

OPINION 8 A NEVER-ENDING CRISIS

WORLD 11 'PAK HAS LIMITED OPTIONS TO RESPOND ON KASHMIR'

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BRAD: NO COMPLAINTS IN LIFE 14 VIVACITY

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.

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 reli-

gion. 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.

Govt wants 7 days deadline for execution

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

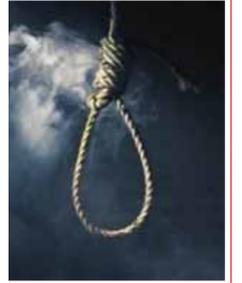
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Akhilesh, Maya take up Shah gauntlet

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a new twist to the ongoing fracas over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supremo 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 "sarvjanik 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

Women, kids pushed forward to protest against CAA: Yogi

Kanpur (PTI): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday targeted the women-led protests against the amended Citizenship Act, alleging that while the men are sleeping under the quilt at the comfort of their homes, they have pushed their women and children forward to stage sit-ins.

Addressing a rally in support of the CAA in Saket Nagar here, Adityanath said, "Now these people (anti-CAA protesters) do not have courage to participate in the protests themselves. They know that if they indulge in vandalism, their property will be seized."



Anti-CAA protests led by women have been reported from different parts of the country with the one at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh occupying the centre stage. "Now what have they done? They started making the women of their houses sit at roads. The children have been made to sit also. It's such a big crime that the men are sleeping under the quilt, while the women folks have been pushed forward and made to sit at various roads. It

is shameful," alleged the chief minister, who had earlier warned protesters indulging in vandalism in his state that their properties would be seized and auctioned to compensate for the damages.

On Wednesday, he also slammed the Congress, the Samajwadi Party and Left parties accusing them of doing politics at the cost of the nation.

"The tactic of pushing the women forward is being resorted to. Those who do not know what the CAA is are staging sit-ins," he alleged. "If you go and ask anyone as to why are they

Rajini's house now fortress after threat

Dravidar Kazhagam 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 Dravida Kazhagam 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 Kazhagam, founded by EV Ramasamy Naicker, had taken out a procession in 1971 holding placards with nude



Dravidar Viduthalaiv 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 footweers.

This was a rally against the superstition prevailing among the Hindus and Ramasamy Naicker was a known Hindu baiter. Leaders of the Dravida Kazhagam 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.

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.

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.

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



Vadra former Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu and actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha are among the star campaigners.

The decision to include Sidhu and Sinha's name in the list of star campaigners is taken considering large number of Punjabi and Purvanchali voters in the national Capital, a

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 Bon 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.

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



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

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

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, Shoab Iqbal, Abdul Rehman, Sanjay Bhagat, Rekha Rani, and Somnath Bharti.

Continued on Page 4

3,500 acres land acquired for defence corridor: Min

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh government has acquired nearly 3,500 acres of land for its flagship defence manufacturing corridor project that is estimated to attract public and private sector investments to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore.

"While we have already acquired 3,500 acres land near Jhansi for the proposed defence manufacturing corridor, similar steps are in the pipeline at other places," UP's Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana said on Wednesday.

In the recent past, the Yogi Adityanath government has speeded up the process for acquiring land for the defence corridor as UP will be hosting the 11th National Defence Expo in Lucknow

between February 5 and 8 this year.

Top defence manufacturers from the USA, Russia, Australia, Israel, Germany and other countries are expected to participate in the event, which is being organised in the state capital on the initiative of Defence Minister and local MP Rajnath Singh.

During his recent visit to Lucknow, Singh had said that this edition of Defence Expo would be the largest in terms of exhibition area and number of national and international participants, apart from the value of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) expected to be signed.

On February 15, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation of the Defence Corridor in Jhansi

district and announced the setting up of Defence Corridor at the inauguration ceremony of UP Investors' Summit in Lucknow on 21 February, 2018.

The defence manufacturing corridor is expected to create about 2,50,000 new job opportunities.

India is the world's largest military hardware importer and among top military spenders.

For meeting modernisation needs of the Armed forces, India will acquire equipment worth US \$250 billion by 2027.

However, the current delivery capacity of domestic defence sector is merely US \$75-80 billion annually, indicating huge potential for indigenous industry.

On November 27, 2019, a

five-member delegation led by Director of the UK-based Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) in the Department for International Trade (DIT), Mark Goldsack, had visited Lucknow and evinced interest to invest in UP Defence Corridor, which spans six nodes at Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow and Chitrakoot.

Meanwhile, Mahana inaugurated Manthan, a two-day brainstorming and leadership development programme for UP's top bureaucrats, being held in association with Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow.

The minister noted that in view of the state targeting to become a 1-trillion dollar economy by 2024, it was imperative for UP to spur industrial development.

BSF jawan shot dead in Meerut

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was shot dead in mysterious circumstances in Meerut while a middle-aged man was battered to death by a kin over a land-related dispute in Bhadoli.

In Meerut, BSF jawan Sanjeev of Durvshpur area of Parikshitgarh (Meerut) had come to his native village for a week from his place of posting in Tripura last Monday.

On Tuesday evening, he along with his second wife Geetanjali went to his kin's house in Narangpur. While returning, they stopped in the fields outside their village to pluck fresh gram leaves (chancey ke saag). However, an unknown youth approached them and had a tiff with Sanjeev over plucking of saag.

Geetanjali told the police that during the argument, the youth whipped out a country-made pistol and fired at Sanjeev, killing him on the spot.

The villagers later rushed

Sanjeev to a hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Sanjeev's family members suspected foul play in the narrative of Geetanjali. They told the police that Sanjeev's first wife died a few years back and last year he had married Geetanjali.

The police sent the body for autopsy, registered a case and were verifying facts as put forward by Geetanjali.

Meanwhile in Bhadoli, Mahaveer Prajapati (50) was beaten to death by his nephews over a land dispute in Lalpur village on Wednesday.

The assailants, Shankar and Shiv Shankar, used hockey sticks to carry out the attack.

The body of the victim was sent for autopsy.

A case was registered and a search was on to nab the assailants.

Meanwhile, in a sensational incident in Sitapur, a 32-year-old woman was injured after her neighbours threw acid on her after an argument, on

Wednesday. Anita, who suffered minor injuries, was sent home after medical aid at the district hospital. A case was registered against four people, who are absconding.

NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI
An Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Human Resource Development Department of School Education & Literacy Govt. of India Regional Office, 3rd Floor, Lekhraj Panna, Sector 2 Vikas Nagar, Lucknow-226022. e-mail: I.D.: dcr.nvs@gov.in
EXTENSION OF DATE FOR AUCTION OF OFFICE VEHICLE, CONDEMNED COMPUTERS AND ITS PERIPHERALS, OFFICE FURNITURE ETC.
In reference to Advertisement Dated: 11.01.2020, it is to inform to all that the date for aforesaid auction is extended upto 04.02.2020 for obtaining the details of articles/materials from the Office of the undersigned address given above on all working days and after inspection of the articles, they may submit their rates in sealed envelope by 01.00 p.m. of 05.02.2020(extended date) in the office of undersigned.
ASSTT. COMMISSIONER(ADMN.)

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.
(एनए प्रोड्यूसर्स एसोसिएशन) CMC : U15209UP19765G004285
कारपोरेशन मद्रासकड, जौन-3, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010
ई-मेल : gm3upproj@rediffmail.com, gm_3upproj@rediffmail.com, 09454419131
पत्रांक: 133 पीओएल/महाबन/जौन-3/लखनऊ/उ-प्रदेश दिनांक: 22.01.2020
अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
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एसो सचिव

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Auction Notice No. 17/2019-20
E-Auction Program for the Month of February -2020
All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

E-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
5, 12, 19 & 24 February 2020	Dy. CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur	0551-2283558
6, 13, 20 & 27 February 2020	Dy. CMM/GSD/Izzatnagar	0581-2547173
7, 14, 21 & 28 February 2020	Sr. DMM/Lucknow	0522-2233113
6, 13, 20 & 27 February 2020	Sr. DMM/Varanasi	0542-2224819
4, 11, 18 & 25 February 2020	Sr. DMM/Izzatnagar	0581-2547327

Type of material: Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, condemned Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc. In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction February be continued on the subsequent days also. Details of Auction catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at www.reps.gov.in. This auction program is also available on North Eastern Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in
CPRO/S-55 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955
Do Not smoke Bid/Cigarette in train



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav along with party leaders pay homage to Janeshwar Mishra at Janeshwar Mishra Park in Lucknow on Wednesday. Pioneer

Priyanka returns fire to Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ignoring Bahujan Samaj Party Chief Mayawati's barbs against her for not visiting Kota in Rajasthan after the death of over 100 infants a fortnight back, Congress general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra returned the fire to the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

"Union Home Minister is challenging a leader for debate on CAA who had not even stepped out of her house for election campaign to fight for her party," tweeted Priyanka without naming Mayawati.

The Congress leader also replied to Mayawati over her (Vadra's) silence on the deaths of infants in Rajasthan.

"The challenge was given to a party leader who raises issues of other states and took least interest towards problems in her own," she tweeted, indirectly targeting Mayawati for showing concern over deaths in Rajasthan but being silent over lawlessness, rising prices, unemployment, problems of farmers etc in Uttar Pradesh.

Interestingly, minutes before Priyanka's tweet, the BSP chief, through a tweet, accepted the challenge of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for a public debate over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Shah had thrown the chal-



enge to leaders of all parties, including the BSP, for a debate on the CAA on any public platform while addressing a pro-CAA rally in Lucknow.

Last month, Mayawati had flayed Priyanka for her double standards, saying that while Congress leaders were visiting families of CAA protesters in UP, they were not visiting Kota where over 110 infants died in a short time.

Mayawati also said that the top leader (Priyanka), who was in Rajasthan to attend a function, could have taken some time out to go and meet the family members of Kota

victims.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi arrived in her parliamentary constituency Rae Bareilly for a two-day visit to participate in the ongoing training camp of Congress workers led by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Sonia and Priyanka arrived at Fursatganj airport on Wednesday afternoon and drove straight to Unchahar to meet the family of former MLA Ajay Pal, whose son died recently.

After expressing condolences to the family, their motorcade headed to Bhueymau guest house where the training camp is currently underway. Congress district and city unit chiefs of east UP are undergoing training at the camp.

Wednesday was the third day of the training camp and beside district and city chiefs, office-bearers of newly formed UP Congress Committee also participated in the camp.

The camp was also attended by UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar 'Lallu', Congress Legislative Party leaders in state Assembly and Council, Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' and Deepak Singh respectively, veteran leader Pramod Tewari and others.

The camp will conclude on Thursday after which both Sonia and Priyanka will return to New Delhi.

Govt may announce Ram temple trust by January-end

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the announcement of a sky-high Ram temple at Ayodhya in the next three months by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Lucknow on Tuesday, the shape of Ram temple trust is likely to be announced by January-end.

The Supreme Court, while

giving its verdict in favour of Ram temple on November 9, 2019, had asked the Central government to set up a trust in three months for the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya and the deadline is ending on February 9.

Sources in Vishwa Hindu Parishad said the Union Home Ministry had finalised the pro-

cedure of the trust for Ram temple and an announcement would be made within this month.

Though it was not disclosed who would be the members of the trust, sources said that a couple of senior saints involved in the Ram temple movement could be accommodated in it.

The sources said that the VHP favoured Ram Jambhoomi Nyas chairman Mahant Nriya Gopal Das as chairman of the proposed trust which would have 11 members.

Those likely to be included in the trust include several senior saints, besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union

Home Minister Amit Shah, UP Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with the district magistrate of Ayodhya.

Sadhus and saints have already announced that the foundation stone of Ram temple would be laid during the coming Ram Navami festival in April.

कालेज ऑफ टैवर एजुकेशन (सी.टी.ई.) लखनऊ
पत्रांक-सी.टी.ई./459/2019-20 दिनांक-20.01.2020
निविदा/विज्ञापित
अनुभव प्राप्त पंजीकृत उद्योगों से संवर्धन में विभिन्न मरम्मत कार्य हेतु निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जो दिनांक 07.02.2020 को समिति द्वारा खोली जाएगी। निविदा फार्म/कार्य विवरण/नियम व शर्तें सम्बन्धित किन्हीं भी कार्य दिवस में कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा/प्रतिस्पर्धा किन्हीं भी विवरण की स्थिति में बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अचोहस्ताहरी को होगा। (प्रभाती कर्मा) प्रबन्धक कालेज ऑफ टैवर एजुकेशन (सी.टी.ई.) लखनऊ

LSWA criticises new excise policy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Liquor Sellers' Welfare Association (UP) criticised the new excise policy (2020-21), saying that it would adversely affect their business across the state.

LSWA leader Kanhaiya Lal Maurya said that the new policy did not address their demand to increase time of sale of liquor.

"We had made representation on a number of occasions in the past to put forward our demand to increase the sale timing. Senior officials and the excise minister had promised to do so but it has not been done," he said.

Maurya also criticised the government policy to not allot more than two shops to a businessman. "Earlier, there was such provision at the district level and it was feasible. This way the government has limited the prospect of those interested in liquor business," he said.

Maurya said the government had increased excise duty

by 4 per cent in the sale of desi liquor and thereby slashed the profit of the licencees to another low.

Maurya said that the new policy would force a licencee to take stock for IMFL and beer, failing which he would face cancellation of allotment and penalty for failing to meet the quota.

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FORM No. - 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
SUMMONS FOR FILLING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 1433/2019 Date: 15.01.2020
(Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1433/2019
BANK OF INDIA VERSUS ...APPLICANT
SHRI ANKUR SRIVASTAVA & OTHER ...DEFENDANTS
1. Shri Ankur Srivastava (Borrower) S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava. R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
2. Smt. Shikha Srivastava (Co-Borrower) W/o Shri Ankur Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
3. Shri Ashish Kumar Srivastava (Guarantor) S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
4. Shri Adarsh Srivastava (Guarantor) S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 13.04.2020 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
REGISTRAR Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES, ALLAHABAD-211001
E-Tender Notice No. : LKRE-SIG281-BFA-35R Date: 20.01.2020
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, Railway Electrification, Lucknow for & on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open E-tenders on the prescribed form for the under-noted works:

Tender No	Work
1	LKRE-SIG281-BFA-35R
2	Name of work with its location *RE Modification work of 17(2-3 lines), 01 (5 line) PI stations and 03 LC gates of Akbarpur(Ex)-Faizabad-Barabanki(Ex) single line section of Lucknow division of Northern Railway*
3	Completion period. 06 months from the date of issue of Letter Of Acceptance.
4	Approx. Cost of the work ₹ 5,34,12,927.51/- (Rupees Five crore thirty four lakh twelve thousand Nine hundred twenty seven and paise fifty one only)
5	Earnest money(EMD) to be deposited ₹ 4,17,100.00/- (Rupees Four Lakh Seventeen thousand one hundred only).
6	Cost of Tender document ₹ 10,000/- (Ten thousand) only.
7	Tender closing date and time 14.02.2020 up to 15:00 hrs
8	Validity of offer 30 days from the date of opening of tender
9	Website particular and notice board location where complete detail of tender can be seen etc. (http://www.reps.gov.in); Notice Board at the office of Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Station Road, Charbagh, Lucknow-226001.NOTE: Original/revised bids are to be submitted online upto closing date and time on IREPS website only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. Tenderer should get the digital signing certificate and register them on this website to participate in the tender. The Tenderers are advised to keep themselves updated regarding any corrigendum to be published in this tender. All corrigendum will be published on line. No separate corrigendum notice will be published in news paper.
10	PVC Clause No PVC clause is applicable in this tender.
11	JVI/Consortium/MOU JVI/Consortium/MOU shall not be considered. (Sushil Kumar) Dy.Chief S&T Engineer, Railway Electrification, Luknow For & on behalf of President of India

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

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 Lucknow 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 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.



Army personnel rehearsing for the Republic Day parade in Lucknow on Wednesday

Pioneer

Man cut to death in saw mill

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, a 55-year-old man working on a saw machine died after he got entangled in the machine and suffered cuts in Naka Hindola on Wednesday afternoon. He died on the spot. As per reports, Ram Sumer Gupta of Newaj Kheda in Naka was working in the saw mill of a timber dealer. Around 2:45

pm, Gupta fell down on the machine while pushing a log and suffered deep cuts on his head and other parts of the body. By the time the other employees switched off the saw machine, Gupta had bled profusely. The other employees of the saw mill rushed him to a hospital but he died on the way. "The doctors pronounced

him dead on arrival," Gupta's son Ritik said. AK Dubey, who is investigating the case, said, "Gupta's limbs were chopped off after he got entangled in the machine." He said the police conducted an inquest and sent the body for autopsy. The SHO of Naka said Gupta was frail and weak. "It is an unfortunate incident. The man met a fatal mishap," he

said. The employees became agitated as the news of Gupta's death spread. "He was very helpful and used to help us even though his physical strength did not allow it," they said. They lamented that they had to work in very poor condition and without being given rest. "Also, there is negligible protection while working," they added.

Law student ends life

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

ALLB third year student ended his life at his house in Chinhat sometimes on Tuesday night. The incident came to light in the morning when the student's father reached the house and found his son hanging from the ceiling.

As per reports, Prakash Pranjali Pranjali of Ghazipur district was pursuing law course from a private college in Lucknow and was staying at a house on rent in Yashoda Nagar Colony in Chinhat. The father, Vasishtha Narayan Pranjali, said he called Pranjali around 3 pm on Tuesday but did not get any response from him. This made Vasishtha apprehensive as Pranjali was suffering from some mental disease. "I rushed to Lucknow and reached the city on Wednesday. I found the doors of Pranjali's room bolted from inside and on peeping inside through the window, I found him hanging from ceiling," he told police. Police said Pranjali was hanging from the ceiling with a 'gamchha' tied around his neck. The police sent the body for autopsy and are investigating the case.

5Es to keep city clean

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Indian Institute of Management at Indore will be working on 5Es to help Lucknow civic authorities for the management of waste and for keeping the city clean. The IIM-Indore has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Smart City project headed by Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Meshram to provide technical assistance in these areas. IIM-Indore Director Himanshu Rai is a Lucknowite and has been a professor at IIM-Lucknow. He said they would focus on 5Es — education, enforcement, environment, engineering and emergency — for improving waste management in the city and keeping the city clean. "We will be focusing on 5Es while chalking out a strategy for cleanliness. One of the things that we learnt through our experience at Indore is that public participation and public support is extremely important. The public needs to be educated if the 5E strategy is to

be successful," he said. Prof Rai said that enforcement was of two kinds. "One is the straight carrot and stick policy and the other is that we can find the areas where there is a lot of garbage such as hospitals which can be monitored through CCTV cameras. In such places, a strategy can be followed that if a man litters then a voice from the CCTV camera announces that this man wearing this coloured shirt has littered and that he needs to throw the litter in the dustbin otherwise he will be fined as his image has been captured in the cameras" he said. The IIM-Indore director said for keeping the environment clean, what is more important is the disposal of the garbage. "More important is disposal of waste than the collection of waste. For cleanliness, it is important that there are no traffic jams because not only does it cause vehicular pollution but also the people have the tendency to throw a lot of stuff at the roads when caught in the traffic jam. For this we

will have to study the structures found in the city. We may suggest removal of some roundabouts. Sometimes roundabouts are constructed in such a manner that they restrict traffic movement. This has to be looked into. "We will also look into the golden hour rules and study how a road can be created for use in emergency or how traffic lights can be used for guiding a patient through the roads if they receive a message that someone has to be taken to the critical care unit" he said. When asked whether he believed that the system would work because manpower was mostly unwilling to work and these kinds of efforts had been made in the past, he said, "We will develop an engagement model with the resident welfare associations because it is important to engage people. One also needs to come up with incentives like reward. But change is not going to happen overnight" he said. The IIM-Indore director admitted that there was a general lethargy so far work culture was concerned and it needs to be changed.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
 Regd office: Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerwada, Pune 411006.
 Tel: 020 66026777, Fax: 020 66026789

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the office of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited located at 17-MIG, Awass Vikas Colony, Lakhimpur - Kheri, Lakhimpur-262701, Uttar Pradesh will be shifted at Mohalla-Aghapuram, Kheri Road, Rajapur, Near Mandi Samiti, Lakhimpur, Kheri Dist-262701, Uttar Pradesh with effect from 31st Mar 2020.

Woman accuses youths of attacking her

Lucknow (PNS): A woman accused three youths of her village of attacking her with a knife after she resisted eve teasing by them in Gudamba. The police however said the woman was framing the youths to settle old scores. "Still we have registered a case and are investigating it," the police said. As per the complainant, she was going to her new house from her old house when the youths stopped her on the way at a secluded place and started groping her. "When I protested their act, one of them whipped out a knife and attacked me. I tried to save myself and suffered a cut on my head. The miscreants fled the scene after this," she alleged. Inspector of Gudamba, Ritesh Pratap Singh, said, "The accused youths have old enmity with the

girl's family and their parent had lodged a report of brawl and assault against the girl's father and her brother. In the light of these things, it seems that the girl wants to frame the youths. Still we are probing the allegations and action will be taken if the allegations turn out to be true," he said.

FEARED DEAD
 A 21-year-old woman was feared dead after she jumped into the Indira canal in Gossaiganj on Wednesday morning. The divers are searching her. The police recovered her shawl, which was identified by the parents. The police suspect domestic discord as the reason for the woman taking the extreme step. Giving details, Gossaiganj SHO DK

Upadhyay said the woman, identified as Ruchi Singh of Barabanki, was married to Sanjay Singh of Sithauli Kala in Gossaiganj in June 2019. Around 7 am on Wednesday, she left her house after a verbal spat with Sanjay over some issue and told her mother on phone that she was going to end her life by jumping into Indira canal.

PURSE-SNATCHING
 Two unidentified miscreants riding a motorcycle snatched the purse of the wife of a retired police inspector in Vikas Nagar on Wednesday afternoon. Reports said Vijat Saba Naqvi of Vikas Nagar along with her daughter was returning home by an e-rickshaw when she the miscreants snatched her purse.

FORM No. - 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

O.A. No. 1434/2019 Date: 15.01.2020
 (Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1434/2019

BANK OF INDIA ...APPLICANT
SHRI ADARSH SRIVASTAVA & OTHER ...DEFENDANTS

1. **Shri Adarsh Srivastava (Borrower)** S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
 Ind Address: House No. 86 Satya Premi Nagar-5 Tehsil Nawabganj Distt. Barabanki (U.P.)

2. **Smt. Rajni Srivastava (Co-Borrower)** W/o Shri Adarsh Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
 Ind Address: House No. 86 Satya Premi Nagar-5 Tehsil Nawabganj Distt. Barabanki (U.P.)

3. **Shri Ashish Kumar Srivastava (Guarantor)** S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).

4. **Shri Ankur Srivastava (Guarantor)** S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 13.04.2020 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
 Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

LDA probe panel gives adverse report against builder

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The enquiry committee set up by Lucknow Development Authority to probe violation of building rules and regulations on Wednesday submitted an adverse report against a private developer. The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) had asked the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) last month to thoroughly probe into the anomalies in construction of apartments and submit its finding within a month along with the action to be taken. It is alleged that the private developer was awarded contract five years back to design and construct five apartments having 514 flats in Gomti Nagar Extension. It is said that only 65 per cent work on these housing towers has been completed while the remaining flats are in

still unfinished. At present, over 150 persons are living in the apartment. It may be pointed out here that handing over possession of flats without completing the project and obtaining completion certification by the competent authority is gross violation of the building rules and regulation. Residents Welfare Association president Shyam Dalmia has filed a complaint to the RERA officials, alleging that some areas of the swimming pool, parking and community hall have either been sold to some individual or retained by the builder for vested interests. It has been alleged that the size of the swimming pool, as given in the blue print approved by the LDA, has been reduced by 20 per cent. Similarly, the land meant for parking has also been reduced by 15 per cent by constructing

an office of the builder on it. The length of the community hall has also been reduced. Interestingly, the private developer has increased the number of houses for the economically weaker sections (EWS). As per rules and regulations, the numbers of housing units built under this category cannot be reduced or increased without the permission of the competent authority. On coming to know about this, then LDA Vice Chairman PN Singh had ordered a probe by LDA chief engineer IS Singh. He along with four members of the committee carried out inspections and found the allegation to be true. The chief engineer submitted his findings to LDA Vice Chairman SK Dwivedi on Wednesday morning. Dwivedi has forwarded the enquiry report to the RERA.

उत्तर प्रदेश उर्दू अकादमी
 द्वारा संचालित
उर्दू मास कम्प्यूटेशन एण्ड मीडिया सेंटर
 प्रदान कर रहे हैं न्यूनतम शुल्क में दो त्रैमासिक पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश का स्वर्णिम अवसर

उर्दू ड्रामा
 (स्वातिप्राप्त प्रशिक्षकों द्वारा प्रस्तुतिपरक प्रशिक्षण) एवं
प्रिंट मीडिया जर्नलिज़्म
 (श्रेष्ठ पत्रकारों व कलमकारों द्वारा व्यवहारिक लेखन व पत्रकारिता प्रशिक्षण)

प्रवेश हेतु फार्म अकादमी कार्यालय अथवा वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है

कक्षाएँ 01 फरवरी 2020 से आरम्भ
 कक्षाओं का समय प्रतिदिन अपरान्ह 2:00 से 5:00 बजे तक
 उर्दू भाषा ना जानने वालों के लिए निःशुल्क उर्दू भाषा प्रशिक्षण
 प्रवेश की अंतिम तिथि: 25 जनवरी, 2020

अधिक जानकारी हेतु संपर्क करें
उत्तर प्रदेश उर्दू अकादमी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ
 फोन- 8417989817, 9140312250
 ई-मेल: urduakademi@yahoo.in, वेबसाइट: www.upurduakademi.org

प्रो एमरेटिस आसिफ़ा ज़ामानी (पद्मश्री) एस. रिज़वान
 सचिव सचिव

LESA drive against power pilferage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Electricity Supply Administration (LESA) has launched a drive against theft of electricity at night hours in the entire city. According to the LESA Chief Engineer (Trans Gonti), in the three-day drive, the power distribution utility has lodged over 180 FIRs and saved over 1,000 kWatt electricity. LESA Chief Engineer (Trans Gonti) Pramod Kakkar said the anti-power pilferage drive had been launched in areas where line losses were very high and in areas where the people were inclined to use 'katiya' during night hours. "We have caught more than a hundred people in the last two days," he added. The areas which are most prone to power pilferage during night hours are Daliganj, Faizullaganj, Khadra and some parts of Chinhat. Kakkar said that those caught were drawing electricity through 'katiya' from night to 8 in the morning.

"We have sought the help of the police and have formed six teams to catch the power-pilferers. The teams are checking houses in lanes. They first rake the photograph of the illegal connection (katiya) and then take the required action"

"We have sought the help of the police and have formed six teams to catch the power-pilferers. The teams are checking houses in lanes. They first rake the photograph of the illegal connection (katiya) and then take the required action," he said. He said the electricity demand had slightly increased. "The demand has increased by 15 per cent compared to 40 per cent in winters and we can easily manage it," he said.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD DIVISION
 Welcomes you in
MAGH MELA 2020

Entry regulation plan at Allahabad Jn. during main bathing days of Magh Mela 2020

Entry at Allahabad Jn. Station - Only from City Side on Leader Road

Entrance will be closed from Civil Lines side at Allahabad Jn. during main bathing days of Magh Mela as mentioned below:

S. N.	Festival's Name	Date	Days	Civil Lines side entrance closing time
1.	Mauni Amawasya	24.01.2020	Friday	From evening 6 pm of 22-01-2020 to 12 pm midnight of 25-01-2020
2.	Basant Panchami	30.01.2020	Thursday	From evening 6 pm of 29-01-2020 to 12 pm midnight of 31-01-2020
3.	Maghi Purnima	09.02.2020	Sunday	From evening 6 pm of 08-02-2020 to 12 pm midnight of 10-02-2020
4.	Maha Shivratri	21.02.2020	Friday	From evening 6 pm of 20-02-2020 to 12 pm midnight of 22-02-2020

Color Scheme of Entrance Gate, Passenger Shelter and Booking Office for direction wise Mela Special Trains at Allahabad Jn. Station

Entry at Allahabad Jn. Station - Only from City Side on Leader Road

Direction of Special Train	Entry Gate No.	Enclosure Colour	Platform No.
Towards Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Lucknow & Varanasi	1 RED	RED	7, 8 9, 10
Towards Mirzapur, Vindhyachal, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. & Patna	2A BLUE	BLUE	4, 5
Towards Manikpur, Satna, Banda & Jhansi	2B YELLOW	YELLOW	1
Towards Fatehpur, Kanpur & Delhi	3 GREEN	GREEN	2, 3
Reserved Ticket Passengers of all directions.	4 WHITE	-	Scheduled Platform

Important : For the convenience of passengers during Magh Mela, Ticket booking counters for both reserved and general tickets have been opened at Triveni Road in the Sangam area. Passengers can obtain tickets from there also.

Download Mela Rail Seva 2020 App from Google Play Store for all information related to Magh Mela
 link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=app.ncr.maghmeal>

107/20 (I) North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPNCR

CRPF facing critical shortage of armoured troop carriers

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid heightened threat to its troops and Amarnath Yatra 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

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- 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.

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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-Tayyiba ambushed a convoy of CRPF vehicles in Pampore and killed eight uniformed men of the paramilitary and injuring over 20 others.

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.

Children in J&K are nationalists not culprits: Rajnath

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.”

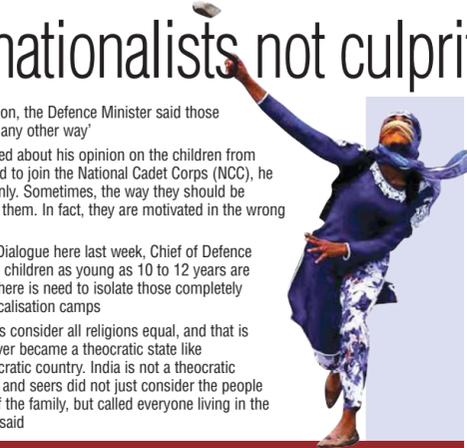
“That is why the kids should not be blamed for this. The ones who are wrongly motivating them should be

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- 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

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 NCC cadets, the 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.

“We (India) said we would not discriminate among religions. Why did we do that? Our neighbouring country has declared that their state has a religion. They have declared themselves a theocratic state. We didn't declare so.”

“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.

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 allots ₹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 is 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 when we repeated it: 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.

India bans toxic chemical hydrochlorofluorocarbon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to combat climate change, India has banned import of toxic chemical hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141b used in the production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams by foam manufacturers from January 1, 2020.

Since HCFC-141b, greenhouse gases that damage the earth's ozone layer, was not produced in the country, all the domestic requirements were being met through imports.

However, the Union Environment Ministry issued a notification last year in December seeking ban on import of the foam manufacturing companies. With this, India has completely phased out the important ozone-depleting chemical, said an official from the Ministry.

HCFC comprises inert compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine, and it is used instead of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) as it is less destructive to the ozone layer. At present,

HCFCs are used in various sectors like refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) and foam manufacturing. These sectors are directly related to urban development, agriculture through cold chain, and industrial development.

Simultaneously, the use of HCFC-141 b by foam manufacturing industry has also been closed as on 1st January 2020 under the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2014, said

a senior official from the Union Environment Ministry.

Nearly 50 per cent of the consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals in the country was attributable to HCFC-141 b in the foam sector.

The Ministry had adopted a structured approach to engaging with foam manufacturing enterprises for providing technical and financial assistance in order to transition to non-ODS and low GWP technologies under the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan

(HPMP), said the official.

Around 175 foam manufacturing enterprises have been covered under HPMP out of which, 163 enterprises are covered under stage II of HPMP. The complete phase-out of HCFC 141 b from the country in the foam sector is among the first at this scale in Article 5 parties (developing countries) under the Montreal Protocol.

The implementation of HPMP through regulatory and policy actions, implementation of technology conversion pro-

jects has removed around 7800 Metric Tonnes of HCFC 141-b from the baseline level of 2009 and 2010 of the country, he said.

The phase-out of HCFC-141b from the country has twin environmental benefits viz. assisting the healing of the stratospheric ozone layer, and towards the climate change mitigation due to transitioning of foam manufacturing enterprises at this scale under HPMP to low global warming potential alternative technologies.

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.

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.

Trump told Khan, whom he referred to as 'my friend', that he would speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about

the ongoing Kashmir issue. 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

can," Khan said.

President Trump has repeatedly offered to mediate following India's August 5 decision to revoke the special status to Jammu & Kashmir and bifurcate the State 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 yet 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.

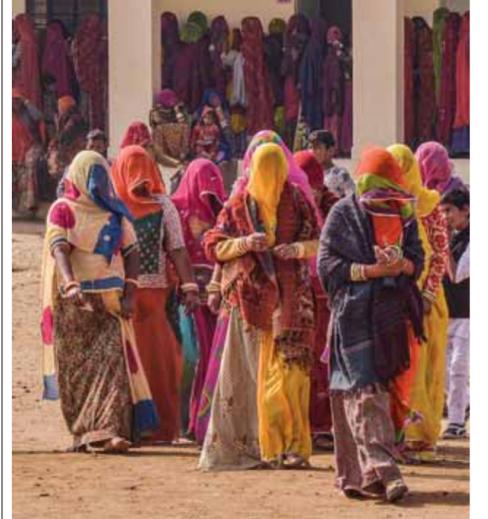
Responding to Trump's offer, they said there is no question of any mediation or intervention by any third party.

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 licensed 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 Mumbaikars.

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 to 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**

High alert in J&K ahead of R-Day

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.

According to ground reports, massive searches were going on in the Khrew area after the initial gunfight with terrorists resulted in killing of two soldiers. Due to bad weather and poor light conditions, the search operations were halted and the same were resumed early Wednesday morning.

After the fresh contact was established with the hiding terrorists, the security forces tightened the cordon and eliminated at least one of the terrorists in the ensuing encounter, official sources said.

Confirming the elimination of one of the terrorists, twitter handle of the Jammu & Kashmir police posted a message which read, "Police & Security forces killed one of the killers of Martyred SPO



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.

According to inputs, terrorist movement has also been traced in areas of Srinagar and Budgam districts.

NIA shifted 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 (OGW's) 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.

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 Ayodhya dispute case that he would go once again Ayodhya 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 Fadnis, 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 Bhallesa 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 a lot 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.

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 achhe 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 ordnance 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.

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 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**

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, rankled 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. **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 charging 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.

Khadi fights back to prevent misuse of trademarks globally

Seeks protection under article 6ter 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, "SARVODAYA and the logo of Khadi India and Charkha are the harbinger 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 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.

FORM No. - 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

O.A. No. 1435/2019 Date: 15.01.2020
(Summons to defendant Under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1435/2019

BANK OF INDIA ...APPLICANT

SHRI ASHISH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA & OTHER ...DEFENDANTS

To,

- Shri Ashish Kumar Srivastava (Borrower)** S/o Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
Ind Address: House No. 86 Satya Premi Nagar-5 Tehsil Nawabganj Distt. Barabanki (U.P.).
- Smt. Sushma Srivastava (Co-Borrower)** W/o Shri Ashish Kumar Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
Ind Address: House No. 86 Satya Premi Nagar-5 Tehsil Nawabganj Distt. Barabanki (U.P.).
- Shri Ravindra Nath Srivastava (Guarantor)** S/o Late Triveni Sahai Srivastava, R/o 3/17, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.).
Ind Address: Mohalla Munshi Ganj, Tehsil Nawabganj Distt. Barabanki (U.P.).

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 13.04.2020 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

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. Police are taking Rao to Mangaluru via air.

The suspect reportedly travelled using different routes and modes to reach Bengaluru on Tuesday night, sources said.

State Home Minister Basavaraj Bommi said police's "hot pursuit" forced him to surrender before the police.

"Inquiry is on about his background or association with any organisations, and reason for his act.

Investigation is also on regarding the materials used for the explosive, how he was able to make it and where he got them," he told reporters here. Speaking to reporters at Belagavi later, Bommi said Rao was disappointed, unable to find a proper job.

He had earlier been arrested for making a hoax bomb call to Bengaluru airport in 2018 and was jailed

for six months, sources said.

This was an act of revenge as he was denied the job of a security guard at the Bengaluru International Airport which he had applied for due to lack of certain documents, they said.

Rao had come to Bengaluru in 2012 seeking a job and landed one in a private bank, which he resigned.

He then returned to Mangaluru, where he worked as a security guard for six months and then as a cook in Puthige Mutt in Udipi.

Later, he went back to Bengaluru and joined an insurance company, which he left and tried to become a security staff at the airport, the sources said.

A 'live' explosive device was found in an unattended bag near a ticket counter of the departure gate of the international airport in Mangaluru on Monday and later defused at a nearby open ground.

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NOTICE OF SALE E-AUCTION

Notice under Section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 read with Rule 6 (2) and/or Rule 8 (6) and/or Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Allahabad Bank had taken Symbolic/Constructive possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-Auction platform provided by Service Provider <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net> 6th March 2020 at 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

Sl. No.	Name of Accounts/Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Description of Properties	A) Date of Demand Notice B) Date of Possession C) Claim amount as per Demand Notice	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money c) Bid amount
Branch- Jankipuram, Lucknow- 226023, Ph:- 0522 - 2731976				
1.	Borrower: 1- M/s AAR PEE Printers & Advertisers, E103, UPSIDC, Village Guggor, Kursi Road, Barabanki. 2- M/s MAA Gayatri Enterprises, Shop No. 1 Umra Chauraha Kursi Road Guggaur Distt. Barabanki. Proprietor: 1- Mr. Dinesh Tripathi, 2/174 Jankipuram Extension, Lucknow. 2. Sri Rakesh Tripathi S/o Ram Palat Tripathi, R/o 2/174 Jankipuram Extension, Lucknow. Guarantor: 1. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi S/o Ram Palat Tripathi, R/o 2/174 Jankipuram Extension, Lucknow. 2. Sri Rakesh Tripathi S/o Ram Palat Tripathi, R/o 2/174 Jankipuram Extension, Lucknow. 3. Harish Tripathi S/o Ram Palat Tripathi, R/o 2/174 Jankipuram Extension, Lucknow.	House no. 2/174 Jankipuram Extension Lucknow, area measuring 162.00 sq. mtr registered on 24.03.2011 in book no. 01 zild no. 7741 pages 1 to 96 Sr. no. 3032 before Sub registrar 4th Lucknow in the name of Mr. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Mr. Rakesh Tripathi and Mr. Harish Tripathi. Boundaries: East: Plot No. 2/184, West: 9 mtr road, North: Plot No. 2/173, South: Plot No. 2/175	a) 05.10.2019 b) 18.12.2019 AAR PEE Printer & Advertisers Cash Credit : Rs 1,07,48,503/- + interest w.e.f. from 27.08.2019 & Other Charges AAR PEE Printer & Advertisers Term Loan : Rs 12,49,002/- + interest w.e.f. from 27.08.2019 & Other Charges MAA Gayatri Enterprises Cash Credit : Rs 64,14,372/- + interest w.e.f. from 23.07.2019 Dinesh Tripathi Housing Loan : Rs 1135062/- + interest w.e.f. 29.08.2019	a) Rs. 91,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,12,100/- c) Rs. 10,000/-

Last Date & time of Submission of Process compliance form with EMD : 02.03.2020 up to 5.00 P.M

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Note: This is also a notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date and other details.
(Head Office, 2, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata-700001)

Date: 23.01.2020 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, Allahabad Bank

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 Pavan 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 chickens 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 plane-maker 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 plane-maker 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 Kashmiri 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 Yonne
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 realty 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)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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



MOÏN 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 is heading for polls on February 8 to elect 70 members to the Legislative Assembly and needless to say, campaigning by political parties across the national Capital is expected to reach a fever pitch soon. Like always, this election, too, will witness a plethora of populist issues being made a poll plank by the candidates and their star campaigners as they do the rounds of the city. Populism has become an integral aspect of elections mainly due to the fact that the people of one of the world's largest democra-

cies have 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 reining 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 spiraling 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)

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 higher failed to hold on to gains amid profit-booking 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 Financial 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 slowdown 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 Review 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

3.6 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 FY'21 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.

"This will support the consumption demand. Therefore, budgetary allocation to heads such as rural infrastructure, road construction, affordable housing and MNREGA must be prioritised and allocation for non-merit subsidy/expenditure less critical for growth be rationalised," it said.

Also, gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) has become government dependent, as incremental private capex has been down and out, it said, adding, despite the fiscal constraints, the government has not shied away from infrastructure spending in the past and even resorted to fund them through extra budgetary resources.

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.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	12218.35	12225.05	12087.90	12106.90	-62.95
ZEE	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
ADANIPORTS	379.95	385.00	379.00	384.00	4.05
HCLTECH	583.20	595.00	581.50	590.20	6.15
INFY	768.45	778.00	766.00	769.80	7.30
SBI	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	4143.40	4.40
RELIANCE	1544.00	1546.75	1531.10	1535.25	1.35
HEROMOTOC	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
INFRATEL	244.85	245.00	235.50	240.35	-0.15
HEROMOTOC	240.70	241.00	237.00	239.70	-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	3063.55	3105.05	3047.40	3055.55	-4.90
HINDUNILVR	2063.00	2063.50	2027.20	2051.90	-3.50
BRITANNIA	3125.50	3138.70	3088.90	3105.30	-5.95
HDFCBANK	1146.05	1255.00	1214.40	1241.85	-2.50
IOC	126.65	116.90	113.10	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	-2.00
JSWSTEEL	268.30	269.30	264.75	265.95	-1.30
GAIL	475.40	480.30	472.40	478.00	-2.60
CIFRA	127.20	127.90	125.50	126.05	-0.70
IT	311.00	312.00	309.00	309.90	-7.45
BAJAJ-AUTO	1305.00	1310.00	1272.00	1274.85	-22.20
INDUSINDBK	1346.35	1348.00	1323.00	1326.05	-10.30
HINDALCO	205.60	207.80	203.00	203.50	-1.65
POWERGRID	200.50	202.35	193.65	198.85	-1.75
AXISBANK	717.00	722.75	706.60	709.30	-8.30
ICICI	463.50	466.45	454.10	456.90	-6.95
AXISBANK	551.50	554.95	527.00	522.00	-9.05
HDFC	2474.00	2483.35	2412.00	2418.00	-47.45
ASIANPAINT	1815.00	1818.70	1766.85	1773.20	-37.55
KOTAKBANK	1633.20	1637.90	1576.00	1591.00	-34.10
MARUTI	7340.00	7374.95	7107.95	7145.00	-157.65
UPL	582.85	582.85	553.40	560.45	-17.25
TATAMOTORS	191.95	192.50	184.25	185.60	-5.80
NTPC	114.95	115.75	111.50	112.50	-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
ZEE	276.40	303.95	272.45	300.25
CANFINHOME	472.95	504.90	447.05	455.95
TATASTEEL	478.10	479.80	473.05	474.80
RELIANCE	1546.75	1546.75	1530.90	1533.10
IBULHSGFIN	305.30	306.05	295.00	296.25
TATAMOTORS	192.10	192.60	184.25	185.55
SBI	316.60	317.40	313.70	316.10
AXISBANK	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	2417.00
RBLBANK	343.00	345.45	332.60	339.10
INFY	765.10	778.00	765.10	769.95
IOC	117.00	117.00	112.30	113.85
MARUTI	7334.20	7370.15	7109.65	7163.55
TCS	2175.50	2210.10	2175.50	2206.50
HAVELLS	509.50	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
JINDALSTEL	186.50	186.50	177.60	179.10
RAIN	120.00	124.00	117.80	118.80
SUNPHARMA	448.40	454.40	445.40	446.25
ONGC	123.00	123.00	116.00	116.45
VOLTA	705.05	705.05	692.50	695.10
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
IT	310.00	310.05	292.40	294.25
POWERGRID	200.50	202.30	193.10	195.55
AUROPHARMA	498.80	510.90	490.80	497.70
POLYCORP	1121.00	1128.90	986.35	993.95
BAJFINANCE	4170.00	4183.10	4125.00	4140.60
INDUSINDBK	1348.00	1348.70	1323.00	1327.60
JUSTDIAL	579.00	605.50	572.25	599.55
HDFCAMC	3214.70	3261.30	3141.40	3172.05
PPC	107.00	111.90	103.90	109.00
HINDUNILVR	2061.25	2061.25	2028.00	2051.20
PILF	259.10	261.25	255.10	258.20
DIDITIND	1423.00	1444.00	1420.25	1428.15
GILLETTE	6330.00	6335.80	6288.05	6314.30
PNBHousing	558.00	575.50	555.80	570.90
HDFCLIFE	604.95	616.40	602.55	612.75
PIIND	1449.00	1454.20	1435.50	1448.35
TATAGLOBAL	387.10	388.50	382.40	384.80
ICICIPRULI	494.00	511.00	489.00	506.55
NITTECH	1800.00	1894.30	1800.00	1871.40
RPOWER	2.01	2.14	2.01	2.07
BANDHANBK	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
INFRAEL	245.00	245.50	235.40	240.95
VEDL	155.85	158.25	152.80	153.15
FEDERALBNK	95.05	95.60	93.40	93.75
PIL	1624.70	1630.40	1587.90	1608.60
NMDC	135.20	135.20	128.80	132.30
LINDSHPIN	481.00	483.00	472.50	476.55
ITC	239.95	239.95	237.05	237.95
HGC	1110.00	1149.00	1105.95	1125.00
SAIL	50.00			

Senators struggle to stay focused on impeachment

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Adam Schiff was still speaking — about witnesses, documents, future presidents and the impeachment of President Donald Trump. He'd said it all before, but five hours into the Senate trial Tuesday, Schiff, the lead prosecutor, was saying it again. Suddenly, from the Republican side, Sen. James Risch of Idaho raised his left hand so Schiff could see it and pointed, repeatedly, to his wristwatch. Time's up, Risch signaled.

He was right: It was time to vote, and — perhaps as important — it would soon be time for dinner. Schiff yielded, and the senators rose to vote and then quietly left the chamber. "The subject matter is something we've all heard," Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind., told reporters.

The understatement helps explain what seemed to be a widespread struggle with attention late Tuesday as arguments in the abuse and obstruction trial stretched into the late evening. It's a challenge anyone who's served on a jury might understand, but senators try not to complain, given the enormous political stakes of the trial during the 2020 election year. About a third of the senators are up for re-election. The

more senior members are on-camera during the proceedings. Anyone falling asleep — and a few senators looked like they might have Monday — during only the third impeachment trial in history would have some explaining to do.

The urge to nod off stems in part from the familiarity of the arguments. They have all heard the story of Trump's pressure on Ukraine. Only a handful claim to have not made up their minds on whether Trump should be removed from office. And the outcome — the impeached president's acquittal — seems clear. Still, the trial is expected to cover tedious, familiar territory six days a week until it is resolved.

One piece of good news for the attention-challenged: The Senate voted Tuesday to trade 12-hour days for 8-hour days when opening arguments begin. And both sides are using audiovisual aids to keep people awake. Lawyer Jay Sekulow did a bit of pointing and raising his voice at one point late in the proceedings, which seemed to perk people up.

But inside the crowded, tradition-bound chamber, senators have little to do besides take notes and listen. Phones and coffee are banned. So are talking and passing notes to each other. There's no pacing



In this image from video, the vote for passage approving the rules for the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump in the Senate at the US Capitol in Washington on Wednesday is displayed. Senate resolution 483 passed along a party-line vote of 53-47. AP

around the chamber. Snacks are traditionally frowned upon, though Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., could be seen popping something into his mouth and chewing as he wrote on a notepad.

Senators in both parties paid close attention and took notes, highlighted papers and listened intently — at least at

first. One of the most prolific note-takers throughout the proceedings was Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a centrist in a tough reelection fight this year. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, one of four Democratic presidential candidates forced back to the Senate ahead of the Iowa caucuses, held both a blue pen and

yellow pencil in her right hand and alternated which she used to take notes.

Others appeared to struggle to maintain attention as the hours wore on. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a presidential hopeful who has openly complained about having to be in Washington, yawned and at

one point tipped his head back on his chair. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, another Democratic presidential candidate, appeared to be subtly chewing something at length, possibly gum, as Schiff spoke. A few hours in, the visitors' galleries were less than half full. A staff area of the Senate floor

had extra chairs but few people sitting there. Senators periodically gazed up into the galleries, a rare occurrence. "They've already presented their entire case about three times already, and apparently we're going to hear it two or three more times tonight," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo.

Hillary says 'nobody likes' Bernie Sanders

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Hillary Clinton launched a scathing attack on presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, her rival for the 2016 Democratic nomination, telling a documentary that "nobody likes him."

The former US secretary of state also refused to say whether she would endorse and campaign for Sanders if he becomes the Democrats' choice to take on President Donald Trump in November's election.

Her comments on Tuesday drew the ire of Sanders' supporters, who called on Clinton to support the candidate the party backs in their bid to remove Trump from the White House.

"He was in Congress for years. He had one senator support him," Clinton says in a four-part series due to air on streaming site Hulu in March. "Nobody likes him, nobody wants to work with him, he got nothing done. He was a career politician. "It's all just baloney and I feel so bad that people got sucked into it," she adds.

Sanders, a leftist senator from Vermont, is among the leaders in the race for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. He sits second in national polls behind centrist Joe Biden and ahead of Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren, two weeks before the first nomination vote in Iowa. Sanders, 78, pushed 72-year-old Clinton to the wire four years ago in an acrimonious, months-long battle for the party's nomination. Clinton won that race but lost to Trump.

She has criticized Sanders and his supporters for not sufficiently backing her in the presidential vote.

Interviewed by The Hollywood Reporter about the documentary, Clinton stopped short of saying she would support Sanders if he won the nomination this year.

"I'm not going to go there yet. We're still in a very vigorous primary season," she said. But in a tweet on Tuesday night, Clinton expanded on her position.

"I thought everyone wanted my authentic, unvarnished views! But to be serious, the number one priority for our country and world is retiring Trump, and, as I always have, I will do whatever I can to support our nominee," she wrote.

Sanders played down the attack in the documentary, telling reporters that he was focused on Trump's impeachment trial, which kicked off in earnest Tuesday.

Pak has 'limited options' to respond on Kashmir: CRS report

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pakistan's leadership has "limited options" to respond to India's decision on Jammu and Kashmir as many analysts view that Islamabad has "little credibility" on the issue given its long history of covertly supporting militant groups there, according to a US Congressional report.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) in its second report on Kashmir in less than six months also said that Pakistan's ability to alter the status quo through military action has been reduced in recent years, meaning that Islamabad likely must rely primarily on diplomacy.

CRS is the independent research wing of the US Congress which prepares periodic reports on issues of interest for US lawmakers so that they can take informed decisions inside the Congress. Currently, two resolutions are pending in the House of Representatives, one of which is being sponsored by Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

In its report dated January 13, CRS said that post August 5, Pakistan "appeared diplomati-

cally isolated", with Turkey being the only country to offer solid and explicit support for Islamabad's position.

Ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories on August 5, evoking strong reactions from Islamabad.

Pakistan has been trying to rally international support against India on the issue. However, India has maintained that the move was "entirely an internal matter".

The 25-page report said that Pakistan called for a UNSC session and, with China's support, the Council met on August 16 to discuss Kashmir in the first time in more than five decades, albeit in a closed-door session that produced no formal statement.

"Many analysts view Islamabad as having little credibility on Kashmir, given its long history of covertly supporting militant groups there. Pakistan's leadership has limited options to respond to India's actions, and renewed Pakistani support for Kashmiri militancy likely would be costly internationally," it said.

"Pakistan's ability to alter the status quo through military action has been reduced in recent years, meaning that Islamabad likely must rely primarily on diplomacy," the CRS said.

"Given also that Pakistan and its primary ally, China, enjoy limited international credibility on human rights issues, Islamabad may stand by and hope that self-inflicted damage caused by New Delhi's own policies in Kashmir and, more recently, on citizenship laws, will harm India's reputation and perhaps undercut its recent diplomatic gains with Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE," it said.

According to CRS, the long-standing US position on Kashmir is that the issue should be settled through negotiations between India and Pakistan while taking into consideration the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"The Trump Administration has called for peace and respect for human rights in the region, but its criticisms have been relatively muted," it noted.

With key US diplomatic posts vacant, some observers

worry that the US government's capacity to address South Asian instability is thin, and the US President's July offer to "mediate" on Kashmir may have contributed to the timing of New Delhi's moves, it said.

The United States seeks to balance pursuit of a broad US-India partnership while upholding human rights protections, as well as maintaining cooperative relations with Pakistan, the report said.

CRS said that following India's August 2019 actions, numerous Members of the US Congress went on record in support of Kashmiri human rights. H.Res. 745, introduced in December and currently with 40 co-sponsors, urges the Indian government to end the restrictions on communications in Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

An October hearing on human rights in South Asia held by the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation included extensive discussion of developments in Jammu and Kashmir. In November, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission held an event titled "Jammu and Kashmir in Context."

US criticises CPEC, says no transparency

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Senior US diplomat Alice Wells has renewed the criticism of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), emphasising that there is no transparency in the projects and it will increase cash-strapped Pakistan's debt burden.

Speaking at an event here on Tuesday during her four-day visit to Pakistan, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia also said that companies blacklisted by the World Bank have got contracts under the CPEC.

The CPEC is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking China's resource-rich Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea.

Wells had in November last year urged Pakistanis to ask "tough questions" to China on the CPEC, saying the project is going to take a toll on the country's economy.

The CPEC was launched in 2015 when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan and

it now envisages investment of over USD 60 billion in different projects of development in Pakistan.

Wells said that there was no transparency in the CPEC projects and Pakistan's debt burden was growing due to the Chinese financing, a report in the Dawn newspaper said.

Criticising the CPEC, she urged Pakistan to rethink its involvement in it.

The US diplomat also questioned the immunity from prosecution for the newly formed CPEC Authority that served as the focal body working to identify new areas of cooperation and projects, besides facilitation, coordination and monitoring of ongoing projects.

Talking about Pakistan's debt issue, Wells insisted that Chinese money was not an assistance.

By getting Chinese financing for the projects, Pakistan was buying expensive loans and as a buyer it needed to be aware that what it was doing would take a heavy toll on its already struggling economy.

Previously, Wells had said, "We hope Pakistanis will ask

Beijing tough questions on debt, accountability, fairness and transparency... Ask the Chinese government why it is pursuing a development model in Pakistan, that significantly deviates from what brought China its own economic success."

Wells' recent remarks were made after Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi sought closer engagement and a robust trade and investment relationship between Pakistan and the US during his recent visit to Washington.

Qureshi had also sought help from the US to get the country off the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list.

The US has been critical of the CPEC. Some of the projects had already been completed but others were facing delays as Pakistan and China are working on operational and funding details.

The diplomat also touched on the cost escalation in a rail-way project linking Karachi with Peshawar. She urged the government to be transparent about the mega project.

Lanka Prez wants civil war disappearances probed

PTI ■ 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 investigated, 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.

The Sri Lankan Army denies the charge, claiming it as a humanitarian operation to rid the Tamils of LTTE's control.

At the end of the civil war, the United Nations accused both sides of atrocities, especially during the conflict's final stages.

International rights groups claim at least 40,000 ethnic Tamil civilians were killed in the final stages of the war, but the government has disputed the figures.

China won't follow protectionism: Vice-Premier

PTI ■ DAVOS

China will not stop opening up despite many others resorting to protectionism and it is wrong to blame "economic globalisation" for problems of a country, Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng has said.

He also called for building "an inclusive and open world economy" that will "make the pie bigger" for everyone.

In a special address at a plenary session here at the WEF

2020, Zheng said China will not follow others towards more protectionism.

Blaming the economy's problems on globalisation neither reflects the facts nor provides a solution, he said, while asserting that China intends to continue to work closely with multilateral institutions.

He reaffirmed China's commitment to continued global economic integration and multilateral institutions even amid growing interna-

tional tension.

"Despite the protectionist and unilateral moves by some countries, China will not stop opening up. We will not follow in the footsteps of those moving in the opposite direction," he said.

He noted that globalism is both an underlying trend and a driver of economic growth in today's world.

Economic uncertainty engenders greater friction in terms of trade and investment,

but protectionism is not a good remedy, he said.

"All countries feel pressure, but to simply blame economic globalisation does not reflect the facts — nor does it help solve the problem," he noted. The vice-premier also stressed the need to work with multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, the G20, the World Trade Organization and others on issues of economic development, poverty alleviation, the Sustainable

Development Goals and climate change.

He also ran through a litany of recent and future policy changes designed to facilitate both imports and foreign investment. "Openness is a trademark of today's China," he said.

Han called the World Economic Forum's 1 Trillion Trees Initiative "highly valuable" and pledged to share China's expertise in reforestation.

Indian-American Sikh creates history First turban-wearing Deputy Constable in Harris county of Texas

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Amrit Singh, an Indian-American law enforcement officer, has scripted history by becoming the first-ever turban-wearing Sikh to be sworn in as Deputy Constable in Harris County in the US state of Texas.

Singh, 21, will be the first in his profession to wear his articles of faith — a turban, beard, and uncut hair in the line of duty.

It was a historic day on Tuesday as Singh's swearing-in coincided with the adoption of a new policy that allows law enforcement officers in nearly every single Harris County Constable's Office to wear articles of their faith while in uniform. For Sikhs, that means

being able to wear a turban and beard while on duty.

Singh always wanted to work as a peace officer. He spent years in law enforcement explorer programmes and five months in a police training academy.

"Growing up, I always wanted to be a deputy and my Sikh faith was also very important to me," Singh said.

"Constable Alan Rosen was the first one to give me a call-back. He opened this agency with open arms for me," he said.

Speaking at Singh's swearing-in ceremony, Precinct 1 Constable Rosen said the county's eight constables supported accommodations for Sikhs to serve while adhering to their religion.

"As a man of the Jewish faith, I know how it feels to be religiously targeted and how important it is to teach inclusion, understanding and tolerance," Rosen said, standing in front of representatives from the county's other constable offices.

"To me, wearing a yarmulke or him wearing a turban really doesn't impact the quality of work he's going to do. It should have zero impact on public safety or what job we do. Are you going to care if the person showing up to your door to help save you has a turban or yarmulke? You're not. You're just happy they're there to save you and keep you safe," the officer said.

Singh will now go on to months of field training, after

which he will be assigned to patrol within Precinct One.

In 2015, Harris County made national headlines after sheriff's deputy Sandeep Dhalwal fought for and won the rights to wear his turban and beard on duty.

At the time of the deputy's murder last year, just a few dozen law enforcement agencies across the United States — and the US Army — had uniform policies with religious accommodations allowing Sikhs to serve in accordance with their faith.

"Legacy of Dhalwal is not far removed, it clearly recognised and acknowledge his service and this is a gift that continues to give in his recognition and legacy," said Bobby Singh, a Sikh community

leader. In 2009, Dhalwal was the first Sikh to join the Harris County Sheriff's Office and in 2015, he became the first Sikh law enforcement officer to be allowed to wear his articles of faith in uniform. He was shot and killed during a traffic stop last year.

"We honour his legacy by honouring his faith here today," Rosen said.

In the months since Dhalwal's death, law enforcement agencies in California, Washington and in Texas have signalled willingness to change their policies, said Manpreet Singh of the Sikh Coalition, which advocates for religious accommodations for minority communities in public and private sectors.

Saudi dismisses report of hacking Amazon owner Bezos' phone

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The Saudi embassy in Washington has dismissed suggestions the kingdom hacked the phone of Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos, as media reports linked the security breach to a WhatsApp message from an account of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The 2018 intrusion into the device led to the release of intimate images of Amazon founder Bezos, whose Post newspaper employed as a contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist murdered later that same year at Riyadh's consulate in Istanbul.

"Recent media reports that suggest the Kingdom is behind a hacking of Mr Jeff Bezos'

phone are absurd," the Saudi Arabian embassy said on its Twitter account on Tuesday.

"We call for an investigation on these claims so that we can have all the facts out." Late Tuesday, The Washington Post reported that a United Nations investigation will report on Wednesday that Bezos's cell phone was hacked after he got the WhatsApp message from an account purportedly belonging to Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's de facto ruler.

Soon after the message was sent, a massive amount of data was extracted from Bezos's phone, the Post said investigators concluded.

The Guardian earlier reported that the encrypted message from the number used by Prince Mohammed is believed to have included a

malicious file that infiltrated Bezos's phone, according to a digital forensic analysis.

The two men were having a seemingly friendly WhatsApp exchange when the unsolicited file was sent, according to sources cited by The Guardian.

Bezos hired Gavin de Becker & Associates to find out how his intimate text messages and photos made their way into the hands of the National Enquirer, which reported on the Amazon chief's extramarital affair, leading to his divorce.

In March last year de Becker said he concluded that Saudi Arabian authorities hacked the Amazon chief's phone to access his personal data.

"Our investigators and several experts concluded with

high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos' phone, and gained private information," de Becker wrote on The Daily Beast website at the time.

But de Becker did not specify which part of the Saudi government he was blaming for the hack, and gave few details about the investigation that led him to the conclusion that the kingdom was responsible.

In December a Saudi court exonerated Prince Mohammed's top aides over the murder of Khashoggi, a verdict condemned globally as a travesty of justice but backed by Washington.

Both the CIA and United Nations special envoy Agnes Callamard have directly linked Prince Mohammed to the killing, a charge the kingdom vehemently denies.

UN Security Council urges quick ceasefire in Libya

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council called Tuesday on Libya's warring sides to quickly reach a ceasefire that would pave the way for a political process aimed at ending conflict in the oil-rich state.

The United Nations meeting followed up on a weekend Libya summit held in Berlin, which saw the formation of a military commission that is supposed to define ways of consolidating a cessation of hostilities.

It is to comprise five members each from the UN-recognized government in Tripoli and its opponents loyal to military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

"The members of the Security Council urged the

Libyan parties to engage constructively in the five + five military commission in order to conclude a ceasefire agreement as soon as possible," the Council said.

The North African country has been torn by fighting between rival armed factions since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi and toppled his regime.

Since April last year the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli has fought back against an offensive by fighters loyal to Haftar, who is supported by several countries including Russia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and France.

The day before the international conference Haftar's forces blocked oil exports

from Libya's main ports.

The move to cripple the country's primary income source was to protest Turkey's decision to send troops to shore up Haftar's rivals.

The military commission is expected to meet in the coming days, according to the UN, tasked with turning an existing fragile ceasefire into a permanent truce as requested by the international leaders in Berlin.

The ceasefire was co-sponsored by Russia and Turkey and has broadly held since it went into effect on January 12. The summit was attended by the presidents of Russia, Turkey, France and Egypt, as well as US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and UN chief Antonio Guterres.

GNA leader Fayez al-

Sarraj and Haftar were also there but refused to meet. The conference failed to get the two rivals to commit to a permanent truce.

At the summit the main countries concerned promised to no longer interfere in Libyan affairs and to respect an arms embargo imposed in 2011 but which has been violated.

At the end of the Security Council meeting, Guterres told reporters that "there's still a long way to go."

He said truce violations have not been widespread. "We need to move to a ceasefire, and from the ceasefire, we need to move to a real political process and we are not yet there," Haftar insists his military campaign is aimed at battling Islamists.

Death toll in China's coronavirus goes up to 9

PTI ■ BEIJING

The death toll in China's novel coronavirus virus has gone up to nine with the confirmed infection cases sharply rising to 440, the health authorities said on Wednesday, warning that the disease could spread further in the ongoing Chinese holiday season during which millions travel at home and abroad.

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 on Wednesday that 440 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.

The cases had resulted in nine deaths, all in central China's Hubei Province, Li Bin, deputy director of the National Health Commission told at a press conference here on Wednesday.

Altogether 149 new confirmed cases were reported on Tuesday, Li added.

Li said China was now at the "most critical stage" of prevention and control following confirmation that that human-to-human transmission of the

virus had taken place.

The official said there was evidence that the disease was "mainly transmitted through the respiratory tract".

Overseas, one case has been confirmed in Japan, three in Thailand, and one in Korea. The first case of the virus has now been reported in US with official confirmation that a person arrived from the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus.

The patient was hospitalised on Sunday, after arriving in Seattle from Wuhan on January 15, officials at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said.

Li said the figures from the commission show a total of 2,197 close contacts have been traced. A total of 1,394 are under medical observation

while 765 people have been discharged. All of the deaths were reported in central Hubei province, where the virus first appeared in the city of Wuhan.

China yet to confirm the exact source of the virus.

"Though the transmission route of the virus is yet to be fully understood, there is a possibility of virus mutation and a risk of further spread of the epidemic," Li said.

The warning comes as millions of people across China are travelling within the country and abroad for the Lunar New Year week-long holiday. The holiday season began on January 10 and would last for 40 days. Officially, China will declare week-long holiday from January 24.

The Wuhan Health Commission said it would

authorise medical institutions to quarantine all patients and people in close contact with them as a prevention and control measure, Li said.

On Tuesday, the National Health Commission (NHC) upgraded the coronavirus to a Class B infectious disease, but said it would use the stricter control measures for a Class A disease to handle the outbreak, meaning any infection nationwide must be reported within two hours and monitored.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO), which is holding an emergency meeting on Wednesday, will consider declaring an international public health emergency over the virus - 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 week-long festival triggers biggest mass migration, clogging road, rail and air networks every year.

India has already issued a travel warning. Several countries started screening travellers coming from China, especially from Wuhan to detect symptoms like fever.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang confirmed on Monday about Chinese official's attendance at the emergency meeting of the International Health Regulation (IHR) called by the WHO.

North Korea to ban tourists over China virus: Tour operator

AFP ■ SEOUL

North Korea will ban foreign tourists to protect itself against a new SARS-like virus that has claimed at least nine lives in China and sickened hundreds, a major tour operator said.

Several nations including the US have stepped up checks on airport passengers to detect the coronavirus, which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, but a ban on tourists would be a first.

The virus has caused alarm in China and abroad because of its genetic similarities to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

The vast majority of foreign tourists to North Korea are Chinese, and their numbers have swelled significantly in the last year as relations between Beijing and Pyongyang have warmed, generating vital foreign currency for the isolated country.

But as of Wednesday, North Korea will "temporarily close its borders to all foreign tourists as a precaution to the coronavirus", Chinese-based specialist operator Young Pioneer Tours said in a statement.

Exact details had yet to be confirmed, it added.

Koryo Tours, the market leader for Western visitors,

said it had been "informed that action was being considered" and was expecting more information Wednesday.

Pyongyang has taken similar action in the past — it closed its borders to foreign tourists for more than four months from October 2014 in a bid to keep out the Ebola virus, even though no cases had been reported in Asia.

It enforced a 21-day quarantine period on anyone entering the country, including foreign diplomats and businesspeople.

Pyongyang's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper did not mention any North Korean action over the virus Wednesday but reported on the outbreak in China, saying it had "spread rapidly" and that authorities in its giant neighbour were taking "corresponding measures".

The North has poor medical infrastructure and a chronic shortage of medicines. When South Korea suffered from the world's largest outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, in summer 2015, the North reportedly prohibited its diplomats and workers overseas from returning to their homeland for months to prevent the spread of the virus.

Pyongyang also suspended foreign tours for three months due to fears over SARS in 2003.

Wuhan virus compounds HK's economic woes

AFP ■ HONG KONG

The emergence of a SARS-like virus in China is the last thing Hong Kong's struggling economy needs, analysts say, as the city reels from the twin storms of the global trade war and months of political unrest.

The semi-autonomous financial hub is currently on high alert for any appearance of the new coronavirus, which first surfaced in the Chinese city of Wuhan and has since spread to the United States and around Asia.

In 2003, nearly 300 people were killed in Hong Kong during an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which also began on the mainland and hammered the city's economy as tourists arrivals plunged.

"We are on extreme high alert and preparing for the worst," chief secretary Matthew Cheung told reporters on Tuesday. "We have not lowered our guard." The timing could hardly be worse.

Hong Kong has been

tipped into a recession by the US-China trade war and months of seething democracy protests that have upended its reputation for stability.

On Monday, Moody's downgraded Hong Kong's credit rating, saying the government had failed to respond to the economic and political demands of protesters and that China's increased influence was undermining the city's once-vaunted institutions.

A disease outbreak in the densely packed city would only add to current economic woes.

"This is definitely the last thing Hong Kong people want to see," said Jackson Wong, an asset management director at Amber Hill Capital Ltd. "The current situation will definitely remind investors about what we suffered in 2003 during the SARS outbreak in Hong Kong," he added.

Hong Kong's stock market sank on Tuesday — with tourism-linked stocks leading the losses — after a top Chinese scientist said the Wuhan virus has now been found to pass

between humans.

The brewing crisis comes days before the Lunar New Year holiday, which sees hundreds of millions of people travel across China and overseas.

The number of mainland Chinese travelling to Hong Kong has dropped dramatically since the anti-government protests began last summer, and there are fears the Wuhan virus will only make things worse for the battered tourist industry.

"Hotel, catering and tourism have borne the brunt of the recession and now this situation is like rubbing salt into the wounds," Dickie Wong, executive director of research at Kingston Securities, told AFP.

"It will deal a heavy blow to the city's economic atmosphere. The impact of the political unrest sparked by the extradition bill (protests) has not yet ended." Hong Kong's health authorities are taking few chances in a bid to stave off a repeat of the SARS epidemic.

Monitoring for people with fevers has been ramped up at



A worker sprays disinfectant at a train station in Wuhan in southern China's Hubei province as Chinese health authorities urged people in the city of Wuhan to avoid crowds and public gatherings, after warning on Wednesday that a new viral illness that has infected hundreds and caused at least nine deaths could spread further. AP

the airport and local hospitals to include anyone coming from Hubei province, not just its capital city Wuhan.

More than 100 people who have come back from the region and reported flu-like symptoms have been isolated and treated, although none have yet tested positive for the new strain.

But the spread of confirmed cases in multiple Chinese cities, including neighbouring Shenzhen, has put Hong Kong on edge with face masks rapidly selling out.

Isolation wards and doctors are on standby.

The SARS outbreak dramatically transformed Hong Kong into a place where the

population is now far more conscious of contagion and hygiene standards.

Door handles and lift buttons in the city's myriad skyscrapers are routinely sterilised multiple times a day, while an unguarded sneeze on the crowded subway can cause neighbouring commuters to scramble for distance.

Forgot password? Not having one safer

Davos (PTI): With weak or stolen passwords accounting for an average of four out of five global data breaches, a new study has said it is safer not to have a password.

The new report released by the World Economic Forum, here during its 2020 annual meeting, said that freeing ourselves of passwords will actually make individuals safer and businesses more efficient.

Cybercrime is set to cost the global economy USD 2.9 million every minute in 2020, and some 80 per cent of these attacks are password-related.

Knowledge-based authentication — whether with PINs, passwords, passphrases, or whatever we need to remember — is not only a major headache for users, it is costly to maintain, the study found. For larger businesses, it is estimated that nearly 50 per cent of IT help desk costs are allocated to password resets, with average annual spend for companies now at over USD 1 million for staffing alone.

"Passwordless authentication does not mean removing all security barriers to our digitalized society. It means harnessing tools such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to save users time and save company money," the WEF said.

"With the growing availability of biometrics and next-generation technology, consumers are demanding a better digital experience while wanting to be secure online," said Adrien Ogee, Project Lead, Platform for Shaping the Future of Cybersecurity and Digital Trust, World Economic Forum. "Better authentication practices are not just possible they are a necessity."

The report, produced in collaboration with the FIDO Alliance, has suggested five top passwordless authentication technologies, ready for implementation by global companies. They are biometrics, behavioural analytics, zero-knowledge proofs, QR codes and security keys.

Lawyers for Huawei executive facing extradition to US attack fraud charges

AFP ■ VANCOUVER

Lawyers for a Chinese telecoms executive seeking to avoid extradition to the US stepped up attacks Tuesday on the fraud charges she faces.

Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of tech giant Huawei and eldest daughter of its founder Ren Zhengfei, is wanted by US authorities for alleged fraud related to sanctions against Iran. Her arrest in Canada caused a rift in relations with China.

The US alleges she lied to the bank HSBC about Huawei's relationship with its Iran-based affiliate Skycom, putting the bank at risk of violating US sanctions against Tehran.

Meng has denied the allegations. She has been out on bail, living in one of her two Vancouver luxury homes for the past year.

To secure her freedom, however, the "princess of

Huawei" must convince Judge Heather Holmes that the US charges would not stand up in Canada and are politically motivated.

In a high-security courtroom specially built for the prosecution of Canadian suspects in the 1985 Air India bombing, defense lawyer Eric Gottardi said that if Canada were to agree to hand over Meng to US authorities, "We'd be allowing a foreign state to criminalize conduct in Canada" that is not illegal in this country.

"The international community has rejected the very (US) sanctions that ground the accusations in this case," he said on the second day of a five day extradition hearing.

"Sanctions aren't meant to punish illegal acts by individuals. They're meant to influence state behaviour," he added.

On Monday, defense attorneys argued that the US was abusing its treaty with Canada by asking it to nab Meng for prosecution as part of a campaign that Huawei chief executive Ren Zhengfei surmised aims to crush China's largest international company.

They argued that Meng's misrepresentations, if they occurred, do not amount to fraud, and that Canada repudiated the US sanctions against Iran.

"Would we be here in the absence of US sanctions? Our response is no," lead defense lawyer Richard Peck told a packed courtroom.

Since HSBC would not be prosecuted in Canada for being "duped" into violating the sanctions, he said, it also cannot be said that it suffered harm — proof of which is required for a fraud conviction under Canadian law.

The hearing is scheduled to last until Friday.

The defense is expected to wrap up its arguments Tuesday or Wednesday, and then lawyers for Canada's attorney general on behalf of the US Justice Department will present their case.

A second phase is scheduled for June.

In order to win extradition, the Crown must demonstrate that the US accusations against Meng would be considered a crime in Canada if they'd occurred here. This is a key test referred to as double criminality.

Government lawyers assert that Huawei controlled the operations of Skycom in Iran; that its staff used Huawei email accounts and security badges; and its bank accounts were controlled by Huawei.

Meng, however, told HSBC executives in a presentation in Hong Kong in 2013 that Huawei no longer owned Skycom and that she had resigned from that company's board.

France, Germany join BlackRock for climate investment

AFP ■ DAVOS

France, Germany announced on Wednesday that they are joining forces with investment giant BlackRock to speed up attracting capital to invest in projects fighting against climate change in developing countries.

The Climate Finance Partnership (CFP) brings together BlackRock, the world's biggest asset manager, France's development agency AFD, the German environment ministry, and a number of private foundations.

The plan was announced on the sidelines of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, where private sector players and governments are under increasing pressure to show they are serious about reversing global warming. BlackRock already announced last week it is divesting holdings in companies that generate more than a quarter of their sales from thermal coal production.

The CFP aims "to mobilise top-tier institutional capital investment into climate-related sectors in emerging markets, at scale," the parties said in a statement. The investments will be targeted towards countries in South East Asia, Latin America, and crucially Africa, which will account for at least 25 percent of the total capital invested.

Projects could include renewable energy, energy efficiency in homes and offices, energy storage and electric transport, a statement said.

"The unique challenges posed by climate change call for stronger joint action," said Remy Rioux, the CEO of the French development agency AFD.

It will "help redirect financial flows towards sustainable development investments across the emerging world, and will include a priority focus on Africa," he added. There will be an initial investment of at least \$100 million and then BlackRock will mobilise a goal of at least \$400 million in institutional private equity capital commitments.

"This would result in a minimum size of \$500 million at first close and CFP parties share a collective goal of further scaling the vehicle going forward," the statement said. France and Germany intend to contribute \$30 million each to the partnership.

In addition, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust have committed \$10 million and \$7.5 million respectively.

The CFP, a project initially announced in September 2018, is the first vehicle focused on climate infrastructure investments in emerging markets of BlackRock. "We believe creative collaboration is essential to mobilising investment into climate infrastructure in emerging markets at scale, providing our clients with further opportunity to invest in the global low-carbon transition," said Brian Deese, Global Head of Sustainable Investing at BlackRock.



IMPROVE YOUR SCORE

Some may not have fared well in the JEE Mains held in January. Fret not, the April session gives another chance. Here's what aspirants need to do this time to ace it, says RAMESH BATLISH

The JEE Main 2020 was held in January between January 6-9, 2020. Around 9.2 lakh candidates had registered out of which around 8.7 lakh appeared. The result was announced and nine students scored 100 percentile from across the country. However, the Common Rank List for JEE Main 2020 will be available in the first week of May after the declaration of the results of the April exam. The higher of the two scores of candidates who have appeared in either/both JEE Main January and April 2020 will be considered for final ranking of JEE Main 2020.

The list will denote the All India and category ranks of the candidates in addition to the details of the candidates and marks obtained. The JEE Main rank will be the basis for admissions to the NITs, IITs and GFTIs.

Here are some dos and don'ts to avoid for the session in April:

- One must not repeat the same mistakes committed in January session of JEE Main. Learning from mistakes is important.
- Complete your syllabi if not done earlier.
- Practice questions from previous year JEE Main papers and even from January session of JEE 2020.
- Use the gap between your Boards to revise and take up mock tests on online mode from reputed source for consistency in preparation.
- Keep a check on your speed and accuracy as it is also important as to how you solve the paper for a high score.
- You must have done the test analysis of the JEE Paper you took in January and ensure you are confident with each of those questions now.
- Take help from your subject teachers to clear your doubts and speak to them in case of any conceptual doubts or problems which you are unable to solve.
- Prepare a quick revision

WHILE REVISING TAKE HELP FROM YOUR TEACHERS FOR THE DIFFICULT CHAPTERS AND GET ALL CONCEPTS CLEARED AS MERELY DEVOTING TIME ON THESE MAY NOT HELP. YOU CAN JOIN CRASH COURSE FOR THESE TOPICS AS WELL

plan and categorise the chapters like:

EASY: Generally you can solve any problem from these chapter/topic

MODERATE: You take time to solve but your concepts of these chapters are clear

DIFFICULT: You have not been able to understand the concepts in these chapter and find questions from these chapters tough.

- While revising ensure you take help from your teachers for the difficult chapters and get all your concepts cleared as merely devoting time on these chapters may not help. You can join crash course for these topics.
- For moderate chapters you will need more practice so devote time daily so that you have completed solving adequate no. of questions from these chapters.
- For the chapters/topics you find easy it is important that you are always able to solve any given question from them. You must solve some questions even from these topics but avoid spending too much time on these as you are already good in these chapters.

- While solving questions keep a check on your time and develop short cuts to avoid lengthy calculations. Use of diagrams/graphs will expedite your answers.
- Try to remember all important formulae, named reactions as this will add to your speed while solving.
- Your speed, accuracy and time management will be an important parameter for success in JEE Main (April), 2020.
- Most importantly take care of your physical and mental fitness as there are external factors influencing your performance in the exam.
- Avoid taking up new books or start any new chapters before the exam as this may spoil your confidence level.
- Maintain a positive attitude throughout your preparation and remain focused. Staying confident and keeping calm while taking the exam also helps get a desired score.
- Remember, it is the relative performance and not just how you have performed on the exam day.
- Give in your best shot and you will ace JEE Main.

The writer is Head, FIITJEE Noida

'Learn & develop with content in real time'

Organisations are making jobs leaner. It is important that new employees learn work assigned as quickly as possible, say SJ RAJ

As organisations continually work toward making jobs leaner and people more efficient, jobs are quickly being automated. The speed with which a new employee can learn their job directly affects the speed of production and efficiency of the employee. And so, it is not only the nature of work that is changing, but also the way work is learned.

Learning and Working Simultaneously

Picture an industrial set up where a new engineer, who was given on-the-job training through audio, visual, and demonstrative sessions, comes across a machine he has never operated before. Considering that it is likely that engineer would not remember their training completely, they may fumble with the machine.

Now picture the same new engineer faced with a new machine, but this time, the machine has an automated bot giving real-time instructions on how to operate it. The new employee not only hears the content, but simultaneously gets hands-on experience with the machine directly.

Since participative learning methods, such as practice, result in a much higher retention rate of new learning than passive learning methods, such as lectures and demonstrations, this real-time training not only results in faster learning, but also makes the employee productive much sooner.

As repetition is the best way to strengthen new skills, a new employee may use the instructions from the bot every time until they feel completely ready to operate/work on their own. Such participative learning methods are more engaging, and the learner is unlikely to zone out while learning hands-on.

Rise of Smart Technology-Aided Learning

While more and more companies have incorporated virtual training labs, some are now also experimenting with virtual reality and augmented technology-based learning programmes, creating life-like situations to learn from.

Such applications are especially valuable in supporting engineers and technicians to learn the specific nuances of their roles on the job itself. For other non-mechanical roles, cloud-based, hands-on virtual labs continue to offer the cognitive learning and practice required for better retention.

AI is being used to design individual learning programmes by understanding and capitalising upon the individuals' information, such as experience, educational backgrounds,



SJ Raj
Senior Vice-president, HR Operations, Newgen Software

personality insights, career goals, and learning preferences. This AI-assisted learning allows employees to take control of their learning and development with content that can be updated in real time.

AI and bots are also enabling faster and more accurate learning. Bots used for hands-on training may be programmed to pick up on feedback and comments from new employees in real time, tag that feedback appropriately, and get other employees or trainers to share their thoughts, expertise, and experiences, thus maintaining the human touch to the learning process.

Ideal Training Model

Great on-the-job training is a collective of methods, including simulation, practice, coaching, experiencing, and peer learning. On-the-job training must allow a learner to continuously reinforce what has been taught through practice.

As organisations step into the future and push to train their employees more efficiently and comprehensively, support from automated bots and artificial intelligence, paired with the expertise of mentors and senior management, is helping to build the ideal on-the-job training platform.

Empowering one's own self should trigger from within. Many of us have those triggers coming from within but, we succumb to the external factors and consciously make that voice coming from within, die down. This is worst we can do to ourselves.

Nature in its grand design has empowered us with unmatched inner strength and powers. All one needs is to do that introspection and find our own legend.

Applying the power of three As, one would not have to wait for an external trigger to experience empowerment. The three As — Accept, Analyse, and Adopt — help one to experience empowerment inside-out. We all are having multiple

influencing layers on to our own real-self. These layers influence our belief system and the subsequent thoughts and actions. One needs to identify these layers, and peel them to reach their core to further empower it.

Accept

Relieving oneself from own belief system is a process which requires a lot of determination. The first step to empowerment is to accept. Accept that you need to explore your real self, Accept that you are influenced by multiple external layers which need to be handled and accept that you have enough power to bring the best out of you.

These little acceptances coupled up with

MINDIT

a persistent process of being mindful will start a journey of exploring yourself. Be aware of what your real self is saying to you, listen to it. Remember, you can listen to it only when you are ready to question your self and the surrounding circumstances. If you do not question you will not be able to accept. Acceptance of your current circumstances is key to your journey to empowerment.

Analyse

The second part of your journey is to

decide what to do and what not to do. This is another important aspect of your journey where you use your intellect to identify and weigh various pros and cons of your decisions. Identify the you in you. The easiest way to know it, is to identify and analyse your feelings to various experiences and circumstances.

You need to removed multiple layers on your belief system which stop you to take action in particular direction. You should identify your core interest and strength then identify and select the field you wish to grow

your career. This analysis is never easy to come. If your decisions continue to be influenced by your belief system your journey to the core will become equally difficult.

You must have a flexible mindset while you do this analysis. This flexible mindset will allow you to be more pragmatic in your reasoning and dealing with your influencing layers. Listen to your heart and the language of your heart is feelings. Never, let your feelings go waste, analyse them.

Adopt

The third A — adopt, is the most important as it lies in the action zone and requires you to take action for actualising

your decisions. This requires a lot of resolve, will power and focus. Resolution remains weak if it is not coupled up with will power and focus to drive it.

All you need to do is to take the first step with full conviction, will power and focus. You must identify gaps in your resolution, reason out the lack in your will power and focus to adopt changes to go after your decision with full zeal.

You are already empowered, all you need to do is to be aware of the fact that you are empowered and take pragmatic logical steps to bring the power within to life.

The writer is Achal Sharma, Secretary, Corepeeler Foundation and author of Corepeeler: Journey to Your Core



The Association of Banks in Singapore is providing the Dr Koh Keng Swee funding for the brilliant applicants at local universities in Singapore.

The financial aid positions will be awarded for pursuing undergraduate studies at local universities in Singapore — National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Eligibility: Demonstrate leadership qualities and possess good academic and co-curricular activities (CCA) achievements; Applicants will need to present proof of language proficiency. It means applicants have to pass an official language test (for example - TOEFL or IELTS).

Benefits: Scholarship supports a maximum of four years of UG study (including Honours). It provides the following: Tuition and other compulsory fees; Airfare (to Singapore and return to home country upon completion of study); Annual maintenance allowance of SGD6500; Hostel allowance based on the institution of

study; Settling-in allowance (one-off expense) of SGD200 upon arrival in Singapore.

How to apply: Submit application at www.pscgate-way.gov.sg/app/gks/account/uidsignin

Application deadline: March 15, 2020.

The University of Edinburgh invites applications for MBA scholarships for international students in the UK.

Eligibility: Details of any degrees applicants hold or expect to hold, Any relevant details from employment or training history; Details of journal articles applicants have had published; The topic of applicants proposed research; A research outline of no more than 300 words; A personal statement of no more than 300 words; Details of any other programmes or awards applicants hold or have held.

Admission requirement: Candidates must have, or expect to obtain, a UK first-class or 2:1 honours degree at undergraduate level or the international equivalent. **English language requirements:** All students of every nationality are required to prove their English language competence.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is March 11, 2020.

DATA ENTRY AT MS SUPPORT SERVICES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹2,000-₹3,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813877
Application deadline: January 31, 2020

VIDEO MAKING/EDITING AT BLUE DROP PICTURES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813878
Application deadline: January 30, 2020

POLICY RESEARCH AT PAIGAM

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813879
Application deadline: January 31, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT WILD VOYAGER

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813880
Application deadline: January 31, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT KREDX

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813874
Application deadline: January 31, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES AT TAGLYNK CAREERS

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹7,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813875
Application deadline: February 15, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT INFOBRANDZ

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹13,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2813876
Application deadline: January 31, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Time is of essence when applying for a UG course'

Want to study abroad after Class XII? The prep needs to start now, says ABHISHEK SINGHAL

What is the right time to begin preparations for studying abroad?

The answer to this is quite simple: Now! Given that the application can be filed in even two weeks, there's nothing to stop you from giving it a shot. While it is possible to apply for admission over a fortnight, an application that can pull its own weight, something that is bound to stand out and get noticed, that takes much longer. It is not a preparation for going abroad that you are looking for, it is preparation to be the best you can be. And for that, the earlier you begin, the better it is.

For UG Programmes

If you are in Class IX or X, and are keen on studying abroad start by exploring topics of interest. Aim to increase your general awareness, and then establish long term interests and commitments. Over a period of time, enroll in activities that could showcase your interests and skill sets. This kind of exposure helps students develop a better sense of maturity.

A child who follows international conflicts closely, understands diplomatic relations, and keeps tabs on current developments could possibly benefit. Similarly, children from a science background could increase their awareness in a specialised area by reading up about it, by participating in workshops, or even possibly doing online courses.

Expand interests by exploring different avenues. Join classes, camps, or workshops. Try out new activities, hone your existing skills, and use your free time proactively. Starting out early is ideal not just to build your portfolio, but also, most importantly, to figure out what your strengths and interests really are.

In Class XI/XII, it will be time to begin preparation for tests like SAT, ACT or AP. These are key scores for admission applications. An early start gives you the upper hand in preparations.

Consider how you can give better shape to your interests and activities. At this time, give direction to interests. If you are a football player, try to play at a higher level. You could even consider doing online courses (MOOCs) if you have time and inclination.

The writer is co-founder, UnivAdmitHelp

IN BRIEF

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS BUDGET

According to Rupal Dalal, Executive Director, JD Institute of Fashion Technology: "The education needs an overhaul and we expect to see a reform-oriented education policy in 2020. The biggest challenge in the education sector is achieving higher literacy and employment."

Today youths comprise 34.33 per cent of India's population. In the last Budget, the Centre had allocated ₹93,847.64 crore for the education sector, of which ₹37,461.01 crores was earmarked for higher education. We

expect the allocation to increase in the upcoming Union Budget 2020.

The Government should focus on providing affordable and quality education to all. "The role of technology and e-learning programmes will be key. We hope to see the Budget to introduce new programs in higher education. These schemes should offer re-skilling, up-skilling, e-education and vocational studies. The government should also create low-cost institutions for primary, secondary and higher education," she added.

NEW UG AND PG COURSES AT RISHIHOOD VARSITY

The Rishihood University invites applications for the first batch of students looking to apply for undergraduate and post graduate programmes in Entrepreneurship, Healthcare, Education and Creativity. First phase of courses is slated to begin in the third week of July, 2020.

The university aims to integrate lifelong learning

transcending age, subject choice and society by working with students, individuals pursuing higher education and working professionals.

A recent Niti Aayog report states that more than 53 per cent of individuals passing out from higher education institutions are unemployable.

Speaking on the launch of the

programmes, Sahil Aggarwal, Co-Founder & CEO of Rishihood University said: "India is on the cusp of becoming a major contributor to the world's knowledge economy by 2030. Therefore, the entire ecosystem of educational institutions, Government and corporations must prepare today's youth for an ever evolving and volatile transition."

PARTNERSHIP FOR MICRO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Shadowfax, a cross-category, full-stack logistics platform, has joined hands with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, ASSOCHAM, in a first-of-its-kind and an exclusive partnership to promote micro entrepreneurship in gig economy under the aegis of Government of India's Skill India Mission initiative.

With the gig economy gaining traction, logistics and delivery are the sunshine sectors providing immense

employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Under this partnership, ASSOCHAM will work closely with the Government to create awareness about benefits of working in this attractive sector. Right candidates shall be trained to make them employment ready for the delivery and hospitality sector. This association is expected to create an additional resource pool of 1.6 lakh personnel in the course of next two years.

Trend Slazer

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 Lecoulre 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 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 debutants. 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'

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."

Ever since Khan passed out of film school he wanted to tell the stories of these soldiers. He says, "Twenty-seven thousand of them died fighting to liberate the country. Just imagine their patriotism and valour. They are a forgotten chapter in our history and this story is an effort to make people realise their existence."

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

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

A humble stone fountain, overgrown shrubs and flowers, and white sheets drying on a line met Pharrell Williams and other curious guests at the Chanel show inside the Grand Palais.

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 Aubazine, in the French region of Corrèze — with its flowers, uniforms 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 known 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

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 racket 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 Zidansek, 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 Zidansek

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 semifinalist 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 nagging 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.

Agencies



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 up 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-

FIGURATIVELY

10 Gabriel Martinelli is the first teenager to score 10+ goals in a single season for Arsenal (all competitions) since Nicolas Anelka in 1998-99

2 Jorginho is the first Chelsea player to score home and away against Arsenal in a single PL season since Juan Mata did so in 2012-13

1 David Luiz is the first player to be sent off against Chelsea in the Premier League, having previously played for the Blues in the competition, since Vinnie Jones in December 1995

3 Kevin De Bruyne is the first player in PL history to provide 15+ assists in three different seasons

10 Dominic Calvert-Lewin is the first Englishman to score 10+ goals in a Premier League season for Everton since Wayne Rooney in 2017-18

1 Moise Kean scored his first goal for Everton with what was his 26th shot in all competitions; he's the first Italian to score a PL goal for the Toffees since Alessandro Pistone in April 2002

lier this season in a 9-0 defeat by Leicester.

Watford took the lead against Villa when Troy Deeney headed in Gerard Deulofeu's cross but the home side hit back in the second half through Douglas Luiz.

Tyrone Mings scored a dramatic late winner for Villa deep into stoppage time to end Watford's recent revival under Nigel Pearson.

Moise Kean scored his first goal for Everton since his arrival from Juventus in the 30th minute of their match against Newcastle and Dominic Calvert-Lewin doubled the lead in the second half.

Everton were cruising deep into stoppage time but threw away the three points, with Lejeune striking twice.

Bournemouth, who had lost their previous four matches, all against relegation rivals, beat Brighton 3-1 thanks to goals from Harry Wilson, an own goal from Pascal Gross and a second-half Callum Wilson effort.

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 are 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 eight-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

back into the game four minutes later when centre-back Gabriel handled inside the area.

Moussa Dembele drilled the spot-kick into the top corner to grab his sixth goal in five games.

Houssem Aouar appeared to have fired Lyon into the final with a fine long-range strike with five minutes remaining.

There was another twist in the tale, though, as despite a lengthy delay for a VAR review, Lille were awarded an injury-time penalty for what appeared to be an excellent tackle by former Manchester United full-back Raphael on Jonathan Bamba.

Loic Remy, on as a 78th-minute substitute, stepped up with a cool Panenka finish down the middle of the goal to force more spot-kicks.

But Ciprian Tatarusanu, playing in place of usual Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes, saved Bamba's opening penalty before Sanches' miss sealed Lille's fate. AFP

India's campaign end 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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

LIGHTNING QUICK

Rana's unbeaten 68-ball 105 helps Delhi beat Vidarbha by 6 wickets in 347 run chase

British 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 Chandela (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 slog 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



Maharashtra players pose after win against Assam during Ranji Trophy game

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 mindset. 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 India A, picking up three wickets 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 off after getting his eye in and after that, Samson showed his prowess, smacking 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 World T20 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



Angelo Mathews celebrates after double hundred

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."



Mathews 200* hurt Zimbabwe

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.

I see 'incredible' Kohli breaking more records: Smith

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

It's the year of the World T20 and it isn't just Virat Kohli and the Indian boys who are looking to take every opportunity to prepare for the show-piece event slated to be held later in the year. Run-machine Steve Smith is already excited at the prospect of playing another ICC event at home after the 2015 World Cup. In fact, he believes that his stint in the IPL with Rajasthan Royals will have a major role to play in the build-up to the mega event Down Under.

Speaking to IANS, Smith spoke about the much-debated proposal to have four-day Tests. India skipper Kohli's gesture to ask fans to support him during the 2019 World Cup, the Indian Premier League and how Tim Paine has done a brilliant job leading Australia in Test cricket.

For a man who has dominated batting charts in the last few years, Smith's numbers in the shortest format of the game definitely has room for improvement. But the former Australia skipper wants to keep playing and improving on the go rather than changing his style of training going into the World T20.

"No real specific training, but just playing a lot more T20 cricket and just getting the right tempo I guess for the game is the most important thing for me. I would love to be a part of the World Cup, it's obviously at home in Australia. I was involved in the ODI World Cup here in 2015 and had the most amazing six-weeks of my cricketing career and loved every minute of it. So yeah would love to be

involved in another World Cup at home for sure!" he smiled.

Asked if he was looking at his time with Rajasthan Royals to try some new stuff as it will be the perfect training ground for the World T20, Smith doesn't sound the sort who likes to tinker much with his training ritual. But he does have it on his mind to give his leg-spin skills a thought.

"Ah, don't want to try too much different. I don't really know, maybe a bit more bowling perhaps, but then that takes time away from my batting. So yeah, it's a difficult one but we'll wait and see," he reveals.

A chat with Smith can never move forward without discussing Kohli. It looks like these two will go ahead and share all the records between them when they hang their boots. The greatness of Smith though is in his humility. The moment the talks move towards the comparison, he decides to highlight how brilliant Kohli has been both as batsman and leader.

"Yeah, he is terrific. His batting numbers just speak for themselves. I think he's an incredible player in all three formats and I think we will see him break many records. He's already broken plenty of them and I see him breaking many more over the years. He has got the hunger for runs and doesn't stop getting them. Hopefully he can stop getting them against Australia, that'll be nice.

"As a captain he's already made India the number one side in the world in Test cricket. From what I have seen he sets really good standards for

them. He is a lot about fitness and is health conscious and things like that. He's got the Indian side into a really good place and leads them exceptionally well," the 30-year-old pointed.

Asked about Kohli's gesture to ask fans to show him support during the 2019 World Cup, Smith feels it was really nice of the India skipper. "In the World Cup it was really nice of Virat to do what he did. He did not have to do that and yeah it was a lovely gesture and really appreciated that," he smiled.

Kohli, in fact, won the 'Spirit of Cricket' award for his gesture in England.

There have been talks that Smith is a natural leader and that the national captaincy could well return to him in the near future. But for the batsman, Paine is the captain and someone who is doing a good job with the boys.

"Yeah, Tim's done a terrific job. He has led the troops really well. Obviously retaining the Ashes in England in twenty-odd years was an exceptional effort and yeah he has led the team exceptionally well," he said.

From the Ashes to the ICC's proposal to have four-day Test matches on a regular basis from 2023, Smith is a traditionalist in the matter and wants the format to stay as it is.

"I am comfortable with five days. I like the challenge of a five-day Test match. Obviously, there has been a lot of talk of the four-day Tests, but my personal opinion is I like five days. I don't make the decisions obviously of how it all works out but my opinion is five-days Tests is what it is all about," he signed off.

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 Asian medallist 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 medallist Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) after a comprehensive 5-0 triumph over Ireland's Kieran Molloy. Zareen was declared the winner after local favourite Sevdia Azenova 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 — Shahr Khodro 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.

AGENCIES