syria.

The Al-Shabab emerged as the radical youth wing of Somalia's now defunct Islamic Courts Union (ICU) in early 2007. But its quick success and aggression provoked the Ethiopian forces to invade Somalia and scatter the group. But the ferocious campaign launched by the insurgents finally drove the Ethiopians away from Somalia. The ICU

which operated in Mogadishu from 2000-2006 was a legal and political organisation founded by Muslim clerics from Abgal sub-clan of the influential Hawiye clan. These courts adjudicated personal status and criminal law as per Sharia.

Besides, as they were backed by clan-based militias, they were truly effective in maintaining strong law and order in and around Mogadishu.

It must be noted here that ISIS is not the first Islamic radical group to establish a proto-state in modern times. But Al-Shabab controlled and administered vast territories across Somalia. And it mobilised resources and people around their territorial limits and beyond, long before the ISIS did in 2014 and beyond.

In fact, the Al-Shabab developed a sophisticated and comprehensive taxation system that brought them millions of dollars each year. It collects

taxes in the guise of zakat and an excessive tax, in the name of fighting a holy war, the way the ISIS did.

Both the ISIS and the Al-Shabab have the same goal: To create a religious state according to their radical interpretation of Sunni Islam. Also they employ similar tactics and draw their allegiance to Wahabi sect of Islam. The Wahabi movement was founded by Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahab in the 18th century in Najd, Central Arabia. It was adopted by the Saud family in 1744. Today it is widely prevalent in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. As it officially goes, the members of the Wahabi movement regard themselves as 'al-Muwahhidun' i.e. Unitarians. And it is derived from their emphasis on the 'absolute oneness of God' (Tawhid). Therefore, its radical followers and advocates like the ISIS and the Al-Shabab reject all acts they see leading to polytheism.

Thus they strongly stress on returning to the original teachings of Islam as mentioned in Quran and Hadith i.e. traditions of Muhammad. Further Wahabi followers condemn all innovations i.e. bidah in Islam in any form.

Though both ISIS and the Al-Shabab draw their inspiration from radical interpretation of Islam, they differ on many fronts. ISIS operated, till its recent fall, in much larger geographical areas than that of the Al-Shabab. The former engaged in extreme atrocities such as mass beheadings, crucifixions and burning victims alive, both for its worldwide propaganda and to spread a regime of Islamic terror. But the Al-Shabab, being an Al-Qaeda sponsor, rejects such brutal tactics as purely unproductive. But recent attacks carried out by the group exposes its double standard both within and outside Somalia.

Though it has been pushed

out of the major towns of Somalia by the African Union (AU) troops, including Mogadishu and the vital port of Kismayo in 2011-12, it has remained a potential force in some of the rural areas. It is capable of conducting raids and attacks in nearby countries, such as Kenya.

In fact, it has carried out more than 20 terror attacks in Kenya, including the capital city of Nairobi in the last five years. And it has taken the lives of about 300 people in Kenya so far. Many say that African Union Missions in Somalia (AMISOM) and in Kenya at best have stagnated so far. On the other hand, the operational capacities, intimidation techniques and ground fighting prowess of Al-Shabab have been growing. The worst part is that the Federal Government of Somalia is plagued by corruption and infighting. It is seriously creeping as the service-delivery by both

Mogadishu and the newly formed states are lacking in true sense of the term.

Clearly, despite its internal and external contradictions, the influence and aggressive mood of the Al-Shabab is on the upswing again. It has been successful in spreading a regime of fear among the commoners. And more importantly, the insurgents have absolutely clogged the basic functions of the civil administration across Somalia. This has, in reality, turned the tide towards the radicals, both in terms of displaying its weight and equally paralysing the mobilisation of the civil society, particularly at the grassroots level. But what has been predicted is that the potential long-lasting damage posed by its continuous killing of Somali civilians may further erode its support base.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

Al-Shabab has been successful in transforming itself primarily from a terrorist unit to an insurgent group and finally raising itself to the status of a proto-state actor



MAKHAN SAKIA

Why privileged citizens of neighbouring nations must also get India's succour

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is a humanistic approach by the Government of India to provide relief to the persecuted persons from the neighbouring Islamic nations. The relief must not be wasted



PABITRA CHAUDHURI

It has been a strange practice that for almost anything related to India, more specifically to Hindus, is construed as wrong by the American mainstream media. All kinds of accusations against India are freely heaped. A large section of the Indian media and the mainstream world media go by the same tradition. Muslims and Europeans are somewhat perturbed due to loss of large empire and freeloader ownership. But they need to wake up.

British truncated India at the behest of the Muslim leadership and then Hindus were driven out from two Islamic theocracies, carved out after the partition and further bifurcation of Pakistan. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, at the least, assures the persecuted persons in these two neighbouring nations of safe habitat in India. The *New York Times*' main story on December 10, 2019 (*India's Parliament Takes Step Toward Blocking Naturalization for Muslims*) by Jeffrey Gettleman and Suhasini Raj is another example of peddling of concocted narratives, laced with acrimony towards India and Hindus.

The fact of the matter is that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act has got nothing to do with any existing citizens of India: Hindus, Muslims, Christians or others. The Act has given some relief in matter of granting asylum in India to the most repressed brutalised section — minorities of three neighbouring Islamic nations. It has not touched rights of any Muslims anywhere in India. Even after the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, any Muslim can anytime apply



Indian Sikhs shout slogans during a protest against the vandalism and stoning of Nankana Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan, in Hyderabad on January 5

AP

for citizenship in regular course, as before.

India is trying to deter illegal

infiltration. The superpower USA has three times land mass of India, but only one-fourth population and

the number of illegal persons estimated at just 11 millions, yet the US enforces stringent regulation to cope

with illegal immigrants. While, India, which is fighting against the high unemployment rate and other myriad problems, has about 60 million to 90 million illegal immigrants. Despite that India has kept its gates open for the refugees.

As a normal rule, there is an aversion to religious minorities in Islamic theocracies, and India's neighbouring Islamic nations are no exception to it. However, depending on regimes there, the persecution intensity differs. Here this Act in India can stem the process of the ethnic cleansing of minorities in the neighbourhood. The hellish brutalisation gives testimony to the fact that 49 million Hindus vanished from Bangladesh since 1947. The condition of Hindus and Sikhs is more precarious in Pakistan. The most recent proof of the persecution of the minority communities in Pakistan was the bid of a mob to lay siege to Nankana Sahib Gurdwara in protest against police action against those accused of forcing a Sikh girl to convert to Islam.

Hindus are the ancestral inhabitants of the soil before Islam arrived in the region. Therefore Hindus connect to India and neighbouring countries. This is why they don't want to leave their homes in the Islamic states as long as possible. However, the spate in cases of abduction of their women, forced conversion, and ethnic cleansing leave them no option but to seek refuge in the secular India. As they live as refugees, they are unable to avail any relief available to the citizens of India. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is a move to address that concern.

However, the mainstream American media consider these inhuman treatment to minorities "Not fit to print".

In 1947, the population of Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan was 20 per cent of the total, and that of Hindus, Buddhists and Christians in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) was 29 per cent, which now stands at 2 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. The population of Muslims and Hindus in India in 1947 was about 7 per cent and 88 per cent respectively, which now stands at 15 per cent and 78 per cent. Therefore, there is whopping 100 per cent per centile growth of Muslims in India. Yet *New York Times* alleges that Muslims are second-class citizens in India.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is giving citizenship to the persecuted religious minority refugees from three Islamic nations around India. Because Pakistan and Bangladesh made mockery of the Nehru-Liaquat pact of 1950 to protect the minorities, I think the Act was the only way left to heal the wound of the disenfranchised people.

Muslims in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan are the favoured citizens there. They are not asylum seekers. They are not the victims of Islamic expansionism. This Act is for the relief of persecuted victims, Hindus and other minorities of those nations. Why Muslims in India have to object it?

(The New York-based writer is the head of Indian-American Intellectual Forum. The views expressed in the article are the personal opinion of the writer.)



TRUST IN DREAMS, FOR IN THEM IS HIDDEN THE GATE TO ETERNITY
— KHALIL GIBRAN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



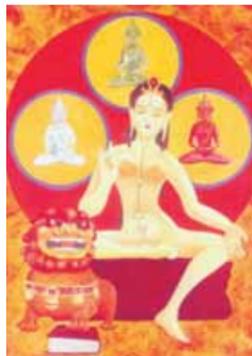
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Health will be good. This week, everything will come together. You are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished-for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and oversleep. Career may not be so satisfactory. You will feel uncomfortable in your work environment. Your senior may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project. Your honest nature may fetch you displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. In love, you may be possessive. You may face conflict and difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

A minor surgery is on the cards. Be cautious of sharp instruments and drive your vehicle carefully. This week you will be active and alert. This is a good time to focus on the studies and make the best use of your capabilities. A good physical and mental health will boost your confidence. In career, you need to control the situation. You are hardworking and determined, but a feeling of stagnation may obstruct your growth. Increase your efficiency to attain success. In relationship, you may become possessive. This may have adverse consequences. Sympathetic and caring nature is the need of the hour. Don't neglect the emotional needs of your partner. Avoid harsh and unpleasant words as the situation might put you in arguments.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

This week your health will be good. The family atmosphere will be peaceful and harmonious. A visit to a beautiful, scenic place is likely. It will bring cheer. You know what is beneficial for you and must direct your energies in a more productive way. In career, your opponents may be more creative than you. You will experience mental stress on some issues. The positive thing is that you are moving towards a brighter phase. You will be busy travelling, but it will be worth your time. On the love front, there is romance in the air, but you are not prepared. Professional matters will become your priority and this might create some worry in the family. You need to balance your life with determination and focused approach.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You will enjoy good health and richness in relationships. This week there will be occasions when three generations of the family will get together. The youngsters may receive a gift in form ancestral property, money or invaluable advice. On the career front, your insight and mental clarity will generate good results. This is a good time to act and achieve your target goals. Be alert as new opportunities will knock at the door and you are likely to get promoted. This is the time to pursue new opportunities and draw upon your creativity and mental ability for making more money. Love relations will blossom and may turn into marriage. You will be at ease with your partner, and take important decisions with regard to family. This is a good week for family reunion.

Lucky number 26
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will be motivated and inspired to do your best this week. You will be creative and experience renewed strength. You need to be adaptable as that will help you balance the energy levels. Avoid unhealthy food. Career-wise, an alumni meet is indicated. A get together of old colleagues or friends will make you happy. You need to create a positive feeling among those with whom you share your ideas. Contracts, paperwork and collaborations will keep you busy this week. You are likely to receive an award or an acknowledgement for your hard work done earlier. In the matter of emotions, you will experience happiness. Singles, will get proposals of love/ marriage. Some of you may travel on account of love, to meet your partner.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will experience pain, grief and discontentment this week. Prevention is better than cure; therefore, a strict diet and regular medical check-ups are very important. Stay away from any addiction. Minor injury or surgery is indicated. On the career front, you are quick-witted and observant at work. Due to your upfront and honest nature, your career path will not be smooth and may cause tension. You will have to rely on your practical sensibilities to argue your case with unlike-minded people. A female counterpart will play an important role in your career. On the emotional front, pay attention to your dreams and intuition. Look for areas in your life that require greater wisdom. Secret love may be revealed and will make you restless.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Taupe
Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week your health will be on the next level and so will be your maturity and intelligence. You will be inclined towards natural ingredients, herbs and spiritual path. Your views in terms of health are conventional and practical and that will pay you rich dividends. On the career front, clear communication will bring changes. Travel to a foreign land on account of the job is likely. Your initiative blends with your people skills, so explore and see where it takes you. Your finances will improve considerably and you may plan a deal in property. On the romantic front, this week is filled with love. Online love messages will revive your energy and passion. Singles may find a suitable partner or marriage proposals.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Do not ignore your health problems due to workload. You are in a state of confusion, try not to get carried away by a materialistic lifestyle. Spiritualism and slow pace of work are the only solutions if you wish to attain good health. Avoid being stubborn and rash in making important decisions. Career-wise, you are on the right track. A new job, salary hike or promotion is indicated. To take a big decision, don't be hesitant about seeking advice. A senior female may come as a helping hand in your professional growth. Financially you will be sound. Your hard work will pave the way for rise in your career. You will taste success on the romantic front. Emotional contentment is likely. Singles will meet their dream partner. Married couples will enjoy perfect harmony and mutual attraction.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will find positive energy all around you. Have self-respect and love for yourself. You will be extra careful about your diet, exercise and working schedule. Your spouse's help will prove beneficial in maintaining good health. Overall, your health will be good. On the work front, opportunities may come your way in an unexpected manner. Posting to a place or a designation which you dislike is indicated. Travel or unexpected journeys will exhaust you. Making money through work from home, writing or artistic pursuits are on the card. Love life will be smooth. You have an amiable personality that charms everyone around you. You will be filled with positive energy and will conquer your partner's heart.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will find the ups and downs in your health. Mental instability is also the cause of concern. Tension and worry will create a headache and nausea. Guard yourself against cold and coughing, and most importantly the liquor. Meditation, yoga and spiritual inclinations are the best way to settle your temperament. Career looks promising as new and exciting opportunities will be knocking at the door. You will experience the creative spark within you. Those in business may plan to expand their reach. Money may come from more than one source. On the relationship front, there is scope for self-assertion. An awakening has occurred and you realise the need to live your life in a different way, for you and for your loved ones.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will have an abundance of energy, passion and enthusiasm that will keep you going, surpassing all setbacks that may come your way. This week you are in perfect health. Protect your privacy and guard yourself against sharp edge instruments as minor injury, cut, or pain is predicted. Prepare yourself for a big change in your career. A sudden hike may surprise you. Connect with an official in higher offices may prove fruitful. Invest quality time in your thoughts and actions to reap bigger benefits for yourself. Be optimistic. This week you need to go deep into your soul and look for fears, psychic blocks and personality disturbances that restrict you in a relationship. Don't allow the intervention of a third party in love, it may prove harmful.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Pay attention to your health. You will attract a lot of attention and radiate charm. This will enhance your confidence. Your personality may make some people jealous. Be careful, as small negligence may cause a big hole in your pocket. Career-wise, you need to co-ordinate your long term career objectives with your domestic environment. If life feels like a struggle, remember that perseverance will pay off. Do not attempt to fast track your career, else it will take its toll. Remember short cut to success may cause regret. Your relationship is affected by issues such as fear, anxiety and apprehension. Spending sleepless nights on account of love is indicated. There is a need for intense connections in your life with a partner who shares the same emotional wavelength.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Wednesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Better to be practical than perfect

There was self-created disorder at the 'Primal source', earlier in a perfect equilibrated state, which when gravitated, differentiated energies got excited. Immediately thereafter began harmonisation of those energies, which following a course of progressive evolution, culminated in the manifestation of plural world with all its enormity and diversity. As the cause permeates the effect, the imprints of both order and disorder find presence in our cognitive instrument. Given a trigger either of the two or both could come into play, which primarily depends on how individual mind is inherently framed. It is pertinent to note here that human beings are born unique, each manifesting varying mindset and desire trends, coming as they may as Karmic carry-over from the past. Evidently, it varies from person-to-person depending on what short of experiences one would have undergone in the past. So, we are all born with a preconditioned mind, which serves as defining principle of individual mind. The way it is framed is how one acts, reacts, or responds.

In many cases, it has been observed that the 'sense of order' is overplayed.

Such characters are often found to have a perfectionist attitude. They wish to be perfect in all their endeavour, precisely to a point, of course, on their self-defined terms, which may or may not be in sync with ground realities. More often than not, they remain stuck to their self-delusional perceptions, and not open to look beyond for a reality check. Until pushed to the wall, they will keep pursuing their line of thinking. By the time they realise, the damage is done. They wish to go about in life on their own exclusive terms. They can't digest anything happening to the contrary. They evaluate others by his own measures, not realising that everybody is born unique. That often makes it difficult to relate to others on even terms. In search of perfection, they go overboard, rejecting options available one after other. In the process, they fail to make timely initiative, and when they are left in the run of life, they resign to fate. Else, they hunt out those who may promise extra-terrestrial intervention through some belief driven puja.

Here is the case of a person who wished his wife to be perfect. His con-



tinued sermons on what to do or what not pushed her off so much that she finally broke off the marriage. Later, when he started looking for a prospective partner, none would fit into his long check list, so thirty years now but with no result. Speculating salary hike in future as was the trend in a growing economy, he opted for housing property beyond his means, ignoring the advice and counsel of elders. As the economy took a down slide, his career growth trajectory got adversely affected. He then realised that he could no more service debt. Even in terms of works, he may not accept an offer till all his pre-conditions are met. As the economy took a downturn, he lost his job, and thereafter he has been without job for long.

Let us now look at his astrological pointers. Gemini *Lagna* with mind-signifying Moon there, brings in the tendency to live on one's own exclusive terms. He may go by his self-defined beliefs and perceptions. So long as you sing his tune, you remain the best friend. The moment you offer a contrarian view, he may immediately get put off. Also, he has a vacillating mind.

Jupiter in the 5th house brings in a perfectionist streak. Moon favourably

placed to Neptune brings in a very fine taste. Saturn beautifully aligned to Uranus makes him serious and thorough in work, with an eye on even finer details. He can't agree to anything until it fully satisfies his taste.

But then Moon is opposite Venus. If that would not be enough, the Sun too is locked in adverse formation to Venus. All put together makes him too much emotionally touchy and sensitive. He may get over exercised even on trivial issues not to his taste, which he may overstretch beyond due and keep mulling over them for long. In the process, often his priority preferences get compromised. Added to that is 9th lord Saturn placed adverse to mischievous Neptune and Mars, which makes him self-deluding and moody. Also, it makes him habitually suspicious. Once he gets vexed, he may lose his sense of reasons and order. On top of that is a cluster of 5 planets, which makes him a very complex character. And the result is there to see.

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