

OPINION 8
THE LOSS OF LEADERSHIP

WORLD 12
IRAN GOVT DENIES COVER-UP OVER SHOT DOWN AIRLINER

SPORT 15
REAL MADRID WIN SPANISH SUPER CUP

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

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 13
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JANUARY 14, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



BOMAN JOINS JAYESHBHAI JORDAAR 13 VIVACITY

7.3% inflation ties Budget down

66-month high retail inflation a challenge for Govt, RBI to plan policy intervention

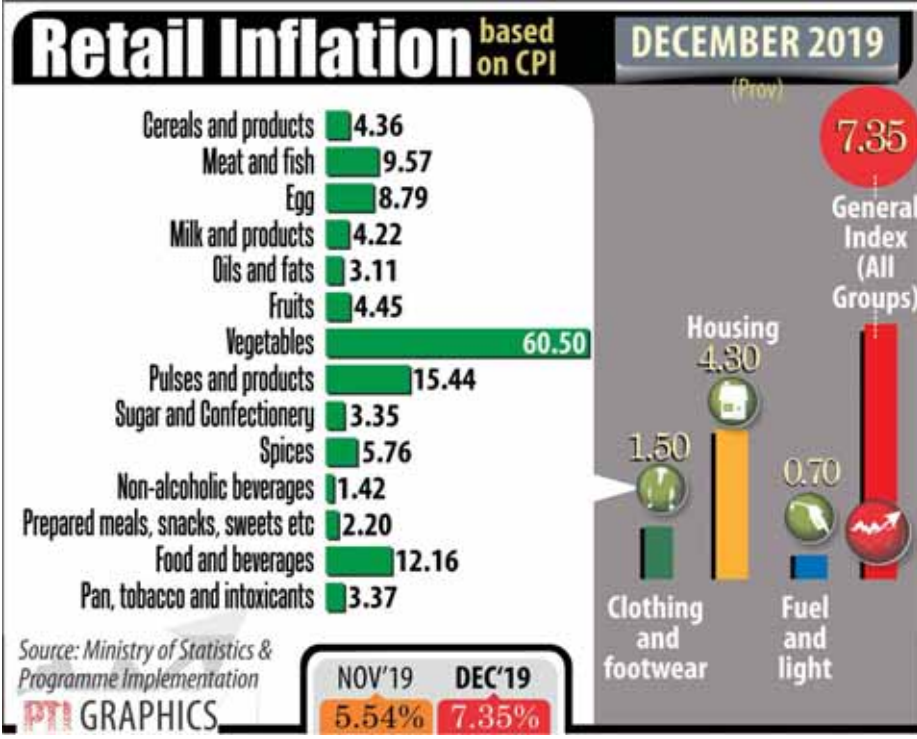
PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Retail inflation galloped to 66-month high of 7.35 per cent posing a new challenge to the Modi Government ahead of the Union Budget. This is second time that the inflation rate has reared its head so high since Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister in July 2014. The previous high in retail inflation was witnessed at 7.39 per cent in July 2014.

The sharp rise in inflation means your money parked in bank fixed deposit will give you negative return in majority of the saving schemes. It will also narrow down the Government's option to bring in fiscal stimulus in the Budget to revive the sinking economy.

With fiscal deficit veering around 5.5 per cent — if the provisions for food subsidy and scheme and highway building projects (both have been taken off the Budget and handed over to FCI and NHAI) are taken in to account — the rising inflation poses a new challenge to the Government. Economists feel that if the fiscal deficit of the States is included, India is staring at a 8 per cent fiscal deficit scenario.

The rise in inflation also ties the RBI down to making any monetary policy intervention to stimulate the economy.

Under this scenario, the Government can ill afford to cut down personal income tax. While this will be a popular measure which will put more



money in the hands of the common man, it will also nudge up inflation and add to the fiscal deficit by impacting revenue collection.

The rise in inflation can be attributed to sharp rise in prices of food and vegetable prices, including onion, and tomato. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, vegetables inflation rose to 60.5 per cent in December from 36 per cent in

November. Prices of vegetables shot up 60.5 per cent, with a 53.37 per cent increase in urban areas and 75 per cent hike in rural areas. Most of the vegetables were sold between ₹40 and 80 a kg since October last year. Onion prices also touched ₹200 a kg in some parts of the country last month.

Besides, prices of tomato, cabbage, carrot, green coriander leaves, lady finger, and potato are still high in the retail

markets. Prices of pulses, milk and other food products have increased in the recent months.

Prices of pulses and products rose 15.44 per cent. In case of "meat and fish" it was nearly 10 per cent. The inflation in eggs was recorded 8.57 per cent while in case of spices it was nearly 6 per cent. Overall, the inflation rate of the food and beverages category was 12.16 per cent.

As per the Government data, the food inflation rose to

14.12 per cent in December as against (-) 2.65 per cent in the same month of 2018. It was 10.01 per cent in November 2019. The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.11 per cent in December 2018 and 5.54 per cent in November 2019. In July 2014, the CPI was 7.39 per cent, a tad higher than December 2019's number of 7.35 per cent. CPI was 2.11 per cent in December 2018. The inflation rate was recorded 4.62 per cent in October, 2019.

As per the data, urban food inflation increased to 16.12 per cent compared to 12.3 per cent the previous month. Clothing and footwear inflation was at 1.5 per cent in December compared to 1.3 per cent in November. Housing inflation stood at 4.3 per cent compared to 4.5 per cent last month. Rural food inflation rose to 12.97 per cent in December 2019 as against 8.8 per cent in November 2019. Not a single item showed decrease in prices in December. Prices of fuel and light increased the least, by just 0.7 per cent.

The Central Government has mandated the RBI to keep inflation in the range of 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side. The RBI is scheduled to announce its next bi-monthly monetary policy on February 6. In its December policy, the central bank, which had been reducing rates, had kept the repo rate unchanged citing inflationary concerns.

NPR is first step to NRC: Sonia; 5 parties skip meet

TMC, SP, BSP, allies DMK and Sena give Opp meeting a miss



Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Ghulam Nabi Azad, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D Raja, and others during an Opposition leaders meeting in New Delhi on Monday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At an Opposition meeting skipped by Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Trinamool Congress (TMC), and allies DMK and Shiv Sena, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday slammed the NDA Government's divisive policies and described the national population register (NPR) as the first step to a "nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC)."

Sonia, who criticised the "shockingly partisan and bru-

tal" crackdown by the police in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, also said though the CAA and the NRC were the immediate cause of the "nationwide spontaneous protests", these "reflect widespread frustration and pent up anger, which is now out in the open".

NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D Raja, JMM leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, LJD chief Sharad Yadav, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party leader Upendra Kushwaha, RJD leader Manoj Jha, National

Conference leader Hasnain Masoodi, besides Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ahmed Patel and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh were among those present at the meeting.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee kept away from the meeting, angry over the Congress and Left cadres unleashing violence in her State during a recent bandh call.

The DMK's absence, however, came as a surprise.

Sources said BSP's reason to keep away from the Opposition bandwagon was due to Congress' poaching her party's legislators in Rajasthan even though BSP had extended outside support to the Ashok Gehlot Government.

Continued on Page 4

Nationwide NRC not justified, says Nitish

PNS ■ PATNA

In a clear rebuff to his ally the BJP and signalling his change of heart over the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said he is open to discuss the Act in the State Assembly even as he emphasised that here is no justification for a country-wide NRC.

Speaking in the State Assembly, Kumar said the NRC was an Assam-specific regulation arising out of the Assam accord signed by the Rajiv Gandhi following agitation against influx of foreign nationals in the State.

"A country-wide implementation of NRC was needless and had no justification," he said, adding that even the Prime Minister has clarified there is no move to enforce the NRC across the country.

At the same time, he said he is open for debate in the State Assembly on the CAA. "There should be a debate on

CAA. If people want, then there will be a discussion in this House," the Chief Minister told the House.

In the past, Nitish had dropped one-liner to suggest the NRC would not be implemented in Bihar, but this time he made his position official by articulating it in the State Assembly. Nitish's rejection of the NRC and his willingness to debate the CAA in the Assembly is unlikely to please his ally.

With his number two in the party Prashant Kishor targeting the Modi Government on the CAA and NRC, Nitish's change of stance is indicative of his intention not to be seen as a piggy rider of the BJP's Hindutava agenda.

The Bihar CM further said his Government agreed in principle to National Population Register (NPR) as they did likewise when such an exercise was last conducted 10 years ago.

Continued on Page 4

Nadda to assume charge as BJP chief on Jan 20

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP working president JP Nadda is set to take charge as the party president on January 20, succeeding Amit Shah. Nadda was appointed BJP's working president in July last year, after Shah was picked as the Home Minister in the Modi Government.

In the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Nadda was made in charge of BJP's election campaign committee in Uttar Pradesh, where the party convincingly defeated the formidable alliance of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) by winning 62 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats.

Apart from handling crucial States for the BJP in the general elections, Nadda was a Cabinet Minister in the first tenure of the Modi Government and has been a member of the Parliamentary Board, the BJP's top decision making body.

Continued on Page 4

SC orders ED to attach JP Morgan's assets for conniving with Amrapali

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to attach Indian properties of JP Morgan, which engaged in a transaction with the now-defunct Amrapali Group to siphon off homebuyers' money in violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and FDI norms.

The ED said it had prima facie found violations of FEMA norms by the US-based firm and that a complaint in this regard was lodged.

The SC also allowed the ED to take into custody the defunct Amrapali Group's CMD, Anil Kumar Sharma, and two other directors, Shiv Priya and Ajay Kumar, who are behind bars on the SC's order, for interrogation in the money-laundering offences.

It said the Central agency could take them into custody immediately and once their interrogation was over, they



could be sent back to a prison here. According to the share subscription agreement between JP Morgan and Amrapali Group, the US-based firm had invested ₹85 crore on October 20, 2010, to have a preferential claim on profits in the ratio of 75 per cent to JP Morgan and 25 per cent to the promoters of Amrapali Homes Project Private Limited and Ultra Home.

Later, the same number of shares was bought back from JP Morgan for ₹140 crore by two companies — M/s Neelkanth and M/s Rudraksha — owned by a peon and an office boy of Amrapali's statutory auditor Anil Mittal.

A Bench of justices Arun Mishra and UU Lalit was told by ED Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh, who is supervising the probe, that the MNC remitted the money back to the US.

"They (JP Morgan) have a lot of properties in India. We want you to attach their office or corporate properties of a like amount. Then they will come running to us and we will see to it," the SC said.

Continued on Page 4

Addi DGP Alok Singh named 1st Noida Police Commissioner

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Monday said that senior IPS officer Alok Singh will be the first police commissioner of Noida. The Government also named Sujit Pandey as the first police commissioner of Lucknow.

While Alok Singh was Additional Director General of Police, Meerut, Sujit Pandey was ADG in Prayagraj. Soon after the UP Cabinet gave its approval for the commissionerate system of policing in two cities, an official spokesman said IGP attached to DGP (HQ) Naveen Arora and IG Provincial Armed Constabulary (HQ) Lucknow Nilabja Chaudhary will be the two joint police commissioners of Lucknow.

DIG PAC (HQ) Lucknow, Akhilesh Kumar, and DIG Jail Administration Sriparna Ganguli will be additional police commissioners of Noida.

Jamia imbroglia leaves parents in two minds

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With the normalcy yet to return on the Jamia Millia Islamia campus even after 30 days of anti-CAA, NRC protests that saw the police crackdown and triggered boycott of exams by some students, many parents are in two minds over the safety of their wards on the campus, particularly in the hostels of the university.

What added to students and parents' worry was the development on Monday in which Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar, buckling under the protesting students' pressure, announcing that the ongoing semester exams stand cancelled until further notice.

The development has left the students and several parents vexed as many studying in the final year of graduation and postgraduation courses strongly feel that the delay in holding exam will jeopardise their future. Several students expressed their worries to *The Pioneer*. Students said they want to study but they can't oppose stu-

dents who have been protesting peacefully against the CAA and police crackdown.

"We have right to express our points of view about the unprovoked police action inside the campus, during the protest. It had left many students injured and one of them had lost his left eye," said Hamid, a postgraduate student.

"My parents called me after the violence and first thing they said was to pack my bags and come home. I tried to convince them that I am fine but they said you are not secure as the campus lacks security," said Shazia, a girl student.

"Most of the students do not support the ongoing protest. CAA is not students' issue and if we want to raise voice against it, we can take out a march to Parliament and sit on dharna for seven days but not for 40 days," said Shubham Rai, a research scholar at Nelson Mandela Centre.

"Now exams were to start from January 9 but it has been postponed and the classes will start from February 3," said Rai.

Continued on Page 4



(Above) Jamia students protest against Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar, who (right) later assured the protesting students that the university will explore the possibility of moving court for an FIR against police crackdown on the campus

Cornered by students, VC mulls FIR against cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After Jamia Millia Islamia students gheraoed the VC office on Monday demanding the university to file an FIR against the Delhi Police for



December 15 crackdown, Jamia Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar said the varsity will explore the possibility of moving court for an FIR against police "brutality" on campus.

While addressing the irate students outside her office twice, the VC announced that the ongoing semester examinations will be cancelled till further notice. New schedule will be declared later, she said.

"A decision has also been taken that the administration will also explore the possibility of moving court for the registration of FIR in the December 15, 2019 police brutality in university library at the earliest. The university has already followed all possible steps for the registration of FIR. It has given its complaint to SHO Jamia Nagar and its copy to Commissioner of Police (CP) Amulya Patnaik and DCP South East. University has also written letters to Joint CP Southern Range and DCP Crime for the registration of FIR earlier," said an official.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has already begun the enquiry into the police action against the students, she said.

A team has already visited the university and another team is scheduled to come on Tuesday to record the statement of the victim students, said the university.

The university has already handed over all the evidence to the NHRC, an official said.

On December 15 last year, anti-CAA and NRC protest organised by locals and students had turned violent with the police entering the campus and beating up students and damaging university property, including the library.

A pitched battle was fought between locals and police with a few vehicles and buses also put ablaze by protesters.

The university accused the police of entering the campus and library without its permission. Also, police were accused of using tear gas on the students inside campus and the library. One student studying in the library attacked in the lathicharge lost vision in one of his eyes.

SIT quizzes Aishe, 2 for JNU violence

Masked girl identified

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday visited the Jawaharlal Nehru University and questioned three students, including JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh in connection with the January 5 violence on the campus.

According to police, Pankaj Mishra, Bhasker Vijay Mech and Ghosh were called for questioning after serving them notices. Police said Akshat Awasthi and Rohit Shah, who featured in a sting operation conducted by a TV news channel, have also been served notices to join the

investigation and were questioned on Monday by the SIT. Police have also identified the masked woman, seen in the purported videos of the violence shared on social media, as Komal Sharma, who was wearing a check shirt, light blue scarf and carrying a stick.

Sharma, who is a student of Daulat Ram College, has also been served a notice to join the probe, said a police official adding that her phone was found to be switched off since Saturday night.

The SIT, headed by Dr Joy Tirkey, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, is likely to seek information about who initiated the violence, which occurred in two separate incidents in the Periyar and Sabarmati hostel on 5 January. Police said that Ghosh had been caught on

camera as part of the group that attacked the Periyar hostel.

Additionally, the SIT has made three sets of questions regarding the incidents of vandalism on January 3 and 4.

Last Friday, police had released nine pictures of suspects which also included Mishra, Bhasker and Ghosh names, following the January 5 violence in which 35 students and teachers sustained injuries.

Those identified are Dolan Samanta, Priya Ranjan, Shcheta Talukdar, Aishe Ghosh, Bhaskar Vijay Mech, Chunchun Kumar (all alumni), and Pankaj Mishra from the Left. The remaining two are Vikas Patel and Yogendra Bharadwaj, both from the RSS-affiliated ABVP. However, no arrest or detention has been made so far.

ABVP: Left, NSUI hand-in-glove in Jan 5 campus clash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Monday accused the Left-leaning student organisations and Congress' student-wing NSUI of being hand-in-glove in the January 5 violence at the JNU campus, saying it was the fallout of their pre-planned conspiracy.

The ABVP also released eight videos in support of its claims and demanded a detailed investigation into the matter. "ABVP has submitted all the raw video evidences to the police and has demanded the fair and detailed inquiry of the chain of the incidents starting from 28th October. ABVP has categorically demanded strict punishments for all those who are found guilty in the act of violence," said ABVP



spokesperson, Ashutosh Singh. Nidhi Tripathi, National General Secretary, ABVP, said that the members of left organisations are torturing the students and the teachers who want to partake in academic activities in the JNU campus.

"They are asking for their social boycott through their Kangaroo courts, this clearly shows the ideological un-touchability being practiced by such organisations. Those involved in such activities are trying to destroy the academic ethos of JNU and have malign the institution's name," said Tripathi.

94 held for violent anti-CAA protests in last one month

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 94 people have been arrested by Delhi Police from across the city for indulging in violence during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the last one month.

These incidents of violence took place in Jamia Millia Islamia University, Seemapuri, Jama Masjid, Jawaharlal Nehru University during protests against the CAA, which was enacted on December 11.

Meanwhile, Amulya Patnaik, the Delhi Police Commissioner also met Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and is believed to have briefed him about the prevailing situation in the city, which continues to witness protests against the contentious legislation.

"So far, police have arrested 94 people for indulging in violence in different parts of



Delhi in the last one month during protests against the CAA, a Government official said.

According to the CAA, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

The protesters are claiming that the CAA is discriminatory as for the first time the Indian citizenship will be given on the basis of religion, depriving the Muslims from the benefits.

However, the government has been maintaining that the non-Muslim refugees have no other option but to come to India when they faced religious persecution in the Muslim-majority three neighbouring countries.

Students, teachers boycott classes over fee hike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The students and the teachers of the Jawaharlal Nehru University on Monday boycotted classes amid standoff with the administration over the fee hike issue. Meanwhile, the JNU Teachers' Association has also given a call for 'non-cooperation' in academic matters over a range of issues, including that of fee hike and the January 5 violence.

The classes were supposed to begin on Monday but could not start due to the collective boycott. According to Professor



Hari Ram Mishra of the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, some students attended classes

way in the next couple of days," he said.

Another professor requesting anonymity, said, "The timetables have not been prepared due to the ongoing situation. The teachers have been asked by the administration but the JNUTA has given a call for boycott."

Aishe Ghosh, President, JNUSU, said that they had given a call for 'Ensure Registration at Old Rates' and 'Not a Penny More' in which students were asked to pay their academic tuition fees but not the hiked hostel fees.

"On Monday, the Vice Chancellor first blocked the fee payment portal and then blocked the payment of tuition fees. It is clear that the Vice Chancellor was lying through the teeth when he said students want to register but are not being allowed to by protestors. The truth is that it is the administration which does not want students to register and is blocking their registration," Ghosh alleged.

Prashant Kumar, a PhD student at the JNU, said the masters and graduation students have decided to boycott classes.

Vacant posts in centre to help women victims of violence to be filled soon: Vij

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Soon the staff crunches in S Gurugram's One-stop centre (OSC), meant to help women victims of violence, will be resolved soon. Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij, who was in the city, told *The Pioneer* that the vacant posts in the OSC will soon be filled.

As of now, the centre is running without Paramedics, Legal assistance, Counsellors and other staff. "The matter has now come to my knowledge and the issue of staff crunch at the centres across Haryana will be resolved soon. The centres in the state will soon have a well-experienced staff to help distressed women," Vij said. The OSC comes under the women and child development (WCD)

department.

To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by any kind of violence, the Central Government had approved setting up of six more "One Stop Centres" in Haryana.

At present, a "One-Stop Center" is functional at the Civil Lines near Nehru Stadium in Gurugram. In the last four months, as many as 45 cases including domestic violence, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, missing, kidnapping & abduction have been received at the Gurugram centre.

"The women in distress can dial 181 which is a centre helpline number. Once a woman dials 181, a Durga shakti police patrolling vehicle from the closest location is despatched along with a field

worker and a woman police constable to escort the victim," said Pinki Malik, centre administrative officer. "We closely follow-up the cases so that the victims can get justice," she added.

The centre provides specialized services to aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, honour-related crimes, acid attacks or witch-hunting irrespective of their age, class, caste, educational status, marital status, race and culture.

Malik said that this helpline is exclusively designed to support women in distress facing violence or threat of violence both in private and public spaces including in the family, community and workplace.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

11 To 17 JAN. 2020

Other things Can wait. Life can't.

Don't overspeed or drive rash.

- ▶ Don't drive against the flow of traffic
- ▶ Red light jumping can cause serious accident
- ▶ Zig zag driving is dangerous for you and other road users

MAKE AN EARLY START TO AVOID STRESS OF REACHING LATE

Driving at a speed exceeding the specified limit...
Fine of ₹1000/- to ₹2000/- for LMV, ₹2000/- to ₹4000/- for medium and other category of vehicles + Disqualification for 3 months.

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL

Download App from

24 HRS. TRAFFIC HELPLINE

011-25844444/1095

Follow us on :

<https://www.facebook.com/dtptraffic>

<https://twitter.com/dtptraffic>

e-mail to CP, Delhi at :

cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in

Write to : CP, Delhi at

P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

KINGPIN OF INTER-STATE DRUG CARTEL HELD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday arrested a 27-year-old kingpin of the inter-State drug cartel for allegedly supplying narcotics substance in Delhi and its peripherals. Police have also recovered 10.5 kilogram (kg) of heroin and trailer truck used in commission of crime, from the possession of the duo.

The accused has been identified as Saidul Seikh, a resident of Malda district in West Bengal. Police said that a reward of ₹1 lakh was also declared on information leading to Seikh's arrest.

According to Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Special Cell, last in September, a police team has arrested Bajlur Rehman (28) and Mohammad Abu Bakkar Siddique (24), both residents of Malda, with 10.5 kg of heroin being transported in a trailer truck.

"Accordingly, a case under section 21/29/61/85 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) at Special Cell police station and during interrogation, Bajlur Rehman and Abu Bakar confirmed that the consignment of heroin was delivered to them by Saidul Seikh at Guwahati (Assam) and the same was to be delivered in Delhi," said the DCP.

"A police team was

camped in Malda and Guwahati for making all possible efforts to apprehend the kingpin Saidul Seikh and to further establish the identity of his source of supply at Manipur, but he absconded from the town and could not be apprehended," said the DCP.

"On January 9, after receiving specific inputs, Seikh was apprehended by police team from Mujazzafarpur in Bihar," said the DCP adding that Seikh is being brought to Delhi on transit remand for sustained interrogation to reveal the complete narcotic syndicate and to identify his other associates who are still at large.

the maximum and minimum temperatures will hover around 18 and 9 degrees Celsius respectively.

Weather experts said another spell of rains is likely in Delhi on January 16 and 17 due to a fresh Western Disturbance. Intense spells of rains are likely on January 16, they said. In the next four to five days, the maximum temperature may drop to 15 degrees degrees Celsius.

Air quality dips to 'very poor' category

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With overall Air quality Index (AQI) 347, Delhi's air quality was recorded under 'very poor category' on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) on Monday.

According to SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research), values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) were recorded many folds higher than their prescribed standards.

SAFAR's pollution index marked Particulate Matter (PM) 10 at 306 µgm-3 and PM 2.5 - 181 µgm-3.

"The overall Delhi AQI is in the higher range of very poor category on 1 December 13th morning, under the influence of current western disturbance (WD) increased wind speed," SAFAR said.

"An improvement in AQI is likely by tonight. SAFAR model suggests on January 14th, AQI likely to further improve to the poor category and on 15th January a marginal deterioration in AQI and likely to stay in upper end of the poor to lower end of the very poor category,"



it said further. "A fresh WD in quick succession is likely to influence the region by 16th and AQI is likely to stay in better condition."

As per the extended range for air quality forecast, Vinobapuri, Jahangirpuri and Adarsh Nagar are the places where air quality will remain severe.

Meanwhile, Delhi witnessed scattered rains and a drop in the maximum temper-

ature on Monday, the weather department said. The city recorded a low of 8 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, and a maximum of 19.9 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of year, the India Meteorological Department said.

The maximum temperature dropped by 3.5 degrees Celsius as against that recorded on Sunday.

It is expected to be a partly cloudy day on Tuesday and

the maximum and minimum temperatures will hover around 18 and 9 degrees Celsius respectively.

Weather experts said another spell of rains is likely in Delhi on January 16 and 17 due to a fresh Western Disturbance. Intense spells of rains are likely on January 16, they said. In the next four to five days, the maximum temperature may drop to 15 degrees degrees Celsius.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

SHAHEEN BAGH ROAD CLOSURE

HC to hear stretch opening PIL today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday agreed to hear on Tuesday a PIL seeking to open Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch which has been closed since December 15, due to ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

The plea was mentioned before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar which listed it for hearing on Tuesday.

The road closure is causing huge inconvenience/ hardship to lakhs of commuters everyday and they are compelled to take different routes for last one month, it said.

The petition, filed by advocate and social activist Amit Sahni, sought direction to the Delhi Police Commissioner to withdraw the closure of Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh Stretch and Okhla underpass, which were closed on December 15, 2019 for ongoing protests against CAA and National Register of Citizen (NRC). It was a temporary measure but



has been extended from time to time.

The Kalindi Kunj stretch is quite crucial as it connects Delhi, Faridabad (Haryana) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and commuters who use these roads are forced to take alternative routes Delhi-Noida-Delhi (DND) Expressway and Ashram, which is causing hours of traffic jams and wastage of time and fuel, it said.

The plea said children, who take that route, are compelled to leave home two hours prior to school timing.

It claimed that the authorities have failed to take appropriate action to give relief to the residents of the locality and lakhs of commuters of Delhi, UP and Haryana.

Sahni said he has given representation to the authorities on January 3 but no action has

been taken till date.

Besides Delhi Police, the plea has made the Centre and the Delhi government as parties, seeking from them requisite assistance to the police in addressing the issue.

Due to the heavy traffic on alternative routes, it takes 15-20 minutes for people to cross just one traffic signal at Ashram, it said.

Citing several news reports,

it said that on an average, Ashram Chowk is used by around 30,000 vehicles every day. With the Kalindi Kunj road closure, an additional 1 lakh vehicles are flowing through the intersection.

The high court, on January 10, had refused to entertain another plea seeking directions for removal of demonstrators protesting the CAA at Shaheen Bagh here in order to clear road blockages that are causing traffic congestions at the DND route.

In December, 2019, a plea was filed in the high court by advocate Bajrang Vats seeking to remove physically challenged protesters from the periphery of Mandi House and direction to open roads affected by their demonstrations for general traffic.

The court had directed that the petition be treated as representation by the authorities and to be decided in accordance with law, keeping in mind the permissions given by the police to the protesters, effect on the traffic and inconvenience caused to the public at large.

DDA refutes Singh's scam allegation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh alleged that Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which is under Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri, has been involved in scam in EWS housing scheme, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Monday refuted the claims and said 772 flats were constructed by DLF and allotted to owners which means they found the prices of these flats very reasonable.

The DDA in a statement said "The DDA meeting in this regard was also attended by representatives of Delhi Government on December 21, 2017. They had no problem with the costing and it was not raised by them so far. Raising the issue at this time is not clear."

"The people had to pay the registry charges twice first to DLF and then to DDA. DDA sent a letter to Delhi Government on February 9,



2018 and subsequently on May 25, 2018 requesting it to waive off one side of this registration fee. However no call was taken by the Government on this matter," it said.

However, Sanjay Singh said that the way the BJP leader, Union Minister Hardeep Puri and DDA officials reacted after his expose, it makes it clear that they all were involved with this scam. He said that this is a huge scam and officials of the DDA and ministers are also involved in this scam.

Addressing the media, Singh said, "The Minister said that he has no information about the 772 EWS-category flats dismissing the allegations as baseless. But, I will prove that

the allegation is true and I am also shocked to see that Puri, a respectable minister is speaking lies on this matter. "There is a legal notice that the allottees of EWS category have sent to a number of authority including Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Office of the PMO, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Hardeep Puri."

Earlier on Sunday, Singh claimed flats should have been made available for Rs 6.90 lakh and Rs 11 lakh in easy installments. "(But) after years of struggling, those beneficiaries are told to arrange Rs 19 lakh and Rs 24 lakh, which means three times more than they claimed and promised." "My question is when you (DDA) put out advertisements of the scheme and claimed the flats are ready, then why should anyone pay Rs 19 lakh, 20 lakh and 15 lakh," he asked. "My other question is why did beneficiaries not get their flats for Rs 6.9 lakh? What scam did you do," Singh had asked.

BJP, AAP protecting black marketeers: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Holding the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government at the Centre and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi responsible for the rise in the prices of all essential commodities, Delhi Congress on Monday alleged that both the parties are protecting black-marketeers and hoarders.

Addressing the media, Congress Chief Spokesperson Mukesh Sharma said that the Kejriwal Government has failed to control prices of essential commodities including pulses and vegetables in the last five years. He said that despite the

prices of onions soaring to ₹250 per kg, neither any raid was conducted on hoarders and black marketers nor any action was taken against these people.

"In last five years, the prices of pulses have doubled, cooking oil, bread, onions, potatoes and green vegetables have also seen incessant price rise, but the Kejriwal and Modi Governments were keeping quiet," he said.

Sharma said that cooking gas prices have gone up by ₹337 per cylinder in the last five, while the prices of IGL piped gas prices have also gone up by ₹67 which has broken the backbone of middle class people.

BJP mulls to pit AAP rebel Kumar against Kejriwal

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The central leadership of BJP wants to field eminent poet and former member of Aap Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Political Affairs Committee (PAC) Kumar Vishwas against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from the high profile New Delhi Assembly seat. Sources said Kumar's candidature was discussed during the meeting chaired by the BJP national president Amit Shah on Monday.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, party sources confirmed that Kumar is the most suitable candidate against Kejriwal. When asked why Vishwas, a BJP leader explained that the party needs a popular face to contest Assembly elections



and party wants to corner Kejriwal in his own den.

Shah, along with Union Ministers Prakash Javadekar, Nityanand Rai, and senior party leader Shaym Jaju and Tarun Chugh, met and short-

listed 200 names for MLAs. The party has zeroed on 40 names who may be given the party ticket. BJP is actively considering giving ticket to municipal councillors, said a BJP leader privy to candidate

selection process.

BJP leadership is also holding parleys with Siromani Akali Dal (SAD) about seat sharing. The SAD was given four seats in both 2013 and 2015 assembly polls. The party had won three seats in 2013 and lost all four in 2015. This time party may be given Rajouri Garden, currently held by SAD leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa. The other three seats could be Kalkaji, Shahdara and Hari Nagar, they said.

The party is also likely to repeat its three MLAs in the outgoing Assembly, Vijender Gupta from Rohini, OP Sharma from Vishwas Nagar and Jagdish Pradhan from Mustafabad. Ashish Sood from Jankapuri and former Delhi BJP President Satish Upadhyay

are set to contest from Malviya Nagar seat as their names have been finalised, they added.

The nomination process for 70 seats in Delhi Assembly elections will begin on Tuesday. The last date for filing nomination papers is January 21 and voting will be held on February 8. Meanwhile hitting out at ruling regime AAP, Member of Parliament (MP) from New Delhi constituency accused Kejriwal government for playing with the health of Delhi people by supplying polluted water.

Meanwhile BJP MP from New Delhi Meenkashi Lekhi said attacked Arvind Kejriwal and said that AAP has become 'Akela' Aam Party from Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP). Citing the example of AAP former leaders - Admiral Ram Das, Yogender Yadav, Prashant Bhushan, Aashutosh, Ashish Khetan, Dr. Kumar Vishwas, Prof. Anand Kumar, Smt. Kiran Bedi, Anjali Damania, Shazia Ilmi, Devender Schrawat, Kapil Mishra, Anil Bajpai, Ashok Kumar, S.S. Dhir, Gugan Singh, Ved Prakash, Ashwini Upadhyay, Lekhi said that AAP played the politics of falsehood and played with the sentiments of people.

Lekhi said that they had an important role in founding the party but soon after Kejriwal took over as the Chief Minister, many of the leaders were either left or were expelled from the party.

MCC VIOLATION

21 FIRs filed, 3.76L poll hoardings, banners removed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have filed 21 FIRs and 3.76 lakh hoardings, banners and posters have been removed from across the city, following the imposition of the model code of conduct (MCC) for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections scheduled in February 8th. The results will be declared on February 11.

"Out of the total 3,76,436 illegal hoardings, banners and posters that were removed, 1,387 were removed from New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) area, 32,035 from East Delhi Municipal Corporation, 8,321 from Delhi Cantonment Board, 148864 from South Delhi Municipal Corporation, and 1,85,829 from North Delhi Municipal Corporation", officials at Delhi CEO said.

The Chief Electoral office (CEO), Delhi has received two complaints each from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Preamsagar Pal, advocate from



AAP has filed a complaint against the BJP saying the party has made false allegations on Twitter to malign the name of Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia.

While, the BJP has filed a complaint claiming that the AAP has violated the MCC by depicting underage minors and children in the election campaign and social media sites. Further, a total of 25

Narcotics/Drugs are seized respectively. As on date (12.01.2020), four cases are recorded against the violation in other cases (misuse of vehicles, violation of loudspeakers, illegal meetings and gratification of electors, etc).

Besides, the Excise Department has seized 47 bottles, 312 Half, 16,534 quarters of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and 324 bottles, 146 Half, 57,588 quarters of Country liquor and 57 bottles till date and a total number of 220 FIRs have been registered in Excise Act and 229 persons are arrested in Excise Act.

"About 97 numbers of unlicensed arms, weapons seized and 154 numbers of cartridges, explosives, bombs seized. Whereas, 2,152 licensed arms deposited, 1,091 persons have been booked under various sections of CRPC and 24,687 persons booked under the Delhi Police Act, as preventive action measures and cash of ₹4,22,000/- has been seized," said the data shared by the office of CEO, Ranbir Singh.

Till now, Delhi Police has filed 84 FIRs have been registered under Arms Act, in which 91 persons are arrested and 109.30 Kg.

entries have been lodged (21 FIRs/4 Daily Data (DD entry), out of which, 23 were under the head of others/non-political, one under the head of independents/other political parties and one against Congress party.

While, the BJP has filed a complaint claiming that the AAP has violated the MCC by depicting underage minors and children in the election campaign and social media sites. Further, a total of 25

Defamation case: EC seeks reply from AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Election Commission on Monday took cognisance of the complaint made by the Delhi Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and issued a notice to the Aam Aadmi Party demanding an answer.

The Delhi BJP has alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) their theme song for the upcoming assembly elections has used clippings of films and songs of Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari without his permission.

Hitting hard on Delhi Chief Minister and National Convenor of AAP, Arvind Kejriwal, Tiwari said that it has been proved that Kejriwal has panicked about the due to the possible adverse results of the Assembly elections and can go to any extent to tarnish my image.

Tiwari said that the AAP has given evidence of its low grade politics. "The leaders

and workers of the AAP are completely disappointed and frustrated because they are not getting the support of the people of Delhi and in such a situation, the AAP is adopting low-level tactics to attract the attention of the people," said Tiwari.

"This video of AAP is also against the rules of Model Code of Conduct, so the State BJP Law and Legislative Department complained to the Election Commission," Tiwari said. He alleged that the way the AAP is using children for its election campaign, it is clear that AAP and its workers are insensitive and playing with the heart of children to get applaud.

Referring to Shaheen Bagh protesters, Tiwari said that Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is for giving citizenship to the refugees and not for depriving any Indian from the citizenship.

"Due to ongoing protest in Shahin Bagh, the traffic on the

road connecting Noida and Delhi has stopped and commuters have to suffer", Tiwari said.

"All the persons have the right to express their views, demonstrate peacefully but it is not right to harass the people in the name of demonstration," The Opposition parties are trying to disturb peace and harmony in the party by instigating the people to stage demonstration against the Government," he added.

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Ramliila Maidan on CAA, the BJP leader said that PM Modi has clarified that CAA is only to give citizenship to people who have been persecuted on religious grounds in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. "Those people who came to India before December 31, 2014 and living as refugees will be given citizenship by the Government of India."

18 FLIGHTS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER



New Delhi: Eighteen flights departing from the Delhi airport were cancelled on Monday due to inclement weather at other destinations, a senior airport official said.

"Data regarding delays in departures from Delhi airport is being collated," the Delhi airport official said.

"Eighteen departures from Delhi airport were cancelled due to bad weather at the destinations," the official added. PTI

2 more Cong leaders join AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader and former MLC from Badarpur Ram Singh Netaji and Vinay Kumar Mishra, son of senior Congress leader and former Member of Parliament (MP) Mahabul Mishra, joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Kejriwal said "There used to be only two major political parties in Delhi, the BJP and the Congress. People were fed up with the politics of both these parties because they did not deliver on promises made and having no other choice, voted them alternatively.

But then five years ago, the people of Delhi initiated a new phase of self determination in politics and set an example for



the rest of India when a fledgling party, comprising common people, offered hope and managed to win 67 out of the 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly, almost reducing existing political powers, to a naught, Kejriwal said. He said leap of faith has turned out to be the best decision that Delhi ever made.

"Whether it is a supporter of the BJP, the Congress or any other party, AAP has gained a place for itself in every heart because of its sincerity and good

intention. AAP has managed to touch and transform their lives with the work it has done and this time they will vote for AAP, irrespective of personal party affiliation," he said.

The Chief Minister said "I am happy that all these leaders are joining us to work together to create a better future for Delhi. I am sure that the day is not far when all two Crore people of Delhi will join AAP".

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "Many

prominent political leaders are joining AAP because they have witnessed the commitment, integrity and innovation of Kejriwal and his team and their focus on delivering a more dignified life to the citizens of Delhi," he said.

"The AAP has done spectacular work and transformed the manner in which education; healthcare, water, transport; electricity and sanitation are delivered to taxpayers in the city. These leaders will strengthen the party and will help to spread the good work of the AAP," he said.

Netaji said he was impressed by the work done by the AAP government and "that is the reason I decided to leave Congress". "I want to be a part of a system that delivers true and tangible welfare for the people of Delhi that is the reason I joined the

party," he said. He won from the Badarpur Assembly constituency twice -- once as a BSP candidate and second time as an Independent.

Mishra, who unsuccessfully contested from the Palam Assembly seat said, "I have seen people from UP, Bihar and other states struggling to get medical treatment, education and other facilities in Delhi but situation got improved after AAP came to power," he added.

Councillor and social worker Jai Bhagwan Upkar ji from Rohini ward of Bawana Assembly and Naveen Dipu Chaudhary, a social activist working in the Gandhinagar area who has been associated with the Congress for a long time, too joined the AAP.

Election to the 70-member Delhi Assembly will be held on February 8.

BJP will levy token charge of ₹1 for water, power supply if voted to power: BJP MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Putting up a new challenge before the ruling AAP on supply of subsidised water and electricity, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Parvesh Verma on Monday said his party will levy a token charge of ₹1 for water and power supply to the poor people in the city if it wins the upcoming Assembly polls.

Verma, the West Delhi MP said the token charge will be to honour the self respect of the residents of the national capital.

Verma said he has given this suggestion to the party's manifesto committee and it could be one of the poll promises of the BJP for the assembly elections slated to be held on February 8.

"People feel they have given



back to the Government if some token charge is taken. When our Government will come, we will not go for zero (bill), we will take a token charge of ₹1 so that self-respect of the people is maintained," he said in reply to a question.

Verma also accused the Delhi government of "betraying" the residents of the national capital on its promise of infrastructure development. He cited 70 promises of the

Aam Aadmi Party before coming to power in 2015, saying the party allegedly failed to fulfill its promises of coming up with a power plant, constructing 500 schools and 20 colleges, building primary health centres and water augmentation measures, among others.

The BJP MP accused the Kejriwal government of spending more money on advertisements than the development projects undertaken by it.

J&K DSP may be stripped of Prez Gallantry Medal

Srinagar: The nexus between a decorated Jammu & Kashmir Police officer and the terrorists is likely to ruffle many a feather as the past of the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Devinder Singh is going to haunt the intelligence agencies for long.

Following his arrest on Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has apprised the Ministry of Home Affairs about the arrest, and the Home Secretary has been briefed on the Kulgam encounter.

Singh, who had joined the counter-insurgency Special Operations Group (SoG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police as a sub-inspector and he rose quickly to the rank of a DSP in addition to earning the prestigious police medal for gallantry ostensibly for his anti-militancy duties, will now be interrogated by Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing and Military Intelligence teams.

There are chances that Singh will be stripped off his Presidents Gallantry Medal award, sources said, adding that the process was under consideration.

Singh's name first appeared in the grey zone after Parliament attack convict, Afzal Guru levelled serious allegation against him during his defence in the trial court. But back then both the state police and the intelligence agencies had dismissed those allegations as a figment of a terrorist's mind.

Guru had alleged in his defence that Singh tortured him and threatened to kill his family unless he carried out his directions.

Guru alleged in a written affidavit and through statements carried in the local media that Singh had forced him to carry

the Parliament attack terrorists to Delhi, hire a flat there and also buy a second hand white ambassador car for the use of the terrorists.

It was this white ambassador car that the terrorists used during the Parliament attack in 2001.

After his disgraceful arrest on Saturday, while he was carrying a dreaded terrorist Naveed Baba of Kashmir's Shopian district to Jammu in his private car, Singh has told interrogators that he had harboured the terrorist in his Srinagar residence before the travel.

Naveed Baba was wanted by the police for the murder of 11 civilians, who included non local labourers, truck drivers and fruit merchants, after the abrogation of Article 370.

Police told IANS that Devinder Singh had been harbouring terrorists in his home in Jammu and also in his ancestral home in Tral town of Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The operation is being seen as a huge success for J&K Police, DGP Dilbagh Singh, IGP Vijay Kumar and DIG Atul Kumar Goel. "For the heinous crime of carrying the terrorist to Jammu, he had taken Rs 12 lakh from the terrorist. He has been booked as a terrorist and he will be dealt as such," Vijay Kumar, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir zone told reporters on Sunday.

Davinder Singh was taking the two militants — Naveed Babu alias Babar Azam, a resident of Nazneenpora in South Kashmir's Shopian district and his associate Asif Ahmad — to Chandigarh for providing them accommodation there for a couple of months.

Sources said that a civilian Irfan Ahmad Mir was driving the vehicle when they were

caught by the police at Al-Stop on National Highway in Kulgam district yesterday.

"Mir has travelled to Pakistan five times on passport and police is now investigating whether Singh and Mir were helping the two militants in ex-filtration or planning an attack somewhere in mainland," sources said.

They said that besides recovery of one AK-47 rifle, two pistols and two grenades from Singh's residence, lakhs of rupees were also recovered.

They said that militants had struck a deal of Rs 12 lakh with Singh for transportation, providing them accommodation and other related issues.

Sources further said that Singh was providing hideout to militants in Jammu during winters for last several years for which he was getting handsome amount of money.

They said that police was tracking DSP Davinder Singh when he reached Shopian few days back to pick up Naveed and Asif. "The trio including Mir stayed at Singh's house in Srinagar for the night and police had laid nakas at Airport and NH-44," sources said.

Given the high security sensitive nature of Devinder Singh's activities in mind, the National Investigative Agency (NIA) has decided that after being interrogated by the state police and the intelligence agencies, it will take custody of both Singh and Naveed to find out their links with the terror funding cases being investigated by it.

For how long has Devinder Singh been hunting with the hound and running with the deer? This is going to be the most embarrassing question for his seniors in the Jammu & Kashmir Police. IANS

Sinha: Gandhi would have opposed Modi's communal decisions

Vadodara: The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise are aimed at "dividing" the country on communal lines, former Union minister Yashwant Sinha said on Monday.

He claimed Mahatma Gandhi, if he were alive today, would have led an agitation against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking "communal" decisions.

Sinha, who was in the city as part of his Gandhi Shanti Yatra, demanded scrapping of the CAA, which aims to give Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

"Several state governments want the CAA repealed and the NRC exercise dropped. The CAA should be repealed as it is aimed at dividing the country on communal lines. We do not want another division of the country," he said.

"We remained silent despite the Modi government destroying the cabinet system, ordering demonetisation, introducing

GST hurriedly.

"But after the CAA and NRC, there is need for the youth to raise their anger on issues that will weaken the country," the former BJP leader claimed.

"If Mahatma Gandhi were alive today, he would have led an agitation against Modi because the government is taking decision on communal lines," he said.

"Members of the Muslim community are proud of holding the tricolour in their hands. And it was Babasaheb Ambedkar who drafted the Constitution and made India a secular country.

"We will not allow the hidden agenda of Modi behind the CAA and NRC to succeed," the bureaucrat-turned-politician assured. Speaking on other issues, Sinha questioned Modi for not inviting Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a pre-budget meeting.

Former Lok Sabha MP and Congress leader Shatrughan Sinha and ex-Gujarat chief minister Suresh Mehta were present on the occasion. PTI

A Hindu cannot be a Jinnah, says Himanta

Guwahati: Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday speaking for the Citizenship Amendment Act and granting of the status to Hindus from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan told the Assembly that a person from the community "cannot be a Jinnah as he never attacks anyone" and are secular.

He also supported granting of citizenship to Hindu Bengalis, which is being vehemently protested against by various outfits.

Speaking in support of granting citizenship to Hindus, Sarma, who is also the chief of NEDA, BJP's version of the NDA in the north east, said "A Hindu cannot be a Jinnah. Not a single Hindu king has destroyed a mosque or a temple. A Hindu is always secular and does not attack anyone. Hindus are secular".

Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had on January 6 called Prime Minister Narendra Modi India's "Hindu Jinnah" and accused him of following the "two-nation theory" of the Pakistan founder to divide the nation on the basis of religion. PTI

Punjab to deploy sewer-cleaning robots in Muktsar

Chandigarh: The Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Department will begin using robotic scavengers for cleaning sewers.

Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Razia Sultana on Monday said the project will be started from Muktsar on the festival of Maghi, which falls on Tuesday. The minister said in the first phase, a hi-tech machine, 'Bandicoot', designed by Kerala's Genrobotics will start human-free sewerage cleaning in Sri Muktsar Sahib. "It will save employees from dangers of grave problems caused by manual cleaning of sewerage and exposure to toxic gases," she said in a release. "This advance practice will also guard those involved in the manual cleaning of sewerage against fatal infections," she said, adding that Punjab had become the seventh State in the country to introduce the technique. PTI

INSHORT

KHARIF CROPS PRODUCTION LIKELY TO DECLINE
New Delhi: The production of coarse grains, pulses, oil seeds and sugarcane is expected to decline in the summer season of 2019-20 due to late monsoon and erratic and heavy rain later. According to the National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC), there can be an expected decline of 14.14 per cent, 14.09 per cent, 53.31 per cent and 11.07 per cent over the last estimate.

CONG MLA SLAMS AAP, BJP OVER GOVT FAILURE
New Delhi: Senior Delhi Congress leader and four-time MLA from Sultanpuri Majra, Jai Kishan on Monday criticised the BJP and the AAP Government for failing to fulfil their promises to the people of Delhi. Addressing a public meeting at Sultanpuri area, the Congress leader said that Modi government's divisive politics has harmed the economics of the country.

Delhi hospital uses novel technique to clear blockage in 67-year-old man's artery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Patients suffering from an advanced form of coronary artery disease (CAD) having angina or heart attack in which the blockage becomes very hard due to deposit of calcium need not lose hope. They can now bank upon Shockwave Coronary Lithotripsy, a major advancement over the previous techniques used for such hard blockages like ultra-high pressure balloons or rotatory drills which are difficult to use and carry risk of rupturing the artery.

City-based Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) on Sunday claimed that their team of doctors has performed India's First Coronary Shockwave Lithotripsy wherein they opened up a severely blocked artery in a 67-year-old patient who recently had a heart attack. "The patient had 90 per cent blocked artery which could not

be opened by the standard technique balloon angioplasty at extremely high pressures with balloon bursting and it became impossible to open the blockage. "Then the novel shockwave balloon was inserted inside the heart artery and sonic pulses delivered to break the calcium in the blockage. After that the blockage opened easily at even low pressures with subsequent stent implantation and a successful procedure," said Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman of the Fortis Escorts Heart Institute (FEHI) who had led the operation.

The treating doctors said that calcified heart arteries are becoming commoner.

The Shockwave Coronary Lithotripsy is now seen as a hope for those suffering from an advanced form of coronary artery disease (CAD) having angina or heart attack in which the blockage becomes very hard due to deposit of calcium.



Kashmiri women shout slogans during the funeral of terrorist Umar Fayaz in Tral on Monday AP

Nationwide NRC not justified, says Nitish

From Page 1

But he came with a rider that the census should be caste-based and also expressed his willingness to have a discussion in the House with regard to "extra details" being sought as part of the NPR.

He made the remarks while thanking the House for its unanimous support to the Constitution amendment for extending quotas for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies by another 10 years at a special day-long session convened for the purpose. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi was seated next to him when Kumar was speaking.

The Chief Minister said at present he is preoccupied with the Jal Jeevan Hariyali drive on environmental conservation and all aspects relating to the issues could be discussed in the next session of the house and its sentiments conveyed to the Centre.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, in his brief but impassioned statement, had remarked "the nation is on fire" on the issues of CAA, NRC and NPR and sought to know whether the Chief Minister "stands with Lalan Singh or Pavan Varma and Prashant Kishor".

Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh is the leader in Lok Sabha of the JD (U) headed by Kumar. The party had voted in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in both

houses of Parliament, to which Varma, a national general secretary, and Kishor the national vice president had taken strong exception.

In his address, Kumar said, "This session has been convened for a specific purpose. However, there is a lot of turmoil over CAA, NRC and NPR. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that there should be a discussion on this.

"But at present my mind is focused on the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign as part of which we are organizing a state-wide human chain next Sunday (January 19). If desired, we can discuss all these issues in future," he said.

"But I must say something about NRC. How does the question of NRC arise? It arose in the context of Assam, as a consequence of the accord signed by the Rajiv Gandhi following the Assam agitation (on the foreign national issue). We have no inkling that such an exercise would be conducted across the country.

"It would be needless (koi zarurat hai nahin) and have no justification (koi auchtia nahin). And I think the Prime Minister too has spoken clearly on this," he said.

The Bihar Chief Minister had earlier also asserted that NRC will not be implemented in the State. "Kaahe ka NRC? Bilkul laagu nahin hoga" (NRC, what for Will not at all be implemented), Kumar had said

on December 20 last. Kumar is the first CM from the NDA camp to have said no to any attempt to undertake an all India NRC exercise.

Kumar also responded to apprehensions expressed about details like parents places of birth and documents pertaining to the same being sought in the NPR forms which have triggered fears that NRC may follow the exercise.

"Our Government has agreed in principle to NPR since we did likewise when such an exercise was last conducted 10 years ago. At present it is in the preliminary stage and census proper will start only after three to four months. All issues relating to it, like extra details (anya cheezein) being sought in NPR can be discussed when the House meets again.

"On one thing, however, I am certain that the census should once be caste-based. At present census collects details of people following different religions and of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and it should be extended to all other castes," the CM said.

He said this referring to his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi and the leader of opposition Tejashwi Yadav having spoken in favour of a caste-based census in their respective speeches. "I am ready to have this matter discussed on the floor of the house from where a representation can also be sent to the Centre," he added.

NPR is first step to NRC: Sonia; 5 parties skip meet

From Page 1

Shiv Sena, the Congress' new alliance partner in Maharashtra and AAP also stayed away from the meeting. AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said his party was not invited. There was no word, however, on Shiv Sena's absence. The party had supported CAA in the Lok Sabha but abstained in the Rajya Sabha but lately hurled allegations at NDA over the same Bill.

Sonia accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of misleading people on the amended Citizenship Act and the NRC, and claimed that their Government stands totally exposed for its inability to govern and provide security to people.

"The Prime Minister and the Home Minister have misled people. They have contradicted their own statements of only weeks ago, and continue with their provocative statements while remaining insensitive to the State suppression and violence that is increasingly becoming commonplace," she said.

Asserting that there was "unprecedented turmoil" in the country, the Congress chief said the Government has let loose a reign of oppression,

spreading hatred and trying to divide people along sectarian lines.

"The nation has watched in horror at the BJP-orchestrated assault on JNU coming so soon after what happened in Jamia (Millia Islamia), BHU (Banaras Hindu University), Allahabad University and AMU (Aligarh Muslim University) and other institutions of higher learning in other parts of the country," she said, addressing a meeting of the Opposition attended by leaders of 20 parties.

She urged the Opposition parties to work together and thwart the designs of the Government. "The immediate cause is the CAA and NRC, but they reflect widespread frustration and pent up anger, which is now out in the open. The response of the police in UP and Delhi has been shockingly partisan and brutal," the Congress chief said.

The real issue facing India today is the collapse of economic activity and slowing growth and development, affecting all sections of society, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, the Congress president said.

"The CAA, NPR and NRC are a package that is unconstitutional, which specifically targets the poor, the downtrod-

den, the SC/STs and the linguistic and religious minorities," the resolution adopted by the parties said. "The NPR is the basis for the NRC. We demand the withdrawal of the CAA and the immediate stoppage of the nationwide NRC/NPR," it added.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister should have the courage to speak to the students in universities on why the economy of the country had become a disaster. "Modi was doing the biggest disservice to the nation by dividing it and distracting the attention of people, he told reporters after a meeting of the Opposition that was attended by the leaders of 20 parties," he said.

"Modi should stand up and have the courage to speak to the youngsters of these universities on why the economy has become a disaster and why why unemployment in India is at its highest in 50 years. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister does not have the guts to do this," Rahul said.

"I challenge the Prime Minister to go to any of the universities, stand over there without his police, without his infrastructure and tell the people what is he going to do with this country," the Congress leader said.

Jamia imbroglio...

From Page 1

"We do hope that it is delayed further as that would harm the prospects of students who are in their final year. Will they not face difficulty while applying for another course since result may also come late," said Rai who visibly looked morose.

"Just after the violence, most of the students left Jamia hostels as their parents got worried about the safety of their wards. Even parents who had sent their ward to study in this premier institute to make their future bright now rue that it was better if they had got their child admitted to a private university for education," said Manoj Kataria, the Treasurer of the Parents Association in city.

Though, Jamia administration has postponed its examinations but the students have started to come.

Meanwhile, a section of students sitting on protest said that they will continue their protest till appropriate action is taken against the police inaction and till the CAA is revoked. "We are demanding independent

enquiry that why did police entered our campus without any permission. Even the VC had said that no permission was given to police to enter the campus," said a protesting student. Saeed Fahad, a student, said FIRs have been registered against those who were demanding their rights during protest. The real accused are still at large, he said referring to the police crackdown. It may be recalled, on December 15, violent scenes were witnessed in and around JMI during a protest march organised by students against the CAA. The protest took a violent turn and many buses were set on fire. Instances of stone pelting were also reported. The police resorted to firing teargas shells. Students have alleged that police barged into the university library and started beating them up.

Jamia Millia's Vice-Chancellor too has said the police entered the university campus without any permission. Police said that most protesters who took part in violence in and around Delhi's JMI on Sunday were people who were not students.

Nadda to assume...

From Page 1

Known as part of the core team of Modi, Nadda, who was a minister in his home State of Himachal Pradesh, made rapid rise since Modi took to the centre-stage of the party in 2014. His name for the party's top post,

replacing Shah, had cropped up earlier also but for certain organisational reasons, Shah continued to head the BJP.

Nadda had played an active role in the troubled Kashmir when then BJP president Murlu Manohar Joshi unfurled national flag at Lal Chowk on January 26, 1992.

MADHYA PRADESH POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LIMITED
Block No.3, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur, Jabalpur-482008
Phone:(0761) 270-2177, 2123, 2135, 2140, 2134 Fax: 0761-2665593

Online Tenders are invited against TR-56/2019 for Selection of System Integrator (SI) for Supply, Implementation & Support of Integrated Project Design & Management System (IPDMS). TR-60/2019 for Procurement of Unarmoured Copper Control Cable. For further details please visit our website. e-mail-mptrasco@nic.in

Chief Engineer (Procurement)

OFFICE OF NAGAR PARISHAD BIJAWAR, DISTT. CHHATARPUR (MP)
N.I.T. No. :N.P.B./e-tender/2019/1720 Dated: 28.12.2019

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (First Call)

This is for information of all concerned that online bids for the following works have been invited "Percentage Rate Basis"

S.No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	PAC (In Lakh)	EMD (In Rs.)	Bid Document cost (In Rs.)
1	2019_UAD_72006	Ward no. 13 Mahodatt talab beautification work	176.58	353156/-	12500/-
2	2019_UAD_72008	Construction of Stadium at Ward no. 01	187.01	334028/-	12500/-
3	2019_UAD_72011	Construction of new bus stand	180.17	360334/-	12500/-

1. Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT in the Tenders Section of the website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>

2. The Bid Document can be purchased and submitted only online from <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> last date 05:30 PM (time) 05.02.2020 (date).

3. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Chief Municipal Officer
Nagar Parishad Bijawar
Distt. Chhatarpur (M.P.)

SC orders ED to attach JP Morgan's assets for conniving...

From Page 1

Singh said the adjudication process against the firm had begun in accordance with law.

On December 2 last year, the ED had informed the top court that it had prima facie found evidence of violation of FEMA by the multi-national firm and recorded the statements of the country head of the company with regard to dealings with the Amrapali Group.

It had said though the investigation was underway, prima facie it appeared that there were also violations of the

provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and that appropriate actions were being taken.

The apex court had then directed the ED that the investigation should be carried out impartially, properly and expeditiously within a period of three months.

On July 23 last year, the Supreme Court had cracked its whip on errant builders for breaching the trust of home buyers, ordered cancellation of Amrapali Group's registration under real estate law RERA and ousted it from its prime

properties in the NCR by nixing the land leases.

It had ordered a probe by the ED into allegations of money laundering and to look into the charge of FEMA violation by JP Morgan. "The money of the home buyers has been diverted. The directors diverted the money by the creation of dummy companies, realising professional fees, creating bogus bills, selling flats at an undervalued price, payment of excessive brokerage etc. They obtained investment from JP Morgan in violation of FEMA and FDI norms," the

top court had said.

It had said the equity shares of the group were purchased at an exorbitant price to suit the requirements of JP Morgan and the Amrapali Zodiac Developers Pvt Ltd had diverted home buyers' funds.

"The shares were overvalued for making payments to JP Morgan. It was adopted as a device for siphoning off the money of the home buyers to foreign countries," the top court had said as it accepted the reports of forensic auditors.

It had also noted that the

shares of Amrapali Zodiac from JP Morgan were ultimately purchased for ₹140 crore by M/s Neelkanth and M/s Rudraksha, shell companies owned by a peon and an office boy respectively. "The transactions of Amrapali Zodiac Developers Pvt Ltd with JP Morgan were clearly in order to avoid the provisions of the Companies Act," it had said.

The Supreme Court had said it was apparent that M/s Rudraksha was created for money laundering as its two directors and shareholders had no income.

USE OF DRONES FOR SMUGGLING IN PUNJAB

More Army jawans, commoners under scanner

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More Army personnel and private persons have come under the scanner of the security agencies in connection with the case registered by the Punjab Police last week for use of drones for smuggling purposes in collusion with Pakistani accomplices.

On Friday, an Army soldier and two others were arrested by the Punjab Police for allegedly smuggling drugs and weapons from across the India-Pakistan border using GPS-fitted drones in collusion with their Pakistani accomplices, the Punjab Police had said.

The two seized drones were purchased from a Ghaziabad-based firm but were

delivered in Pune. The Punjab Police has arrested Indian Army Naik Rahul Chauhan.

"At least five other persons and a few Army personnel are under the radar of the security agencies and they may be arrested soon by the police," an Intelligence official said.

Besides the drones, the Punjab Police had on Friday seized 12 drone batteries, some custom-made drone containers, an INSAS rifle magazine, and two walkie-talkie sets, besides ₹6.22 lakh in cash from the arrested accused. The seized cash is suspected to be the proceeds from the sale of smuggled drugs. However, drugs was not seized from the possession of the arrested accused.

On Friday, an Army soldier and two others were arrested by the Punjab Police for allegedly smuggling drugs and weapons from across the India-Pakistan border using GPS-fitted drones in collusion with their Pakistani accomplices, the Punjab Police had said

- Besides the drones, the Punjab Police had on Friday seized 12 drone batteries, some custom-made drone containers, an INSAS rifle magazine, and two walkie-talkie sets, besides ₹6.22 lakh in cash from the arrested accused

- The Aviation Ministry on Monday announced a scheme providing a window up to January 31
- Those who fail to register will face action under the Indian Penal Code and the Aircraft Act
- Number of illegal drones in India is likely to be between 50,000 and 60,000
- The Civil Aviation Ministry's move comes amid emerging threats from rogue drones



"Now we have come across a module in which three people were arrested and where they were launching drones from India to across the border

(Pakistan) and they were to bring back drugs payloads," Director General of Punjab Police Dinkar Gupta had said.

The arrests and seizure

came months after a large number of drones, including with the capability to drop payloads, were sighted on Punjab's border on a daily basis

following abrogation of Article 370 and reorganization of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories on August 5.

Meanwhile, the Aviation Ministry on Monday announced a scheme providing a window up to January 31 for voluntary registration of all drones and their operators against the backdrop of killing of top Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in a US drone attack.

Those who fail to register will face action under the Indian Penal Code and the Aircraft Act. In a notice, the Ministry said, "The presence of such drones as well as drone operators has come to the notice of the Government which do not

comply with the CAR (civil aviation requirements)."

"In order to facilitate the identification of civil drones and drone operators, a one-time opportunity for voluntary disclosure of such drones and drone operators is being provided... All persons in possession of drones are required to complete the process (of online registration) by January 31, 2020," it added.

The number of illegal drones in India is likely to be between 50,000 and 60,000, co-chair of a FICCI committee on drones, Ankit Mehta, had said on October 22 last year.

The Civil Aviation Ministry's move comes amid emerging threats from rogue drones.

IN SHORT

AP MAHESHWARI APPOINTED CRPF DG
New Delhi: Senior IPS officer AP Maheshwari was on Monday appointed as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Maheshwari, a 1984 batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry. He has been appointed to the post up to February 28, 2021, i.e. the date of his superannuation.

BOOK ON JAITLEY'S WRITINGS RELEASED
New Delhi: A new book, *A New India: Selected Writings 2014-19*, compilation of selected writings by former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, offers readers with the late politician's sharp insight on topics including GST, demonetisation and Kashmir, publishing house Juggernaut Books announced. The book is an authoritative account of the policies and decisions made by the Modi Government during its first stint. It will hit the stands in February.

NAVY USES NEW HIGH SPEED FLASH DIESEL
New Delhi: The Indian Navy on Monday started using a new and superior category of high speed flash diesel (HFSD-IN 512) which is expected to boost reliability of key platforms and their performance besides reducing carbon footprint. Navy officials said the use of the diesel with revised technical specifications would also help the force to ensure interoperability in operations with leading foreign navies.

INSOLVENCY RESOLUTION PROFESSIONAL HELD
New Delhi: The CBI has arrested an insolvency resolution professional appointed by the NCLT, Mumbai, and the owner of a private company for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 3.5 lakh for hushing up criminal proceedings against a contractor.

SC TO EXAMINE INSOLVENCY CODE
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine validity of the Centre's decision to amend an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 provision which introduced a threshold of at least 10 per cent of homebuyers in a project or 100 of the total allottees for initiating corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (IRP) against the realtor.

DEMISE OF QABOOS: NAQVI TO LEAD DELEGATION
New Delhi: Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will lead a delegation to Oman on Tuesday to convey India's condolences over the demise of Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said, one of the longest-serving rulers in the Gulf region and a close friend of New Delhi.

BOOK THE CROWN OF INTELLIGENCE RELEASED
New Delhi: Author Pralaksya Sharma's book *The Crown of Intelligence* has been released by Blue Rose Publishers. The book is based on a girl with an endless vision that helps her to bring fresh idea to life.

Not hearing pleas to review 2018 Sabarimala verdict: SC

Apex court looking into larger issues: Intervention into religious practices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



File

The Supreme Court on Monday made clear that it was not hearing pleas seeking review of a 2018 judgement allowing women and girls of all ages to enter Kerala's Sabarimala temple and would rather deal with larger issues, including the extent to which the courts can intervene in "particular religious practices".

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde at the outset said that it will only deal with the issues referred to it by a five-judge

bench on November 14 in the Sabarimala case, and asked the lawyers to convene a meeting on January 17 to decide on "re-framing" or adding additional issues to be deliberated upon by it.

"We are not hearing review pleas of Sabarimala case. We are considering issues referred to by a 5-judge bench earlier," the bench said. It said that though it may not decide them, but it will order listing of petitions related

to entry of Muslim women into mosques, female genital mutilation in the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community and barring of Parsi women, married to non-Parsi men, from the holy fire place at Agiyar.

Besides the CJ, the bench comprises Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, MM Shantanagoudar, S Abdul Nazeer, R Subhash Reddy, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

MARADU DEMOLITION

SC orders removal of debris, seeks report

Apex court hints Govt officials will not be spared

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Kerala Government to remove the debris, including from backwaters, of four apartment complexes in Kochi's Maradu area that were demolished on the apex court's order for being built in violation of the coastal regulation zone (CRZ) norms.

"It is a painful job, a painful duty," said a Bench, comprising Justices Arun Mishra and MR Shah, after it was informed by the State Government that the top court's order had been complied with and the buildings demolished.

"We will not dispose of this (petition) now. You will have to remove the debris. There are reports that some portion of

debris has fallen in backwaters. You have to restore the area," the Bench told the State's counsel. One of the advocates representing some of the Maradu flat owners said that the apex court has ordered a "fine balance" and has given interim compensation of ₹25 lakh to each of them.

The lawyer said the top court has also granted liberty to flat owners to approach civil court to initiate appropriate proceedings against the builder.

When the lawyer said nothing was happening against the officials who had permitted the illegality, the Bench said, "Something is happening in this. Let us wait for that."

The counsel said there were some flat owners who had more the one flat in the demol-



File

ished buildings but the one-member committee, which was set up pursuant to the order of the apex court to oversee demolition and assess total compensation payable to affected buyers, has said that compensation would be paid for one flat only.

"You file a proper application about this," the Bench said. Regarding other issues,

including setting up of one court to deal with pleas filed by buyers to initiate appropriate proceedings against the builder, the court asked them to file proper applications.

The Bench asked the State Government to file report before it with regard to removal of debris of the demolished buildings and posted the matter for hearing on February 10.

Assam's panel on indigenous people meets Amit Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The high-level committee, set up by the Home Ministry to suggest ways for providing constitutional safeguards to the indigenous people of Assam, on Monday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed with him issues related to its work. A four-member delegation of the committee, headed by Justice (Retd) Biplab Kumar Sharma, met the Home Minister for an hour and briefed him about the progress of its work.

"We have apprised the Home Minister about the progress of our work. The Home Minister has given a few suggestions. We hope to submit our final report within next 15 days," Sharma told reporters here. The committee with more than a dozen members was set up as per the Clause 6 of the 1985 Assam Accord.

Asked whether the panel could finalise the "definition of

Assamese", the retired judge said they were yet to take a decision on it and hope to come to a conclusion soon. "All members of the committee will soon meet to finalise the report and all remaining issues to be resolved," he said. The committee is said to have completed its deliberations and discussions with various stakeholders in Assam.

The meeting was held amidst widespread protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Assam. It bears significance as there has been a growing feeling among the indigenous people of Assam that the newly enacted legislation will hurt their interests — both politically, culturally as well as socially.

The Assam Accord provides for detection and deportation of all illegal immigrants, who have entered the country after 1971 and living in the state, irrespective of their religion.

Parliamentary committee starts work on legislative impact assessment

New Delhi: A parliamentary committee has started working on legislative impact assessment, days after Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu pitched for it, official sources said on Monday.

Legislative impact assessment is an informed law-making process under which social, economic, environmental and institutional impacts of legislative proposals are made.

It helps in realising the stated objectives of various laws. Naidu is of the view that informed legislation will help in realising the stated objects of various laws.

It requires a detailed impact assessment of legislation at the stages of both pre-legislation and post-legislation.

Now, the department-related parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and personnel, headed by BJP leader Bhupender Yadav, has started working on the issue and would come out with a report on ways

to assess the impact of a law on people, society and economy before and after it is framed, the sources said. A similar move to have judicial impact assessment on laws could not take off in the past.

Based on the directions of the Supreme Court, a task force was set up in 2008 to study Judicial Impact Assessment. But various experts had claimed that assessing judicial impact of a law was not practical.

Later, a committee of experts was constituted in September, 2013 to examine the issue of implementing the methodology of Judicial Impact Assessment and suggest further action.

The committee in its report submitted on January 9, 2015, had concluded that Judicial Impact Assessment was neither feasible nor desirable as a method of proper budgetary planning and allocation of funds for the judiciary. **PTI**

Pak must be happy at Opp resolution on CAA: Prasad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming that Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has provided a chance to expose Islamabad's "barbaric treatment" of minorities, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday said the Opposition's resolution demanding withdrawal of the law must have made Pakistan happy.

The Minister also said the Opposition ended up "unnecessarily" attacking the Modi Government in the process and that their unity stood "exposed".

"Opposition unity stands exposed as major parties like SP, BSP, TMC and AAP kept away



Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Opposition ended up "unnecessarily" attacking the Modi Government in the process and that their unity stood "exposed"

(from a meeting convened by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi). The resolution is neither in national interest nor in the interest of security. It is also not in the interest of those minorities who fled neighbouring countries to escape persecution," Prasad told reporters.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday led the

Opposition in a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing them of misleading people on the amended CAA and the NRC, and claiming that their Government stands totally exposed for its inability to govern and provide security to people.

Apache, Chinook to participate in R-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, newly-inducted stealth attack helicopter Apache and transport copter Chinook will participate in the Republic Day flypast. A model of Rafale fighter jet will also be showcased as part of the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s tableau on Republic Day.

In October, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had participated in the official handover ceremony in France for the first Rafale combat jet acquired by the IAF.

During the parade, the IAF will also showcase its might and glory, with its tableau depicting scaled-down models of five systems recently added to its inventory — Rafale aircraft, indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), surface-to-air guided weapon Aakash missile and Astra missiles.

Flt Lt Shrikant Sharma will lead the 144-strong IAF contingent on Rajpath for the second time in a row. While Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar, an accomplished Drum Major, will lead the IAF band, officials said.

"The Republic Day flypast will comprise 41 aircraft of the IAF and four helicopters of the Army's aviation wing. The aircraft types include 16 fighters, 10 transport aircraft and 19 helicopters. The flypast will be

- Model of Rafale fighter jet will also be showcased
- The IAF will also showcase its might and glory, with its tableau depicting scaled-down models of five systems recently added to its inventory — Rafale aircraft, indigenously developed LCA Tejas, LCH, surface-to-air guided weapon Aakash missile and Astra missiles
- Leading the ceremonial parade will be the 'Ensign' formation comprising four Mi-17 V5 helicopters in an inverted 'Y' formation



conducted in two phases," a senior IAF official said.

Leading the ceremonial parade would be the 'Ensign' formation comprising four Mi-17 V5 helicopters in an inverted 'Y' formation, also referred to as the 'wingless formation'. They will fly past the dais, trooping the national flag and the ensigns of the three services. They will be followed by 'Dhruv' formation, comprising four Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) of the Army Aviation.

The second and the main phase will commence after the end of the ceremonial parade. This will be led by 'Rudra' formation of three ALH Mk-IV WSI helicopters of the IAF, flying in 'vic' formation, they said.

The 'Chinook' formation will comprise three newly-inducted transport helicopters in 'vic' formation. Following the Apache formation consisting of the latest attack helicopters of the IAF

when India faces complex security challenges, including cross-border terrorism.

Leading the fixed wing formations this year would be Dornier formation consisting of three Dornier aircraft in 'vic' formation. After this, the three C-130J Super Hercules ac will fly in 'vic' formation. This will be followed by the 'Eye in the Sky-Netra' formation, comprising a single AEW&C flanked by two Su-30 MKIs, they said.

Thereafter, a formation of three C-17 Globemasters, in 'displaced trail vic' formation called 'Globe' formation will flypast the dais, showcasing the IAF's heavy lift capabilities. Following the Globe formation, fighter formation comprising the 'Jaguars', five MiG-29 Upgrade aircraft and Sukhoi will display their manoeuvres, they added.

Antioxidant foods can reduce health risk: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian scientists have found that consuming antioxidant foods like green tea, guava leaves, apples, cherries, pears, black berries can minimise the potential health risk due to toxic metal lead-induced Alzheimer's disease.

While studying that there is possible link between Alzheimer's disease and heavy metal lead, scientists from the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition also found that therapeutic potential of natural compounds such as catechins, especially, epigallocatechin gallate is protective against lead toxicity

neurodegenerative condition.

These foods contain antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and metal chelating properties, to effectively permeate brain and modify several cell survival, said ICMR-NIN's senior scientist Dr Suresh Challa.

Talking about another study, conducted by them which showed possible link between the heavy metal and the neurodegenerative disease, he said the molecular mechanism behind both lead and beta amyloid peptide induced toxicity by investigating the molecular mechanism involved in the development of lead induced Alzheimer's disease through in vitro studies have

effect of lead exposure was then studied. "It showed increased cell death and increased levels of pro-apoptotic marker proteins. Further, the proteins involved in neurodevelopment and regeneration have depleted. Such effects led to decreased expression levels of synaptophysin, finally leading to loss of memory as in Alzheimer's disease," the scientist added.

Dr R Hemalatha, Director, ICMR-NIN talked about the health hazards of Lead exposure to a woman during pregnancy saying that it can cause developmental reprogramming which can lead to higher risk and early onset of Alzheimer's disease in later life of the child.

"Since lead exposure is an important public health concern, the current findings could be another piece in solving the puzzle towards understanding the intracellular mechanism of Alzheimer's disease. Such findings may as well help in developing preventive and management strategies for elderly," she said.

been unravelled.

"In fact, Alzheimer's disease has a complex pathophysiology which involves initially; formation of beta amyloid plaques and tangles in the brain. In addition, oxidative stress and inflammation are known to be involved in the progression of the disease, with loss of memory and neuronal cell death. In this scenario, our study investigated the basic molecular mechanism behind the involvement of lead in Alzheimer's disease," Dr Challa said.

He explained that they simulated brain cells in vitro with beta amyloid peptides like in Alzheimer's disease and the

File

Have started process to identify refugees: UP Min

Lucknow: The State Government has started the process to identify refugees for the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, said UP Minister Shrikant Sharma here on Monday.

"The notification for the CAA (by the Centre) has been issued and all district magistrates in UP have been asked to collect data," Sharma told PTI.

In the first list, over 32,000 refugees have been identified in 21 districts of the state and the exercise is going on in the entire state as per information I have from the state Home Department, Sharma added.

There are 75 districts in the state. When asked about the countries they belong to, Sharma said, "They are from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh."

The districts from where the first list has arrived included Sahranpur, Gorakhpur, Aligarh, Rampur, Pratapgarh, Pilibhit, Lucknow, Varanasi, Bahraich, Lakhimpur, Rampur,

Meerut, Agra. Sources said Pilibhit has the maximum number of refugees. However, the exact number is yet to be disclosed by the State Government.

"The exercise is going on and as the data comes, we will update figures," Sharma said. An NGO, Nagrik Adhikar Manch, has also prepared a 116-page report. "Uttar Pradesh Mein Aaye Pakistan, Afghanistan Evam Bangladesh ke Sharnarthiyon ki Aapbeeti (Unke Utpeedan ki Kahani)" and sent it to the state and the Centre.

The State Government has not confirmed whether it was taking the report into account or not.

"We have got the report of the Nagrik Adhikar Manch," a senior Home Department official said, who refused to elaborate.

The Centre last week had issued a gazette notification announcing that the CAA has come into effect from January 10, 2020.

The Act grants citizenship

to persecuted non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (47 of 2019), the Central government hereby appoints the 10th day of January, 2020, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force," the notification said.

The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11.

According to the legislation, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 due to religious persecution will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

There have been widespread protests against the Act in different parts of the country.

In UP, at least 19 persons were killed in anti-CAA protests. **PTI**

People raising slogan against Modi, Yogi will be buried alive: BJP leader

Aligarh: BJP leader Raghuraj Singh has said people raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be buried alive.

Singh made the statement on Sunday while addressing a rally in Aligarh to create awareness about the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Warning "these handful of people, one per cent criminal and corrupt people" against saying "murdabad" to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Adityanath, he said, "I will bury you alive."

"Yogi and Modi are not the ones who will get perturbed. Yogi-Modi will run the country and run it like this only," Singh said. "Those taking money from Dawood Ibrahim and troubling our officers, and Muslims will be beaten up badly," he said.

Singh, who hails from Aligarh, was apparently referring to protests held by students of Aligarh Muslim University against the CAA recently.

The BJP immediately distanced itself from Singh's controversial remarks, with party spokesperson Chandramohan saying "Raghuraj Singh is neither a minister nor an MLA."

Labour Welfare Council chairman Sunil Bharala said Raghuraj Singh is an advisor in a unit of Labour Department. **PTI**

BJP office gutted in Bengal, saffron party blames TMC

Asansol (WB): A BJP office was gutted in West Bengal's Paschim Burdwan district, following which the saffron party activists accused the TMC of being behind the incident.

A party office of the BJP at Salanpur area in Asansol was reduced to ashes in a blaze on Sunday night and an investigation is on to ascertain the cause of the fire, a senior police officer said.

The BJP has put the blame on TMC, which the ruling party in West Bengal has denied, terming the incident a result of a brawl between "goons" of the saffron party.

"As part of an initiative by union minister and local MP Babul Supriyo, BJP workers distributed blankets to tribals in the area on Sunday morning, following which TMC activists set fire to our party office."

"Several other BJP offices in the area have been set ablaze in the past by the TMC. As the popularity of our party is on the rise, TMC is using these tactics to terrorise the people," BJP leader Abhijit Roy said.

Dismissing the allegations, Salanpur's TMC MLA Bidhan Upadhyaya said the incident was a result of a brawl between "goons" of the BJP.

"Lottery tickets used to be sold at the entrance of the BJP party office and goons affiliated to the saffron party used to consume liquor there. This incident is a result of a brawl between them," he said. **PTI**

Unnao rape: Now victim's doctor dies mysteriously

Unnao (Uttar Pradesh): The doctor who treated the father of the Unnao rape victim has died in mysterious circumstances here on Monday.

Prashant Upadhyaya had treated the Unnao rape victim's father in April 2018 after he had been brutally thrashed in police custody. The doctor was posted in the emergency ward of the district hospital. He had discharged the rape victim's father after first aid and the latter died in custody a few hours later.

Upadhyaya was later suspended during the CBI inquiry into the matter. He had later been reinstated and was presently posted in Fatehpur.

The case related to the murder of the rape victim's father is scheduled to come up in court on Tuesday.

According to his family members, Upadhyaya complained of difficulty in breathing on Monday morning but refused to go to the hospital. Later when he was taken to the hospital, the doctors declared him brought dead. The



family members said that he was a diabetic patient.

The body has been sent for post-mortem.

Expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar, who has been convicted for the rape of the Unnao victim, is serving a life sentence in Tihar jail while his brother Atul Sengar is also in jail for the murder of the girl's father. **PTI**

Quadripartite pact to end Bru repatriation impasse: Mizoram CM



Aizawl: Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Monday said that a quadripartite agreement between the Centre, his Government, Tripura and an apex body of the internally displaced Brus would be signed on January 16 to end the two-decade-old imbroglio over Bru repatriation.

Addressing a function here, after inaugurating an office of the Mizo National Front (MNF), he said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had informed his Government that the agreement, one inked by the stakeholders, would allow the internally displaced Brus to settle in Tripura permanently.

Zoramthanga also said that he would be leaving for Delhi on January 15.

The Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) — an apex body of the refugees — however, said that it was yet to receive any intimation from the Union Government.

Between November 2009

and November 2019, the Centre made at least nine attempts to repatriate Brus, who had been living in relief camps of Tripura, having fled Mizoram in 1997 due to ethnic clashes.

Many of them have, however, refused to return to their home state, citing security concerns and inadequate compensation package. Some have sought resettlement in their area of choice in Mizoram.

The Central Government had last year asserted that its ninth attempt to repatriate the Brus would be the last one, following which it would no longer offer any rehabilitation package.

Of the 4,477 families identified as bona fide residents for repatriation during the last round, only 289 families had returned during the last round of the exercise.

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



A view of the temporary tents set up on the banks of River Ganga during Magh Mela in Prayagraj on Monday

Four undertrials escape from jail in Surendranagar

Surendranagar: Four undertrials accused of crimes ranging from murder to abetment of suicide escaped from a jail in Surendranagar in Gujarat on Sunday night, police said.

The jailbreak took place in Limbdi Sub-Jail, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Limbdi) DB Basiya said on Monday.

"Dinesh Shukla, Vijay Karapada, Mayursinh Jadeja and Ramesh Karu broke the lock of the cell and scaled the boundary wall with the help of a rope thrown from outside," he said.

Shukla is a murder accused, Karapada has an attempt to murder case against his name, while Jadeja and Karu have charges of abetment of suicide, the DySP informed.

A case has been registered and police teams have been formed to nab the escapees, the official said. **PTI**

VCs of Bengal varsities fail to turn up for meeting with Guv

Kolkata: With no State university vice chancellor turning up at Raj Bhavan, their proposed meeting with Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar fell through on Monday.

One of the VCs, who was scheduled to attend the meeting, said he had other commitments. "I had received a letter from the governor, who is also the chancellor of state universities, but could not attend the meeting due to other commitments. To my knowledge, no VC attended the meeting, convened at 11 am today," he said.

Higher Education Minister Partha Chatterjee could not be contacted for his comment, but

sources said there were around 20 state-run universities in Bengal, but none of the VCs turned up for the meeting.

An office-bearer of the Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) said procedural difficulties, following the passage of the West Bengal Universities and College (Administration and Regulation) Act 2017, does not allow a vice chancellor to attend a meeting, without getting a nod from the higher education department.

The Act, passed in early December, specified that "every communication proposed to be made by the Chancellor to any

state-aided university shall be routed through the (higher education) department and the VCs have to intimate the department before taking any important decision."

It was quite clear that the proposed meeting will fall through, the JU office-bearer said.

Dhankhar, after being stopped from attending the annual convocation of Jadavpur University last month, had said "there is a policy paralysis. Universities are in captivity and caged by the state government."

He had convened a meeting of vice chancellors on January 13 following the incident. **PTI**

JK admin taking several initiatives to promote tourism: Lt Guv

Jammu & Kashmir Lt Governor G C Murmu on Monday said his administration is taking several initiatives to promote the tourism sector in the Union Territory, according to a spokesperson of the Raj Bhavan.

Murmu made the remark during an interaction with the managing director of a prominent hotel group in Kashmir, Asif Iqbal Burza, who called on him at the Raj Bhavan here, the spokesperson said. He said Burza apprised the Lt Governor about a range of issues pertaining to the hotel industry of the Kashmir region and suggested measures for promotion and development of the tourism sector.

UP's many former police chiefs hail commissionerate system in Noida, Lucknow

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Many of former Uttar Pradesh police chiefs of Monday hailed the state government's decision to implement commissionerate system of policing in Lucknow and Noida, terming it as a "revolutionary and bold" step, reflecting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's "strong willpower". They also said the decision has broken a myth that it cannot be implemented in UP.

"A myth has been broken that the commissionerate system of policing can never be implemented in Uttar Pradesh. This system is already in force in 71 metro cities of the country," former DGP Brijlal said, while congratulating the CM on behalf of the people of the state, bureaucracy and police officers for the decision.

"This decision reflects the strong willpower of the CM. In this new system, the police have got direct powers for ensuring law and order and controlling crimes. It will be able to provide relief to people by

To TMC's rejoice, Bengal BJP infighting comes to fore

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Apparently giving a cause for the Trinamool Congress to rejoice the intra-house feud in the BJP's Bengal unit came out in the open when State party president Dilip Ghosh on Monday reiterated his stand on shooting the hooligans like dogs if they would vandalise public property and said it was the party president Amit Shah who would decide on the policy matters and not Babul Supriyo who objected to him making such statements.

He was referring to a tweet from Union Minister Babul Supriyo who rejected Ghosh's fiery statement as his personal one adding as a party BJP never believed in politics of bayonet and so did the Governments in Uttar Pradesh and other states that were run by it.

The immediate trigger for the open spat between the two senior leaders was a public speech by Ghosh who told an audience at Nadia late on Sunday evening that Bengal had 2 crore infiltrators who

held the state to ransom after the Citizenship Amendment Act was passed by destroying public property worth crores. "They have torched property worth crores. Whose property is this? Is it their paternal property? This is my money. This is your money... they went on a rampage and still, not a lathi was charged not one bullet was fired. No FIR was registered. Not even an arrest was made," he said adding in States like Assam and Uttar Pradesh, "our Government has shot these protestors like dogs. They were arrested and cases were also filed against them."

Ghosh was referring to the last month's violent protests post enactment of the CAA that saw violent mobs torching trains and damaging other central government properties worth crores at Murshidabad, Malda, Howrah, North 24 Parganas and elsewhere.

While opposition Trinamool Congress immediately lapped up the issue Babul Supriyo intervened to control damage saying whatever Ghosh had said was his personal opinion and the party

had nothing to do with it. "BJP, as a party has nothing to do with what Dilip Ghosh may have said. It is a figment of his imagination and the BJP Governments in UP, Assam have NEVER EVER resorted to shooting people for whatever reason whatsoever. Very irresponsible of Dilip Da to have said what he said," the Union Minister said.

Supriyo's tweet notwithstanding the Bengal BJP chief on Monday stuck to his stand saying "I still stick to what I have said," before wondering "who is the party president? Who will decide on the party's internal matters? Amit Shahji or him Babul Supriyo? I believe you got the answer." Later clarifying his stance he said his statement was Bengal specific and he only wanted to hammer home the point that BJP was strict in its policies. "It is unfortunate," he said referring to the Minister's criticism adding "all I would like to say is that in Assam, UP and Karnataka, the state governments punished those who damaged properties and took law in their hands."

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE REGARDING LOSS SHARE CERTIFICATE(S) OF JAMNA AUTO INDUSTRIES, Regd. Office, Jai Springs Road, Industrial Area, Yamuna Nagar 135001, Haryana. Mahinder Pal Singh resident of 23, Park Area, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005 hereby give notice that the shares certificate(s) in respect of my grandfather Late Shri Mehtab Singh and my grandmother Late Mrs. Jasbeer Kaur are untraceable/ misplaced and I have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate certificate(s). Any person having claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company at its above referred address within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) and no further claim will be entertained by the Company thereafter.

Name of the holder	Folio No.	No. of Shares (Rs. 1/- Fv)	Certificate No.(s)	Distinctive No.(s)
LATE SHRI MEHTAB SINGH	2615	3000	10253	753051-758050
LATE MRS. JASBEER KAUR	2614	3000	10252	753051-753050

DATE: 13/01/2020
PLACE: NEW DELHI
Sd/-
MAHINDER PAL SINGH

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/MDM/Plates & Glass/61/2019/150 Date: 09.01.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha) and State Nodal Officer- MDM, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process manufacturer of Steel Utensil for supply of Stainless Steel Plates and Stainless Steel Glass for Mid Day Meal.
To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/- Mission Director SSA, Assam cum State Nodal Officer- MDM Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 176/19 Dated: 18-11-2019
Bank of Maharashtra ... Applicant
Versus
Mr. Ashish Gupta & Ors. ... Respondent to Defendant
3. M/s Shubkamna Buildtech Pvt. Ltd., 197-E, Pk-4, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110016
Also at: Plot No. GH-05(B) Sect.-17, Node-20/301, Saraswati Vihar, Major Asha Ram Tiyagi Marg, Meerut Road, Opp. DPS Shanti Ghazalabad, UP-201003
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 3,66,94,066/- (Rupee Three Crore Sixty Six Lakh Ninety Four Thousand & Sixty Six only) against you & whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 27-01-2020 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard & determined in your absence.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Assistant Registrar
DRT-II, New Delhi

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 789/19 Dated: 26-12-2019
Bank of Maharashtra ... Applicant
Versus
Sh. Umesh Kumar & Ors. ... Respondent to Defendant
1. Sh. Umesh Kumar S/o Sh. Brajwasi
2. Mrs. Urmila Devi W/o Sh. Umesh Kumar
Both At: House No.10, Sado Nagar, now known as Saraswati Vihar, Major Asha Ram Tiyagi Marg, Meerut Road, Opp. DPS Shanti Ghazalabad, UP-201003
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 51,82,094/- (Rupee Fifty One Lakh Sixty Two Thousand & Ninety Four only) against you & whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 02-03-2020 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard & determined in your absence.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Section Officer
DRT-II, New Delhi

HC Judge recuses from hearing Karti case after I-T plea

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI:

Anita Sumanth, a judge of the Madras High Court has agreed to step aside from hearing a case involving Karti Chidambaram, MP who is the son of Congress strongman P Chidambaram. The decision of Justice Anita Sumanth, who was one of the leading lawyers in tax related issues before her elevation to the Madras High Court comes in response to a request made by the lawyer representing the Income Tax Department in the case.

The Income Tax Department had filed a petition in the Madras High Court against Karti Chidambaram, his wife Srinidhi and mother Nalini Chidambaram for non-disclosure of ₹ 1.35 crore which he had received as payment for selling a plot of land at the scenic Muttukadu near Chennai.

The case was filed based on documentary evidences seized from the residence of Karti and office Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt Ltd in which it is alleged that he has stakes.

The advocate appearing for the Income Tax department told Justice Sumanth that she had represented Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt Ltd as a lawyer before her elevation to the Bench. He also asked the judge to transfer the case to the bench of another judge.

Anita Sumanth immediately agreed to ask the chief justice to allocate the case to another bench. Interestingly, Dr Sumant Raman, spouse of Anita is one of the most sought after panellists in discussions in TV channels and he is known for his support to the Chidambarams.

Last Tuesday, a special court in Chennai had dismissed the petition filed by Karti asking for quashing of the tax evasion case against him since he had filed all relevant tax returns and he was not a member of the Lok Sabha at the time. The Special Court is the one which hears cases related to MLAs, MPs and other public servants.

The court had also asked the Income Tax Department to frame charges against Karti and his wife and had also asked them to be present in the court on January 21.

The Deputy Director of Income Tax (Investigation) Chennai had filed a complaint against the duo in September 2018 before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (Economic Offences) under sections 276(c)1 and 277 of the Income Tax Act.

The case was later transferred to the special court for trial of MLAs and MPs. During the hearing, the Income Tax Department told the court that Karti received Rs 6.38 crore in cash while his wife received Rs 1.35 crore in cash for the same of the land. It was also alleged that Nalini Chidambaram

Assam ratifies Bill to extend SC/ST quota in House for 10 yrs



People belonging to the Koch-Rajbongshi community stage a protest demanding for scheduled tribe (ST) status, in Guwahati on Monday

Guwahati: The Assam Assembly on Monday unanimously ratified the Constitution (126th) Amendment Bill, extending quota to SCs/STs in Lok Sabha and State legislatures by another 10 years.

A special one-day session of the assembly was held to pass a resolution ratifying the bill cleared by both Houses of Parliament.

After receiving approval of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the bill needs to be endorsed by 50 per cent of the

Moving the proposal in the assembly, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal sought the support of all the legislators, as he said, the constitutional amendment would ensure socio-economic uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

assemblies before it comes into force.

Moving the proposal in the assembly, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal sought the support of all the legisla-

tors, as he said, the constitutional amendment would ensure socio-economic uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He also spoke about various schemes undertaken by his government for the welfare of SC/ST students. Leader of the opposition in the Assembly, Debabrata Saikia of the Congress, Asom Gana Parishad's Bhaben Bharali, Bodo People's Front's Kamal Singh Narzary and AIUDF's Hafiz Bashir spoke supporting the resolution.

Rivals AIADMK, DMK join hands to defeat BJP in local election

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI:

Strange things are happening in Tamil Nadu politics as the traditional rivals, the AIADMK and the DMK came together to defeat the BJP candidate in the presidential election in Rajakkamangalam Panchayath Union in Kanyakumari District.

The BJP had emerged as the largest party by winning six seats in the union where 15 wards were at stake. The AIADMK and the DMK finished with four and three seats respectively. Interestingly, there was no pre-poll alliance between the BJP and the AIADMK. The presidential election saw the DMK extending support to the AIADMK candidate who went on to win the election with the support of others.

"This is an interesting development and we may have to give a lot of attention to this trend," said Maalan, Tamil Nadu's politics commentator while speaking of the poll prospects of the AIADMK and the DMK in the assembly election which is expected to take place in early 2021. "It is not easy to forecast what is in store for the 2021 assembly election based on the local body election held in December 27 and 30, 2019," said Maalan.

Though it was believed that the DMK may make a clean sweep in the local body poll in 27 districts based on its performance in the Lok Sabha election, it was not to be as the honours were shared evenly by the traditional rivals.

The DMK and the AIADMK won 13 districts each while the Shivaganga district panchayath election threw out a hung

house with no clear winners.

What has happened in the panchayath unions was that though the DMK won more number of councillors, the election to the posts of president and vice-presidents held in indirect manner saw the AIADMK making some inroads. "This could be due to horse trading, cross-voting or even poaching. There were some instances of Congress and the DMK fighting it out in the open," said Maalan. He also forecast that an interesting bout was in store during the 2021 election.

According to Maalan, there are no clear winners as on date. "But I feel DMK holds a slight edge due to the anti-incumbency factor. The AIADMK has been in power since 2011 and it is natural that the anti-incumbency factor would set in. The AIADMK has to work hard and ill not write them off," said Maalan who described as the scenario in Tamil Nadu as a football match in which both the contenders are equally poised to win.

But Kolahala Srenivaas, veteran political commentator is of the view that voters in Tamil Nadu are a confused lot. "Previously, local body election was held immediately after the Assembly election. But the DMK managed to get the election delayed by filing cases after cases in the Madras High Court as well as Supreme Court.

The trend in Tamil Nadu was that people would vote for the party in power at Chennai to ensure speedy development works.

But this time, the local body election was held towards the end of the AIADMK's tenure and this has resulted in the split verdict which we see.

Fox 'jallikattu' organisers in TN warned of punishment



Salem (TN): Considered a good omen by locals, a particular breed of foxes are pulled out of jungles for use in a "jallikattu" type event in this district of Tamil Nadu during Pongal festivities, prompting Forest officials to step in to stop the illegal practice and save them from cruelty.

The "Wanga" breed of foxes are tied using ropes and chased across the streets by the villagers on 'Kaanum Pongal', the last day of the annual harvest festival, on the lines of the popular bull taming sport jallikattu, according to a forest official.

The villagers in parts of the district, including in Chinnamaikennpalayam and Vadukathampatty, observe this practice as they believe the Wanga foxes bring good fortunes and copious rains. The

foxes are sent back to the forest later.

"Kannum pongal" this year falls on Friday.

In a bid to prevent harassment of the animal, the forest department here has launched an awareness campaign against the practice and warned the villagers that those causing harm to the foxes could face punishment. "We have issued advertisements across the district asking people not to engage in such sport. We have warned them that it is punishable offence and the foxes come under Wildlife (Protection) Act", the forest official said. During the coming days, the campaign would be stepped up, the official added. Another forest official said the "wanga" foxes are a rare breed and found in dense forest areas in the district. **PTI**

Kota's JK Lon Hospital to get new OPD block

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Local Self Government Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal on Monday directed officials to construct separate out patient department (OPD) blocks for JK Lon Hospital and Maharao Bhimsingh Hospital in Kota district to ensure patients do not face problems.

This comes in the backdrop of more than 100 infant deaths at JK Lon Hospital last month that led to widespread criticism.

Dhariwal chaired a meeting with officials at MBS Hospital on Sunday and instructed them to make an assessment by discussing the requirement of necessary equipment and building expansion for facilities in both the hospitals, according to an official statement.

He also instructed the officials to change the facade of the main building in JK Lon Hospital and include necessary facilities in the new OPD block including adequate space for parking vehicles. **PTI**

Protest erupts near Bengaluru over planned 114-foot Christ statue

Bengaluru: Right wing organisations on Monday held a massive protest at Kanakapura near here against the proposed 114-foot statue of Jesus Christ, allegedly at a Government land, sponsored by local legislator and senior Congress leader DK Shivakumar.

The protesters said the demonstration was also against the larger issue of alleged religious conversion that was taking place in the region.

Hundreds of people clad with saffron scarf took part in 'Kanakapura chalo', organised by 'Hindu Jagaran Vedike', holding saffron flags in their hand marched from Aiyappa swamy temple at Kanakapura to

Tahsildar office, shouting slogans "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Jai Sri Ram".

Protesters accused Shivakumar of trying to turn "Kapalibetta" or "Muneshwara betta", the hill on which the proposed statue is to come up, into "Yesu betta".

BJP leader and former Minister CP Yogeshwar, who took part in the protest, accused Shivakumar of trying

to instigate communal violence for his "politics."

He said, this fight is against the "oppressive politics" of Shivakumar and his brother, Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh in the region.

Hindutva ideologue and RSS functionary Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat, who addressed the gathering, said their agitation was not against Jesus Christ, but against the religious conversion in his name.

Questioning Shivakumar, whether he was doing it for the sake of vote and thereby to gain notes, he said "...What is your intention? You want to sell this country to foreigners once again; Hindu community is warning you...This is also an act of treason."

He further declared that "Muneshwara betta will remain Muneshwara betta..."

Later responding to reporters questions, Bhat said "if they are still adamant on going ahead with the statue, we will show the strength of Hindu community, we will fight against any activity against Hindu community." **PTI**

'11 Raj districts facing worst locust attack after 26 years'

CM Gehlot seeks Centre's assistance on matter

Jaipur: Eleven Rajasthan districts are facing the worst locust attack after 26 years with control measures being taken on 3.70 lakh hectare affected land and an official urging international cooperation to deal with the menace.

The last locust outbreak was reported in 1993 when the State's Agriculture Department had carried out preventive measures on 3,10,482 lakh hectares affected land, whereas control measures on 3.70 lakh hectare land have been done till January 12 so far, he said.

"It is one of the worst locust attack that Rajasthan is facing this time. Locust attack started this year from May 21 and is still continuing. So far, control measures have been done on 3.70 lakh hectare affected land by spraying 2.60 lakh litre melathion. This is a problem which requires immediate international cooperation," Suwa Lal Jat, Joint Director (Plant Protection), said.

He said that locust attack generally starts in June-July and lasts till October end or November-mid but it has been eight months from now that it is still continuing, adding that

the presence of locust population has been seen on the international border with Pakistan, which still poses danger.

The Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), headquartered in Jodhpur, said locust attack is the biggest and longest running phenomenon.

"It is the biggest locust attack in the last four or five decades. Last big attack was seen in 1993 and the affected area span has already surpassed it this time. It is a challenge for the coming months as well because the presence of locusts in the Gulf countries, including Iran and Pakistan, is alarming and summer breeding of locusts is also approaching," LWO Deputy Director K L Gurjar said. The 11 affected districts where control measures have been taken include Jaisalmer 2 lakh hectare, Barmer 80,000 hectare, Bikaner 80,000 hectare, Sriganganagar 5,000 hectare, Jalore 1,500 hectare, Hanumangarh 800 hectare, Nagaur-Churu 500 hectare each, Pali-Sirohi 400 hectare each and Dungarpur 50 hectare.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had written a letter to Union Agriculture

Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, seeking the Centre's assistance on the matter.

On December 30, Gehlot had announced to conduct girdawari (survey) for the assessment of loss caused to crops due to locust attack in Western Rajasthan.

On Saturday, the chief minister had asked officials to start distribution of compensation to farmers on loss to crops due to locust attack. Jat said the unusual phenomenon is being investigated by the scientists of five agriculture universities of the states who are taking samples in the affected areas.

"The teams of scientists are taking samples in the affected areas to study locust habitats. They are examining whether the reason is climate change or global warming or anything else," he said.

He said that 54 teams of the Agriculture Department are surveying and monitoring the situation, 450 tractors with mounted sprayers are being pressed into service to control the menace, besides an additional fleet of 500-700 tractors received per day with the support of people. **PTI**

'AAJ KE SHIVAJI: NARENDRA MODI' ROW BJP distances itself from book

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Under severe flak from various political quarters, an embarrassed BJP on Monday distanced itself from a controversial book "Aaj ke Shivaji: Narendra Modi", penned by the party's Jai Bhagwan Goyal, likening the current Prime Minister with Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

On a day when Maharashtra Congress threatened to launch a statewide agitation against the controversial book, BJP's National Media co-head Sanjay Mayukh said through a video statement: "Whatever that been written in the book is the author's personal point of view. It is neither our party publication nor are we connected with it in any manner"

"The writer has clarified that it is his personal writing. He has also said that if the book has hurt anybody's emotions, he is withdrawing the book. We would like to clarify again that it is not a party publication," Mayukh said.

The book "Aaj ke Shivaji: Narendra Modi" has been criticised by the leaders of all the non-BJP parties — especially the ruling constituents of Shiv Sena-led Maha Vilas Aghadi (MVA) in the State, ever since it was released at an even held at the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi amid fanfare in New Delhi on Sunday.

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president and senior State Minister Balasaheb Thorat announced

that his party would launch a state-wide protest against the BJP "cheap" attempts to compare Modi with Chhatrapati Shivaji.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi cannot be compared to Shivaji Maharaj at all. Modi's divisive politics and communal policies like CAA and NRC, his autocratic nature of running the Government stands no comparison with the secular approach through which Shivaji was established by the Chhatrapati Maharaj," Thorat said.

"The BJP should morally not even take the name of Shivaji Maharaj after the large scale corruption in the Shivaji Memorial project in its government," he said.

The Congress is organising the first protest against the BJP sponsored controversial book on Tuesday morning at Tilak Bhavan at Dadar in north-central Mumbai.

Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut, who was to ignite a controversy over the book drawing comparisons between Modi and Shivaji, demanded to know from the descendants of the Marathi warriors — most of whom are with the BJP — to come out with their stand on the book and resign from the principal ruling party at the Centre.

Talking to media persons in Mumbai, Raut said: "We respect Chhatrapati Shivaji's descendants like Udayanraje and Shivendraraje from Satara dynasty, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Rajae from Kolhapur. They should also speak out on the

book". "Chhatrapati Shivaji is revered by us all. He cannot be compared with anyone. Narendra Modi is our Prime Minister. We respect him. But comparing Modi with Chhatrapati Shivaji is totally wrong," Raut said.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha member and descendant of Shivaji from Kolhapur Yuvraj Shamburaje Chhatrapati urged BJP President Amit Shah to ensure that the controversial book does not hit the market for sale.

Shamburaje, who is a presidential nominee in the Upper House of Parliament, said: "I have respect for Modi. He has contributed hugely to the country. But, that does not mean that he should be compared with Chhatrapati Shivaji. No one can be compared with Chhatrapati Shivaji. The BJP's president should ensure that the book does not hit the market for sale".

Hitting out at the BJP to liken Modi with Shivaji, NCP state President and Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil said: "Tall and vast as the Sahyadri mountain ranges, my king (Chhatrapati Shivaji) cannot be compared with anybody. Keep this in mind, or else... You have to face (music from across) Maharashtra".

NCP's Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad wondered if the BJP had lost its mind? "On his part, Congress General Secretary Sanjay Dutt demanded to know as why the BJP or its Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis have not yet condemned the development and were keeping silent.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.SSA/TT&P/REP materials/2020/476/2019/187 Date:13.01.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web/Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of REP Materials.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD. SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR
BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ONLINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF BLEACHING POWDER GR. II (WITH ISI MARK IS 1065-1989) FOR THE YEAR 2020
2nd ATTEMPT
GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacturing, Supply & Delivery of Bleaching Powder Gr. II with ISI Mark from Indian Manufacturer only Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. Tender ID: 392839 <https://www.nprocure.com>
The last date of submission of online tender : 31-1-2020.
No/INF/VPN/2019/G/2045

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](https://etender.up.nic.in) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc. (A).

S.No	Job No / Work name	Amount
1.	61/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2019-20, M/o Park (Sh PF Open Gym) Sector-121 Village Garhi and Sector-122 Parthia Khanjarpur with Five year Maintenance	Cost Rs. 57.49 Lacs
2.	156/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2018-19, M/o Park (C/o boundary wall between Ajnara Society & Crown Tower Society sector-74) Noida.	Cost Rs. 47.35 Lacs
3.	175/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2018-19, M/o Green Belt (C/o boundary wall near E-27 to E-103 green belt sector-52) Noida.	Cost Rs. 47.79 Lacs
4.	176/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2018-19, M/o Park (R/o footpath & boundary wall in front of A-89 park & plot No. C-71 park and C/o Gazebo but in plot No. C-71 park sector-34) Noida.	Cost Rs. 48.17 Lacs
5.	162/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2018-19, M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall and other civil work parallel to drain sector-40) Noida.	Cost Rs. 47.18 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 27.01.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 28.01.2020 at 11.00 AM.
(B).

S. No	Job No / Work name	Amount
1.	41/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2019-20, M/o Green belt (Construction of damaged boundary wall, C/o footpath & Gazebo Hut in Green belt near Silver City Apartment in Sector -93) Noida (Part-A) Boundary Wall & Footpath	Cost Rs. 57.28 Lacs
2.	46/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2019-20, M/o Park in sector-82 Madhuban Apartment (Sub Head Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 28.59 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 20.01.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 21.01.2020 at 11.00 AM.
Office :- Sector-39, Noida
Director (Hort.) Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Cong bungles, again

Miffed allies and federal parties stay away from its meet on CAA-NRC, unwilling to yield the Opposition space



The Congress, for some reason, continues to lull itself into an arrogant assumption of its natural leadership of the Opposition, expecting all federal parties to unify under the notional idea of its national role and identity. Perhaps, it is still at pains to reconcile with the fact that its State allies are shoring up its prospects or that its talk points are being gifted by them. Or after the failure of the *mahagathbandhan*, a grand umbrella of regional parties, at the Lok Sabha polls last year — which it torpedoed wilfully since it didn't get the vote of leadership — it feels it alone is qualified to be the face of Opposition unity. Yet if widespread and continued protests over the contentious citizenship law and a proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) are any indication, then students and civil society have clearly filled up the vacuum left by the Opposition. And now that dots of agitations have assumed a pan-India momentum, the Congress has rushed in, knowing full well that the movement can never be of consequence till it gets political sanctity. Problem is the champions of the movement would rather continue leaderless than trust the Congress, which is still looking to reap the benefit of the groundwork done by others. So an all-Opposition front meeting on CAA-NRC called by it ended in a whimper, far from the show of strength it had intended it to be. And this failure of the Congress to downsize its ego and wiser up, despite the circumstances that are actually most favourable to the Opposition now, will only end up helping the ruling BJP during the Budget session of Parliament. For the BJP had certainly not bargained for such a hit-back to its policies within six months of winning a mammoth verdict. The Congress grandstanding fizzled out as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi and even its allies in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, the DMK and Shiv Sena, stayed away from the meeting. Clearly, the State leaders have still not forgiven the Congress for not making common cause with them during the Lok Sabha elections last year. And are now best placed to chew it up rather than let the party chew on them. Besides, they have realised that in the absence of a monolithic leader from their midst, it would be better for them to reclaim their States, consolidate their hold on them and unitedly voice their stand against the BJP at the Centre. That would be far better than chasing national ambitions.

This is particularly true of Banerjee, who has burnt her fingers as an architect of the *mahagathbandhan* and loosened her grip over her State as she pursued national ambitions. She is hell bent on steadying her own ship. Besides, she has been among the first Opposition Chief Ministers to lead a crusade against the Government's policies and expose the regime's exclusionary intent regarding Muslims by linking the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) with the NRC. She doesn't want her cause hijacked yet again. Besides, she has to justify her politics at the State level, which she has built in opposition to both the Left and the Congress and, therefore, cannot afford any hypocrisy. It is the same reason why AAP is staying away as it has to fight both the BJP and Congress in the Assembly elections. It is maintaining an equidistance and pitching its own performance record of integrity as a believable counterpoint. And that strategy seems to be working as three Congress leaders joined it over the last few days. DMK chief MK Stalin and the Shiv Sena, like Mamata, want their undiluted take on CAA to be heard. The BSP, upset by the Congress poaching its MLAs in Rajasthan, isn't keen to be part of a need-based arrangement with the national party either. So it is rather naive of the Congress to bet on its traditional style of politics. Besides, the party leadership was tepid and cautious when the first wave of protests broke out, with Rahul Gandhi in hibernation. Priyanka Gandhi was the only one consistent about siding with the cause, but that had more to do with nursing the party back to health in Uttar Pradesh than scripting an Opposition strategy. However, India's youth have birthed new leaders and do not need to rely on the "youthful" face of the Congress leadership, which has sadly been reduced to an apparition that tries to be conscientious. If the Congress wants to avoid further misadventures, it should take a risk with a new strategy, issues and leadership.

Market blues

Is Walmart's decision to lay off senior executives a symptom of economic slowdown? Or is it to do with digitisation?



The news that American retail giant Walmart has laid off 56 senior and mid-level executives from its corporate headquarters in Gurugram has sent shivers down the economy watchers. They feel this is just a further confirmation that the Indian economy is in a turbulent phase. Following the news that British telecom giant Vodafone may quit its operations in the country, this isn't something that would please the honchos in the Finance Ministry. But is the situation really as bad as it sounds? Walmart's huge investment of \$16 billion to capture online retailer Flipkart in 2018 proved beyond doubt that it means business. But it intends to focus on the digital side of the operations. What is hurting Walmart in India though is the brick-and-mortar sector, where a slowdown in consumer spending, coupled with the fact that it has been able to grow its wholesale business far too slowly, is hurting it. Many of those laid off are from the sourcing end.

The ruling BJP's opposition to introducing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail when the Congress was in power is hurting it today. However, with a large part of its core base being small and local traders, it finds itself locked into this unsustainable and undesirable position. India needs to rapidly improve its consumer retail process and catch up with the rest of the world. For better or worse, the advent of modern retail will help producers, both farmers and factories, as well as consumers. It will also give a fillip to domestic production and improve the way food reaches the plate, thus reducing wastage and improving yields. The fact that the BJP changed its tune on implementing Goods and Services Tax (GST) might have given hope to those who thought they would change their stance on FDI in multi-brand retail. However, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political capital being used up in the implementation of GST after the public relations disaster of demonetisation, this was a step too far. Digital promotion aside, the neighbourhood shop is going nowhere. The Government must find a way to modernise Indian retail even though there will be a cost for the *kirana* store because it will improve efficiency. This should not be done to protect the interest of foreign multinationals but even Indian companies that are facing difficulties in establishing a proper network of modern stores. In fact, a unique approach can be devised by working with the local *kirana* stores who have assets and access in neighbourhood markets. They can be given access to sourcing back-end and better customer management at the front-end. Hopefully this is just a blip in the radar for Walmart and nothing more than a business decision.

The loss of leadership

It is unfortunate that in their greed for money and power, leaders have forgotten the values as preached by our forefathers. Roots of social cohesion and religious amity have been weakened



JS RAJPUT

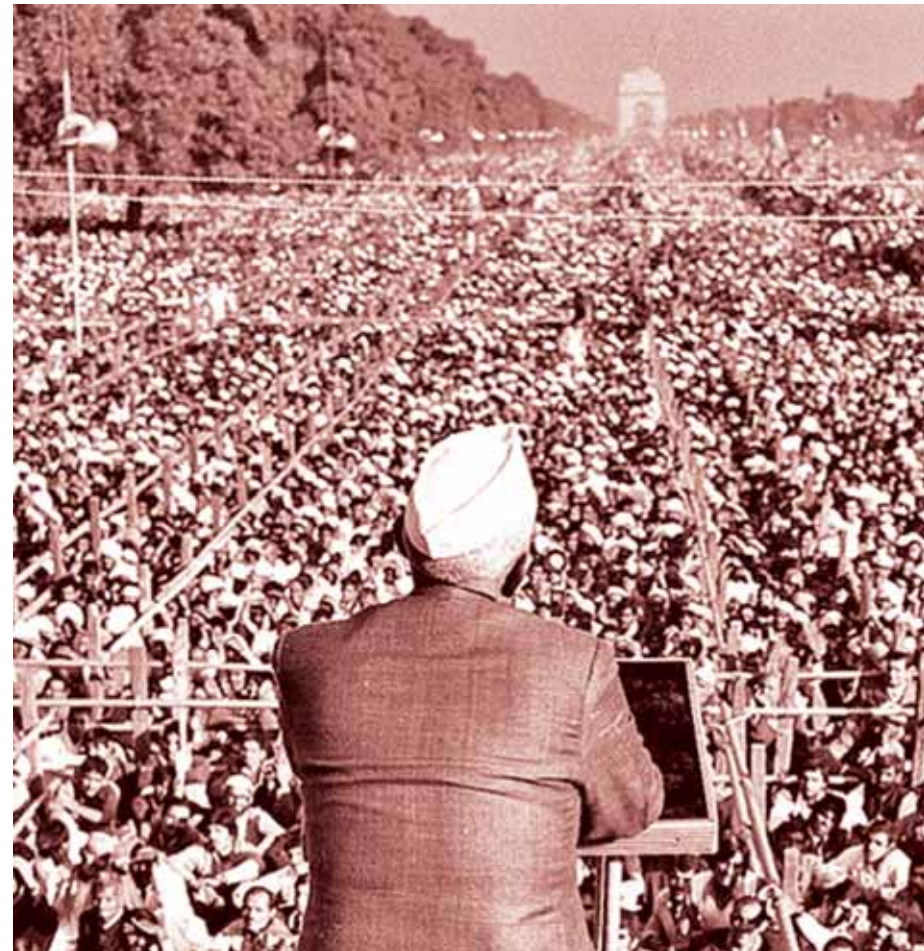
Independent India's first few years saw a unique kinship among political leaders and the people. The former had an aura of sacrifice behind them. This is why people adored them and had high expectations from them. Mahatma Gandhi was the cult figure, who was remembered with respect and affection in every home. In schools and colleges, young people animatedly talked about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Khudiram Bose, Veer Savarkar, Jayaprakash Narayan, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel among others. Even in remote villages and towns, people were aware of the Azad Hind Fauj and were convinced that Netaji would return.

One could say it from personal experience that in spite of the tragic Partition, life had returned to normalcy in the villages of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as also elsewhere. There were no visible traces of Hindu-Muslim discord and children witnessed bonhomie in social, religious and cultural events as they grew up in a multi-religious society. They were learning to live together naturally, not under any planned initiative or project. Isolated instances of communal skirmishes were there but they did not impact the thread of social cohesion as people trusted and had faith in the leadership of the day.

However, gradually, things began to change. Those who tasted power and perks that also came associated with pelf, began to shed the values the Mahatma had persistently preached. They started ignoring his great words: "My Life is My Message." Social scientists and other learned scholars had their own interpretations about the change that began with the infusion of debilitating elements inherent in democratic procedures, practices and parties. Gradually, people realised the fallacy of the promises made by leaders. They also began to comprehend the machinations involved to garner votes on the basis of caste, creed, religion and other such factors that would create divisions among them. Social equations and equanimity began to change and that, too, swiftly. Worse, it deliberately created distrust among communities.

The new generation of leaders that gradually emerged a couple of decades after independence realised how lucrative it could be to be at the seat of power through politics and elections. Hence, they decided to focus on winning polls. Icons of the freedom struggle were no more; secularism was swiftly being converted into a mighty political weapon; and no wily politician was concerned about how disastrous even a small dent in social cohesion and religious amity could indeed be. They ignored the possible damage to the hallowed tradition of equal respect for all religions that was in practice for ages and for which the country was admired globally.

Such developments were not unex-



pected. The rise of caste-based parties contributed significantly to the erosion of pre-independent values that had the strength to sustain social and religious cohesion. Gandhi was indeed prophetic when he mentioned in a letter written in April 1922 that Swaraj or self-rule would not bring happiness to our people as four things would weigh heavily on them and they would begin to say that the earlier (colonial) system was better. The four things included defects in the election system, injustice, administrative burden and treachery of the rich.

Today, systematic defects in the way elections are conducted appear to be beyond control. For all that matters is money and nothing else. News reports in the last week of May 2019 that out of 539 winning Lok Sabha MPs, 233 had declared criminal cases against them did not surprise anybody. The way elections are won at every level has led to serious aberrations in the way public affairs in our country is conducted. It would be rare exception if someone with a pure record of selfless service wins a panchayat-level election. Social kinship stands shattered because elections are now being politicised.

Can anyone think of any election that has been fought and won within the limits on candi-

date expenditure as set by the Election Commission of India? So, now our leaders need money and more of it to be and remain in politics. A ray of hope did appear under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan during the 1977 elections when several candidates won without any resource, purely on the basis of their clean image and contributions made to the public. But all of it disappeared after 1980.

People have witnessed not only the rise of caste-based parties but more than that, they have seen how assets of some leaders have galloped at an unprecedented pace within years. Obviously, in such a scenario, there is little space for value-based politics. And when there are no compensations about values and principles, why care about means? Gandhian values in politics were slowly and silently erased by those who inherited power. Loudly and unashamedly, they declared themselves as the only political heirs of the Mahatma. People trusted them and this continued for decades.

To ensure "permanency" in power, they quietly created a minority (read Muslim) vote-bank, gave them false assurances and convinced them that everyone else was against them. They gave their own interpretation of secularism, divided Hindus and Muslims up to the level of vil-

lage panchayats unhesitatingly and during election time, gave tickets to candidates based purely on caste and communal considerations. It did not matter if the aspirant was suitable, meritorious or deserving. Did he really serve the people with honesty, sincerity and commitment? Leaders even preferred *bahubalis* (strongmen) without winking an eyelid.

The imposition of the Emergency in June 1975 and its continuance till March 1977 made the people realise how they were being taken for a ride by those very people they had trusted. By this time, the roots of social cohesion and religious amity were considerably weakened.

Consequently, the trust between two major communities came under serious stress. For electoral gains, the history of India, including the freedom struggle, was politicised. The writing of history textbooks and research was totally entrusted to the Leftists, who are known for their dislike for all that was Indian. The great Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was begun in a closed citadel of Left hegemony. It even refused entry to all "those who did not think alike" in their campus. Had that not been the case, today's outburst would not have happened.

What we are witnessing today is the culmination of

deliberate politicisation of age-old Indian traditions of acceptance of diversity, which have a deep philosophical basis. This is the only prophetic vision that can save the very existence of planet Earth. Think of the turmoil being faced in Europe in the wake of rapid demographic, social and cultural changes taking place there whether the Europeans like it or not. Why should it not be appreciated that it was the impact of ancient Indian culture that while Hindus paid *jazia* to their rulers, they never disrespected the religious places of Muslims.

Even after Partition, India could have restored its age-old religious amity had our leaders shown maturity, futuristic vision and the urgency to bring both communities together. This was the core requirement for marching ahead on the path of growth, progress and development as Jayaprakash Narayan realised. For him, everyone was acceptable if willing to come together for the nation's cause. The merger of the then Jan Sangh in the Janata Party was the culmination of the efforts of a great visionary, who thought only of India, the welfare of its people and their future.

The violence that has occurred in a couple of universities and some other places must not be viewed in isolation. In fact, it must be seen in context with the seeds that have been sown in post-independent India by vested interests and those for whom self-interest is the only interest. Their numbers are few but institutions are invariably taken to ransom by elements who have no academic interest and are prone to prodding from unethical and anti-social elements. For those who are interested in finding solutions, one would like to submit the following from a letter Albert Einstein wrote to Gandhi and which was quoted by APJ Abdul Kalam in one of his books: "You have shown through your works that it is possible to succeed without violence even with those who have not discarded the method of violence." Was JNU not expected to strengthen this philosophy? It's depressing that JNU, with all of its much-publicised achievements, never seriously tried to listen to those who did not think alike. It has an obligation to the nation to encourage, nourish and nurture the great dialogical tradition of the country. It must become a place of intellectual interaction. India needs leadership institutions that promote social cohesion and religious amity.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

If Pakistan doesn't hand Pakistan-occupied Kashmir over to us, then there is a necessity to unite PoK with India through war. We want entire Kashmir.

Union Minister — Ramdas Athawale



A lot of my family members realise that *main sunta sabki hoon, karta apni hoon*. I have never let them down with the way I have conducted myself.

Actor — Arjun Kapoor



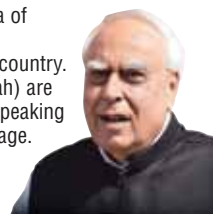
The elephant and the dragon can dance together. The two nations (India-China) will work together to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

Chinese Ambassador to India — Sun Weidong



The divisive agenda of Pakistan are being perpetrated in this country. So, they (Modi-Shah) are the ones who are speaking in Pakistan's language.

Congress leader — Kapil Sibal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The light of Sankranti

Sir — Apart from being a harvest festival, Makar Sankranti also marks the beginning of an auspicious phase in Indian culture. What is most significant about this day is that every State celebrates it indigenously. In Haryana and Punjab, it is popularly called "Lohri", in South India it is called "Pongal", in Bihar it is known as "Khichdi" and "Bihu" in Assam. In Gujarat, families celebrate this festival through kite-flying competitions.

The importance of this day has even been signified in ancient epics like the *Mahabharata*. So, apart from socio-geographical importance, this day also holds a historical and religious significance. It is the festival of the Sun God and he is regarded as the symbol divinity and wisdom. This is why the festival holds eternal meaning, too. Sankranti represents a period of illumination, peace, affluence and happiness. Many *melas* (fairs) are held on this day, the most famous among them being the Kumbh, which is held once in every 12 years.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Winds of change in J&K finally

This refers to the editorial, "SC's conscience call" (January 11). The Supreme Court's verdict on the prolonged internet and communication blackout and the indefinite restrictions on movement imposed under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in Jammu & Kashmir has come as a whiff of fresh air. It marked a welcome deviation from the pattern of a slew of judgments it has delivered in recent days. Its verdict will surely restore some of its lost credibility and probably constrain the Government's ability to impose Section 144 and suspend internet in any given area so often without any consideration to the ordeal the people have to go through. It was proof that left to itself, the top court is capable of pronouncing fair, impeccable and stellar verdicts.

Implicit in the present verdict is the paramountcy of civil liberties and the precedence they should get over political exigencies. The suspension of internet impacted the role of media in the way information was being disseminated. The verdict will bring some reprieve to

Going against the grain

Sir — We ought to have realised by now that an inclusive ethos is too deeply ingrained in Indian minds. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is being seen in the perspective of the National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). There's not

much fault with this mindset. The common man is apprehensive. Of far greater impact than this was the fiasco of demonetisation that touched almost every citizen. And yet, the reaction was more in "hopeful anguish" than "fear." After all, the void created by currency was not meant to differentiate between people. That this policy formulation could not deliver well is another matter.

However, this policy-troika (CAA, NPR and NRC) that is now under way appears to delineate differences where none should exist. It is precisely this that has fuelled people's anger. The Government is yet to initiate a dialogue. The state of the economy and employment has only added fuel to the fire.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai



the residents of Kashmir whose day-to-day life suffered due to the internet shutdown and the imposition of curfew. The alienation of the Muslim majority valley still remains a cause for concern; it can be addressed only by fulfilling their legitimate aspirations.

G David Milton
Tamil Nadu

Lessons in demolition

Sir — The Maradu flat demolition in Kochi, as per the orders of the Supreme Court — as these were built in violation of the coastal regulation zone rules — is an eye opener. It is also a warning to the local administration, the State machinery and various stakeholders, who ignore the law of nature and believe that political influence, power and money can get them anywhere. What they forgot was that law and justice is above everything. This is a lesson meant for all cities, States, nations and mankind in general.

The lesson is to not violate rules and regulations. It was an overwhelming sight to watch huge skyscrapers — that rose to the sky with so much of human energy and labour, time and wealth — to be razed to the ground within seconds. However, the entire episode will be complete only when corrupt officials, politicians, builders and others are brought under the law and punished.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Shift to EVs, E2Ws is inevitable

But it must be done gradually by giving the industry time to develop competitive products and the country to set up charging infrastructure



MEGHA KUMAR

SHRI PRAKASH

A vast majority of Indians depend on two-wheelers to fulfil their mobility needs. As per the 2011 census, 37 per cent people in India using motorised modes to commute to work relied on two-wheelers compared to 33 per cent for buses and eight per cent for private cars. These numbers on use of two-wheelers would have gone up by now, given that their sales have been going through the roof. In 2017, India became the largest two-wheeler market, leaving behind China and in 2018-19 a whopping 21.1 million items were sold in the country, constituting 80 per cent of total domestic automobile sales. The Government has been encouraging the adoption of Electric Vehicle (EV) technology; and the Budget also announced a bouquet of incentives for them. The NITI Aayog proposed a ban on internal combustion engine (ICE)-powered two-wheelers (below 150cc) and three-wheelers by 2023-24. While a shift towards cleaner technology is inevitable, the key to transitioning to EVs will be to develop a plan palatable to consumers, industry and policymakers alike.

The current electric two-wheeler (E2W) users are technology and environment enthusiasts who use them for leisure. However, ICE two-wheeler use is associated with low and middle-income individuals. ICE technology-users point to the lack of charging infrastructure, high battery cost and unreliable battery life for not opting for E2Ws. Currently, the base price differential of ICE two-wheelers and similar-performing E2Ws is almost three times. Despite current policy incentives that help in reducing this gap to two or 1.5 times, this is still a barrier for E2W uptake. Analysis shows that home and work charging will remain the most popular modes of recharging E2Ws. Public charging stations are a feasible option for personal use, while battery-swapping stations are expected to find adoption only for high utilisation commercial applications. While the impact of EVs on power demand may not be substantial, managing peak hour loads will be critical to support their use.

As the upfront cost of E2Ws remains prohibitive, the opportunity lies in the fact that their operational cost is nominal. In fact, the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) for some high vehicle utilisation applications like parcel/food deliveries is lower than ICE two-wheelers from the start. Easy financing options with low down payment can easily accelerate the adoption of E2Ws for commercial applications. For personal use, high upfront cost and battery replacement make the E2Ws financially unattractive. However, attractive business models or financing options covering both battery replacement and upfront cost can make E2Ws attractive for personal use too.

Lack of high-performance EVs is a key challenge. One of the few EV products that can compete with Honda Activa is the Ather 450, available only in Bengaluru and Chennai. Ather Energy has an installed capacity of 20,000-25,000 units but this is expected to expand to 500,000 units by 2020. Even then, it will form a small proportion of the 20 million-plus two-wheeler market. The technology adoption curve shows that typically technology mainstreaming follows an S-shaped trajectory with adoption growing faster over time. Also, the time taken for mainstreaming and mass adoption of technologies has been shrinking over time. While it took around 35 years for refrigerators to become mainstream, cell phones took just 15 years. EV penetration in India lies where cellphone adoption was in 1995 and it might easily take another decade for EVs to go mainstream.

Given the existing financial viability, E2Ws should be promoted for high-utilisation commercial applications through easy financing with low down payment requirement. As financial viability is established for commercial operations, the Government should issue E2Ws procurement mandates for commercial operations later. India would be shifting to BSVI vehicles from 2020. Automobile-makers, auto-part makers and oil refiners have made huge investments for this transition. A time period of three-four years should be provided to them to recover investments through the sale of BSVI vehicles. Majority of the announced and existing E2Ws models in India can compete with vehicles in less than the 125cc segment only, whereas the customers are more inclined towards the 125-250cc segment in motorcycles. More time will also allow two-wheeler manufacturers to develop competitive products, expand E2W production and allow time for supply chains to evolve to support after sales service and skeletal public charging infrastructure. Cities should take strong action to encourage the use of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and location-specific mandates should be developed. During this time, India should push for 100 per cent E2Ws adoption for commercial applications and for personal use. Eventually, highly-competitive E2Ws would be available in the domestic market and there will be a disruptive adoption of this technology. Transitioning to EVs is inevitable but it must be done gradually by giving the industry time to develop competitive products and the country to set up charging infrastructure, EV supply chains and business models.

(Prakash is a Distinguished Fellow and Kumar is Area Convener, Centre for Sustainable Mobility, TERI)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

BJP IN UP, ASSAM NEVER RESORTED TO SHOOTING PEOPLE FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER. VERY IRRESPONSIBLE OF DILIP TO HAVE SAID WHAT HE DID.

—UNION MINISTER
BABUL SUPRIYO



WHO IS THE PARTY PRESIDENT? WHO WILL DECIDE ON THE BJP'S INTERNAL MATTERS? AMIT SHAH OR HIM (SUPRIYO)? I BELIEVE YOU GOT THE ANSWER.

—WEST BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT
DILIP GHOSH

Solve a contentious issue

The unabsorbed input tax credit dilemma in the Goods and Services Tax is something that the Council needs to address urgently



UTTAM GUPTA

In the backdrop of the collection under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) not coming up to the expected level and the consequential inability of the Central Government to meet its obligations towards compensation to the States as committed under the GST Compensation Act, 2017 (it provides for compensation for five years i.e. till 2021-22 to be calculated as the difference between actual collection and the revenue it would have got with growth at four per cent over the 2015-16 level), the GST Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of the existing rate structure and the implementation mechanism.

Meanwhile, a contentious issue that mandarins in the GST Council will need to urgently look at relates to the treatment of the accumulated input tax credit which does not get automatically set off against output tax liability. At the core of the GST architecture is a feature that allows a producer/supplier to claim credit for the tax paid on inputs across the value chain. This helps in eliminating the cascading effect of tax-on-tax, thereby reducing the cost of products to the consumer (the erstwhile dispensation of central excise, value added tax [VAT] and a host of local duties that were afflicted by the cascading effect).

An anomalous situation may arise if the producer/supplier does not have corresponding output tax liability to provide for setting off accumulated credit on input purchase. Indeed, this anomalous situation is currently faced by telecom companies. They have made heavy investment in augmenting the infrastructure (needed to provide speed and quality services) even as there has been a steep drop in their revenue; courtesy tariff plummeting to record lows due to the intense competition after the entry of Reliance Jio in 2016.

This increased accumulated credit on their input purchases and reduced their GST payments to the Government (primarily due to low tariff/sale price), thereby reducing and eliminating the potential for automatic offsetting of dues. They are unable to claim refund of the taxes paid on inputs as the GST law mandates corresponding output tax liability which is insufficient. The unabsorbed input tax credit works out to a whopping ₹36,000 crore. The situation in fertilisers is broadly similar. Given the critical role of fertilisers in ensuring food security, the Government controls their maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution and reimburses the excess as subsidy to the manufacturers. In case of urea, the MRP is 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the cost whereas in the case of non-urea fertilisers, the price is 70 per cent to 75 per cent. The balance amount is given to farmers as subsidy.

Coming to the tax structure, fertilisers attract five per cent GST, even as the tax on raw materials and intermediates used in their manufacture is much higher. Natural gas (it accounts for about 90 per cent of urea production) is at present "zero rated" under GST implying that it continues to attract excise duty (ED) and VAT as in the past. Even as ED on gas is "nil", VAT varies from State to State with a low five per cent in Rajasthan and 21 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. Besides, some States impose local levies. For example, the "purchase tax" in Gujarat applies to that portion of inputs used for making urea that is sold outside the State. Nearly, one-third of gas consumption by fertiliser

“
 THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEVY GST ON GAS (BY REMOVING THE CURRENT ZERO RATE STATUS) AND BRING ELECTRICITY UNDER GST AND TAX BOTH AT FIVE PER CENT, I.E. THE SAME AS ON FERTILISERS. GST ON AMMONIA AND PHOSPHORIC ACID SHOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT DOWN FROM THE EXISTING 18 PER CENT AND 12 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY TO FIVE PER CENT ON EACH
 ”



plants is imported as LNG (liquefied natural gas) attracts customs duty (CD) at 2.5 per cent. Imports of ammonia, phosphoric acid and sulphur — raw materials and intermediates used in manufacture of non-urea or phosphate and potash fertilisers — attract CD at five per cent (on rock phosphate, it is 2.5 per cent). On the other hand, ammonia and phosphoric acid attract GST at 18 per cent and 12 per cent respectively (initially, GST on phosphoric acid was 18 per cent but was brought down to 12 per cent in January 2018).

The process of fertiliser manufacture is power-intensive. Electricity generation and distribution is also excluded from the ambit of the GST. However, it is exempt from levy of Central VAT (CENVAT) and VAT. Further, under the Constitution, entry 53 in the State list of the Seventh Schedule empowers States to impose tax (or electricity duty) on sale and consumption of electricity, except when consumed by the Union Government or the Railways.

Let us now look at the implications of the above tax structure for input tax credit. First, gas being virtually outside GST, gas companies viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and so on, can't claim credit for the taxes paid on their purchase of inputs, consumables and equipment leading to higher price. The price of gas to fertiliser producers (delivered at factory gate) further increases due to VAT (which in some states such as UP is 21 per cent) besides a host of local levies wherever applicable.

In case of electricity — it being outside GST and exempt from levy of CENVAT and VAT — this results in a situation whereby power companies don't get any credit for taxes paid on inputs viz. equipment, stores and so on, used in its generation and distribution. This results in higher cost of electricity, that is fur-

ther exacerbated by electricity duty imposed by States for which no offset is available. We thus have an anomalous situation, whereby on one hand taxes paid on inputs (primarily gas and electricity) used in the manufacture of urea are high with a built-in cascading effect. On the other hand, the tax liability on the output (urea) is low not just because of much lower GST at five per cent but also due to lower MRP. Likewise, tax paid on raw materials and intermediates (mainly ammonia and phosphoric acid) used in the making of non-urea fertilisers is high even as tax on output is low for the same reason. This inevitably results in unabsorbed input tax credit as output tax falls far short of input tax.

Considering the adverse effect of reimbursing the unabsorbed input tax credit on tax collection, particularly at the current juncture when the exchequer is facing a huge shortfall, the Government may not be inclined to sanction it (in case of telecom service providers) or delay as for fertiliser manufacturers. But, the adverse impact of rejection/delayed release on service providers/manufacturers can't be brushed aside either. What then is the way forward?

Ideally, the Government should maintain tax on the final product at the same rate (or higher) than the rate on raw materials/intermediates so that there is sufficient tax liability on the former to enable automatic neutralisation of the tax paid on the latter.

Accordingly, it should levy GST on gas (by removing the current zero rate status) and bring electricity under GST and tax both at five per cent, i.e. the same as on fertilisers. GST on ammonia and phosphoric acid should also be brought down from the existing 18 per cent and 12 per cent respectively to five per cent on each. While making these changes may take some time (particularly in view of resistance from States), in the mean-

while, the Government should take steps to promptly release pending unabsorbed input tax credit to fertiliser manufacturers. The position in case of telecom service providers, however, is different.

Here, the output tax liability is insufficient to fully offset the input tax mainly because of the rock bottom tariff due to "unhealthy" and "destructive" competition (this was not mandated under any law or Government regulation) unlike fertilisers where as matter of conscious policy, the selling price is controlled at a low level to make them affordable to farmers. Nevertheless, it can't be denied that service providers have incurred excess input tax credit and not refunding the same will go against the very spirit of GST.

The pending excess input tax credit of ₹36,000 crore may be refunded to the telecom service providers. With tariff being increased by all service providers and even the sector regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) contemplating a floor tariff (to bring a semblance of discipline to the market) hopefully, such a situation may not unfold in the future.

In fertilisers with the changes in tax structure — as proposed — and move towards direct benefit transfer (DBT) of fertiliser subsidy which will lift the MRP, the output tax liability will be in sync with tax paid on inputs.

Notwithstanding the above, situations of mismatch can't entirely be ruled out. To address these, the Government should consider amending GST law to allow refund of excess input tax credit and eventually match the output tax liability. Meanwhile, it should intensify efforts (including use of data analytics) to identify and crack down on fake claims of input tax credit to shore up its revenue. (The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst.)

Harness the demographic dividend

All stakeholders must engage in educating the population about sexual and reproductive health and highlight the multi-sectoral approach that will be necessary for improving adolescent health and breaking inter-generational cycles of disease



VASUNDHARA SINGH

Investing in adolescent health is essential to realising multiple sustainable development goals set by the UN, to be achieved by 2030. Given that India houses more than 253 million adolescents, it is pertinent to realise that neglecting their health may have enormous implications for the universal healthcare agenda. A recent Observer Research Foundation and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare workshop discussed the possibility of scaling up best practices to address issues of adolescent sexual and reproductive health amidst the continued challenges of early marriage, teenage pregnancies and high incidences of maternal mortality. It is understood that an adolescent's health status will

be carried forward into their adulthood. Therefore, the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) global strategy for investing in their health aims to operate on three targets: Survive, Thrive and Transform. These targets of putting an end to preventable deaths, ensuring health and well-being and expanding an enabling environment, although tangible, require a concerted effort on behalf of both the Government as well as civil society.

Challenges concerning adolescent health in India are ever-mounting and have been progressing at an alarming rate. Currently, it is among the top ten countries with the largest burden of teenage pregnancies, with nearly 27 per cent girls reported getting married before the age of 18 and 31 per cent giving birth by 18. Teenage pregnancies at the current rate have become a national emergency that needs to be addressed as a priority. Issues of inequality, lack of choices, interpersonal and sexual violence and child marriages are all underlying factors that have contributed towards teenage pregnancies and incidents of

maternal mortality. In this scenario, it becomes important for us to understand the extent to which teenage pregnancies can impact the health and nutrition of our future children, as multiple studies have associated them to child undernutrition. The possibility of teenage mothers being anaemic, underweight and having lesser access to healthcare services is also largely reported.

In order to address the concerns of adolescents, it is important that they are represented in the dialogue. All stakeholders must engage in educating the population about the subject of sexual and reproductive health education and highlight the multi-sectoral approach that will be necessary for improving adolescent health and breaking inter-generational cycles of disease. Although there is a significant change in the nutritional status in terms of being overweight and obese between NFHS 3 and 4, with a relative change of 75 per cent among girls and 182 per cent among boys, we still need to echo its importance. In terms of teenage pregnancies, only 57 per cent adolescents get registered during

the first trimester and only four per cent receive ante-natal check-ups; showing that not only is there a pattern of early pregnancies but there is a setback in access to necessary services. There are situations where only 11 per cent boys and three per cent girls aged between 15 to 24 report premarital sex.

An early intervention at the inception of adolescence, that would steer the progress of their health, should be carried forward to when they conceive, subsequently to when they bear a child at an age that is physically and emotionally mature. The high incidences of substance abuse, deaths due to Non-Communicable Diseases and complications during pregnancies and childbirth, are all reasons for us to re-evaluate our approach.

Investing in adolescent health has to be taken up with a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach. The notion of the policymakers, executives and civil society working in silos and their comfort zones needs to be trumped as it nullifies the process and progress that comes out of sharing knowledge and communicating,

and makes the working of the comprehensive plans redundant.

Schemes like the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, that envisions child health screening and early intervention services, will only prove fruitful when there is a convergence amongst schools, social welfare departments, State health departments and Integrated Child Development Services to ensure that children continue to receive their benefits even after leaving school.

On the other hand, Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), has made huge strides in working towards adolescent health as it has expanded its scope by reaching out to boys and girls, both married and unmarried, in rural as well as urban areas, and those who drop out of school and belong to marginalised groups. The programme also incorporates nutrition, violence, substance abuse/misuse, mental health and non-communicable diseases. The preventive, curative and routine check-ups at the primary level and general care at secondary and tertiary levels, are provided under the scheme. Realising the

importance of family care and community-based interventions, RKSK has been driven with involvement of counselling, outreach programmes, and adolescent-friendly health centres.

There must be an acceptance about the naive and the challenges of physical, cognitive, emotional and societal change adolescents face while growing up. Family care plays a huge part in easing the process of growth and streamlining the strides that need to be made towards their education and health. Furthermore, the longer girls stay in schools, the lesser the chances of early marriages and unplanned pregnancies. This will have a positive impact on the female labour force and the economy in the long run. There is an urgency with which we must combat the deeply-entrenched evils of child marriage, the conflict of medical termination of pregnancies and the haste to prove fertility.

Putting in place a system that manages knowledge about menstruation, substance misuse, while equally reaching out to boy and girls, with family and community-based interventions has now become an absolute

necessity. A collaborative structure among the stakeholders that allows customisation for a localised approach to region-specific problems, needs to be adopted for better service delivery.

It is not just a technical reform that is required but a societal and political one as well, as the issues are not just limited to structure of the policy but to the structure of the institutions formulating and implementing them as well.

Recently, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh launched the Saathi and Super Saathi programmes, which seek to empower rural women and communities through increased access to digital resources that help in generating awareness about health, education and sanitation. By this measure, our focus needs to be on curtailing the current trends of teenage pregnancies, revamping schemes like RKSK to allow suitable customisation in order to resolve ground-level region-specific problems and make adolescent health services accessible outside medical centres.

(The writer is Junior Fellow with ORF's Health Initiative)

No plan to exit India, says Walmart

Sacks 56 employee, including 8 top execs

New Delhi: World's largest retailer Walmart Inc on Monday said it has sacked 56 of its executives in India, including eight from senior management level, as it restructures its business in the country.

In a statement, Walmart India President and CEO Krish Iyer said the company "remains committed" to growing its wholesale retail business in India.

Most of the sacking was in Walmart's real estate division that is responsible for store expansion, implying the firm was facing challenges in expanding its wholesale busi-

ness. Walmart operates 28 wholesale stores in India, selling goods to small shopkeepers but not to retail consumers because of government rules aimed at protecting Kirana stores do not allow such sales.

"We are also looking for ways to operate more efficiently, which requires us to review our corporate structure to ensure that we are organized in the right way. As part of this review, we have let go of 56 of our associates across levels at the corporate office," Iyer said in the statement.

All of the 56 impacted associates, eight in the senior management and 48 in the middle as well as lower management, have been offered enhanced severance benefits and outplacement services to support their transition, he added.

He, however, denied reports of a second round of job cuts in April as part of an overall plan to shut down its



physical presence in the country after struggling to return a profit. The 56 executives laid off make up for 1 per cent of Walmart's overall workforce in India.

The job cuts come amid rising competition. US e-commerce giant Amazon Inc has partnered with India's leading retailer, Future Retail Ltd (FRL) to expand in the country, while richest Indian Mukesh Ambani

stores, one fulfillment center, and the company's sales grew 22 per cent in 2019, he added.

"We have recently made significant investments to serve our members better and will continue to do so. This includes investments in our brick and mortar stores as well as e-commerce.

"Our members are increasingly becoming omni-channel shoppers. We are thus investing heavily in technology and have a healthy pipeline of best price stores. This will provide our members with a truly omni-channel and convenient shopping experience in the future," Iyer noted.

Layoffs at Walmart's brick and mortar business began after it bought a majority stake in e-commerce retailer Flipkart in 2018 in an around USD 16 billion deal.

Walmart, as per its strategy to strengthen presence in the Indian market and also compete head-on with global rival Amazon, had announced a

mega-deal in 2018 to pick up 77 per cent stake in Flipkart.

Walmart had started B2B e-commerce in July 2014 from its Lucknow and Hyderabad 'Best Price Store' and was later extended to other stores.

It was among one of the first companies in India, which had adopted the omni-channel retail system by integrating online and offline formats here.

Amazon's partnership with Future Retail will make the US e-commerce giant the official online channel for the Indian firm's more than 1,500 stores across 400 Indian cities. As part of the deal, Amazon will add Future Retail's grocery products on its two-hour Prime Now delivery programme in India.

Ambani on the other hand already owns India's biggest retail chain, Reliance Retail, and has made no secret of his goal of building an e-commerce platform to rival Amazon and Walmart.

PTI

BUSINESS CORNER

NSIC SIGNS MOU WITH MITUTOYO SOUTH ASIA



NSIC and M/s Mitutoyo South Asia Pvt. Ltd have joined hands in the area of industrial metrology so as to provide skill manpower to MSME units and create employment by way of providing training on latest technological machines of coordinate measuring machine (CMM). The MoU was signed by Shri O.P.Singh Centre Head, NTSC (Okhla) and Shri Harish Bajaj, Director, Mitutoyo South Asia (Japan) in the presence of Shri Vijayendra, (IAS) and CMD, NSIC and Shri P.Udayakumar, Director (P&M) on 13th January, 2020 at the NSIC - Technical Services Centre, NSIC Campus, New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vijayendra, CMD, NSIC stated that NSIC is in tune with the needs of the changing needs of the world market and is committed to bring the latest technology with world class service to the MSME sector. Under the Memorandum of Understanding M/s Mitutoyo South Asia Pvt. Ltd will provide CMM machine CRYSTA -APEX with necessary probing kits and software's and will create a Skill Development Centre in "Advanced Training Centre" of NSIC - Technical Services Centre (Okhla) wherein state of art training will be imparted to trainees and services to MSME units. This Skill Development Centre will bridge the gap between institution and industry in the area of industrial metrology. Also present on the occasion were Shri Satinder Singh, CGM and Shri Manoj Lal, General Manager (SG), NSIC

China auto sales fall again in 2019 amid trade war

Beijing: China's auto sales fell for a second year in 2019, an industry group reported Monday, as a trade war with Washington and an economic slowdown fueled consumer anxiety and demand for electric vehicles weakened.

The downturn is squeezing global and Chinese automakers that are spending billions of dollars to meet government mandates to sell electric vehicles. Sales in the industry's biggest global market declined 9.6% from 2018 levels to 21.4 million sedans, SUVs and minivans, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

After two decades of explosive growth, Chinese auto sales fell 4.1% in 2018 as unease over the tariff war with President Donald Trump and slowing economic growth prompted consumers to put off big purchases.

AP

Sensex, Nifty end at record highs; Infosys rallies 5%

Mumbai: Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended at fresh lifetime highs on Monday, propelled by gains in Infosys amid positive domestic and global cues.

After rallying nearly 300 points to its record intra-day high of 41,899.63, the 30-share BSE index settled at a new closing peak of 41,859.69, up 259.97 points, or 0.62 per cent.

Likewise, the broader Nifty scaled its lifetime (intra-day) high of 12,337.75, before ending at 12,337.75, or 0.59 per cent, higher at 12,329.55 — its new closing peak.

Both indices were driven by Infosys, that rallied 4.76 per cent, after the IT services major on Friday reported a 23.7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹4,466 crore for the December quarter.

IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, HUL, M&M, Tata Steel, PowerGrid and Tech Mahindra too ended with gains on the BSE.



On the other hand, TCS, SBI, Bajaj Auto, ICICI Bank, RIL, Axis Bank and Nestle India finished in the red.

According to traders, besides positive quarterly numbers from Infosys, positive domestic macro data and firm global cues boosted market mood here.

After contracting for three months in a row, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth of 1.8 per cent in November, mainly on account of improvement in the manufacturing sector, as per government data released after market

PTI

Sebi extends deadline to April 2022 to split roles of chairman, MD

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi has deferred by two years to April 2022 its directive for listed companies to split the roles of chairman and managing director in view of demand from corporates, and to keep compliance burden lower in the wake of the current economic scenario.

Under the Sebi norms, the top 500 listed entities by market capitalisation were mandated to comply with the requirement of separation of the roles of chairperson and managing director (MD) or chief executive officer (CEO) with effect from April 1, 2020.

The norms were aimed at improving corporate governance structure of listed companies. Now, the date of implementation of the regulatory provision has been deferred to April 1, 2022, according to a gazette notification dated January 10.

While the notice did not specify any reason for the move, sources said that the decision to defer the implementation has been taken in view of demand from corporates and also to ease the compliance burden amid a slowing economic growth rate.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has been receiving various representations with respect to the regulatory requirements including from industry bodies like Ficc and CII. The representations

highlighted the present levels of unpreparedness of listed entities to comply with the directive.

Data from stock exchanges reveal that presently, only around 50 per cent of the top 500 listed entities are in compliance with the regulatory provision.

Currently, many companies have merged the two posts as CMD (chairman-cum-managing director), leading to some overlapping of the board and management, which could lead to conflict of interest and consequently the regulator in May 2018 came out with its norms to split the post.

The norms were part of the series of recommendations given by the Sebi-appointed Kotak committee on corporate governance.

A large number of big companies including Reliance Industries, BPCL, ONGC, Coal India, Wipro and HeroMotoCorp have a single person holding the twin post of chairman and managing director. Industry body Ficc has welcomed Sebi's decision to extend its deadline for splitting Chairman and MD posts by two years to April 2022.

"This was part of multiple representations made by Ficc and we appreciate that Sebi has extended the deadline, the industry body's President Sangita Reddy said.

PTI

19TH ICSI NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE HELD



BSES Rajdhani Power Limited adjudged the 'Best Governed Company' at the 19th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance. BSES' adherence to the highest standards of corporate governance is being recognised. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) has been awarded as the 'Best Governed Company (Unlisted Segment: Large Category)' at the 19th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance. Instituted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), the awards were presented in a glittering ceremony recently by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Mr Anurag Thakur and the former Hon'ble Chief Justice of India (retired), Deepak Misra. The award was received by the BRPL CEO Anil Sinha, CFO Amarjeet Singh, CS Pankaj Tandon and Head CCD & CSR Deepak Shankar on behalf of the organisation. BRPL's Company Secretary, Pankaj Tandon, was also felicitated as the 'Governance Professional' at the coveted national awards, instituted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), a body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, GOI.

COMMISSIONING OF ICGS ANNIE BESANT AND AMRIT KAUR



Indian Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant and Amrit Kaur, second and third in the series of five Fast Patrol Vessels were commissioned at Kolkata on 12 Jan 20 by Dr Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary, Govt of India in the presence of Director General Krishnaswamy Natarajan, PTM, TM, Director General Indian Coast Guard, Rear Admiral VK Saxena, IN(Retd), CMD, M/S GRSE and other senior dignitaries of the Central and State Government.

Indian Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant has been named in honour of Ms Annie Besant, an esteemed socialist and her eminent achievements towards the nation. Ms Annie Besant was a theosophist, women's rights activist, writer, orator and supporter of Indian freedom. She was also a philanthropist and a prolific author who had written over three hundred books & pamphlets and contributed in foundation of Banaras Hindu University. In 1916, she established the Indian Home Rule League, of which she became President. The ship is being based at Chennai under the operational and administrative control of Commander, Coast Guard Region East.

NORTHERN RAILWAY HOLDS VENDORS MEET



The Meet was held to bring together the suppliers and buyer (Railway) on the same platform to bring about an orderly system and transparency in the procurement of materials by Railways. These interfaces are also held from time to time so that MSME Vendors and Make in India initiatives can be encouraged. More than 300 representatives of 236 firms participated in the meet held at National Rail Museum in New Delhi on 08.01.2020.

WESTERN RAILWAY
Notice No: S/ADVT/2020 dt. 13.01.2020
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
 Sub: Inviting Expression of Interest for purchasing Diesel Locomotives in running conditions.
 40 nos. WDM3A ALCO make Diesel Locomotives have become surplus on Ratlam & Vatva Diesel sheds of Western Railway. These locomotives are more than 31 years old and in running conditions.
 The Principal Chief of Materials Manager, Churchgate, Western Railway invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from prospective purchasers for purchase of these locomotives.
 For any queries, please contact Deputy Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Churchgate, Western Railway, Mumbai-20 on any working days (Monday-Friday) between 9:30 AM TO 6:00 PM (Contact no 091-9004490762 or 022-67622475).
 The response may be submitted in envelope superscribed "EOI for purchasing Diesel Locomotives in running conditions" or (Email may also be sent on wrdycnmsales@rail.gov.in) to the address mentioned below by latest date 31.01.2020.
 Address: Deputy Chief Materials Manager (Dy.CMM)/Sales, Office of PCMM, 4th floor, Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400020.
 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly - Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about **35 years** of age was found dead from Under Pass Under Wazirabad Flyover toward Signature Bridge, Delhi Since 06.01.2020. In this regard a DD No. **13-A** dated **06.01.2020** has been registered at **Police Station Timarpur, Delhi**.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **MND Sr. No.:** UIDBND20 TP0001, **Wearing:** Black Jacket and Checkard Saleti Pnat.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
P.S. Timarpur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23812734
Mob. No. - 8750870129

DP/869/N/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Hemant S/o Vansh Gopal R/o H.No. A-1/69, Gali No. 16, Khajuri, Khas, Delhi** Age-about 42 years, Height-5'5", Face-Long, Built-Thin, Complexion-Sallow, Wearing-Blue Colour Checkard Shirt, Black Colour Pant, Grey Colour Swater & Topa and Black Colour Shoes in his feet has been missing from his house, since Dated 16.12.2019. In this regard a vide DD No. **30-A Dated 17.12.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi**

Hemant

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22962735
8750870727

DP/7519/NE/19

ICICI Bank seeks recovery of amounts from Chanda Kochhar

Mumbai: The ICICI bank has approached the Bombay High Court seeking effect to "termination of appointment" of Chanda Kochhar as its Managing Director and CEO, and also sought recovery of various amounts from her.

In a monetary suit filed on January 10, the bank sought dismissal of Kochhar's petition and stated that the issue can be decided in a commercial suit.

"ICICI has filed a suit seeking recovery of amounts towards the claw back of bonuses given to the petitioner (Kochhar) from April 2006 to March 2018 pursuant to the termination of the petitioner's services," the bank said in its affidavit.

A clawback is a provision in which incentive-based pay, like a bonus, is taken back from an employee by an employer following misconduct or declining profits. The affidavit was submitted in response to a petition filed by Kochhar challenging her sacking, months after she voluntarily left the second largest

PTI

CCI directs investigation against Amazon, Flipkart

New Delhi: Fair trade regulator CCI on Monday ordered a probe against Flipkart and Amazon for alleged malpractices, including deep discounting and tie-ups with preferred sellers.

The order follows a complaint filed by Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, whose members comprise many traders.

"The Commission observes that the exclusive arrangements between smartphone/mobile phone brands and e-commerce platform/select sellers selling exclusively on either of the platforms, as demonstrated in the

information, coupled with the allegation of linkages between these preferred sellers and OPs (opposite parties) alleged by the Informant merits an investigation," the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said in an order.

It needs to be investigated whether the alleged exclusive arrangements, deep discounting and preferential listing by the OPs are being used as an exclusionary tactic to foreclose competition and are resulting in an appreciable adverse effect on competition, it added.

PTI

SAT to hear NSE's co-location matter today

New Delhi: The Securities and Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Tuesday will hear the NSE's co-location case, wherein brokers are alleged to have received preferential access to the trading systems of the bourse.

The tribunal will hear the matters, involving the Sebi order in the NSE case, its former MD Ravi Narain and ex-CEO Chitra Ramakrishna and other executives -- Deviprasad Singh and Nagendra Kumar, as per the tribunal's cause list.

Also, the SAT will hear case involving brokers OPG Securities, GKN Securities and Way2Wealth, it added.

PTI

IOC launches NATO class diesel for Indian Navy

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has developed a special class diesel conforming to NATO grade for use in ships and vessels of Indian Navy.

Vice Admiral G S Pabby launched the Upgraded High Flash High-Speed Diesel (HFHSD- IN 512) in presence of IOC Director (R&D) SSV Ramakumar and IOC Director (Refineries) S M Vaidya, a company statement said here.

"IOC has always endeavoured to supply world-class fuels to Indian Defence Forces. Moving ahead in this direction IOC has developed and upgraded the specifications of HFHSD- IN 512 fuel required for Indian Naval ships, it said.

PTI

Financial performance of bulk tea firms to be under pressure in 2019-20: Report

Mumbai: Even as there was marginal improvement in financial performance during the first half of 2019-20, profit margins for bulk tea players are likely to remain under pressure due to tepid tea price movement in the current financial year, according to a report. "The marginal increase in overall tea prices together with muted growth in tea production for the large bulk tea players are likely to constrain any improvement in the operating profitability of bulk tea producers in 2019-20," Icrs Vice-President and Sector Head (Corporate Sector Ratings) Kaushik Das said.

This is despite the fact that labour cost is unlikely to witness any material increase in the current financial year, he added. "However, organised players with a high proportion of orthodox tea volumes could be an exception and are likely to see some improvement driven by significant increase in orthodox tea prices," he added.

PTI

HEALTH

KeepUnwrapped

Researchers have found that reducing the consumption of food kept in aluminum packaging can minimise the potential health risks. A high intake of aluminium compounds can cause, among other things, neurotoxic developmental disorders as well as damage the kidneys, liver and bones



DOCYARD

DR LAKSHMI V REDDY

MBBS, FEDM, FACE (US)
Endocrinologist



SPARSH YESWANTHPUR



Avoid falls & fractures

Patients are often surprised to realise that they are at increased risk of various bone disorders if they are Diabetic. Given the increasing prevalence of Diabetes Mellitus (Type 1 and Type 2) in India, patients should be better informed about the proper protocols to manage diabetes while ensuring that bone health is taken care of. It is a multi-pronged approach: Prevention of avoidable falls and fractures, lifestyle changes such as improved diet and weight-bearing exercises and caution in the use of certain medications.

CAUSES

Type 1 or Type 2, is associated with increased fracture risk. According to the *World Journal of Diabetes*: "Diabetes-related complications and certain antidiabetic drugs appear to further increase fracture risk, both directly and indirectly. The prevention and management of bone fragility in diabetes includes identification of patients at risk, correction of modifiable risk factors including appropriate choice of antidiabetic drugs and use of anti-fracture drugs with proven efficacy."

Studies published by the US National Institutes of Health suggest that Type 1 Diabetes causes reduction in Bone Mineral Density (BMD) while Type 2 Diabetes may cause an increase in BMD. BMD is related to bone density and thus a reduction may lead to osteoporosis, a disorder that makes bones weak and more prone to fracture. On the other hand, increased BMD due to Type 2 Diabetes, while it may appear benign, is possibly due to lower rates of bone turnover (ie. creation and resorption) and increased porosity, and these could also lead to increased risk of breakage.

With Diabetes negatively affecting bone health and creating other clinical problems doctors need to consider the use of anti-osteoporotic drugs to supplement standard anti-Diabetes medications in patients suffering with Diabetic bone loss

er the use of anti-osteoporotic drugs to supplement standard anti-diabetes medications in patients suffering with Diabetic bone loss.

PREVENTION

Some of the complications of Diabetes like nerve damage, muscle weakness, episodes of low blood sugar, and vision problems, increase the risk of falls and may cause fractures. Hence fall prophylaxis is essential and thus detecting hypoglycaemia, orthostatic hypotension and other factors that increase the risk of falls is important. Fracture history and risk factors should be assessed in older patients with Diabetes. Proper management of blood glucose is desirable.

TREATMENT

Unfortunately some treatment options that are useful in treating insulin resistance have negative side effects that compound the health issues seen with diabetic bone. Antidiabetic drugs like TZD (glitazones) which have negative effects on bone health should be avoided. All SGLT2 inhibitors should be avoided in diabetics with bone fragility.

Medications with a neutral or favourable effect on bone metabolism such as metformin and incretin based treatments should be the preferred treatment. Insulin is of course a major pillar in Diabetes management. For Type 1, there is little evidence of any impact on bone health. However, for Type 2, some studies suggest a non-trivial (40 to 100%) increase in the risk of bone fracture with insulin as compared to Metformin treatment.

WARMFOODS

AMARANTH: This ancient grain is rich in fiber and protein and many important micronutrients. It is a good source of manganese, magnesium, phosphorus and iron. The grain is also packed with manganese, exceeding the daily nutrient needs in just one serving.

Manganese is especially important for brain function and believed to protect against certain neurological conditions. It is high in phosphorus, a mineral that is important for bone health.

Amaranth is especially high in phenolic acids, which are plant compounds that act as anti-

oxidants. Several studies have found that amaranth could have an anti-inflammatory effect in the body. If one is looking to lose a few extra pounds, you may want to consider adding amaranth to your diet.

This means that there is a possibility that in the old age you may end up with no natural teeth.

However, there are a few home remedies that can help keep your teeth healthy.

■ Drink a lot of water.



PREVENT WEAR & TEAR

Osteoarthritis is the second most common rheumatologic problem with a prevalence of 22% to 39% in the country. DR AKHILESH YADAV tells you more

The condition

Osteoarthritis is the second most common rheumatologic problem and is the most frequent joint disease with a prevalence of around 40% in India. It is the form of arthritis which features the breakdown and eventual loss of cartilage of one or more joints. Cartilage is protein like substance which acts as cushion in between the joints. Although osteoarthritis can affect any joint, this disorder commonly affects hands, knees, hips and spine.

It's a condition that give rise to joint inflammation, it happens when the wear and tear of cartilage, the tissue which protects from the ends of both bones and joints. It's most common type of arthritis and is degenerative and it gets worsen with age. It causes damage to your joints, including: Hand and fingers, knees, hips, lower back and neck. It can also lead to problems with anxiety and depression.

The disease is associated with modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors such

as obesity, lack of exercise, bone density, occupational injury. The physical ability arising from pain and loss of functional capacity reduces the quality of life and increases the risk of further morbidity. This condition is three times more prevalent in women as compared to men, which ultimately leads to joint replacements.

Incidences of joint replacement surgeries have seen an upsurge in the past 5 years. According to the recent data provided by Joint registry (ISHKS), over 35,000 total knee replacements (TKR) and over 3500 total hip replacement surgeries (THR) have been performed in India in the last 5 years. It is evident from the data that more than 75% of the TKR were performed on women ranging in the age bracket of 45-70 years. More than 33000 cases (over 97 per cent) of TKR were attributed to osteoarthritis, and more than 60% of women above the age of 60 years suffering from osteoarthritis have undergone total hip replacement surgeries.

Progression and what it means

The most common Symptoms of Osteoarthritis (OA) includes pain, tenderness, and stiffness in joints, loss of flexibility, bone spurs, grating and cracking sensation of bones rubbing together, swelling around the joint that gradually degrades the joint causing several complications.

The progressive degenerative nature has been classified into five categories. Therefore there is need to take precautions before it reach stage 4.

Stage 0: Normal: At this stage the knee joints do not show any signs of joint impairment or damage.

Stage 1: Minor: In this stage minor wear and tear and bone spur growth can be seen. At this stage you won't experience any kind of pain or discomfort.

Stage 2: Mild:



Diagnosis through X-rays of the knee joint will reveal increased bone spur growth, with healthy cartilage size. At this stage many people start experiencing the symptoms like pain after a long day of walking or running and tenderness.

Stage 3: Moderate: In this stage, the cartilage between bones shows obvious

damage, and the space between the bones begins to narrow. People with stage 3 OA are likely to experience frequent pain when walking, running, bending, or kneeling. They also may experience joint stiffness after sitting for long periods of time or when waking up in the morning. Joint swelling may be present after extended periods of motion, as well.

Stage 4: Severe: People in stage 4 OA experience great pain and discomfort when they walk or move the joint. That's because the joint space between bones is dramatically reduced—the cartilage is almost completely gone, leaving the joint stiff and possibly immobile. The synovial fluid is decreased dramatically, and it no longer helps reduce the friction among the moving parts of a joint.

To-do list

If the condition is detected in the earlier stages (stage 0 to stage 2), no specific treatment module is needed. The condition can be controlled through exercise and physical therapy to relieve pain and discomfort. Such therapies are non-pharmacologic (do not require any medication).

Medication: While the pain doesn't subside with exercise the next option is to reduce the discomfort through medicines. If you experience a predisposition to Osteoarthritis (OA) or are at an increased risk, your doctor may recommend you take supplements, and doctors may prescribe for OTC pain killers and pain relief therapies. Usually the stage 3 condition can be controlled through medications.

Surgical intervention: In stage 4, if you experience severe OA of the knee, the last resort is surgical intervention. In most of the cases only the medial or lateral compartment is affected, unlike arthritis where it affects all the three of them.

If diagnosed at early stage, it can be treated with medications, but when the symptoms have crossed the extreme stage, surgery is the only option left. Full knee replacement has been the most common and the conventional method for treating arthritic knee. This is useful and necessary only when all the three compartments are involved, and can prove to be a disadvantage in case of unicompartmental arthritis. This is where unicompartmental knee surgeries are helpful.

Minimally invasive total knee replacement: Timely detection and advancements made in the field of total knee replacements with minimally invasive techniques making use of computer assistance has been providing an enhanced pathway for better recovery and improving the quality of life. Surgeries are now performed under highly specialised and advanced environment, ensuring shorter discharge time and negligible pain. This also enables a shorter hospital stay, speedy recovery and greater patient satisfaction.

Partial knee replacement: The latest techniques like partial knee replacement and new alloy implants are proving much better than previous ones, ensuring a long-lasting positive effect on knees. Earlier knee replacement was considered a necessity for the elderly suffering from the persistent knee pain. But today with improved implant technology and technique, the young generation is positive towards opting for surgery at an earlier age. The main advantage of the partial knee replacement is that it preserves the ACL which is a crucial ligament for movement and knee stability unlike in the case of total knee replacement where it is sacrificed. As this follows the minimal incision approach, a faster recovery, rehabilitation and quick return to full fledged activities is seen in all patients. Because the ligaments are kept intact, the patient feels the replaced portion of the knee as a natural part itself.

The writer is senior transplant Head Joint Replacement (Hip & Knee), Centre for knee and Hip Care, Vaishali

HYDRATE FOR HEALTHY SKIN



Winter brings its share of problems when it comes to skin and hair care. POOJA NAGDEV shares dos and don'ts that can help tackle the issue

There is a lot of dos and don'ts when it comes to skin and hair care during the winters. But this doesn't mean that one should let the chilling temperatures get in the way of great skin, hair and scalp. Following are some small silly mistakes that we do repeatedly and all we need to do is to avoid them.

Oil your hair: Please do not over oil your hair in winters. Oil attracts a lot of dust and eventually the settled dust weighs down the hair, leading to dandruff and hair breakage. Remember with oiling excess is bad. Oiling once in a week is good enough.

Isn't hot water bath tempting: The same doesn't apply to skin and scalp. Always use luke warm water to take bath and never forget to apply a conditioner every time you shampoo. A five minutes self-body massage before getting into the shower works wonders. First, the oil on our body doesn't let water get in touch with our skin directly as it slips away and second it is definitely moisturising.

Don't leave sunscreen behind: We love the sun most in winters and love being outdoors, going out for open brunches and flea markets so applying a physical sunscreen that uses minerals titanium dioxide is essential at all times. Never leave home without applying a good sunscreen and apply repeatedly.

Make-up tip that's cool: During winters go with foundations-cum-moisturiser with an SPF. Do avoid using matt make-up. Matt make-up products have more binders and lack oils and emulsifiers and therefore leave our skin dry and flaky.

Forget supplements: Another common mistake we all make is not taking supplements during winters. Taking health supplements that increase our body's immunity to fight diseases is utmost essential.

Care of face & lips: Not using facial oils, facial oils are for everyone above 25 years of age and taking care of lips is also very important. Carry a good lip balm and use it every time the lips feel dry. Our nails also get dry during winters so it's best not to ignore them and apply nail cuticle oil once in a week.

Avoid exfoliators: Please do not exfoliate a lot in winters. These exfoliators are usually harsh and leave skin dry and open pores. Every time you exfoliate remember to moisturise to close pores.

Body butters are for all skin types: Body butters are for everyone, sometimes people carry an assumption that people with oily skin do not need body butter. We all need body butters and there are butters available for all skin types. Mango butter is rich source of Vitamin C and is very good for oily skin. In terms with emollient content butter go like this first being lightest mango butter, avocado butter, almond butter, olive butter, shea butter and lastly argan butter.

Keep hydrated: Last, not drinking enough water is common mistake we all do. Our body requires same amount of water minimally as in summers so remind yourself to drink enough water every day.

The writer is aromatherapist & cosmetologist, Founder, Inatur



DadiKaKehna

Most of us forget that keeping our teeth healthy is just as important as keeping the rest of the body fit.

But by following a few simple things, one can ensure healthy teeth for life, says ROSHANI DEVI



Indians tend to ignore teeth problem. This has a down side. A study says that 53 per cent suffer common tooth problem like bleeding gums, bad breath, sensitive teeth, receding gums and decayed teeth, 77 per cent people said they had not visited a dentist in the last one year (2017), says a nation-wide study by AC Nielsen.

This means that there is a possibility that in the old age you may end up with no natural teeth.

However, there are a few home remedies that can help keep your teeth healthy.

Not only is it good for the body, water washes away the food and bacteria left in and around the mouth after a meal. It also neutralises the acidity that erodes the enamel.

■ Eating meat, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products provides the nutrients teeth need like calcium.

■ Eat sesame seed. It acts like a dental scrub. It will also remove plaque and tartar.

■ Take your time to brush your teeth. There was a reason why our elders insisted we brush our teeth after every meal. Brush in circular, up and down, side by side, and diagonal motions. This will help you cover all the areas.

Need to invest in mental health

The birthday of Swami Vivekanand (January 12) is also observed as India's National Youth Day. With a central theme of channelising youth power for nation building, the day signifies the power of investing in the young.

Young people have come into their own, and this decade is truly theirs. They are at the forefront in every sector. India has the largest youth population in the world — above 30 per cent are young.

By 2020, the average age of an Indian is expected to be 29 years, the youngest average age in the world. The influence the young are wielding today, and will wield in the days to come, makes it imperative that we immediately address issues related to their well-being. It is only when we include their needs and concerns in policy making and practice that we can be assured of channelise youth power for nation building.

The last three decades have seen a mind-numbing acceleration of changes in



Mohammed Ziauddin
Senior Manager, Girls' Education and Development

lifestyles and environments. Without a precedent to look to for guidance, youth health, well-being and safety are all under assault from a variety of internal and external factors.

Mental health problems, including depression, stress and anxiety are emerging as a serious threat. The reasons can be manifold: Increased isolation and increased internet penetration leading to addictive behaviours and sedentary lifestyles.

Cyber-bullying, unheard of a generation ago,

is now a real threat. Substance abuse is a widespread phenomenon that cuts across the class and educational divides. Socio-economic situation, with gradually toughening job markets the political environment and family conflict — all have an impact on the young.

The US-based National Centre for Biotechnology Information says that about 20% of India's young are suffering from various common mental disorders. Consider the disastrous phenomenon of suicides. The World Health Organization reports that one person commits suicide every 40 seconds in the world. India's contribution to global suicide deaths increased from 25.3% in 1990 to 36.6% in 2016 among women, and from 18.7% to 24.3% among men (Lancet, 2018). 75,000 students committed suicides between 2007-2016.

One thing that clearly stood out was the urgent need of investing in mental health, especially in ending stigma on mental health.

STUDYCENTRE

Loneliness rivals smoking and obesity in its impact on shortening longevity and has become a public health concern, especially for the older adults, say researchers.

With older adults increasingly moving into senior living or retirement communities, researchers at University of California San Diego School of Medicine sought to identify the common characteristics of residents who feel lonely in these environments.

The new study, published in the journal 'Aging and Mental Health', found that people's experience of living with loneliness is shaped by a number of personal and environmental factors.

Age-associated losses and inadequate social skills were considered primary risk factors for loneliness. "Some residents talked about the loss of spouses, siblings and friends as the cause of their loneliness. Others mentioned how making new friends in a senior community cannot replace deceased friends they grew up with," said Alejandra Paredes, a research fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at University of California San Diego School of Medicine.

The feeling of loneliness was frequently associated with a lack of purpose in life. Others expressed a sense of "not being attached, not having very much meaning and not feeling very hopeful" or "being lost and not having control."

— IANS

Trend Slazer

Boman joins cast of Jayeshbhai Jordaar

Actor **BOMAN IRANI** is set to play the role of actor **Ranveer Singh's** dad in the film, *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*. Boman said, "*Jayeshbhai Jordaar* is a rare script that tells a brilliant, moving story. For me, Divyang is a writer and director to watch out for and talent like him comes once in many many years. He has written something exceptionally thought-provoking that delivers a powerful message in the most entertaining way. It is a pleasure to collaborate with YRF on this special project. And of course, working with Ranveer is always fun. He is a powerhouse performer."



'Photographers really work hard every day. I sometimes wonder why they work so hard. I mean — food, water or other utilities are one thing — but to put your life at risk every day makes me wonder. But after coming here (at Photography Awards 2020), I realise why. Well, a photograph or picture says a thousand words.'

—Deepika Padukone

Actor **SONAKSHI SINHA's** recent tweet has left fans speculating if she has a heavy-duty action flick on the cards. Sonakshi took to social media to share a behind-the-scenes video from the sets of the 2016 spy action thriller *Force 2*, co-starring **John Abraham**. In the video, Sonakshi can be seen kicking serious butt as the camera captures her action from different angles. "Throwback to some *mar dhad* with John for *Force 2*. This was one of the most memorable action sequences that I've been a part of..." she captioned the video.



JLo inspired Fleabag: Phoebe

Fleabag creator and star **PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE** said singer-actress **Jennifer Lopez** and dirty Latin words acted as sources of inspiration for her hit award-winning series. She revealed her inspiration while accepting the win for Best Comedy Series at the 25th annual Critics Choice Awards. Phoebe gave special thanks to her sister and *Fleabag* composer **Isobel Waller-Bridge**, saying that her music had "covered and elevated" the "slightly mediocre bits" of the show, sharing a "little secret." She said, "She put in a little secret in for anyone who can speak Latin, but all the words that the thing is singing in Latin during the songs are completely filthy. So thank you for the support."



Michelin star chef **Vikas Khanna** was recently at the receiving end of mass trolling on social media after he appeared on an episode of *BiggBoss 13* for a cooking task where all the contestants participated. In the end, the chef treated them to some of his signature Michelin dishes. He prepared a lavish spread of delicacies for the winning team. After all the contestants were served the food and they were preparing to eat, Riaz, a model who has been part of the show, decided to feed the chef a piece of the cake. A delighted Khanna shared the image of the same on his Instagram story. However, what Khanna wasn't expecting was the sea of trolling that was in store for him after the post. As he posted the image, many questioned his faith considering he ate from the hands of Riaz. Incidentally, the model is from Kashmir.

Not quite a piece of cake

Chef **VIKAS KHANNA** got a lot of hate messages on social media for sharing a picture of *BiggBoss 13* contestant **Asim** feeding him dessert

Responding to the trolls, Khanna wrote, "When I posted this humble gesture on Insta Story, I got a lot of hate filled rude messages and questions. Even questioning my faith. I'm an Indian and that's my faith." He added that he was "happy" to watch the contestants eat and that he had only shared Riaz's story because he was moved by his gesture. He even shared the same picture on Instagram and explained, "Dear all. I was in the Bigg Boss house a few days back. We had spent hours and hours to create

Michelin Style plates for the winning team.....when everyone started eating, I was so happy to see them eat. They are living in isolation without any luxury for months, it was a satisfying moment for me to see them savour my food. Except for Asim, who served me a bite with his hands first. It was a genuine moment to thank me. When I posted this humble gesture on Insta Story, I got a lot of hate-filled rude messages and questions. Even questioning my faith. I'm an Indian and that's my faith. I have slept many days

without food during my journey in America. I admire people with courage and big hearts even when they are at the receiving end. Humanity and humility shine even when they are silent and small." The chef's response to the trolling has impressed many on social media. His post on Twitter has over 25,000 likes while the number of over 85,000 on Instagram. Many lauded him for standing up against communal trolling and taking a stand in defence of secularism and harmony. —With inputs from agencies



More than words

Director **ADEEB RAIS** tells **SAKSHI SHARMA** that his short film *Baatein* initiates conversations around issues that people usually find hard to talk about

If you tell a story that can make an impact and force people to think, it will make the world a better place and you would have made a difference," says director Aadeb Rais, who is keen on making a short film on the current political scenario of the country. He says, "Right now, I feel very strongly about what's happening in the country. If I make a film on that, I would have a side to it unlike my recent one, *Baatein*. I usually hate taking sides. It's always good to show both sides of the story. For instance, if a child is bullying another, there is a problem with the bully. So we should try to get to the root of the problem. That's what the film talks about."

The short film, set in Palghar, Maharashtra, is about starting conversations in today's world where people find it hard to express themselves. It follows a young documentary filmmaker, Jeet, played by Aadeb who visits a widowed science professor, Mrs Deshpande, (played by Supriya Pilgaonkar). On his arrival, he is introduced to her niece, Tulika (played by Shivani Raghuvanshi). The two become friends. Mrs Deshpande, who is struggling to cope with the grief over losing her young son, Milind to suicide, too becomes a part of the group. The unlikely trio spend the day together and a bond develops. They begin to share a few personal stories and express some of their deepest fears, feelings and thoughts with each other. A few unexpected conversations take place, which change their outlook towards life.

So what inspired Aadeb to create this film? "Everyone is aware of the fact that the youth are going through a lot of pressure and mental health problems. Unfortunately, mental depression has become a very common issue, which often goes unrecognised. Most of us go through traumatic experiences at some phase in our life but we don't know how to express ourselves properly," says he. This made Aadeb realise that he needs to tell a story that addresses this issue, without being preachy and which could make people to stop and think.

In the film, Supriya's son had committed suicide because he was bullied by other kids, out of which, one was jailed. Jeet meets that boy in the jail and puts across his perspective in the film. He finds out that the boy who was guilty of bullying people also wanted to commit suicide. The film explores some grey areas by



putting across the criminal's perspective. "Both are right in their own ways — people who agree with the story and even the ones who don't. I just wanted to put this across that if a person does something bad, we need to understand why he did that. I am not trying to justify what he did, but maybe, as a society, we need to look into the reasons why kids are choosing the wrong path. Our elders need to give it a thought. The film is trying to make parents think about the importance of communication with their children, whether they are focussing enough on the right and wrong aspects of actions. And I want to show that talking and hearing the child out is of utmost importance," says he.

The film is based on Margaret Wheatly's quote — "Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters". As Aadeb feels that we have a lot of issues to look into because of the way the world is heading. "There is a need to confront issues and find a solution. I believe that filmmakers have a responsibility to address them. There might be a time when my films wouldn't have something to say in depth but majority of times, I would choose to entertain the audience through a message."

The beauty of the short film is its reach. People don't mind investing a short span of time which gives this format an upper hand as compared to mainstream cinema and series that demand commitment for a longer time period. Aadeb believes, "It fits in aptly in the little time gaps that one gets during the day. It also offers a lot of variety to the audience. They get a plethora of content to pick from. Moreover, it works for a lot of young film actors and directors too who can channelise their creativity. When one has a time limit, it restricts you as a filmmaker to not become over-indulgent and preachy on any topic," he says.

It is often noticed that such thought-provoking issues don't make it to the mainstream cinema. But the recent release, *Chhapaak* seems to have challenged this notion, believes Aadeb. "With *Chhapaak*, one can see that filmmakers are bringing important issues to the forefront. But with mainstream cinema, another challenge is also that the actors take the centre stage. It's not just the actual content that matters but the face on the film's poster too. Well, this dilutes the essence of the issue, too, sometimes," he adds. (The film is streaming on YouTube.)

Look beyond the borders

Italian fashion Chamber adopts a manifesto promoting diversity

The Italian National Fashion Chamber is promoting a diversity agenda among Milan's major fashion houses, a year after several top Italian brands faced criticism for designs and remarks seen as culturally and racially insensitive. Its manifesto backed by major Italian fashion brands aims to increase racial and gender diversity in key roles in Milan's fashion houses, which fashion chamber president Carlo Capasa acknowledged was lagging. "We have been speaking for many years against discrimination based on gender, religion, skin colour and physical ability. But we must acknowledge that this has not been truly implemented. We looked at our industry and saw there is disparity. We saw that a disparity of gender persists, that there are conditions not favourable to women in the workplace and in some cases there is discrimination," Capasa said.



While Capasa resisted framing the manifesto as a direct reaction to the scandals involving blackface designs by Gucci and Prada, and a Chinese backlash that forced fashion house Dolce&Gabbana to cancel a major Shanghai show, the incidents show the cultural blind spots that can arise when a fashion house is too homogeneous.

Capasa said the Milan fashion world must work harder to attract people of colour. "If global companies want to represent the world they are targeting, they must welcome diversity and look beyond their own borders," he said, citing the relative homogeneity of Italian society. Milan has lagged the other main fashion cities of Paris, New York and London in racial diversity on the runway, according to season diversity reporting by the Fashion Spot. Capasa said the stories that fashion houses want to tell are often linked to their Italian roots, and that runway choices are linked to model agencies' offerings since not all models come to Milan.

While many Milan fashion houses take their creative direction from women — including Miuccia Prada, Donatella Versace, Silvia Venturini Fendi and Angela Missoni — and more women than men work in the fashion industry, Capasa said efforts are needed to get more women into decision-making roles. "If we look at the boards, at the CEOs, at other key roles, there might be an advantage for men," Capasa said. "But we don't want to introduce quotas obligating companies to promote women. We

want to create the conditions so that women can have the same chances." The chamber's manifesto does not include hard commitments. Instead, it presents concepts that "will serve as a model for a radical reform in terms of diversity and inclusion."

They were adopted by the chamber's more than 100 members, which include most major Milan fashion houses with the notable exception of Dolce&Gabbana, and will be monitored every year for progress. They call for changing representations of the standards of beauty on runways and in magazine campaigns, acknowledging that "canons of physical beauty and harmful psychological models have spread throughout the industry." They also present inclusion as a business opportunity that can boost financial results while improving trust with clients.

Gucci and Prada have independently made efforts to address the scandals. Gucci's efforts include launching a scholarship programme to reach students who have been underrepresented in the fashion industry, while Prada announced a diversity council headed by two Americans, artist Theaster Gates and film director Ava DuVernay. Capasa put the fashion chamber's initiatives in the context of an ever more globalised industry where 2.5 billion people follow the fashion world on social media accounts and can, with a single post, shift a fashion company's fortunes.

Meanwhile the centre of fashion's commercial gravity has shifted to Asia, with Chinese consumers accounting for 90 per cent of luxury sales growth last year, according to a study by the consultancy Bain & Co. "The push to speak about diversity of inclusion comes directly from the fact that globalisation made us understand that you cannot speak in the same way that you spoke before," Capasa said. "The audience has become much bigger." —AP



WHEN EAST MEETS WEST

French artist and Zen practitioner Guyseika presents a series of works, which has been inspired by his trysts with spirituality and culture across East Asia. By TEAM VIVA



There are swirling vortices, ascetic figures and tigers that consume the walls of exhibition of French artist and Zen practitioner Guyseika's works at the Alliance Française. The diverse elements have a common thread of Asian influence which lend the exhibition its title of *Threads through Asia*.

Inspired from the traditional Buddhist art of several Asian countries, mixed with imagery from popular culture and his own interpretation, Guyseika weaves together elements of Asian culture and abstract expressionism. Deeply meditative, his Buddhism-influenced works are a unique rendition of the Orient and Occident.

The show gives a glimpse into the 22 years of Guyseika's Zen practice and artistic exploration. He threads together traditional Zen and Taoist painting of China and Japan, shamanism, *mandalas* and folk rituals of India with Tibetan *thangkas*. It features over 50 contemplative works in various media.

Guyseika said he found Asia fascinating since childhood as his grandmother hailed from Vietnam.

Having travelled extensively across the East Asian countries, Guyseika finally started practicing Zen with a Japanese master. He later voyaged

across India and by the time he returned to Paris, his works were strongly dominated by his experiences. He earlier said, "I had also

been fascinated with the spiritual and geometric forms of *yantras* and *mandalas* and the ritual use of pigments, which one can find in



abundance in India." Being a multi-dimensional artist, he has written several novels and poetry compilations and also plays electronic music in underground concerts.

Jaya Jaitly, president, Dastkari Haat Samiti, said, "In the midst of all the pandemonium around us, Guyseika offers beauty, calm and gentleness through his intensely thoughtful works. I believe we all need to internalise such feelings to maintain our balance in today's

fast-paced world." Writer Sameer Abraham Thomas said, "Guyseika immersed himself in the ancient art of the Zen monks and Taoist sages, shamanic visions, Tibetan *thangkas*, Hindu mythology and folk art so much that he expressed these cultures through his words and images as though they were his own. He never quite turned his back on the world of abstract expressionism, street art and punk

rock." With bold, colourful strokes, Guyseika's works in acrylic on canvas represent fluid, dreamlike forms and visualise his affinity for the mountains — where much of his Zen practice took place. His works imagine Buddhist visuals mixed with manga, tattoo, street art and surfing culture. Other traditional series are of Zen inks, which are reminiscent of Asian calligraphy. The artist has also captured the fleeting present moment through shades of blue, red, purple and black on white handmade paper. Rooted in Buddhist philosophy, his works often illustrate a short poem which present the simple yet profound teachings of Tao (the path). Some of his Japanese influences have been poems by Han Shan, Ryokan and Ikkyu and Basho.

So what was Guyseika's aim? He said, "It was to confront and mix different cosmogonies in order to create a mythical world neighbouring and questioning our ordinary reality."

Thomas added, "Guyseika's Buddhist inspirations are amply evident in his work, though they are also illuminated by a penchant for quirky captions in French and English."

His works like *Kat* and *Dragon Posture* make layered psychedelic icons redolent of punk and comic book art with their simplicity and fantastic imagery.

Thomas pointed out, "Guyseika's use of stamps, which resemble the Japanese *hankos* lend a sense of authenticity to the series."

Mountains return in Guyseika's series of *mandala* drawings made on textured handmade paper in natural pigments and crayons from the Avani-Kumaon cooperative, whose vegetable dyes and pigments Guyseika has a fondness for. In the *mandalas*, the mountain motif is distilled into the geometric shapes of circles and triangles. (The show is on till January 16.)

Khamir's exhibition *Desi Oon* showcases how rural and urban communities come together to encourage indigenous crafts in a lesson for humanity, says UMA NAIR

An ode to traditions

The portrait of a Meghuban Rabari spinner from Vemora village is one of the many images that strike a chord when you look at Khamir Kutch's presentation, *Desi Oon*. The four-day exhibition at Bikaner House celebrates the indigenous wool of Kutch and is a summation of many odysseys in the language of regional symbolism.

KHAMIR KACHCHH

Khamir is a platform for preserving and facilitating the crafts, heritage and cultural ecology of the Kutch or Kachchh region of Gujarat. It was instituted in the aftermath of the 2001 earthquake with the objective of engagement and development of Kutch's rich, creative industries. In more ways than one, its very foundation is built on the dynamics of reclamation and recreation of indigenous identities in craft and heritage.

Desi Oon, Khamir's exhibition of shawls, *dhurries*, shoes and handbags becomes a repertoire that translates tradition into modernity as it echoes the essence of an extraordinarily intriguing journey seeking to familiarise us with the local craft of spinning, weaving and dyeing wool. A rare opportunity is the presence of some of Kutch's most respected artisans and herders, sharing secrets about the intricacies of wool craft and herding.

Khamir collaborated with weavers, spinners, dyers, felters and designers to organise this exhibition. This is a first step in a series of events planned by



the organisation to put the spotlight on the utility of indigenous wool to urban consumer markets.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

The exhibition is an immersive experience with film visuals, images and exquisitely crafted textiles, which narrates the story of the indigenous wool of Kutch. Workshops are conducted on *Desi Retiya* (Charkha) along with a *Takli/Dhera* (Spindle) spinning demo. Besides, a felting demo and workshop, a Kutchi embroidery workshop with wool, the demonstrations of *Tangaliya*-weaving and *Tabariya* bag-craft are lessons for life.

"We are grateful to the Centre for Pastoralism (CIP), Asian Heritage Foundation and HT Parekh Foundation, for making this exhibition possible. All exhibited products undergo value addition and wool treatment facilitated by Khamir. It is hopeful that the

story of wool and sensitively designed woollen products will help sway consumer preferences in favour of indigenous woollen items in households and closets," says Paresh Mangaliya, deputy director, Khamir.

REGIONAL REALITIES OF TEXTILES

The success of the venture lay in the weaving of textual and textile-based thinking and practices that celebrated the regional realities and possibilities for textile crafts and wool strategies. The sight of the shawls and the images of different yarns drying in the sun brings forth many memories in history such as that of active decolonising initiatives and the richness of unearthing overlooked bodies of knowledge that go back to 5,000 years of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

The exhibition also brings home the truth of the economic model that needs to be studied. The integrity of craft value



chains is dependent on local availability of raw materials. Sheep herding systems are of special importance for wool craft. Such systems are also special because of their low carbon footprints. They are invaluable in arid regions such as Kutch. They are also a source of food, raw materials for crafters and fertilisers for farmers and continue to conserve complex ecosystems.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PRACTICE

One of the roles of institutions, like Khamir is to engage with the current issues and to be a mirror to society in reclaiming heritage practices in textiles in villages that have deep historic roots. In grappling with these issues, it is integral to have deeper knowledge about the state of our societies, our collective futures, the language of textiles and creative journeys. The beauty of the contemporary and traditional meld in design dynamics in the

dhurries and shawls. It ignites the beauty of thought and the structural threads of thought that can rule our yearning to be partakers of the process of utility and economic interdependence.

Exhibitions like *Desi Oon* relate to an urban rural connectivity. It helps us to articulate through art the complexities of our realities. Textiles have a unique power of affirming the intrinsic power of artistic work, to become a keystone in everyday practices.

Remembering the earthquake and its aftermath in 2001 brings us to the need for sensitivity. The ability of our interventions to flourish artistically in fraught and dire situations, to create new journeys that progress over time, speak of the true power of society. When rural and urban communities come together to empower and encourage indigenous crafts and heritage practices, it becomes a lesson for humanity.



Back to the roots

Amarrass Nights depicted the beauty of Rajasthan and the human connect of Sufiana qawwalis by showcasing lesser-known folk and traditional performances. By TEAM VIVA

Curated by Amarrass Records, Amarrass Nights, a mesmerising musical evening took place at Bagh-e-Azeem, at the capital's Sunder Nursery. The performances by Rajasthani folk artists Ghewar and Firoze Khan, and Qawwali group Rehmat-e-Nusrat from Uttarakhand took the music enthusiasts back to their roots. Amarrass records other than hosting these two exciting new groups also highlighted the endangered folk instrument "Kamaicha" in the music performances leaving the Dilliwallah spellbound. It aims to showcase lesser known folk and traditional artists. It's records are poised to host monthly series of music concerts at Sunder Nursery, Nizamuddin which serves as a platform to curate forthcoming folk and traditional artists from India and introduces new collaborations and artist exchanges.

The night embarked with the performance of brother

duo Ghewar & Firoze Khan from Rajasthan. The Khan brothers with their "Kamaicha" and the "Dholak" gave a range of their musical repertoire, Ghewar opened the concert by playing the sound of moving train on Kamaicha, then the duo sang songs in Raag Khamaji, followed by a *bhajan* — "Bhola Shambu kya pooch jaat hamari" — dedicated to Lord Shiva. They sang folklore inspired by bird and Lord Krishna and Radha. The rustic notes from Ghewarji's Kamaicha proved that it's great legacy is still alive and needs to be preserved. Their performance depicted the raw beauty of Rajasthan's landscape.

After the tunes of the deserts of Rajasthan, it was time for the Sufiana Qawwalis to take the stage at the Sunder Nursery, Qawwali group Rehmat-e-Nusrat from Uttarakhand, gave beautiful tribute to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan with their performance.

They performed Sufiana Kalam of the great Amir Khusrao and Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. They sang, *Chhaap Tilak*, *Nit Khair Manga*, *Yeh jo halka halka suroor hai...* The Group consisted of six people with Sarveet Tamta leading the band on vocals and Harmonium, Sanjay Kumar on Tabla, Dhruv Pandey on Guitar and chorus, Sahil Arya, Bhanu Pratap Arya and Avinash Kumar on clap and chorus. Talking about his group lead vocalist, Sarveet Tamta said, "People always try to preserve and protect the things that are on the verge of getting extinct, traditional Qawwali form is one of those things and there are very few groups in India who perform the traditional Qawwali. Since the inception of our group we have always tried to preserve the traditional Qawwali. Rehmat-e-Nusrat recited the timeless musical tradition with qawwalis leaving the audience craving for more.

WATCH OUT

Artist Guyseika presents his solo exhibition, *Thread through Asia*, which is the result of more than 20 years of his exploration of the Asian cultures. The artists confronts and mixes different world views to create a mythical universe questioning the ordinary reality. **WHEN:** January 11 to 16 **TIME:** 6:30 pm **WHERE:** Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Française de Delhi, 72 Lodhi Estate.



Curated by Priyanka Banerjee, *My World of Art* is a solo art exhibition by artist Anindita Kishore. As a contemporary enamelist, she has been practising enameling since 20 years. And now she has developed her individual style with a preference for employing thick and thin metal foils, wires and crystals as a technique to express herself. **WHEN:** January 8 to 14 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Vivanta by Taj, Dwarka, Sector 21.



IC presents *Hundred Years of Guayasamin*, an exhibition that represents three periods of Maestro Guayasamin's artistic trajectory — The Trail of Tears, the Age of Rage and The Tenderness. It depicts the struggle, pain, suffering, happiness, beauty and hope. **WHEN:** January 10 to 16 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Annexe Art Gallery, India International Centre.



Gallery Latitude 28 presents an exhibition of new works by Baroda-based artist Sudipta Das. Through collections and assemblages of her new-ionic doll-like paper sculptures, Das dives into personal history and family narratives to explore themes of exile, refuge and temporariness of life. **WHEN:** Till January 17 **WHERE:** Gallery Latitude 28.

Amad Kathak Dance Centre is organising *Rang-E-Sukhan*, a Kathak dance production, which will highlight the shades of poetry that are mystical and romantic. Both the forms will be expressed through the enigmatic Kathak dance. The performances will be based on Persian, classical Urdu that include the verses of Amir Khusarow, Wajid Ali Shah, Daag and their masterful amalgamation of Indian and Persian culture, also known as *Gangajamuni Tehzeeb*, which is very much relevant today. **WHEN:** January 15 **WHERE:** Shri Ram Centre auditorium, Mandi House.



Zizou maintains 100% record

Real shoot-out Atletico in penalties to win 11th Spanish Super Cup

AFP ■ JEDDAH

Thibaut Courtois proved the hero on Sunday as Real Madrid beat city rivals Atletico Madrid in a penalty shoot-out in Saudi Arabia to win their 11th Spanish Super Cup.

Courtois and Jan Oblak were both imperious during a goalless final but the Belgian came up trumps, saving Thomas Partey's penalty after Saul Niguez had already hit the post.

Sergio Ramos tucked away the winning spot-kick to ensure Real Madrid clinched their first trophy of the season, with La Liga and the Champions League next in their sights.

"I went through their takers on the bench," said Courtois. "Saul's surprised me but Thomas' I read, and he's got a very hard shot."

Atletico might have won it in extra-time when Alvaro Morata went through one-on-one but Real's Federico Valverde took a red card in exchange for cynically fouling the striker from behind.

"It was something you shouldn't do and I apologised to Alvaro but it was the only option I had left," said Valverde.

"It was the most important moment of the match," added Atletico coach Diego Simeone.

"If he had gone through it was a goal but I told him that anyone would have done the same in his position."

Victory maintains Zinedine Zidane's spotless record as a coach in finals.



Real Madrid players pose with the Spanish Super Cup trophy after defeating Atletico Madrid 4-1 in penalty shoot-out

Both teams had good chances to win it late on, with Luka Jovic's deflected cross finding Valverde free five yards out but the midfielder's header hit his own knee before drifting harmlessly over.

Then Atletico might have nicked it as Kieran Trippier clipped an excellent pass over the top for Morata, who opted for accuracy rather than power and Courtois was able to push away.

Into extra-time and, with 105 minutes on the clock, Courtois did well to flush out a leg and block Morata's acrobatic effort while Oblak twice denied Real, first a curling shot from Luka Modric and then a follow-up from Mariano Diaz.

Yet the most dramatic moment was still to come as Saul sent Morata clean through, with only Courtois to beat, before the chasing Valverde scythed him down from behind.

The red card was inevitable but Atletico only had a free-kick and, for four minutes, a one-man advantage. Trippier hit the free-kick into the wall and Real held on for penalties.

Carvajal found the corner but Saul struck the post, despite sending Courtois the wrong way. Rodrygo coolly put Real two ahead and Thomas missed, this time Courtois diving right and palming clear.

Modric swept into the corner before Trippier did the same. It was left to Ramos to hit the winning shot.



Cristiano Ronaldo checks Juventus teammate Merih Demiral after he suffers head injury during Serie A game

Cristiano brings Juve back on top

AFP ■ ROME

Cristiano Ronaldo stretched his goal-scoring streak to six consecutive league games as Juventus took top spot in Serie A on Sunday with a 2-1 win at Roma, whose defeat was made worse by the cruciate ligament injury of rising star Nicolò Zaniolo.

Juventus move two points ahead of Inter Milan, who were held 1-1 by Atalanta, after going two goals up in just 10 minutes in Rome.

"We were very good for 60 minutes. Then, if you play against Roma, it is almost inevitable to suffer in the end," said Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri.

Turkish defender Merih Demiral found a way through after three minutes when he connected with a Paulo Dybala free-kick.

Minutes later Argentine Dybala was hauled down in the box, and Ronaldo stepped up to convert from the spot to make it nine goals in six league games.

"It's tough playing against a team like Juventus and we gave away two early goals," said Roma coach Paulo Fonseca.

"We put in a good performance after that, against a great side. But once you go two goals down, it's difficult."

Both sides had casualties in the first half with Demiral limping off with a knee injury not long after scoring his first Juventus goal.

And Zaniolo was stretched off in tears eight minutes before the break after falling victim to what Roma later confirmed was a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee while trying to dribble past Matthijs De Ligt and Adrien Rabiot.

Zaniolo, who is considered one of Italy's most exciting young talents and was a rare bright point for Roma in a torrid first half, underwent surgery on Monday.

"I swear to you... I'll be stronger than before," the 20-year-old later wrote on Instagram.

Roma had their chances with Edin Dzeko hitting the post and Wojciech Szczęsny denying Cengiz Under from point-blank range.

Diego Perotti pulled a goal back for the hosts from the penalty spot on 68 minutes after an Alex Sandro handball.

However, the capital side drop to fifth, outside the Champions League places, level on 35 points with fourth-placed Atalanta and seven behind local rivals Lazio.

Aguero will 'die scoring goals'

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Sergio Aguero, fresh from breaking two more goalscoring records in Sunday's 6-1 thrashing of Aston Villa, will "die scoring goals," according to proud Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola.

The 31-year-old Argentine international broke the record for the number of goals by a non-English player, previously held by Thierry Henry, and hat-tricks (breaking Alan Shearer's mark) in the Premier League with his 12th treble to take his tally to 177 goals since he made his Premier League debut in 2011.

"It's an honour to be here the day he achieved

that, hopefully he can score more. He will die scoring goals," purred Guardiola.

"Sergio is one of the best, no doubt. The best is Messi, but the rest? Sergio is absolutely one of them."

"All the players in the locker room congratulated him. To break this record of an incredible legend like Thierry Henry, it means it's not just for a short period, it's many years."

"To be the foreign player with the most goals and hat-tricks speaks for itself."

"There are players through the incredible history of English football and he is one of them, he helps to make the Premier League and English football better."

Neymar's brace not enough for PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar scored twice and created another goal but leaders Paris Saint-Germain were held to an entertaining 3-3 draw at home on Sunday by a Monaco side playing their first Ligue 1 game under new coach Robert Moreno.

The Brazilian gave PSG the lead after just two minutes at the Parc des Princes but Monaco scored two quick goals through Gelson Martins and Wissam Ben Yedder to move 2-1 ahead inside quarter of an hour.

A Fode Ballo-Toure own goal brought PSG level and Neymar restored their advantage from the penalty spot before half-time after a foul on Kylian Mbappe.



Neymar celebrates after scoring Paris Saint-Germain's opening goal against Monaco

"If we had played at our best we would have taken the three points."

"I think on the third goal, the fact our defender touched the ball wasn't intentional but the decision falls to the referee. They have VAR for that, we can't complain. We weren't perfect tonight either."

The draw represented a positive start for former Spain coach Moreno, who replaced Leonardo Jardim at the end of December.

"We should be very happy. I'm very pleased with my players and I want to congratulate them for a great match," said Moreno.

"We played to our strengths on the counter-attack. We think we can beat any team and that's what I tell my players. That's our philosophy."

"We didn't put in our best performance but we tried. It was a good test. Monaco gave a good team but we are superior and we must show it on the pitch," Neymar told Canal+.

Momota hurt, driver killed in crash

KUALA LUMPUR: Badminton world number one Kento Momota was injured and his driver was killed in a crash near Kuala Lumpur on Monday just hours after he won the Malaysia Masters.

Police said the Japanese star, 25, suffered a broken nose and cuts to his face when the van carrying him to the city's airport crashed early in the morning, in a blow to his preparations for this year's Tokyo Olympics.

The driver was killed at the scene after the vehicle collided with a slow-moving lorry on a highway. An assistant coach, physiotherapist, and badminton official also suffered minor injuries.

The accident came after the dominant Japanese star began his 2020 season in style Sunday with victory over Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in Kuala Lumpur.

"It's truly tragic, especially involving a badminton icon like Momota," Malaysian sports minister Syed Saddiq told reporters, after visiting the injured in hospital south of the capital.

But he added those hurt were "recovering well, (and) all four are also in stable condition".

The others hurt suffered facial, leg, hand and head

injuries, according to police.

Badminton Association of Malaysia said in a statement they were "saddened" by the crash.

The accident happened around 4:40 am (20:40 GMT Sunday), and 10 firefighters rushed to the scene, senior fire and rescue department official Norazam Khamis said.

The injured "were able to walk out of the van by themselves with some scratches", he added. Pictures showed the front of the van crushed against a lorry but the back section



In this image from a video, a damaged van is lifted onto a recovery truck in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. World No 1 men's shuttler Kento Momota was among four injured in a highway crash that killed their van driver early morning in Malaysia

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय भण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
जल गवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून

पत्रांक - 1004 / ई-निविदा / 2019-20

ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक : 13.01.2020

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय भण्डार, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमिशियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा क्र. / विवरण	घरघर कर/ वनराशि रु०	निविदा प्रपत्र जारनल/ करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	बि-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय		
22		Item दर अनुबन्ध पर, SITC of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pumpsets at MPS Dev Nagar and IPS 1st Bhandar Gaon Pumping Stations under Chamba Pumping W/s Scheme, Distt. Tehri Garhwal.	1,50,000.00	17.01.2020 from 11:00 a.m	01.02.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	03.02.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	23.01.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
23		Item दर अनुबन्ध पर, SITC of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pumpsets at MPS Dev Nagar, IPS 1st Chopriyal, IPS 2nd Sabli and IPS 3rd Pant Nagar Pumping Stations under Ranichori Pumping W/s Scheme, Distt. Tehri Garhwal.	2,00,000.00	17.01.2020 from 11:00 a.m	01.02.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	03.02.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	23.01.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
24		Item दर अनुबन्ध पर, SITC of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pumpsets at IPS Ind Kutha Pumping Station under New Tehri Pumping W/s Scheme, Distt. Tehri Garhwal.	1,81,000.00	17.01.2020 from 11:00 a.m	01.02.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	03.02.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	23.01.2020 at 11:00 a.m.
25		Item दर अनुबन्ध पर, SITC of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pumpsets at Pre Settling (O-Pent) Pumping Station under New Tehri Pumping W/s Scheme, Distt. Tehri Garhwal.	1,84,000.00	17.01.2020 from 11:00 a.m	01.02.2020 upto 5:00 p.m.	03.02.2020 at 11:00 a.m.	90 Days	23.01.2020 at 11:00 a.m.

अर्हता:- Only manufacturers or dealer authorised by manufacturer for this tender and who have experience in supply and installation of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pump set of required duties and efficiency are allowed to take part in the tender.

अर्हता:- Only manufacturers or dealer authorised by manufacturer for this tender and who have experience in supply and installation of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pump set of required duties and efficiency are allowed to take part in the tender.

अर्हता:- Only manufacturers or dealer authorised by manufacturer for this tender and who have experience in supply and installation of Energy Efficient Centrifugal Pump set of required duties and efficiency are allowed to take part in the tender.

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://ujls.uk.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि., ई-निविदा निरस्तकरण सूचना

निविदादाताओं द्वारा ई-निविदा संख्या टी-10/19-20 की अर्हता पूर्ण न किये जाने के कारण निविदा को निरस्त किया जाता है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता (पारिषद पश्चिम) 130-डी, पारिषद भवन, विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। पत्रांक 362 / मु०अ०(पाप०)मेरठ / T-10/2019-20 दिनांक :- 13.01.2020 "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाये"। कृपया वेब साइट etender.up.nic.in पर विस्तार में सभी सूचना, विवरण/संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खोलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें।

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि., ई-निविदा निरस्तकरण सूचना

कारपोरेशन द्वारा ई-निविदा संख्या टी-10/19-20 की अर्हता पूर्ण न किये जाने के कारण निविदा को निरस्त किया जाता है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता (पारिषद पश्चिम) 130-डी, पारिषद भवन, विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। पत्रांक 355 / मु०अ०(पाप०)मेरठ / T-46/2019-20 दिनांक :- 13.01.2020 "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाये"। कृपया वेब साइट etender.up.nic.in पर विस्तार में सभी सूचना, विवरण/संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खोलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें।

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender Notice No.:01-2020 (Medical) Date: 06.01.2020

E-Tender Notice

Add. Chief Medical Supdt. N.C. Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India inviting "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following work:

Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of the work
Hiring of One EECO/Maruti AC Ambulance for 24x7 basis with first aid kit, two folding stretchers, oxygen cylinder with all attachment, driver and attendant to be stationed round the clock 2400 km. per month at Division Railway Hospital, Agra Cantt for transporting Railway employees both working and retired and their beneficiaries for 24 months as advised by Administration.	10,60,310.40

For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal www.ireps.gov.in up to 12.30 hrs on 14.02.2020. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

4420 (R)

North central railways @ CPRONCR

हरियाणा सरकार

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL, ROHTAK	MEMO NO. CH. 03/NIT No. 19/2019-20XEN/TS/RTK DATED.18.12.2019	Raising the height of existing of 132KV S/C Kalanaur-Meham line on D/C towers line between TL No. 45-46 due to proposed railways crossing (at KM-24/200-300) in village Bahlamba on Rohtak-Meham-Hansi railway line during the financial year 2019-20.The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 16.01.2020 (15.00 hrs)	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
2	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	NIET NO. 04/TS/FBD/2019-20	The date of tender submission extended upto 13:00 hrs on dated 13.01.2020 and opening date upto 15:00 hrs on dated 15.01.2020.	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	NIET NO. 01/TS/FBD/2019-20	The date of tender submission extended upto 13:00 hrs on dated 13.01.2020 and opening date upto 15:00 hrs on dated 15.01.2020.	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
4	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	NIET NO. 02/TS/FBD/2019-20	The date of tender submission extended upto 13:00 hrs on dated 13.01.2020 and opening date upto 15:00 hrs on dated 15.01.2020.	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
5	HVPNL, FARIDABAD	NIET NO. 03/TS/FBD/2019-20	The date of tender submission extended upto 13:00 hrs on dated 13.01.2020 and opening date upto 15:00 hrs on dated 15.01.2020.	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
6	HVPNL, SEWAH (PANIPAT)	E-NIT NO 41/2019-20 / EST-57 DATED 21.11.2019 (TENDER ID NO 109763)	Installation of Optical fiber Ground wire on LLO portion of 400KV Nuhiyawali - RGTPS line 1.5 kms and making LLO at 400KV Fatehabad Powergrid	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
7	HVPNL, ROHTAK	MEMO NO. CH. 03/NIT No. 20/2019-20XEN/TS/RTK DATED.18.12.2019	Raising the height of existing of 132KV S/C Khokhrakote-Sector-3 Rohtak line between TL No. 11-12 due to Under construction elevated railways corridor on Rohtak-Gohana railway track during the financial year 2019-20.The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 16.01.2020 (15.00 hrs)	https://www.hvnpn.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
8	HPGCL,PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP/POM-300003)(TENDER ID NO. HBC_ 100929_1)	Start date 03.09.2019 at 18:00 Hrs. & Last date 22.01.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	www.hpgcl.org.in & https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2566015 xenmctpg1@gmail.com
9	HPGCL,PANIPAT	(NIT NO.04/CMDF-II/ 2019-20/ 892)(TENDER ID 2019_HBC_106908_1)	Start date 31.10.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. & Last date 24.01.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	www.hpgcl.org.in & https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2566015 xenmctpg1@gmail.com
10	UHBVN PANCHKULA	03/JGD/BLR/2019-20	Extended date - 24.01.2020 - Hiring of 1 No. Permit Pvt. Vehicle	www.uhbvn.org.in	9315609707 xenopubvniagadhri@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 79635

When the best collide

Multiple individual battle on cards as Men in Blue host Aussies in 1st ODI today



Shikhar Dhawan, left, chats with captain Virat Kohli as they attend a training session ahead of India's 1st ODI against Australia in Mumbai

Open to play D/N Test anywhere in Aus: Kohli

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Months after Tim Paine's cheeky dig at him, Indian captain Virat Kohli asserted that they are ready to play day/night Test at any venue in Australia later this year.

"We're ready and up for the challenge — whether it's Gabba, Perth... It doesn't matter to us. It's become a very exciting feature of any Test series and we're open to playing day-night Tests," Kohli said.

India played their maiden day/night Test against Bangladesh last November, winning the match with plenty of time to spare at the Eden Gardens.

"We played the day-night Test here, when asked about it, Paine had sarcastically remarked that his Australian team would need to ask Kohli if he was willing to play day/night Test Down Under.

Well certainly try and we'll have to run that by Virat (Kohli). We'll get an answer from him at

some stage I'm sure. As I said we'll ask Virat and see if we can get his permission to play here and maybe even get a Pink-ball Test if he's in a good mood. Paine had said.

FIVE-MATCH TEST SERIES

MELBOURNE: Spin legend Shane Warne called for a five-match Test series, including a day/night game between India and Australia next season, after Virat Kohli asserted that his side is willing to play with the pink ball Down Under later this year.

India are scheduled to tour Australia starting in November which will include four Tests, three ODIs and as many T20s as part of the calendar cycle that ends in 2021.

Kohli's statement prompted Warne to ask the BCCI and Cricket Australia to schedule a five-match Test series instead of four between the two countries in the next calendar cycle beginning in 2023.

"I've said this before-but how good would a 5 Test match series between Aust & India be next season. Brisbane Adelaide D/N Melb & Syd. I hope both the BCCI & CA make it happen. Scheduling is not an excuse

@BCCI @cricketcomau @imVkohli @tdpaine36 @SGanguly99," Warne tweeted.



Jasprit Bumrah attends a training session

Bumrah doesn't shy away from hitting us in nets, reveals Virat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Jasprit Bumrah doesn't shy away from targeting the batsmen's head or ribs in the nets, India skipper Virat Kohli says about his lead pacer, whose intensity knows no bounds even at practice sessions.

"According to me he's (Bumrah) the most skilful bowler in the world in any format of the game. To play against him, he brings match intensity in the nets. He's not shy of hitting us on the head or targeting our ribs every now and then," Kohli said.

Indian skipper shared the experience of facing the top bowler in the nets, on the eve first ODI against Australia.

"He's a proper, proper bowler and it's always nice to play against the best in the nets. I challenge myself to play well against him, not every day do you get to hit boundaries off Jasprit in the nets," Kohli said.

Pandya trains with team, bowls at nets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who is on road to recovery, took part in a practice session with the Indian team at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

Pandya was pulled out of the India A squad touring New Zealand at the last minute as he is yet to recover fully from back surgery.

He was first seen doing target practice of hitting the stumps along with skipper Virat Kohli and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

Later, he bowled in the nets for a while under the watchful eyes of bowling coach Bharat Arun.



Hardik Pandya shares a fun moment with Indian teammates at Wankhede stadium on Monday

INDIA-AUSTRALIA IN ODIS				
Venue	Played	Aus won	Ind won	N/R
In Australia	51	36	13	2
In India	61	29	27	5
Total	137	77	50	10
D/N matches	80	43	31	6
Last 5 matches	5	3	2	—

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS		
India	383-6 in 50 overs at Bangalore	02-11-2013
Australia	359-2 in 50 overs at Jo'burg	23-03-2003

TOP INDIVIDUAL SCORES		
India	209 Rohit Sharma at Bangalore	02-11-2013
Australia	156 George Bailey at Nagpur	30-10-2013

BEST BOWLING FIGURES		
India	6-27 Murali Kartik at Mumbai	17-10-2007
Australia	6-39 Ken MacLear at Nottingham	13-06-1983

FAISEL FEATURES

ly a belter and India will certainly not go with two wrist spinners considering the fate they met during the last home series in March, which India lost 2-3.

Kuldeep Yadav, who has a hat-trick against Australia, is likely to be preferred over Yuzvendra Chahal.

There is a strong possibility that this will be Kedar Jadhav's last ODI series for India unless the pint-sized Pune right-hander does something extra special.

With buzz being about his reluctance to bowl off-breaks in order to enhance his IPL career, a few good scores will be required to keep Ajinkya Rahane and Suryakumar Yadav out of equation when the Indian team for the ODI series in New Zealand is announced on January 19.

The Wankhede track is usual-

Virat far better than Smith in white ball cricket: Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli is a "far, far better" batsman than Steve Smith as far as white-ball cricket is concerned, feels former India opener Gautam Gambhir.

Kohli, with 11,000 plus runs and 43 hundreds in ODIs, is way ahead of Smith who is closing in on 4000 runs with eight three-figure scores.

"Virat Kohli is far far better than Steve Smith in white-ball cricket. There's no comparison. I would not compare Kohli to Smith in white-ball cricket. I would actually want to see what

spot Smith bats on," Gambhir told host broadcaster Star Sports. "Are they're going to push him at No 4 or would have him bat at 3 and send Labuschagne at No 4," he added.

The former opener believes Shami is way more effective on placid tracks like the one on offer at the Wankhede.

"I've always believed that when you're playing on flacid wickets and smaller grounds like the Wankhede or Bangalore, your bowlers need to step up. The kind of form Shami is in, it's a big plus for India that he has done really well in white-ball cricket.

"Jasprit Bumrah is coming back from injury but he's a quality bowler."

They can actually get wickets with that sheer pace and the quickness in the air as well," Gambhir opined.

The former opener believes Shami is way more effective on placid tracks like the one on offer at the Wankhede.

"I've always believed that when you're playing on flacid wickets and smaller grounds like the Wankhede or Bangalore, your bowlers need to step up. The kind of form Shami is in, it's a big plus for India that he has done really well in white-ball cricket.

"Jasprit Bumrah is coming back from injury but he's a quality bowler."

Aus will win 2-1, predicts Ponting



Marnus Labuschagne prepares to bat at nets

MUMBAI: Ricky Ponting feels India will be eager to redeem themselves but a confident Australia will upstage Virat Kohli's men 2-1 in the three-match ODI series.

The Aaron Finch-led side is brimming with confidence after an unprecedented home summer that saw Australia register comprehensive series victories over Pakistan and New Zealand.

India, on the other hand, will look to

avenge their 2-3 loss to Australia at home in March last year.

Ponting, a former World Cup-winning Australia skipper, responded to a variety of questions during an interactive session with his fans on Twitter.

When a user asked him to predict the result of the ODI series, Ponting backed his home country to emerge victorious.

"Australia will be full of confidence after an excellent World Cup and a great summer of Test cricket but India will be keen to redeem themselves from the last ODI series loss against Australia. Prediction: 2-1 Australia," Ponting tweeted.

When asked about the debutant Marnus Labuschagne, who enjoyed a remarkable Test summer, he said the youngster is an "overall package" and will carry his form in the limited-overs format.

"I think he'll do a great job for Australia in the middle-order. He's a very good player of spin, a very good runner between the wickets, gun in the field and can bowl some handy leg-spin, so the overall package is very appealing."

PTI



Kieron Pollard poses with the winners' trophy

Windies sweep Ireland

AFP ■ GRENADA

Evin Lewis smashed a dazzling century as West Indies defeated Ireland by five wickets on Sunday to complete a 3-0 sweep of the one-day international series.

Opener Lewis hit his third one-day ton off 96 balls with six boundaries and five huge sixes at the National Stadium as West Indies reached their rain-revised target of 197 with 64 balls to spare.

The 28-year-old, left-handed Lewis had made an unbeaten 99 in the first game. "All the hard work I've done in the nets has paid off," Trinidadian Lewis said at the trophy presentation.

"This was an opportunity for my first hundred in the Caribbean, and it's great to get a series win. I've been hungry for runs."

He reached his century with a midwicket flourish off medium-paceer Craig Young before falling next ball trying for a big drive.

Earlier, leg-spinner Hayden Walsh took four wickets as Ireland were dismissed for 203.

Walsh, who starred with the bat with an undefeated 46 in Thursday's nail-biting one-wicket win in Barbados, finished with figures of 4-36.

DJ BACK FOR T20S

Dwayne Bravo was recalled to the West Indies squad, more than three years after his last appearance as the Caribbean side build up to the defence of their World Twenty20 title.

The 36-year-old all-rounder, a two-time World T20 winner, was named in a 13-man squad for a three-match series against Ireland.

"Dwayne Bravo was recalled with the specific intention of bolstering our 'death' bowling which was identified as an area that really needs improving," said chief selector Roger Harper.

"His record in this department speaks for itself. He will also be able to act as a mentor to the other 'death' bowlers and lend his experience wherever needed."

'Char din ki chandni hoti hai, Test cricket nahi'

Sehwag takes a dig at planned four-day Tests

PTI ■ MUMBAI

"A fish out of water is a dead fish" — This is how Virender Sehwag described the ICC's plan to revamp Test cricket by shortening it to four days, asserting that innovation should not mean tinkering with the soul of the format.

Delivering the 'MAK Pataudi Memorial Lecture' at the annual BCCI awards on Sunday night, Sehwag relied on some classic Hindi idioms to drive home the point that innovation in the longest form should stop at day/night matches.

"Chaar din ki chandni hoti hai, Test match nahi... Jal ki machli jal main hi acchi hai, bahar nikaloge toh mar jaegi," he said in his inimitable style.

"...Test cricket ko chanda mama ke piss le jaa sakte hai. We can have Day-Night Test cricket. If there is a day-night Test, maybe people will come to watch game after office. Innovations should happen but within the five days. It should not be shortened," he asserted.

The ICC will consider the proposal to make Test cricket four-dayers during its cricket committee meeting in March.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A disciplined bowling effort helped Mumbai reduce Tamil Nadu to 249 for 7 in their first innings to take control of their Ranji Trophy Group B match on Monday.

Tamil Nadu now trail by 239 runs at stumps on the third and penultimate day. Mumbai had earlier scored 488 in first innings.

Shams Mulani (2/59), Tushar Deshpande (2/47) and Royston Dias (2/34) took two wickets each for the visitors.

A middle-order collapse which saw the home side lose three wickets without a run being scored reduced them to 178 for 5 and subsequently to 195 for 7 before the experienced R Ashwin (32 batting, 96 balls, 2 fours) and R Sai Kishore (17 batting) came up with a rearguard action.

The two added 54 runs and played out the final session, frustrating Mumbai and making skipper Aditya Tare try out several bowlers.

Mumbai take control against TN



Dinesh Karthik plays shot against Mumbai during Ranji Trophy game

JALAJ STARS IN KERALA WIN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: All-rounder Jalaj Saxena picked up seven wickets for 51 runs with his off-spin to guide Kerala to a 21-run win over Punjab in a low-scoring Group A match.

Chasing a meagre 146 runs for win, Punjab lost wickets at regular intervals with Saxena turning out to be the star for Kerala on the third and penul-

time day of the four-day match.

Besides Saxena, left-arm orthodox bowlers Sijomon Joseph (2/37) and M D Nidheesh (1/18) were the other wicket takers as Kerala shot out Punjab for 124 in 46.1 overs in their second innings.

Lower-order batsmen Mayank Markande (23) and Siddharth Kaul (22) were the

top-scorers for Punjab even as skipper Mandeep Singh (10), Sanvir Singh (18) and Gurkeerat Singh (18) failed miserably in what should have been an easy chase.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 88 for five, Kerala were bundled out for 136 in 39.5 overs in their second innings, setting a gettable target of 146 for Punjab.

Akshay Chandran top-scored with 31, while Kaul (5/39) and Gurkeerat (4/4/45) shone with the ball for Punjab.

Kerala pocketed six points by virtue of the outright win.

In Ongole, Andhra need seven more wickets on the final day to register an innings win over Hyderabad.

At stumps, Hyderabad are still trailing Andhra by 219 runs with seven wickets in hand.

In Jaipur, Rajasthan made 327 for seven in their first innings in reply to Gujarat's 325.