

OPINION 8 A NEVER-ENDING CRISIS

WORLD 12 SENATE OK'S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL RULES, PUTS OFF WITNESSES

SPORT 15 MANCHESTER CITY BEAT SHEFFIELD IN PL CLASH

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

*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 22 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2020; PAGES 16 3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



BRAD: NO COMPLAINTS IN LIFE 13 VIVACITY

Akhilesh, Maya take up Shah gauntlet

SP, BSP chiefs accept CAA debate challenge; Owaisi asks HM to invite 'daadhi wale' also

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a new twist to the ongoing fracas over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supreme Mayawati have accepted Home Minister Amit Shah's challenge for debate on the CAA.

While Akhilesh is prepared for such an engagement while keeping economic slowdown and development as part of the package, Mayawati said her party is ready for a debate on the CAA on any platform.

Meanwhile, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi chipped in, telling Shah, "Daadhi wale se karo na" (debate with a bearded man).

Addressing a rally in support of the CAA in Lucknow on Tuesday, Shah had dared Opposition leaders like Mayawati, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav to debate with him on the law on a "sarvanjan manch" (public platform).

Picking up the challenge, Akhilesh said, "I'm ready for the debate on CAA. Ask them to fix a place or a forum, with their favorite channels and anchors, also for a debate on development. We Samajwadis are ready for it. But the BJP should also debate on the issues like economic slowdown, unemployment, poverty and death of people due to

Government harassment."

Accusing the BJP of discriminating on the basis of religion, Akhilesh said those who understand the soul of the country are opposed to the amended citizenship law. He also alleged the BJP is playing with the Constitution as it has majority in the Lok Sabha.

"I am glad that women have taken the lead and youth are protesting in large numbers," Akhilesh said after garlanding a statue of SP leader Janeshwar Mishra at a park here on his death anniversary.

BSP chief Mayawati, who along with Akhilesh, had skipped the Opposition meeting in Delhi to oppose the CAA, on Wednesday said her party is ready for a debate on the CAA on any platform.

"The BSP is ready to accept the challenge thrown by the Central Government, which is troubled by the organised struggle and agitation all over the country against the most controversial CAA/NRC/NPR, especially by the youth and women, for a debate on the issue on any platform and anywhere," Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi.

Mayawati had obviously come under pressure to take an aggressive stance against the CAA after another Dalit leader Chandrasekhar Azad occupied centre stage in Delhi in mobilising protest against the CAA.

Meanwhile, asserting that Mahatma Gandhi and BR Ambedkar were against dis-

crimination, the SP chief accused the BJP of practising discrimination on the basis of religion. "Every Indian is against it. Will they (the BJP) kill the soul of the country and create fissures in society for votes," he said.

Accusing Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of using words like "thok diya jayega" in his speeches, he said, "This cannot be the language of a politician. 'BJP used 'kabristan and shamshan' and 'Diwali and Ramzan' during poll rallies for the sake of votes."

Continued on Page 4



Won't stay CAA without hearing Centre: SC

Govt gets four weeks to reply; 5-judge Bench to hear matter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act saying it will not issue any order to stay the Act without hearing the Government's argument. The court gave the Government four weeks to respond. A five-



judge Constitution Bench will hear the matter.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde restrained all high courts from hearing pleas on the CAA till it decides in the matter. As many as 143 petitioners have approached the SC on CAA questioning its constitutional validity.

The Bench, also comprising Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna, said it will hear

the petitions related to Assam and Tripura separately as the problem with the CAA in these two States is different from rest of the country.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for some petitioners, said the issue be referred to a Constitution Bench and the NPR exercise be postponed by a couple of months. He also urged the Bench to put on hold the operationalisation of the CAA.

Asserting that it will not pass any ex-parte order without hearing the Centre on staying the operation of the CAA and exercise of the National Population Register (NPR), the court said it will pass order on granting any interim relief to

petitioner opposing the CAA after four weeks.

The petitions concerning Tripura and Assam as well as the matters related to Uttar Pradesh, which is going ahead with the implementation of the CAA without framing any rules, can be dealt with separately, the Bench said. It said the earlier cutoff date for citizenship in Assam was March 24, 1971 and noted that it has been extended till December 31, 2014 under the CAA.

The SC said it will decide in-chamber the modalities of hearing the batch of petitions on the CAA and may fix them for day-to-day hearing after four weeks.

Continued on Page 4

Govt wants 7 days deadline for execution

Centre moves SC to amend rules to do away with delaying tactics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of delaying tactics adopted by the death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case, Union Home Ministry on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court for amending the 2014 guidelines regarding the timeline for the execution, filing of review and curative petitions and mercy petitions.

Asserting that the need of the hour is to lay down guidelines in the interest of the victims rather than keeping the rights of the convicts in mind, the Centre wants the SC to fix a deadline of seven days for the execution of death penalty of condemned prisoners after issuance of the death warrant.

The affidavit filed by the Government also sought clarifications with regard to cases involving multiple convicts who time their petitions in such a way that the execution of the death warrant could be delayed indefinitely. The Nirbhaya case is perfect example of such delaying tactics.

The MHA's plea sought a direction from the top court in



fixing the deadline for filing of curative pleas after the rejection of review petitions.

It also sought a direction that "if the convict of death sentence wants to file mercy petition, it would be mandatory for a convict of death sentence to do so only within a period of seven days from the date of receipt of death warrant issued by the competent court".

The MHA submitted that the top court should "mandate all the competent courts, State Governments, prison authorities in the country to issue death warrant of a convict within seven days of the rejection of his mercy petition and to execute death sentence within seven days thereafter irrespective of the stage of review petition/curative petition/mercy petition of his co-convicts".

Continued on Page 4

Rajini's house now fortress after threat

Dravidar Kazhakam attacks Thalaiva for comment on Naicker's anti-Hindu rallies

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A heavy posse of police have been deployed at the residence of Tamil film's superstar Rajinikanth following threat of physical attacks on him by the Dravidar Kazhakam and associated parties.

Rajinikanth's residence at Chennai's Poes Garden has come under a security blanket with armed guards of Tamil Nadu Special Police and plainclothesmen from city police taking positions in vantage points along the approach road to Poes Garden.

The posting of policemen is a fallout of the statement made by the actor on the 50th anniversary of Tamil magazine Tuglaq on last Wednesday when he pointed out that the Dravidar Kazhakam, founded by EV Ramasamy Naicker, had taken out a procession in 1971 holding placards with nude



Dravidar Viduthala Kazhagam (DVK) activists stage a protest against actor Rajinikanth for his recent comments, in Chennai on Wednesday

pictures of Lord Rama and Maa Sita which were garlanded with footwear.

This was a rally against the superstition prevailing among the Hindus and Ramasamy Naicker was a known Hindu baiter. Leaders of the Dravida Kazhakam want a public apology from Rajinikanth for airing his views publicly.

But the film actor made it known on Tuesday that he stood by what he said during his speech and there was no

question of him tendering any apology. All political leaders, barring those from the BJP, have come together in condemning the superstar.

"Rajinikanth should not air his views publicly without learning and understanding the basics," said MK Stalin, president, DMK.

The AIADMK expressed displeasure over Rajinikanth's words for hurting the sentiments of the Dravida cadre.

Continued on Page 4

Global manhunt on for fugitive Nithyananda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Interpol has urged member nations to help locate Nithyananda, the self-declared godman who fled India last year amid allegations of rape and sexual abuse.

A blue-corner notice that makes it obligatory for countries to share information on any person involved in a crime has been issued by the Interpol against Nithyananda at the behest of the Gujarat Police.

Last month, Ecuador denied the presence of the fugitive "godman" and said it had rejected his request for asylum. The Embassy of Ecuador also suggested he had left the country for Haiti.

He was charged with kidnapping and wrongful confinement of children to make them collect donations from followers to run his ashram.

The Blue Corner Notice will help the law enforcement agencies here in collecting additional information from the member countries of the Interpol about the suspect's identity, location or activities in relation to the crime.

The Gujarat Police had sent a request to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),



the nodal body for Interpol matters in India, seeking a Blue Corner Notice against Nithyananda, officials said.

Following this, the Interpol issued the Blue Corner Notice against Nithyananda. After securing the Blue Corner Notice, the Gujarat Police is working to get Interpol to issue a Red Corner Notice, a global arrest warrant, against Nithyananda, source said.

The Gujarat Police had registered an FIR against Nithyananda after two girls went missing from his ashram in Ahmedabad last year.

While police continue to look for him, reports emerged in December last year that he has created a "Hindu" nation, Kailaasa, with its own flag and political setup, on an island near Ecuador.

Continued on Page 4

Vyommitra charms all with her hello before spacewalk

ISRO to send lady robot in unmanned Gaganyaan ahead of human spaceflight

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Before orbiting astronauts on India's first manned mission to space in December 2021, the Indian Space Research Organisation will send "Vyommitra", a "lady robot" in the unmanned Gaganyaan spacecraft.

The robot was the centre of attraction at the inaugural session of the "Human Spaceflight and Exploration — Present Challenges and Future Trends" here on Wednesday.

Vyommitra, a combination of two Sanskrit words Vyoma (Space) and Mitra (Friend), took everyone by surprise when she introduced herself to the audience gathered there. "Hello everyone. I am Vyommitra, the prototype of the half-humanoid, been made for the first unmanned Gaganyaan mission," the robot said.



ISRO Chairman Kailasavidoo Sivan, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India K V Vijay Raghavan and others look at a humanoid robot during the inauguration of Symposium on Human Spaceflight and Exploration in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Explaining about the role in the mission, she said, "I can monitor through module parameters, alert you and perform life support operations. I can perform activities like switch panel operations..."

The robot said she can also be a companion and converse with the astronauts, recognise them and can also respond to their queries.

ISRO chairman K Sivan told reporters the half humanoid will simulate human

functions in space and also interact with the environment control life support system.

"It will be simulating exactly the human functions there (in space). It will check whether the system is right. This will be very useful to simulate, as if a human is flying," he added.

The humanoid, which Sivan said was functioning well, has the human simulation system.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

NPR FINE UNDER UPA, BAD NOW? ASKS JAVADEKAR New Delhi: Amid opposition by some States, Union Minister for I&B Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday hit out at parties questioning the National Population Register (NPR) saying it was welcomed in the past when the then Congress-led Government introduced it but is being dubbed as "bad" when the NDA regime is repeating it. P5

NO KASHMIR MEDIATION: GOVT ON TRUMP'S OFFER New Delhi: There is no role for any third party on the Kashmir issue, Government sources asserted on Wednesday in response to US President Donald Trump's fresh offer to "help" India and Pakistan resolve the lingering dispute. It was Trump's fourth offer in last five months on Kashmir after India withdrew the special status of Jammu & Kashmir. P7

Galaxy of stars to touch base in fierce Delhi battle

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the stakes are very high for the BJP and the Congress to regain grounds in the Delhi Assembly against Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), they too have listed star campaigners for the February 8 elections.

The ruling-AAP has listed 39 star campaigners, including Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, Gopal Rai, Atishi Marlena and Raghav Chadha.

The BJP has rolled out big guns of the party to wrest Delhi from the AAP — drawing up a list of 40 star campaigners led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the high decibel Assembly elections. The BJP, which could win only three seats in the 2015



Assembly election, has lined up a battery of Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and senior state leaders to campaign over the next 20 days.

The list includes star campaigners like Amit Shah, Smriti Irani, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Vijay Goel and the national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. Uttar Pradesh Chief



Minister and the party's poster boy Yogi Adityanath will lead the fight with former Chief Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Arjun Munda.

Most of the campaigners for the BJP are from outside Delhi — a gap the ruling party is expected to exploit. Earlier, Kejriwal had pointed out that the BJP is yet to name a Chief Ministerial candidate. While



that is the BJP's usual procedure except in rare cases, the Chief Minister has poked fun at the party.

Meanwhile, the Congress has submitted names of 40 star campaigners to the election commission for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, general secretary Priyanka Gandhi

Former Chief Ministers Harish Rawat and Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia, senior leaders Kapil Sibal and Ghulam Nabi Azad, are also among the star campaigners.

The other campaigners for the AAP in the list are Bhagwat Mann, Pankaj Kumar Gupta, Durgesh Pathak, ND Gupta, Sushil Kumar Gupta, Rajender Pal Gautam, Imran Hussain, Baljinder Kaur, Dilip Pandey, Preeti Sharma Menon, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Amanullah Khan, Satyender Jain, Dr Ajay Kumar, Kailash Gehlot, Rakhi Birla, Vishal Dadlani, Prithvi Reddy, Aman Arora, Shoaib Iqbal, Abdul Rehman, Sanjay Bhagat, Rekha Rani, and Somnath Bharti.

Continued on Page 4

WESTERN RAILWAY

OHE WORK

Name of the work : Tender NO. TR-C-1-2020 - Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE between Chandod to Kevadiya Section on Vadodara Division of Western Railway in connection with GC work between DB-CDD with new BG Line between Chandod to Kevadiya Colony. Approximate cost of work : ₹ 9,47,16,631/- EMD : ₹ 6,23,600/- Completed E-Tender forms can be submitted on Website up to 15.00 hrs. on 18.02.2020. The tender will be opened on 18.02.2020 at 15.30 hrs. If the last date of opening happens to be a Sunday / Holiday due to unforeseen circumstance, the tender will be issued / opened on the next working day as per same timings. Complete details of tender including eligibility criteria are available on Western Railway website www.ireps.gov.in In case of any clarification the firms may contact at the above office during the working hours in person or at office telephone / Fax No. 0265-2641718 M. 09724091350. email epmbrcc@gmail.com

Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

M/s Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Ltd.
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC049038
Tel No.: 011-49800900, Fax: 011-49800933
E-mail: commodities@bharatbhushan.com,
Website: www.bbinvestments.in
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited (the Company) will be held on Thursday 30th January, 2020 at 04.00 P.M. at its Registered Office situated at 503, Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001, inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2019 and to consider any other matter with the permission of Chair. Further, pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of aforesaid Regulations, this information is also available on the website of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) where the Company's securities are listed and shall also be available on the website of the Company at (<http://www.bbinvestments.in>).

For Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited Sd/- (Nisha Ahuja) Director
Place: New Delhi Date: 23-01-2020 DIN: 00001675

SUPRA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LTD.
Regd. Off: 805, E-Block, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
CIN: I55999D11985PLC019987
Website: www.supraindustrialresources.com
E-mail: supra1985@gmail.com / supraexchange@gmail.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, February 3rd, 2020, at 11.00 A.M. at Registered office of the company, at E-805 International Trade tower 8th Floor Nehru place New Delhi 110019 to inter alia, consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone Quarterly Financial Results for the quarter ended December 31, 2019 along with the Limited Review Report of the Auditors for the corresponding period.

Pursuant to this and as per the amended SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018, the Trading Window for dealing in shares of the Company for all its Designated Persons and their immediate relatives was closed from Wednesday, 1st January, 2020 and will be opened after 48 hours from the announcement of the Unaudited quarterly financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 31st December, 2019 to the Stock Exchange. You are requested to take a note of the closure of the Trading Window as above.

For Supra Industrial Resources Limited Sd/- Anuradha Malik (Company Secretary and Compliance officer)
New Delhi M.No. A 50626
22nd January 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE-LOST & FOUND

Public notice is being served in respect of property No-224 R.P.S Colony Khanpur Dr. Ambedkar Nagar New Delhi-110062 owned by Mrs. Shanta Bai. The original documents of said property have been stolen from the house and an F.I.R. vide entry No.-80775/2020 dt. 22.01.2020 has been lodged with the Police Station, Delhi in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE is being hereby issued to all concerned, in case anybody is having any claim/ charge/ lien on this property they are informed to inform at above mentioned address. In case any person is in possession of the said documents accidentally or unlawfully the same may please be submitted to Mrs. Shanta Bai. If nothing is heard within 15 days of publishing this NOTICE then thereafter NO CLAIMS/OBJECTIONS will be entertained in respect of this property/ documents or title etc.

Sd/- Shanta Bai
Dated: 22/01/2020

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CHHATTISGARH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PROJECT CIRCLE, RAIPUR (C.G.)
Telephone no. - 0771-4030164 E-Mail-se.circlepmsgy@gmail.com

NIT No 189/187 /Tech-2/CGRRDA/2020 Raipur Dated 21/01/2020
Superintending Engineer, CGRRDA Project Circle Raipur invites on behalf of Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency, Vikas Bhawan, Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.). Online percentage rate tenders up to Rs. 50.00 lakhs of Zonal Contract Under Mukhya Mantri Gram Vikash Yojan on **SOR enforced from 22-02-2018 of PMGSY** from approved and eligible Contractors signal window registration under E-In-C PWD C.G. for following works under :-

Detailed N.I.T. and other Details can be viewed on our website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> or after 24/01/2020. In future any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of the website.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency
Project Circle, Raipur, (C.G.)
RO. No: 24138/5 E-mail: se.circlepmsgy@gmail.com
R.O. Date: 21/01/2020 Ph: 0771-4030164, 0771-2438020

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.

Printed and published by Chandan Mitra for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D 210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Editor: Chandan Mitra. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

Atlas Cycles V-P's wife kills self

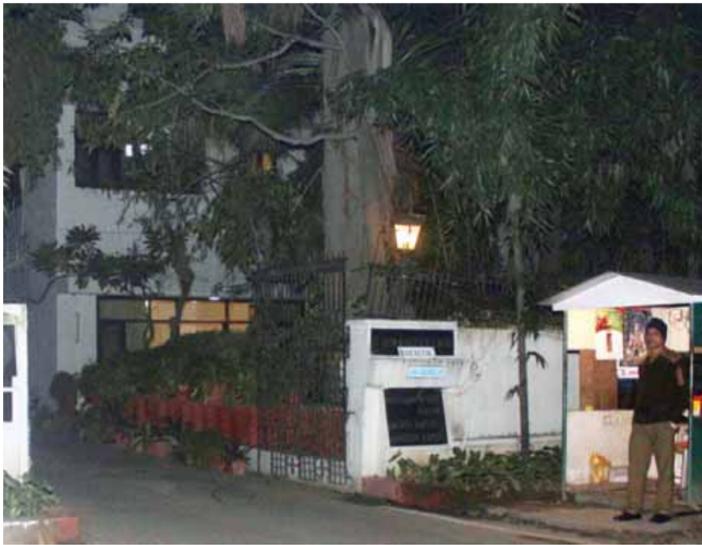
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Natasha Kapoor, the wife of the joint vice-president of Atlas Cycles, allegedly ended her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan inside her residence at the Aurangzeb Lane in the highly secured New Delhi district.

Police have recovered a suicide note purportedly written by her from a temple set up inside her room. "She had asked her children to take care of themselves and their father", a police official said.

Police said they were informed by her family members about the incident around 2:30 pm on Tuesday. Police said her son and daughter were present at the time of the incident. Her husband, Sanjay, too lives in the same house but wasn't present that time, they added.

She was rushed to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) hospital but was declared brought dead on arrival by the doctors. Her son, Sidhanth, reportedly told the investigating officer (IO) that he had tried calling his mother several times as they were going to have lunch. Despite repeated calls she did not come to the dining hall. Suspecting that something was amiss, Sidhanth went to her room to inquire. He found doors were slightly open and when he



looked for her, he was shell-shocked to find his mother hanging from the ceiling fan. He immediately raised an alarm and shouted for help. Hearing his voice, family members rushed to her room and brought down her body by cutting the cloth that she had used to make a knot, police said.

They first took her to Gangaram hospital where she was declared brought dead. Then, they took the body to RML hospital as it was a case

of unnatural death. Police officials said they have seized a note supposedly written by Natasha and have sent it to the Forensic Sciences Laboratory (FSL) for verifying the handwriting.

A team of forensic experts and district crime team was summoned at the spot to lift evidence and chance prints. The post mortem examination was conducted and the body was handed over to the family members for the last rites.

Police said they are trying to ascertain the last few days before she took the extreme step. Her phone records are also being scanned to know who all were in touch with her during these days. A senior police officer involved in the probe said they will verify her medical records whether she suffered from depression or was undergoing treatment for any other disease. The official said they will be questioning her family members soon in this regard.

Will act if Shaheen Bagh protest obstructs poll process: Cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the Shaheen Bagh protest continuing for over a month, the Delhi Police on Wednesday said it would take appropriate action if a complaint is received about any obstruction in the ongoing electoral process for the Assembly polls next month.

In a related development Delhi Police also denied having issued any ultimatum to the protesters to vacate the protest site after Friday prayers. DCP South east district Chinmoy Biswal said a malicious rumour is being spread by the vested interests. I would like to emphasised that we have not issued any notice or ultimatum to the Shaheen Bagh protesters.

Special Commissioner of Police (Election) Praveer Ranjan said that Delhi Police has not yet received any complaint about protesters in Shaheen Bagh causing obstruction in the electoral process.

Ranjan said police have already appealed to protesters to vacate the area, and Lt Governor Anil Bajjal on Wednesday also requested them to call off their agitation as it has been causing inconvenience to schoolchildren, patients and the general public.



"If we receive a complaint about obstruction in electoral process, we will take appropriate action as per law," he told reporters in response to a question at a press conference at the office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

Bajjal on Tuesday met a delegation of protesters from Shaheen Bagh. Assured them to convey their concerns to appropriate authorities. Appealed to call off their agitation in view of continued inconvenience to schoolchildren, patients, daily commuters, local residents, etc due to blockade of road," Bajjal tweeted.

According to the amended citizenship law, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain,

Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 to escape religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship. It does not include Muslims.

Those opposing the CAA have contended that it discriminates on the basis of religion and violates the Constitution. They allege CAA, along with NRC, is intended to target the Muslim community in India.

However, the central government has dismissed the allegations, maintaining the law is intended to give citizenship to the persecuted people from the three neighbouring countries and not to take away citizenship from anyone.

RTI REPLY

FIRs in line with Jan 3 incidents: JNU Admin

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a reply to an RTI suggested discrepancies in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration's claims about vandalism in its server room, the JNU administration on Wednesday said all the first Information Reports (FIRs) and other complaints filed with police are in-line with the incidents that took place on January 3 and do not deviate from facts.

The reply to the Right to Information (RTI) by Saurav Das, a member of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI), under life and liberty clause, said the main server of JNU at the Centre for Information System (CIS) was shut down on January 3 and had gone down the next day due to power supply disruption.

The university said its reply to the RTI was related to the specific location and questions sought by the applicant. It also clarified that the servers were damaged by a group of miscreants on January 4.

"As per the complaint filed by administration on January 3, 2020 about the incident in Centre for Information System (CIS) Data Centre, JNU has not claimed about damage to servers on that day. The RTI answers are correct and specific to the questions asked," University administration said.



The RTI response also clearly states that servers are located at CIS Data Centre not in CIS office, which seems to be "conspicuously ignored while highlighting the matter in the media", they said.

"All FIRs and other complaints filed with police are in-line with the actual incidents that took place on January 3 and do not deviate from actual facts," said University administration.

The JNU administration reiterates that a group of masked students came to CIS Data Centre premises on January 3 and forcibly evicted the technical staff, switched off the power supply, locked the premises and squatted in front of the main entrance to the CIS Data Centre without providing any access to the centre, the varsity said.

Before evicting the technical staff out of CIS Data Centre, the masked students forced the technical staff to shut-down the systems, it said.

"This led to the discontinuation of the winter semester registration affecting thousands of students of the university. When CIS technical staff got an access to CIS Data Centre on the morning of January 4 with the help of security, it took more than four hours to restore the entire system of CIS," it said.

Damage to the CIS Data Centre server room was caused on January 4 by "a group of miscreants" who broke open one of the door-windows of the CIS premises and entered the server room, it said.

Once inside, they turned off the servers and severely damaged the fibre optic cables, power supplies, broke the biometric systems inside the room, it added.

"The miscreants then started slogging and intimidated the technical staff from entering the server room," the varsity said.

Biometric systems and CCTV cameras at the server room were not vandalised in the first week of January, contrary to the claims made by the Jawaharlal Nehru University administration that students had destroyed them on January 3, the varsity said in a RTI reply.

Meet Rly officer known for returning lost items

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

An octogenarian, Gurcharan Singh Guron, was in a rude shock when he attempted to alight the Amritsar Shatabdi at Chandigarh. He had lost his favourite companion of years 'walking stick' in the train and it was unmanageable for him for a day until he got the pleasant surprise that it was traced and delivered at his residence the very next day.

Like Gurcharan, Meena Patel too had lost her ornaments and cash amount in Kashi Vishwanath Express but 'found' through similar mechanism of the way passenger SR Gupta of Ludhiana got his imported jacket and unbelievable ₹4 lakh cash bag back which he had left in a Jammu Tawi-bound train from New Delhi. Last week, a resident of Varanasi got his travel ticket, besides ₹ 2,100, RMB 2200, some Indian currency, 10 debit cards and a passport.

Minal Shah, who had come from Kenya and was travelling from New Delhi to Amritsar, lost her iPad in the Shatabdi and was surprised when she received a call from New Delhi Railway Station that



New Delhi Railway Station Manager Rakesh Sharma hands over valuable to a passenger
Pioneer photo

it was found. Talking over phone from Kenya, Minal said she couldn't believe her iPad was traced and appreciated the efforts of railways.

From delivering information and objects like laptops, jewellery, costly mobile phones to cheap pens and ornaments, New Delhi Railway Station Manager (SM) Rakesh Sharma slogs into the track for the 'real' owner and hand them their objects with pride protecting the image of Indian Railways and the country together. Laptops and iPhones have been delivered at Australia, London and United States too by Rakesh's efforts.

In his this effort, he has two effective and trustworthy tool — the pantry car waiters/attendants and the use of technology. As SM of New Delhi railway station

Rakesh has earned a name for himself as he has successfully tracked down more than 135 people including foreigners on social media mostly on Facebook and returned their belongings that passengers had misplaced or mistakenly left either inside the train or on the platform premises.

Most of the passengers usually forget their valuables inside the train and even on platform. These valuable items are submitted to station master office by catering staff or any railway staff who trace it while cleaning the coach.

Adopting an innovative way to track down passengers and return their valuables, Rakesh first try to get information about passengers by PNR details, most of the times the phone numbers written in the passenger's details are either switched off or not in service, making it difficult to track.

In an interesting case, one Neeraj Kumar was tracked through a photo in his luggage that had address and number of the studio at back, while some passengers have been tracked through their carry bags identifications or names of the shops.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005

DEMAND NOTICES ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING BORROWERS UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Sl No.	Date of Loan	Account No.	Name of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	ADDRESS	SECURED ASSET	Date of Demand Notice	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1.	31.01.2012, 06.07.2015 & 28.04.2016	XOHEHDHE0000699431, XOHEELD0001447961 & XOHEELD0001658589	1. Pawan Kumar Aggarwal 2. Pawan Kumar Aggarwal 3. Vandana Aggarwal	G-18/24, Rohini Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi - 110 085. G 15-24, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi-110 084.	Entire Ground Floor without roof rights of built up Property bearing No.24 Pocket G-18 Sector-15 area admeasuring 90 Sq.mts. situated at Rohini Residential Scheme Delhi.	20.11.2019	Rs.89,11,381/-	Rs. 1,22,12,370.71 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
2.	30.11.2014	XOHEHDHE001322287	1. Sandeep Purohit 2. Santosh Purohit	H.No. A 395, Near SBI Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.	Duplex unit bearing No.395 A, Ground Floor covered area 1100 Sq.Fts... In Block A Situated in Residential Colony known as Palam Vihar and Village Chauma and Carterpuri, Tehsil and District Gurgaon.	20.11.2019	Rs.79,50,000/-	Rs.1,04,82,820.53 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
3.	12/11/2013	XOHEHDHE0001076635	1. Rajeev Chawla 2. Anjana Chawla	H.No-E-53, 2nd Floor, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi -110015.	Second Floor without Roof Right of portion Property No.53, Block-E area 150 Sq.Yds... Situated In Kirti Nagar New Delhi.	20.11.2019	Rs.93,00,000/-	Rs.1,14,37,973.26 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
4.	11.04.2013	XOHEHDHE0000954409	1. Vivek Verma 2. Usha Verma 3. M/s Subhash and Sons 4. Renu Verma	918, Sec-4, Urban Estate, Gurgaon, New Delhi -122001. Shop No-12-14, Ground Floor, Shiva Market Gurgaon, Haryana	Apartment bearing No.203, on Second Floor super area of 1813 Sq.Fts... in Block -"D" in the building known as Park View Apartments, Peer A and Village Fashipur Jharsa Tehsil and District as Gurgaon.	20.11.2019	Rs.90,00,000/-	Rs.70,23,281.12 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
5.	30.04.2012	XOHEHDHE0000748358	1. Chirag Goyal 2. Sushma Goyal 3. Shruti Goyal 4. Arvind Goyal	A 31, Shri Balaji Apartment, Sector 6, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075.	Flat No.A-31, admeasuring 8500 Sq. Mtrs., Shree Balaji CHGS Ltd., Sector-6/37, Dwarka, New Delhi.	20.11.2019	Rs.77,00,000/-	Rs.1,10,91,024.20 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
6.	29.04.2016	XOHEELD0001660983	1. Asha Rani 2. Ramesh Kumar Arora	19, Ground Floor, MIG, Peers Garhi Pachim, Vihar Delhi -110087.	DDA Flat bearing No.19, on Ground Floor, Cat-SF-51, Situated At Nagin Lake Pachim Vihar, New Delhi.	20.11.2019	Rs.80,00,000/-	Rs.90,30,349.60 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
7.	20.10.2016 & 16.11.2017	XOHEELD0001807139 & XOHEELD0002184191	1. Ravindra Yadav 2. Daisy Home 3. Usha Yadav	H.No-A-62, Sec-C-3, Tronica City, New Delhi -201102. B-71, Sector-93B, Chaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	Plot No. "A-62" Sector - C-3, admeasuring 250.Sq.Mtrs. situated within Industrial Town Ship at Tronica City Pargana/ Tehsil Ghaizabad. Boundaries: North: A-59, South: Road-5, East: A-63, West: A-61.	20.11.2019	Rs.78,00,000/-	Rs.76,85,564.97 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
8.	30.06.2014, 30.06.2014 & 31.01.2016	XOHEHDHE0001234577, XOHEHDHE0001234624 & XOHEELD0001593975	1. Vivek Tyagi 2. Ritu Tyagi	H.No-243, Old 160, Mohalla Sohan Lal, Sihani Gate, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	House No. 243, Old No.160, comprising of Ground Floor measuring 135.2 Sq.Yds... & First Floor above admeasuring 178.Sq.Yds., situated in the Layout of Plan of Mohalla Sohan Lal, Sihani Gate, Tehsil District Ghaziabad.	20.11.2019	Rs.91,38,313/-	Rs.1,10,59,147.27 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
9.	20.08.2015 & 12.09.2016	XOHEELD0001472327 & XOHEELD0001774903	1. Nitin Soni 2. Soni Enterprises 3. Vipan Kumar Soni 4. Veena Soni	80, Block-C, Mohan Garden, New Delhi -110059. C-8/3, G/F, Kh No- 634, Village Nawada, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi -110059.	Built up property bearing Plot No.C-80, Measuring 100 Sq.Yds... out of Kharsa No.931 & 932 Min.Situated In Revenue Estate of Village Nawada Abadi Known as Mohan Garden Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.	20.11.2019	Rs.85,84,475/-	Rs.94,94,050.23 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon
10.	31.12.2013	XOHEHDHE0001112290	1. Vinay Ranjan 2. Vinay Ranjan 3. Meenakshi Ranjan 4. Meenakshi Ranjan 5. Rohan Ranjan 6. Chetan Ranjan	H.No.B-702, Pearl Gateway Tower, Sector-44, Noida-201301. Flat No.T-403, 4th Floor, Plot No.A-100, Parsvnathi Residency, Sector-51, Noida, U.P.-201 301.	Property admeasuring 1697 Sq.ft., bearing Flat No.T-403, 4th Floor, Parsvnathi Residency, Plot No.A-100, Sector-51, Noida, U.P.	20.11.2019	Rs.98,00,000/-	Rs.2,13,76,778.43 As on 16.11.2019 with further interest thereon

The Undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited herein after called the secured creditor, under Rule 2(a) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules framed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

In pursuant to loan agreement on the dates mentioned in column [A] the above named borrowers in column [C] residing at the address in column [D] were sanctioned loans indicated in column [G] in loan account number indicated in column [B]. Towards the due repayment of loan, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the assets in column [E] was created by the borrowers. On persistent default in repayment of the loan amount the loan accounts of the borrowers have been classified by the secured creditor as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directions and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. Consequently notice under Sec. 13(2) of the Act was also issued to each of the borrowers on the dates mentioned in column [F], which have been returned undelivered. I state that, under section 13 (B) of the Securitisation Act, you can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale. In view of the above, the above named borrowers are called upon to discharge in full their liabilities towards the Secured Creditor by making the payment of the entire outstanding indicated in Column [H] above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of notice, failing which, the secured creditor shall be entitled to take possession of the Secured Asset and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Secured Creditor in law. In the absence of full discharge of dues even after the transfer of secured assets the secured creditor reserves its right to proceed against the borrowers before a Sole Arbitrator, in terms of the Loan Agreement. In addition the above named borrowers shall not alienate by way of transfer, sale, lease or otherwise or create third party interest or dealing with the Secured Asset in column [E] mentioned against the name of the each borrowers in any manner except with specific prior written permission of the Secured creditor.

Date : 22.01.2020
Place: New Delhi
AUTHORISED OFFICER
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Kejriwal invokes dev to seek votes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday appealed to the people to vote for development instead of voting in favour of a political party in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections.

Addressing party supporters in a roadshow held in Badli and Adarsh Nagar constituencies on Wednesday, Kejriwal appealed to even supporters of Opposition parties to vote for the AAP so that the work done in the last five years in the national Capital is not "undone". The AAP has fielded Ajesh Yadav from Badli and Pawan Kumar from Adarsh Nagar.

"The last five years have gone well. We have improved the lives of people in the last five years. I understand the plight of a common man when he has to pay the school fees of his children and arrange for finances



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with AAP MLA and candidate Ajesh Yadav, during an election campaign roadshow in Badli Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday

for his family at the time of inflation. We have done everything to transform the lives of people and make them pro-

perous in the last five years by providing free electricity and water," he said.

"We have worked hard to improve our schools, the education system, health care. If you vote for other parties, education and health care services will

deteriorate," he said. "Who will take care of the education of your children, who will help you get good and affordable health care if you vote in favour any other party? Just give it a thought," Kejriwal said. "So, I appeal to you all especially those who support Congress and BJP... Please be with your respective parties but vote for us this time," the chief minister said.

Kejriwal said his government did a lot for the people of Delhi in its five-year tenure but needed more time to complete the work pending for 70 years.

"I have worked like the elder son in a family. It is the elder son who shoulders most of the responsibilities, takes care of everyone, gets the sister married manages all expenses etc. I have tried to do just that," he said as cheers and claps rose to a crescendo. Delhi goes to polls on February 8 and the results will be declared on February 11.

Sisodia campaigns for Chadha, counts Govt schools feat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Government schools today G have outperformed private schools in the national Capital. AAP senior leader Manish Sisodia said while addressing a Jansabha at Rajinder Nagar Assembly Constituency in support of party candidate Raghav Chadha on Wednesday.

"All the countries that succeeded in educating their children are now among the list of most developed nations. Delhi can become a world class city only when every student in the city has access to quality education," he said.

Sisodia sought votes for party candidate on the basis of work done by the AAP Government in the past five years. Talking about the Government's achievements, he said "People of neighbouring States and cities like Noida Ghaziabad often compare elec-



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

tricity, water and expenses on education with that of Delhi." He also raised slogans of 'Aachhe Beete, Paanch Saal, Lage Raho Kejriwal.

"We guarantee that in next five years, Delhi will have 24 hour running water of such quality that you will not need RO to purify it. Also, the residents will avail 24 hour electricity with 200 unit uses free," he said.

of the BJP and Congress to vote for AAP to ensure uninterrupted development in sphere of education, electricity transformation, water and healthcare in Delhi.

Listing the promises, Chadha said that he will ensure maintenance of roads, ensuring cleanliness in the parks, resolution of issues like sewerage and stray dog, installation of CCTV cameras and provision of potable water.

2K vehicles fined for violating model code, reveals election body



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over 2,000 public vehicles, including auto-rickshaws and cabs, have been prosecuted for carrying messages of political parties, with the maximum number of such vehicles having slogans in support of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Besides, a total of 5,43,512 hoardings and posters have been removed by local bodies under the Defacement of Properties Act.

According to the office of Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer, 1,305 vehicles were prosecuted for carrying messages and slogans belonging to the Aam Aadmi Party while 196 public vehicles were carrying slogans of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The poll body said 111 were prosecuted for carrying messages of the Congress while 466 such vehicles carrying slogans of independent candidates also faced action.

Addressing the media, CEO Ranbir Singh said over 1,000 FIRs have so far been registered under various Acts since the model of code conduct came into force for the Delhi Assembly polls on January 6.

Delhi goes to polls on February 8 and the results will be declared on February 11.

He said 289 unlicensed weapons and 337 cartridges

have been seized and added that 4,504 licensed arms have also been deposited.

"As many as 2,952 persons have been booked under various sections of the CrPC and 62,599 persons have been booked under the Delhi Police Act, as preventive measures. Around Rs 1,15,29,920 in cash has also been seized by the police," the CEO said.

A total of 228 FIRs have been registered for MCC violation. Out of this, 11 FIRs are against the ruling AAP, three against the Congress, one against the BJP under the Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, he said.

A total of 1,47,86,382 voters will be eligible to cast their votes in the February 8 elections. Out of these, there are 81,05,236 male voters and 66,80,277 are female voters. As many as 869 voters belong to the third gender.

There are around 2.32 lakh electors aged between 18 and 19 years. According to an official, there are 2.04 lakh voters who have attained the age of 80 while 690 voters are below 100 years.

There will be 13,750 polling stations, the official said, adding that one pink booth, to be managed by women staff, will be set up in each of the 70 assembly constituencies. He said that there are 498 overseas voters.

Matiala to see triangular fight

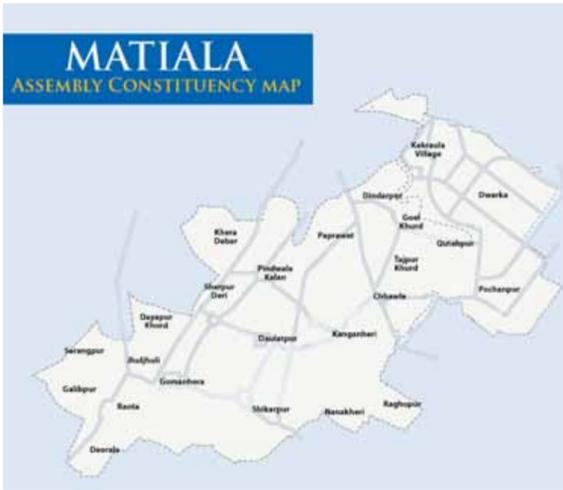
SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi elections are being fought on the "model of development". Matiala constituency nestled in West Delhi is gearing up to witness tough triangular political fight among Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP's) candidate Gulab Singh, Rajesh Gehlot of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) and Congress candidate Sumesh Shokeen. Matiala is a constituency of hundreds of unauthorised colonies and also boasts of world class 'Dwarka' sub city having total number of voters 1,46,92,136.

The Pioneer visited in the constituency where people spoke about their grievances on poor drainage system, pathetic roads, less water supply, transportation, traffic, few Delhi Government schools, garbage disposal system which are challenging the AAP's development narrative.

Interestingly, in Matiala, people of different economic, social and political background live, instance - Kakrola, the village which is having a deep history associated with Patuadi, Dwarka sectors where Central government employees from across India settled and people, living in unauthorised colonies who are happy with AAP and BJP both having double advantage of free electricity/water and ongoing registration process turning their property values in Lakh overnight.

However, a rift between the ruling AAP and the BJP is always visible on the civic issues, Matiala people face challenges everyday to deal with garbage disposal problem. "Garbage is big issue here as both MCD and BJP fight each other, corporation employees



do not work at ground and we have to hire private garbage collector," said a Dwarka resident, Radhakrishan who lives in Delhi Development Authority (DDA) flats.

Matiala residents also questioned Kejriwal for AAP's effort to combat air pollution. "No government is putting genuine effort in dealing with air pollution problem be it Congress, AAP and BJP. Why tress is being cut and what AAP has done for road dust, main cause of pollution," said Ananya, an employee of Central Ministry.

Importantly, Matiala people deal everyday traffic problem during peak hours. "There are no adequate exit routes from Dwarka resulting in heavy traffic congestion every morning and evening on Dwarka Palam road," said a government employee, residing in Dwarka Sector 6.

Grievances of Matiala voters are related with Public Works Department (PWD) and MCD where people are

going out of the way and joined hand with self-help groups for the maintenance of pavements in a bid to avoid accidents.

"Broken pavements may cause accidents; the area is well connected to highways, the difference between service lane and main roads and sewage lines should be visible, no government machineries visit here," said a resident near Dwarka Metro station.

Mansa Ram Park, another area in Matiala where rainy season halts the lives of the poor is beset with poor drainage system and water network. Many of the area residents said, neither AAP government nor BJP ruled civic agencies have done anything in this regard.

While the BJP and AAP are fighting it out, the Congress candidate Sumesh Shokeen sounded confident of his win, "I will be back with majority as I have done alot for the unauthorised colonies during my tenure as the area MLA.

Accusing his counterpart

Gulab Singh, the AAP candidate, Shokeen said that there were 101 unauthorised colonies here in Shiela Dixit regime. "With DSIDC, we worked for these colonies and brought pipeline network here," said Congress candidate mentioning about two new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Matiala which he inaugurated.

Measuring both AAP and Congress in one weighting machine, Rajesh Gehlot, the BJP candidate who had won this seat in 2013 elections, said that both have played well on unauthorised issues. "Why Congress remained silent on the issue while ruled for fifteen years in Delhi and AAP has set a limitation as in Matiala, no progress has been made under AAP rule," Gehlot said.

Meanwhile according to Election Commission of India (ECI), Matiala votes will be polled at 13,750 polling stations which would be set up at 2,689 centers.

In the last election held in 2015, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Gulab Singh had won the seat. In 2013, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Rajesh Gehlot had won the seat and prior to that in 2008, Congress had won the seat and Suresh was the elected as the MLA. Of the total number of voters in Delhi are 80,55,686 male voters and 66,35,635 female voters. A total of 815 third gender voters have also been registered for voting this year. 55,823 Divyang (persons with disabilities) voters are also expected to vote this year. 489 Non resident Indians (NRI) voters would also vote this year. Of the total 11,556 service voters, 9,820 are male voters.

Cong fields maximum number of dynasts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wives, daughters, daughter-in-law, son and brother, all linked to politicians, are in the fray for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls with the Congress fielding the maximum number of political dynasts.

The Congress' candidate from Kalkaji, Shivani Chopra, is the daughter of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Subhash Chopra, while former Delhi Speaker Yoganand Shastri's daughter Priyanka Singh is contesting from the R K Puram seat.

Poonam Azad, wife of Kirti Azad who is campaign committee chief of the Delhi Congress, is the candidate for the Sangam Vihar seat. She will be taking on AAP MLA Dinesh Mohaniya and S C L Gupta of the JDU.

Poonam, 53, had contested against then Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit in the 2003 assembly polls on a BJP ticket. She snapped her ties with the BJP in November 2016 after serving the party for more than 20 years, alleging that she had been sidelined. Poonam then joined the AAP but just five months later, in April 2017, she switched to the Congress.

Her father-in-law Bhagwat Jha Azad, who served as Bihar chief minister in 1988-89, also belonged to the Congress. Poonam's husband and former MP from Bihar's Darbhanga, Kirti, was suspended by the BJP in December 2015 after he alleged irregularities in the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DCCA) when it was headed by former finance minister Arun Jaitley. Priyanka Singh will contest against AAP's Parmila Tokas and BJP's Anil Sharma in the R K Puram assembly seat. Singh, 41, is the vice-president of the

Delhi Mahila Congress and has been politically active since 2008.

Her father served as Delhi minister for food and civil supplies from 1998 to 2003, minister for health and social welfare from 2003 to 2008 and Delhi Assembly speaker from 2008 to 2013.

Shastri represented the Mehrauli seat for the first two terms and the Malviya Nagar constituency in his third term. The BJP too has candidates who are related to politicians.

Rajiv Babbar, who has been fielded by the BJP from Tilak Nagar, is the son of former three-time MLA OP Babbar. The senior Babbar had held the Tilak Nagar seat in 1993, 2003 and 2008. Rajiv Babbar had twice unsuccessfully contested the polls from the seat in 2013 and 2015 and had lost to AAP's Jarnail Singh on both occasions.

Brother of former Delhi Chief Minister Sahib Singh Verma, Azad Singh is the BJP's candidate from Mundka. He is also the uncle of BJP MP from West Delhi Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma. In 2013, Azad Singh was elected as the mayor of North Delhi. He has been active in politics since 1998 and has also contested for the post of President of Government School Teachers Association, Delhi (GSTA).

The AAP too has fielded Preeti Tomar, wife of former Delhi minister Jitender Singh Tomar, from Tri Nagar.

Her candidature was announced at the last minute after Jitender was dropped following the Delhi High Court setting aside his election for giving false declaration regarding his educational qualification in his nomination papers for the 2015 Delhi Assembly polls.

Constituency profile

2-time winner turncoat Surender has edge over AAP, Cong?

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Timarpur constituency appears to be locked into a straight fight between the ruling AAP and the BJP. The AAP has fielded Dilip Pandey — who unsuccessfully contested Lok Sabha election from Northeast seat last year — while, the BJP has fielded Surender Singh Bittoo — a Sikh leader who had won this seat on Congress ticket twice.

The AAP is trying to woo voter by doling out more freebies such as — laying new pipelines to provide 24 hours supply of potable water, developing infrastructure for educational institutions and construction of public toilets, whereas, the BJP is not leaving any stone unturned to win this seat as its workers are convincing voters to vote on nationality.

On the other hand, the Congress has fielded Amar Lata Sangwan, local municipal councillor, who is yet to establish her identity among voters. Timarpur is home to Tibetans, Saansi tribe, labourers from UP and Bihar and students who come to

- ▶ AAP vote share rose from 35% rise in 2013 to 51% 2015
- ▶ Congress vote share has seen declining trend in last 5 Assembly polls. It had secured 52% in 1998, 54 per cent in 2003, 44 in 2008, 29 in 2013 and reduced to just 11% in 2015
- ▶ BJP managed to get 37% in 1998, 43% in 2003, 41 in 2008, 32 in 2013, and 34 in 2015. BJP's Rajender Gupta had won the seat in 1993 with 51 per cent of vote share



Delhi to become part of Indian Bureaucracy. Initial trends indicate, this seat is in for a humdring set of a contest as both the AAP and the BJP are not willing to concede even an inch.

Interestingly, even after elected as a councillor from Timarpur ward, Congress candidate Amar Lata Sangwan is yet

not known in this constituency. "You can never reach Sangwan in any circumstances. Whenever you dial her number, it is her husband who picks the call. The condition of all the stretches in our locality is pathetic and all the efforts to reach her are failed. Why would we vote for her," said Ram Naresh, who resides in the

same area.

The residents of Gopalpur Village acclaimed the work done by the Kejriwal Government especially construction of a public toilet in the area and providing uninterrupted water supply after laying new pipelines in the area. Meena, a resident of

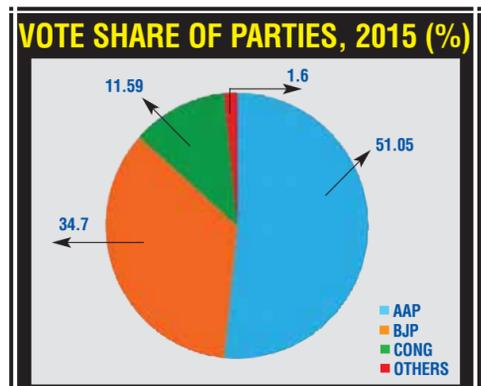
ELECTION	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTE SHARE (IN PER CENT)			
			Year	AAP	BJP	CONGRESS
1993	Rajender Gupta	BJP	—	—	—	
1998	Jagdish Anand	CONGRESS	2015	51	34	11
2003	Surinder Pal Singh	CONGRESS	2013	35	32	29
2008	Surinder Pal Singh	CONGRESS	2008	—	41	44
2013	Harish Khanna	AAP	2003	—	43	54
2015	Pankaj Pushkar	AAP	1998	—	37	52

Gopalpur Village said she used to search bushes or isolated places for answering nature call that too during her pregnancy but after the Delhi Government constructed public toilet here, life has become easier.

There are many like Meena, who talked about toilet as one of the factor they are going to vote for in upcoming Assembly polls.

"The Kejriwal Government has done good work in some of the sector but still we need an experience leadership in the Capital. Bittu jee has been a good candidate as he is very polite and listen to everyone. The AAP's sitting MLA has never visited the area after winning the seat.

But during the Congress rule, we could easily visit Bittu's residence for any problem related to our areas," Manohar



Nishad, a resident of Nehru Vihar said.

The AAP vote share has increased from 35 per cent in 2013 to 51 per cent in 2015. The

BJP's vote share has seen a fluctuating trend as it got 34 per cent in 2015, 32 in 2013, 41 in 2008, 43 in 2003 and 37 in 1998.

While, the Congress vote

share has seen declining trend in last five Assembly elections, the party secured 52 per cent in 1998, 54 per cent in 2003, 44 in 2008, 29 in 2013 and reduced to just 11 per cent in 2015.

AAP candidate Harish Khanna who contested the poll in 2013 won the seat and secured 35 per cent of vote share. The party fielded Pankaj Pushkar in 2015 Assembly elections and he managed to win the seat securing 51 per cent share of votes. BJP's Rajender Gupta had won the seat in 1993 with 51 per cent of vote share. Since then this seat has gone to the Congress for three terms and twice to the AAP.

The voting in the Delhi Assembly Election will be held on February 8 and the counting of votes will take place on February 11.

The last Assembly election in Delhi was held in 2015 in which the AAP won with a thumping majority securing 67 seats out of 70 seats.

CENTRE'S J&K OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Ministers' visits mere eyewash: Panthers Party

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Panthers Party here on Wednesday termed Union Ministers' visits to the newly carved Union Territory an "eyewash", accusing them of avoiding disgruntled people and troublesome areas in the aftermath of the scrapping of the J&K's special status over five months ago.

Addressing a rally in Rannagar of Udhampur district, JKNPP chairman and former Minister Harsh Dev Singh said the ministers "randomly select places of their tour in consultation with their local party colleagues, ensuring that troublesome areas were omitted from their itinerary and disgruntled people are avoided".

"The ministers' visits to Jammu & Kashmir are only an eyewash and have nothing to do with aspirations of people," he said, adding that these trips proved to be "pleasure trips".

"The ministers were supposed to

make people aware about benefits of the abrogation of Article 370 provisions but such awareness was more required in Kashmir region than Jammu. Interestingly, central ministers has shown their disinclination towards Kashmir as only five of 36 Ministers were reported to have planned visits to the Valley," Singh added.

Even in the Jammu region, he said Union ministers were indulging in the inaugurations of petty development works with their speeches full of "tired shibboleths".

"It was not understandable as to how the same could help them achieve their objective of educating people. It was further not clarified as to what prompted them to visit J&K with the aforesaid motive five and a half months after the scrapping of the special status and downgrading of the state into UTs," he said.

Mins to spread positivity among people: Naqvi

Srinagar: Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Wednesday said the team of Central Ministers were in Jammu & Kashmir to spread positivity among the people and to create a "strong environment of change".

A group of central ministers are on a visit to Jammu & Kashmir to spread awareness about the positive impact of abrogation of Article 370 provisions and development measures taken by the Government for the region.

"The people have a lot of confidence, there is a positive atmosphere and we are here to go to the people and spread this positivity among other people too by communicating with them. We are working to create a strong environment of change," Naqvi told reporters here.

The Union Minister visited a vendors' market in Lal Chowk city centre - the commercial hub of Srinagar. The Union Minister was flanked by Farooq Khan, advisor to Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu. Naqvi also visited the Mecca Market and interacted with vendors and assured them of redressal of their problems.

Normalcy acrobatics in full swing: Mufti

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday termed the visit of Union Ministers to Kashmir 'curated photo' opportunity to show there is normalcy in the region, even though there is "internet shutdown" in the valley.

"Normalcy acrobatics in full swing. Kashmir continues to reel under a crippling internet shutdown & political leaders remain detained. There is massive surveillance & heavy troop presence yet curated photo ops continue," a tweet on Mehbooba Mufti's Twitter handle reads.

Mehbooba's daughter Iltija Mufti has been operating her mother's Twitter handle since August 5 when the PDP president was placed under detention in the wake of abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

She was commenting on Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's visit to Lal Chowk earlier in the day. Internet services in most of Kashmir are still suspended while several mainstream politicians including Mehbooba, Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah continue to be in detention.

BJP forms six-member committee to look into killing of seven persons in J'khand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

al leader from Jharkhand.

Supporters of 'Palthalgarhi' movement, armed with lathis and axes, kidnapped seven villagers and killed them on Tuesday for allegedly opposing their stir. Palthalgarhi is the name given to a tribal protest which seeks autonomy for village sabhas (Gramsabhas). Those demanding Palthalgarhi want no laws of the land be applicable on the tribal people in the area.

The Palthalgarhis reject Government rights over their forests and rivers.

As part of the movement, Palthalgarhis erect a stone plaque or signboard outside the village/area, declaring the village as sovereign territory and prohibiting the entry of the outsiders.

Condemning the incident and expressing his 'deep pain' at the abduction and killing of seven innocent persons in Chaibasa, BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday formed a six-member committee, including five tribal MPs of the party.

The committee will visit the site of the killing of seven villagers in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and submit a report on the ghastly incident within a week.

The committee members are Jasvantsinh Bhabhor, Samir Oraon, Bharti Pawar, Gomti Sai and John Barla, all of whom are tribal MPs from different states, and Neelkanth Singh Munda, a former Minister who is a trib-

Tribal woman gangraped in Chhattisgarh; three held

Korba: A 23-year-old tribal woman was allegedly raped by three men at a forest in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, a police official said on Wednesday.

All the accused have been arrested, he said. The incident took place late Sunday evening when the woman went to relieve herself in a forest area under Balco Nagar police station limits, the official said.

The woman, who is separated from her husband, was staying at her parents' home in a village here since the past few days.

When she went into the forest, the accused suddenly grabbed her and dragged her near a rivulet where they allegedly took turns to rape her, the official said.

They tied the woman's hands with a scarf and also gagged her so that she could not scream for help, he said, adding that when she fell unconscious, the accused fled.

After the woman regained consciousness, she somehow managed to reach home and narrated the ordeal to her parents who lodged a police complaint on Monday. Based on the complaint, the three accused, identified as Rajesh Kumar (28), Shrisingh Kanwar (26) and Ashwani Kumar (25), were arrested on Tuesday and booked under Indian Penal Code Section 376 (D)(gang rape), the official said.

BJP's priority is not development, but to create Hindu Rashtra: Tharoor

Kolkata: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday asserted that in the absence of any development agenda, what the Bharatiya Janata Party wants is to create a "Hindu rashtra".

Speaking at the Kolkata Literary Meet here, Tharoor also claimed the real "tukde tukde gang" is the ruling party which is dividing the country into "bits and pieces".

"With no development on its agenda, the ruling party is making a complete exposition of its agenda to create a Hindu rashtra," Tharoor, also an acclaimed author, claimed.

The present central government does not have the mentality for development, the Congress leader alleged.

"The real tukde tukde gang is the ruling party which is dividing the country into bits and pieces. The party wants to divide us further the way the British Raj did through the divide and rule policy," he said.

"Tukde tukde gang" is a term often used by the right-wing parties to attack those who they think are out to divide the country. The term was coined and used against the Left and Left-backed outfits during the campus

unrest at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2016.

"Should religion be a determinant for nationhood? Mahatma Gandhi went for a secular India, unlike Pakistan which went on to become an Islamic state. "Our Constitution reflects dignity and equality for all. The Constitution reflects that and also essentially rejected the idea of religion-based citizenship," Tharoor said.

For the first time in India, religion is considered as a determinant for citizenship and excluding one religion, Islam, the former Union minister said.

"The onus will be on us to prove that we are Indians," the Thiruvananthapuram MP claimed.

BJP leaders often quote Swami Vivekananda but the monk in his famous Chicago speech had greeted people of all faiths of the world as brothers and sisters, he said.

"But BJP has reduced this to six faiths and three nations", Tharoor said. He was referring to the amended Citizenship Act that seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis entering India on or before December 31, 2014 from Bangladesh.

In its 1st year, Cong Govt in Raj filled 31K vacancies: Officials

Jaipur: In its first year of rule, the Congress Government in Rajasthan has filled 31,513 vacancies in several departments and announced results of recruitment examination for 28,601 posts, according to an official statement.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday night reviewed the status of vacant positions in various Government departments and asked officials to complete the pending recruitment in all departments at the earliest.

Gehlot said it is a state gov-

ernment priority to provide employment opportunities to the youth and to fill all the vacancies within the stipulated time.

He said that a review meeting will be held every month to review the progress of the pending recruitment.

Principal Secretary (Department of Personnel) Roli Singh said the present government has so far made appointments on 31,513 posts and declared results for recruitment on 28,601 posts.

Additional Chief Secretary

(Medical) Rohit Kumar Singh said the list of the selected candidates for ANM posts has been released after verification of documents for 5,602 positions. And soon, the list of selected candidates for 6,557 GNM posts will also be released. Additional Chief Secretary (Administrative Reforms) RK Venkateswaran said that verification of document of successful 12,456 candidates in the Lower Division Clerk (LDC) recruitment exam 2018 will be completed soon.

Galaxy...

From Page 1

Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra, campaign committee chief Kirti Azad, AICC in-charge of Delhi P C Chacko and NSUI chief Neeraj Kundan, will also campaign for various candidates in the high-stakes poll battle.

Former Union minister Shashi Tharoor, who has been aggressively taking on the AAP and had launched the party's campaign in Delhi, will also canvass for various candidates for the party. Polling will be held on February 8 for the 70-member Delhi Assembly and the results will be declared on February 11.

Vyommitra charms all with her...

From Page 1

Earlier, addressing the inaugural function, Sivan said ahead of the launch of India's maiden human spaceflight venture Gaganyaan in December 2021, ISRO will undertake two unmanned missions in December 2020 and June 2021 and "Vyommitra" will fly in them.

"We are on schedule (regarding Gaganyaan). We

are going to do lots of demonstration tests this year. This year end we will send our unmanned mission and the half-humanoid you have seen today is going to fly in it," he said. The ISRO will monitor how the human system will behave in the environment control life support system. "The humanoid project has almost completed," Sivan added. Union Minister of State

for Department of Space and Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh too shared a video of the humanoid on Wednesday on Twitter and wrote, "In the run up to the first Human Space Mission by India at ISRO...Vyommitra, the humanoid for #Gaganyaan unveiled. This prototype of humanoid will go as trial before Gaganyaan goes with astronauts."

Office Of the Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh Jai Nigam, R-1, Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chouraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002

No. 103/Nivada/12 Dtd. : 21.01.2020

Short Term E-Tender Notice

Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Repair of surface of viaduct from Teela morh to Khajuri Khas under 270 cusec Delhi Water supply Maintenance Scheme," is hereby invited in single bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors registered with U.P. Jal Nigam in Class-"B" (Civil Works) and having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 23.01.2020. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their bids, duly filled, online latest by 07.02.2020 up to 01:30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum financial Bid of E-tender shall be opened on 07.02.2020 at 03:00 P.M.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

T.N.No. /C.432/Lease-VP/Tender/2/2019-20 dated: 21.01.2020

Senior Division Commercial Manager, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad, for and on behalf of the President, Union of India, invites open tender through 'e-process' from Registered Lease holders of Hyderabad Division, Registered under CPLP-2014 read with its amendments issued by Railway Board time to time for the contract of leasing of SLRVP from valid registered leaseholders in category 'A' with Divisions over South Central Railway and Northern Railway for leasing of parcel vans (23 tonnes capacity) on round trip basis, by Train No.12707/12708 AP Sampark Kranthi Express Between Kacheguda-Hazarat Nizamuddin.

Kacheguda running on (from KCG) Monday, Wednesday, Friday; (From NZM) Wednesday, Friday, Sunday on payment of lump sum rates for transportation of their parcels.

Important Dated:

S.No. : 1 Description: Tender Document will be up loaded/posted in rail net **Details:** 21.01.2020

S.No. : 2 Description: Last date for seeking clarification proposed **Details:** 17.00 hrs of 04.02.2020

S.No. : 3 Description: Last date for issuing amendments if any **Details:** 07.02.2020

S.No. : 4 Description: Tender document available on website is proposed from **Details:** 22.01.2020

S.No. : 5 Description: Closing time and date bidding **Details:** 12.00hrs of 12.02.2020

Interested parties may submit bid through e-process only by registering themselves on the portal i.e., www.ireps.gov.in with their own digital signature. Registered on line bidders are required to get updated their latest turn over details to be eligible to bid. Details of the notice inviting tender, terms and conditions and agreement will be available on the website of South Central Railway www.ireps.gov.in. The requisite EMD Rs.4,00,000/- (Four lakhs) and cost of tender form Rs.2,360/- (including 18% GST) should be paid online NEFT/RTGS in favour of Sr.DFM/South Central Railway/Hyderabad.

Latest Income Tax Returns and Copy of annual turnover of the business of the applicant/firm/Company i.e. Audited Balance sheet of the preceding financial year to be furnished (at the time of opening of tender) in support.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Hyderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Govt wants 7...

From Page 1

The top court, on January 20, had rejected the plea of a death row convict in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case challenging the Delhi High Court order which had dismissed his claim of being a juvenile at the time of offence saying he cannot re-agitate the issue by filing fresh application.

A Delhi court has recently issued fresh death warrants for February 1 against the four convicts -- Vinay Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31), Mukesh Kumar Singh (32) and Pawan (26) -- in the case after their hanging got delayed from January 22 due to pending petitions.

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

In an application, the MHA sought a direction "to mandate all competent courts, State Governments, prison authorities in country to issue death warrant of a convict within seven days of rejection of his mercy petition and to execute death sentence within 7 days thereafter irrespective of the stage of review petition/curative petition/mercy petition of his co-convicts."

The MHA said the country is facing a menace of certain offences relating to terrorism, rape and murder which are punishable with death sentence. "It is submitted that the offence of rape is not only a criminal offence defined in the penal code of the country but is the most heinous and unpardonable offence in any civilized society. The offence of rape is not only an offence against an individual and society but is an offence against humanity.

Rajini's...

From Page 1

K Jayakumar, Tamil Nadu Minister for fisheries and the spokesman of the Government demanded public apology from Rajinikanth. But Tamilaruvi Manian, close confidant of the superstar told The Pioneer on Wednesday that this furore about Rajinikanth's speech was much ado about nothing. "Rajinikanth did not tell anything about Ramaswamy Naicker. What he told was that activists of DK took out the procession carrying nude pictures of Lord Ram and Sita. What is wrong in saying something which has happened and that too substantiated with documentary evidence," asked Manian.

Manian also pointed out that the anger and resentment expressed by Dravidia Kazhagam activists and leaders of other major political parties is an indication of the fear and apprehension they had over Rajinikanth's political ambitions. "It is sure that Tamil Nadu will not be the same once Rajinikanth announces his political entry by launching the political outfit," said Manian. Narayanan Tirupati, BJP spokesman, said there was no need for Rajinikanth to tender any apology as he has not blamed anybody in his speech during the Tuglaq anniversary. "Rajinikanth exposed the hypocrisy being practiced by the Dravidian political parties under the guise of secularism," said Narayanan.

Meanwhile political commentators are of the view that the statement by Rajinikanth could lead to realignment of political forces in the State. There were signals from the AIADMK that the party may dump the NDA and forge fresh alliance with parties that respect and recognise Ramasamy Naicker's brand of politics.

MP: 29 girl students beaten up over homework; CM orders probe

Bhopal/Sagar: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday ordered an inquiry into the incident in which 29 girl students of a government school were allegedly beaten with a wooden scale and duster for not completing their homework.

In the incident that took place on Monday, 29 students of Kasturba Gandhi Government Middle School in Bhangarh alleged that their teacher had beaten them up with a wooden scale and duster for not completing their homework, an official said.

Taking to Twitter on Wednesday, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath said, "A case in which 29 girl students of Kasturba Gandhi Government Middle School of Bhangarh, Bina (Sagar district) were beaten up has come to my notice. The orders have been issued to investigate into the matter."

Akhilesh, Maya...

From Page 1

Speaking at a rally in Karimnagar district in Telangana, Owaisi wanted Shah to discuss the new law with him instead of others. "I am here... Debate with me... Why (debate) with these people... 'Daadhi wale se karo na' (Debate with a bearded man). We will talk and debate on CAA, NPR and NRC," the leader of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMM) said.

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal has already challenged Shah for a debate while party colleague P Chidambaram asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as to why he or his Government did not accept his suggestion of the PM holding an open debate with five critics of the amended Citizenship Act and let people draw their own conclusion.

"I had suggested that the PM should select five of the most articulate critics and hold a Q&A session with them. Why doesn't the PM/Government accept the suggestion?"

"Let five critics of CAA-NPR debate the PM. Let the event be televised live. And let the people draw their own conclusions," he said on Twitter. In another tweet, he said, "HM (Home Minister) has dared the Opposition to debate CAA. Is that not what the Opposition, jurists, academics, writers, artists, students and youth have been doing since Dec 12?"

Won't stay CAA without hearing...

From Page 1

Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, told the Bench the Government has been given copies of around 60 pleas out of the 143 petitions. He said it wanted time to respond to all the pleas.

Several petitions have been filed challenging the constitutional validity of the CAA. Among those who have filed pleas are the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, RJD leader Manoj Jha, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi.

The IUML said in its plea that the CAA violates the fundamental Right to Equality and intends to grant citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants by making an exclusion on the basis of religion. The petition had alleged that the Government's CAA was against the basic structure of the Constitution and intended to explicitly discriminate against Muslims as the Act extended benefits only to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians. The plea filed by Ramesh said the Act is a "brazen attack" on core fundamental rights envisaged under the Constitution and treats "equals as unequal".

The other petitioners include the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the All Assam Students Union (AASU), the Peace Party, the CPI, NGOs Rihai Manch and Citizens Against Hate, advocate M L Sharma, and law students.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION, AKHNOOR/NOWSHERA Tele/Fax : 01924-253998, e-mail : ifcjmiddakhnoor@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 42/MID/AN. Dated 17.01.2020

For and on behalf of The President of India, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Akhnoor/Nowshera invites e-tenders from approved contractors/Registered firms/Authorized dealers/Workshop owners having experience in small hydro-Mechanical/Electrical Works.

S.No. 1, Name of Work :- Restoration /reconditioning of suction pipes and other allied works at LIS Kah

Quantity :- 01 Job, Earnest Money (Rs. in lacs) :- 0.038, Cost of tender document :- Rs 200/-, Period of completion :- 15 days, Class of contractor :- Approved contractors/Registered firms/Authorized dealers/Workshop owners having experience in small hydro-Mechanical/Electrical Works.

1. The bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 17.01.2020 (04.00 pm) to 24.01.2020 (03:00 PM). Bidding document contains instruction for bidders, bill of quantities, general terms and condition and other details.

No. DIP/J-12557/19

Dated :- 20.01.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division Akhnoor / Nowshera

Global manhunt on for fugitive...

From Page 1

Besides Gujarat, Pradesh over rape allegations.

Nithyananda is also wanted by the Karnataka police in a similar case.

He was also arrested in 2010 in Himachal Pradesh over rape allegations.

In December last year, the Centre cancelled his passport and also rejected his application for a fresh travel document.

BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED

BVCL

CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741

Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoombati, P.O. Badarpurhat, Badarpurhat Karimganj Assam-788003

Corp. Office: 281, Deepali, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034

Tel.: 0361-2464670/71 Fax: +91-361-2464672

Email: cs@barakcement.com, www.barakcement.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice be and is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Friday, the 31st Day of January, 2020 inter-alia** includes to consider and approve the Un-Audited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the Third Quarter ended December 31, 2019 along with other items of Agenda. The said notice may be accessed on the Company's website at www.barakcement.com

Further, in accordance with the BVCL Code of Conduct to Regulate, Monitor and Report Trading by Designated Persons the "Trading Window" for dealing in the securities of the Company has been already closed for all Directors, Officers, Designated persons and their immediate relatives of the Company w.e.f. January 01, 2020 till the end of 48 hours after the Unaudited Financial Results for the third quarter ended December 31, 2019 are approved and filed with the Stock Exchanges.

For and on Behalf of the Board

BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED

Place: New Delhi **Rajesh Aggarwal**
Date: 22.01.2020 (Chief Financial Officer)

CRPF facing critical shortage of armoured troop carriers

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid heightened threat to its pilgrims later this year, the CRPF — the lead agency for internal security and conduct of Yatra — is facing a critical shortage of armoured troop carriers to transport the paramilitary personnel in Jammu & Kashmir.

Officials said, the paramilitary is facing a shortage of up to 40 per cent of the sanctioned strength, a figure being withheld in order to avoid any risk to the troopers from the terrorists in the Valley.

The preparation for the Amarnath Yatra begins in March and a meeting was held

in the Home Ministry for procurement of the armoured troop carriers, sources said.

The shortage of the armoured troop carriers has accrued over the years as the paramilitary has not been able to procure bullet proof vehicles from Original Equipment Manufacturers during the last one decade, leading to an alarming shortfall in such vehicles, they said.

The security forces especially the CRPF is facing enhanced threat from the terror groups post-abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories — J&K and



Ladakh, officials said, adding approvals for procurement of the specialised vehicles are yet to see the light of the day

Officials said, the paramilitary is facing a shortage of up to 40 per cent of the sanctioned strength, a figure being withheld in order to avoid any risk to the troopers from the terrorists in the Valley

The preparation for the Amarnath Yatra begins in March and a meeting was held in the Home Ministry for procurement of the armoured troop carriers

The security forces especially the CRPF is facing enhanced threat from the terror groups post-abrogation of Article 370

The Amarnath Yatra that is held between July and August is estimated to be tough from the security perspective as it will be the first such Yatra to be conducted after change in the special status of J&K

Last year, the Amarnath Yatra was called off midway ahead of the decision to scrap Article 370 on August 5 as a well calculated move to avoid any risk to the pilgrims

despite the Pulwama incident last year in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed while travelling in a convoy consisting of

non-armoured buses.

“The sanctioned numbers of bullet-proof bunker vehicles are badly needed as addition-

al deployment of 25 battalions of the CRPF was made in the Valley in anticipation of aggravated law and order situation following nullification of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir,” an official said.

The Amarnath Yatra that is held between July and August is estimated to be tough from the security perspective as it will be the first such Yatra to be conducted after change in the special status of J&K.

The terror groups are also seeking to find traction among the youth as the jihadi ranks are facing crisis due to the wiping out of the terror leadership in the Valley owing to counter-

terror action by the security forces in the last two years.

Last year, the Amarnath Yatra was called off midway ahead of the decision to scrap Article 370 on August 5 as a well calculated move to avoid any risk to the pilgrims.

In 2017, Amarnath pilgrims were targeted by the terrorists in July 2017 in which eight religious tourists were killed and over 30 others injured.

Likewise, in June 2016, the banned terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyeba ambushed a convoy of CRPF vehicles in Pampore and killed eight uniformed men of the paramilitary and injuring over 20 others.

Children in J&K are nationalists not culprits: Rajnath

Sometimes they are misled, says Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said girls and boys between the age group of 10 and 12 years were being radicalised in Jammu & Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the children from there are “nationalists” but sometimes get motivated in the wrong direction and those guiding are the “culprits.”

Rawat had also said the misguided youth have to be weaned away by lodging them in deradicalisation camps.

Dispelling the notion of radicalisation, the Defence Minister said those youngsters “should not be seen in any other way.” Making this observation when asked about his opinion on the children from Jammu & Kashmir being motivated to join the National Cadet Corps (NCC), he said, “Youngsters are youngsters only. Sometimes, the way they should be motivated, people do not motivate them. In fact, they are motivated in the wrong direction.”

Dispelling the notion of radicalisation, the Defence Minister said those youngsters “should not be seen in any other way”

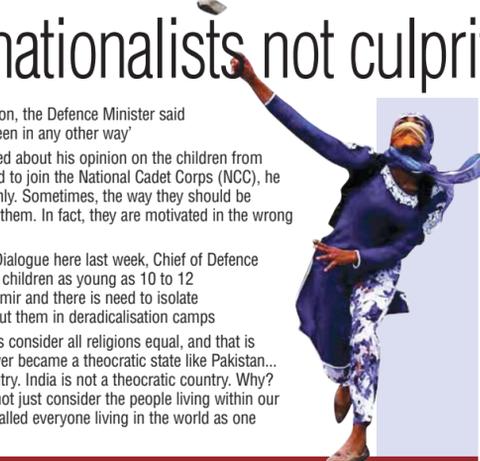
Making this observation when asked about his opinion on the children from Jammu & Kashmir being motivated to join the National Cadet Corps (NCC), he said, Youngsters are youngsters only. Sometimes, the way they should be motivated, people do not motivate them. In fact, they are motivated in the wrong direction

In his address during the Raisina Dialogue here last week, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin had said children as young as 10 to 12 years are being radicalised in Kashmir and there is need to isolate those completely radicalised and put them in deradicalisation camps

Defence Minister said Indian values consider all religions equal, and that is why the country is secular and never became a theocratic state like Pakistan... “Even America is a theocratic country. India is not a theocratic country. Why? Because our saints and seers did not just consider the people living within our borders as part of the family, but called everyone living in the world as one family,” the Minister said

“That is why the kids should not be blamed for this. The ones who are wrongly motivating them should be blamed. The ones who are motivating them in wrong direction are the culprits,” the Defence Minister added. He made these remarks after attending the Republic Day annual camp of the NCC.

In his address during the Raisina Dialogue here last week, Rawat had said children as young as 10 to 12 years are being radicalised in Kashmir and there is need to isolate those completely radicalised and put them



in deradicalisation camps.

He said radicalisation can be countered by looking at where it is happening and who are behind it. The CDS also said radicalisation is happening in schools, universities, religious places and sites and then there are people spreading this. “First we need to get to the nerve of who is radicalising people. You can start isolating these people gradually and then start a counter radicalisation programme by identifying people who have been radicalised, to what degree...” he had said.

Meanwhile, addressing the

ing within our borders as part of the family, but called everyone living in the world as one family,” the Minister said.

Singh underlined that India had never declared its religion would be Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist and people of all religions could live here.” They (saints and seers) gave the slogan of “Vasudev Kutumbakam” — the whole world is one family. This message has gone to the whole world from here only,” he added. He later presented Raksha Mantri Padak and commendation cards to NCC cadets and observed band and cultural performances of NCC cadets. Praising the parade and various performances of cadets, the Defence Minister said it has been able to boost the sense of national pride among Indian youth.

He also said the NCC plays an unparalleled role in transforming the youth into future leaders.

“Today, NCC cadets can be found in almost every field, including Armed Forces, politics and sports. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is taking our country to newer heights, was an NCC cadet,” Singh said. He also recalled his days as a cadet of the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world.

Cabinet OK’s ₹4,371 cr to upgrade NITs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday allotted Rs 4,371 crore to upgrade National Institutes of Technology (NITs) across the country.

Addressing media, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said this will help the NITs to establish permanent campuses and infrastructures. Blaming UPA Government, he said the NITs were established in 2009 were given very low funding around Rs 250 crore and this had hampered the growth of the institutes.

“Now with the decision for granting Rs 4, 371 crore all NITs can be upgraded with better facilities by 2022, he said.

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved fur-

ther extension of six months to the Other Backward Classes sub-categorisation commission, headed by retired Delhi High Court Chief Justice G Rohini. Cabinet also decided to designate Daman as the headquarters of the merged Union Territories of Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The Cabinet also approved a model pact with foreign countries for recognition of seafarers’ competency certificates. This will pave the way for mutual recognition of maritime education and training of seafarers by the countries involved.

“The Cabinet has approved a model MoU with foreign countries for unilateral/bilateral recognition of Certificates of Competency of seafarers,” a Government official said.



Gadkari convenes 2-day marathon review meet of all ongoing projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has convened a two-day marathon review meeting on Thursday and Friday of all the ongoing projects, worth Rs 3 lakh crore, of his Ministry as also that of the central road making agency NHAI.

Ministry sources said progress of about 500 projects especially struck/delayed projects will be taken up during the meeting to be held at Manesar near national Capital. Various stakeholders numbering about 600 Concessionaries/Contractors/Bankers and concerned officials of Union Governments and its Departments/Organisations, State NH Division, State PWD Departments will be attending the review meeting on January 23-24.

“This meeting is an important platform for ironing out issues and exploring the way forward for pending projects and helping in expediting the implementation,” said a MoRTH official. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways General (Retd) VK Singh will also attend the marathon meeting.

Officials said the first day of the meeting projects of South Zone (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Pondicherry, Karnataka) and Central Zone (Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat) will be reviewed while projects

of Haryana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal will be taken up on Friday.

The projects in the States of Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Goa will be taken up afterwards. It may be stated that issues related to projects of North-Eastern States, and NHIDCL have already been reviewed in a separate meeting early this year.

This is the second time

within a week when Gadkari will be chairing a meeting of entire Transport Ministry and stakeholders with the first being the National Road Safety Council meeting last week when it was deliberated to improve road and highways infrastructure.

In the meeting, expressing concern for fatalities on roads, Gadkari had advocated to penalise the officers for faulty engineering of road infrastructure.

PM takes stock of progress made in 9 delayed projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took stock of progress made in nine delayed projects, worth Rs 24,000 crore and spread across as many States at the first meeting of ‘Pragati’ this year.

These projects are in Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

These include three from Railways, five from the Road Transport and Highways and one from the Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry, the Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement.

Modi also reviewed the performance related to insur-

ance schemes — ‘Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana’ (PMJJBY) and ‘Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana’ (PMSBY).

The progress under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project, which is a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-governance, also came up for review.

In the last 31 ‘Pragati’ interactions, Modi has reviewed a total of 269 projects with a total investment of Rs 12.30 lakh crore.

He has also reviewed the resolution of grievance redressal related to 47 Government programmes and schemes across 17 diverse sectors.

BJP calls Cong ‘Muslim League Congress’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Charging the Congress with “Muslim appeasement” and “insulting Hindus”, the BJP on Wednesday quoted Maharashtra Minister Ashok Chavan’s comments on installation of a non-BJP coalition Government in the State to say the party should be termed “Muslim League Congress”.

Citing Chavan’s reported remarks that the Congress joined hands with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra as Muslims also wanted the party to stop the BJP from coming to power, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra accused Congress of betraying interests of Hindus and appeasing Muslims.

“The Congress leader says they joined the Government for Muslims. What is the sin of Hindus, Sikhs and others. The Congress has insulted Hindus and this comment has exposed it,” the BJP leader claimed.

At his press conference Patra referred to comments of many opposition leaders, including those from AIMIM, to allege that they were “abusing” Hindus in the name of anti-CAA protests and sought apology from Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP’s Sharad Pawar.

Patra also drew attention to the reported comments of AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, whose brother Asaduddin Owaisi heads the party that Muslims ruled over the country for eight centuries to refer to him as Jinnah, Pakistan’s founder

Citing Chavan’s reported remarks that the Congress joined hands with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra as Muslims also wanted the party to stop the BJP from coming to power, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra accused Congress of betraying interests of Hindus and appeasing Muslims

For his part, Union Minister Giriraj Singh reacted saying, “Wo Mughal lutere thay. Aap Bharat ko darane ka kaam na karein. Jinnah ke raaste par na chalein, Bharatvanshi ab jaag chuke hain.”

Asked about Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge’s reported jibe at the RSS for its “non-participation” in the freedom movement, Patra shot back, asking if parents of Sonia Gandhi, who is of Italian origin, had fought in India’s independence struggle.

The Indian National Congress, he said referring to the opposition party’s full name, should be called “Muslim League Congress”. The Congress does “Muslim appeasement” for the community’s votes but has never done any good for it, he claimed.

Pointing to a report in an Urdu daily, Patra said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had once described his party as a ‘party of Muslims’ and its leaders coined terms like saffron terror. Since 1946, Patra claimed the Congress has done “Muslim vote bank politics”.

BJP’s focus is only ‘Loot & Scoot’: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said the “Suit-Boot” BJP Government’s focus is only on the industry of “Loot & Scoot” and under its rule “Common man is in pain but Con-man is in gain”. The party questioned whether the BJP-led dispensation is involved in Frost International Bank Scam of Rs 3,592.48 crore and in the escape of its directors.

The Congress alleged the total bank fraud during the BJP’s tenure amounted to over Rs 2.7 lakh crore.

The party stated political accountability must be fixed on Prime Minister and Finance Minister for Rs 2,70,513.49 crore public money looted from banks and Rs 5,00,000 crore written off of willful defaulters.

Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill slammed the Government for not taking timely action against the directors of Frost International which is alleged to have defrauded banks to the tune of Rs 3,592 crore. He alleged that it was the Government that prevented the lodging of complaint in the scam.

“When the consortium of lending banks had authorised registration of complaint on June 15, 2019, why did it take more than seven months to register a complaint? Was someone in the BJP Government preventing the

registration of complaint?” Shergill questioned at a Press conference.

“When the PSBs having Government nominees on board were aware that the company is unable to return the money, why did it take them a year to request the MHA to issue a lookout notice?” he said.

The grand old party also

queried as to why the lookout notice was delayed.

“Despite issuance of LOC on January 18, 2019, why and on whose directions in the BJP Government did the investigating agencies not register a case till January 19, 2020, for an entire year against the suspected offenders who remain untraceable till date?” Shergill said.

NPR good when UPA brought it, bad under BJP, wonders Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday hit out at parties questioning the National Population Register (NPR) saying it was welcomed in the past when the then Congress-led Government introduced it but is being dubbed as “bad” when the NDA regime is repeating it.

He also said the provision of “naturalisation” to grant Indian citizenship to foreign nationals in the principal Citizenship Act of 1955 still remains and Pakistani singer Adnan Sami became an Indian citizen due to that.

“That provision (of naturalisation) still remains. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) takes note of persecuted minorities in three countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan) who came to India seeking justice ... The amendment is about giving citizenship and not taking it,” Javadekar said at a briefing of the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet.

Kerala and West Bengal are some of the States who have opposed the NPR exercise. The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to stay the amended citizenship law without hearing the Centre. Responding to a question on the issue, Javadekar said, “Those who are opposed to the Citizenship Amendment Act made have their own views,

but the Supreme Court decided not to give it (CAA) any stay,” he said.

Responding to questions on the NPR, he said giving date of birth or place of birth of parents is optional in the exercise. “If you don’t have it or don’t remember, don’t give it... Many questions are optional,” he said.

Referring to the origin of the NPR, he pointed out that it was introduced by the Congress-led UPA Government in 2010. “Then you all welcomed it. They bring it, it is good. When we bring, it is bad. This cannot be the case. This is not fair,” he said. The Minister said the National Register of Citizens is limited to Assam and it was brought by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

“They brought it (NRC) so it is good. We did not bring, so we are bad,” he quipped.

To a question, the senior BJP leader said at one point of time, thousands of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka were given Indian citizenship.

Responding to a question on “proposed” police action in Delhi’s Shaheen Bagh, he said no action is on in the area. “No action is being taken in Shaheen Bagh, there is a complaint... Police went to Jamia (university) there was a complaint, they did not go (enter) the JNU (campus), there is a complaint. This is not done (Aisa toh nahin chalta hai),” he said.

INSHORT

JAPAN’S HUGE INFRA INVESTMENT IN N-E

New Delhi: Japan has huge investment in infrastructure projects in the Northeast and is collaborating with several States in the region in areas like forest, sewerage and disaster management, the Centre said on Wednesday. The issue was discussed threadbare when a delegation led by Japanese Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki called on Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh, an official statement said.

GOVT TO UNVEIL ACTION PLAN TO BOOST ECONOMY

New Delhi: The Government will unveil its “plan of action” to boost the economy in the Union Budget to be presented on February 1, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said asserting that economic fundamentals remain very strong.

43 FLIGHTS SCREENED FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

New Delhi: A total of 43 flights and 9,156 passengers were screened for novel coronavirus till Tuesday at the seven identified airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, Union Health Ministry said on Wednesday. Till now, no cases have been detected through these screening efforts, the Ministry added.

MoRD SIGNS MoU WITH BILL GATES FOUNDATION

New Delhi: The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana — National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), for furthering their mutual objectives of strengthening grassroots institutions of the rural poor.

CBI ARRESTS 2 ENGINEERS FOR TAKING BRIBE

New Delhi: The CBI on Wednesday arrested an assistant garrison engineer and a junior engineer from the Garrison Engineer’s office in Dehradun for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 for clearing bills.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

Speak the truth about it: Didi to Shah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after Amit Shah attacked her for spreading disinformation about the Citizenship Amendment Bill inviting her to an open national debate on the issue, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday lashed out at the Union Home Minister for talking big but hesitating to come out with the truth about the CAA.

Banerjee who led an anti-CAA rally in Darjeeling with more than a thousand people referred to Shah's speech saying "yesterday I heard the Home Minister making tall speeches saying that I am telling lie about CAA and National Population Register... Now if we are lying let him tell the truth to the people. Let him tell whether

CAA is a selective Act which discriminates among people. Let him tell about the conditions mentioned in the NPR. Let him mention whether those who will be granted citizenship will have to live as foreigners for the first five years or not."

"And if such be the conditions then he will have to say whether the people will lose jobs because aliens cannot work in India... whether the children will lose their school certificates and whether the citizens will lose their rights to property they now own."

Wondering whether most of the people in the crowd had the date of births of their parents, Banerjee asked, "Do you have date of births of your parents? Is this how a responsible

Government works. They do not even the same thing at the same time. In the something they say something and in the evening they other something. They say date of birth is not mandatory. If it is not mandatory, why is it there in the columns?" she added.

Referring how thousands of Nepali speaking people had been banished from the National Citizenship Register, Banerjee said, "People are scared that if CAA and NRC are implemented they will be uprooted. I want to tell the hill people not allow NRC and CAA."

Referring to the rising inflation and decreasing jobs Banerjee said, "see what they have made of the Indian economy. They promised acchhee din (good days) but where the

jobs. Why so many people are unemployed today. Why the farmers are not getting their due and respect. Why Government factories like ordinance factory (in Kolkata) are being shut down... They are selling the country... and to hide these all they are raising the issues of CAA."

Claiming that in order to turn the attention of the people from grim economic scenario and failed promises she said, "they are setting people of one religion against the other. They are dividing the people to rule but implementing CAA, NRC and NPR," adding those who are protesting are being termed anti-Indians.

"The students are being beaten up if they raise their voices, the Opposition is harassed by the Agencies (read

CBI, ED etc) when they are raising the contentious issues. They are calling them Pakistanis. I want to ask why do you always bringing in Pakistan. Do you have extra love for that country to invoke its name always?" Banerjee asked.

She said the BJP leaders always were foul-mouthing her for protesting against their policies. "I want to tell the BJP that foul-mouthing me all the time will not work. Tell us whether you will withdraw CAA or not. If CAA is not a mischievous Act then why did you leave out Assam and Tripura, the States ruled by BJP? Why are these BJP-ruled states out of the purview of CAA?" There would be no CAA, NRC or NPR in Bengal she insisted.



Protesters participate in a demonstration against CAA and NRC at Shahjahanpur Eidgah in Aligarh on Wednesday PTI

Prashant Kishor dares Shah over CAA-NRC

Patna: Poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor fired a fresh salvo at the BJP on Wednesday, daring Union Home Minister Amit Shah to "go ahead and try implementing" the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register for Citizens which the latter had "audaciously announced to the nation."

Kishor, who is the national vice president of the JD(U), is helping Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party for the upcoming Assembly polls even though his own party headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has tied up with the BJP to take on the less than a decade old party.

"Being dismissive of citizens dissent could be the sign of strength of any Govt. @amitshah ji, if you dont care for those protesting against

#CAA_NRC, why dont you go ahead and try implementing the CAA & NRC in the chronology that you so audaciously announced to the nation!", Kishor wrote on his twitter handle.

The 42-year-old, whose first claim to fame was his handling of Narendra Modi's spectacularly successful election campaign in 2014, made the remarks in the backdrop of Shah's assertion at a pro-CAA rally in Lucknow that "CAA is here to stay and it will not be taken back", countrywide protests by opposition parties and others notwithstanding.

The Bihar BJP was, expectedly, ruffled by the latest outbursts of Kishor, who joined the JD(U) about two years ago, got elevated to the top party post within weeks, and has been taking a public stand on the burning issue that has embarrassed the NDA. "There is no move

on #NRC by the Govt but #CAA is now a legislation made by Parliament. Respect the Constitution. Dont worry. The Supreme Court has agreed to listen to the voice of dissent. Just to satisfy the professional ego and political frustration why creating hue and cry", state BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand said replying to Kishor's tweet.

"You have all the right to disagree but selective propaganda on religious lines to suit the Congi (sic) style politics of Muslim appeasement must not be encouraged. The Gazette notification to start the process of #NPR and implement #CAA is published. Won't be taken back at any cost, Anand added.

The JD(U) did not react to Kishor's comment. Party leaders are refraining from saying anything on the poll strategist-politician's assertions in recent times. PTI

Protesters 'lathicharged' by police in Etawah

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

People protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act were allegedly lathicharged by police in a Muslim-dominated area in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district even as demonstrations continued against the legislation in Lucknow and Aligarh.

A video of the Etawah incident, where policemen can be seen using batons and chasing away protesters in the area on late Tuesday night, has also gone viral on social media.

Violence broke out when police tried to disperse the protesters who were observing a sit-in since Tuesday morning in Pachraha area, defying prohibitory orders imposed there.

"Police used force against us while we were holding a peaceful protest. Our brothers and cousins were beaten up and we were abused. We were physically tortured. We have a right

to protest," one of the women protesters said.

Responding to the allegations, police said the protesters had staged a dharna defying prohibitory order imposed in the area and pelted them with stones. Police said they had to use mild force to chase the protesters away.

In the video, policemen can be seen entering houses and shops.

The sit-in was organised in solidarity with the women protesting at Shaheen Bagh in Delhi against the new legislation.

"Police are citing prohibitory orders to end our protest. What about the large public meetings being held by ministers," another protester said. In Lucknow, protesters at the Clock Tower (Ghantaghar) in old city area of Lucknow held a symbolic 'havan' with Hindu women joining them.

Rajnath: India fulfilled its 'moral duty' by enacting it

Meerut: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said religious minorities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are living a "life of misery" and India has fulfilled its "moral duty" towards them by enacting the CAA.

Addressing a rally in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Shatabdi Nagar here, he also questioned those opposing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and said the government has not discussed it.

Dismissing allegations that the Centre is pursuing a "divisive agenda" through the CAA, Singh said the BJP doesn't do politics on religious lines for selfish gains.

"In Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, religious minorities are living a life of misery. India has fulfilled its moral duty (by enacting the CAA)," he said.

"The entire world is accepting India's power. We don't do politics on the lines of religion for selfish reasons," he said.

The citizenship law is being viewed from a Hindu-Muslim perspective, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks of justice, he added.

Singh said the NDA had prepared the citizenship legislation in its first tenure, but it could not be enacted.

On the NRC, Singh said, "The government has had no discussion on the NRC. And suppose it has, then what is the problem with having a register of citizens?"

"Shouldn't there be a register of citizens? Shouldn't there be a document for people to seek benefits of government schemes," he asked the crowd at the rally.

Singh said the BJP wants to do politics by winning people's hearts and asserted that the

party is working to fulfil all its promises.

"Whenever a political party contests elections, it makes various kinds of promises. I was given the responsibility to prepare the BJP's manifesto for the 2019 (Lok Sabha) elections. Within seven months of being elected, the BJP has been rapidly fulfilling its promises," he said. "I want to assure the people of India that our party will deliver on whatever it promises. We do not want to cheat the people," he said. "By the end of 2022, every house will have a pucca roof. Tap water will reach every household by the end of 2024. PM Modi put Rs 6,000 each in the bank accounts of farmers," he added.

The minister said the BJP had also taken steps for farmers' welfare. "Farmer brothers need not worry, we will pay you every single penny for your hardwork," he said. PTI

Khadi fights back to prevent misuse of trademarks globally

Seeks protection under article of Paris Convention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has stepped up efforts to prevent misuse of its brand and symbol both within the country and on foreign soil. KVIC is proprietor of over 100 trademarks including the symbol of 'Charkha' in India and other countries like Russia, China, Germany, Australia, UK and Bhutan.

These trademark and symbols have been misused time and again by private players. In an initiative to prevent such misuse, KVIC has taken up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Permanent Mission of India at UN, Geneva seeking International Trademark protection of symbol of 'Charkha' under the article 6ter of the Paris Convention.



Article 6ter of the Paris Convention for the protection of Industrial property of 1883 (1967 Stockholm Act) safeguards armorial bearings, flags and other State emblems as well as official signs and hallmarks of the States party to the Paris Convention. The signs published with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) under this act are prevented from being registered or used as trademarks, across the world, without authorisation.

Speaking about the initiative, Chairman KVIC VK Saxena said, "KVIC is one of those unique institutions in India that links the nation's past, present and future on its

functional plane, through self-reliance and sustainability. Ever since the pre-independent era, Khadi has been considered as the national symbol for Swadeshi. The word marks KHADI, KUTIR, "SARVO-DAYA and the logo of Khadi India and Charkha are the harbingers of this spirit of Swadeshi, hence, must be protected at all cost."

Saxena said that due to the negligence of earlier Governments, some private entities managed to register these symbols to fulfill their personal material motives. This initiative to prevent wrongful use of the trademarks will help reinstate the dignity and pride attached with Khadi and the

symbols representing it, he said.

Saxena has written to Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal seeking his intervention so as to expedite the matter pending with the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) which comes under the Ministry of Commerce.

KVIC is fighting cases in several countries for violation of the Khadi Mark Regulations. The regulations issued in 2013 by the Ministry of MSME, empowered KVIC to grant 'Khadi Mark' registration and take royalties from any producer using the Khadi Mark. In continuation, KVIC has issued notices against 600 entities in India, including a renowned garment chain and 3 entities in the International market for misusing these symbols and indulging in unfair trade practices in the recent past.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been endorsing Khadi and due to his appeals the sale of Khadi has gone up manifold," Saxena said.

CBI registers four fresh cases against Chhota Rajan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the probe into an attempt to kill a veteran journalist in 1997 and three other fresh cases allegedly involving jailed gangster Chhota Rajan.

Noted crime reporter in Mumbai Baljeet Shersingh Parmar was severely injured when motorcycle borne shooters of Rajan allegedly attacked him outside a building at Antop Hill on June 12, 1997.

The agency has taken over the Mumbai police FIR in the case filed under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder).

The agency has registered two more cases of extortion by alleged gang members of Rajan and one case related to issuing threats to life, according to the FIRs.

The agency has booked Rajan and his henchmen Guru Satam and Suresh for allegedly demanding Rs 20 lakh as extortion money from businessman Devang Bipin Parikh in 1995.

The other case pertains to alleged demand of ₹ 25 lakh in 1998

from a man named Ghisulal Jain by Hemant, who is believed to be a member of Rajan gang, officials said.

The Mumbai police had filed charge sheets in both the cases but Rajan remained absconding, they said.

The last case is related to threats issued to the life of builder Shabbir N Patel and his son in 1996.

In November last year, the CBI had taken over 10 cases, including those of extortion and murder, in which Rajan was an accused. These cases were registered in a 14-year period since 1992.

These cases include killing of trade union leader Datta Samant in 1997 in Mumbai in which Rajan's role is suspected.

Rajan was arrested at Bali airport in Indonesia on October 25, 2015, and deported to India.

He is an accused in around 70 cases in Maharashtra, including the J Dey murder case in 2011. After this, the Maharashtra government had handed over all the cases relating to Rajan to CBI.

Pavan Varma's conduct an act of indiscipline: senior JD(U) leader

PTI ■ PATNA

Janata Dal (United) leader Vashishtha Narayan Singh on Wednesday took strong exception to party colleague Pavan Varma questioning 'in public' the tie-up with BJP for the Delhi Assembly polls by extending the alliance beyond Bihar, calling it 'absolutely' an act of indiscipline.

Singh, a Rajya Sabha member and the head of the JD(U)'s state unit, asserted that the decision to align with the BJP was taken after "due deliberation".

He further said although the party respected freedom of thought of every member, it was 'anuchit' (inappropriate) on part of the career diplomat-turned-politician to make public his letter to the Chief Minister and national president Nitish Kumar.

"I consider his (Varma's) conduct as inappropriate and will put forth my views forcefully whenever a party meeting takes place", Singh told a news channel. He also said "if there were any reservations, these ought to have been expressed in a party forum. People may have their individual opinions and the party respects that. But airing these in public is something I do not approve of".

He also said Varma had 'absolutely' committed an act of indiscipline by sharing on the social media his two-page letter to Kumar in which the chief minister was reminded of the unease he had been allegedly expressing 'in private' over the BJP's ideology and agenda.

KPCC to announce jumbo office bearers list this week

ARUN LAKSHMAN ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Congress which has been without a proper committee will be announcing the list of office bearers by this week end. While State Congress chief and former Union Minister of State for Home, Mullappally Ramachandran was adamant for a "One man, One post" rule to be implemented in the list of office bearers, the powerful "A" and "I" group managers of the party scuttled the move.

The "A" group led by former Chief Minister Oomen Chandy was somehow accommodative to the suggestion of the KPCC president, but the "I" group led by the Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala did not budge for the "One man, One post" theory and hence the party will once again be having a jumbo list of office bearers.

In addition to the KPCC president, there will be five working presidents in Kodikkunnil Suresh, PC Vishnunath, K Sudhakaran, KV Thomas and VD Satheshan. There will be six vice presidents and thirty general secretaries in the list followed by sixty secretaries. The number of state executive members of the party is yet to be decided.

With the advent of Sonia Gandhi back as the AICC president, senior leaders of the party had a major say and it was after much confabulations and inter party discussions, the list is to be finalized. However it is learnt that KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran was adamant that party leaders with criminal antecedents will not be accommodated as office bearer which was met with stiff resistance from the group managers.

Interestingly in the agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA),

Mullappally has taken a stiff position that there will not be any joint agitation with the CPM. This was after the opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala had taken the initiative for a joint agitation with the CPM and other left forces and Oomen Chandy supporting this. Mullappally had stayed out of the meeting.

Incidentally the AICC high-command - read Sonia Gandhi - had stood by the position taken by the KPCC president and in the press conference held at Kerala house, New Delhi both Chandy and Chennithala had to bite

the humble pie and subscribe to the position taken by the KPCC president. In the list of party office bearers also, the KPCC president had done his maximum to reduce the number of contenders and sources in the Congress party told *The Pioneer* that the list would have been double the present figure had not Mullappally taken a strong stand.

Antony, Venugopal, Mullappally axis developing in Kerala Cong

ARUN LAKSHMAN ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A new troika has emerged in the Kerala Congress scheme of things with two powerful leaders of the party, AK Antony, CWC Member and close confidant of Sonia Gandhi and KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary (Organisation) and close associate of Rahul Gandhi putting in their weight behind the beleaguered KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran who was being pushed around by the "A" group and "I" group.

Sources in the Congress told *The Pioneer*, that it was the strength of these two leaders that Mullappally had taken on both Chandy and Chennithala on the CAA issue and raised the red flag for the joint agitation with the CPM.

To solve the vexed issue of announcing the list of office bearers, both these leaders had thrown their weights behind the KPCC president and at the same time carefully seeing it to that the group managers are not offended.

The support of these two powerful leaders who have a major say in the organisational affairs of the Congress party has given a fresh impetus to Mullappally who is fast emerging as a major power centre in the state

Congress.

With the state going to polls in 2021 and the Congress led UDF all set to replace the LDF Government led by the CPM, there are possibilities of Mullappally being considered as the Chief Minister candidate as there is bound to be fight between Ramesh Chennithala and Oomen Chandy for the CM post.

There is already a subtle whispering campaign in the corridors of State Congress that an Ezhava leader has not don the mantle of Chief minister of the Congress since R Shankar who was Chief minister from 1962-64.

With the Congress led UDF winning nineteen of the twenty lok Sabha seats in the last general elections, the graph of Mullappally Ramachandran has gone high and the seven term lok Sabha member who has won the parliamentary elections from the CPM bastion of Vatakara is keeping his fingers crossed. "These are early days to comment on the Chief ministership and my primary responsibility is to work among the grass root and to strengthen the party machinery. 2020 we have to face the local body elections and in 2021 the assembly elections and these two are my present priorities", Mullappally told *The Pioneer*.

Suspect in Mangaluru airport bomb case surrenders

Bengaluru: A 36-year-old man, who is suspected to have planted the explosive at the Mangaluru International Airport, surrendered before the police here on Wednesday, officials said.

The suspect has been identified as Adithya Rao, a native of Manipal, police said, adding that he resembled the one captured on CCTV footage at Mangaluru airport.

The man turned up at the DG and IGP office here in the morning, where he was detained and taken for medical tests and preliminary inquiry done, they said. The suspect confessed to having planted the bomb at the airport, police said.

He is reported to have got information on making the explosive via internet, sources said.

"One suspect named Adithya presented before police between 8-9 am, claiming that he was responsible for Mangaluru incident—he will

be handed over to Mangaluru police team for further investigation..." Bengaluru (Central) DCP Chetan Singh Rathore told reporters earlier in the day.

A team of police officials, led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) from Mangaluru arrived in the city later to question the suspect and carry out necessary legal procedures.

Police sources said, Rao, an engineering graduate and an MBA holder, who was taken to Ulsoor Gate police station in Bengaluru for questioning, was subsequently handed over to Mangaluru police, which is investigating the case.

He was presented before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court here and transit warrant secured, officials said, adding that he will be produced before a court in Mangaluru on Thursday to obtain his custody. PTI

Trump offers to 'help' resolve Kashmir issue

Davos: President Donald Trump has said that the US is watching the developments between India and Pakistan over Kashmir "very closely" and repeated his offer to "help" resolve the dispute between the two neighbours during his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan here.



with my friend," Trump said. "The Pakistan-India conflict is a very big issue for us in Pakistan and we expect the US to always play its part in deescalating the tensions, because no other country can," Khan said.

Addressing the media with Prime Minister Khan prior to their private meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum here on Tuesday, President Trump asserted that trade and borders were both critical points for discussion, while Khan said that for him, Afghanistan was the top priority.

The US president is expected to visit India in the coming weeks, marking his first visit after taking up his post in the White House.

"What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely and it's an honour to be here

the ongoing Kashmir issue. President Trump has repeatedly offered to mediate following India's August 5 decision to revoke the special status to Jammu & Kashmir and bifurcate the Sate into two Union Territories, evoking strong reactions from Pakistan which has been trying to internationalise the issue. **PTI**

No scope for third party mediation: Govt sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As President Donald Trump again offered to "help" India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue, New Delhi on Wednesday categorically asserted that there is no role for any third party on the issue.

Government sources also said India's long-held position has been that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

Responding to Trump's offer, they said there is no question of any mediation or intervention by any third party.

This assertion came after the US President, while addressing the media with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in Davos on Tuesday, said the US was watching the developments relating to Kashmir "very closely" and repeated his offer to "help" resolve the dispute.

It was Trump's fourth offer in last five months to help both the countries resolve the Kashmir issue after India withdrew the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

"What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely," Trump said. Official sources said India's clear and consistent position has been that there is no role to play for any third party on Kashmir. The US President is expected to visit India in the second half of February.

It is learnt that India had communicated to Washington after Trump's offer to mediate on Kashmir last year that it is a bilateral matter with Pakistan.



Villagers at a polling station during the second phase of Panchayat elections at Nasirabad in Ajmer district on Wednesday **PTI**

Mumbai gets nod to remain open 24x7 from January 27

New 'Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife' policy will not be applicable to bars, pubs and restaurants serving liquor

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

After initial resistance from certain quarters, the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday approved the implementation of its much-discussed 'Mumbai 24x7' or 'Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife' policy from the intervening night of January 26 and 27.

At a weekly meeting presided over by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the State Cabinet gave a go-ahead for the 'Mumbai 24x7' policy without tweaking the current excise rules which permit service of alcoholic beverages only till the existing time limits of 1.30 am.

In effect, the new 'Vibrant Mumbai Nightlife' policy will not be applicable to bars, pubs and restaurants serving liquor, which will be permitted to serve alcoholic beverages only till the existing time limits of

1.30 am.

The new 'Mumbai 24x7' policy — which is a brain child of Shiv Sena leader and current Tourism and Environment Minister Aditya Thackeray — will allow malls, multiplexes and eateries in the designated areas to function round-the-clock.

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, who had initial reservations about implementing the Mumbai 24x7 because of security reasons and on the ground that bars and restaurants cannot serve liquor, came around after Aditya — at a meeting held a few days — convinced him that the policy could be implemented without tweaking the current State excise rules and imposing a lot of burden on the city police force.

Addressing a news conference jointly with the State Home Minister after the State

Cabinet gave a nod for the Mumbai 24x7, Aditya said: "Mumbai's identity is being that of a safe city. In Mumbai, you can get to see women and women moving around Marine Drive and other places safely at around 2 am or 3 am. Mumbai police perform their duty well. But, take the case of tourists coming to Mumbai, they would not be in the city for more than 36 hours. To increase the employment and tourism in Mumbai, we came up with the Mumbai 24x7 proposal in 2013. We are implementing it after seven years."

"We will implement this policy in malls and mill compounds coming under the Shops and Establishment Act. The malls and mill compounds are in non-residential areas. The people do not live inside these places. There are facilities like parking lots, CCTV, decibel limits, solid waste management. All the establishments there are licenced ones. We are giving permission to all these establishments to remain open for all 24 hours."

In fact, the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments

(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017, allows all establishments to operate around-the-clock.

"There would not be any change in the excise rules. The liquor will be served only up to 1.30 am in bars and restaurants. We are changing that. We are providing facilities who want to eat out, go for shopping or movies. The MVA Government is a people's Government. We are Government of aspirations. Unlike the BJP Government, we want to encourage the youngsters," the Tourism Minister said. Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said that the State Government would ensure that there was no stress on the police force.

"We do not enforce anything here. If some units are not able to keep their establishments for all 24 hours, they can do so. It is not the job of the state government to increase the footfalls. We are enabling the owners of these establishments. Mumbai being an international city, we are giving a 24x7 facility," Aditya said. "London's nightlife econo-

my is 5 billion pounds. In Mumbai, there are five lakh people who directly employed in this service sector. When we say that employment will increase because of Mumbai 24x7, it is because the owners of these establishments will have to employ their staff in three shifts. Going that logic, we will have an employment potential of 15 lakh people or at least 10 lakh people in this service sector. Keeping these establishments open, state revenue will increase through various taxes," he said.

"I do not think there will be tension for the police. Currently, the police personnel do is to track if the establishments are open beyond the stipulated hours rather than controlling crime. Now they do not have to do that job and can concentrate on the job they are meant to do. If the establishments want more security, they can employ private security or hire police security by paying money," Aditya said.

Public distribution and civil supplies minister Chhagan Bhujbal said that Mumbai

Police Commissioner and Municipal commissioner would decide where nightlife would be allowed. "During the meeting a lot of suggestions came in. Like in some of the railway stations of Mumbai where there is rush for 24 hours, people come and go,

eateries could remain open there," Bhujbal said.

Earlier this week, at the bi-annual crime conference, Uddhav, along with his Cabinet colleagues and bureaucrats, held a meeting with the city police officers Mumbai 24x7 proposal.

Not Nightlife but 'killing life' for Mumbaikars: BJP

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Opposing the Maharashtra Government's Mumbai 24x7 decision, senior BJP leader and former Minister Ashish Shelar said on Wednesday 'Mumbai Nightlife' decision taken by the Uddhav Thackeray dispensation would prove to be a 'killing life' for Mumbai.

Reacting to the State Government's go-ahead for the implementation of Mumbai 24x7, Shelar said: "The nightlife decision is going to be a killing life for mumbaikars. Two years, 14 persons were killed in a massive fire that broke out in two pubs.

The decision is an effort to regularise massive FSI irregularities in the Kamala Mill compound in the name of tourism". "Mumbaikars are already stressed over a number of restaurants, bars, ladies bars and pubs existing in the residential areas. The nightlife decision will increase their inconvenience further. The work burden on the police personnel will increase," Shelar said.

Tribal boy commits suicide at Govt school in Maha's Palghar

Palghar: A 14-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide at a Government-run residential school for tribal children in Maharashtra's Palghar district, the police said on Wednesday.

Sunil Khandvi, resident of Beriste village, was the student of a government-run Ashram school at Hirve Pimpalpada in Mokhada tehsil, a police official said.

His body was found hanging from the window grill of the school toilet on Sunday.

The school superintendent told the police that Khandvi had written in the school register on January 19 that he was going home and would remain absent for a few days.

However, the next day he was found to have hanged himself with a bed sheet in the school toilet, the police officer said. The reason for committing suicide was yet to be ascertained, he said, adding that further probe was on. **PTI**



President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday conferred the Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020 on 49 children in the age group of 5-18 years at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan here. The Bal Shakti Puraskar is given to children in the fields of innovation, social service, scholastic, sports, art and culture and bravery and carries a medal, a cash prize of ₹ 1 lakh, a certificate and a citation **PTI**

Martyr avenged, terrorist killed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After losing two soldiers, one each from the Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir police during fierce gunfight in Khrew area of Pampore in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday, a joint team of security forces on Wednesday once again trapped group of terrorists responsible for killing their buddies, one kilometre away from the encounter site, and eliminated at least one terrorist.



Shahbaz Ahmed and Martyred Rifleman Rahul in this operation even before bodies of these martyrs reached their respective homes. Operation is going on at Nagander one kilometre away from yesterday encounter site.

Official sources claimed, security forces were conducting random searches in the area since Wednesday morning to track down the foot prints of the terrorists hiding in the area. Meanwhile, mortal remains of both the soldiers were dispatched to their native places after a formal wreath laying ceremony in Srinagar. Senior police and Army officers paid their tributes to both the martyrs. Interacting with the media in Srinagar, DGP Dilbagh Singh said, the security has been beefed up in Kashmir.

"All arrangements have been made with regard to security measures on ground, the security in South Kashmir has been reviewed. We visited

Anantnag and also took stock of the security in other districts," DGP Singh said.

"We have strengthened the security measures in Srinagar ahead of the Republic Day," he added. In the run up to the Republic day celebrations, a high alert has been sounded in Jammu and Kashmir after intelligence inputs suggest of possible terror strikes.

According to latest intel reports, a joint module of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen militants have been tasked by their handlers in Pakistan to carry out dastardly attacks in the run up to the Republic day.

There are inputs that militants could launch suicide attacks on security installations in south Kashmir and defence positions across the south of Pir Panjal in the Jammu region.

NIA shifts Davinder Singh to Jammu

PNS ■ JAMMU

National Investigation Agency (NIA) team, interrogating Davinder Singh, DySP arrested by the police along with Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Naveed Babu from Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on January 11, shifted him to Jammu along with other arrested terrorists on Wednesday.

The NIA team, which took over the probe from the Jammu & Kashmir police recently, is trying to establish the link whether Davinder Singh was regularly transporting HM terrorist Naveed Babu to a relatively safe hideout in Jammu and whether he was also in touch with over ground workers (OGWs) active in the region to facilitate hassle free stay of HM commander.

Last week, police had also arrested younger brother of Naveed Babu, studying in Chandigarh.

According to highly placed sources, Naveed's brother had carved out a safe hideout for his brother in Bhatindi area of Jammu and the same was likely to be used for accommodating terrorists, ferried by Davinder Singh at the time of arrest.

Uddhav, who had announced after the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayoidhya dispute case that he would go once again Ayoidhya on November 24, 2019, had postponed his visit then, owing to the impasse in the govern-

Raut: Uddhav to visit Ayodhya on completion of 100 days of power

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In an apparent effort to indicate that it has not deviated from its Hindutva path after forming a Government with the Congress and NCP, the Shiv Sena on Wednesday announced that its president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray would visit Ayodhya after the MVA Government completes 100 days in office.

Announcing the Chief Minister's impending visit to Ayodhya, Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut tweeted: "Chalo Ayodhya! CM #UddhavThackeray will visit Ayodhya on the completion of 100 days in power! @OfficeofUT"

In another tweet, Raut said: "Our government has begun performing its duties in great vigour. We shall complete five years in office. After government completes 100 days. CM Uddhav Thackeray shall go to Ayodhya. After seeking blessings of Lord Ram, will decide on future course of action."

Uddhav, who had announced after the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayoidhya dispute case that he would go once again Ayoidhya on November 24, 2019, had postponed his visit then, owing to the impasse in the govern-

ment formation in the state. The public perception was that the Sena would soft-peddle its Hindutva agenda as long as it is running the government in the state with the Congress and NCP.

It may be recalled that Uddhav had on November 25, 2018 — along with his wife Rashmi and son Aditya, had visited Ayodhya. On June 16, 2019 year after the Lok Sabha polls, he once again visited Ayodhya and offered prayers at the makeshift Ram Lalla shrine.

However, atmosphere has changed after he joined hands with the "secular" and NCP to form a Maha Vikas Agadhi government in Maharashtra. The perception that has been gaining ground in the state political circles that in order to ensure that there is no threat to its government in the state the ruling Shiv Sena is pursuing the Hindutva as vigorously as it was doing earlier. So much so that its erstwhile ally BJP has been taking pot shots at the Shiv Sena for giving up on its Hindutva agenda for the sake of power.

Interestingly enough, Raut came out with a tweet a day ahead of the first grand convention of the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). It is speculated

that at the convention, MNS chief Raj Thackeray embrace the Hindutva path and change the colour of his party flag.

Raj had recently met former Maharashtra chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, sparking speculation about the possibility of the MNS joining hands with the Amit Shah-led party.

Meanwhile, talking to media persons, Raut extended invitation to Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar to accompany Uddhav Thackeray to Ayodhya. "We want that our alliance leaders should also come along. Rahul Gandhi also visits several temples".

On her part, BJP national spokesperson Meenakshi Lekhi had earlier in the day wanted to know if Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray would also take Congress leaders along with him to Ayodhya. How the alliance partners of the Sena react? How will he show his face to them — to the ones who questioned the very existence of Lord Ram, even went to the Supreme Court stating the same,"she said.

Uttar Pradesh's deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma described Uddhav's impending visit to Ayodhya as a "political stunt".

Jammu: Police recruitment drive for women gets good response

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

To realise their childhood dream of donning 'khaki' uniform and serve the mother Nation, large number of 'enthusiastic' young girls from remote areas of Jammu region are queuing up outside Police headquarters for last couple of days, braving adverse weather conditions, to participate in the special recruitment drive aimed at raising two women battalions.

So far aspirants from hilly districts of Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar and twin border districts of Rajouri, Poonch have attended the first leg of the special recruitment

drive, currently underway at Gulshan ground.

Since early morning, aspirants start converging along with their parents and family friends to attend the rally. Since they are travelling from far off places they prefer reaching venue at the earliest to avoid any last minute hiccups. The atmosphere inside the Gulshan ground was electrifying when group of media persons reached the venue of the special drive.

In the first leg, the candidates were undergoing physical endurance/standard test. After clearing the first hurdle, jubilant candidates were allowed to interact with media persons for

a short span of time. The candidates, greeted them with patriotic chants and loud cheers. "We are feeling proud, we are participating in the recruitment drive despite facing many hardships". Several candidates, names not being disclosed, claimed they wanted to serve the mother Nation by joining the police force. "I am very optimistic, after clearing the first round without facing any major hurdle i am set to participate in the second round", a NCC cadet from Bhallessa in Doda district said.

Another candidate from Ramban claimed, "i want to help my family. We have seen many ups and downs during

our childhood days, now i want to help my parents as they had struggled alot while raising my siblings and ensuring better education facilities for us".

Senior police officers, supervising the recruitment drive told reporters in Jammu, "the morale of the aspiring candidates is very high and they are all keen to serve the police force".

Briefing media persons, Inspector General of Police (Armed) Danesh Rana said, "the current recruitment drive is aimed at raising two women battalions, one each for Jammu and Kashmir divisions".

He said, the candidates are being screened in a very pro-

fessional manner. We have allocated district wise quota for aspiring candidates. Rana said, "we are following a very transparent process. There is no scope of any human intervention during the recruitment drive and only meritorious candidates are expected to make it to the final list".

Union government had earlier announced two women battalions in June 2018 to enhance the representation of women in the Police force. The final sanction was given by the State Administrative Council (SAC) under the chairmanship of former Governor Satya Pal Malik in January 2019.

PAPER WITH PASSION
Miffed allies

Slighted by the BJP over seats, the Akali Dal and Dushyant Chautala refuse to contest Delhi polls



The allies are proving to be an itch again for the BJP in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections and though it may not be betting big on them, the mutual differences are worsening its arrogant and abrasive image. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), its long-time ally, which was hoping to contest six seats, has now decided to withdraw from the race altogether, citing irreconcilable differences on several issues, primary among them being the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The SAD is dead against the religion-based conditionality in the new law and wants all minority communities (some Ahmadiyyas are in Punjab) to be included. Besides, the BJP was pushing it to contest under the lotus symbol, clearly intended to subsume federal parties under its umbrella than that of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Ever since the Akali leadership has passed into the hands of Sukhbir Singh Badal and the SAD has been pushed down the ladder of political dominance in Punjab, it has slowly and steadily been asserting its independence. By choosing to end the alliance in Delhi, it hopes to douse the fire of criticism in Punjab that it is now being guided by the Hindutva ideology and supporting contentious issues like the abrogation of Article 370 and CAA without looking at the bigger picture. Its core constituency feels these issues serve a predominantly Hindu voterbase and do not find much resonance among Sikhs, who have been shortchanged. This has become more pronounced after the Akal Takht jathedar, Giani Harpreet Singh, publicly lambasted Hindutva, going so far out as to seeking a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS).

Already Congress Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, by passing an Assembly resolution against the CAA, has pushed the Akalis into a corner. As for Delhi, there are around 10 lakh Sikh voters, who could potentially affect the results in about 10 of the 70 Assembly seats. Question is whether this slippage would impact the BJP vote share. Rifts between the Akali Dal and the BJP have been widening ever since the seat-sharing fiasco in the Haryana Assembly elections, with the latter attempting to poach some of its candidates. While all of these moves may seem hurtful to the coalition dharma, fact is the emaciated SAD needs the BJP's majoritarian weight to have a stake in both Central and State politics. The BJP, post the mammoth Lok Sabha verdict of last year, is not looking to be overtly dependent on the Punjabi vote in the city. In fact, it doesn't see too much of a community drift, arguing that the presence of the Akalis could have led to an ideology-based split. It claims the neutral Sikh vote would come its way and is, in fact, hoping to divide the Sikhs as those with Panthic loyalties and those that are non-aligned. In that sense, it is trying to undercut the Akalis. Besides, the Delhi BJP, which once thrived on the anti-Sikh riots sentiment to draw the Sikh vote towards it from the Congress and had the Punjabi Hindu vote with negotiators like Madan Lal Khurana, is now much more dependent on other community votes like the Purvanchalis while consolidating its hold among Baniyas. The shift in the power axis is apparent from the fact that the BJP has accommodated both the Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), allocating three seats between them, clearly with an eye to the Bihar elections. However, both these allies are not with their fair share of troubles. JD(U) senior leader Pawan K Varma has sought "ideological clarity" over the seat-sharing with BJP in Delhi while colleague Prashant Kishor continues asking questions on CAA. Other than the SAD, the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), the BJP's newest ally in Haryana, will also not be contesting the Delhi elections. Led by the fiery young descendant of the Chautala clan, Dushyant Chautala, it claims it didn't get the electoral symbols of its choice and is, therefore, withdrawing from the race. But there were murmurs of the party wanting to contest at least 12 seats. There is a sizeable Jat population that can swing the results in Najafgarh, Mundka, Mahipalpur, Mehrauli, Nangloi, Badarpur, Devli and Chhattarpur. And while Dushyant may not openly challenge the CAA, fact is he is finding it hard to justify a relationship of convenience politically. The BJP may not need the allies numerically now because it has stepped out of the pretend politics of Modi 1.0 and is gung-ho about its solo majority status. But it cannot consolidate its India map without its federal partners given its recent drubbing at the State polls. And with its oldest ideologically-friendly ally, Shiv Sena, walking out, it certainly could do without more friends turning foes and eroding popular trust in the process.

Another deadly virus

With complex strains emerging in China, we should ask why this is happening at all when dealing with public health risks



It looks like every second year, a new deadly contagion emerges in China. First, it was SARS, then Avian Flu, which was followed by Swine Flu and now, a new coronavirus has taken over the Chinese city of Wuhan. This new virus is estimated to have infected over 400 people, nine of whom have died. Thanks in no small part to the boom in international air travel within and outside China, which connects even secondary cities such as Wuhan, cases have spread in several countries now, including across the Pacific in the US. Earlier viruses like Avian Flu or Bird Flu were thought to have originated in illegal poultry farms where animals were kept in unhygienic conditions. In the case of Swine Flu, too, the emergence of the virus was in pig farms. Avian Flu led to the killing of millions of birds at poultry farms as they were culled. With the emergence of Swine Flu, where the virus was thought to have passed from domesticated pigs to humans, thousands of pigs were eliminated as well. And now, this latest virus, which does not have a moniker as yet, appears to have emerged from the illegal trade in marine wildlife in that Chinese city.

All of this does raise questions about hygiene standards and food quality issues that many towns and villages in China face behind the new glass and concrete skyscrapers. In this part of the world, illegal trading of animals and bird farms is common, often next to human dwellings. It should not be a surprise then that when pathogens do the dreaded inter-species skip, such an environment becomes an enabler. It is, therefore, contingent upon the Chinese authorities to get to the bottom as to why these new pathogens are emerging. This should be done on an urgent basis because the next outbreak may not be as contained or worse but more virulent and deadlier. Public health officials have been warning about the potential of a next global pandemic to rival the Spanish Influenza of exactly a century ago when an estimated 50-100 million people died, including around 17 million people in India. This is one reason why Indian authorities must be vigilant. During the Avian Flu crisis, authorities pre-emptively culled millions of chicken in poultry farms across the country. It is good to know that passengers arriving from China are being scanned at Indian airports. However, we have to stay on our toes and urge the Chinese to clean up their act.

A never-ending crisis

As more details about the Boeing 737 MAX emerge, it is becoming clearer that a fair dose of arrogance pushed the American plane-maker



KUSHAN MITRA

Boeing's internal documents, which revealed that executives mocked aviation regulators and airlines across the world, including India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), were hugely damaging for the American planemaker and marked a torrid start to 2020 after a horrific 2019. The year began in the aftermath of the Lion Air 737 MAX crash in Indonesia. Using "friendly" media sources, Boeing executives said that poor pilot training (and the lack of it) was the primary cause of the crash. While there may have been an element of truth to that, the second 737 MAX crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet, seconds after takeoff from Addis Ababa, dealt the final blow.

As a result, Boeing's 737 MAX fleet was grounded worldwide, some regulators doing it sooner than others, but the aircraft manufacturer kept on producing planes, even though they could not fly. Planes kept coming off the production line at over 20 a month, leading to over 200 aircraft being parked at Boeing's plant in Renton, Washington. However, with little space to keep so many airplanes — Boeing was also forced to park planes in employee car parking lots — the American manufacturer decided to suspend production a few weeks ago.

It is extremely fortuitous that the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX has not collapsed the global aviation industry. It is noteworthy here that the MAX was still a new aircraft and had not been fully integrated with fleets across the world. The grounding is now beginning to impact growth opportunities for airlines. With large American carriers like American Airlines and Southwest Airlines, which are the largest operators of MAX, now delaying the re-introduction of the plane all the way till the middle of this year, this crisis is not going to end anytime soon. Boeing's nose has been grounded to the tarmac, its reputation ruined.

In most other industries, such a crisis might have been fatal for a company but the global airliner manufacturers' duopoly between the American Boeing and the European Airbus, where the latter has smartly and carefully not uttered a word or even celebrated the former's woes, makes the Coke-Pepsi duel look like a violent conflict in comparison. While the Chinese and the Russians are trying to up their game in the civilian airliner market — some could even argue that Boeing's fall has given them an opportunity — they are far from being an effective contender. It takes several billions of dollars and an army of engineers to develop a new aircraft. Right now nothing can beat the entrenched players.

But at the end of the day, the entire MAX crisis that has engulfed Boeing comes down to the fact that the manufacturer did not want to spend a huge sum of money on developing a new plane. The Boeing 737 is a design



that dates back to the early 1960s, the airworthiness certificate given to the aircraft is one that was issued almost seven decades ago. The Boeing 737 has been an immensely successful plane. During 2018, Boeing delivered its 10,000th 737 with a backlog of close to 5,000 aircraft remaining in its books. It has been off the competition over the years as well. The McDonnell Douglas DC-9 and Douglas MD80 family could not keep up with the success of the Boeing and eventually Boeing acquired McDonnell-Douglas.

However, the Airbus A320 family, developed by the European planemaker in the early 1980s, was a different kettle of fish. With its highly advanced wing and computerised fly-by-wire technology, Boeing had to develop new technology to keep the 737 competitive. So when Airbus decided to refresh the A320 with modern new high-bypass ratio engines, which would reduce fuel consumption, it got a lot of interest from airlines. While Airbus has had its share of problems over the years, particularly around the A380 super-jumbo, the A320 has been a money-spinner. With modifications in new engines — the New Engine Option (Neo) — it would become even more attrac-

ive. Despite the problems that India's low-cost carrier IndiGo has suffered with Neo aircraft, nearly a thousand such planes are in service currently. Boeing had to do something to keep up with the rising competition. Neo's efficiency gains over the existing generation 737 were massive.

But Boeing had a problem. When it started developing the 737 in the 1960s, it did not have to face much in terms of ground clearance and kept riding low to the ground. This made it easier for planes to service at smaller and less prepared airports, which were all but common in the 1960s and the 1970s. In fact, it was this very ability, coupled with it having lower engines, that made it attractive to the airlines. Even when the 737 was improved, few changes were made to this end. The problem with high-bypass ratio turbofan engines today is that to gain a perfect ratio, the front fan has to be massive. The 737's basic architecture made fitting such a new engine nearly impossible. And while Boeing should have ideally developed a new aircraft altogether, market realities made that an impossibility. It took it over a decade to develop the 787 Dreamliner with an overly optimistic entry into

service schedules. The subsequent delays left the company with a bloody nose.

The 787 is an immensely successful aircraft today, hundreds of them forming the backbone of airline fleets across the world. But Boeing did not have the time and its management thought of developing a new aircraft. A better option, no matter what the physics, would have been to re-engine the current airframe with minor modifications.

Well, the modifications were not simple. In order to fit a larger fan, Boeing engineers had to move the engine further forward and above the wing. This caused some major problems to the aerodynamic properties of the 737 but these could be solved. Pilots could be trained to deal with the changes. Then came another problem. One major selling point for airlines is to calculate the number of additional training pilots needed when they move to a new type of aircraft. Pilots trained on the regular Airbus A320 could fly the new A320 Neo with just a couple of hours of orientation. Boeing promised pretty much the same even though it was obvious — something that the stash of internal emails revealed — that pilots should have taken many more hours of training for

the MAX, even some hours inside the simulator.

The issue, as many people know now, is that Boeing decided to integrate much more software into the MAX to augment flying characteristics. One of those pieces of software was the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), which in low-speed conditions, usually after take-off, would keep the plane from stalling. With the engines of the 737 MAX being shifted so much further forward, the centre of gravity of the plane, too, being far forward, only software could resolve it. As we know now, the MCAS system depended on good data from the sensors outside the aircraft. Sensors can fail and usually those failures should be notified, as on cars, to cite an example. But Boeing just made an alert system for a sensor data mismatch, an optional extra on the 737 MAX, even though it was but a software switch. The MCAS system made some sudden changes to the planes flightpath and without proper training to recognise the software intervention, pilots onboard had no clue how to deal with the issue. With little altitude, the pilots of the Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines aircraft slammed to the ground.

At the end of the day, a company, once known to be extremely fastidious on the engineering front, made a stupid mistake. A firm that almost bankrupted itself while developing the Boeing 707 and then almost did so again with the Boeing 747 — which has proven that it can redefine the market even in contemporary times with the Boeing 777 and Boeing 787 — has ruined its reputation, thanks to the unnecessary shortcuts it took. As is being made clear in the emails for the public to see, sheer arrogance of its executives made matters worse.

It is being made apparent that the Boeing 737 MAX will not make it back into the service before mid-year. A freshly empowered Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the civil aviation regulator in the US, will not be in the pocket of Boeing as it was once. It is unlikely that a company so vital to America's trading interests and its defence industry will be allowed to collapse. But the arrogance on display at the company was little different from that displayed by the bankers before the financial industry collapse of 2008. Boeing has to do a lot to repair its reputation and salvage the image of Boeing 737. Being humble shall make for a very good start.

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUNDBITE

With no development on its agenda, the ruling party is making a complete exposition of its agenda to create a Hindu *rashtra*.

Congress MP —Shashi Tharoor



Growing up in a country like India, you see wealth and poverty live together in such a symbiotic way... seeing that you become desensitised to it.

Actor —Priyanka Chopra



What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely.

US President —Donald Trump



Normalcy acrobatics is in full swing even as Kashmir continues to reel under a crippling internet shutdown and leaders remain detained.

PDP president —Mehbooba Mufti



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Righting the wrong

Sir — A peaceful protest by Kashmiri Pandits to mark the 30th anniversary of their mass exodus from the Kashmir Valley grabbed some attention. Through it, they appealed to the Government to take plausible and sincere steps to rehabilitate them in the Valley. Successive Governments have only paraded their cause. Largely, they have either ignored the Pandits or used them for their selfish end. Left liberals, rights activists and secularists, too, have turned a blind eye to their rightful grievances though they have been campaigning for the rights of minority communities in general. Are Kashmir Pandits not a minority in the Valley? After the nullification of Article 370 and the revocation of special status to the former State of Jammu & Kashmir, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to restore normalcy in the Valley and rehabilitate the displaced Pandits willing to return. Even after the Supreme Court's directive, little action has been taken.

Nimai Charan Swain
 Bhubaneswar

Crash barriers will make roads safer

This refers to the report, "Crash barriers planned to slash NH fatalities" (January 22). The Centre's plan to install crash barriers along its existing National Highways (NH) and make them mandatory for all future highway projects is welcome. This step is bound to bring down the number of crashes and fatalities. Coming closely on the heels of the enactment of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, that calls for stricter punishments for traffic violators, the installation of crash barriers will require a big push from the powers that be to make it a reality.

Crash barriers are designed to withstand the impact of even high speed vehicles and are expected to slide and roll the vehicles back on the road while keeping the level of damage to them as well as the barriers within acceptable limits. As per statistics, less than five per cent of the total network of about 1.50 lakh km of highways have installed crash barriers. India accounts for the highest number of road deaths in the world. The total number of accident-related deaths in 2018 stood at



1,51,417, indicating an increase of 2.3 per cent over 2017 figures. About 85 per cent of accident-related deaths happen in the most productive age group of 18-60. Cost effective solutions for crash barriers are available worldwide. All we need are implementation and adoption.

Shubham
 Via email

Growth trouble

Sir — Once again, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed India's growth estimate to 4.8 per cent for this fiscal year and 5.8 per cent for 2020-21. Observers attribute such grim forecasts to an economic slowdown.

In the Indian context, the current growth projection follows a downward trend from 7.5 per cent last year to 6.1 per cent in October. It is disheartening that while growth projections have continued to decline in the recent past, the Government has taken little cohesive action for revival and has instead been demanding rate cuts from the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Yet India is projected to be the second-fastest growing major economy in the world after China. There are miles to go for that to happen. The Government has to come up with a big bang strategy to revive growth.

Srishti Mathur
 Ujjain

The clock is ticking

Sir — At a time when the country is faced with severe economic slowdown and given the seriousness of the problem of unemployment with agrarian crisis, too, at its peak, the common man is expecting relief and progressive measures in the Budget that is to be presented on February 1.

However, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is busy attending various forums and meetings to defend the Government's decision to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). With just a few days left for the Budget, one would have expected the Finance Minister to be giving finishing touches to it. Despite the fact that Sitharaman has taken several measures to revive the economy, the situation isn't showing any signs of improving. The Budget must focus on reviving demand, investment and growth. All of this must be done in a transparent manner.

Anna Mary Yvonne
 Chennai

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The tech-savvy road to health

Technology has not been a disruptive force in senior healthcare but that story is set to change over the next six years, says **Sushant Reddy**

We have just celebrated our entry into a new decade. The defining theme of the first two decades of this century was the rise of technology start-ups and their transformative change in our lives. Just 10 years ago, none of us could have imagined the lifestyle changes created by internet-enabled platforms and aggregators like Uber, Amazon, Swiggy, Zomato, Hotstar or Netflix. However, there are some sectors where technology hasn't had such a transformative effect, yet. One such is healthcare and more specifically, healthcare for senior citizens. What is senior healthcare? This in itself is a very generic term; in fact, the term is so generic that everything, from an Out Patient Department to in-hospital care to the pharmacy can be grouped into this category.

Broadly speaking, senior healthcare can be classified into four areas: Hospital care, preventive care, home care and healthy living.

Hospital care: This is what everyone easily relates to as traditional healthcare. Episodic events such as emergencies, illness, injury treatments at a hospital come under hospital care.

Preventive care: All aspects of healthcare that are preventive in nature such as diagnostic tests, pharmacy, doctor consultations, disease management (diabetes, hypertension), health insurance and so on fall in the category of preventive care.

Home care: Healthcare services delivered at home such as nursing, physiotherapy, home Intensive Care Unit (ICU), dialysis and chemotherapy services, medical devices and so on come under this.

Healthy living: Services that enable a healthy lifestyle for seniors such as custom-designed senior homes, smart tracking devices, companionship services and so on come under this tag.

The fact remains that senior healthcare is a massive challenge. India is in the middle of a rapid demographic and cultural transition — senior citizens above 60 years are over a 100 million today and constitute eight per cent of the total population. This figure is expected to grow to 350 million, an estimated 20 per cent of the total population by 2050, a dramatic rise in the older population, both in size and proportion.

Another massive factor driving this transition is a mass migration, both domestic and international, of educated, urban youth that happened during the 80s, 90s and the first decade of the 21st century. The country recorded over 30 million international migrants and 139 million domestic migrants as of 2017.

These challenges have increased India's senior healthcare burden exponentially and the problem is compounded by the fact that despite massive technological advances in this century, it has not yet created a disruptive impact in the senior healthcare industry. This is because of three main reasons, fragmented and localised service providers, low tech savviness of seniors and language barriers.

Fragmented and localised service providers: Traditionally senior healthcare services have been very human-intensive. The role of care provider was and still remains extremely critical and everything else was not a deal breaker.

Low tech savviness of seniors: All things equal, technology adoption of millennials is much higher than that of senior citizens. While seniors are comfortable with popular apps like WhatsApp and YouTube, adoption of other technology in general has been less than spectacular.

Language barriers: English is not a preferred conversational medium for most senior citizens and as most technology platforms are designed for urban, English-speaking customers, this becomes a major mental obstacle not only for senior citizens but also for care providers.

So, the big question is, how can technology transform senior healthcare? There are multiple areas where technology can become a real force-multiplier.

Smart medical alert system: India does not have a reliable 911 emergency service that can be accessed by senior citizens. Having smart medical alert systems that can provide emergency support at the push of a button will be a great value addition for seniors.

Doctor-on-call services: Senior citizens usually avoid visiting a doctor for minor health issues because of mobility and logistic issues. A "doctor-on-call" service where general physicians and specialist doctors can talk over a voice/video call will be a great value proposition for senior citizens.

Internet of Things devices and smart tracking: Senior citizens have a higher risk of falls, rapid heart rate, breathlessness, low blood pressure and so on. Smart Internet of Things (IoT) devices that can track regular health vitals, detect abnormal patterns and alert care providers is another major opportunity in this space.

Smart senior living homes: The concept of senior living was a social taboo until recently. With reality developers revisiting the concept of "senior living", a lot of Indians are taking a fresh look at this concept.

Intelligent voice platforms: Voice is a major breakthrough when it comes to senior citizens. Easy, intelligent voice-based platforms to order medicines, schedule doctor appointments or health check-ups will be a major opportunity in future.

Technology has not been a disruptive force in senior healthcare but that story is set to change over the next five-six years. With rapid advances in voice-enabled platforms, artificial intelligence and IoT devices, start-ups are burning the midnight oil to come up with smart, easy-to-use technological solutions that create an impact in the senior healthcare industry. It is not a question of "if" anymore, it's just the "when" that needs to be answered.

(The writer is CEO and founder of a leading insurance aggregating platform)

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS DIALOGUE (IN KASHMIR) IS TO GO CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE, LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND FIND SOLUTIONS TO THEM.

—UNION MINISTER
MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE VISIT OF MINISTERS' BRIGADE IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE AGENDA OF THE BJP AT THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC EXCHEQUER BY USE OF ENTIRE OFFICIAL MACHINERY.
— J&K CONGRESS COMMITTEE CHIEF
RAVINDER SHARMA

The changemakers

Young innovators Manav and Swati Subodh are empowering entrepreneurs to undertake social experiments, job creation and meaningful development in their communities



MOIN QAZI

One of the dispiriting features of the modern development model is that despite oceans of research and studies, there has not been a substantive transformative impact on marginalised communities. Much of the outcomes have been purely academic and we need more dedicated, courageous and purpose-driven champions who can creatively apply their core competencies and new knowledge to enhance people's well-being. Similarly, we need to design tools and techniques that can help translate these insights into effective public policies and professional practices that can sustainably deliver quality outcomes on an exponential scale.

There is now a tribe of passionate entrepreneurs who are collaborating with like-minded allies and with those with different perspectives, to build a co-leadership of expertise to address pressing human challenges and accelerate the transition of the underprivileged from subsistence to sustainability in emerging economies. Some of them are bright people working to uncover and scale breakthrough disruptive solutions for leapfrogging meaningful social change. They have the vision to see the world the way it should be and create what is missing. They are combining business acumen with their conscience to solve problems in the community and foster a fairer society in an efficient and sustainable way.

A brother-sister duo, Manav Subodh and Swati Subodh, with diverse backgrounds and with careers on the cusp of steady and promising trajectories, decided to change track and pursue something that had relevance and meaning to the wider world, and in particular to the underserved communities. Manav was Global Manager, Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Affairs at Intel but found the canvas dimming his social horizon. Swati obtained her post-graduate in biotechnology and did her doctoral research in genomics at AIIMS. It was here that she had her moment of epiphany. Her laboratory was opposite the outpatients department where the daily sight of struggling patients stirred her and fired the imagination to furrow a path of concrete action. Manav and Swati realised that their path was never going to lead to the right level of fulfillment, because they were not doing something that exactly fitted the values they had cultivated over time.

Since it wasn't possible to change their values, they knew they needed to switch their careers. Manav was the first to take the plunge when he conceptualised the 1M1B (1 Million for 1 Billion) Foundation, an initiative to inspire a million young leaders, educators and entrepreneurs to generate jobs that will create better lives for a billion people in the underserved communities. The idea was to empower entrepreneurs who would undertake social innovations, job creation and meaningful development in their communities so that each in turn would create jobs and more stable economic lives for a thousand more.

With Swati's expertise in healthcare and Manav's expertise in entrepreneurship education and ecosystems, a social entrepreneurship model was conceptualised. They visualised that a million entrepreneurs — spanning different geographies and sectors — can come up with the right solutions that can impact one billion people. Everyone, according to them, is a natural entrepreneur and can play a vital role in promoting resilience in their communities. They believe that with relatively simple and inexpensive tools we can put the needle on tough problems but interventions fail to reach the right person at the right time. Sharing them equitably across the world to maximise the impact is a big challenge. Addressing these and other burning social problems requires understanding and reframing them with a fresh view. It is here that entrepreneurs like Manav and Swati

IT TAKES LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS, EMPOWERED TO ADAPT EASILY TO THE NUANCES OF LOCAL CULTURE, TO CREATE AND DRIVE CHANGE SUSTAINABLY ON THE GROUND. THE 1M1B FOUNDATION IS SERVING AS A MICRO-ACCELERATOR FOR GRASSROOTS ENTREPRENEURS BY GIVING THEM SKILL TRAINING, ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGIES, FINANCE AND THEN HELPING THEM LAUNCH THEIR OWN MICRO-ENTERPRISE



are stepping in and filling the vacuum. With a team of like-minded people who share this passion 1M1B started taking shape.

Manav and Swati understand that interventions for rural regeneration cannot be played out in the same way that society perceives the poor: Desperate citizens who need to be rescued by the elite. "We have to understand the local challenges to improve their composite livelihoods. You can't solve the problems of the last mile from the headquarters," explains Manav. According to him, it takes local entrepreneurs, empowered to adapt easily to the nuances of local culture, to create and drive change sustainably on the ground. The 1M1B Foundation is serving as a micro-accelerator for grassroots entrepreneurs by giving them skill training, access to technologies, finance and then helping them launch their own micro-enterprise. "We scan the local environment to get better assessment of needs of the area and prospective interventional aspects and partner with these entities to provide our know-how and execution pipeline to enable last mile access to maximise impact", he adds.

There are several interventions being promoted by 1M1B across segments. The Skills Accelerator programme helps individuals develop relevant skills to ensure that they are in line with the market needs. Fifty per cent of the participants get formal jobs and 15 per cent of them land up starting their own business. 1M1B is honing the leadership skills of micro-entrepreneurs along with building rural co-innovation labs. It helps accelerate the access of indigenous technologies to rural markets by pairing these entrepreneurs with mentors who help them in developing their ideas. It also connects global start-ups to rural markets. This access and exposure allows them to test their solution on the specific populations through other village-level players. The programme provides training in computer skills, communication, accounting,

finance, access to technologies and hands-on growth support to help them launch their own micro-enterprises. 1M1B believes that communities of artisans, particularly women, deserve economic opportunities and aims to keep alive the rich tradition of their craftsmanship. The foundation is working with *Kalamkari* weavers to provide a more robust economic base to the weaver community. It is also an implementation partner on providing training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to 5,000 schoolchildren in New Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Students are encouraged to come up with project ideas on how AI can be applied for societal good. Those selected are given access to the AI Youth Lab to advance their projects and create prototypes.

The Future Leaders programme is dedicated to identifying and nurturing the next generation of leaders committed to positive change. The target group comprises high school students and undergraduates who have the potential to have a meaningful influence on topics of relevance. During the course of the programme, they are imparted high-impact leadership development skills to develop the knowledge, resources and network needed to become an inclusive and socially-minded changemaker. These skills include thinking critically and from multiple perspectives, collaborating inclusively, communicating effectively and becoming empathetic leaders. The coaching also exposes them to an array of educational experiences that broaden their world view.

The latest batch participated in the fifth annual 1M1B Activate Impact Summit at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York. The summit provided them the opportunity to learn about leadership through the lens of the experiences of leaders of civil society, government, industry, non-government bodies, private entities, venture funds, entrepreneurs and influencers.

The foundation is a UN-accredited

non-profit organisation with special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council and associated with the UN Department of Global Communications.

The foundation has a very innovative business development programme, called *Business Raja* (king). An AI-enabled chatbot, it is guiding aspiring entrepreneurs in rural India to grow their nascent ideas, raise funds and run their businesses successfully. It is simple in design. For the user, it is just another contact on WhatsApp they talk to about their ideas in three languages — Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada — as of now.

The chatbot asks a user about their ideas, how they came up with it, measures the person's personality and attains a complete profile. It also assesses their responses to tough questions — a sort of psychometric test.

An aspiring entrepreneur needs to follow a three-step process: First, share a business idea. The chatbot will provide reference resources that need to be completed. Then, the candidate will have to design a financial plan such as product pricing. Finally, if the idea works well, the chatbot will help in raising funds. A final score of investment readiness is then sent to the lending institution.

"The idea of *Business Raja* emerged while our team was working with grassroots innovators and helping them navigate the challenging entrepreneurial landscape. The AI chatbot and the resources associated with it help to do this, at scale so we can enable more entrepreneurs faster", explains Swati.

It doesn't require a flash of genius or invention of any radical idea to change the story line. What is ultimately needed is practical compassion. Most revolutionary solutions have been evolved by people like Manav and Swati who looked at the familiar landscape with fresh eyes. They saw promise where others saw hopelessness.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

Vote for the environment

The spectre of climate change is looming large and pollution cannot be stopped by turning a blind eye to it. In the February 8 Assembly polls, Delhiites need to elect a Government that makes environmental policies its priority



SRIRAJ KOTA

Delhi has become used to being wooed with sops and benefits. Whether it is regularisation of illegal colonies and structures or subsidised electricity and so on, we just lap it up.

However, do we ever stop to think what the cost of these sops is and who is footing the bill? The answer is that we the people or the electorate are eventually going to pay for the sops, collectively. The sole beneficiary in this will be the political party we elect, who will be laughing all the way to the seat of power, for the next five years.

We, as voters, must critically evaluate the promises being made by the Government in power and all the other contending parties and see what their commitment is for pressing issues such as climate change and the environment. And, we also need to look at the environmental cost of an election. This also needs to be audited and made public in order to ensure that the people realise the environmental costs of



this democratic exercise and which parties have had the smallest carbon footprint. This will usher in a positive change in the thinking of the voter which will in turn compel the parties to shun anti-environmental activities in the form of excess use of fuel, plastic and paper during campaigning. The people of Delhi need to question the Government and ask it what it has done to safeguard the environment and

also assess what the environment-related promises and assurances other contesting parties are bringing to the table. The subject of pollution in Delhi has been a hotly debated matter, with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claiming tremendous success in reinventing in the same with the help of the vehicle rationing initiative the Odd-Even Scheme. However, as is the norm in politics, these initiatives have been

heavily criticised by the Central Government.

Both the Centre and the Delhi Government have been trading charges over this key issue and blaming each other for the sad state of affairs in the Capital.

As the common man continued to suffer the impact of the pollution shrouding the city in a pall of smog, the judiciary took it upon itself to express reservations on the efficacy of the scheme in controlling the spiralling pollution levels in Delhi-NCR and pulled up the Centre, the Delhi Government and even the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on the environmental crisis caused by crop residue burning by farmers.

The Supreme Court also directed the Central Government to assess the feasibility of the use of hydrogen-based fuel technology in the Capital to mitigate air pollution.

However, the fact remains that

things should not have come to such a pass. We need clear, tangible and more importantly quantifiable results against efforts undertaken to protect the environment by all stakeholders. The city is what we will leave to the future generations and it cannot be inhospitable due to pollution that has reached unmanageable levels and turned it into a "gas chamber", choking and killing the people that reside in it.

The spectre of climate change is looming large and pollution cannot be stopped by turning a blind eye to it. Combatting pollution and climate change need a concentrated and sincere effort by the Government in power that has the resolve and the firm mandate of the people behind it. So this time let us elect the environment. A Government that makes environmental policies its priority will then automatically get elected.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



BE ALERT, NOT AFRAID

Sounding the alarm unnecessarily has dangers of its own. People may fail to pay heed next time, or may overreact this time. Equally, muting discussions can backfire, especially in a world where information, or unfounded rumours, can be shared so quickly. It is essential that Chinese authorities at all levels are open about the coronavirus outbreak, as well as assiduous in tackling it.

(The Guardian editorial)

Budget will have plan of action on economy: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will unveil its "plan of action" to boost the economy in the Union Budget to be presented on February 1, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Wednesday, asserting that economic fundamentals remain very strong.

Responding to a question about the downward revision of India's growth rate by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said the economy is on the path of "revival" and nobody should have a pessimistic view about it.

"From the Union Budget, you will get Government's plan of action. Our fundamentals are very strong. Therefore, nobody should create a pessimistic view about Indian economy," the Information and Broadcasting minister said at a briefing after the Union Cabinet meeting.

Asserting that the economy was on the path of "revival", he



Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar briefs the media on Cabinet decisions at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi

said there are ups and downs in world economy, and it has reflection on economy of countries.

The IMF had on Monday lowered growth estimate for India to 4.8 per cent for 2019, citing stress in the non-bank financial sector and weak rural income growth as the major factors for the downward revision.

While providing an update on the global economy ahead

of the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit, the IMF cut its India growth forecast.

India-born IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath had said growth in India slowed sharply owing to stress in the non-banking financial sectors and weak rural income growth.

Opposition parties have been attacking the Government over the economic slowdown and its policies.

Stock markets to be open on Budget day

New Delhi: Stock markets will be open for normal trading on February 1, Saturday, when the Union Budget will be presented. Generally, the markets are closed on Saturdays and Sundays, except for special circumstances.

In separate circulars on Wednesday, leading exchanges BSE and NSE said the markets would be open for trading on February 1 on account of Union Budget presentation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is to present the Budget for 2020-21.

Trading would be conducted during normal hours from 9 am to 3.30 pm, as per the circulars.

According to markets sources, the decision has been taken following requests made in this regard by market participants as Budget contains several market-moving announcements.

In 2015, stock exchanges were open for trading on February 28, Saturday, when then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had presented the Budget.

Budget may offer production incentives for fabless chip cos

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget 2020 may unveil a scheme on production linked benefits to attract hi-tech manufacturing in semiconductors, and micro-processors to India, apart from giving tax incentives to solar electric charging infrastructure, computers, servers, and laptops.

For 'Make in India', there may be investment-linked income tax exemptions under Section 35AD of the Income Tax Act and other indirect tax benefits.

Many global semiconductor companies such as ARM, Qualcomm, Intel, Cadence and Texas Instruments have set up design and software development infrastructure here but per se, chip manufacturing plants are still elusive for India.

Intel, AMD and ARM for microprocessors, and Qualcomm, Samsung and MediaTek are the names in this segment globally who also cater to the telecom segment and their chips are imported by Indian companies.

core competencies in the strategic sub-sectors like fabless chip design industry. The Government could provide tax incentives to high-tech manufacturing plants in the fields of solar photovoltaic cells, lithium storage batteries, solar electric charging infrastructure, computers, servers, and laptops.

For 'Make in India', there may be investment-linked income tax exemptions under Section 35AD of the Income Tax Act and other indirect tax benefits.

Many global semiconductor companies such as ARM, Qualcomm, Intel, Cadence and Texas Instruments have set up design and software development infrastructure here but per se, chip manufacturing plants are still elusive for India.

Intel, AMD and ARM for microprocessors, and Qualcomm, Samsung and MediaTek are the names in this segment globally who also cater to the telecom segment and their chips are imported by Indian companies.

BUSINESS CORNER

SRM INKS MOU WITH KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Kansas State University (KSU), USA. Professors Ramasamy/Perumal and Krishna Jagadish from KSU visited SRMIST for the purpose. Both the faculties are also adjunct professors in SRMIST. Speaking on the occasion, Ramasamy Perumal said that the process of the MoU is lengthy, he is happy to have this association with SRMIST.

KAMDHENU PRESENTS GENNEXT CONSTRUCTION STEEL

New Delhi: Kamdhenu Limited has presented innovative steel in the field of construction steel. Power Alloy Steel 10000 (PAS10000) aims to take the industries to the next level. The alloy gives it better rust-proof qualities and gives this Rebar capability to bear 28 per cent more weight. Along with that it also gives double earth-quake prevention to the building.

Ujjwala inspires Ghana, India to assist Ghana in implementation of its LPG promotion policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ghana wants to replicate the highly successful Ujjwala model of giving out cooking gas (LPG) connections to the need and has signed an agreement with state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) seeking its assistance and technical expertise in implementation of the African nation's national LPG promotion policy.

Alhassan Sulemana Tampuli, Chief Executive, National Petroleum Authority (NPA) of Ghana and L K S Chauhan, Chief General Manager (LPG Operations), IOC signed the MoU in presence of Oil Minister Dharmendra pradhan and Michael Aaron, High Commissioner of Ghana to India.

"With India's emergence as a world leader in provision of clean energy to its citizens by the expansion of its LPG network, Ghana sought assistance from India in its own efforts to promote to safe, clean and environmentally friendly LPG for increased domestic, commercial and industrial usage," an IOC press statement said.

LPG coverage in Ghana is just 23 per cent and customers have to queue up at petrol stations with cylinders to get a refill. It wants to replicate the Indian model of setting up bottling plants where LPG can be filled in cylinders which are then transported to dealers who deliver them at customer doorstep with a view to expand the coverage to cover at least 50 per cent of the population.

Relief to Indians on card as New Jersey to lower college costs of H-1B visa holders' children

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The US state of New Jersey will enact a legislation that will make college and universities more affordable for the children of H-1B visa holders, mostly Indian IT professionals, bringing a huge financial relief to them.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy on Tuesday signed the legislation "S2555", allowing New Jersey students, who are the children of H-1B visa holders, to qualify for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education. A majority of H-1B visa holders are Indians and this legislation comes as a significant relief to them, amidst an environment of stringent immigration laws and scrutiny under the Trump administration.

"New Jerseyans deserve equal access to higher education, and today we are taking another step towards making that possible. I'm proud to sign the legislation to help our students achieve their education goals, pursue a successful future and live their dreams here in their home state," Murphy said.

The legislation exempts dependent students whose parents or guardians hold H-1B visas from paying out-of-state tuition provided they meet certain criteria, including having graduated from a New Jersey high school and having attended a New Jersey high

school for at least three years. New Jersey is home to prestigious institutions such as Princeton University.

Secretary of Higher Education Zakiya Smith Ellis said New Jersey is working to make college affordable for New Jerseyans and the legislation will expand postsecondary opportunities to more residents such as dependents of H-1B visa holders. India's Deputy Consul General in New York Shatru Sinha welcomed the legislation, saying in a tweet that it is an "important initiative for the Indian community".

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Indian-American Democratic Senator Vin Gopal, Senator M Teresa Ruiz and Assembly members Raj Mukherji, Daniel Benson, and Robert Karabinchak.

President and CEO of Edison-based health technology company HealthEC Arthur Kapoor welcomed the legislation, saying it will tremendously benefit the Indian diaspora in New Jersey.

"Indian diaspora welcomes this bill since H-1B visa holders pay enormous amounts of taxes as well as social security contributions which they are never able to use as they return to India before they are eligible to receive benefits. This bill will allow their kids access to the best education," Kapoor said.

India falls to 51st position in EU's Democracy Index

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India slipped 10 places to 51st position in the 2019 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which cited "erosion of civil liberties" in the country as the primary cause for the downturn.

India's overall score fell from 7.23 in 2018 to 6.90 in the Index that provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide for 165 independent states and two territories.

Govt allows 3 last dates for filing GSTR-3B for different categories of taxpayers

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Wednesday staggered last dates of filing GSTR-3B, a monthly return form, and has provided three dates for different categories of taxpayers, a move aimed at de-stressing the system. Currently, the last date for filing GSTR-3B is 20th of every month. From now onwards, there will be three dates — 20th, 22nd and 24th — of every month for different categories of tax payers.

In past, glitches in the return filing system of GST Network were reported on the

last day of filing of returns and trade and industry had to face problems. It may be noted here that about one-fifth of the total GSTR-3B returns were filing on the last day (January 20).

"From now on, the last date for filing of GSTR-3B for the taxpayers having annual turnover of ₹5 crore and above in the previous financial year would be 20th of the month. Thus, around 8 lakh regular taxpayers would have the last date of GSTR-3B filing as 20th of every month without late fees," the ministry said in a statement. The taxpayers

having annual turnover below ₹5 crore in previous financial year will be divided further in two categories.

The tax filers from 15 states/UTs — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh — will now be having the last date of filing GSTR-3B returns as 22nd of the month without late fees.

India advances 8 places to 72nd spot on Global Talent Competitiveness Index

PTI ■ DAVOS

India has moved up eight places to the 72nd position in the 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index that measures and ranks countries based on their ability to grow, attract and retain talent.

Switzerland topped the list of 132 countries, followed by the US and Singapore.

"Although more could be done to improve the country's educational system (68th in Formal Education), India's key strength relates to growing (44th) talent, due to its levels of lifelong learning (40th) and access to growth opportunities

(39th)," the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) report noted.

The country's highest-ranked sub-pillar is employability, but the ability to match labour market demand and supply stands in contrast to the country's poor "mid-level skills", which result in a mediocre score in vocational and technical skills, the report said.

India's greatest challenge is to address its weak ability to attract and retain talent, where strengthening the role of minorities and women would raise the level of internal openness, it added.

The GTCI report was launched by INSEAD, a partner and sponsor of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Tent in Davos, Switzerland on Wednesday.

Switzerland topped this year's ranking, followed by the United States, its highest position yet, while Singapore is the third most talent-competitive country.

Other countries in the top 10 include Sweden at the 4th position, Denmark (5th), the Netherlands (6th), Finland (7th), Luxembourg (8th), Norway (9th) and Australia (10th).

Sebi comes out new framework to check non-compliance of listing rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Wednesday put in place a stricter mechanism to deal with non-compliance of listing conditions under which stock exchanges will have powers to slap penalties up to ₹50,000 for certain violations.

At present, a stock exchange is allowed to charge a maximum amount of ₹10,000 for each violation of listing norms that need to be complied with by companies.

According to a Sebi circular, exchanges can impose a fine of ₹50,000 per instance for non-compliance with respect to

obtaining in-principle approval of bourses before issuance of securities.

The bourses can levy a fine of ₹25,000 each in cases of non-disclosure of dividend distribution policy in annual reports and on the websites of the entities.

The amount would also be applicable in the cases of non-convening of annual general meeting within a period of five months from the close of a financial year and for not taking exchange's approval before filing request for change of name with Registrar of Companies (RoC).

The new framework would

come into force with effect from compliance periods ending on or after March 31, 2020.

The move is aimed at maintaining consistency and adopting a uniform approach in the matter of levy of fines for non-compliance with certain provisions of the listing regulations.

Besides, the exchanges can impose a penalty of ₹10,000 for delay in furnishing prior intimation about the company's board meeting as well as delay in non-disclosure of record date or dividend declaration, and non-compliance with norms pertaining to having a functional website.

Oil India moves SC against DoT seeking ₹48K cr payment on ₹1.47 cr revenue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) on Wednesday said it has filed a clarificatory/modificatory petition in the Supreme Court against a ₹48,000 crore demand raised by the telecom department on cumulative revenue of ₹1.47 crore it had earned on an NLD telecom licence.

Following the October 24 Supreme Court ruling that non-telecom revenues of telecom firms such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea should be included for considering payments of Government dues, the

telecom department asked OIL to pay ₹48,000 crore in principal dues together with interest and penalty. The dues sought are double the net worth of OIL.

"OIL had obtained a National Long Distance Service Licence (NLD Licence) to establish Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA System) for control, management, and protection of OIL's pipeline network used for transportation of crude oil, natural gas, and petroleum products," the company said in a statement.

The NLD licence is pre-

dominantly used for the SCADA system and only the spare bandwidth capacity is leased out to other telecom operators.

"As per the licence terms, licence fee is to be paid on gross total revenue from services provided under the NLD licence. Since the award of NLD licence, the cumulative revenue of ₹1.47 crore is earned by OIL from the leasing of spare bandwidth capacity on which all applicable licence fee and other statutory dues as per licence terms have been paid by OIL regularly," it said.

Tata Motors JLR to cut 500 jobs at UK factory

PTI ■ LONDON

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) on Wednesday said that around 500 jobs will be affected as it cuts down on shifts to optimise car production at its Halewood factory in Merseyside.

The factory, which builds the Range Rover Evoque and Land Rover Discovery Sport in the north west of England, will move from a three shift to a "two-plus" shift pattern from April as part of what the company says is an efficiency programme and does not imply a loss of volume.

India keen on importing more oil from Brazil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday expressed interest in raising the import of crude oil from Brazil as the world's third largest oil consumer is looking at diversifying its import basket beyond the highly volatile Middle East region. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met visiting Brazilian Minister for Mines and Energy Bento Albuquerque to review cooperation between the two countries.

"India is diversifying its crude oil supply and our oil companies have expressed interest in sourcing more crude from Brazil if offered favorable

commercial terms," Pradhan tweeted after the meeting.

India imports 84 per cent of its oil needs and two-thirds of its import come from the Middle East with Iraq and Saudi Arabia being the top suppliers. Pradhan said he also sought intervention for the early monetization of India's existing investments in the Brazilian energy sector.

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), has two exploration blocks in Brazil — BC-10 and BM Seal-4 and is looking at monetizing discoveries made there.

Adani lays out plans to become world's largest renewable energy player by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moving away from polluting coal, billionaire Gautam Adani on Wednesday laid out a blueprint to make his group the world's largest solar power company by 2025 and the biggest renewable energy firm by 2030 through aggressive capacity addition push in these areas.

The \$15-billion Adani Group — a sprawling conglomerate with interests in energy, agri-business, real estate and defence, among others — plans to double its renewable

power generating capacity of current 2.5 gigawatts (GW) by 2020 and further to 18 GW by 2025, Adani wrote in a LinkedIn post.

"Our vision is to become the world's largest solar power company by 2025 and largest renewable power company by 2030," the Adani Group chairman wrote. Adani Group not just owns coal-fired power plants but also coal mines in India and Australia. It has invested big time in coal as the Adani empire of mines, cargo ships, ports and power plants depend heavily on it.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
 Whereas complaint has been made by me that accused namely Sunil@Sonu, S/o Jagdish, R/o H.No. F-44, Gali No.81, Mahavir Enclave Part-III, Dabri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 237/19, u/s 356/379/34 IPC, Dated: 24.06.2019, P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the accused Sunil@Sonu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sunil@Sonu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Processing U/s 82 Cr. P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sunil@Sonu, case FIR No. 237/19, u/s 356/379/34 IPC, Dated: 24.06.2019, P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.02.2020.
 By Order
 Sh. Deepak Vats,
 Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No.9
 Ground Floor, Dwarka District Courts,
 Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi
 DP/8592/WD/20-(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING
 General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Raju, S/o Shri Jang Bahadur, R/o F-383, Karampura, Moti Nagar, New Delhi, Age 35 years has been reported missing from his house since 28.12.19 at 05.00 am vide DD No. 37-A, dated 01.01.20 has been lodged at PS Moti Nagar, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
 Height : 5', Complexion : Fair, Built : Medium, Clothing : Wearing Blue colour jacket, blue colour jeans pant and brown colour shoes.
 Any person is having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.
 E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Moti Nagar, New Delhi
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 25101150
 DP/8591/WD/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING
 General Public is hereby informed that one man Namely: Vinod, S/o: Prambhai, R/o: N-18, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi, Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Wearing: Maroon Shirt & Blue Pant and Black Shoes in Feet has been missing since 12.12.2019 from the area of PS. Khyala, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 37A, Dated 13.12.2019 has been lodged at PS. Khyala, New Delhi.
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform the undersigned.
 Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in SHO
 E-Mail ID : cic@cbi.gov.in PS. Khyala, New Delhi
 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/8590/WD/2020 Ph.: 011-28335696, 28335686

M/s Z Landholding LLP
 LLPIN: AAB-4222
 Registered office: 60B, SAINIK FARMS NEW DELHI, New Delhi-110062, NCR. Before the Central Government Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 4th Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019, NCR.
 In the matter of: Section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 And
 In the matter of: M/s Z Landholding LLP, a Limited Liability Partnership having its registered office situated At-60B, SAINIK FARMS NEW DELHI, New Delhi-110062, NCR. Applicant.
PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given to the General Public that M/s Z Landholding LLP proposes to make application to the Central Government under Section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Agreement of the LLP in terms of the special resolution passed at the Meeting of all Partners held on 02.01.2020 to enable the LLP to change its Registered office from New Delhi in the "State of NCR" to Bhubaneswar in the "State of Odisha". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of objection to the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, 4th Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019, NCR within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant LLP at its registered office at the address mentioned above.
 For and on behalf of the Applicant
 M/s Z Landholding LLP
 Sd/- Tapan Kumar Mohanty Designated Partner
 Date: 20.01.2020, Place: New Delhi

MARKETS AT FIVE-WEEK LOW Sensex slips as investors cautious ahead of Budget

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The market gauge Sensex on Wednesday fell for the third straight session to mark its lowest level in over five weeks as participants moved to the sidelines exercising caution ahead of the federal Budget.

At close, the 30-share Sensex was down 208.43 points, or 0.50 per cent, at 41,115.38 — the lowest level for the index since December 16. After starting the session on a high note, the BSE gauge kept on shedding gains and touched the day's low of 41,059.04.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty settled 62.95 points, or 0.52 per cent, lower at 12,106.90 — marking its fourth straight session loss.

Both benchmark indices bore the brunt of heavy selling mainly in energy, financial and auto stocks.

A subdued corporate earnings season and banks' stressed assets situation have made investors realign their investment strategy, analysts said adding that the upcoming Budget will decide the course of the market in the near to mid-term.

Further, global agencies

slashing India's growth outlook is also weighing on domestic investor sentiment, they added.

On the Sensex chart, ONGC was the top loser, tumbling 5.13 per cent, followed by NTPC, Kotak Bank, Maruti Suzuki, HDFC, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Nestle India, TCS, Infosys, HCL Tech, SBI and Bharti Airtel ended with gains of up to 1.86 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE metal, oil and gas and power were among the major losers — dropping as much as 1.57 per cent.

While BSE IT, tech and telecom indices ended up to 1.09 per cent higher.

In the broader market, midcap and smallcap indices fell up to 0.32 per cent.

"Domestic markets after opening amid failed to hold on to gains amid profit-bookings across finance, auto, metal and pharma stocks; while FMCG and few IT stocks remained in green zone. Uncertainty ahead of Budget has resulted in investors' being cautious for the time being," Paras Bothra, President of Equity Research,

Ashika Stock Broking, said.

Besides, fears of contagion after the US announced its first case of a new virus that has claimed six lives in China also remained in hind-sight, he said.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services Ltd, said, "Banks, auto and midcaps are consolidating due to marginal slippage in NPAs and earnings growth than anticipated earlier.

The Q3 result had solid expectations but actual results are marginally below expectation for sectors like IT and banks, this is impacting the market. A lot will depend on the actual outcome of Budget for further direction, market is turning cautious before the big event."

On the currency front, the Indian rupee closed marginally up at 71.19 against the US dollar.

Global benchmark Brent crude fell 0.67 per cent to USD 64.16 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains.

European markets were also trading on a positive note in their early sessions.

'GDP to grow by 5.5 pc in FY21, downside risks persists'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's growth rate is expected to be marginally higher at 5.5 per cent in 2020-21 against the estimated 5 per cent for the current fiscal on the back of strong policy push coupled with revival in demand, a report said.

Citing an NSO report, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said the slow-down is a combination of several factors including an abrupt and significant fall in lending by non-banking financial companies close on the heels of a slowdown in bank lending and reduced income growth of households coupled with a fall in savings and higher leverage.

Although some improvement in FY2020-21 is expected, these risks are going to persist, India Ratings and Research principal economist Sunil Sinha said.

As a result, the Indian economy is stuck in a phase of low consumption as well as low investment demand, it said.

"A strong policy push coupled with some heavy lifting (even if this requires using the escape clause as suggested by the FRBM Service Committee headed by N K Singh) by the government is required to revive the domestic demand cycle and catapult the economy back into a high growth phase," it said.

The government has announced a slew of measures recently to prop-up the economy, but Ind-Ra believes they will come to aid only in the medium term.

The shortfall in the tax plus non-tax revenue to result in the fiscal deficit slipping to

6.3 per cent of GDP (budgeted 3.3 per cent) in FY2020, even after accounting for the surplus transferred by the RBI, it said.

"A continuance of low GDP growth even in FY21 means subdued tax revenue and limited room for stepping-up expenditure. Ind-Ra believes the government will have to construct the FY21 budget in a way that expenditure is rationalised and prioritised and all avenues of revenue generation are tapped," it said.

While rationalising, the focus of expenditure has to be on creating direct employment and putting more money in the pockets of the people at the bottom of the pyramid, it said, adding since their marginal propensity to consume is close to one, they are likely to spend what they receive.

Ind-Ra, therefore, believes the government will continue to focus on infrastructure spending and leverage all pos-

sible options — budget, off budget including National Infrastructure Investment Fund, it said.

Also, since a larger part of the government capex now takes place at the state government level, it will be important to keep a tab on the state government capex as well, it added.

With regard to inflation, it said, retail and wholesale inflation expected to be 3.9 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively as compared to 4.4 per cent and 1.4 per cent in the current fiscal.

Though oil prices are stable, retail food inflation after remaining subdued and in single digit for 70 months since January 2014, entered into double digits in November 2019 and accelerated to 14.12 per cent in December 2019, it said.

Govt approves pact with foreign countries for seafarers' certificate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday said it has approved a model pact with foreign countries for recognition of seafarers' competency certificates.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

This will pave the way for mutual recognition of maritime education and training of

seafarers by the countries involved.

"The proposed bilateral MoU will enable India and another country with which such an MoU may be entered, to mutually recognise maritime education and training, certificates of competency, endorsements, documentary evidence of training and medical fitness certificates, issued to the seafarers who are citizens of respective countries," the Shipping Ministry said in a

statement.

The pact will facilitate unilateral recognition certificates issued by the Directorate General of Shipping to Indian seafarers by another country, without seeking similar acknowledgment by India of the certificates issued by that country, it added.

Under the pact, Indian seafarers will be eligible to be placed on ships under the flag of that country for employment, thus leading to increased

employment opportunities, the ministry said.

The bilateral MoU would therefore, make the seafarers of both the countries to be eligible for employment on ships of either party based on the certificates so recognized, it added.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for unilateral/bilateral recognition of

Certificates, pursuant to Regulation 1/10 of International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers, 1978 as amended to be signed between the Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India and its counterparts in foreign countries, with the approval of Minister-in-charge of Shipping and the Minister of External Affairs," the statement said.

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	12218.35	12225.05	12087.90	12106.90	-62.95
ZEE5	278.00	304.00	272.00	298.00	13.90
GRASIM	770.85	799.00	767.10	792.00	20.35
NESTLEIND	15369.00	15585.00	15301.00	15561.80	281.05
TCS	2181.00	2210.00	2173.70	2209.80	38.75
ADANIPOWER	379.95	385.00	379.00	384.00	4.05
HCLTECH	585.20	595.00	581.50	590.20	6.15
INFY	768.45	778.00	766.00	769.80	7.30
SBIN	317.00	317.00	313.70	315.65	1.95
BHARTIARTL	514.75	523.75	506.70	514.55	2.80
YESBANK	38.70	39.00	38.00	38.45	0.10
TITAN	1181.80	1185.95	1172.00	1178.00	1.80
M&M	553.50	556.50	549.00	553.65	0.85
BAJAJFINSV	9590.00	9600.00	9495.00	9545.00	10.70
BAJFINANCE	4186.00	4186.50	4123.35	4143.00	4.40
RELIANCE	1544.00	1546.75	1531.10	1535.25	1.35
ENERGEMOT	21160.00	21280.00	20944.00	21070.00	13.45
TECHM	780.00	790.45	776.20	778.55	-0.35
ITC	239.60	239.60	237.10	238.30	-0.15
INFRAEEL	244.85	245.00	235.50	240.35	-0.15
HEROMOTOCO	2408.70	2410.00	2379.00	2397.10	-1.60
SUNPHARMA	448.40	453.85	445.35	447.00	-0.40
ULTRACEMCO	4505.00	4540.00	4463.00	4477.00	-6.55
DREDDY	3060.55	3105.05	3047.40	3055.55	-4.90
HINDUNILVR	2063.00	2065.50	2027.20	2051.90	-3.50
BHDFNCA	3125.50	3138.70	3088.90	3105.30	-5.95
BRITANNIA	1248.05	1255.00	1234.40	1241.85	-2.50
IOC	116.65	116.90	111.95	114.55	-0.25
VEDL	155.85	158.25	152.80	153.55	-0.35
WIPRO	248.60	251.95	245.40	246.40	-0.70
TATASTEEL	478.65	479.85	473.20	474.15	-0.20
JSWSTEEL	268.30	269.30	264.75	265.95	-1.30
CIPLA	474.40	480.30	475.20	478.00	-2.60
GAIL	127.20	127.90	125.50	126.05	-0.70
LT	1311.00	1312.00	1292.00	1294.90	-7.45
BAJAJ-AUTO	3105.00	3110.00	3070.10	3074.85	-22.20
INDUSINDBK	1346.35	1348.00	1323.00	1326.05	-10.30
HINDALCO	205.60	207.00	203.00	205.50	-1.65
POWERGRID	200.50	202.35	193.05	198.85	-1.75
AXISBANK	717.00	722.75	706.60	709.30	-8.30
RPLCL	465.20	466.45	454.10	456.90	-6.95
ICICIBANK	511.50	534.95	520.75	522.00	-9.05
HDFC	2474.00	2483.35	2412.20	2418.00	-47.45
ASIANPAINT	1815.00	1818.70	1766.85	1773.20	-37.50
KOTAKBANK	1632.00	1637.90	1576.00	1591.00	-34.10
MARUTI	7340.00	7374.95	7107.95	7145.00	-157.65
UL	582.85	582.85	575.40	564.45	-17.25
TATAMOTORS	119.95	120.00	118.25	118.50	-0.80
NTPC	191.95	192.50	184.25	185.60	-4.65
COALINDIA	199.10	199.40	190.95	191.55	-10.60
ONGC	122.00	122.00	116.00	116.30	-6.45

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
FORTIS	148.45	153.65	146.40	151.40
HDFCBANK	1249.00	1255.45	1235.00	1240.35
VMART	1910.25	1920.00	1869.00	1878.35
TATASTEEL	276.40	309.95	272.45	300.25
CANFINHOME	472.95	504.90	470.05	455.95
RELIANCE	478.10	479.80	473.05	474.80
BHUSHANGFIN	1540.55	1546.70	1530.90	1533.10
IBULHSFIN	305.30	306.05	295.00	296.25
TATAMOTORS	192.10	192.60	184.25	185.55
SBIN	316.60	317.00	313.70	316.10
ICICIBANK	534.70	534.90	521.05	523.00
IDEA	5.97	6.03	5.45	5.63
AXISBANK	719.40	722.60	707.00	712.75
BHARTIARTL	515.00	524.00	507.15	514.35
HDFC	2476.00	2481.20	2412.00	2417.10
RBLBANK	343.00	345.45	332.60	339.10
INFY	765.10	778.00	765.10	769.95
IOCL	117.00	117.00	112.30	113.85
MARUTI	7334.20	7370.15	7109.65	7136.35
TCS	2175.50	2210.10	2175.50	2166.50
HAVELLS	595.00	617.80	588.50	599.90
KOTAKBANK	1630.60	1636.05	1576.05	1585.90
UPL	580.05	580.05	553.50	563.10
ASIANPAINT	1818.00	1818.00	1769.60	1778.30
JINDALSTEEL	186.00	186.80	177.60	178.90
RAIN	120.00	124.00	117.80	118.80
SUNPHARMA	448.20	454.00	445.40	446.20
ONGC	123.00	123.00	116.00	116.10
VOLTAS	705.00	705.00	692.50	695.45
YESBANK	38.60	39.10	38.00	38.45
COALINDIA	196.50	199.45	191.05	192.00
GRAPHITE	311.00	327.40	311.00	315.90
ITC	1310.00	1310.65	1292.40	1294.25
POWERGRID	200.50	202.30	193.10	199.55
AUROPHARMA	498.00	510.90	490.80	497.70
POLYCAB	1121.00	1128.90	986.35	993.95
BAJFINANCE	4170.00	4183.10	4125.00	4141.60
INDUSINDBK	1348.00	1348.70	1323.00	1327.60
JUSTDIAL	579.00	605.50	572.25	595.25
HDFCCLAM	3214.70	3261.30	3141.40	3172.05
PPC	107.10	111.90	103.90	109.10
HINDUNILVR	2061.25	2061.25	2028.00	2051.00
DLF	259.10	261.25	255.10	258.20
PIDILITIND	1423.00	1444.00	1420.25	1428.15
GILLETTE	6330.00	6353.80	6288.05	6314.30
PNBHOUSING	558.75	570.05	555.80	570.90
HDFCLIFE	649.90	614.00	602.55	612.75
PIIND	104.00	145.40	143.50	144.75
TATAGLOBAL	387.10	388.50	382.40	384.80
ICICIPRULI	494.00	511.80	489.00	505.75
NITITECH	1800.00	1894.30	1800.00	1871.40
RPOWER	2.01	2.14	2.01	2.07
BANDHANBANK	482.90	487.00	474.00	475.45
BANKBARODA	95.30	95.75	93.60	94.25
DISHTV	13.32	14.41	13.26	14.23
NTPC	114.40	115.60	111.70	112.20
INFRAEEL	245.00	245.50	235.40	240.95
VEDL	155.50	158.05	152.80	153.15
FEDERALBNK	95.05	95.60	93.40	93.75
PEL	1624.70	1630.40	1587.90	1608.60
NMDC	135.20	135.20	128.80	132.30
LICHSGFIN	481.00	483.00	472.50	476.95
ITC	239.95	239.95	237.05	237.55
HEG	1110.00	1149.00	1105.95	1125.00
SAIL	50.00	50.30	49.20	49.40
GRASIM	772.15	795.80	767.25	792.25
TATAELXSI	958.05	978.90	955.00	966.50
L&TFH	119.10	120.15	116.70	117.10
INDIGO	1465.00	1475.20	1428.95	1468.65

Senate OK's impeachment trial rules, puts off witnesses

Washington: The US Senate plunged into President Donald Trump's impeachment trial with Republicans abruptly abandoning plans to cram opening arguments into two days but solidly rejecting for now Democratic demands for more witnesses to expose what they deem Trump's "trifecta" of offenses.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks from the Senate chamber as the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump concludes on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday. AP

Trump himself claimed he wants top aides to testify, but qualified that by suggesting there were "national security" concerns to allowing their testimony.

"We have a great case," Trump said on Wednesday at a global economic forum in Davos.

In a press conference before returning to Washington, Trump said his legal team was doing a "very good job."

He appeared to break with Republicans efforts to block Democratic motions to immediately call witnesses and subpoena documents. Instead, Trump said he'd like to see aides, including former national security adviser John Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, testify as witnesses Trump said he'd leave the "national security" concerns about allowing their testimony to the Senate.

Tuesday's daylong session started with the setback for Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell and the president's legal team, but it ended near 2 a.m. On Wednesday with Republicans easily approving the rest of the trial rules largely on their terms.

With the rules settled, the trial is now on a fast-track. At issue is whether Trump should be removed from office for abuse of power stemming from his pressure on Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden and Biden's son Hunter as Trump was withheld aid to the country, and for obstructing Congress ensuing probe.

Chief Justice John Roberts gavelled open the session, with House prosecutors on one side, Trump's team on the other, in the well of the Senate, as senators sat silently at their desks, under oath to do "impartial justice." No cell-phones or other electronics were allowed.

As the day stretched deep into the night, lawyerly arguments gave way to more pointedly political ones. Tempers flared and senators paced the chamber. Democrats pursued what may be their only chance to force senators to vote on hearing new testimony.

After one particularly bitter post-midnight exchange, Roberts intervened, taking the rare step of admonishing both the Democratic House man-

agers prosecuting the case and the White House counsel to "remember where they are."

"I think it is appropriate at this point for me to admonish both the House managers and the president's counsel in equal terms to remember that they are addressing the world's greatest deliberative body," Roberts said.

He told them that description of the Senate stemmed from a 1905 trial when a senator objected to the word "pettifogging" because members should "avoid speaking in a manner and using language that is not conducive to civil discourse."

Over and over, Republicans turned back Democratic amendments to subpoena documents from the White House, State Department, Defense Department and budget office. By the same 53-47 party-line, they turned away witnesses with front-row seats to Trump's actions including acting White House chief of staff Mulvaney and Bolton, the former national security adviser critical of the Ukraine probe.

Only on one amendment, to allow more time to file motions, did a single Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, join Democrats. But it, too, was rejected, 52-48.

As the visitors' gallery

filled earlier with guests, access-and-activist Alyssa Milano among them, and Trump's most ardent House allies lining the back rows, the day that began as a debate over rules quickly took on the cadence of a trial proceeding over whether the president's actions toward Ukraine warranted removal from office.

"It's not our job to make it easy for you," Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leading the prosecution, told the Senate. "Our job is to make it hard to deprive the American people of a fair trial."

White House counsel Pat Cipollone, the president's lead lawyer, called the trial "a farce." He scoffed that the House charges against Trump were "ridiculous."

The White House legal team did not dispute Trump's actions, when he called Ukraine and asked for a "favour," which was to investigate Biden as he withheld military aid the ally desperately needed as it faced off with hostile Russia on its border. But the lawyers insisted the president did nothing wrong. "Absolutely no case," Cipollone said.

Schiff, the California Democrat, said America's Founders added the remedy of impeachment in the Constitution with "precisely this type of conduct in mind - conduct that abuses the power of office for a personal benefit, that undermines our national security, and that invites foreign interference in the democratic process of an election."

Said Schiff: "It is the trifecta of constitutional misconduct justifying impeachment."

The other lead lawyer on Trump's team, Jay Sekulow, retorted, "I'll give you a trifecta," outlining complaints over the House Democrats' impeachment inquiry process.

In Davos, Trump repeated his attacks on Democratic House managers serving as prosecutors in the trial, saying he'd like to "sit right in the front row and stare at their corrupt faces" on the Senate floor during the trial but that his attorneys might have a problem with it.

And he said he wants to deliver the State of the Union as scheduled on February 4 even if the trial is ongoing, calling the address "very important to what I am doing" in setting his administration's agenda. AP

He said the other nations being considered for new rules were Belarus, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Sudan and Tanzania.

The first package of travel bans and restrictions — targeting mainly Muslim majority countries — were announced shortly after Trump took office in January 2017 and outraged his critics.

Trump said his administration was preparing to add a "couple of countries" to the controversial list of states whose citizens are subject to travel bans or severe restrictions on entry to the United States.

"We are adding a couple of countries to it. We have to be safe. Our country has to be

safe," he said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, adding that the names of the new countries would be announced "very shortly."

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that the administration planned to add seven countries including Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, and others in Africa and Asia.

Such a declaration, if made, will be seen as an urgent call for a coordinated international response in view of fears that millions of Chinese are travelling at home and abroad for the

Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays starting from January 24.

The festival triggers biggest mass migration, clogging road, rail and air networks every year. PTI

There is no documentary evidence such as partition, memorandum of understanding or any other document showing the floor wise division between Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife). It has been gathered that Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal expired on 28.12.2012 at Gurgaon.

Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja have raised the construction over the purchased portion measuring 337 Sq. Yds of plot consisting Basement, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor with its roof right. Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja one of the purchaser having 50% right the said property has sold the entire first and second floor and executed the agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 in favour of Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal. In view of the above Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal is sole owner of entire first and second floors. In this connection it is hereby informed to all concerned that copies of agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 executed between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri and Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja are not available and misplaced somewhere. In addition to this there is no documentary evidence such as partition, memorandum of understanding or any other document showing the floor wise division between Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife). It has been gathered that Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal expired on 28.12.2012 at Gurgaon.

Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal wants to apply for conversion from leasehold to freehold under the provisions of DDA and proper linkage is required for this purpose.

Therefore it is hereby published that if any concerned person have any objection against agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 executed between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri and Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife) in writing before the Dy. Director, Co-op Societies, Delhi Development Authority, C-11, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A. New Delhi-110023 with a copy to undersigned within 30 days from the date of issue of this notice. Thereafter no objection will be entertained and conversion will be applied to DDA.

Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal, New Delhi-110027
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110027
D.N. Chaturvedi (Advocate) D/3209/2009

public concern," Chan said.

The man and four family members had taken the high-speed railway from Wuhan to Shenzhen on Tuesday before transferring to another train that brought them to Hong Kong.

He was put in isolation in hospital after tests, but Wednesday when his relatives showed no symptoms after a night at a city hotel they were allowed to leave for the Philippines. AFP

There is no documentary evidence such as partition, memorandum of understanding or any other document showing the floor wise division between Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife). It has been gathered that Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal expired on 28.12.2012 at Gurgaon.

Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja have raised the construction over the purchased portion measuring 337 Sq. Yds of plot consisting Basement, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor with its roof right. Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja one of the purchaser having 50% right the said property has sold the entire first and second floor and executed the agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 in favour of Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal. In view of the above Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal is sole owner of entire first and second floors. In this connection it is hereby informed to all concerned that copies of agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 executed between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri and Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja are not available and misplaced somewhere. In addition to this there is no documentary evidence such as partition, memorandum of understanding or any other document showing the floor wise division between Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife). It has been gathered that Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal expired on 28.12.2012 at Gurgaon.

Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal wants to apply for conversion from leasehold to freehold under the provisions of DDA and proper linkage is required for this purpose.

Therefore it is hereby published that if any concerned person have any objection against agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 executed between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri and Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife) in writing before the Dy. Director, Co-op Societies, Delhi Development Authority, C-11, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A. New Delhi-110023 with a copy to undersigned within 30 days from the date of issue of this notice. Thereafter no objection will be entertained and conversion will be applied to DDA.

Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal, New Delhi-110027
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110027
D.N. Chaturvedi (Advocate) D/3209/2009

Lanka Prez Gotabaya wants civil war disappearances probed: President's office

Colombo: Gotabaya Rajapaksa wants a probe into the disappearances of over 20,000 people in the country's brutal civil war with Tamil Tiger rebels, his office has said in a clarification after the Sri Lankan President declared the missing persons "dead" in a first-ever admission to a UN official.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the former wartime defence secretary who played a key role in ending Sri Lanka's nearly 30-year civil war with the Tamil separatist rebels, told UN Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer last week that after the necessary investigations are completed steps would be taken to issue death certificates to the missing persons.

The President's office has said Gotabaya Rajapaksa had explained to the UN official that he will have the matter investi-

gated, but added, "however I can't bring back the dead."

The President told the UN official that as a result of the census carried out by the government at the end of the conflict in 2009, it had emerged that most of the missing persons had been conscripted by the LTTE, the statement said.

"Their families attest to being witnesses of their loved ones being taken by the LTTE. However, thereafter they do not have any information as to their fate. Therefore, as far as they are concerned these people are missing," the statement quoted the Sri Lankan president as saying.

"The unfortunate truth is that these people had died during the battles. Even in the security forces there are about 4,000 personnel listed as missing. But in reality these people had

died during the fights, but their bodies had not been recovered," it said.

Rajapaksa told the UN official that after the conclusion of the necessary investigations, steps would be taken to issue death certificates and after that the families would be given the necessary support to rebuild their lives.

According to the government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts including the three-decade separatist war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east which claimed at least 100,000 lives.

The Tamils alleged that thousands were massacred during the final stages of the war that ended in 2009 when the Government forces killed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) chief Velupillai Prabhakaran. PTI

Death toll in China's coronavirus outbreak rises to 17

Beijing: The death toll from the new coronavirus outbreak in China nearly doubled to 17 with the confirmed infection cases sharply rising to 444 on Wednesday, even as the cases of the deadly pneumonia were reported from the US, Hong Kong, Macao and Mexico.

Chinese authorities have warned that the disease could spread further in the ongoing holiday season during which millions travel at home and abroad amid official advisories to people of Wuhan, the epicentre of illness, not to leave the city.

Seventeen people have died due to the virus, state-run China Daily reported on Wednesday.

The coronavirus is a large family of viruses that causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to acute respiratory syndromes, but the

virus that has killed people in China is a novel strain and not seen before.

Common symptoms of the novel coronavirus strain include respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties, according to the WHO.

The Chinese health authorities announced that 444 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) had been reported in 13 provincial-level regions in the country by the end of Tuesday.

Considering its potential to spread to different countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is holding a rare emergency meeting Geneva on Wednesday to consider declaring Wuhan virus as an international public health emergency, as it did with swine flu and Ebola.

Such a declaration, if made, will be seen as an urgent call for a coordinated international response in view of fears that millions of Chinese are travelling at home and abroad for the

Chinese New Year and Spring Festival holidays starting from January 24.

The festival triggers biggest mass migration, clogging road, rail and air networks every year. PTI

HK reports first 'preliminary positive' case of new virus

Hong Kong: Hong Kong reported its first suspected case of the new SARS-like virus Wednesday in a man who arrived in the city from Wuhan via the cross-border high-speed railway.

Health secretary Sophia Chan said the 39-year-old man was "preliminarily positive", but a final test result would only be known on Thursday.

"We decided to announce the case (early) due to heavy

public concern," Chan said.

The man and four family members had taken the high-speed railway from Wuhan to Shenzhen on Tuesday before transferring to another train that brought them to Hong Kong.

He was put in isolation in hospital after tests, but Wednesday when his relatives showed no symptoms after a night at a city hotel they were allowed to leave for the Philippines. AFP

US to impose visa restrictions for pregnant women

Washington: The Trump administration is unveiling new visa restrictions aimed at restricting "birth tourism" in the US to give birth to their children can have a coveted US passport.

The State Department plans to publicise the rules on Thursday, according to two officials with knowledge of the plans who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The rules would make it more difficult for pregnant women to travel on a tourist visa. In one draft of the regulations, they would have to clear an additional hurdle before obtaining the visa — convinc-

ing a consular officer they have another legitimate reason to come to the US.

The Trump administration has been restricting all forms of immigration, but the president has been particularly plagued by the issue of birthright citizenship — anyone born in the US is considered a citizen, under the Constitution.

He has railed against the practice and threatened to end it, but scholars and members of his administration have said it's not so easy to do.

Regulating tourist visas for pregnant women is one way to get at the issue, but it raises questions about how officers

would determine whether a woman is pregnant to begin with, and whether a woman could get turned away by border officers who suspect she may be just by looking at her.

Counsellor officers right now aren't told to ask during visa interviews whether a woman is pregnant or intends to become so. But they would have to determine whether a visa applicant would be coming to the US primarily to give birth. Birth tourism is a lucrative business in both the US and abroad.

American companies take out advertisements and charge up to \$80,000 to facilitate the practice, offering hotel rooms and medical care.

Many of the women travel from Russia and China to give birth in the US. The US has been cracking down on the practice since before Trump took office. Although there are scattered cases of authorities arresting operators of birth tourism agencies for visa fraud or tax evasion, coming to the US to give birth is fundamentally legal. AP

Told Trump war with Iran will be disastrous: Imran Khan

Davos: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said he has told US President Donald Trump that a war with Iran would have disastrous consequences.

Asked whether Trump agreed with him, Khan said the US President did not say anything but he probably understood what he meant.

"Afghanistan is yet to be resolved and Iran would be much bigger (if war starts)," Khan said.

Khan met Trump on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) summit here on Tuesday.

Tensions between the US and Iran have escalated in the wake of the killing of powerful Iranian commander General Qasem Soleimani by America



on January 3.

"If there is conflict between Iran and the Western world it will be a disaster — it will cause poverty in the world — and who knows how long it may go on. In my opinion it would be insanity," Khan said.

"I spoke to President Trump yesterday and I told him it would be a disaster," Khan said.

The Pakistan Prime Minister also said he does not understand why countries try to resolve their differences through military conflicts.

"The moment you start a military conflict, you don't know where it will finish. It has unintended consequences," he said.

After meeting Khan, Trump on Tuesday had said the US is watching the developments between India and Pakistan over Kashmir "very closely" and repeated his offer to "help" resolve the long-standing dispute between the two neighbours.

Trump told Khan, whom he referred to as "my friend", that he would speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the ongoing Kashmir issue. Trump is expected to visit India in the coming weeks, marking his first visit after assuming office.

"What's going on between Pakistan and India... if we can help, we certainly will be willing to. We have been watching it very closely and it's an honour to be here with my friend," Trump had said. PTI

3 African nations meet to draft deal on Nile dam dispute

Cairo: Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan started US-monitored talks on Wednesday in the Sudanese capital to try hammer out a draft deal to resolve their dispute over a Nile dam that Ethiopia is constructing, an Egyptian spokesman said.

The \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project on the Blue Nile, which promises to provide much-needed electricity to Ethiopia's 100 million people, has been a contentious point among the three main Nile Basin countries. The issue is critical for Cairo as Egypt seeks to protect its main source of freshwater for its large and growing population, also about 100 million.

The Blue Nile flows from Ethiopia into Sudan where it joins the White Nile near Khartoum, to form the Nile River. Eighty-five percent of Nile waters originate in Ethiopia from the Blue Nile, which is one of the Nile's two main tributaries. AP

Macron loses cool with Israeli security in 'Chirac moment'

Jerusalem: When French President Emmanuel Macron visited Jerusalem's Old City on Wednesday, he also trod in the footsteps of one of his predecessors, Jacques Chirac, by engaging in a heated argument with Israeli security.

The altercation broke out when Israeli security forces pushed past the French detail and were first to enter the Church of Saint Anne, which is French state property.

"Everybody knows the rules. I don't like what you did in front of me," an animated Macron loudly told the Israeli personnel, speaking in English, in the crush to enter the building, which remains French territory under international treaties. "Go out — outside please!" he added in a raised voice in scenes captured in video footage that quickly spread on social media. The Roman Catholic church, locat-

ed at the start of Via Dolorosa in the Old City's Muslim Quarter, has been part of France's territories in the Holy Land since the 1850s. The rules that have been in place "for centuries," Macron told the Israeli officers, "will not change with me, I can tell you, OK? So everybody, respect the rules." Macron will on Thursday attend a ceremony to commemorate the liberation 75 years ago of Nazi Germany's Auschwitz death camp in what was then occupied Poland.

Wednesday's tense scenes recalled a 1996 Jerusalem visit by late former president Chirac during which he also lost his cool with Israeli security agents who were pressing him to move on.

Chirac heatedly told them their actions were a "provocation" and angrily asked: "What do you want? Me to go back to my plane and go back to France, is that what you want?" AFP

Bolsonaro says no more media interviews

Sao Paulo: A frequent and fiery critic of Brazil's media, President Jair Bolsonaro declared Wednesday he would no longer speak to journalists.

Bolsonaro made the remarks outside his official residence in Brasilia where most mornings for the past year he has fielded questions from reporters and greeted fans. "I want to speak with you, but the national journalism association says that when I speak, I attack them," Bolsonaro told reporters.

"As I am a person of peace, I will not give more interviews."

The move comes after the National Federation of Journalists said last week Bolsonaro's presidency had "significantly affected the freedom of the press in Brazil."

It registered 208 attacks — including physical and verbal — against the media or journalists in 2019, an increase of 54 percent compared with the previous year. AFP

NOTICE

PIRAMAL ENTERPRISES LIMITED
Piramal Ananta, Agastya
Corporate Park, Opposite Fire
Brigade, Mumbai, Maharashtra

NOTICE is hereby given that the certificate for the undermentioned securities of the Company has been lost / mislaid and the holder of the said securities / applicant has/ have applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this date. If the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate without further intimation.

Name of the Holder	Radhika Soi
Kind of Securities and Face Value	Physical FV 2/-
No of Securities	10
Distinctive number	209080093-209080102
Date: 23/01/2020	Radhika Soi
Place: Delhi	

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to all concerned that plot No. 8, Street No. F-8, total measuring 606 sq. yds. in Govt. Servant Co-op. Housing Society at Vasant Vihar comprises of shares measuring 337 Sq. Yds of plot in the name of Shri Sunil Kumar Jeneja s/o Shri Kashinri Lal and agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 in favour of Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja.

The sale was not fully matured due to dispute between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri & Shri. Hira Balam w/o Shri K. K. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (both sisters and after compromise final agreement to sell was executed on 24.4.1991. In continuation of agreement to sell dated 16.8.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 in favour of Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja, a sum of Rs. 1,00,000/- was made under this agreement through cheque.

Purchaser Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja has raised the construction over the purchased portion measuring 337 Sq. Yds of plot consisting Basement, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor with its roof right. Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja one of the purchaser having 50% right the said property has sold the entire first and second floor and executed the agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 in favour of Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja.

In view of the above Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal is sole owner of entire first and second floors. In this connection it is hereby informed to all concerned that copies of agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 executed between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri and Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja are not available and misplaced somewhere. In addition to this there is no documentary evidence such as partition, memorandum of understanding or any other document showing the floor wise division between Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife). It has been gathered that Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal expired on 28.12.2012 at Gurgaon.

Shri Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal wants to apply for conversion from leasehold to freehold under the provisions of DDA and proper linkage is required for this purpose.

Therefore it is hereby published that if any concerned person have any objection against agreement to sell dated 16.08.1988 with supplementary agreement dated 12.4.1991 and 16.8.1988 executed between Shri. Prama Sastri w/o Shri D.N. Sastri and Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal and Mrs. Kusuma Jeneja s/o Shri Vijay Kumar Jeneja (husband and wife) in writing before the Dy. Director, Co-op Societies, Delhi Development Authority, C-11, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A. New Delhi-110023 with a copy to undersigned within 30 days from the date of issue of this notice. Thereafter no objection will be entertained and conversion will be applied to DDA.

Bhupendra Singh s/o Late Shri Kashinri Lal, New Delhi-110027
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110027
D.N. Chaturvedi (Advocate) D/3209/2009

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I Harinder Kaur W/o Harchand Singh R/o H-1/109, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-18 allottee/purchaser of Plot No. H-1/109, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-18 has applied for conversion of the above leasehold property to freehold under the provisions of DDA. The original documents i.e Demand cum Allotment Letter of DDA, Handing over Documents DDA, Lease Deed DDA of the above Flat have been lost. An FIR in this effect has been lodged in Police Station. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 9810073271 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) Residential, C-2, Block 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A. New Delhi-110023 or Director (RL), A-Block 1st Floor, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A. New Delhi-110023

Trend Blazer

Developing my own stories: Shweta

Actor **SHWETA TRIPATHI** started the year by signing her next project, which she will be announcing soon. She is also working on developing her own concept and stories.

"As an actor, who is constantly surrounded by stories and good writing, story ideas keep popping out every now and then. I came up with two ideas, which I closely believe in and I thought it's time to invest some energy and heart into them and see these ideas bloom into full-fledged stories," said Shweta.

"I am aware that it will be a time-consuming process but I want to put in that effort into developing these stories because I believe in them. I will actively participate in conceiving the story ideas with the help of Ashish and I am hoping by mid-2020 I am in a position to speak more about them," she added.

I can never pay back what Kangana did for me at that tender age. My parents used to faint everytime they saw my face. But she stood by my side, and after years of struggle when things got better, she buried her face in my lap and cried. I am glad she did because strongest people often forget to share their pain.

—Rangoli Chandel

Veteran actor **BHARATI ACHREKAR** feels that Indian television continues to lack good content, as a result of which the young audience is moving

towards web shows. She says, "Good content is a rare thing in television these days. Mostly stories revolve around a single character. I don't blame

anyone, even they have to survive. There are so many channels, so there is a tough competition. Also, people's taste has changed owing to western influence. You have to cater to the urban and the rural audience too, whose mindset and tastes are different."

No complaints in life: Brad

Hollywood actor **BRAD PITT** is enjoying his life and says he has no complaints.

While walking the Screen Actors Guild Awards red carpet on Sunday, the actor spoke about taking stock of his life now. "It's a beautiful day here in LA. We got it well, we got it really good," Pitt said.

He continued: "I got friends, I got lovely kids, I like my coffee, I like my dogs. I've got no complaints."

Pitt has six children with his former wife, actor Angelina Jolie.

Earlier this month, the actor won for "best supporting actor" at the National Board of Review Awards in which he said his "goals in life now are pretty simple" as he listed standard aspirations of being happy and staying healthy.



Amrita: Untitled

The Enforcement Directorate roped in Saffronart, an international auction house, to host two auctions featuring the seized assets of fugitive businessman Nirav Modi. While the first sale, a live auction, will be on February 27 in Mumbai, the second will be an online sale on March 3 and 4.

The auctions will feature 15 artworks by significant modern and contemporary Indian artists as well as a selection of luxury watches, handbags and cars.

Highlights of the auction include a 1,935 masterpiece by Amrita Sher-Gil, which has never been auctioned previously and a significant oil on canvas by MF Husain from his Mahabharata series. Both the artworks have been estimated to

A RICH HAUL

Saffronart to auction businessman Nirav Modi's seized artworks, luxury watches and handbags on behalf of the Enforcement Directorate

be priced at ₹12 crore or ₹18 crore.

The exhibition will also showcase a serene blue painting by VS Gaitonde from 1972, which is estimated to be priced at around ₹7 to 9 crore and a vivid red depiction of Krishna by Manjit Bawa (₹3 to 5 crore).

Apart from the modern artworks, important watches will also be on sale including a Jaeger LeCoultre Men's Reverso Gyrotourbillon 2 and a Gerrard

Perregaux Men's Opera One wristwatch. More than 80 branded handbags are there in the auction, out of which several are from the Birkin and Kelly lines by luxury retailer Hermes.

CEO and co-founder of the auction house, Dinesh Vazirani, said, "We are honoured to lend our services and expertise to the Enforcement Directorate. We are working with the ED to assess and evaluate each item and put together the catalogue for

both the sales, which include a distinguished line-up of artworks, too." He added that some of the brands offer the most popular luxury items internationally and have witnessed a great demand from celebrities and collectors.

This is the first time that the Enforcement Directorate has appointed a professional auction house to conduct an auction of seized assets in India. Earlier, in March 2019, the Income Tax Department had appointed the same auction house for the bidding that raised ₹54.84 crore.

Selected items from the forthcoming auctions will be exhibited at the Saffronart gallery in The Oberoi, New Delhi, during the India Art Fair later this month.

—With inputs from agencies



MF Husain: The Battle of Ganga and Jamuna Mahabharata

Making of Netaji's INA

Actors **SHARVARI WAGH** and **SUNNY KAUSHAL** say that even though their characters in *The Forgotten Army* might be fictional, the story and events that the audience will experience are real. By TEAM VIVA

I don't believe in enacting a character without knowing him or his background story," says actor Sunny Kaushal, who is set to make his debut with Amazon Prime Video's web series *The Forgotten Army*. So he studied deep. "There is always some blurred information that you have because of what you have read about history in school. But you would have never known the details of everything, including their betrayals, struggles and fights and even some part of their personal lives. We started reading and researching about everything through the 1999 documentary as well as internet and books. We collected a lot of material to educate ourselves on the topic," says he.

The series showcases the formation of Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army after British army's defeat in Singapore during World War II. It has been told through the perspective of soldiers. Playing the role of soldiers could be highly taxing and challenging for debutantes. So how difficult did they find it to master all the moves? "For a week, we learnt how to live the way Army does. We had regular training on how to handle the gun and create formations. We worked on the standing postures, learnt what angles to hold and keep the gun so that you actually look like one from the Army. Apart from that, psychologically too, there was a lot of preparation to understand what soldiers have gone through in those three years during war," says Sunny.

Director Kabir Khan brought the story out to the public for the first time through the eponymous 1999 documentary, which also became the first reference for the actors to prepare for their respec-



'The personal lives and stories of the soldiers, their war rooms and battle set-up have been created based on archival footage and images to recreate the real history'

Sharvari tells us, "The 1999 documentary really helped us get into the skin of our characters since they are based on real lives."

However, Sunny points out that even though the characters might be fictional, the story and events that the audience would experience are real. Surinder Sodhi, played by him, might not have existed in reality but has been inspired by real people. Sunny tells us, "My character is an amalgamation of Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, Shah Nawaz Khan and Prem Kumar Sahgal, the three faces who were charged in the Red Fort trial. So different elements from their stories have inspired Surinder's story."

Maya, played by actor Sharvari Wagh, is a civilian who later becomes a part of the INA. She is inspired by one of the leaders of the Rani Laxmibai Regiment, which comprised women "who fought shoulder to shoulder with men and stood till the end. They have been trained very well and how to fight with guns and all kinds of weapons. I am very glad that my first project has

been inspired by such a powerful story."

Since it's a period drama, the personal lives and stories of the soldiers, their war rooms and battle set-up have been created based on archival footage and images to recreate the real history. But why is it that there are so many films and series being made around chapters of Indian history today given the recent trend in Bollywood? "With the growth of good content, we are fortunate enough to have come in the industry at such a time when history is being valued so much," Sharvari says. Sunny goes on to add that another reason why history is making its way into mainstream cinema is because of the enhanced technology that we are equipped with today. "We are much better equipped today to create such content. What the director envisions, he can bring it alive the same way he has imagined. To recreate those times really needs a lot, including the right kind of animation, costumes and set-ups. You need a lot of means to do that. It's only now that they are able to express their creative vision. The biggest instance is of Kabir Khan himself, who has been working on this script for 20 years since his 1999 documentary."

Sharvari, who is set for her Bollywood debut with *Bunty Aur Babli 2*, talks about her take on sequels and whether they revive the essence of an old blockbuster or just take away its originality. She says, "The second part will revolve around the story which happens 10 years later. Might be their kids (laughs). It's like a time lapse. It's somewhat the same storyline and same characters but just the people and their approaches are different this time. I think that it's going to be a fun thing and something that people wouldn't have watched. So a sequel always has something to add of its own while maintaining the originality of both the versions."

(The series releases on Amazon Prime on January 24.)

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

From memories of childhood

Chanel delves into founder's orphanage days at its couture show

The set recreated the landscape house founder Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel viewed as a child after her mother died and her father sent her away to an abbey orphanage.

If such a lowly — and sad — setting seemed like an unusual choice to showcase high-priced and normally joyous couture, it was an intentional move by designer Virginie Viard to demonstrate how Chanel mixed high and low in her fashion.

Here are some highlights from the second day of Paris Fashion Week haute couture shows for spring-summer 2020.

◆ CHANEL DELVES INTO FOUNDER'S ORPHANAGE CHILDHOOD

Chanel, Viard discovered, had been profoundly inspired in all her designs by the ancient Cistercian Abbey of Auzazine, in the French region of Corrèze — with its flowers, ironwork and stained-glass artistry.

The theme made for a more haunting collection than normal — a mood emphasized by loud, spooky music and models that slowly crisscrossed the courtyard like they were in a trance.

A take on a convent school-girl uniform opened the show as a signature Chanel tweed skirt-suit. It was cut sharply, with a round ecclesiastical white collar and baggy white preppy ankle socks. Mosaic patterns in panels evoking stained glass appeared on

an equally strict jacket in pastel blue and sand. Apart from the occasional flash of colour, most of the designs came in black and white.

"What interested me in this (abbey) was the paradox between the sophistication of haute couture and the simplicity of this place," Viard said. "The strict suits of the pupils rub shoulders with structured dresses of an ethereal finesse."

Viard has less humour and a stricter aesthetic take than the flamboyant Karl Lagerfeld, her predecessor who died last year. And this more austere theme gave the French designer a platform to design more naturally with her own voice.

◆ GIVENCHY'S TIMELESSNESS

Musicians were suspended mid-air



while seated on chairs attached to stone columns for Givenchy's historic Left Bank show venue.

They played dramatic classical music to accompany spring's equally dramatic couture — an accomplished series of varied designs that made it seem as if designer Clare Waight Keller can't put a foot wrong.

The clothes spoke for themselves, without the need for cultural references, through deft plays of proportion.

A long charcoal tuxedo coat had a magnificent shape,

with a truncated full skirt billowing out unexpectedly at knee level in a clever reinterpretation of a knover silhouette.

Vividly coloured silk ruffles didn't just appear as details on gowns, but Keller used them to construct the structure and silhouette of trapeze-shaped garments that teemed like dense, oversize petals.

◆ ALEXIS MABILLE 'TEESES' HIS GUESTS

Burlesque superstar Dita Von Teese opened the show for Alexis Mabile in a black tuxedo with sensual décolleté that dripped down the leg with brooding black

sequins.

The French couturier this season used Von Teese — and her styles — as the touchstone for a collection that explored corsetry, lingerie and seductive undressing.

A white satin bustier was covered gently by a see-through lace chemise. A white floor-length gown had a bold dropped shoulder in which the segments seemed to fall off the bust, as if the model were in the process of undressing.

Mabile also used his signature bow theme to produce a gargantuan abstract neck bow whose proportions drowned the model. It was highly inventive.



◆ ARMANI LOOKS TO COLOUR, ASIA

The iconic Place Vendôme square was the enviable location for Italian design legend Giorgio Armani's latest display.

For Armani, couture is about celebrities and razzmatazz, and Tuesday was no exception as actresses Reese Witherspoon and Juliette Binoche held court.

The Asian-themed designs, though beautifully constructed, were secondary to that, sadly, and tended toward the repetitive.

Statement colour — sometimes overly bold — also defined the spring aesthetic. But the exhaustive show held no surprises.

A structured white silk tuxedo in a crossover design opened the show. The model wore a stiff black wig, a styling feature that appeared throughout the show.

The signature tuxedo led to a terracotta obi belt on hot pink loose pants and a V-neck tuxedo in imperial blue.

—AP



KIT HOLDS FOURTH FILM FESTIVAL

The 4th edition of Kalinga Global Film Festival (KGFF) was inaugurated at KIIT School of Film and Media Sciences. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Tusharkanti Behera, Minister of Sports and Youth Service, Electronics and Information Technology, Government of Odisha; Anubhav Mohanty, MP, Lok Sabha; Satyabrata Tripathy, Chairman of Odisha Film Development Corporation; Bijay Kumar Nayak, Director of Culture Department, Government of Odisha; Pankaj Saxena, professor of Screen Studies and Research, FTII, Pune; Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS and Himanshu Khatua, CEO of KIIT School of Film and Media Sciences.



While inaugurating, Behera said, "Odia cinemas have to improve more. It should maintain their uniqueness." Professor Saxena said that students of KIIT should reflect what they learn from Odisha in their films. The objective of this film festival is to encourage and ignite young minds, enrich intellectually inclined cineastes and promote aspiring film makers. "KGFF intends to organise a festival that would connect regular movie-goers, budding filmmakers and distinguished filmmakers so as to bring greater understanding of the art and craft of film making," said Khatua. KGFF presented a selection of feature films, short films and documentaries from all over Asia. There were three panel discussions on Film Society Movement, Film Appreciation and Critical Analysis and Film Education.

Rajnath honours NCC bravehearts



During his visit to NCC Republic Day Camp 2020, Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh conferred *Raksha Mantri Padak* and Commendation Cards to NCC cadets for their exemplary performance and devotion to duty. Rajnath Singh was welcomed by the Director General of National Cadet Corps, Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra, AVSM. A contingent of smartly turned out NCC cadets drawn from the three wings — Army, Navy and Air Force — presented an impressive Guard of Honour to the Defence Minister. *Raksha Mantri Padak* was instituted in 1989 and since then it is awarded to the most deserving cadet every year for bravery or exceptional service of the highest order. This year, the *Raksha Mantri Padak* was awarded to Lieutenant Raison Sam Raju of Kerala and Lakshadweep Directorate and Under Officer Rahul Sharma of

Uttar Pradesh Directorate. *Raksha Mantri* Commendation Cards have been awarded to Sr Under Officer Shavetana Sambyal of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate, Capt (Dr) Rajeev Thomas of Kerala and Lakshadweep Directorate, Sr GCI Seema Rai of Uttar Pradesh Directorate and Cadet Soumya Ghosh of West Bengal and Sikkim Directorate. Rajnath Singh also inspected the well laid out 'Flag Area', prepared by the cadets from all the 17 NCC Directorates depicting various social awareness themes. He was given a briefing by the cadets on their respective models. He also visited the 'Hall of Fame', which has an archival collection of alumni photographs, models and other achievements of the NCC. In his address, he complimented the NCC for doing exceptional work towards *Swachhata Abhiyan*.

MoU signed between FSSAI and NIOS

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have signed an MoU to create awareness in the field of food safety, hygiene and nutrition. NIOS provides education at school stage up to pre-degree level through open learning system. Besides academic

courses, NIOS provides around 100 vocational courses in different areas such as Agriculture, Business and Commerce, Engineering and Technology, Health and Paramedical, Home Science and Hospitality Management, Teacher Training, Computer and IT related sectors. FSSAI, an autonomous body estab-

lished under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety. NIOS and FSSAI by coming together in a collaboration will not only create awareness about the need and

requirement of food safety and hygiene but would also provide knowledge, skill and abilities to the learner to undertake employment (self/wage) in this key sector. The content developed by FSSAI on food safety and hygiene will also be incorporated in NIOS learning materials for home science and relevant academic and vocational programmes.



SK Sinha, Director (HR) of SPMCIL and BJ Gupta, General Manager (HR), recently received Nurturing Leadership Award 2020 for SPMCIL from SN Tripathi, Director, IIPA at DMRC Bhawan, New Delhi.

NEVER TOO YOUNG

President Dr Ram Nath Kovind awarded Parth Sarathi, a resident of Noida with Bal Shakti award along with ₹ 1 lakh, a medal and a certificate in Rashtrapati Bhawan on Wednesday. It will always be a memorable day for Parth because it is not often that you receive an award in Rashtrapati Bhawan from the President. He received this opportunity because of his consistent hardwork, optimistic behaviour and dedication towards the society. Earlier, Parth received an award for finding the lost kids through aadhar camps. During the summer vaca-



tions, he helped 12 students meet their parents. He is the founder of Raasta foundation whose theme is — Maths and Music. In this foundation, he teaches mathematics and music to the kids so that they are stress free and happy. During the Greater Noida carnival, he organised a mini concert where eight kids sang a beautiful song. Those students performed the first time on the stage and received immense praise and appreciation from the audience. Parth is only 16 years old and a student of class 11th. It is commendable to see this passion, hardwork and dedication at such a young age.

Why not follow Vedas?



What an astonishing preach exists in *Vedas* — *Anti santannajahati, Anti Santannapashyati* — which means that even though the soul of a human being is closest to god yet he can't leave or see him. Indeed, soul can never be away from god at any time. This eternal fact is also stated in *Yajurved* mantra that god is near to *yogis* because they follow *Vedas* and practise *Ashtang Yog*, which let them feel god's presence. On the contrary, god is not close to those who are sinners and against *Vedas*. He knows every pious and sinful deed of the soul and accordingly awards each person in the form of happiness or sorrows respectively. If we deeply study *Bhagwad Geeta* under the guidance of acharya of *Vedas*, we find that *Bhagwad Geeta* at every step inspires readers to follow *Vedas*. *Rigved* mantra preaches that soul cannot destroy his sorrows and can never experience pleasure until he realises the presence of god, which can only be attained by following the *Vedic*

path. *Rigved* mantra also preaches that without following the *Vedic* path no one can attain happiness. Further, *Samved* mantra points that when an aspirant listens to *Vedas* from Brahma, he can actually feel the presence of god. But nowadays, it is sad that people misled by so-called saints. Hence, there occurs a problem. We must thank god that he mercifully has enlightened all human-beings with knowledge of four *Vedas* to feel his presence and to destroy all sorrows of life. It becomes our utmost duty, which is entrusted to us by god himself that we follow the *Vedic* path. Otherwise peace cannot be maintained among public. The knowledge of *Vedas* emanates directly from god and like god it neither gets destroyed nor becomes old. It is immortal and has been preached by god to us to attain salvation. Nowadays people don't pay attention to invaluable *Vedic* knowledge. As a result, they get stressed, dishonour women, thefts increase and many such

problems arise. It is mentioned in *Ramayana* that earlier daily *Vedic* preach and *agnihotra* was performed in every house. As a result, there was no man or woman who was affected with vices like anger, greed, meanness and many others. So during those days there was no question of insulting women or disgracing their honour which is observed nowadays. Why can't *Vedic* atmosphere be everywhere now? *Manusmriti shlok* and *Bhagwad Geeta shlok* state that all karmas or rather duties emanate from *Vedas* and they emanate from god. So why don't we follow the *Vedas* to destroy corruption and sins from the society? This fact is very well clarified in *Rigved* mantra that the human-life only achieves its motto when a it attains salvation along with pious worldly pleasure. (The author, Swami Ram Swarup, is the chief editor of *Ved Ishvareeya vani*, a bi-annual magazine.)



Meenakshi Davar, Director HR of POSOCO, has been awarded with Top Rankers Excellence Awards 2020 for HR Leadership for her significant contribution in the field of HR. The award was presented at the 21st National Management Summit.

In 1969, history was written in the Punjabi film industry with the release of *Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai*. New records were created at the box office, which were never broken. People removed shoes before entering theatres. The film was an unprecedented hit across the globe. After breaking all box office records, the film went on to win the coveted "National Award"

too! Now after 50 years of its release, producers Maann Singh Deep and Kalyani Singh are going to produce a new film under the same title *Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai*. Before becoming films producers, Maann and Kalyani were famous journalists. Talking about his thought behind making this film, Maann said that at a time, when people are spreading hate in the

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

name of religion, caste, language and colour, he wanted to make a film which depicts compassion, love and true faith in god. "Whenever I can't seek solutions for my problems, I go to the Gurudwara to stay calm. I love the *shabads* recited there. Sikhism preaches love for

mankind, irrespective of religion, caste, language and colour. "When I read the writings of Guru Nanak Dev ji, I was lost in the magic of Gurbani. Every word was so pure and touching. (The only holy book that has great writings of six gurus and saints of all religions)

that I wanted to spread this message of faith and love all across," said he. He feels that the best way to spread this message was through a film because he has a deep understanding of it. "Initially, I discussed the idea with my wife Kalyani Singh

who is a writer-director and has avid knowledge of Sikhism. She loved this idea and came out with a beautiful story," said Maann. It took them a while to get to this title but they feel that Baba Nanak blessed them with it. They worked on the story till

the time they were convinced that it was perfect to plan a film. They went on to hire the best people who could execute this task. "We were not looking for the perfect team only from the commercial point of view but we also wanted the team which believed in the spiritual and

social teachings of Guru Nanak, fit perfectly to the characters of our story and join us not as professional actors or technicians but as a member of our mission," he said. The shooting lasted for 42 days in various parts of Punjab including Golden temple at Amritsar. "I hope this film will be remembered as one of the best devotional and social films," he added.

OSAKA SETS COCO CRUNCH

Defending champion will take on American prodigy in mouth-watering third round fixture

Australian Open
Live from 5:30am IST
SONY SIX & TEN 2 NETWORK

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Fifteen-year-old prodigy Coco Gauff set up an Australian Open blockbuster with defending champion Naomi Osaka on Wednesday, as a pumped-up Serena Williams took another step towards a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title.

On a day when men's seeds tumbled, Serbia's Novak Djokovic strode into the third round to be joined by Roger Federer, who dismissed Filip Krajinovic 6-1, 6-4, 6-1.

American teenager Gauff, showing a tenacity which is becoming her trademark, clawed her way back from a set down to beat the experienced Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Gauff, who screamed and pumped her fists as she completed her victory, said her "will to win" had got her through the tough second-round match at a windswept Melbourne Park.

"My parents always told me you can always come back — no matter what the score is," said Gauff, who beat seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams in round one.

Gauff also beat Williams on her Grand Slam debut last year at Wimbledon, and in another quirk, she faced Osaka in the US Open third round, going down meekly in straight sets.

Japan's 22-year old Osaka, beat China's Zheng Saisai 6-2, 6-4 but briefly lost her cool mid-match, hurling and kicking her racquet when she gave up a break in the second set.

"I was thinking that I really don't want to play a third set this time," explained Osaka, who is



Defending champion Naomi Osaka reacts during her second round match against Zheng Saisai

defending a Grand Slam title for the second time.

Former world number one Wozniacki, playing her final tournament before retiring, came from behind in both sets for a 7-5, 7-5 win over Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine.

Serena Williams shouted at the

top of her voice during a testing second set against 70th-ranked Tamara Zidasek, before seeing off break points to win 6-2, 6-3.

"She was a really good fighter — she did not just let me win," said Williams, who can equal Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 Grand Slams if she lifts the trophy.

WIND 'MASSIVE FACTOR'

Earlier, Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty raced through 6-1, 6-4 against Polona Hercog, buoying hopes of a first home winner since 1978.

"It was very different end to end, I think the wind was a massive factor particularly with the new



Serena Williams reacts after missing a shot against Tamara Zidasek

ball," she said. Djokovic also weathered the breeze — which followed heavy rain on Monday, and smog from bushfires last week — to beat Japanese wildcard Tatsuma Ito 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in 95 minutes.

"They were tough conditions, pretty windy and it was hard to know where the balls were going. My serve helped a lot to get me out of trouble," said the Serb.

Federer was barely detained by Krajinovic, the world number 41, as he moved smoothly through in 92 minutes in the night match on Rod Laver Arena.

In other results, Petra Kvitova, last year's runner-up, came through 7-5, 7-5 against Paula Badosa of Spain, and China's Zhang Shuai ousted American Caty McNally 6-2, 6-4.

Former US Open champion Marin Cilic won a five-setter against French seed Benoit Paire, and one-time semi-finalist Milos Raonic beat Chile's Christian Garin in straight sets.

Also, Tennys Sandgren took the biggest scalp when he ousted eighth seed Matteo Berrettini in five sets.

Sandgren's fellow American Tommy Paul also pulled off a five-set upset when he beat Bulgarian 18th



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Tatsuma Ito in second round match

seed Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (10/3).

And Australia's John Millman further trimmed the number of high-ranked players when he ended the campaign of Polish 31st seed Hubert Hurkacz.

But Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was handed a slice of fortune when Philipp Kohlschreiber withdrew injured.

Among eight first-round matches held over from Tuesday, after rain wiped out half of Monday's schedule, Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, also retiring this year, upset Belarusian 11th seed Aryna Sabalenka in straight sets.

Divij advances, Rohan Bopanna knocked out



Divij Sharan and his partner Artem Sitak

MELBOURNE: India's Divij Sharan and his New Zealand partner Artem Sitak progressed to the second round of the men's doubles event but Rohan Bopanna was knocked out of the Australian Open here on Wednesday.

Sharan and Sitak got the better of the Portuguese-Spanish duo of Pablo Carreno Busta and Joao Sousa 6-4, 7-5 in a thrilling one hour, 28 minutes encounter.

The pair will next face the winner of the first-round match between 10th seeds Mate Pavic-Bruno Soares and Ben Molachlan-Luke Bambridge.

Partnering Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan, Bopanna went down to USA's Bryan brothers, Bob and Mike, 1-6, 6-3, 3-6 in a hard-fought one hour, 17 minutes contest.

Meanwhile on Wednesday Sania Mirza pulled out of the mixed doubles due to a calf injury. She was supposed to partner compatriot Rohan Bopanna.

Mirza will, however, play in the women's doubles event.

Sania, who won the doubles title in Hobart International, will team up with Nadiia Kichenok of Ukraine for the Australia Open today.

The duo will face Chinese pair of Xinyun Han and Lin Zhu in their women's doubles first round clash.

"It's unfortunate that this niggling injury got aggravated in the Hobart final just as I was getting to the top of my game. It is a lot better now and I intend to give it my best shot in doubles. It's disappointing to miss out on the chance to partner Rohan in mixed," Mirza was quoted as saying by the *Times of India*.



Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli moves past Chelsea's N'golo Kante to score his side's first goal

LAST GASP DRAMA

Ten-man Arsenal hold Chelsea in torrent of late Premier League goals

AFP ■ LONDON

Ten-man Arsenal slowed Chelsea's charge for a Champions League place on Tuesday as Manchester City kept their distant pursuit of Liverpool with victory at Sheffield United on a dramatic evening of Premier League football.

Fourth-placed Chelsea twice took the lead against Arsenal, who were reduced to 10 men after former Blues defender David Luiz took out Tammy Abraham when he was through on goal.

Jorginho put Chelsea 1-0 ahead from the penalty spot in the 28th minute but Gabriel Martinelli equalised for Arsenal in the second half.

Cesar Azpilicueta put Chelsea 2-1 up with just six minutes remaining but Arsenal levelled only three minutes later through Hector Bellerin.

The 2-2 draw leaves Chelsea six points ahead of fifth-placed Manchester United having played a game extra while Arsenal are in 10th spot, seemingly out of the running for a place in the top four.

AGUERO SPARES BLUSHES

Pep Guardiola's City, with defender Aymeric Laporte back in the side, looked as though they might rue Gabriel Jesus's squandered first-half penalty but their Argentine hitman Sergio Aguero came to the rescue.

Despite the 1-0 win, second-placed City remain 13 points behind runaway leaders Liverpool, having played two games more, and their bid to defend their title appears hopeless.

City's French central defender Laporte has been out of action since suffering a knee injury at the end of August and he was a surprise inclusion at Bramall Lane.

Sheffield United goalkeeper Dean Henderson denied Jesus from the penalty spot about 10 minutes from half-time after a foul on Riyad Mahrez.

But City made amends when substitute Sergio Aguero, on for Jesus, tapped in from Kevin De Bruyne's cross in the 73rd minute.

Southampton's 2-0 victory against Crystal Palace, thanks to goals from Nathan Redmond and Stuart Armstrong, continued a remarkable turnaround for the club, who hit rock bottom ear-

Laporte surprised to be back in action

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City defender Aymeric Laporte admits he has returned from his serious knee injury earlier than he expected.

The Frenchman was a surprise inclusion in Pep Guardiola's starting line-up against Sheffield United, having not been involved with the first team for almost five months.

He required surgery after suffering a knee injury during City's home win against Brighton on August 31.

Laporte's comeback in the 1-0 win for City at Bramall Lane lasted 78 minutes and he is now looking forward to the rest of the season.

"Normally it would have been later but I spoke with the manager and tried today (Tuesday) and he told me I would play so I

am very happy to be back as soon as possible and have minutes and help the team," said Laporte.

"It was very important for me to try to be with the team, to be involved. It was



a good test of fitness. The game was difficult because they are very strong, a good team."

"It was difficult for me (being out), my team-mates see me suffering," he added.

"But now I can help the team out and give my best."

City have had problems at the back in Laporte's absence and his return helped City record their first clean sheet in any competition since December 29.

After the match, Guardiola admitted his team had missed the 25-year-old and described him as the best left-sided central defender in the world.

Laporte said: "It's great to hear that from this manager as he is one of the best in the world, if not the best. I am very happy to hear that but I have to work to stay there and keep going."



Alvaro Odriozola poses with Bayern crest

Odriozola moves Bayern on loan

MUNICH: Bayern Munich have signed Real Madrid right-back Alvaro Odriozola on loan until the end of the season, the two clubs confirmed on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Spain international will bolster Bayern's defence, which has been left short on cover with centre-backs Niklas Sule and Lucas Hernandez sidelined by knee injuries.

"We decided to comply with the request of our head coach Hansi Flick for reinforcements in defence and together we decided on Alvaro Odriozola," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in a statement.

"We were very happy about his signing and would like to thank those in charge at Real Madrid for their very friendly and cooperative discussions."

The move helps both parties as Odriozola, who was signed from Real Sociedad for 35 million euros (\$39 million) in 2018, has struggled for game time in Madrid, where Dani Carvajal is preferred in the right-back role. AFP



Lyon down Lille on penalties

LYON: Lyon beat Lille on penalties after a dramatic 2-2 draw at the Groupama Stadium on Tuesday to reach their sixth French League Cup final, setting up a possible clash with record eighth-time winners Paris Saint-Germain.

Renato Sanches dragged what proved to be the last penalty of the shootout wide to send Lyon through. This is the final season of the League Cup after the French league voted to suspend the competition from next term to ease fixture congestion.

Lyon will bid to lift the trophy for the second time when they take on the winner of second semi-final between Reims and PSG on April 4 at the Stade de France.

Portugal midfielder Sanches gave visitors Lille a 13th-minute lead with a low left-footed strike from outside the area to score his second goal for the club since joining from Bayern last August.

But the hosts were gifted a way

India's campaign ends in Thailand

BANGKOK: Top Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal suffered a second consecutive opening round defeat as she went down to Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt to bring curtains on the country's campaign in the Thailand Masters tournament here on Wednesday.

The fifth seeded Saina lost to unseeded Kjaersfeldt 13-21, 21-17, 15-21 in a hard fought 47-minute contest. World number 18 Saina had a 4-0 head-to-head record against the number 29 Dane before Wednesday's match.

With Saina's defeat, India's campaign came to an end in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

In the men's singles, the trio of Kidambi Srikanth, Sameer Verma and H S Prannoy, too, faltered in the first round.

Verma lost to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 16-21, 15-21 in a 39-minute men's singles match. The story went on similar lines for the fifth seeded



Srikanth, who went down to Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia 21-12, 14-21, 12-21, in a match that lasted 48 minutes.

This was Srikanth's third consecutive first-round exit this season.

It was curtains for Prannoy too. He lost 17-21, 22-20, 19-21 to Malaysia's Liew Daren. PTI

'Strong chance' Cavani will join Atletico



Edinson Cavani celebrates after scoring for PSG

PARIS: Edinson Cavani wants to join Atletico Madrid and is being treated "unfairly" by PSG, the Uruguayan striker's father said on Wednesday. Cavani, 32, has fallen out of favour at PSG, where he is competing with Kylian Mbappe, Neymar, Mauro Icardi and Angel di Maria for starting spots in attack.

A number of clubs are reportedly keen on signing Cavani, who has scored a club-record 198 goals for PSG and whose contract expires in the summer. Atletico appear to be the 32-year-old's preferred choice but the La Liga outfit and PSG are yet to agree a fee.

"I would like him to play there, (Atletico coach Diego) Simeone wants him now," Cavani's father Luis told Spanish programme *El Chiringuito*.

"I think there is a strong chance he will go to Atletico. There is also the option to join the club in June. There are lots of other clubs interested but when you give your word to a team, you respect it.

"If he is allowed to leave tomorrow and Atletico still want him, I think he will sign. He is a player who needs time to play. PSG are treating him unfairly." AFP

LIGHTNING QUICK

Rana's unbeaten 68-ball 105 helps Delhi beat Vidarbha by 6 wickets in 347 run chase

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nitish Rana played the "best knock" of his first-class career as Delhi shocked defending champions Vidarbha by six wickets in an incredible final day run chase in the Ranji Trophy here on Wednesday.

With this memorable run chase on day four, Delhi handed Vidarbha their first outright defeat in a first class game after three years.

Chasing 347, Rana, who has made a name with his big-hitting exploits in the IPL, smashed an unbeaten 105 off only 68 balls as Delhi reached the target in 73 overs, leaving Vidarbha gutted.

Delhi now have 16 points and stay in hunt for a quarterfinal berth while Vidarbha stay put on 17 points.

The chase was set up by openers Kunal Chandel (75 off 146) and Hiten Dalal (82 off 146) with a steady stand of 163 in under 49 overs.

The left-handed Rana then took charge and sent the Vidarbha bowlers including fancied Umesh Yadav (0/85 in 19 overs) on a leather hunt with eight fours and seven sixes.

"I had promised our coach (KP) Bhaskar sir that if its 75 overs and around 320 runs, we will win. This is the best first class knock that I have played. I haven't forgotten the 2017 final in Indore, which Vidarbha won without playing outstanding cricket.

"I knew I can hit their spinners out of the ground," Rana told reporters having ripped opposition off-spinner Akshay Wakhare (64 off 9 overs) with slow sweeps, cuts and drives.

Vidarbha coach Chandrakant Pandit took a gamble with a sporting declaration but it backfired as a side with its back to the wall produced the best performance of the season.

Openers Kunal and Hiten played confidently without taking pressure on an eased out track.

Once Rana came in, Vidarbha sensing danger, deployed a negative field '7-2' (seven on the off side) field.

Their pacers Rajneesh



Sarfraz Khan celebrates after completing his maiden triple hundred during Ranji Trophy game against Uttar Pradesh at Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday

Gurbani (0/64 in 12 overs) started bowling on an imaginary seventh off stump line.

The umpires started calling no ball and then Delhi started

attacking as they were forced to change the line.

"I knew they would bowl negative line but what I didn't like was time wasting tactic. Once



Maharashtra players pose after win against Assam during Ranji Trophy game

HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASES IN RANJI

Score	Team	Opponent	Venue	Season
372-4	Saurashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	2018-19
371-4	Assam	Services	Delhi	2008-09
360-4	Rajasthan	Vidarbha	Jaipur	1989-90
357-5	Rajasthan	Services	Jaipur	2018-19
348-4	Delhi	Vidarbha	Delhi	2019-20
344-4	Punjab	Bengal	Ludhiana	1992-93

FAISEL FEATURES

they started bowling within the stumps, I knew I will blast them if it's in my arc," said KKR's dependable middle-order batsman.

"This is my natural game and I don't like advise if people come and tell me to change my mind-set. I only welcome advise when I need them," he said.

MAIDEN TRIPLE HUNDRED
MUMBAI: Staying true to his words, young Sarfraz Khan stuck his maiden triple hundred to single-handedly give Mumbai the crucial first-innings lead and grab three points on the last day of their Elite Group B match against Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh had posted a humongous 625/8 declared in

their first-essay courtesy wicket-keeper Upendra Yadav's unbeaten maiden double-ton.

But Sarfraz's (301 not out off 391 balls; 30x4; 8x6) herculean task overshadowed Yadav's double-ton on a flat track, which had absolutely nothing for the bowlers even on the final day.

Right-handed Sarfraz was the cynosure of all eyes at the Wankhede Stadium, as he batted for as long as 633 minutes and hammered 30 fours and eight sixes.

What is more special about his knock is that the pint-sized batsman was suffering from fever two nights ago, but he came out

to bat and did the job for his team.

Sarfraz, who had played for Uttar Pradesh and returned to Mumbai, had all shots in the book.

But more importantly, contrary to his style, he showed restraint and respected the good balls.

Sarfraz, in the process, became the seventh Mumbai batsman to score a triple ton in first-class cricket and joined the illustrious list comprising Wasim Jaffer (301 and 314 not out), Rohit Sharma (309 not out), Ajit Wadekar (323), Sunil Gavaskar (340), Vijay Merchant (359 not out) and Sanjay Manjrekar (377).

The hosts resumed the final day on overnight score of 353/5 needing 273 more runs to overhaul Uttar Pradesh's first innings total, with 22-year-old Sarfraz unbeaten on 132 in company of his skipper Aditya Tare, who was unbeaten on 9.

Sarfraz first got able support from Tare (97 off 144 balls, 14x4) and then Shams Mulani (65 off 82 balls; 5x3; 1x6), as they took the game away from Uttar Pradesh.

While Sarfraz and Tare added 179 runs for the sixth wicket, he and Mulani added 150 runs for the seventh wicket and it was their partnership that ensured Mumbai crossed Uttar Pradesh's first-innings total.

Sarfraz, who had completed his individual 250, took a single, as Mumbai surpassed Uttar Pradesh's mammoth total and celebrated like the team had won the match.

Then Mumbai allowed Sarfraz to complete a well-deserved 300.

He completed his triple ton with a six over wide long on, after which the match was called off.



Sanju Samson in a file picture

Shaw, Samson celebrate senior team call up

PTI ■ LINCOLN

The in-form Prithvi Shaw flourished yet again as India A notched up a convincing five-wicket victory over New Zealand A in the first unofficial ODI here on Wednesday.

A day after being picked as the injured Shikhar Dhawan's replacement in India's ODI squad for the assignment against New Zealand's senior team, the 20-year-old Shaw smashed 48 off 35 balls to lay the foundation for the visiting team's chase.

Wicketkeeper Sanju Samson, who replaced Dhawan in India's T20 squad, blazed away to a 21-ball 39, while Suryakumar Yadav hammered 35 off a mere 19 deliveries.

Chasing 231 after opting to field, India completed the task with more than 20 overs to spare at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval.

With the ball, Mohammed Siraj was the most successful bowler for 33 runs in 6.3 overs, while there were two wickets apiece for Khaleel Ahmed and Axar Patel.

Their efforts helped India A bowl out New Zealand A for 230 with nine balls to spare in the 50-over match.

Quite a few home team players got off the blocks easily but could not go on to make substantial contributions. Rachin Ravindra top-scored with 49 off 58 balls and skipper Tom Bruce made 47 off 55.

India A got their chase off to a brisk start with Shaw and his opening partner Mayank Agarwal (29) picking the gaps at will.

The visitors had raced to 79 in 9.1 overs when Shaw fell to James Neesham. The 20-year-old Shaw, who came into the match after a 100-ball 150 in a practice game, hit five fours and three sixes.

Captain Shubman Gill (30) got out after getting his eye in and after that, Samson showed his prowess, smoking two maximums and three boundaries.

Mumbai player Suryakumar, who can also use the big handle to good effect, struck three fours and two sixes to take his team close to victory.

Vijay Shankar (20) and Krunal Pandya (13) then got the job done as India A took lead in the three-match series.

Tri-series before WC will help in team composition: Smriti

MUMBAI: Playing in a tri-nation tournament before the Women's World T20 will help in strategising and team composition, senior India player Smriti Mandhana said on Wednesday.

The marquee event will start in Australia next month but before that, the country is hosting India and England in a tri-series. "Most of them have played in Australia, I think India A touring Australia last month is also going to be a big help (as) four-



Smriti Mandhana in a file picture

five players were part of that team as well," Mandhana told reporters.

She added, "The tri-series is going to be a really important tournament, thinking about the team composition or what is needed or what target we need to aim at on Australian wickets."

The left-handed batswoman said the tri-series matches could tell them a lot about what will be a safe target during the World Cup. "How can our bowlers plan better, all those things we are

going to understand once we land in Australia and play the tri-series.

"Specially the targets, tri-series will define the targets, like what the scoreline will be for the World Cup.

"England, Australia and India is always going (to be challenging). We are going to aim at good targets so I think that (tri-series) is an important tournament leading up to the World Cup," the 23-year-old said.

According to Mandhana, the team has been thinking about the WorldT20 for the past one year.

"Last one year, whatever we were doing during the matches, we were thinking about the World Cup, so finally we are leaving for the World Cup, it is quite exciting.

"I'm looking forward to playing this World Cup with this team as it is a new team with a mixture of experienced and new players," she said.

Jemi working on increasing bat speed to hit big shots



DUBAI (PTI): To make up for "lack of strength", India opener Jemimah Rodrigues is working on increasing her bat speed, which, she hopes, will aid in hitting big shots in the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup.

The lively 19-year-old is also striving to hone her backfoot skills ahead of the marquee event, starting in Australia next month.

"I'm working more on my back foot, developing my back foot more and trying to increase my bat speed. Because looking at my size, you can

make out I don't have that much strength to hit the sixes... But I've been working on that for quite some time," said Jemimah in a *Road To The T20 World Cup* podcast.

Since making her international debut in 2018, she has consistently put in commendable performances to established herself as a key member of the team.

India take on defending champions Australia in the opening game of the tournament in Sydney on February 21, and the youngster believes her side will have to be mentally strong against the hosts.

"I think when it comes to Australia, you got to be the best or you can't play. That's the kind of team they are. My favourite team to play against is also Australia. It's more of a mind game than just skills (when you play them on the field)," Jemimah said.

Jemimah, who will be playing her first World Cup, is looking forward to play in the final of the tournament, which will mark an important milestone in her life.

"I can't put it in words, how important it will be for me to be a part of the Indian team that plays in a World Cup final. It's quite exciting. I'm really looking forward to it," she said.

Southee 'looking forward' to India series

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

New Zealand's veteran seamer Tim Southee is "looking forward" to the India challenge, leaving behind the disappointment of being dropped for the final Test of Australia series earlier this month.

"It's about making that adjustment. What's gone is gone and it was very disappointing, the guys would have learnt

from it, and now we've got to look forward to the Indian series," Southee was quoted as saying by *stuff.co.nz*.

Then, coach Gary Stead had said it was felt Henry would offer more pace than Southee.

But the 31-year-old is expected to lead the New Zealand attack when the five-match Twenty20 series against India starts at Eden Park on Friday.

He admitted he was disappointed not to have played in Sydney but said he has moved on.

"It's disappointing. You're gutted every time you're left out. It's an absolute dream to play for NZ and every time you do miss out it hurts, but you've got to respect the decisions and try to help out and give back to the team, even when you're not playing."



Angelo Mathews celebrates after double hundred

Mathews 200* hurt Zimbabwe

AFP ■ HARARE

Angelo Mathews struck his highest Test score with an unbeaten double century on Wednesday as Sri Lanka left Zimbabwe battling to save the series opener going into the final day at Harare.

Former skipper Mathews eclipsed his previous Test best of 160 and finished 200 not out after a marathon knock spanning 468 balls, as Sri Lanka declared their first innings on 515 for nine.

Zimbabwe, playing their first Test since November 2018, ended the fourth day on 30 without loss and trailing by 127 runs after Brian Mudzinganyama was drafted in as a concussion substitute for opener Kevin Kasuza.

Debutant Kasuza, who made 63 in the first innings, suffered a delayed concussion after he took a blow to the helmet while fielding at short leg on Tuesday.

Mudzinganyama became the fourth Zimbabwean to make his Test debut in this match. He was unbeaten on 14 with Prince Masvaure 15 not out at stumps.

The 32-year-old Mathews brought up his 10th Test century, his first since December 2018, in the morning session and steadily added to his total with considerable support from Dhananjaya de Silva and Niroshan Dickwella.

De Silva and Dickwella both scored 63 but two quick wickets for Sikandar Raza, who finished with three for 62, hastened the declaration as Mathews reached 200 with a sweep to the square leg boundary.

With one day remaining, the visitors appear the only team capable of victory although the pitch looks likely to have the final say.

SINGLES

TOP FIELD FOR B'URU ATP CHALLENGER

BENGALURU: The third edition of the Bengaluru Open from February 10 to 16 will see one of the best fields in the ATP Challenger Tour event with four players from the top-100 world rankings taking part in it. Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis, ranked 69th in the ATP rankings, followed by 74th ranked Stefano Travaglia will lead the top field. Japanese journeyman Yuichi Sugita (91) and Australian James Duckworth (94) are the other players in the top-100 who will be vying for honours in the biggest ATP Challenge Tour event in Asia which offers a total prize purse of \$ 162,000. Defending champion Prajesh Gunneswaran, currently the highest ranked Indian at 123, will lead the home challenge in company of 2017 winner Sumit Nagal (131).

NIKHAT, SHIVA ENTER STRANDJA QUARTERS

NEW DELHI: Four-time Asiad medalist Shiva Thapa (63kg) and defending champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) on Wednesday sailed into the quarterfinals of the Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament with resounding victories in their second-round bouts in Sofia. Also making the quarters was national medalist Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) after a comprehensive 5-0 triumph over Ireland's Kieran Molloy. Zareen was declared the winner after local favourite Saida Asenova forfeited during the opening round of the contest. Former world Bronze-medallist Thapa defeated Poland's Pavel Polakovic 5-0 in his last 16 stage clash.

MEXICAN STRIKER HERNANDEZ JOINS GALAXY

LOS ANGELES: Javier Hernandez completed his long-awaited transfer to the Los Angeles Galaxy on Tuesday, saying the lure of playing regular football had prompted his move to Major League Soccer. The Mexican international striker, who will reportedly become the highest paid player in MLS, with *Sports Illustrated* saying he will earn \$6 million (5.41 million euros) a year, joins the Galaxy after a frustrating spell at Spanish side Sevilla. The Mexican star heads to the MLS after a successful career in European club football which included stints with Manchester United, Real Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen and West Ham, as well as Sevilla. Hernandez has scored more than 200 goals for club and country throughout his career.

AUSTRALIA TO HOST INDOOR CRICKET WC

MELBOURNE: Australia is set to host the 11th edition of the Indoor Cricket World Cup from October 10 to 17. The tournament will be held at the state-of-the-art indoor cricket venues in Melbourne — Casey Stadium & CitiPower Centre. Last held in 2017, Australia are the reigning men's and women's champions and the host will be seeking to continue the run of never losing a World Cup in either division in the 25-year history of the tournament. Cricketers from up to 10 countries will compete in the tournament in four divisions: under-21 men and women and open men and women.

GIBSON IS B'DESH NEW PACE BOWLING COACH

DHAKA: Bangladesh have appointed Otis Gibson as their new pace bowling coach, replacing South African Charl Langeveldt who resigned in December. The 50-year old former West Indies fast bowler signed a two-year agreement. Gibson, who has enjoyed two successful stints as bowling coach with England and has served as head coach of the West Indies and South Africa, will join the squad for the Pakistan tour which begins in Lahore on Friday.

IRAN TEAMS AFC CL MATCHES MOVED TO UAE

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Iranian football clubs' AFC Champions League preliminary round matches have been moved to a neutral country because of security fears. The Asian Football Confederation said the ties — Shahrood FC of Iran v Riffa of Bahrain and Iran's Esteghlal FC v Kuwait SC will now be played in the United Arab Emirates on Jan 25. Both the matches were scheduled to be played in Iran on Tuesday but were postponed and "moved to neutral venues because of ongoing security concerns and the decision of several governments to issue travel warnings to the Islamic Republic of Iran," said an AFC statement.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

ORGANIZES

First

Sukumar Sen

Memorial Lecture

Shri Pranab Mukherjee

Hon'ble Former President of India

has kindly consented to deliver the inaugural lecture on

23rd January 2020 at 1800 hrs.

Venue :

Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra
Chankyapuri, New Delhi

Sukumar Sen
First Chief Election Commissioner of India (1950-58)

dshp 32.1011.3/0066/1920

*Entry by invitation card only