

OPINION 8
WHY WE
NEED DATA

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HK POLICE: PROTESTERS
INCITING YOUTH CRIME

SPORT 15
CITY EASE PAST
BLADES TEST

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the pioneer

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NOT AFRAID
OF FAILURES:
JOHN ABRAHAM
13 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

MINOR FIRE AT PM'S RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX
New Delhi: A minor fire broke at 9 Lok Kalyan Marg inside the residential complex of the Prime Minister but his residence and office were not affected by it, the PMO said. The fire has been brought under control, the PMO added. P4

J&K HC JOBS OPEN FOR NON-RESIDENTS ALSO
Jammu: Opening the State employment in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh for candidates from across the country after nullification of Article 370, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court has invited applications from eligible candidates from all over India to fill 33 vacancies with it. P7

KERALA TOPS NITI'S SDG INDEX, BIHAR WORST
New Delhi: Kerala retained the top rank while Bihar was adjudged as the worst performer in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2019, which evaluates progress of States and Union Territories on social, economic and environmental parameters, as per a report released. P5

KOTA INFANTS' DEATH: TOLL CLIMBS TO 91
Kota: Fourteen more infants have died at the JK Lon hospital here in the last five days, taking the number of deaths to 91 this month. P7

MODI LAUNCHES 10-DAY OUTREACH DRIVE ON CAA
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday led the BJP's ten day outreach campaign to gather support for the CAA, which has sparked violent protests across India in recent weeks. P5

THE COLDEST DAY

119-year record broken, Delhi's max temp dips to 9.4° C

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi is experiencing the coldest winter in over a century. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declared Monday as a coldest day in the national Capital in 119 years with maximum temperature dipping to 9.4 degrees Celsius at Safdarjung (official) observatory. The Regional Weather Forecast Centre (RWFC) has predicted no relief from cold wave on Tuesday.

Sixteen flights were diverted and four cancelled at the Delhi airport on Monday due to heavy fog, an official said. Many trains were running late. Citing 24 hours temperature trend, the IMD said the Aya Nagar observatory recorded day temperature at 7.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Ridge 8.4 degrees Celsius, Palam 9 and Lodi Road 9.2 degrees Celsius.

Forecasting weekly weather for the national Capital, the RWFC has predicted rain on January 1, 2 and 3 while December 31 is still tagged as "cold wave" day. There will be no respite before January 3 as minimum temperature will fluctuate around 3-4 degrees Celsius, while maximum temperature will be around 16



People walk on a road amid early morning dense fog in New Delhi on Monday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

degrees Celsius January 1 onwards.

Low visibility in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) delayed thirty trains. Kuldeep Srivastava, head RWFC, said the day temperature was almost half of what is considered nor-

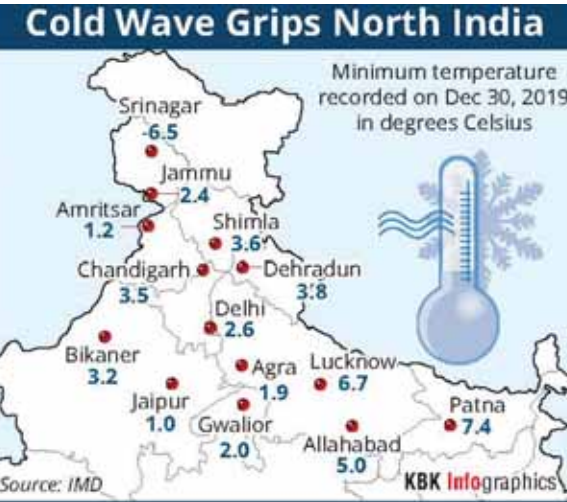
mal for this day of the year. "Today was the coldest day recorded for the December," Kuldeep said.

Around 3.30 pm, the IMD announced that Delhi is likely to break previous records of cold as maximum temperature

was recorded 9.4 degrees Celsius. "Delhi is likely to record the coldest day today in last 119 years for December month as day temperature till 14.30 IST of today has been unusually following a coldest trend with Safdarjung record-

ing 9.4 degrees Celsius and Palam 9.0 degrees Celsius," IMD tweeted. On Monday, a thick blanket of fog engulfed Delhi and the minimum temperature settled at 2.6 degrees Celsius.

Continued on Page 4



Car plunges into G Noida canal as fog blocks visibility, 6 killed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The deceased have been identified as Mahesh (35), Kishan Lal (50), Neeresh (17), Ram Khiladi (75), Mallu (12) and Netrapal (40), all residents of Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh. Police said there was one more car accompanying them and they all were going to Delhi when the unfortunate incident occurred.

around 11.30 pm on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Mahesh (35), Kishan Lal (50), Neeresh (17), Ram Khiladi (75), Mallu (12) and Netrapal (40), all residents of Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh. Police said there was one more car accompanying them and they all were going to Delhi when the unfortunate incident occurred.

Continued on Page 4

Aditya makes it to dad's Cabinet, Ajit is Dy CM

Sanjay Raut's brother misses berth as Maha Cabinet size full

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray greets his father and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray after taking oath as a Minister during the swearing-in ceremony for State Cabinet expansion at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai on Monday

Mumbai.

Of the Ministers who were administered oath by the Governor, 25 are of the Cabinet rank, while the remaining 10 are Ministers of State.

With the induction of 36 new Ministers, including the Deputy Chief Minister, the

number of Ministers in the Uddhav Thackeray Cabinet has risen to 43, including that of the Chief Minister.

Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut's MLA-brother Sunil Raut couldn't find a place in the Cabinet expansion.

Continued on Page 4

Navy bans smartphones, FB on job

Decision comes after 7 personnel held for espionage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Close on the heels of an espionage racket busted within its ranks and the arrest of seven sailors, the Indian Navy has banned the use of smartphones and Facebook by its personnel within naval establishments and on warships. The arrested sailors were honey-trapped and allegedly blackmailed through social media to pass on sensitive information.

"Directive on use of smart phones and social media for naval personnel were always there. The new instructions on smartphones are that these cannot be used within naval establishments and naval platforms. Social media, use of Facebook, is banned for all naval personnel," Navy sources said here on Monday. For messaging apps, instructions are expected to be issued shortly, they added.

The latest orders are in line with ensuring the security of information, officials said stating the recent incident involving the seven sailors in Visakhapatnam has also been taken into consideration while arriving at this decision. "We do understand that this may come at the cost of some dis-



comfort, however, the decision is in the larger national interest, they added.

The latest order comes days after the Andhra Pradesh Police along with the Navy intelligence unit and Central intelligence agencies arrested seven sailors, besides a hawala operator. The sailors were arrested from Visakhapatnam, Mumbai and Karwar naval establishments. They reportedly passed on unauthorised information about movement of warships and other operational details through social media to a Pakistan handler.

While Visakhapatnam has

the Eastern Naval command headquarters besides the sensitive submarine building centre where the nuclear submarines Arihant are under construction, the Western Naval command is based in Mumbai. The lone aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya's base is in Karwar, Karnataka.

The spy racket was busted on December 19 by the Andhra Pradesh Intelligence Department in a joint operation with the Navy code named "Dolphin's Nose." The police claimed the sailors, recruited in 2017, passed information like locations of naval ships and

submarines after they fell into a honey-trap through social media in 2018.

Incidentally, a similar case involving at least two soldiers leaking information through social media came to light two months back in Rajasthan where the armed forces regularly cautioning its personnel to be careful on social media.

The Army recently warned its personnel against 150 fake social media profiles, including of phoney spiritual gurus and babas, being used by Pakistan's Intelligence officers to honey-trap officials for extracting sensitive military information.

General Bipin Rawat named first Chief of Defence Staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As expected Army Chief General Bipin Rawat was on Monday night appointed the first ever Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He will assume charge on December 31 when he retires as the Army Chief. Vice Chief of Army Manoj Mukund Naravane will take over as the next Army Chief.

The CDS will have a tenure of three years or will serve till the age of 65. Rawat will complete 62 years when he retires as the Army Chief. The Union Cabinet on Tuesday last week had approved the creation of the CDS. He will function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister and head the new department of military affairs in the Defence Ministry.

Since Rawat is the senior most Service Chief, as the CDS he will first among equals among service chiefs. The CDS, who will draw salary equivalent to the Services Chiefs, will be responsible for rationalising weapons procurement procedures, besides integrating the operation of the armed forces.

Continued on Page 4

Idyllic Kolams speak their minds on CAA

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Agitations by political parties usually bring anxious moments in the minds of ordinary people for fear of violence. The opposition against the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 drawing thousands of people to rallies across Tamil Nadu is no exception as there is apprehension that the law and order may go haywire.

They draw Kolams in different sizes, shapes and models. "It is a way to welcome gods, prosperity and happiness. The expertise with which the Kolams are drawn is a measure of the devotion and dedication the lady has for gods as well as her house," said Vijayashree Ramesh, advocate and social activist.

However, many houses in Mylapore, Adyar and even in Boat Club Roads spotted pro-CAA Kolams making it a Kolam war in Tamil Nadu. The season being Margazhi



Kolams drawn in front of the bungalows of Stalin and Kamimozhi in Chennai on Monday morning

Pioneer photo

(the period from December 15 to January 15), extra care is taken to make big and beautiful Kolams. There is no need to mention that this is a practice

being followed only by believers in Sanatana Dharma. Since the law enforcing agencies got tough with the anti-CAA rallyists, the latter devised an

ingenious style of protest to express their resentment.

Women activists belonging to the DMK and the CPI(M) assembled at Besant Nagar, a high-end residential area and started drawing Kolams with anti-CAA messages and slogans inscribed in them. Taken aback by the intruders who drew a kind of "surrealistic" Kolams in front of their houses, the residents opposed the art work because the contents were not in tune with tradition.

Following objections raised by the residents, the activists moved over to the public road where they started drawing Kolams with anti-CAA messages. But the police detained them under the charges of disturbing public order and they withdrew for the day.

Continued on Page 4

Country's forest-tree cover rises by 5K sqkm, Karnataka tops list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The forest-and-tree cover in the country has increased by 5,188 square kilometres in the last two years, but in the North-East it is on the decline. India is also on track to achieve its goal of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes under the Paris Agreement, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said while releasing the biennial India State Forest Report 2019. According to the report, the forest cover increased by 3,976 sqkm (0.56 per cent), while tree cover by 1,212 sqkm (1.29 per cent). The total forest cover of India is now estimated at 7,12,249 sqkm which



Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar speaks at the release of the India State of Forest Report 2019 in New Delhi on Monday

area (1,483 sq km), the report said.

The tree cover, which refers to small patches of less than 1 hectare outside forests, is estimated at 95,027 sqkm, which is 2.89 per cent of the geographical area.

The top five States in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka (1,025 sqkm), Andhra Pradesh (990 sqkm), Kerala (823 sqkm), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sqkm) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sqkm).

However, the North-East did not show positive results as the current assessment showed a decrease of forest cover to the extent of 765 sqkm (0.45 per cent) in the region.

Continued on Page 4

Security upped for New Year's eve

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To avoid any kind of untoward incident on New Year's eve celebrations, the Delhi Police has strengthened its presence in the vicinity of markets, malls, restaurants, pubs and bars, in order to ensure orderly celebration.

Police said all Police Control Room (PCR) vans, Raftaer bikes and Prakhar vans will be dynamically deployed at vulnerable points across the national Capital.

"In addition to maximum mobilisation of personnel from district units of the Delhi Police, a total of 20 Coys of additional force including 4 Coys from Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) will be deployed to bolster the visibility of police," said Anil Mittal, Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police.

"Integrated checking will be carried out by local police, PCR and Traffic Police to check drunken driving and boisterous revelry and hooliganism on roads. One Coy of women police personnel will be especially deployed in New Delhi District, to strengthen women's safety measures," said Mittal.

"Traffic movement will be

restricted and regulated in and around Connaught Place and India Gate areas. Senior officers will supervise the arrangements on ground. The Delhi Police advises citizens not to indulge in drunken driving or hooliganism and wishes all a Safe and Secure New Year," said Mittal.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Traffic Police on Monday said that they have made elaborate traffic arrangements across the city for the smooth flow and regulation of traffic on the eve of New Year.

"There will be well laid arrangements covering whole of Delhi where such celebrations shall be organised. Special arrangements have been made for the areas in the vicinity of Connaught Place," said a senior traffic police official.

"From 8 pm on December 31, no vehicle shall be allowed to proceed towards Connaught Place beyond Mandi House, Bengali Market, North foot of Ranjit Singh Flyover, Minto Road -Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg crossing, Chelmsford Road near New Delhi Railway Station), RK Ashram Marg-Chitragupta Marg Crossing, Gole Market, GPO, Patel Chowk, Kasturba Gandhi Road

- Ferozshah Road Crossing, Jai Singh Road-Bangla Sahib Lane and Windsor place," stated the Delhi Traffic Police advisory.

"Traffic arrangements have also been made at the places having high footfall, including Saket, Greater Kailash, Lajpat Nagar, New Friends Colony, Hauz Khas, Defence Colony, Vasant Vihar, R.K. Puram, Nehru Place, Dwarka, Palam Air Port, Rajouri Garden Area, Ashok Vihar Area, Model Town Area, Mayur Vihar area and other areas. Necessary traffic diversions as per requirement shall also be done," the advisory further stated.

Exit points at the Rajiv Chowk metro station will be closed at 9 pm on New Year's eve, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said on Monday.

"To ease overcrowding on New Year's Eve (December 31, 2019), exit from Rajiv Chowk metro station will not be allowed after 9 PM onwards. Entry of passengers will be allowed till the departure of the last train. Please plan your journey accordingly," the DMRC tweeted.

Rajiv Chowk is one of the busiest stations of the Delhi metro.

1,300 firefighters on duty in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of New Year celebrations, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) has planned to deploy fire tenders in 10 major heavy-footfall areas in the national Capital, including the posh Connaught Place, to attend to possible emergency situations.

According to Atul Garg, the Chief Fire Officer (CFO), DFS, around 1,300 firefighters will be on duty to attend to any fire-related emergencies on New Year Eve.

"All congested areas where footfall will be high have been covered," said Garg urging the residents of Delhi people to enquire and keep themselves aware of the emergency exits at the venues — restaurants, hotels and clubs — they would be partying on December 31.

Compared to last year, four more vehicles will be deployed this year, the department said. It had received 85

fire-related calls last year, though no major incident was reported.

"This time the fire department is deploying one fire tender each at locations like South Extension market, Gandhi Nagar, Rajouri Garden, Rani Bagh, Chattarpur, Khan Market, Roshan Club, Panchsheel Enclave, Vasant Vihar on New Year Eve to meet any emergency due to heavy rush of people," said Garg.

Two vehicles with fire-fighting equipment will be deployed in Connaught Place from 7.30pm on December 31 to 12.30am since it attracts the maximum crowd on New Year Eve, he said.

"As the director of Delhi Fire Services, it is my advice that wherever you go to party kindly ensure you are aware about the emergency exits at the venue. Because when places are heavily rushed, even a small incident can cause a major disaster," said Garg.

G'gram cops issue advisory for revellers



STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In a bid to ensure that people enjoy a hassle-free New Year's Eve, the Gurugram Police on Monday issued an advisory to maintain law and order in the city ahead of New Year celebrations.

The district Police issued the advisory on Facebook/Twitter stating restrictions on traffic, parking and security, among others. Also, the Traffic Police will be present at various places to facilitate traffic and road closures will also be reflected on Google Maps.

"Both sides of the carriage-way of Sector-29 from Sector-29 Red Light near Machan Restaurant to Crown Plaza Chowk and Leisure Valley road from Crown Plaza Chowk to Leisure Valley Park T Point shall remain closed for vehicu-

lar traffic," said Subhash Boken spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

Similarly, the carriageway from Sec 29 Red Light (near Machan restaurant) to the intersection near Kingdom of Dreams shall operate as a one-way road and traffic will only be allowed to move from the former to the latter.

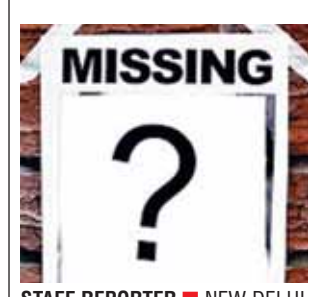
Commuters intending to go towards sector-29 market from NH-48 are requested to follow the blue line and park their vehicles in the parking area.

Commuters coming from Signature Tower to Sector-29 market are requested to follow the yellow line, take a left from Lemon tree hotel and go straight towards the parking area.

Commuters coming from MG Road are requested to follow green line, take a right after Iffco metro station and go straight towards the parking area. Expecting heavy footfall on December 31 and January 1, the Gurugram Police issued guidelines for parking of vehicles.

"Some parking spaces are available near the Metro Station, however, when they fill up the vehicles will have to come towards Leisure Valley Ground Parking," said the PRO.

Search on for 2 docs missing since Christmas



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man and a woman, both doctors, have been missing from the national Capital since Christmas evening. Police said multiple teams have been searching for the duo since December 25.

According to police, the complainant, Dr Sridhar reported to police that his wife Dr Hima Bindu and a friend Dr K Dileep Satya, went missing on December 25.

"In his complaint, Dr Sridhar stated that Satya visited him from Chennai on December 25 around 9 am. The complainant was on duty and last spoke to his wife at 11.30 am on December 25, when she told him that she was going to church. Since then, he has had no contact with either of them," said a senior police official.

"Subsequently, a case under section 365 (kidnapping) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered on December 25 at Hauz Khas Police Station. Multiple teams have been sent to different parts of the country, including Chandigarh and Andhra Pradesh, but the duo is yet to be traced," said the senior police official.

If Cong wins, no registry fee for illegal colonies, pledges Chopra

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra on Monday said once Congress party comes to power in Delhi, all the unauthorised colonies in Delhi will be regularised on the pattern adopted by Indira Gandhi in 1976-77 for the regularisation of 612 unauthorised colonies without charging any registry fee.

Hitting hard on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), Chopra said that over 40 lakh people in unauthorised colonies have been betrayed due to the collusion between the BJP and AAP Governments, as they are yet to be given ownership rights, and notification for that.

Addressing a Halla Bol rally at Rangpuri Pahadi in South Delhi today, Chopra said that Congress will not make any hollow promise like the BJP and AAP, and it will tell the people only what the party can do when it comes to power.

Chopra said that the Modi Government also misled Parliament regarding regularisation of unauthorised colonies, and the people of Delhi are now realizing this fact. He said that Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, in his Tweet, has not only validated Congress party's charge, but also admitted that the BJP Government, in collusion with the AAP Government, has betrayed over 40 lakh people in unauthorised colonies.

He said that DDA's authorized website has given that these colonies have not been regularized which clearly exposes the lie of the BJP and AAP.

Father son duo held for killing man in Bawana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday arrested father and son duo for allegedly killing a man in Delhi's Bawana area following an altercation over a petty issue. Police said they have also recovered a country-made pistol which was used in commission of crime.

The accused have been identified as Vijay Kataria (46) and his son Chirag (18), both residents of Pana Maddan in Bawana.

According to BK Singh, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, on December 28, specific inputs were received that Vijay Kataria

and Chirag would be coming to Bawana sometime in the evening.

"Acting on the tip-off a trap was laid and Vijay Kataria and his son Chirag were apprehended near Hanuman temple in Bawana. During interrogation it was revealed that Vijay Kataria is a chronic alcoholic. On December 27, at about 08.00 pm, he was standing in the middle of the road in front of his house and abusing everyone who passed by," said the Additional CP.

Vijay also abused one Mohit, a resident of Bawana. When Mohit objected, Vijay Kataria slapped him.



Union Minister for Communications, Law & Justice and Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad in presence of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and Delhi Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik, launches 'Central Equipment Identity Register system' to facilitate tracing of stolen and lost mobile phones in Delhi, at India International Center, Lodhi Colony on Monday

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of general public that Mrs. Kausalya Singh W/o Late Sh. R.P. Singh Member of Upkar CGHS Ltd., Mayur Vihar Ph-1 Extn., Delhi-110091 M.No. 477 expired on 04.07.2019. Dr. Mrs. Vineeta Kumar W/o Dr. Anil Kumar R/o B-1, 1001, Uniworld City, Sector-30, Gurugram-122001, Haryana has requested to transfer property of Late Mrs. Kausalya Singh W/o Late Sh. R.P. Singh at A-03, Upkar Apartments, Plot No. 18, Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extn., Delhi-110091 alongwith membership of Upkar CGHS Ltd. on the strength of her registered will in her favour. In case anybody has any objection in transferring Plot No. A-03, Upkar Apartments, Plot No. 18, Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extn., Delhi-110091 or office of Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Old Court Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001. Sd/- Administrator Upkar Apartments, Plot No. 18 Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extn., Delhi-110091

Ex-AAP leader Guggan joins BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Guggan Singh, who was its Lok Sabha candidate from North West Constituency during 2019 Lok Sabha elections, joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday in the presence of Union minister and Delhi State Election in charge Parkash Javadekar.

Singh had quit BJP and joined AAP in 2017m however in recent Lok Sabha election he was defeated by BJP's Hans Raj Hans by over 5.9 lakh votes in the Lok Sabha elections for the reserved seat.

Singh was also elected as MLA from Bawana in 2013 on a BJP ticket.

Meanwhile taking jibe on AAP's National convener

Arvind Kejriwal, Javadekar said people believed him to be a great revolutionary like Fidel Castro or Che Guevara. But now they are fed up with (his) lies," Javadekar said

"In 2015, people believed him (Kejriwal) to be a great revolutionary, as Fidel Castro or Che Guevara. But now they are fed up with (his) lies," Javadekar said

He said Kejriwal's original face has come in the open and people have realised the reality

was nothing like what they believed about him.

"What he says, he does not do. He was sleeping for four-and-a-half years and now he has woken up for six months. Earlier he complained Modiji did not let him work, how is he working now," Javadekar said.

He said Kejriwal's empire of lies will be finished and BJP will be in power after the Assembly polls in Delhi.

"The BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and programmes of his government will come to power in Delhi," the Union minister said.

He added that Delhi will be powered by a triple engine of development after BJP forms the government here as it already rules at the Centre and the three municipal corporations in the city.

PWD starts installation of street lights to ensure women safety across city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In its bid to secure women across the national Capital especially during the night hours, the Public Works Department (PWD) on Monday started the installation of street lights in Lodhi Colony area. The eradication of dark spot scheme was inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and PWD minister Satyendar Jain. Covering dark spots and ensuring adequate lighting during nights has been one of the poll promises of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government.

The PWD has recently floated tender for installing 1,150 street lights in the South Delhi area in Phase I under Mukhyamantri Street Light Yojana. The Chief Minister said that, by end of January about 50,000 to 60,000 LED street lights will be installed.

According to a safety audit done by a non-governmental organization (NGO) SafetyPin, currently there are 7,438 dark spots across the National Capital. The NGO, submitted its report to the government in the year 2016.

"We have worked on lighting these dark spots in the last three years, and the number of dark spots which were identified in a subsequent safety audit carried out by SafetiPin over January to May 2019 was 2,768. The dark spots in a period of two years were reduced by 4,670 i.e. 63 per cent, said Kejriwal while announcing about the development.

He also claimed that the delay in installing street lights was due to the careless attitude of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). "The biggest

problem we faced in eliminating the dark spots is the lack of consent/approval from MCDs in installing poles and streetlights on their streets. This innovative scheme bypasses the role of the MCD and provides a direct solution to people's problems of dark spots."

"Every MLA is coordinating with the people of their constituencies and the remaining dark spots will be eliminated soon. We are also asking citizens to submit suggestions for streetlights to their MLAs - just like we did with CCTVs. We encourage all the people of Delhi to participate in identifying locations that need better lighting. Women's safety is our priority and we will install as many street lights and use as many resources as possible to ensure the security of women in the city", the Chief Minister added.

The smart LED street lights will be automatic and will be remotely monitored and controlled through cloud based server suitable for all weather conditions. According to the officials, each LED street light will have individual embedded communication node and controller interface with luminaries.

The luminaries will have the facilities of plug and play installations. With having two way communications facilities the lights will be automatic, for instance it will have a sensor which will automatically turn on when it is dark and will stop when the sun rises in the morning. The streets lights will have upgraded facilities such as alert and alarm notifications.

known to all that my client Smt. Sita Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Meghnath Sagar, R/o 1-261-262, Jahanpuri, Delhi-110033 has irrevocably, unconditionally and irreversibly disowned her daughters Mrs. Manma alias Neha & Mrs. Monika alias Pinko for their continuous misconduct and the dispute they have brought to her family, and has thereby severed all ties with them. They shall not inherit her property at 1-261-262, Jahanpuri, Delhi-110033 or anywhere else & further that they shall have no claim in her movable property. They shall not be entitled to grant of probate to her will. Anybody transacting any business with them in respect to my client will be doing at his or her own risk, general public please take note.

SUMIT RANA (ADVOCATE) T: 011-41435553

Public Notice
Application are invited against three vacancies (Type 'B1' category-1875 sq.ft.) for enrolment as members in The Hamdam CGHS Ltd. Plot No 7 Sector 18A, Dwarka Phase II, New Delhi-110075. The application form, along with format of other documents required to be submitted, can be obtained in person by the applicant for non-refundable charge for Rs 1000/- from society's following corresponding address: BE-376, Gali No. 0, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, between 09:30 AM to 1 PM from 01-01-2020 to 07-01-2020. The tentative cost as per present demand is Rs. 1,04,32,353.00 (One Crore Four Lacs Thirty Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Three) by successful applicant within 30 days of draw of lots of the membership or application submission which ever applicable.

In case the number of applicants are more than 3 then application draw of lots will be done under the supervision of the representative of the Registrar of cooperative society and intimation thereof will be given to each eligible applicant. The demand draft of unsuccessful applicants can be collected after a week from the date of the draw of lot.

GUJARAT AYURVED UNIVERSITY, JAMNAGAR E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited for supply of the following items For the Financial Year 2020-2021.

| Tender No. | Tender Id No. | Details | Amount (Rs.) |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 389576 | "1" Herbal (Raw Drugs Dry) | 100 Lakhs |
| 2 | 389578 | "2" Herbal (Raw Drugs Dry) | 10 Lakhs |
| 3 | 389580 | Masala/Spices/South Indian | 45 Lakhs |
| 4 | 389583 | Oil/Ghee/Items | 15 Lakhs |
| 5 | 389598 | Exudates (Niryas) / Items | 10 Lakhs |
| 6 | 389600 | Metal / Minerals / Others | 10 Lakhs |

Prescribed tender forms containing terms and conditions and Requirements etc. will be available on www.nprocure.com / www.ayurveduniversity.edu.in From 23/12/2019, 11.00 am.

No/INF/VPN/2019/G/1914 Pharmacy Director

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Employment Notification No.: CO/P-R/3C/2019

KRCL invites applications for one post of Deputy Chief Engineer / Fabrication on Contract basis to Work for USBRL Project and Other Projects of KRCL. Candidates should see the detailed notification, eligibility criteria, on the KRCL's website www.konkanrailway.com at the link → Recruitment → Current Notification and may apply accordingly.

Chief Personnel Officer

CM promises to make city pollution free if re-elected

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) National Convener, Arvind Kejriwal, on Monday promised to make the national Capital pollution-free in the next five years if re-elected in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Addressing his third town hall meeting at Durgapuri chowk in West Jyothi Nagar, Kejriwal said his Government took a number of steps to tackle pollution and managed to reduce it by 25 per cent.

"Though a lot of work has been done by his Government

in the last five years, much more needs to be achieved in the coming years," said Kejriwal.

"But if re-elected, I will make Delhi pollution-free in the next five years. We took a number of steps. The first step was providing 24-hour electricity which reduced the use of generators and reduced pollution caused by them... We also held tree plantation drives that helped in increasing tree cover," said Kejriwal.

Responding to a question, Kejriwal promised to make bus rides free for students after elections. "After the election is over and the (same) government comes to power again, we will do it (make bus rides free) for students also," Kejriwal said.

Other promises made by him included providing drinking water straight from taps, and preventing sealing drives when the AAP wins MCD elections. He is the chief minister of everyone whether they are from BJP or Congress, Kejriwal responded after being praised for his 'Farishey' scheme, launched in October to felicitate people who take road accident victims to hospitals.

Taking a dig at BJP's recently released 'Aarop Patra' (chargesheet), Kejriwal said now it is certain that AAP is forming the government in Delhi.

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MAJOR STEPS TOWARDS WOMEN'S SAFETY

1.4 LAKH CCTV CAMERAS INSTALLED, NOW INSTALLATION OF 2 LAKH STREETLIGHTS BEGINS



SALIENT FEATURES OF MUKHYAMANTRI STREET LIGHT SCHEME

- Power distribution companies are installing streetlights as part of this scheme.
- With the permission of home owners, streetlights are being installed on the walls of homes, to provide lighting for dark spots.
- Electricity for streetlights is been drawn from the concerned home. Electricity bills for lights are being paid directly to the power distribution companies by the government. This has been done along the same lines as the CCTV Camera policy, and no financial burden shall be placed on the home owners.
- These are modern streetlights with light sensors, switching on and off automatically in the evening and morning.

“ There are many dark spots in different parts of Delhi, where women are unsafe. We have identified every such dark spot, and have begun installing more than 2 lakh streetlights, so that women feel safe in this city. ”

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



To get a streetlight installed in your area, please contact your area MLA

Minor fire at PM's residence



A fire-fighting truck stands parked at Lok Kalyan Marg after dousing a blaze at the SPG reception area in New Delhi on Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A minor fire broke out at 9, Lok Kalyan Marg inside the residential complex of the prime minister but his residence and office were not affected by it. "There was a minor fire at 9, Lok Kalyan Marg caused by a short circuit. This was not in PM's residential or office area but in the SPG reception area of the LKM complex. The fire is very much under control now," the PMO tweeted. The Special Protection Group (SPG) is mandated to guard the prime minister. The Prime Minister resides at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. His residential complex also has an office of the SPG where the fire

broke out. According to a senior Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official, the local fire station received a call from the PMO House at 7:30 pm regarding the fire following which eight fire tenders were rushed to the site but they were returned from the main gate as the fire was doused by the internal security staff. "As per the protocol, fire tenders were rushed along with senior officers to the site. However, fire tenders were returned from the main gate. It seems this call was given as a precautionary measure. As per information available there was a small fire in UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply)," said Atul Garg, the Chief Fire Officer, DFS.

Metro Ph-IV corridor work begins

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The much awaited construction of Phase -IV metro corridor has begun as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has commenced the construction work on the Janakpuri West — RK Ashram, extension of Magenta Line corridor with the ground breaking ceremony on Monday at Haiderpur Badli Mor.

The ground breaking ceremony was held in the presence of DMRC's Managing Director, Dr. Mangu Singh and other senior officials.

"Piling work was commenced at Haiderpur Badli Mor as part of the Phase 4's first civil contract which was awarded last month for the construction of a portion of the Janakpuri West — RK Ashram Marg Corridor (Extension of Line — 8, Magenta Line)," said the official.

The 12.3 km long corridor will consist 10 stations - Keshopur, Paschim Vihar, Peeragarhi, Mangolpuri, West Enclave, Pushpanjali, Deepali Chowk, Madhuban Chowk, Prashant Vihar and North Pitampura. The entire corridor is elevated.

The work involves the part design and construction of elevated viaduct, elevated ramp, siding line and station buildings from Keshopur to Haiderpur Badli Mor. The work on this corridor is expected to be completed within 30 months from the commencement of work.

"The 28.92 km long Janakpuri West - R. K Ashram Marg corridor is an extension of Magenta Line and will come up with 22 stations. The tenders for



PHASE IV CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS

NAME OF THE CORRIDOR: Keshopur to Haiderpur Badli Mor, part of RK Ashram to Janakpuri West (extension of Magenta Line)

NUMBER OF STATION: 10 — Keshopur, Paschim Vihar, Peeragarhi, Mangolpuri, West Enclave, Pushpanjali, Deepali Chowk, Madhuban Chowk, Prashant Vihar and North Pitampura

the remaining stations of this corridor are also nearing finalisation. Tenders for civil construction have already been floated for the other planned corridors and two more contracts have already been awarded," said the officials.

The section will have three major interchange stations to different Lines, Peeragarhi (with Green Line), Madhuban Chowk (with Red Line) and Haiderpur Badli Mor (with Yellow Line). In addition, the entire Janakpuri West - R. K Ashram Marg corridor will comprise of three more interchange stations at Majlis Park (with Pink Line), Azadpur (with Yellow and Pink Lines) and R. K Ashram Marg (with Blue Line). Therefore, in total, this corridor will have six interchange stations.

"When the Haiderpur Badli Mor Metro station was constructed on the Yellow Line as part of Delhi Metro's Phase III, provisions were kept for its expansion as an interchange facility in Phase IV. This will help in substantially reducing

construction time as well as costs in Phase IV," said DMRC.

Interestingly, The Phase IV platforms of Haiderpur Badli Mor which will come up above the already existing Phase III station and will also be the highest ever platform in Delhi Metro at a height of 23.5 metres. The Mayur Vihar Phase 1 Pink Line station is at a height of 20 metres.

Three corridors of Phase 4 have so far been approved under which, 61.679 kilometres of new Metro lines shall be constructed across three different corridors comprising of 45 Metro stations. These new sections shall provide inter-connectivity among the already operational sections of Delhi Metro. Out of the six corridors, three corridors of Phase IV were approved by the Central government in March 2019. The corridors whose tender has been awarded are Aerocity to Tughlakabad, RK Ashram to Janakpuri and Maujpur to Majlis Park.

Delhi Govt to pay Board exam fees of NDMC, Cantt schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will pay the Board exam fees of schools under the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Delhi Cantonment, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Monday. He said the decision was taken at a cabinet meeting held on the same day. The Government will also hold extra classes to focus on teaching mathematics, he said. The Government had earlier said it will pay the board exam fees of all Government school students, following a hike in the fees by the CBSE.

"It was decided that the Delhi Government will bear

the board examination fees of all the students belonging to the Delhi Government schools. Now, the Delhi Government schools situated in the NDMC and Delhi Cantonment areas are also included under the purview of this decision," Kejriwal said while addressing media on Monday.

This announcement comes ahead of the Delhi polls to be held early next year. Kejriwal also said the Government has analysed the results of all the subjects of the Delhi government schools and found that students are scoring above 95 per cent in all subjects other than mathematics and science. The results in these two

subjects have gone down, with students scoring less than 76 per cent in Mathematics. "The Delhi government has decided to hold extra coaching classes in schools so that the results in the subjects that are lagging behind can be brought on par with the scoring subjects."

"Extra coaching classes will also be held for students who have obtained compartment or have flunked in the board examinations," he said. In order to encourage students to become entrepreneurs rather than job-seekers, the government will give seed money of Rs 1,000 to promote entrepreneurial mindset amongst students, the Chief Minister said.

Delhiites face bone-chilling cold, pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites faced double whammy on Monday with dip in maximum temperature and rise in pollutant levels in the national Capital's environment.

On Monday, the overall Air quality Index (AQI) has recorded at 433 Micro Gram per Cubic on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI). Elaborating its extend air quality forecast, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) said that the overall Delhi AQI is in the SEVERE category on December 30 morning as forecasted. SAFAR model suggests

under the influence of approaching western disturbance surface winds are likely to pick up by afternoon.

"The improved ventilation is likely to influence AQI positively. AQI is forecasted to improve to higher end of the poor category by December 31st. Significant improvement in AQI towards the middle-end of very poor is expecting by the new year day (1st January 2020). As per SAFAR-model, tomorrow's top 3 Air Pollution Hot spots of Delhi are likely to be Vinobapuri, Okhla and Badarpuri," it said.

Importantly, SAFAR further highlight that the Cool Island Effect (land use induced local effect) in conjunction with some high emission

regions, will make some pockets as intense pollution hot spots within Delhi.

"Under the influence of approaching western disturbance, isolated rainfall is likely over Delhi by January 2nd and likely to improve AQI further by the weekend," it said further. In the neighbouring areas of Ghaziabad (439), Faridabad (465), Noida (471) and Greater Noida (448) also, the AQI was in the severe category. Gurugram's AQI stood at 344.

The frigid temperatures, high humidity and low wind speed allowed accumulation of pollutants leading to further deterioration in the national capital's air quality on Sunday. The overall air quality index stood at 437 at 4 pm.

Govt to create 1L tonnes of onion buffer stock in 2020

New Delhi: To prevent the repeat of this year's onion crisis, the Centre has decided to create a buffer stock of 1 lakh tonnes of the key kitchen staple between March and July in 2020. Top sources said that Cooperative Nafed, which had maintained the buffer stock of onion on behalf of the government, will continue to do so next year. It will source the rabi (winter) onion crop — which has higher shelf life— between March and July directly from

farmers. The Government had created a buffer stock of 56,000 tonnes for the current year but it was not sufficient to contain the prices which are still ruling above Rs 100 per kg in most cities across the country. Prices are expected to cool down by end of January next year with domestic supply of new produce from the rabi (winter) and late kharif (summer) seasons — thereby also giving rise to the possibility of a glut. Sources said the arrival of imported onions

will coincide with the supply of late kharif onions from Maharashtra and Gujarat in the last week of December, as well as the early rabi produce from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka by late January. "The issue was discussed in detail in the recent meeting of the group of ministers (GoM), headed by Home Minister Amit Shah. It was decided that higher buffer stock of about 1 lakh tonne will be created for next year," sources said. PNS

General Bipin Rawat named first Chief of Defence Staff

From Page 1

However, he will not exercise any military command over the three chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Most of the developed countries, including the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have CDS for ensuring jointness and synergy. Before assuming charge as the Army Chief in 2016, Rawat had gained vast operational experience across a vast

spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles. He commanded an infantry battalion along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China in the eastern sector, a Rashtriya Rifles (RR) sector and an infantry division in the Kashmir valley and corps in the North-East. As an Army commander, he commanded a theater of operations along the western front.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech from Red Fort on August 15 this year had made the important announcement about the creation of the CDS and said time has come to enhance coordination among the three services to deal with security challenges facing India.

Country's...

From Page 1

Total forest cover in the North-East region is 1,70,541 sqkm, which is 65.05 per cent of its geographical area. Except Assam and Tripura, all the States in the region show decrease in forest cover. The four North-East States — Manipur (499 sqkm), Arunachal Pradesh (276 sqkm), Mizoram (180 sqkm) and Meghalaya (27 sqkm) — reported a loss in forest cover.

Javadekar attributed the loss in the North-East primarily to the traditional farming practice of Shifting Cultivation. In addition, the forest cover inside the recorded forest areas shows a decline of 330 sqkm. According to report, Delhi has 6.72 sq km under very dense forest (VDF), 56.42 sqkm under moderately dense forest (MDF) and 132.30 sqkm under open forest (OF). Delhi's forest cover has increased by 3.03 sqkm as compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR 2017. South Delhi recorded the maximum increase of 1.28 sqkm in forest cover, followed by South West Delhi (1.09 sqkm).

Under the current assessment, the total carbon stock in the country's forests is estimated at 7,124.6 million tonnes. There is an increase of 42.6 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to the last assessment of 2017. "Since 2014, India has recorded an increase of over 13,000 sqkm of forest," he said.

The Forest Survey of India, which also mapped the mangrove cover in

the coastal areas spread across 12 States and Union Territories, found an increase of 54 sqkm or 1.1 per cent in such cover from the previous assessment. As a matter of concern, the report also showed that nearly 22 per cent of the forest in the country is highly prone to forest fires. This was estimated using forest fire detection data compiled by the FSI over the last 13 years.

According to other findings of the report, the mangrove cover in the country had increased by 54 sqkm (1.10 per cent) as compared to the previous assessment. "The top five States in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka (1,025 sqkm), Andhra Pradesh (990 sqkm), Kerala (823 sqkm), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sqkm) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sqkm)."

"Forest cover in the hill districts of the country is 2,84,006 sqkm, which is 40.30 per cent of the total geographical area of these districts. The current assessment shows an increase of 544 sqkm (0.19 per cent) in 140 hill districts of the country," the report said. According to the report, there was an increase of 3,229 sqkm of bamboo-bearing area in the last two years with the total bamboo-bearing area of the country estimated at 1,60,037 sqkm. The report also said 21.4 per cent forest cover in the country was susceptible to fire. "Fire prone forest areas of different severity classes have been mapped in the grids of 5km x 5km, based on the frequency of forest fires. The analysis reveals that 21.40 per cent of the forest cover of the country is highly to extremely fire prone," it said.

The coldest...

From Page 1

The visibility recorded by Safdarjung and Palam observatories stood at zero metres at 8.30 am.

Skymet, an independent weather forecaster, said one of the reasons for this is the fact that Delhi has been reeling under both cold day and cold wave condition. "The wind direction will change from north-westerlies to easterlies, which will give some relief to the people of Delhi. "But the speed of winds is expected to increase, which in turn would add up to the chill factor. Thus, complete relief is not in sight anytime soon," said the Skymet. It said the weather models

indicate chances of rain coupled with hailstorms on January 1 and 2 in the wake of a fresh western disturbance over the Himalayas.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, the maximum temperature may settle at 12 degrees Celsius and minimum temperature will be recorded near three degrees Celsius. While the New Year is expected to start with drizzling, light rain and thunderstorm activities, the maximum temperature is expected to hover around 17 degrees Celsius and minimum temperature will be recorded at four degrees Celsius on January 1. On January 2, the maximum temperature will remain at 17 degrees Celsius and minimum temperature will oscillate between 7 and 8 degrees

Celsius.

Dr Rajender Jenamani, senior scientist at the National Weather Forecasting Centre (NWFC) said, "In 1976, there was a cold spell for six days. But after that the phenomenon has become more common in the late 90s. If fog or low cloud hours increase, obviously less solar energy is received and hence days are cold," said RK Jenamani, senior scientist at National Weather Forecasting Centre.

Elaborating the unusual trend, MeT Scientists explained why Delhi is experiencing extreme cold weather. "The MeT said, "Delhi witnessed heavy rains on December 12 and 13. "Heavy rains mean water and moisture in air which led to formation of cloud and fog." The formation

of fog in atmosphere caused blocking of sunlight, moreover in this long spell of winter, the absence of winds from Himalaya region also played crucial role," the MeT scientist explained the weather phenomenon.

Citing his recent work on Delhi weather pattern, Dr Jenamani said there has been a fall in average maximum temperature by 2-3 degree C over 2 stations in the peak winter of January since 1989. The national Capital has been witnessing its most unforgiving winter season in the past 22 years, as the minimum temperature has remained around 3 degrees Celsius for a few days. It has been experiencing "severe cold days" since December 14, according to IMD.

Car plunges into G Noida canal as fog blocks...

From Page 1

According to a police spokesperson, eleven people were on board the Maruti Ertiga. "The car fell into the Kherli canal in Dankaura area. They were taken to a Yatharth and Kailash hospitals, where doctors declared six of them dead, while the remaining five are undergoing treatment. "The accident appears to have taken place due to low visibility caused by fog," said the police spokesperson. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed his condolence over the loss of life, a statement issued by the office of the Chief Minister said in Lucknow. Yogi directed the officials to ensure that the injured persons get proper and adequate treatment. He also directed District Magistrates, Senior Superintendents of Police and Superintendents of Police to make necessary arrangements for safe transportation in accident-prone areas in their respective districts, the statement said.

Idyllic Kolams speak their minds on CAA



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

MK Stalin, DMK president, condemned the police action on the rallyists and termed it as authoritarianism of the despotic AIADMK Government.

By Monday morning, the anti-CAA groups were back, with energy and vigour. They were inspired by the Kolams drawn in front of the residences of Stalin's palatial residence and step-sister Kanimozhi's bungalow. Both the imposing buildings spotted for the first time Kolams condemning the CAA. Kolams were a taboo in the Karunanidhi household till Monday. Agitations too could be entertaining!

Aditya makes it to dad's Cabinet, Ajit is Dy CM

From Page 1

It may be recalled that on November 28, Uddhav had been sworn into office as the Chief Minister along with six Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Ministers — Eknath Shinde, Subhash Desai (both from the Shiv Sena), Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal (both from the NCP), Balasaheb Thorat and Nitin Raut (both from the Congress).

Talking to media persons a few hours after the swearing-in ceremony, the Chief Minister said he would distribute the portfolios among the newly inducted Ministers in a day or two. On the resentment brewing within the party over the exclusion of Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut's MLA-brother Sunil Raut and a few other Sena leaders from the State Cabinet, Uddhav said, "There is no resentment within the Sena. At least I have not received any such report. This kind of things do happen during Cabinet expansion. Let me see how we can deal with the situation".

Incidentally, Sena spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut — whose younger brother Sunil Raut did not find a place in the Uddhav Cabinet — was conspicuous by his absence at the swearing-in ceremony. Raut, however, denied that he or his family was unhappy over the exclusion of his brother

er Sunil from the Cabinet. "I have ably fulfilled my role in the formation of the Sena-led Government in the State. Either my family members or I are unhappy over the exclusion of my brother from the State Cabinet. I will work sincerely for the party throughout my life. The State Cabinet has experienced and efficient Ministers. I am confident that all the Ministers will contribute in a big way to give a new direction to the State."

While senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan made it to the State Cabinet, another former Chief Minister and senior party leader Prithviraj Chavan — who was re-elected to the State Assembly from Karad (south) constituency in western Maharashtra in the 2019 polls — did not find a berth in the Uddhav Cabinet. It is quite likely that the Congress high command may entrust him with a senior party post or use his experience elsewhere.

While Ajit's return as the deputy Chief Minister was a foregone conclusion, Uddhav's move to induct his first-time MLA-son Aditya in his Ministry — that too as a Cabinet ranked Minister — raised eyebrows in the State political circles. At no stage in the recent past had Aditya's name been discussed as a Ministerial probable or even an aspirant.

Nor had the Sena functionaries any inkling that Aditya would be inducted in the State Cabinet.

In fact, at one stage a couple of months ago, Uddhav had indicated that his son Aditya needed some time to learn ropes of governance.

Though it is not new in Indian politics where father and son have worked in the same Cabinet (Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and Minister-son KT Rama Rao are a case in point), it is interesting to see how Uddhav-Aditya duo will work within the State. It is quite likely that Aditya will be handed either Education portfolio or Environment Ministry — both of which are his areas of interest.

Though the Uddhav Cabinet has a right mix of experience and youth, it has only three women Ministers — two of whom (Varsha Gaikwad and Yashomati Thakur) are from the Congress, while one — Aditi Thakre — is from the NCP. In fact, the Sena has not given any representation to the women in the State Cabinet. However, Uddhav has given adequate representation to MLAs from all regions in the State.

Significantly enough, there are four Muslims in the Sena-led MVA Cabinet. They are Nawab Malik, Hasan Mushrif

(both from the NCP), Aslam Shaikh (Congress), all three Ministers with Cabinet rank and Sena's Abdul Sattar Nabi, Minister of State.

Apart from Aditya, Sena's Cabinet Ministers are Sanjay Rathod, Gulabrao Patil, Dada Bhuse, Sandippan Bhumre, Anil Parab, Uday Samant and S R Gadak (Independent from the Shiv Sena quota). The Sena's Ministers of State are: Abdul Sattar, Shamburaje Desai, Bachu Kadu (Independent from Shiv Sena quota) and Rajendra Patil Yedravkar (Independent from the Shiv Sena quota).

Other than Ajit, the other NCP leaders who have made it to the State are: Dilip Walse-Patil, Dhananjay Munde, Anil Deshmukh, Hasan Mushrif, Rajendra Shingane, Nawab Malik, Rajesh Tope, Jitendra Ahwad, Balasaheb Patil (all Cabinet rank), Dattaray Barne, Aditi Thakre, Sanjay Bansode and Prajakt Tanpure (all Ministers of State).

Apart from Ashok Chavan, the other Congress leaders who have been inducted in to the State Cabinet are: Vijay Waddetiwar, Varsha Gaikwad, Sunil Kedar, Amit Deshmukh (son of late Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh), Yashomati Thakur, KC Padvi, Aslam Shaikh (all Cabinet ranked Ministers), Satej Patil

and Vishwajeet Kadam (both Ministers of State).

Ajit's induction into the State Cabinet after a gap of one month is bound to provide stability to the MVA Government. It may be recalled that Ajit had resigned as the Deputy Chief Minister in the BJP-led Government on November 26, leading to the resignation of then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and subsequent collapse of the Government in a brief span of 80 hours.

Ajit will be holding the number two post in the State Cabinet for the fourth time. He was the deputy Chief Minister from November 10, 2010 to September 25, 2012, from October 25, 2012 to September 26, 2014 and from November 23 2019 to November 26 2019.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the smaller constituents of the ruling MVA stayed away from the swearing-in ceremony as they had not been invited to the function. "Since none of the leaders of the smaller parties supporting the MVA government were not invited to the swearing-in ceremony. Hence, we stayed away from the swearing-in ceremony. We will raise this issue at the MVA coordination meeting when it is held," Swabhimani Shetkar Sanghatana president and former MP Raju Shetti said.

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM - 1

To Tender No. WTR/17/2019/04 dated 19.11.2019 Item No. of Tender Notice: 1 Tender No.: 196033 Description of Item: CMS crossing RDSO drg. No. T-4220. Closing date to be read as 27.01.2020. Instead of 30.12.2019. All other Terms & Conditions remain unchanged.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNIL Holding Indian Passport No: Z2060079 Issued at DUBAI on 29/09/2010 and Permanent Residence of FLAT NO.1015, KALKAJI DDA, JJ COLONY, NEW DELHI-110019 and presently Resident of DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from SUNIL to SUNIL (GIVEN NAME) NAIR (SURNAME) with immediate effect

PD(8137)C I, hitherto known as Patel Shantabai Maganlal w/o Sh. Maganlal Patel R/o BK-1/95-B, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi - 110088, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shantaben Maganlal Patel for all future purpose.

PD(8738)A

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Notice inviting e-Tender (ID No. 2019_AAI_39082_1)

E-tenders are invited on behalf of Chairman, Airports Authority of India for "Tender for providing comprehensive Video conferencing solution at AAI". Estimated cost: ₹ 13,45,13,608.00 (Exclusive Taxes). Please visit AAI website: www.aai.aero or Central procurement portal with URL address: https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app for downloading the Tender document, corrigendum & submission of bids. Further clarifications/corrigendum in this regard, if any, will be uploaded only AAI website/CPA Portal. (N-84/2019-20)

#INDIASUPPORTSCAA

Modi tweets Sadhguru video, launches 10-day outreach drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday led the BJP's outreach campaign with the hashtag #IndiaSupportsCAA to gather support for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which has sparked violent protests across India in recent weeks. Modi's official website tweeted that the CAA "is about giving citizenship to persecuted refugees and not about taking anyone's citizenship away".

Seeking to mobilise support for the amended citizenship law, other BJP leaders too launched the campaign on

social media to highlight its features with Modi posting a video of spiritual guru Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev backing the legislation.

Amid protests, including from Muslims in several parts of the country, the Prime Minister has asserted that the law is about giving citizenship to refugees from three countries and not about taking away anyone's citizenship. BJP has announced a 10-day campaign across the country to spread awareness about the CAA and taken on the Opposition for pushing "rumours and fears" around it.

"Do hear this lucid explanation of aspects relating to



CAA and more by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. He provides historical context, brilliantly highlights our culture of brotherhood. He also calls out the misinformation by vested

interest groups. #IndiaSupportsCAA," Modi tweeted.

The Twitter handle of Modi's personal website also had a message saying that the CAA is about giving citizenship to persecuted refugees and not about taking anyone's citizenship away. The message was posted with the hashtag "India Supports CAA".

It also asked people to share content, graphics and videos from the Prime Minister's NaMo app to show their support for the law, which has triggered protests in different parts of the country.

BJP president and Home Minister Amit Shah also posed

Sadhguru's video and said "stop believing lies and half truths on CAA". He urged everyone, especially the youth, to watch the video and get a "historical perspective on why we need CAA".

Joining the campaign, party's working president JP Nadda quoted from the spiritual leader's remarks to say that "in a very calibrated way somebody sent the message to the minorities that your citizenship is under threat which is an absolute lie".

Opposition and other critics slammed the CAA, saying it is against India's secular Constitution as it makes religion as a ground for citizenship.

The BJP has asserted that it is meant for minorities persecuted in three neighbouring countries due to their faith.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar took on the critics, who have dubbed the law as discriminatory, and tweeted, "Spread Facts Not Myths: In the last 6 years, 2830 Pakistani, 912 Afghani & 172 Bangladeshi citizens have been given Indian citizenship. Many of them are from majority community of these countries."

He also posted several tweets, highlighting key aspects of the amended law and quoted Modi's comments that it will not adversely affect any Indian citizen.

INSHORT

TEAM FORMED TO PROBE NEWBORNS DEATH IN KOTA
New Delhi: BJP working president JP Nadda on Monday appointed a four-member delegation to investigate death of newborns at a hospital in Kota, Rajasthan. Delegation will visit Kota on Tuesday and review the situation. It has to submit report within three days of the visit.

CBI TAKES OVER IIT STUDENT'S DEATH CASE
New Delhi: The CBI has taken over the investigation in the case involving the death of Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) student Fathima Latheef. The Special Crime Branch of the agency's Chennai unit re-registered the FIR of the local police on December 27 and took over the investigation in the matter.

OVER 20 PARTIES DIDN'T FILE FISCAL REPORT: EC
New Delhi: In a reply to the Right to Information (RTI), the Election Commission (EC) said that more than 20 registered parties have not filed their annual reports to their receipts of financial donations. The national parties include National Conference (NC), People Democratic Party (PDP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). The RTI was filed by a retired Navy Officer. The last date for filing annual reports was October 31, 2019.

RETIRED IAS OFFICER RE-EMPLOYED AS DY EC
New Delhi: Senior IAS officer Umesh Sinha has been reemployed in the Election Commission (EC) as the deputy election commissioner after his retirement on Tuesday. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the re-employment Sinha on a contract basis for one year with effect from January 1, 2020, and up to December 31, 2020, the DoPT order said. Sinha, a 1986 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, was working as the secretary general in the EC. New Delhi: The CBI has carried out searches at eight locations, including the premises of two Income Tax officers based in Bengaluru, in connection with I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) ponzi scam, officials said Monday. The officers are then Deputy Commissioner, Income Tax (Investigation), Saurabh Nayak, and ACIT (Assessment) D Kumar, they said.

FAKE GUN-LICENSING RACKET

CBI raids 2 babus' premises, 17 locations in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday conducted searches at 17 locations in Jammu & Kashmir at the premises of senior IAS officers Yasha Mudgal and Kumar Rajeev Ranjan besides the then District Collectors/District Magistrates of Kupwara, Baramulla, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Shopian, Rajouri, Doda and Pulwama in an alleged gun licensing racket busted by the Rajasthan police in 2017.



Centre. After taking over the case in 2018, searches were also earlier conducted at 11 places including Srinagar, Udhampur and Jammu at the locations of private gun houses which led to recovery of incriminating documents including issue, renewal of arms licenses, blank application forms submitted by various licencees, money transactions of gun dealers with licencees, blank NOC purportedly issued by District Magistrates and other documents, the agency said in a statement.

"It was also alleged that the then public servants in this conspiracy of issuance of licences to non-residents of J&K in violation of rules, allegedly received gratification," the agency said in a statement.

Several documents related to the cases, including bank statements, were recovered during the searches that were carried out at three places in Kashmir, 11 places in Jammu and one each in Gurugram (Haryana), Mohali (Punjab) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh), officials said.

Besides searching the premises of Mudgal, a 2007-batch IAS officer, and Ranjan, a 2010-batch IAS officer, houses of I Hussain, Mohammed Saleem, Mohammed Junaid Khan, F C Bhagat, Farooq Ahmed Khan and Jenhagir Ahmed Mir were searched, officials said.

Mudgal is at present CEO and-Managing Director of Power Distribution

Corporation Jammu and Ranjan is CEO of Jammu Srinagar Metro Rail Corporation.

The case was handed over to the CBI on the basis of a recommendation from Rajasthan Director General of Police O P Galhotra after the anti-terror squad had busted a racket related to the matter. Following this, the two FIRs were lodged by the agency.

The CBI's Chandigarh unit had registered the FIRs for alleged criminal misconduct and criminal conspiracy under the Ranbir Penal Code and in violation of Section 3/25 of the Arms Act, besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

According to Rajasthan Police officials, the Jammu and Kashmir government was informed about the racket in 2017 and several letters addressed to then Chief Secretary B B Vyasa remained unanswered.

Priyanka violated security protocols by riding pillion on scooter: CRPF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF on Monday said there was no breach in Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's security during her recent trip to Lucknow. The paramilitary blamed Vadra for "violations" by riding pillion on a scooter.

The force, which provides armed commandos under the 'Z+' category of VIP security cover to her, said the Congress leader undertook "unscheduled movement without intimation".

Therefore, an advanced security liaison (ASL) could not be conducted, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) said in a statement issued here by Inspector General (Intelligence and VIP security) P K Singh.

Priyanka's office had written to Singh's office on December 28 with a complaint that a police circle officer (CO) in Lucknow had issued threats to her security personnel and warned of restricting her movements on the same day.

"There was no breach in security by the official" who happens to be the CO of Hazartganj, Abhay Mishra, reads the statement.

It said the "only programme" of Priyanka indicated to the CRPF team for that day was about her visit to the local Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) office for attending a party foundation day event.

The CRPF said it had "conducted" an ASL for this event and had intimated it to state authorities.

It alleged that the Congress leader's "personal staff did not communicate" the detailed programme of the day to the Uttar Pradesh Police CO when he came calling at Priyanka's place of stay in Lucknow at about 8 am.

The force said while there was no breach in Priyanka Gandhi's security, at least three "security violations" took place when she chose to ride a two-wheeler while on her way to visit retired IPS officer S R Darapuri.

"During travelling, the protectee used non-bullet resistant civil vehicle without a personal security officer. The protectee took a lift on Scooty as a pillion rider," it said, adding that as this movement was not planned, the CRPF team could not conduct an ASL which was a breach of security protocol mandated for Priyanka Gandhi.

"Despite the security constraints, appropriate security cover was provided by the CRPF during the visit," it said.

The force added that such security lapses are communicated to the protectee and "advised" for ensuring proper security arrangements.

Priyanka, also the Congress general secretary-in-charge of UP (East), was in Lucknow on December 27 and December 28 as part of her first visit to the State capital after violent protests against the amended citizenship law and a proposed countrywide implementation of the National Register of Citizens.

Registry of illegal colonies' houses in Delhi to begin in 10 days: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the AAP of spreading "lies" and misleading people on the issue regularisation of unauthorised colonies, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said registry for ownership rights in unauthorised colonies will start in the next 8-10 days.

Puri said that the Central Government will soon hand over registry to the residents. It is estimated that 40-50 lakh people living in 1731 unauthorised colonies play a vital role in deciding the fate of any political party in every election in the national capital. In 2015, people of unauthorised colonies voted to Arvind Kejriwal to bring changes in the national capital. In 2020, both BJP and AAP is eyeing on unauthorised colonies vote bank.

"They (AAP) are weaving nets of words while registry will

The Minister said that the DDA has completed the work on preparing maps of unauthorised colonies in just two months

start in next 8-10 days to give ownership rights to people. You keep telling lies, and we (Centre) will soon hand over documents of houses to the residents of these colonies. You cannot be an obstacle in the happiness of Delhiites," Puri tweeted in Hindi.

"The Aam Aadmi Party is misleading people but the BJP-led Centre has brought laws, he said in reference to the Parliament passing a bill to give ownership rights to the residents of unauthorised colonies.

"...Tell, has the law been enacted or not? has the process of giving ownership rights to people begun or not? Their (AAP's) strategy is not to benefit people, and mislead them instead," Puri said.

The minister said that the

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has completed the work on preparing maps of unauthorised colonies in just two months while 35,000 people have registered themselves on its website and submitted documents.

In another tweet, the Union housing and urban affairs minister accused the Kejriwal government of failing to prepare maps of 1,731 colonies in the past five years and they moved a court seeking two-year-time for the same.

Earlier on Sunday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said at a press conference that political parties indulge in politics, but if government starts furnishing wrong information, it is saddening. Citing (FAQ) frequently asked questions from DDA website on unauthorised colonies, Kejriwal claimed that neither central government is giving ownership rights nor regularising them.

NITI AAYOG'S SDG INDEX

Kerala on top, Bihar at the bottom of list

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Kerala and Chandigarh retained the top ranks among States and Union Territories even as Bihar turned out to be the worst performer in Niti Aayog's SDG India Index 2019 that evaluates progress on social, economic and environmental parameters.

According to 'SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) India Index 2019', released on Monday, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim have shown maximum improvement, but States like Gujarat have not shown any progress vis-a-vis the 2018 rankings.

"Kerala retained its rank as the top State with a score of 70. Chandigarh too maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 70. Himachal Pradesh took the second spot while Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana shared the third spot," the report said.



Bihar, Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh are the worst performing States in this year's Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "The United Nations' SDG target of 2030 can never be met without India... We are fully committed to achieving UN's SDG target," Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said at the launch of the report.

Speaking at the event, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said southern states have done well in health. "West Bengal (rank 14) has also done well in Niti Aayog's SDG Index 2019, but given the education level (in the state), West Bengal should be in top 3 performing states," Kumar added.

The Niti Aayog vice chairman also said Modi government will not leave any stone unturned to make sure India achieves SDG Agenda 2030. According to the report, India's composite score improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019 with major success in water and sanitation, industry and innovation.

However, nutrition and gender continue to be problem areas for India, requiring more focussed approach from the government. The report said while three out of five states in the top spots perform equal to or better than the country average on 12 goals, the other two states do the same on 11 goals.

"Only three states were placed in the category of Front Runners (with a score in the range 65-99, including both) in 2018 - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. In 2019, five more states joined this league - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Sikkim and Goa, taking the total tally to eight," it noted.

With regard to poverty reduction, states which have done well include Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim. On 'zero hunger' parameters, Goa, Mizoram, Kerala, Nagaland and Manipur were the front runners, according to the report.

The SDG India Index, launched last year by Niti Aayog with the help of United Nations, took into account 16 out of 17 focussed specified by the United Nations as SDGs. The Index this year ranked states based on 54 targets spread over 100 indicators out of 306 outlined by the UN.

The first report, which was launched in 2018 had 13 goals and 39 indicators. The year 2020 will be the fifth anniversary of the adoption of SDGs by 193 countries at the UN General Assembly.

The SDGs, constituted through an unprecedented consultative process, have 17 goals and 169 related targets to be achieved by 2030.

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Priyanka communalising CAA protests: UP Dy CM

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma countered Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadera on her remarks against Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday and accused her of denigrating Hinduism.

Addressing a Press conference barely two hours after the Congress general secretary made certain remarks against Adityanath, before returning to New Delhi after winding up a four-day visit to the State capital, Sharma said, "Priyanka Gandhi stands with those who indulged in (anti-CAA) violence." Priyanka hit out at Chief Minister on Monday, saying there was no place for violence or "revenge" in the country.

In a jibe at Adityanath days after he said those who damaged public property during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the ensuing violence would be made to pay, the Congress general secretary said saffron denotes Hinduism, a religion that does not advocate violence or "revenge".

Hitting back at Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, Sharma said the clash of religions should not be started for the sake of politics.

"The Congress general secretary has accused the saffron



and you are saying that a person (imbibing Hindu religion) is doing such a thing," he said. "You have started a clash of religions for your politics. Please do not do this. This is not the question of Hindu and Muslims. It is the question of India's future and national unity," he added.

Sharma said no one would leave saffron for the fear of expletives. "The more you hurl abuses, the more our self-confidence will increase," he added.

To a question, Sharma clarified that Adityanath had used the word 'badla' (revenge) to convey that vandals will have to pay for the damage caused to public property during protests against the amended citizenship law.

BJP MP slams UP Police, blames its 'negative approach'

Lucknow: Kaushal Kishore, BJP MP from Mohanlalgarh in Lucknow, has said the UP Police's negative approach is responsible for the "uncontrolled crime" in the State. The BJP MP's remark on Twitter comes days after a fish seller and a property dealer were killed in his constituency which lies on the outskirts of Lucknow. "Due to the negative approach of the police, crime has gone uncontrolled in Lucknow. Murder and loot are continuing unabated," he said in a tweet. Kaushal Kishore, while talking to reporters later, said, "If the working of the police is based on extortion, then the fear of police will automatically disappear. They do not even listen to public representatives. This is tarnishing the image of the state Government."

No place for violence, revenge in country: Priyanka

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Monday hit out at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying there is no place for violence or "revenge" in the country. Addressing a Press conference, the Congress general secretary took a dig at Adityanath's earlier warning that rioters damaging public property will have to pay and said the saffron denotes Hinduism, a religion that does not advocate violence or "revenge".

Concluding her four-day visit to Lucknow days after statewide violent clashes over the Citizenship Amendment Act, she told mediapersons that her own security was not a big issue. "The question of my security is not a big one. It is a small question on which there is no need to hold any discussion. I will not raise the issue of security because it is a trivial matter. It has nothing to do with the public," she said, in an apparent reference to her alleged manhandling by the State police.

"The issue is the safety of common man in UP," she asserted. "This is the country of Lord Krishna — who was the



great warrior on the battlefield. He only brought out the feelings of compassion and truth," she said. Sharpening her attack on the Chief Minister, she said, "He is wearing the dress (vasra) of an Yogi. He is wearing saffron clothes. This bhagwa (saffron) is not yours, it belongs to 'dharma' (religious), 'adhyatmik' (spiritual) tradition of Hindustan. It is a symbol of the Hindu religion. *Uss dharma ko dhaaran kariye* (imbibe that religion). In that religion, there is no place for anger, violence and revenge. This is all I have to say."

Releasing copies of a 14-page memorandum submitted to Governor Anandiben Patel, she said there are ample proof in the document on how the police and the administration indulged in wrong doing and vandalism. The memorandum claimed a total of 23 death occurred in the state in the alleged police excesses during the anti-CAA protests by people, while the UP Government claims 19 deaths in clashes.

There is also a video of police vandalism, police beating up a minor in Kanpur, she said, referring to the contents of memorandum.

"There were numerous examples through which it could be seen that the police and administration acted on the Chief Minister's statement that he will take revenge.

"I think it has happened for the first time in the history that a CM has given such a statement from the public," she said. The properties which have been confiscated and notices served, also include that of ex-IPS officer SR Darapuri. He probably had used the earnings of his lifetime for his house, and he has got a notice, because he had uploaded a Facebook post.

Quoting from the memorandum, the Congress leader said the conduct of the UP police has been "patently unlawful, destructive of the rule of law and repressive of honest citizens". "This is unbecoming of a force that is duty-bound to safeguard and protect the citizens' rights," the memorandum said.

After the Chief Minister's statement, police and administration appear to have acted in "a manner that is biased, unlawful, and violative of the fundamental rights of citizens," the memorandum said.

The Congress party will provide legal help to people facing prosecution for participating in the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests, party sources said on Monday.

According to the sources, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi has held a meeting on the matter with lawyers associated with the party. At the meeting, Priyanka Gandhi told the lawyers that the party will provide legal help to those who have been arrested in the peaceful protests and the party stands with the victims.

The Congress General Secretary has been active here in the Uttar Pradesh capital in support of the opposition to the CAA, meeting with the families of those arrested in the protests. In one instance here, Priyanka Gandhi even drove a scooter and then walked to reach the home of the family of a victim.

The Congress leader has also alleged that the local police misbehaved with her to curb her movement. The police, however, have denied the allegation. The politics is at boiling point in the state where the Congress party has taken centre-stage in the opposition to the CAA.

NORTH INDIA SHIVERS

Jammu records season's coldest night in over decade

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

SRINAGAR FREEZES AT -6.5°C

The cold wave further tightened its grip across Jammu & Kashmir on Monday with the winter capital, Jammu, recording the season's coldest night in over a decade, while Srinagar shivering at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius.

There was no relief from the bone-chilling cold for the residents of the Union Territory. Jammu recorded the season's coldest night in over a decade as the mercury plummeted to 2.4 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said.

It said the city had recorded the coldest night on December 28, 1998, when the mercury had went down to 0.9 degree Celsius followed by 2.3 degrees Celsius on December 31, 2007. Jammu had also recorded a low of 2.4 degrees Celsius on December 27 in 2014.

In Srinagar, the mercury continued its record-breaking spree as the city experienced the coldest night of the season so far at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius on Monday. Dense fog forced cancellation of all morning flights from the Jammu Airport. An official of the Airport Authority of India said all the four morning flights scheduled to operate from the Jammu airport were cancelled due to poor visibility as dense fog engulfed the city.

"So far four flights to and from the Jammu airport were cancelled, while the afternoon flights are likely to get delayed," he said. The minimum temperature in Jammu marked a dip of 3.3 degrees compared to the previous night to settle at 2.4 degrees Celsius — five notches below normal during this part of the season, a MeT



Monkeys huddle to keep themselves warm on a cold winter day in Jammu on Monday PTI

office official said. This led to the freezing of the fringes of the Dal Lake and other water bodies as well as water supply lines at several places. The night temperature in Srinagar, which has been witnessing clear skies and some sunshine during the day, is over four degrees below the normal for this part of the season, the official said.

The ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded the low of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius last night — down from the previous night's minus 6.6 degrees Celsius, he said. The night temperature at Pahalgam resort, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra in south Kashmir, settled at a low of minus 10.2 degrees Celsius as against minus 10.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the official said.

Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district,

was the coldest recorded place in the valley, he added. The official said Qazigund — the gateway town to the Valley - in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 9.3 degrees Celsius — slightly up from minus 9.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

Kokernag town, also in south, recorded a low of minus 7.3 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara, in north, registered the minimum of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, the official said. He said Leh town, in the Ladakh Union territory, recorded a low of minus 20.1 degrees Celsius — down from the previous night's minus 19.0 degrees Celsius.

The nearby Drass town froze at a low of minus 28.8 degrees Celsius. Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the 40-day harshest period of winter when there are most chances of frequent and maximum snowfall and the temperature drops considerably.

Jaipur shudders at 2nd lowest temp in 55 yrs

Jaipur: Jaipur recorded second lowest-ever temperature in 55 years at 1.4 degrees Celsius as a cold wave continued to sweep Rajasthan, according to weather officials. The State capital had registered its lowest ever temperature at 0 degree Celsius on December 13, 1964.

For the last four days, the temperature has been dipping in state. On Sunday, Mount Abu was the coldest at -3 degrees followed by Jobner at -1.6 degrees.

Sikar and Fatehpur registered 0 degree, while Kota shivered at 2.8 degrees, Churu at 1.2 degrees, Vanasthali 1.8 degrees, Jaisalmer 3 degrees and Bundi 2 degrees.



A Kashmiri boatman row his boat as he breaks the frozen surface of water to make way through the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Monday AP



The roof of a car is seen covered in frost on a cold and foggy day in Ajmer on Monday PTI



A zoo-keeper installs a heater near a cage of a white tigress on a cold winter day in Guwahati on Monday PTI

Maha: Rise in betel leaf prices makes 'Calcutta paan' costlier

PTI ■ AURANGABAD

Betel leaf used to make the popular 'Calcutta paan' has got costlier in Aurangabad in Maharashtra, leaving a bitter taste in the mouth of patrons.

These leaves come from Medinipur in West Bengal and rates have now touched ₹1,200 for a bundle of 100 against ₹500 till some days ago, paan merchant Mohammed Sharfuddin told PTI.

A tour of shops here showed prices of 'Calcutta paan' had gone up from ₹8 to anything between ₹12-20 depending on other ingredients.

"Paan prices had to be increased here because of the betel

These leaves come from Medinipur in West Bengal and rates have now touched ₹1,200 for a bundle of 100 against ₹500 till some days ago, paan merchant Mohammed Sharfuddin said

leaves getting costlier. We have been told cultivation of these leaves has decreased," Sharfuddin, who has been in the business for 54 years, added.

He said shops in Aurangabad sell some 20,000 paan a day and the rise in prices was making people move towards leaves coming in from Chennai.



A person warms himself near a fire sitting next to cows in Prayagraj on Monday AP

Intense cold wave in UP, Churk witnesses bone-chilling 0.8°C

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Churk in Uttar Pradesh recorded 0.8 degree Celsius as the state continued to reel under cold wave conditions on Monday, according to the Meteorological Department.

Muzaffarnagar recorded a low of 1 degree Celsius, followed by Kanpur (1.6 degree Celsius), Agra (1.9 degrees Celsius), Jhansi (2.2 degrees Celsius), Varanasi (2.3 degrees Celsius) and Meerut (2.5 degrees Celsius).

According to the MeT department, Churk town in Sonbhadra district was the coldest place in the state recording 0.8 degree Celsius, eight notches below normal.

State capital Lucknow recorded a minimum temperature of 6.7 degrees Celsius, one notch below normal, while the maximum temperature recorded was 12.3 degrees Celsius, 10 degrees below normal. The sunshine came as a respite to the city residents.

The weather is most likely to remain dry, and shallow to moderate fog is very likely to occur at few places in the State.

Cold day to severe cold day condition is very likely at a few places in the State, the weatherman said. Dense to very dense fog is very likely at isolated places over the State, according to the MeT department.

POST-ART 370 NULLIFICATION

HC opens jobs for candidates from all over India

PTI ■ JAMMU

In a first step of its kind, opening the State employment in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh for candidates from across the country after nullification of Article 370, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court has invited applications from eligible candidates from all over India to fill 33 vacancies with it.

The 33 vacant posts of non-gazetted officials include those of senior scale stenographer, junior scale stenographer, steno typist, compositor, electrician and driver.

The advertisement to fill the vacancies was issued by the

J&K High Court's Registrar General Sanjay Dhar on December 26 with the last date for submission of applications being January 31, 2020.

Following nullification of the Article 370 on August 5, there had been demands from various quarters, especially in the Jammu region and Union Territory of Ladakh, carved out of the erstwhile state of J&K after its bifurcation into two UTs, for a domicile certificate or some legal restrictions on the purchase of land by outsiders as well as their appointments in Government jobs.

"The application forms shall be received by the con-



cerned principal district judges of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh within whose jurisdiction the applicant resides against the

proper receipts duly stamped. "The applicants who do not belong to the UTs of J&K and Ladakh shall submit their application to the Registrar General, J&K High Court, Jammu," the advertisement read.

It said the principal district judges of Kashmir province, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar and Ladakh would make necessary arrangements for the receipt of application forms even during the ensuing winter vacation.

"All principal district judges of J&K and Ladakh shall submit the application forms along with the list of candidates to the office of the

Registrar General, J&K High Court, Jammu by or before February 7, 2020," the advertisement said.

It said the selection would be made as per J&K Reservation Rules 2005. "The candidates who are having age as on January 1, 2019 not below 18 years and not above 40 years in case of open merit, 43 years in case of SC/ST/RBA/ALC/OSCs, 42 years in case of physically challenged, 48 years in case of ex-servicemen and 40 years in case of candidates in Government service or contractual employees are eligible for participation in the selection process," the notice read.

Five Kashmiri political leaders released after 4 months of detention

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Five political leaders, who had been under preventive detention for the past 148 days, were released from the MLA hostel on Monday by the Union Territory administration of Jammu & Kashmir, officials said. The leaders belonging to the National Conference and the PDP were released after the authorities were satisfied that they would not be indulging in any agitation or call for any strike after their release, they said.

Those released include Ishaq Jabbar and Ghulam Nabi Bhat (National Conference) and Bashir Mir, Zahoor Mir and Yasir Reshi (PDP), the officials said.

Reshi is considered as a rebel PDP leader who had openly revolted against then chief minister and PDP patron Mehbooba Mufti. He was subsequently removed as the district party chief.

On November 25, two political leaders — Dilawar Mir of the PDP and Ghulam Hassan Mir of the Democratic Party Nationalist — were released by the new Union Territory administration.

The National Conference welcomed the decision of the administration and said such moves will help in bridging the gap between the government and the people.

In a statement, party's provincial president Davinder Singh Rana expressed hope that other political detainees will also be released soon.

He said such moves will facilitate a conducive atmosphere for a genuine democra-

tic political exercise. "It will help in reaching out to the people at large and bridge the gap between the Government and people besides creating conditions for winning hearts and minds," he said. Many political leaders were picked up from their residences on August 5, the day when the Centre announced abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two union territories — Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

The two Union Territories came into existence on October 31 this year. The political detainees had been kept at Centaur hotel and shifted to the MLA hostel in third week of November.

As many as 34 political detainees were shifted to the hostel from the hotel, located on the banks of the Dal Lake, as Srinagar reeled under harsh winter conditions and the hotel lacked proper heating arrangement, the officials said.

The chill had taken a toll on the health of the detainees, which included leaders from the National Conference, the PDP and the People's Conference and prominent social activists — and the security personnel guarding them.

Three former Chief Ministers — Farooq Abdulah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti — are also under detention. While senior Abdullah was slapped with the stringent Public Safety Act on September 17 and remains confined to his residence, Omar Abdullah and Mufti are under detention at different locations in the city.

With ministerial berth, Aditya is a man to watch

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray never fails to spring surprises. After permitting his son Aditya to contest and win the State Assembly polls from Worli in south-Central Mumbai, Uddhav bit the bullet and became the Chief Minister of the State. Now, he has chosen to induct his son Aditya into his Cabinet — unmindful of a possible criticism about the presence of father-son duo in the State Cabinet.

If anything, 29-year-old Aditya Thackeray has arrived on the State's political scene. Though there was speculation initially that the Shiv Sena might pitch him for the posts of either the Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister's post, Uddhav scotched the speculation a couple of months ago, by saying that he should learn the ropes before becoming either the Chief Minister or a Deputy Chief Minister.

late father as the Shiv Sena's national executive president way back in January 2002. He has never contested an election, even though he has established his firm hold over the party set-up during the past 17 years. Nor has his uncle and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray contested any election.

As much as his chief minister-father Uddhav, the man to be watched in the State politics in the coming days — in his new mantle as a Cabinet Minister — either holding the Education or Environment portfolio.

Aditya's rise in the Shiv Sena began nine years ago, when late Thackeray launched the Shiv Sena's youth wing "Yuva Sena" and anointed his grandson Aditya Thackeray as its head in October 2010, two years before he passed away on November 12, 2012.

A Bachelor of Arts in History from Mumbai's elite St. Xavier's College, Aditya has come a long way since his college days. As a third-year Arts student, Aditya had hit headlines ahead of his appointment as the Yuv Sena chief in 2010, when he forced the Bombay University withdraw Rohinton Mistry's novel *Such A Long Journey*, prescribed for the second year Bachelor of Arts (English) as an optional text book, from the syllabus. Aditya had opposed Mistry's book on

Between 2010 and 2019, Aditya has not only established a following of his own among the youth in various parts of the state, but he has also learned the ropes of party politics by working in tandem with his father and party president Uddhav.

Aditya has lined up several plans for Mumbai. As a Yuv Sena leader, Aditya had during the previous BJP-Shiv Sena alliance Government, Aditya had mooted "Vibrant Nightlife" proposal for Mumbai.

It may be recalled that within months after the Sena-headed Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) adopted a resolution seeking "Vibrant Nightlife" for Mumbai and sent off a proposal to the Maharashtra government suggesting necessary amendments to relevant laws, Aditya had in February 2015 met then chief minister Devendra Fadnis and submitted a formal letter requesting the latter to put in place the laws that make Mumbai a "live 24/7" city.

In a series of tweets that he put out after he met Fadnis to push his "vibrant Nightlife", Aditya had written: "Tweeps the GOOD News is CM has accepted my proposal of nightlife and assured me that necessary amendments to laws by March/August Session".

"I truly believe that this is well-deserved for Mumbai will not only boost the core economy but also the ancillary industries like transport...At the same momentum, Mumbaikars will have a time zone at night to chill in soon! I will ensure this happens," a confident Aditya had tweeted.

Currently, the restaurants and bars close down at 1.30 am. However, once Aditya's proposal gets implemented, these establishments will remain through the night — provided these establishments are not in designated residential areas. The 1.30 am closure deadline for bars and restaurants has been in force since 1992-93.

Interestingly, acting on Aditya's proposal, the Mumbai police have for the first time in recent years relaxed bar closing hours on the eve of January 1, 2020. It remains to be seen as to what kind of response the new year bar closing hours relaxation will elicit from Mumbaikars.

Uddhav's great-grandfather Keshav Sitaram Thackeray — better known as Prabodhankar Thackeray — was one of the key figures in the Samyukta Maharashtra movement that played a key role in the campaign for a linguistic State of Maharashtra, while most popular grandfathers Bal Thackeray — a cartoonist-turned politician — founded Shiv Sena in 1966. He carved a place for himself in Maharashtra politics, but chose to remain a king-maker than a king.

A wildlife photographer-turned-politician — Uddhav himself was a reluctant beginner in public life. Uddhav was anointed by his

ground that it contained foul language and derogatory references to the Shiv Sena.

The year 2010 proved to be eventful for Aditya. It was in that year the Yuv Sena for the first time swept the M u m b a i University (MU) Senate polls from the Graduates' constituency.

Eight years later — in March 2018, the Yuv Sena once again swept the MU senate by decimating the BJP's student outfit Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Congress-backed NSUI and winning all the 10 seats.



Infants' death: Toll climbs to 91 at Kota hospital as 14 more children die, BJP to send Central panel

Kota: Fourteen more infants have died at the JK Lon hospital here in the last five days, taking the number of deaths to 91 this month at the facility, officials said on Monday.

"The 14 infants, including six newborns, died in the period between December 25 and December 29 in NICU and PICU units of the hospital," the newly appointed superintendent of the hospital, Suresh Dulara, said. Earlier, 77 infants had died till December 24, including 10 within 48 hours on December 23-24, he said.

On the cause of deaths, Amrit Lal Bairwa, Head of Department of Pediatrics, said that they are analysing the reasons behind the 77 deaths till December 25.

Out of the 14 infants who died later, four succumbed to severe pneumonia, one to Meningoencephalitis, four to Congenital pneumonia, three to pneumonic septicemia, and one to respiratory disorder, he said.

Rajasthan Medical Education Secretary Vaibhav Galariya said a three-member team comprising Dr Amarjeet Mehta, Dr Rambabu Sharma and Dr Sunil Bhatnagar that is probing the infant deaths will submit its report in two days following which action will be taken.

The BJP, which has targeted the Congress Government in Rajasthan over the child deaths, said it has formed a committee comprising four MPs to look into the matter. **PTI**

Yogi: Disability not a hindrance to a person's progress

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that disability never hindered a person's progress and his/her talent only needed an opportunity and an able teacher to conquer the world.

"Every such person has some special skills. But one must find a qualified teacher who can recognise the skill and then the individual is sure to succeed. There are many such examples. Eminent scientist Stephen Hawking, who uncovered the mystery of universe, is a great example of this," Yogi said.

The chief minister said that the state government would extend all possible support to Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyanga University to establish it as an example in the country. **PNS**

Isolate BJP on CAA-NRC, says Mamata; BJP hits back

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ PURULIA

Mamata Banerjee on Monday called upon all the parties and the non-BJP Chief Ministers to isolate the BJP and unite against the "mischievous" Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register for Citizens (NRC) which have allegedly been designed to throw the non-BJP people out of India.

Leading a colourful protest rally at Purulia — backed by tribal dance and drum-beats — which has in the recent past emerged as stronghold of the saffron outfit Banerjee said, "I call upon every one... let us unite and discard CAA and NRC and isolate the BJP".

Alleging that the BJP leaders were making confusing statements on the CAA and the NRC she said that the party had a hidden agenda behind the enactment of the "mis-



chievous citizenship law which is a prelude to invoking NRC in the country." She said India had a population of 130 crore out of which the BJP Government wanted to throw out 30 crore by marking them as foreigners. "They will give citizenship to only those people who follow their line and throw out those who reject it. India has a population of 130 crore. Out of this they will give citizenship to their own people and throw out the remaining ones. Where the remaining people will go? Will they it kela (banana)?" she thundered at the end of a rally at Purulia bordering Jharkhand.

"They think that after passing the law they will be able to pursue their hidden agenda. They think that India is their zamindari (fief) which in fact is not. I must remind them that the laws are made by the Centre but implemented by the States. As of now most State Governments are led not by the BJP but the other parties who are opposing the CAA and NRC.

"Most State Governments have rejected this law and so from the beginning this law is a failure," Banerjee said, adding she would "not allow the mischievous law to be implemented in Bengal. In fact we have also stopped the work of NPR (National Population Register) which is as discriminatory as the CAA and NRC."

She added "this is a protest to protect a person's democracy (democratic rights)", reminding how she had descended on the streets from the very begin-

ning. Banerjee had earlier questioned the alleged faulty implementation of NRC in Assam where she alleged about 14 lakh Bengalis had been robbed of their citizenship.

Meanwhile, even as the Chief Minister staged her sixth protest rally in the State the BJP too embarked on staging counter-rallies backing the CAA. The party staged rallies at Coochbehar in North Bengal where the large procession was led by senior leader Mukul Roy and Baruiapur in South 24 Parganas where State BJP president Dilip Ghosh addressed a massive rally but not before being black-flagged by a local TMC crowd.

Ghosh questioning Banerjee's repeated calls to reject the CAA iterated a Chief Minister being an elected person had no right to defy and reject central law which she had been doing.

There are pockets in nation where social evils persist: Naidu

IAN S ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Monday pointed out that though India has made significant strides on the economic and technological fronts, there are pockets in the nation where social evils persist.

"We live in times of turbulence. Increasing cases of discrimination based on caste, community and gender are a cause for great concern.

"We must not doubt in our mind that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. The caste system in our country is a vicious cycle," said Naidu while inaugurating the 87th Sivagiri Pilgrimage Meet at the Sivagiri Mutt in Varkala near here.

Sivagiri Mutt is the abode of Sree Narayana Guru and

today it has become the supreme centre of worship for the followers of the Guru.

"It is time for us to retrospect and take pragmatic steps. We must end all discrimination, we should abolish the caste system. India of the future must be caste-less and classless. It cannot be made by mere Bills. We need political will and administrative skill for making that possible.

"The nation we aim to build must have a place for everyone to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives by providing equal opportunities to one and all," added Naidu.

"The movement to dispel the caste system must come within the heart and mind of society. It must be an intellectual revolution, a compassionate revolution, a humanitarian revolution," the Vice President said.

EXTENSION OF TRIPS OF SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of Passengers, Railways have decided to extend the run/trips of the following Special Trains as under:-

| Train No. | Station From | Dep. Time | Station to | Arr. Time | Frequency/ Days of run | At present running upto | Period of Further Extension |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01701 | Jabalpur | 15:15 | Haridwar | 12:55 | Weekly (Wed) | 25.12.2019 | up to 29.01.2020 |
| 01702 | Haridwar | 14:45 | Jabalpur | 12:25 | Weekly (Thurs) | 26.12.2019 | up to 30.01.2020 |
| 09809 | Kota | 20:20 | H.Nizamuddin | 03:15 | Daily | 31.12.2019 | up to 31.01.2020 |
| 09810 | H.Nizamuddin | 05:15 | Kota | 13:15 | Daily | 01.01.2020 | up to 01.02.2020 |
| 01707 | Jabalpur | 08:00 | Attari | 11:45 | Weekly (Tue) | 31.12.2019 | up to 28.01.2020 |
| 01708 | Attari | 14:45 | Jabalpur | 17:20 | Weekly (Wed) | 01.01.2020 | up to 29.01.2020 |
| 01709 | Jabalpur | 06:00 | Attari | 11:45 | Weekly (Sat) | 28.12.2019 | up to 25.01.2020 |
| 01710 | Attari | 14:45 | Jabalpur | 19:50 | Weekly (Sun) | 29.12.2019 | up to 26.01.2020 |
| 04781 | Bathinda | 06:40 | Anupgarh | 11:55 | Daily | 31.12.2019 | up to 30.06.2020 |
| 04782 | Anupgarh | 12:30 | Bathinda | 17:30 | Daily | 31.12.2019 | up to 30.06.2020 |
| 04783 | Bathinda | 19:00 | Suratgarh | 22:00 | Daily | 31.12.2019 | up to 30.06.2020 |
| 04784 | Suratgarh | 06:20 | Bathinda | 09:30 | Daily | 31.12.2019 | up to 30.06.2020 |
| 09731 | Jaipur | 07:35 | Delhi Cantt. | 13:20 | Tri-Weekly (Tue, Thu & Fri) | 31.12.2019 | up to 31.03.2020 |
| 09732 | Delhi Cantt. | 15:00 | Jaipur | 20:40 | Tri-Weekly (Tue, Thu & Fri) | 31.12.2019 | up to 31.03.2020 |

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Public Relations Northern Railway

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name of work and its location | 30-ELECT-57-T-19-20-E3 "Hiring of truck capacity 9.0 MT or equivalent for loading/unloading of Railway material of SSE/O&P/SSB depot over Delhi division for three years." |
| Approx. Cost of the works in | ₹27.73 lakh |
| Address of the office | Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi |
| Earnest Money | ₹55,500.00 |
| Date & Time of submission of tender | 29.01.2020, 15:00 hrs. |
| Opening of tender | 29.01.2020, 15:00 hrs. |
| Website & Notice board | www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi |

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 4165/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Namely: Harender S.Y. S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 35 years, Height : 5'5" Approx., Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Oval Wearing : Green and Khaki Jacket, Red and Grey T-Shirt & Black Jeans Pant has been found dead at near Washing Line, Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi on 27.12.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 12A dated 27.12.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi.

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

SHO :
P.S. Patparganj Indl. Area, Delhi East Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-22146491, 22146492

DP/7228/ED/19

Sporting success

As the 2010s come to a close, we should celebrate a great decade for Indian sport and look forward to the 2020s



The 2010s began with a bang for Indian sport with its success at the 2011 Cricket World Cup, whose finals were held at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The 2012 Summer Olympics held in London also saw India's best-ever haul with six medals, albeit we finished without a Gold. Things have been a bit disappointing since then. While the Indian men's cricket team tops the world rankings in Test series, it has faltered at the semi-final stages of the subsequent One-Day International World Cups and has also failed to win a second T20 World Cup to follow up from the 2007 win. However, the seismic impact of the 2007 win was felt in the creation of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which in the past decade has cemented its position as the leading franchise-based T20 tournament in the world. The Indian women's team has also enjoyed great success over the past decade with their appearance in the finals of the International Cricket Council's women's World Cup. But while this decade has cemented the adage that "India is cricket and cricket is India", it has also seen the emergence of new professional leagues that have enjoyed success as well as the rise of new champions in other sports. The premier Kabaddi League is a genuine success story, particularly in a traditionally Indian sport. On the flip side though, India's failure to win both kabaddi Gold medals, particularly in the men's competition at the 2018 Asian Games, can be attributed in part to the arrogance of newly-rich professional players. On the other hand, the emergence of champions like PV Sindhu has been a singularly impressive achievement. Her standing as World Champion must go down as India's greatest sporting success in the past decade. Alongside Sindhu stands boxer Mary Kom, who despite age and motherhood, is still a champion though she ended the decade on a sour note. Dipa Karmakar's heroic feat at the Rio Olympics, too, is noteworthy as was Sushil Kumar's World Championship in 2010, which gave a filip to wrestling that has been taken forward by the Phogat sisters.

However, not everything was a success. The response to the Indian Super League in football and the Hockey India League was tepid at the very least and miserable at worst. India's reputation in certain sports, particularly weightlifting, has been tarnished, thanks to constant reports of serious doping. That said, drugs are an active problem throughout the world of sports. There have been serious issues with the Government's ambition to clean up Indian sports federations from its political patronage. Much still needs to be done on this front if India is to achieve its potential in the world of sports — football being a particular case in point. India enjoyed some success in the previous decade. After climbing inside the top 100 rankings in the sport, it has seemingly frittered away some of those gains in the last 24 months. Can India finally make a mark in football? The 2020s will show the way. It is likely that an Indian-born player may make it big for a major team in Europe, which could finally crack the market. At the same time, special mention should be given to the "Khelo India" programme and the games that have been ushered under the Narendra Modi administration. A focus on sports under capable Ministers has meant that India is looking forward to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with a glimmer of hope previously unheard of. So much so that a double-digit haul is on the cards with Indian shooters, pugilists, wrestlers, badminton players and possible track and field athletes such as javelin ace Neeraj Chopra, all being in the race for medals. Expectations are that others will join Abhinav Bindra in the list of individual Indian Gold medalists. As for cricket, India has a packed year coming up. Will India finish the year as reigning ICC Test match champions? Can it make it count in the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia early next year? And where will the IPL and franchise cricket go in the coming months? Can other sports replicate the success of kabaddi? There are many questions that will be asked of Indian sports in the coming decade but we hope that whatever happens, it will only climb to heights never previously achieved.

Why we need data

Preparation of a NPR and decennial census is a legitimate activity of the Union Government and the data thrown up by these exercises form the basis for policy-making



A SURYA PRAKASH

The false propaganda unleashed by some political parties against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, has now got extended to the mandated programme to prepare the National Population Register (NPR) and the conduct of the decennial census, which are scheduled for 2020 and 2021. Several opponents of the current establishment in New Delhi have been spreading disinformation about the NPR and the decennial census, both of which are tools essential for governance.

The purpose of the CAA is to provide citizenship to persecuted religious minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who crossed the borders and came into India before December 31, 2014. This has nothing to do with any Indian citizen, whatever be his or her religion. Nor does it open the floodgates for migrants because of the deadline fixed in the Act. The NPR and the decennial census are meant to get demographic information and also inputs on the social and economic status of the population in different regions of the country. Neither of these exercises is aimed at disenfranchising anybody.

The NPR exercise was formulated and introduced by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2010, to collect demographic and biometric information about individuals. Here, enumerators go door-to-door and gather particulars about "usual residents" — individuals residing at a given place for the preceding six months. It is, therefore, strange to find that the Congress, the very initiator of this idea, is now opposing it and is doing so with such vehemence that it all looks like a theatrical act.

The census in India is primarily a head count and has been rightly described as the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world. Three million individuals will be deployed to collect the data and for the first time, the enumerators will be using a mobile app and other modern applications to collect and collate data from the field.



Her attempt to paralyse the working of the Union Government in regard to collection of population data and to curtail the tenure of a duly-elected Government constitutes subversion of the Constitution. Tolerance of such subversive activities is inimical to national unity and integrity and we should not allow a small minority of dissenters to disrupt governance and democratic traditions in this manner.

AS STATED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE CENSUS IS THE BIGGEST SOURCE OF PRIMARY DATA AT THE VILLAGE, TOWN AND WARD LEVEL, PROVIDING MICRO-LEVEL DATA ON VARIOUS PARAMETERS, INCLUDING HOUSING, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, LITERACY, MIGRATION, FERTILITY, LANGUAGE, RELIGION, SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution will make it clear that the intention of the founding fathers was to accord the same kind of protection to both religious and linguistic minorities and the State would be the unit to determine who is a minority. A Kannadiga in Hindi-majority Haryana (as this writer is) gets as much protection as say, Mohammed Iqbal, in Hindu-majority Haryana as per these Constitutional provisions. Therefore, if pseudo-secularists oppose population data collection and census, which is a legitimate Government activity in all nations across the world, the presumption will be that they are afraid of the numbers that will crop up. The steep rise in the Muslim population in India over the decades and the huge difference between the decadal growth rates of Muslims vis-a-vis the Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis, will nail the lie that Muslims are persecuted in India.

No more welcome

Following internet shutdowns, the tourism sector is the latest victim of the Government's high-handedness



The Government may be consistently playing down the countrywide protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as a conspiracy of intellectuals to jeopardise its legitimate existence. But with the protests showing no signs of abating — they have now turned into a people's movement over exclusionary and discriminatory policies that breed hatred and disunity — the clampdown on freedom of expression has been severe. So harsh that internet and mobile network shutdowns

have indefinitely become the order of the day. This has elicited strong admonitions and travel advisories against India, impacting our tourism business severely. For example, tour operators in Agra, the home of Taj Mahal, have unofficially reported a loss of about 50 per cent revenue during the holiday season. Nowhere has the clampdown been as draconian as it has been in Uttar Pradesh with over 19 people killed and more than 1,100 arrests. The visitors' count for December has been the most dismal. A paltry 4.5 lakh tourists arrived at Agra's Taj Mahal over the new year weekend, which is down from seven lakh the same month, last year. Tourists from the US, the UK, China, France and Japan are understandably cautious after reports emerged of foreign students being deported for extending moral support to protesters. Internet cafes, a favourite among young travellers to keep folks connected to them back home, are running dry.

As the tourists have been dissuaded from travelling to India — in part because the message from New Delhi has been that it will not buckle down and, instead, has sharpened its attack on anti-CAA protesters and tightened the noose of police action — their numbers fell well before November, when the crucial Ayodhya verdict was to be announced by the Supreme Court. The month, which saw a footfall of 6.7 lakh tourists last year, saw only 5.4 lakh tourists this year. Agra alone attracts over 6.5 million tourists every year, generating nearly \$14 million annually from entrance fees. Similar is the story elsewhere. Overall, the hospitality sector has been hit. Assam has already faced a loss of ₹400 crore. Mysuru saw a 20 per cent dip in tourism. Revenues for many hotels, tour operators and guides have plunged with many tourists, both domestic and foreign, either cancelling their trips or cutting them short. This is understandable. Protests are now dragging on into the second month and have shown little signs of abating even as the Government has issued "clarifications." There are plenty of signs of matters turning more violent as both police and marchers up the ante. The larger question, however, is whether the tourism sector will be able to absorb the damage once normalcy returns. For an industry, which the Government pegged as a growth driver even in a slowing economy, this is a bad sign. In this business, perception matters and the *atithi* is certainly not feeling welcome anymore.

SOUNDBITE

In my opinion, Citizenship Amendment Act is too little compassion, coming too late. This Bill is only focussed on religious persecution.

Spiritual leader
—Sadhauru Jaaqi Vasudev

I am thrilled with the kind of work that's coming my way. But I feel envious of the young girls, who are getting a chance to play varied parts so early on in their careers.

Actor
—Neena Gupta

The US has shown its support for terrorism by carrying out air strikes on forces in Iraq that have dealt blows against the Islamic State group.

Iranian official
—Abbas Mousavi

In 2015, people believed him (Kejriwal) to be a great revolutionary, as Fidel Castro or Che Guevara. But now they are fed up with (his) lies.

Union Minister
—Prakash Javadekar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Environment's cause

Sir — Air passengers have their ticket details verified by security personnel at the departure gates of the airport. Upon producing valid identification proof and an e-ticket, passengers can proceed to the check-in counters. Being allowed to produce e-tickets on electronic devices such as smartphones and tablets has helped save paper. Otherwise, tonnes of paper get wasted when people take printouts of tickets. However, owing to a lack of awareness, many passengers still rely on printouts instead of just producing soft copies.

Government must shun authoritarian ways

The Modi Government has shown itself to be arrogant, arbitrary and adamant with its decision to update the National Population Register (NPR) in the teeth of sustained protests against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The tearing hurry with which the Government is pushing ahead with its agenda concerning citizenship casts suspicion on its motives. Nobody is so naive to believe that NPR is not a precursor to NRC. The fact that NPR will serve as the database for NRC is plain to see. The reason for gathering data on date and place of birth of parents and last place of residence from respondents in the proposed house-to-house enumeration is not far to seek or beyond comprehension. The UPA-era NPR, with its emphasis on "residency" and the present modified version of NPR with its emphasis on "citizenship", cannot be bracketed together. Needless to say "additions of three or four columns" can make all the difference.



CAA to treat Muslim refugees at par with refugees of other religious persuasions. Sad to say, the Government remains unmoved by the distress of a 14-month-old breastfed child separated from his parents jailed for taking part in the anti-CAA protests. The parents of the child exemplify true patriotism. "Civil disobedience with a smile" on Gandhian lines appears to be the only option now left for the people to bring the Government to its senses and persuade it to abandon its policy of divide and rule and pull the country back from the brink.

Press any matter in relation to a political question or on a service subject or containing any service information." The Army must preserve its identity.

Cheap tactics

Sir — It is unfortunate that the Uttar Pradesh police allegedly manhandled Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was on her way to pay a visit to retired IPS officer SR Darapuri at his residence. As the police tried to stop her vehicle from moving further, Priyanka hoodwinked the police by riding pillion on a two-wheeler and reached her destination. While the police's act is condemnable, the traffic police issued the owner of the two-wheeler a challan of ₹6,000 because the two were riding without a helmet. This appears to be a revenge action by the police and is definitely in cheap taste.

Identity at stake

Sir — Army chief Bipin Rawat's recent comments on anti-CAA protesters have rightly been seen by many military veterans and

security experts as "overtly political." Though such kind of remarks are common in Pakistan, it is almost unheard of in our country.

sary safeguard against military coups. The Indian Army has always followed Article 21 of the Army Act, which says no person subject to the Act "shall publish in any form whatever or communicate directly or indirectly to the

FIRST COLUMN

Handle sensitive issues carefully

The judiciary and the executive cannot be at loggerheads in a welfare State as it would make citizens jittery and lose faith in the system



ABHAY RAJ MISHRA

The kind of storm which the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 has kicked up is, perhaps, unprecedented as it deals with the subject of future citizenship and not the current. The matter is now resting on the opinion of the Supreme Court (SC) for its constitutional validity, which will hear 59 petitions filed in opposition of the law on January 22, 2020. It would be interesting to note whether the views of the judiciary and the executive would converge on an issue as sensitive as this one. In the case of Ayodhya, the apex court's verdict has established well that law cannot be detached from the interests of the people it serves. There was a raging debate whether the Ayodhya verdict was based on credible and admissible evidence or was it influenced by the faith and belief of the majority? Irrespective, the verdict was peacefully accepted by all the factions, not necessarily for its veracity but for bringing to end a painful impasse. What is clearly visible and undebatable is that it brought peace finally.

There would be peace if two conditions are fulfilled. One, the interests of the larger sections of the people must be put above all else. To punish a few guilty, we cannot make the masses suffer along with them. Second, there cannot be a chasm between the views of the executive and the judiciary, which would otherwise make citizens jittery and lose faith in the system altogether. Imagine being brought up by two warring parents.

This ethos of acting in public interest and going along with the views of the executive must now be extended to end pain in other areas as well. Take livelihoods as an example, where the case of Goa has been hanging for far too long. Goa was the only State where mining rights were granted to its citizens by the Portuguese Government in perpetuity, but were eventually revoked by the Indian Government. Ever since the apex court abruptly cancelled 88 mining leases in the State on February 7, 2018, life has come to a grinding, tragic halt for mining dependents in the State. This is now no longer just an economic crisis — which is severely debilitating in its own right — but a grave human crisis as well. Such is the situation that the Goa Government has requested a review of the ban by the SC, which is also pending. Jobs and livelihoods disappearing overnight as a result of judicial intervention is painful, particularly at a time when India is going through the worst employment crisis in the last 40 years. According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the country's employment reached the lowest rate in 2017-2018.

Earlier, in 2012, the SC cancelled 122 spectrum licences in response to a PIL filed by a host of activists and to answer the question whether the Government had a right to distribute natural resources in a manner that was not "fair and transparent." This affected 5.3 crore telephone connections. It was alleged that the exchequer lost ₹1.76 lakh crore in revenue and a few private telecom players were the beneficiaries. This case was highlighted as among the top 10 abuses of power by *Time* magazine. The verdict shook the country, changed the contours of a developing telecom industry, made new telecom operators wrap up their business and gave the reins of the sector into the hands of a few business groups.

In a reversal in 2017, a special court in New Delhi acquitted all the accused in the 2G spectrum case citing that the CBI could not find any evidence against the accused in seven years. As per the judgment, "Some people created a scam by artfully arranging a few selected facts and exaggerating things beyond recognition to astronomical levels." The matter now rests with the Delhi High Court on basis of appeals filed by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate. The key question is as to why the case could not have been tried without cancelling the licences? The court should have allowed business to continue, while the case would have carried on. By invoking closure of business, the court caused collateral damage to the industry, the economy and most importantly to the livelihoods of people employed by the companies that had to close shop.

Studies have established that India's Maoist movement is deeply rooted in socio-economic conditions prevalent in parts of India with large tribal populations. It has mostly affected areas where there is a conflict between the State and the populace on the economic derivation of forest produce and mining such as in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and agriculture in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Such aggressive posturing by citizens has huge direct and indirect costs. The purpose of the law is to create a conducive environment for the citizens of the State. However, sometimes, like in the Goa mining ban and the spectrum case, the law and its interpretation has spelled doom for citizens and businesses. This cannot become a precedent and must be addressed immediately. Situations like these need more complex solutions, just like the CAA. It is simplistic to penalise lakhs of people for the actions of the few with the stroke of a pen, and it is certainly not done.

(The writer is president, not-for-profit organisation PRAHAR)

THOSE DAMAGING PROPERTY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN VIDEO AND CCTV FOOTAGE. WE WILL TAKE REVENGE FROM THEM BY SEIZING THEIR PROPERTY.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
YOGI ADITYANATH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

A defining year

In 2019, a reformist Government was brought back to power and that, too, with a huge majority. This shows how electoral preferences are guided by economic expectations



KARAN BHASIN

Since the early 1990s, there has been a sense of optimism with regards to India's economic progress. The process of liberalisation during 1991 brought with it a sense of hope regarding a dramatic turnaround in the country's economic fortunes. While the nation's growth did accelerate from the 1980s onwards, however, it wasn't comparable to other emerging economies, including China.

The first decade of the 21st century was believed to be India's time as it had a Government that was looking at the next generation of economic reforms. These transformations happened and the country witnessed the first serious privatisation of several public sector enterprises (PSEs) along with a drastic reduction in small savings rates. India's macroeconomic situation was stable and gradually growth started to increase along with its investment rates. This growth continued till 2007, after which it started to lose steam due to lack of economic reforms and then the 2008 crisis hit the country along with the rest of the world.

While many thought the impact of the 2008 crisis wasn't as much on India as elsewhere, the reasons behind this were the policy instruments which were deployed to address the risks that emerged. These instruments, combined with a lack of reforms and an entitlement-based regime brought a fresh macroeconomic challenge in the second decade of the 21st century.

Two decades have elapsed and India is yet to justify the sense of optimism that prevailed at the start of the century. But to be fair, the second decade wasn't that bad considering that India's growth in 2014, 2015 and 2016 was fairly decent even when one ignores the fact that it witnessed two successive droughts in 2014 and 2015. The country's macroeconomic situation has improved significantly since 2014 and the Government has undertaken several reforms that will have long-term growth implications such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA).

Despite these reforms, growth slowed towards the end of 2018 and throughout the first half of 2019. This has led people to question whether the third decade will be any different from the previous two decades. However, there are compelling reasons that point at how this time, it will be different. For starters, the current slowdown is not because of any inherent structural factors but is a direct outcome of the financial sector stress which spread over from banks to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The reasons behind the build-up of this stress are more to do with reckless lending during the first decade of the century as the attempt to fix it started only post the introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act.

As the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest Financial Stability Report suggests, the Public Sector Banks' (PSBs) Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) may increase by September 2020 and this poses fresh concerns regarding the ability of the PSBs to take prudent lending decisions. The recent spike in NPAs could also be because of the high cost of capital compared to the moderation in inflation, which has artificially kept the real

“ A LOT OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS WAS MADE IN 2019 AND SOME OF IT COULD BE BECAUSE OF THE SLOWDOWN. HOWEVER, 2019 WILL MARK A STRUCTURAL BREAK FOR INDIA AS WE ENTER INTO A DECADE WHICH WILL CERTAINLY BELONG TO THE COUNTRY'S ENTREPRENEURS AND ITS ECONOMIC AMBITIONS ”



rates at one of the highest levels in the world.

Clearly, India's got a problem on the monetary side, which needs to be rectified if it is aiming to grow at seven per cent or more. Some progress has been made on this by the RBI, however, it continues to be conservative and the longer it takes for it to recognise the extent of the problem, the more prolonged the bottom of the U.

Irrespective of these short-term challenges, the outlook for economic growth for the country in the medium-term is completely positive as some of the current supply-side issues will get resolved and India will witness a growth of 5.0-5.4 per cent in the third quarter (Q3) of the current Financial Year (FY) followed by a 6.2-6.6 per cent growth in the fourth quarter (Q4) of the current FY. India will end the decade with a modest growth rate; however, the country will begin it with a seven per cent or higher growth rate in the FY 2020-21.

The question is whether this rate will be sustained throughout the decade or not. There is a reasonable belief that India will sustain a seven per cent growth this decade and it may even attain an eight per cent or high growth rate towards the end of the decade as it witnesses a steady revival of investments as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This improvement will be a direct product of some of the painful reforms that were undertaken in the past, which will unleash the nation's productive potential. The recent corporate tax cut would result in steady improvements in corporate sector balance sheets, which will result in fresh investments from 2022 onwards. At the same time, implementation of the Direct Tax Code (DTC) will simplify taxation procedures, which

will further augment productivity.

There's also talk of a GST overhaul which may happen during the next couple of years. This, when combined with land, labour and agricultural reforms, will be critical to unlocking India's productive potential. Demographics, too, favour India as it has the world's largest workforce which will act as a check in wage costs, thereby giving it a competitive edge over other emerging market economies for the next two decades. All of this is essential to experience the kind of transformation that several of the country's peers experienced during the 1980s and 1990s.

Of course, fresh reforms will be required — but they are already on the agenda of the Government as the labour codes are coming into effect. Many of these reforms will be aided by the fact that there's a mandate of 303, which enables the Government to take decisions that would be extremely difficult to push for in a divided Parliament.

Global conditions, too, seem to be conducive for India as Boris Johnson's election in the United Kingdom (UK) will end uncertainty regarding Brexit. He has expressed his willingness to enter into a trade agreement with India and the nation should be closing trade deals with the UK, Europe and the US to further integrate itself into global trade.

Global economic growth is also likely to recover in 2020, which means that external factors will be conducive for India's growth, provided it can address some of its domestic constraints. The year 2019 goes down in Indian economic history for many reasons. For starters, it marks the first time in the history of India where a reformist Government was brought back into power and that, too, with a

huge majority. This shows how electoral preferences are maturing in India.

The outcome of the election made it possible to take three significant economic decisions. First was the merger of 10 PSBs into four. This is likely to consolidate the sector and improve its efficiency over a period. It also opens up interesting possibilities for future privatisation of some of these big four banks as there's no need for having four big PSBs, especially at a time when the nation has already pumped in ₹3 trillion into them without any positive outcome so far.

The second was to do with the corporate tax cut, which was promised in the previous tenure. Indeed, many consider it just a tax cut, however, it is a deep structural reform that will have long-term positive implications for financial stability and financing of investments. More importantly, it illustrates a shift in thinking of taxmen, who now recognise that tax revenues can increase at lower rates due to improvements in tax compliance.

The third decision was of privatisation of several firms, including BPCL. This is a bold move as it signals a staunch commitment to the phrase that "the Government has no business to be in business."

This move has signalled to the world that India is finally opening greater space for private players in its economy, which has hit all the right notes. Indeed, a lot of economic progress was made in 2019 and some of it could be because of the slowdown. However, 2019 will mark a structural break for India as we enter into a decade which will certainly belong to the country's entrepreneurs and its economic ambitions.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy researcher)

2020 must be about implementation

There should be a 20 per cent increase in funding for health by States, the Centre and Urban Local Bodies. Inter-departmental coordination is also needed for stronger implementation linkage between health, water and sanitation and nutrition-related initiatives



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

to shift "health" into the concurrent list.

A few States, namely Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, deliberated about enacting the right to health legislation. During the year, public health experts argued that the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, announced in 2018, had put health higher on the political agenda and nearly six States started a variant of Mohalla Clinics (neighbourhood clinics) to increase the provision of free primary health care services.

There were a few negative developments as well. Violent attacks on doctors, health care providers and facilities were reported from different parts of the country, followed by protests and strikes by the medical fraternity.

In the summer of 2019, encephalitis deaths were reported from Muzaffarpur in Bihar. The experts were once again divided on the cause of this and consequently, the children of the nation are still waiting for scientific and long-term solutions to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

In the last quarter, poor air quality returned to affect the health of the people in many districts of north India and all policymakers did was to question the proven evidence on the impact of air pollution on people. Hence, it is clear that there are many issues that need to be addressed in this crucial sector.

Legislative approach in health works: The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, which has hiked the penalties for traffic violations, has the potential to improve health, as nearly one in every 10 preventable deaths occurred due to road accidents. After the Mental Healthcare Act of 2017, mental health services in India received a boost at the implementation level as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority directed companies to include mental health care services in their insurance package as one in every seven people have one or other mental health care needs.

Though the Bill to protect doctors and health care workers could not develop a consensus, it is also

true that preventing such attacks requires more than just a legislative approach. Improving the quality of health services, preventing commercialisation of health services and changing health-seeking behaviour to get early care is the need of the hour. A realistic expectation from health services needs to be developed and the "market-based belief" that every health condition is treatable, needs to be addressed.

In health services, the outcomes are completely unpredictable and even the best of the treatment and advanced care may not save a person, while another person with a similar health condition may quickly recover with basic health interventions.

Kerala averted Nipah virus outbreaks: Learning from the experience of 2018, the Kerala Government acted swiftly when a new case of Nipah was reported in 2019. With effective surveillance, early identification, effective containment/isolation and case management, an epidemic was averted. This highlights the need for a

stronger and effective surveillance system across all Indian States to tackle emerging disease threats.

What to expect in 2020: In the last two years, India has seen a lot of focus on policy formulation, legislation and other broader health issues. However, in 2020, policymakers would do well to rapidly scale-up and allocate more resources for the health and wellness centres, a vital component of the Ayushman Bharat programme.

States must also give additional priority to adopting community clinics for urban settings. The country also needs to follow a focussed approach to integrate preventive and promotive health interventions with overall wellness initiatives and linkage with AYUSH.

The Government must shift focus from making isolated health facilities functional to a group of amenities in entire planning units, i.e. blocks in rural areas and entire corporation planning units, functional.

There should be at least a 20 per cent annual increase in Government

funding for health by States, the Centre as well as by Urban Local Bodies. Inter-departmental coordination is also needed for stronger implementation linkage between health, water and sanitation and nutrition-related initiatives.

Taxation on "demerit goods" such as tobacco products should be further increased to global recommendation of tax being 70 per cent of the product price.

Beverages sweetened with sugar, including fruit juices, must be taxed as demerit goods at higher rates. And last but not the least, healthy behaviour should be encouraged at all levels, especially in schools and colleges, with ban on sale of "junk food" near schools and colleges.

In short, for the health sector, 2020 should be a year of implementing policies, improving provision of a broad range of health services as per the needs of the people, State Governments taking the lead in health provision to make a healthy India.

(The writer is a Delhi-based senior public health specialist.)



FOREIGN EYE



TOO MUCH PATRONAGE

If Boris Johnson wants to break up the elites, he should reform the honours system. The 2004 select committee report contains a blueprint on honours which should be revived. Its ideas include simplification, clearer criteria, scrapping knighthoods and damehoods, no automatic awards and an end to the word "empire" in honours. Such a system would not preclude a knighthood for Iain Duncan Smith. But he would have to take his chances with the rest.

(The Guardian editorial)

'AI might be forced to shut down in 6 months'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Struggling Air India might be forced to shut down by June next year unless it finds a buyer as "piecemeal" arrangements cannot be sustained for long, according to a senior airline official.

Amid continuing uncertainty over the fate of the national carrier, the official said there is also need for funds to restart operations of 12 grounded narrow-body planes.

The airline has a debt burden of around ₹60,000 crore and the Government is still working on the modalities for the disinvestment.

Sounding alarm bells, the official said Air India might well go Jet Airways way if a prospective buyer does not come on board by June next year.

With government leaving the debt-ridden airline to fend for itself by refusing to inject funds any more amid its privatisation plans, the airline is "some how" keeping it afloat with peace meal arrangements, which are unlikely to sustain for long, the official said.

As per the government, it has infused funds to the tune of ₹30,520.21 crore in the flag carrier from financial year 2011-12 till December this year. Under the turnaround plan approved by the UPA regime in 2012, the airline was to get financial assistance of ₹30,000 crore over a 10-year period.

"We had sought ₹2,400 crore sovereign guarantee to mop up funds for meeting operational requirement. But the government has provided guarantee only for ₹500 crore. "We are some how manag-



ing the operations at present and at best we can sustain this situation till June. If a buyer does not come by that time, we will have to shut shop," said the official on condition of anonymity. After more than 25 years of flying, full service carrier Jet Airways shuttered operations in April due to cash crunch.

In 2018-19, Air India's net loss is provisionally estimated to be ₹8,556.35 crore.

Besides, it has a total debt of ₹60,000 crore, half of which has already taken out of the

fourth quarter of the fiscal. According to the official, it would take "at least" six months to complete the transaction in the eventuality of an investor coming on board, provided the sale process kick starts early next month.

At the same time, the official did not sound very hopeful of the government getting an investor in such an "economic situation," which has also affected the domestic aviation industry.

Domestic air traffic, which is one of the parameters for gauging the health of the industry, grew only 3.86 per cent in the January-November period of the year as against an impressive 18.60 per cent growth in 2018. Response to the recent road shows in Singapore and London for Air India disinvestment was reportedly

" tepid".

The official said that currently 12 narrow-body Airbus A320 planes are on the ground for want of engine replacement and are unlikely to be back in operations in the immediate future.

"We need at least \$150 million (about ₹1,100 crore) to get new engines for these 12 planes. With adequate funds not available even for normal operations, it looks difficult we will get funds for engine replacement and make these planes operational any soon," the official said.

However, the official said that seven of the eight wide-body planes, which were grounded for engine and other engineering related issues, are back in operations. The eighth one is expected to start flying soon.

BUSINESS CORNER

LIC PAYS ₹2,610.74 CRORE DIVIDEND TO GOVT



New Delhi: MR Kumar, Chairman, LIC of India, on Monday presented the dividend cheque of ₹2,610.74 crore to Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, as the Government of India's share of the surplus arising out of LIC's actuarial valuation as at 31.3.2019. During the fiscal 2018-19, LIC generated a total valuation surplus of ₹53,214.41 Crore, registering a growth of around 9.9 per cent over the previous year. This is for the first time in LIC's history that valuation surplus has crossed ₹50,000 Crore.

Rajiv Kumar, Secretary (Finance), Debashish Panda, Special Secretary (Insurance & FI) were present along with officials from Life Insurance Corporation of India, TC Suseel Kumar, MD, Vipin Anand, MD, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, MD and Raj Kumar, MD. LIC has completed 63 years since its incorporation and now manages Assets worth more than ₹31.11 lakh Crore. It had annual income of ₹5.61 lakh Crore and achieved the highest ever first year premium income of ₹1,42,191.69 crore in the year 2018-19. During the year 2018-19, it has paid 2 crore 59 lakh claims for an amount of ₹1.63 lakh crore. LIC's market share is 76.28 per cent in number of policies and 71 per cent in first year premium as on 30th November 2019.

CLW ORGANISES EVENT ON 70 GLORIOUS YEARS



Chittaranjan: A two-day inter unit competition was organised by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Bharat Scout and Guide District Unit from 29 December to 30 December 2019 by members of Scouts and Guides, Rovers and Rangers to commemorate the completion of "70 glorious years" of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW). The program concluded on Monday. Ram Prakash, PCEE, CLW visited various camps set up by the teams as a chief guest on this occasion. More than one hundred and fifty comprising both senior and junior members took part in the program organised at Scout Den of Rail City. On this occasion, camp construction, their skills and structural development and capacity were demonstrated by the members.

Market ends steady in a see-saw trade; investors long for fresh cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices closed on a flat note after a topsy-turvy session on Monday, with participants fence-sitting in absence of further cues ahead of year-end holidays.

At the closing bell, the BSE benchmark Sensex was 17.14 points, or 0.04 per cent, lower at 41,558. The 30-share gauge swung between a high of 41,714.73 and low of 41,453.38 in a highly volatile session.

The broader NSE Nifty, however, closed 10.05 points, or 0.08 per cent, higher at 12,255.85. The 50-share index too faced bouts of volatility during the day. ICICI Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 0.99 per cent, followed by SBI, TCS, HUL, Asian Paints and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Nestle India, Hero MotoCorp, Mahindra and Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Tata Steel were among the gainers. Sectorally, BSE IT, bankex, finance, tech and oil and gas indices closed in the red.

While, BSE auto, metal, telecom, industrial and basic materials were among the prominent gainers.

In the broader market, BSE midcap and smallcap indices outperformed benchmarks, rallying up to 0.75 per cent.

"Market was range-bound, premium valuation and lack of fresh triggers influenced investors to take cautious approach on heavyweights. But reasonable valuation of mid and small caps attracted inflows leading to outperformance in the broad market. We expect

this polarised valuation not to sustain, there could be shift of money from the overvalued large caps to midcaps in 2020," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Globally, bourses in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher, while those in Tokyo and Seoul settled in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe started on a negative note.

There was hardly any significant news flow on the domestic front, however, in the coming days the focus will remain on monthly numbers from auto companies and on the GDP numbers, analysts commented.

On the currency front, the rupee was 4 paise higher at 71.34 against the US dollar.

Govt might breach fiscal deficit target in FY20; need for fiscal stimulus rises: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government might breach the fiscal deficit target this financial year amid drop in the revenue mobilisation and expected additional expenditure by the Government, says a report.

According to Dun & Bradstreet's Economy Forecast, the need for fiscal stimulus has increased even as the government finances remain "strained".

"We expect that the drop in the revenue mobilisation of the government and likelihood of additional expenditure by the government might breach the fiscal deficit target in FY20," Dun & Bradstreet India Chief Economist Arun Singh said.

The government has set a 3.3 per cent fiscal deficit target for the current fiscal.

Singh further added that given the resources constraints, increase in fiscal deficit might lead to crowding out of private investments.

According to the report, corporate liabilities are already higher. The balance-sheets of corporates, Government, banks and households remain constrained or weak and revenue collection will play an important role.

"Revenue collection will thus be important for the government to implement a fiscal stimulus. To do that, tax reforms are needed. GST should be simplified further, and direct tax collections should increase," Singh said.

No MDR on RuPay, UPI payments will kill industry, warns industry

PTI ■ MUMBAI

No MDR charges on transactions through RuPay cards and UPI payments will kill the digital payments industry, the Payments Council of India stated on Monday while criticising the government's move.

After a meeting with bankers last Saturday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had asked them not to charge MDR on payments via RuPay, UPI from January 1 with a view to driving digital payments.

The move will apply to all companies with a turnover of ₹50 crore or more. Merchant Discount Rate is the fee paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting digital payments. The move is part of the Budget announcement in July.

Govt will give 5G spectrum for trials to all operators: Prasad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will not bar any equipment suppliers, such as China's Huawei, in the upcoming trials for 5G, with Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Monday saying the government will allocate airwaves to all telecom service providers for conducting trials of super-fast speed 5G networks.

Huawei rivals western equipment makers, such as Ericsson, and is banned in the US. Many countries, however, have allowed telecom service providers to use Chinese gears. And now, India has also indicated its unwillingness to keep any company out of 5G trials.

The government has decided to give 5G spectrum for trials to all operators in the country, Prasad said on Monday on the sidelines of a telecom event.

This implies that all operators, backed by equipment vendors they have decided to partner with, will be able to participate in the upcoming 5G trials in the country, and the stance is expected to spell a relief for Chinese gear maker Huawei.

"The age of 5G is coming... We have taken a decision to give 5G spectrum for trials to all the players," Prasad said.

With four labour codes, 2020 to be a 'year of reforms', says Gangwar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 44 central labour laws are most likely to be subsumed under four labour codes in 2020, making it a year of reforms as the Government works to bolster investments and tackle slowdown blues.

Besides, the Union Labour Ministry is mulling launching a "Santusht" portal next month for effective implementation of labour laws at the grass-root level.

Entering 2020, the government hopes that India would be able to implement all four codes on wages, industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, health and

working conditions. These are expected to improve ease of doing business and safeguard interest of workers.

"We hope that 2020 would be an year of labour reforms. The four codes would be a reality in 2020. The codes would safeguard the interest of workers and employers. We have tried to strike a balance between workers' as well as employees' rights," Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar told PTI.

The labour reforms assume significance in view of an over six-year-low gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal.

BSNL clears ₹1,700 crore in dues to vendors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has cleared ₹1,700 crore of vendors dues, its CMD P K Purwar said on Monday.

The corporation has also made salary payment to its employees for November, Purwar added.

"Payments worth ₹1,700 crore have been released to our vendors and contractors of BSNL," he said. Overall, the outstanding to creditors is ₹10,000 crore, he added.

"Employee salaries for November too have been released," he said adding that monthly wage cost stood at about ₹800 crore.

Govt may provide tax incentives for startups in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is expected to provide tax incentives to start-ups in the forthcoming budget to support the growth of budding entrepreneurs, sources said. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has suggested several measures to the finance ministry for start-ups in the budget.

The recommendations include extension of tax incentives to incubators supported under Atal Innovation Mission;

reduction in GST (Goods and Services Tax) rates on AIF (alternate investment fund) management fees; and tax benefits on ESOPs, they said.

Start-ups need talented workforce and ESOPs are one of the best options to attract skilled people as giving just high cash payout add to the burden on cash-starved enterprises, industry players said.

Tiger Global-backed tea cafe chain Chaayos founder Nitin Saluja said that there should be less tax on ESOPs. "It should attract as little as possible. ESOPs are one of the best options for startups at their early stages," Saluja said.

Further fees charged by fund manager of AIF domiciled in India is liable to 18 per cent GST as it qualifies as a taxable supply. Sources said that reduction in GST rates will help India to become an investment hub.

Startup India initiative of the government aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive to growth of budding entrepreneurs.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Sita @ Ishani D/o Sh. Lal Babu R/o H No. T-160, Indra Colony, Phatak No.07, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 14.12.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 30A dated 15.12.2019** has been lodged at PS, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Sita @ Ishani, **Father's Name:** Sh. Lal Babu, **Age:** 21 year, **Height:** 4'11", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Black Pant and Carate Colour Jacket and Black Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641
Extn.-210
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/9614/NW/19

SHO
P.S., Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27495198

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, Age 55 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Thin Built, Wearing Green checkdar colour shirt and grey colour pant was found dead at TTE Rest House Gate, Near Sainik Aram Greh, Nabi Karim, Paharganj, Delhi on 21.11.19. In this regard a DD No. 91-A dated 21.11.19 U/S 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at PS Nabi Karim, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO
PS : Nabi Karim, Delhi
Ph.: 23521081, 23531734

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Nawal Devi W/o Sh. Mukesh R/o H. No. 124, Birshan Pana Village-Salahapur, Majra, Delhi**, has been missing since 20.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard, a case **DD No. 10A dated 21.12.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**. The description of the missing female is as under.

Age: 38 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Green Suit-Salwar & fancy chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph: 011-25952485

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended till March, 2020: CBDT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The last date for the mandatory linking of the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar has been extended till March next year, the CBDT said on Monday.

The earlier deadline was Tuesday, December 31.

"The due date for linking of PAN with Aadhaar as specified under sub-section 2 of section 139AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 has been extended from December 31, 2019 to March 31, 2020," the department said on its official Twitter handle.

China's top negotiator to visit US to sign phase one deal to ease trade war, says report

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's Vice-Premier Liu He, who is also the chief negotiator for trade talks with the US, will lead a delegation to Washington this weekend, during which he is expected to sign a phase one deal to significantly de-escalate the trade war between the two biggest global economies, a media report said on Monday.

"Washington has sent an invitation and Beijing has accepted it," Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted a Chinese official as saying. The Chinese delegation, headed by Liu, which would leave on Saturday is expected to stay "a few days" in the US, the report said.

However, neither side has officially confirmed the trip.

China's Ministry of Commerce was not immediately available for comment.

The signing of a phase one deal during Liu's trip would mark a point of truce in the ongoing bitter trade war between the world's two biggest economies. On December 13, China and the US have agreed on the text of a phase one economic and trade agreement to end the 18-month-long bruising trade war.

According to an official statement, both the sides have agreed to complete their necessary procedures, including legal review, translation and proofreading, as soon as possible and discuss the detailed arrangements for officially signing the agreement.

Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen had announced that a breakthrough in the trade negotiations has been reached for a phase-one deal.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person accused **Manoj Kumar S/o Ct. Lal Bhadur R/o Vill. Tulsipur, Mora, PS: Nawab Ganj, Gonda, U.P. Also At: Ashok Kumar, Bank Street, Village: Prahlad Pur, Bangar, Delhi** has committed the offence in a **FIR No. 472/2000 u/s 279/304 IPC PS Shalimar Bagh Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Manoj Kumar** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Manoj Kumar** has absconded (or are concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrants). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Manoj Kumar** of **FIR No. 472/2000 u/s 279/304 IPC PS Shalimar Bagh Delhi** is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.02.2020**.

By order
Ms. Pooja Aggarwal
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No.112,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Ayush, S/o Vijay Sharma, R/o: Ashiyana Children Home, Delhi, Age: 12 years, Height: 4'6" Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Brown colour Check Shirt & Brown Dark colour Pant and Black colour Shoes in feet,** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Alipur, since 05.12.2019. In this regard a case vides **FIR No. 462/19 u/s 363 IPC, dated 05.12.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Alipur, Delhi**.

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

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph. No.: 011-23014046, 23105229
DP/880/ON/19

SHO
P.S. Alipur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27202290, 27202265

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Prem Chand, S/o Chote Lal, R/o Kh. No. 616, Sultanpur, Mehrauli, Delhi also at: Village Jeda, Post Eka, Distt. Firozabad (UP)** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 804/15 u/s 279 IPC, PS Paschim Vihar East, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Prem Chand** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Prem Chand** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Prem Chand** of **FIR No. 804/15 u/s 279 IPC, PS Paschim Vihar East, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.02.2020**.

By Order
Sh. Puneet Nagpal,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 268, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi



HEALTH

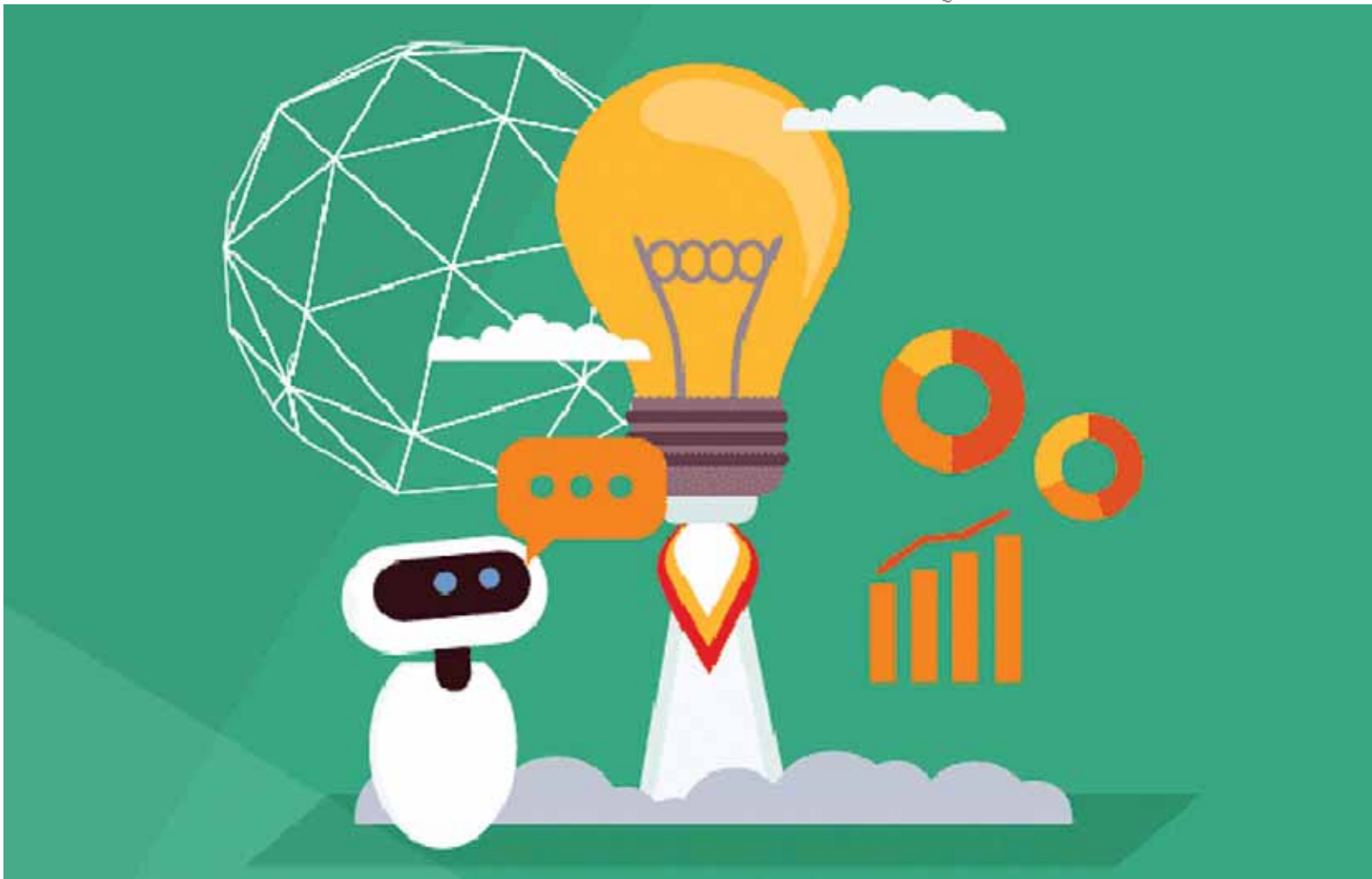
ImageThis

Researchers have used ensemble methods based on deep learning 3D analysis networks to answer the global MRI prevision challenge for children. They made predictions for both the fluid intelligence level and the target variable independent from age, gender, brain size or MRI scanner used



<<2019-2020>>

Innovations like real-time diagnosis, remote patient monitoring and better availability of medical devices can help the country stay on top, says NIKHILESH TIWARI



Best & worst of it

Following a diet to lose weight is popular. 2019 saw some that worked and others that didn't. Here's a list



Mediterranean Diet

The World Report ranked the Mediterranean diet No 1 in overall diet in 2019. The diet is rich in whole vegetables, fresh fruits, whole grains, fatty fish, olive oil, nuts, legumes, and some red wine and dairy. The diet's focuses on choosing whole, plant-based foods over those you might find in a vending machine that may make you to stick with it.

Besides the benefit of weight loss, there are various other health benefits associated with opting Mediterranean diet. It also supports heart and brain health.

Intermittent fasting

This diet is a popular way to lose weight for those who want to shed kilos faster. It involves not eating for prolonged period. Some people fast for two days out of the week — 5:2, which involves eating very little on fast days, while others set themselves a specific eating time like 16 hours fasting and eight hours feeding.

There is evidence that this diet can help people lose weight however it is not for everyone.

One has to understand ones needs and schedule to know if what will work, since the eating pattern is puts restrictions on when you can eat and when you can't. There is tendency to overeat or binge eat.

While the above two diets found favour with many people abroad and in India, two diets while worked wonders found disfavour.

Keto Diet

This diet caught the attention of the Indian public with almost everyone wanting to lose weight swearing by this diet plan. However, there's a lack of research to prove that this diet is safe in the long run. The diet involves eating high-fat, moderate-protein, and low-carbs diet. This can be a challenge if one is following a diet without medical supervision. The downside is the minute you are off the diet, one is likely to gain back all the weight lost.

The health benefits of this diet for Type II Diabetes, certain types of cancer and Alzheimer's and its long-term effect is lacking. The diet restricts foods that help fight cancer and heart disease, like whole grains and legumes.

There are many in which one can follow this diet, however not all of them are healthy. For example if the diet involves eating a lot of spinach and kale, people generally eat bacon and eggs.

Atkins diet

This diet was popular among those wanting to lose weight a few decades back. It involved eating a low-carb diet. The original low-carb diet, made popular decades ago.

The diet involves eating high-fat, high-protein, with low-carb vegetables like leafy greens. This kick-starts the weight loss. Slowly one can add more nuts, low-carb vegetables and small amounts of fruit back to the diet.

Do not eat fruit, bread, pasta, grains, starchy vegetables, or dairy products other than cheese, cream or butter. And do not eat nuts or seeds in the first two weeks. Foods that combine protein and carbohydrates, such as chickpeas, kidney beans, and other legumes are also not permitted at this time.

TECH TO RESCUE

Medical devices and equipment form a significantly essential part of healthcare delivery. Constant innovation and technological advancement in the field of medical devices is crucial to ensure the goal of universal healthcare. Medical devices are essential for accurate and timely diagnosis, safe and effective prevention, quality treatment as well as rehabilitation. World Health Organisation recognises that the achievement of health-related development goals is dependent on proper manufacturing, regulation, planning, assessment, acquisition, management and use of quality medical devices.

The medical devices sector consist of a wide array of tools and equipment that help clinical practitioners deliver quality healthcare effectively and save crucial lives. Medical devices consists of diagnostics imaging, IV diagnostics, consumables, patient aids, equipments and instruments, ortho and prosthetics, dental products and other devices such as patient monitors, oxygenators and ECG.

Each of these categories is crucial to quality healthcare delivery. The Indian medical devices market is expected to grow to \$50 billion by 2025. India is currently the fourth largest medical devices market in Asia after Japan, China and South Korea.

MEDICAL DEVICES & ROLE
Constant improvement and technological advancement in the field of medical devices and equipment has helped doctors improve clinical outcomes and quality of healthcare delivery. Increase use of digital technology is driving a new revolution in the medical devices sector with greater focus on

improving delivery, user experience and bringing down healthcare costs. Here is a breakdown of areas where constant innovation in medical devices industry is helping India achieve better health outcomes:

DIAGNOSIS IN REAL TIME

Thanks to innovation and technological advancement, real time diagnostic tools have emerged as an important element in fighting infectious diseases. Classical detection methods such as culture and immunoassays offer accurate results but the time taken in obtaining results is often crucial time lost in treatment.

Rapid detection tools are expected to play a significant role in ensuring better treatment of communicable diseases such as TB.

Overall, improvement in technology has also improved the accuracy of screening. Portable/point-of-care devices are other important category that have made it possible to improve diagnostic mechanisms at primary healthcare level, provide care at home and resulted in improved health outcomes and patient satisfaction. Point-of-care testing allows the patient get his diagnoses in a doctor's clinic, at a health camp, an ambulance or event at home as these are portable devices that can be easily transported and offer a reliable alternative to laboratory testing in places where hospitals and labs are in short supply.

It also improves the access to quality healthcare in underserved and remote regions, while also making it possible for patients to avail treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities.

REDUCING HEALTHCARE COSTS

Technological advancements in the

While technological advancements in the devices sector are expected to play a critical role in improving healthcare outcomes, it is important that appropriate measures are initiated to ensure greater affordability and accessibility

devices and equipment sector also plays a significant role in reducing healthcare costs which is critical to make healthcare services more affordable to the masses in India.

Newage surgical equipment has enabled doctors to treat highly complex and critical cases, and reduce the length of extended hospital stays. For example, advancements in laproscopic surgery have increasingly made it possible to perform procedures such as angiography, stenting and spine surgery easily with improved outcomes and reduced length of hospital stays. This has tremendously helped in lowering costs of treatment.

Similarly, with the onset of the era of remote monitoring and devices to help better manage chronic diseases, the overall healthcare costs are bound to come down over a period of time.

REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING

Remote monitoring is the new buzzword in the medical devices sector. With rise in incidence of chronic diseases and an increasingly ageing population, there has been a rise in demand for medical devices and tools that can monitor patients continuously, more effectively and reduce the need to visit clinics and hospitals.

A growing interest in IoT-driven healthcare services and wearable medical devices is an emerging trend of our times. Using cloud based platforms these devices can alert doctors of important changes in vital signs in a patient. These advancements in health screening devices have enabled patients to monitor their health conditions at home, reducing the need for hospital visits and bringing down the pressure on the over-burdened healthcare centers.

BOOSTING LOCAL MANUFACTURING

While technological advancements in the devices sector are expected to play a critical role in improving healthcare outcomes, it is important that appropriate measures are initiated to ensure greater affordability and accessibility. In a nutshell, improving the ecosystem governing the sector is the need of the hour.

This includes improving regulatory mechanisms, quality testing as well as incentivising innovation in the sector. Also important is the need to create a more congenial tax environment. GST on medical devices currently stands at 12 per cent. On the other hand, customs duty is low. This tax policy negatively impacts indigenous production and supports imports, which is counter intuitive to the Make in India initiative. Notably, imports constitute 75 per cent of the industry sales of medical devices in the country while local manufacturers mostly produce products in the lower end of the value chain. The government must consider revising its tax policy for devices to lower the GST while increasing the customs duty to help local manufacturers gain a larger share of the market. This will also help them manufacture products at more affordable costs.

The Make in India initiative presents a platform for the sector to revisit the operating model, identify key imperatives for growth and explore possibilities for creating a step change in the medical devices sector. This in turn, allows Indian manufactures to provide affordable options for crucial equipments such as CT scans, catheters, dialysis equipments and many more.

The writer is Founder & Director, CollMed

Mushrooms for memory

A team from the Department of Psychological Medicine and Department of Biochemistry at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore (NUS) has found that seniors who consume more than two standard portions of mushrooms weekly may have 50 per cent reduced odds of having mild cognitive impairment

(MCI).

The six-year study, which was conducted from 2011 to 2017, collected data from more than 600 Chinese seniors over the age of 60 living in Singapore. The research was carried out with support from the Life Sciences Institute and the Mind Science Centre at NUS, as well as the Singapore Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Council. The results were published online in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease on March 12, 2019.



Did you know?



An international team led by Professor Jerome Estaqueur from Universite Laval's Faculty of Medicine and the CHU de Quebec-Universite Laval Research Centre may have discovered where in the body HIV takes refuge during antiretroviral treatment. Research conducted using an animal model indicates that the virus may hide in lymph nodes in the spleen and gut. The researchers believe those lymph nodes are the staging ground from which the virus prepares to relaunch the infection after treatment has stopped, according to the study published in Mucosal Immunology from publisher Nature Research.

■ Nine out of ten people breathe polluted air every day. In 2019, air pollution is considered by WHO as the greatest environmental risk to health. Microscopic pollutants in the air can penetrate respiratory and circulatory systems, damaging the lungs, heart and brain, killing 7 million people prematurely every year from diseases such as cancer, stroke, heart and lung disease.

■ Noncommunicable diseases, like Diabetes, cancer and heart disease, are collectively responsible for over 70 per cent of all deaths worldwide, or 41 million people. This includes 15 million people dying prematurely, aged between 30 and 69.

■ The world will face another influenza pandemic — the only thing we don't know is when it will hit and how severe it will be.

If you love a midday snooze, then we have some great news as it turns out napping could actually be good for your health.

While scientists previously found that sleeping regularly could help improve productivity at work, now new research has found it could also cut the



Challenges 2019

■ WHO is constantly monitoring the circulation of influenza viruses to detect potential pandemic strains: 153 institutions in 114 countries are involved in global surveillance and response.

■ More than 1.6 billion people (22% of the global population) live in places where protracted crises (through a combination of challenges such as drought, famine, conflict, and population displacement) and weak health services leave them without access to basic care.

■ Fragile settings exist in almost all regions of the world, and these are where half of the key targets in the sustainable

development goals, including on child and maternal health, remains unmet.

■ The development of antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials are some of modern medicine's greatest successes. Now, with these drugs is running out.

Antimicrobial resistance — the ability of bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi to resist these medicines — threatens to send us back to a time when we were unable to easily treat infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, gonorrhoea, and salmonellosis. The inability to prevent infections could seriously compromise surgery and procedures such as

chemotherapy.

■ Vaccine hesitancy — the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines — threatens to reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding disease — it currently prevents two-three million deaths a year, and a further 1.5 million could be avoided if global coverage of vaccinations improved.

■ Dengue, a mosquito-borne disease that causes flu-like symptoms and can be lethal and kill up to 20 per cent of those with severe dengue, has been a growing threat for decades.

■ An estimated 40 per cent of the world is at risk of dengue fever, and there are around 390 million infections a year. WHO's Dengue control strategy aims to reduce deaths by 50 per cent by 2020.

Snooze time

risk of a heart attack by almost half.

A study carried out in Switzerland used data for 3,462 people living in Lausanne, who were aged 35 to 75.

The group were told to record how

often they took naps for five years, with their sleeping patterns and general health being tracked by researchers.

The results — published in the journal Heart, found that those who napped once or twice a week were 48 per cent less likely to experience these health issues, even when other factors were taken into account.

What we learnt

■ A study from Tel Aviv University suggests that plants make ultrasonic screams when harmed. Their experiments involved microphones, chopping stems, and depriving tomatoes and tobacco of water.

■ Forensic investigators from Nevada presented the case of a man whose sperm only contained DNA from his

bone marrow donor. While donor DNA is commonly found in the recipient's cheek, lip, and tongue cells, this is one of the first times where it may be passed on.



HK Police: Protesters inciting youth crime

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong police on Monday accused activists in the long-running pro-democracy movement of inciting minors to commit crimes.



File Photo

The claim Monday comes two days before a planned New Year's Day march that is expected to attract tens of thousands of participants.

Chief police spokesman Kwok Ka-chuen told reporters that the force was in close contact with the organizers of the Jan. 1 event, but would not tolerate threats to public safety.

Kwok also said young people had been motivated to commit criminal acts during the protests, including dropping objects from the upper stories of apartment buildings.

It wasn't clear whether those actions were directly tied to any specific demonstration. "Over the weekend, during our arrest operation, we arrested a large number of youngsters and are very alarmed that some criminals incite youngsters to commit crimes," Kwok said, adding that some of the violence had been inspired by the children's teachers.

Children as young as 12 have been among the nearly 7,000 people arrested during the protests, which have drawn broad support and were originally sparked by now-discarded legislation that would have allowed citizens of the semi-autonomous Chinese city to be

present to China for trial. The movement started in opposition to a now-shelved proposed law that would have allowed suspects in Hong Kong to be sent to mainland China to stand trial. Protesters' demands have since expanded to include universal suffrage and an investigation into alleged police abuses, and have frequently broken out into pitched battles between the two sides.

US strikes on Iran-backed militia in Iraq, Syria killed 25

AP ■ BAGHDAD

An Iranian-backed militia said on Monday that the death toll from US military strikes in Iraq and Syria against its fighters has risen to 25, vowing to exact revenge for the "aggression of evil American ravens."

The announcement in Baghdad came a day after US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Washington had carried out military strikes targeting the Iranian-backed Iraqi militia blamed for a rocket attack that killed an American contractor in Iraq last week.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the strikes send the message that the US will not tolerate actions by Iran that jeopardize American lives.

The US military said "precision defensive strikes" were conducted against five sites of Kataeb Hezbollah, or Hezbollah Brigades in Iraq and Syria.

"Our battle with America and its mercenaries is now open to all possibilities," Kataeb Hezbollah said in a statement around midnight Sunday. "We have no alternative today other than confrontation and there is nothing that will prevent us from responding to this crime."

The US blames the militia for a rocket barrage on Friday that killed a US defense contractor at a military compound near Kirkuk, in northern Iraq. Officials said as many as 30 rockets were fired in that attack.

Iraq's Hezbollah Brigades, a separate force from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, operates under the umbrella of the state-sanctioned militias known collectively as the Popular Mobilization Forces. Many of them are supported by Iran.

The Popular Mobilization Forces said Sunday that the US strikes killed at least 19 of Kataeb Hezbollah's members. But Kataeb Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Mohieh told The Associated Press on Monday that the death toll rose to 25.

At least 51 militants were wounded and some of them were serious condition, he said, adding that the militia group's commanders would decide on the retaliation.

In Tehran, foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi condemned the US strikes against Kataeb Hezbollah as an "obvious case of terrorism" and accused Washington of ignoring Iraq's sovereignty. Lebanon's Iran-backed

Hezbollah also blasted the "brutal American aggression," saying those who took the decision to carry out the attack "will soon discover how stupid this criminal decision was."

Kataeb Hezbollah is led by Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, one of Iraq's most powerful men. He once battled US troops and is now the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Forces.

Iran says US strikes on Iraq show its 'support for terrorism'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran said Monday that the United States has shown its "support for terrorism" by carrying out air strikes on forces in Iraq that have dealt blows against the Islamic State group.

The Pentagon said on Sunday that it targeted an Iranian-linked militant group in western Iraq and eastern Syria in response to a barrage of rockets that killed a US civilian contractor two days earlier.

"These attacks have once again proved America's false claims in fighting Daesh... As the United States has targeted the positions of forces that over the years have inflicted heavy blows to Daesh terrorists, Iran's government

spokesman Abbas Mousavi said, referring to IS.

"With these attacks, America has shown its firm support for terrorism and its neglect for the independence and sovereignty of countries and it must accept consequences for its illegal act," he said in a statement.

The spokesman said the presence of foreign forces in the region was the cause of insecurity and tensions.

"America must put an end to its occupying presence," said Mousavi.

US-Iran tensions have soared since Washington pulled out of a landmark nuclear agreement with Tehran last year and began reimposing crippling sanctions.

Two dead in Texas church shooting; shooter killed

PTI ■ HOUSTON

A gunman pulled out a shotgun and opened fire on worshippers at a church during Sunday service in Texas, killing two persons before being shot by an armed member of the congregation, the authorities said.

The shooting took place at about 11:50 am (local time), during the morning service on Sunday. The service was being live-streamed on social media.

According to the authorities, the gunman pulled out a shotgun at the West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, a suburb of Fort Worth, and began firing.

The two churchgoers who were shot, died later in a hospital, police said.

Video footage showed the gunman stand up and speak to a man nearby, who gestured at another parishioner. The gunman then fired at the man he gestured toward.

Taliban say have 'no ceasefire plans' in Afghanistan

AFP ■ KABUL

The Taliban on Monday denied agreeing to any ceasefire in Afghanistan after rumours swirled of a potential deal that would see a reduction in fighting after more than 18 years of war.

The statement from the insurgents comes as local and international forces brace for another bloody winter amid renewed US-Taliban talks, after President Donald Trump called off the negotiations earlier this year over insurgent attacks. "In the past few days, some

media have been releasing untrue reports about a ceasefire... The fact is that, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has no ceasefire plans," the Taliban said, after multiple media reports, including a story in the Wall Street Journal, suggested the group was on the verge of announcing some type of temporary truce.

The US and the Afghan government in Kabul have long called for a ceasefire with the Taliban, including during the year of negotiations between Washington and the militants that were abruptly called off by

Trump in September. However, the insurgents have repeatedly stated that any potential truce will only be ironed out after American troops withdraw from the country.

The US-Taliban talks, held mainly in Doha, were aimed at allowing Washington to begin withdrawing troops in return for various security guarantees.

They were on the brink of a deal when Trump abandoned the effort in September, citing Taliban violence. Negotiations have since restarted in Doha, but were earlier this month put on a "pause".

Trump is looking to slash the troop presence in

Afghanistan, potentially even before a deal between Washington and the Taliban is cemented.

Deadly bouts of fighting continue however, with tens of thousands of Afghan security forces killed since they inherited combat operations from NATO at the end of 2014.

Earlier Monday, in northern Afghanistan's Jowzjan province, the Taliban killed at least 13 Afghan security forces during a raid on a pro-government militia position, according to a provincial spokesman.

Every day Afghan civilians also continue to bear the brunt of the bloody conflict.

Putin thanks Trump for helping foil terrorist acts in Russia

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke with President Donald Trump on Sunday to thank him for information that Putin said helped Russia foil terrorist attacks over the New Year's holiday, the Kremlin said.

Putin thanked Trump "for information transmitted through the special services that helped prevent the completion of terrorist acts in Russia," the Kremlin said in a brief statement posted on its website.

Russia warns Iran nuclear deal in danger of 'falling apart'

AP ■ MOSCOW

Iran's nuclear deal with world powers is in danger of "falling apart" without the compliance of the United States and the European Union, Russia's foreign minister warned Monday after meeting with his Iranian counterpart in Moscow.

The 2015 deal between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for limits on its nuclear program. The U.S. withdrew from the accord last year and imposed crippling economic sanctions that block Iran from

selling crude oil abroad.

"Because of the destructive line that Washington keeps towing, this important achievement of international diplomacy... Is in danger of falling apart," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, adding that "colleagues from the European Union" were not fully complying with the agreement either. In response to the US sanctions, Iran has pressured the European signatories to find a way to limit the impact on the Iranian economy.

Tehran has slowly inched toward ceasing its own compliance with the terms of the deal. Last week, for example, the

country began new operations at a heavy water nuclear reactor. Iran's moves have been condemned by Western governments as unwelcome and escalating tensions in the region, while Russia and China have repeatedly blamed the US.

After meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Monday, Lavrov said Russia would demand full compliance from both the U.S. and the EU, in which case Iran would be able to return to fulfilling its obligations in accordance with the deal. Otherwise the agreement should be considered "no longer existing," he said.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED GLADNI COMPLEX NARWAL JAMMU - 180006

Email id: mdjkttradedco@gmail.com Phone: 01998-2474233
NIT No. CE/JKPC/LT-MTL-03 TENDER Date :- 21.12.2019

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Engineer, JKPCCL invites e-bids for upgradation of existing two Nos Meter testing labs at Jammu and Srinagar, CT-PT Testing Laboratories including construction of dedicated sub-station and Control Room/Lab building under PMDP Scheme. The details are given here under :-

Name of Work :- CE/JKPC/LT-MTL-03 Dated :- 21.12.2019
Name of Work :- Upgradation of existing two Nos Meter testing labs at Jammu and Srinagar, including establishment of additional CT/PT testing equipments, Construction of dedicated sub-station and Control Room/Lab building
Amount of Earnest Money Deposit :- 10.00 Lacs
Cost of e-Bid document :- Rs. 5000/-
Last date for submission of e-Bid :- 31.01.2020 (16:00 hrs)

1. The tender document will be available on the official website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view/download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document :- The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded from <http://jktenders.gov.in> W.E.F 26.12.2019

A. Sale of e-Bid Document (Start) :- 26.12.2019 (16:00 Hrs onwards)
B. Sale of e-Bid Document (End) :- 10.01.2020 (upto 16:00 Hrs)

C. Pre Bid Conference Date :- 13.01.2020 (11:00 Hrs) at Jammu Office
D. Clarification End Date :- 20.01.2020 (up to 16:00 Hrs)

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, JKPCCL

No. DIP/J-11514/19
Dated :- 28.12.2019

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Sandeep Kumar S/o Suraj Kumar R/o X-480, Camp No.1, Nangloi, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in a FIR No. 76/13, u/s 377/509/34 IPC & 4 POCSSO Act PS Nangloi, Delhi and it have been returned to a warrants of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Sandeep Kumar could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sandeep Kumar have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused persons Sandeep Kumar of FIR No. 76/13, u/s 377/509/34 IPC & 4 POCSSO Act PS Nangloi, Delhi is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.01.2020.

By order
Dr. Archana Sinha
ASJ-06 (West), Special Court
Under POCSSO Act, Room No. 209,
2nd floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/3013/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female namely Gulabo Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Rama Nand R/o H. No. C-43/9, Jhuggi Ambedkar Basti, Faiz Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi, has been missing from her residence. In this regard, a case DD No. 13A dated 31.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. DBG Road, Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under.



GULABO DEVI

Age: 60 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Wearing: Red colour Saaari & Blouse and chocolate colour hawai chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform P.S. DBG Road, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. DBG Road, Delhi
Ph: 011-23537374, 23613252
DP/6839/CD/19

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT PHEM/UDHR/ 76 OF 2019-20 DATED 23-12-2019

Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electromechanical/electrical works.

S. No. 1, Name of Work :- Design, fabrication, installation, testing and commissioning of 265 ampere auto starter cum fault analyzer cum protection & control panel at pumping station Thill Road

Qty :- 01 job, Name of Division :- PHE Mech. Division Udhampur, Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (In Rs) :- Rs. 200/- Earnest money (in Rs) :- Rs. 7000/- (Rs.3500/- for DIC / SSI Registered Firms) of J&K In the shape of CDR/ FDR Addressed to the Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur, Validity of Rates :- 90 days, Bid validity :- 90 days

Position of funds: Demanded

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 24-12-2019 (10:30 AM)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26-12-2019 (01:00 PM) to 16-01-2020 (3:00 PM)

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PHE Mech. Division Udhampur

No. DIP/J-11482/19
Dated: 28.12.2019

All eyes on 'new way' in Kim's New Year speech

AFP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for "offensive measures" to strengthen security ahead of a New Year speech that could flesh out the nuclear-armed nation's threat to seek a "new way" forward after the expiration of its year-end deadline for US sanctions relief.

Kim's latest comments, made during a meeting of top ruling party officials in Pyongyang, came amid concerns that the North could formally close down dialogue with Washington and resume nuclear and long-range missile tests.

Addressing the officials,



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during a Workers' Party meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea

Kim stressed the need "to take positive and offensive measures for fully ensuring the sovereignty and security of the country," the state news agency KCNA reported Monday.

Nuclear talks between the North and the US have been largely stalled since the collapse of a February summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Hanoi.

Turkey detains 124 suspected of links to ISIS

AP ■ ANKARA

Police in Turkey detained at least 124 people suspected of links to the Islamic State group, the state-run news agency reported Monday, in an apparent sweep against the militant group ahead of New Year celebrations.

At least 33 foreign nationals were detained in the capital Ankara in a joint operation by anti-terrorism police and the national intelligence agency, according to the Anadolu Agency. In Istanbul, police raid-

ed 31 houses, detaining 24 suspects, including four foreign nationals.

Police conducted simultaneous, pre-dawn raids in the city of Batman, in south-east Turkey, where 22 suspects were detained, it said in a separate report.

Raids were also conducted in the cities of Adana, Kayseri, Samsun and Bursa where 45 people, including six foreign nationals were detained.

Anadolu said the IS suspects apprehended in Ankara

were from Iraq, Syria and Morocco. Police were searching for some 17 other suspects, the report said. The country was hit by a wave of attacks in 2015 and 2016 blamed on IS and Kurdish militants that killed over 300 people.

The IS group also claimed responsibility for an attack at an Istanbul nightclub during New Year celebrations in the early hours of 2017.

The attack killed 39 people, most of them foreigners. Meanwhile, Turkey deported a total of 778 IS or

other jihadists back to their home countries in 2019, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said Sunday.

Turkey has stepped up its efforts to expel foreign fighters back to their countries of origin in recent months, accusing many European countries of not taking responsibility for their nationals and saying "Turkey was 'not a hotel'" for foreign fighters.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

| S.No. | Tender No. | Brief Description | Qty | Closing Date |
|-------|------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| 01 | 16194215 | 180 DAYS LIFE LUBE OIL AND FUEL OIL FILTER | 505 NOS | 23.01.20 |
| 02 | 16191594 | KIT GASKET (CYLINDER HEAD) TO DLW | 552 NOS | 27.01.20 |
| 03 | 02192508A | LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID BATTERY 525AH | 485 NOS | 28.01.20 |
| 04 | 09192270A | KIT OF AUTOMATIC TWIST LOCK | 24087 SET | 31.01.20 |

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. 28/2019-2020
Dated :- 27.12.2019. 4152/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. DME/Diesel, Northern Railway, Diesel Loco Shed, Tughlakabad for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders for the following. The tender will be accepted online only in the prescribed tender document.

| Name of work | Place of work | Completion period | Approximate cost of work | Tender Document Cost | Earnest Money | Eligibility Criteria (Special) | Website to download and upload e-tender document | Due date & time of uploading of Tender by tenderer | Place of opening of tender | Date & Time of Tender opening | Validity of offer |
|--|--|-------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| "PU Painting of 37 (Thirty Seven) Nos. (WDP4D & WDP4B) HHP Diesel Locomotives at Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad" | Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044 | 36 Months | Rs. 48,98,996/- (Rs. Forty Eight Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred And Ninety Six Only) including GST @18% | Rs. 3,540/- (Rs. Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty only) | Rs. 98,000/- (Rs. Ninety Eight Thousand only) | As per approval of competent authority, tenderer must have eligibility of successfully "PU Painting carried out in transport sector i.e. Rail Transport (EMU/MEMU/DMU/locomotive/Wagons. ICF/RCF built coaches), Road Transport (Public carrier buses) and Civil aviation (Aeroplane/Chopper)". | ireps.gov.in | 22.01.2020 upto 12:00 Hrs. | Divisional Railway Manager office, State Entry Road, New Delhi. | 22.01.2020 after 12:00 Hrs. | 45 days from opening of tender |

Tender Document can be downloaded from Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in For details of work experience, scope of work and terms & conditions please see Tender document. TENDER NOTICE NO.: DSL-TKD-PU/PAINT-HHP-RT-19
Dated :- 30.12.2019. 4161/19

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VIII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi invites online (Item Rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

| Sr. No | NITNO. | Name of Work | Head of Account | Estimate (In Rs.) | Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Time Allowed | Tender ID No. | Last date & time for submission on of price Bid |
|--------|----------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | EE/CD-VIII/2019-2076 | Construction of road bearing Kh. No. 142/89.90 and 142/40.41 at village Kanjhavala in Distt. NW. | 4515 Plan | 1,70,65,262 | 3,41,305 | 180 Days | 2019_IFC_186365_1 | 03.01.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs. |
| 2 | EE/CD-VIII/2019-2077 | Renovation work of existing Dada Bhayya chopal and construction of a new hall Dada Bhayya chopal at village Sevana in Distt North. | 4515 Plan | 1,09,02,627 | 2,18,053 | 180 Days | 2019_IFC_186369_1 | 03.01.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs. |
| 3 | EE/CD-VIII/2019-2078 | Construction of phimi road (near temple) from Bawana Aanchandri Road to Sh. Sukhbir House at village Aanchandri in Distt. North. | 4515 Plan | 77,16,787 | 1,54,336 | 180 Days | 2019_IFC_186371_1 | 03.01.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs. |

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of VAT documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VIII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110065 before the last date and time of submission of technical bids.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VIII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&FC department office order No.1417/48 dated 29.01.2019).

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-CD-VIII
Civil Divn- VIII, (I& FC Deptt)
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-85

DIP/Shabdarth/1206/19-20

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride
CORRIE GUNDUM
In our published advertisement having Abridged e-Tender Notice No. CIVIL-2308-2019 (Open) in this newspaper on 21.12.2019, readers are requested to read "Chief Engineer (Con.), Metro Railway, instead of Chief Engineer, Metro Railway". All other terms and conditions will remain the same.
Chief Engineer (Con.)

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to administrative and technical reasons, last date and online opening date of NIT No. 84 of 2019 dated 13.12.2019 floated to procure Anti Riot Gas Mask with canister is extended as follows:-
i) Last Date for online tender submission = 09.01.2020
ii) Online opening of technical bids = 11.01.2020
Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in.
Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-CD-VIII
Civil Divn- VIII, (I& FC Deptt)
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-85



Trend Glazer

Huma teaches Dave dance moves

Actor HUMA QURESHI has promised her *Army Of The Dead* co-star **Dave Bautista** to get him to India to do a film and taught him some Bollywood moves on superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan's song *Chammak Challo*.

"My brother used to try these deadly wrestling moves called chokeslams and Batista bombs on me. My co-star is a gentleman called Dave Bautista," Huma said.

She added, "When Saqib (Saleem) got to know, he wanted me to ask Bautista about his finishing move — the Batista Bomb and I did. Dave also mentioned that he loves Indian films and he wants to do a Hindi film. I promised him we will get him to India to do a film. I have even showed him some dancing videos and made him practice some Bollywood moves."



Fashion is not defined just by a one-off choice or what one wears to an event. It's more about the everyday sartorial choices that we make. This year, besides the sea of animal prints on everything from jackets to pants, tops, handbags and footwear, athleisure scored big. From Bolly and Hollywood stars sporting leggings and yoga pants to men giving a thumbs up to their Lululemon ABC pants, comfort ruled 2019. I have always been a believer in easy-wear clothes that are fuss-free and this trend signalled a relaxing in the otherwise almost-draconian dress codes dictated by top-drawer design houses.

For 2020, I'd personally root for fashion that is more environmentally conscious. Slow fashion, which is focussed on revisiting design, production, and consumption patterns, including recycling of clothes through the simple expedient of reusing and refashioning one's wardrobe, should become the norm, rather than the exception. Another reason that slow fashion gets my thumbs-up is that it follows the principles of fair treatment of producers, in this case, the weavers, as well as in causing the least damage to our planet.

With the advent of factory-based production post the industrial revolution, the concept of fast fashion was born. Production processes were speeded up, to churn out yardage after yardage of man-made, synthetic fabrics. Prices dropped, and consumption zoomed. Thus was born the "use-and-throw" concept. However, now that more and more people in the fashion world are cognisant of the fact that the garments industry is the second-highest environmental polluter, it is high time

With people becoming more cognisant of the fact that the garments' industry is the second-highest environmental polluter, 2020 will take us back to the pre-Industrial Revolution production and consumption patterns, says craft and textile revivalist MADHU JAIN

that we went back to the pre-industrial Revolution production and consumption patterns. Let us take inspiration from our 2,000 year old textiles tradition and legacy. What we urgently need to do is to go back to how our forefathers operated. At that time, mankind was in sync with nature and clothes were organic and plant-based. Each region had its own distinctive signature textile. Cotton, flax, hemp, jute, sheep wool and so on were the go-to choices. These textiles were derived from one's natural surroundings and suited the region's climate and aesthetics.

I'm happy to note that in recent years, sustainable fashion — where the entire production process, from sourcing natural yarns to manufacturing the end product — is gaining momentum.

My label was launched 33 years ago keeping the same values and principles in mind. Being ahead of the curve in environmental responsibility has been a hallmark of our textiles, notably our 100 per cent biodegradable bamboo clothing and, the first in the world, bamboo silk *ikkat* textile.

Additionally, it is important that companies in the clothing business close the loop between the production and recycling of clothes. In an ideal cir-



'Let us take inspiration from our 2,000-year-old textiles tradition and legacy. What we urgently need to do is to go back to how our forefathers operated'

cular economy, there is a conscious effort to reduce over production, on the one hand, and reuse materials in production processes, on the other, thus diverting tons of textile waste from landfills.

As for fashion choices of 2020, remember that Indian colours work well on our skin tones. So there will be more of burnt orange, fuchsia, indigo, ivory, vermilion red, *kesari* yellow, *rani* pink, and the eternal favourite, white. With winters having well and truly set in, layering will be back and will keep the people toasty. Classic Indian jackets have a tremendous potential as they can be worn short, mid-thigh or long to suit one's body type. *Chogas*, the long, loose garment of Turkish origin, if cut expertly, can be extremely slimming and can add height. In terms of motifs, if you like them bold, don't shy away from vibrant weaves that offer a high contrast. But if you prefer something more subdued, a white-on-white on weave can be equally eye catching. And finally, keep the stoles handy. It is one of the most versatile fashion accessories which will continue to flatter any outfit. Team it up with a small clutch or an Indian potpie or *batua*, jewelled sandals or embroidered *jutis*, and you will be good to go.

Happy 2020!



'I come from a very middle-class background and even today, I hold on to those values very strongly. My biggest advantage is that I'm not afraid of failure. And when you're not afraid of it, you can do whatever you want because you've seen failure and success in the same measure. So, failure really doesn't affect me.'

—John Abraham



VIRAT KOHLI and ANUSHKA SHARMA are in Switzerland these days to usher New Year and they spot **Varun Dhawan** and girlfriend **Natasha Dalal**.

A selfie of the two couples has been taking rounds on social media. Sharing the photo, Varun captioned, "Mountain *ke dost*."

Not just Virat and Anushka, Varun also bumped into Karisma and Kareena Kapoor in Switzerland recently.

Super in love: Meghan

Singer **MEGHAN TRAINOR** says she feels "super in love" with her husband **Daryl Sabara**.

She got married to Sabara on December 22 last year. "It's so good. It's very romantic right now, we're super in love," said Meghan about her married life.

She recently spent a lot of time in the UK, where she joined the judging panel of *The Voice*.

She also revealed that her mother and brother had accompanied Darryl to the UK.

Meghan said, "My mother is here. My dad didn't make this short trip because it's too hard on his body but he's waiting for us back at home. They're my everything. My older brother is my videographer. They all take care of me and it's great."



Entertainment of the year

Here's a look at the trends of how Indians had out-of-the-home experiences in 2019

As we bid adieu to 2019, we look at the trends in entertainment choices of Indians with BookMyShow introducing millions of its users to newer out-of-home experiences.

The online booking app hosted over 1,880 films across languages on its platform in 2019. The Marvel craze took over India as *Avengers: Endgame* broke all records to sell over 8.6 million tickets to become the highest-selling Hollywood film on our platform. This was followed by *Uri - The Surgical Strike*, with over 5.7 million tickets sold for the film.

FILM TRENDS

While the demand for Hindi films grew by 12 per cent from the last year, movie buffs booked an average of 2.6 tickets per transaction. The top-rated regional language films were in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Marathi, whereas the demand for English and Hindi films rose at 45 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Hindi versions of regional films like *Saaho*, *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy* and *KGF* have matched up to the primary language's success at the box office. The uptake for English language films increased significantly by 56 per cent vis-à-vis last year. The *Avengers* series retained the top spot among English language films, wherein *Avengers: Infinity War* led the race in 2018, *Avengers: Endgame* shattered all ceilings in 2019.

Looking at the genres, about 30 per cent of the top 10 films (as per number of tickets sold on the app) were based on real-life stories and incidents. The trends also pointed towards an interest in Assamese films, which grew five times to match the increase in the number of users who chose the app to watch these films and rated them on the platform.

And action films witnessed a growth of 45 per cent, becoming the most preferred genre followed by drama and comedy.

While actors Hrithik Roshan and Ranveer Singh ruled the top 10 Hindi film bucket with two films each to their credit, Akshay Kumar with 9.2 million tickets and Ayushmann Khurrana with 6.3 million tickets overall had a great year with three films each.



SALE OF TICKETS

The year also saw an 89 per cent rise in the number of screens occupied by the widest circulated films as compared to the previous year. The advance ticket sales grew by 11 per cent on the app in 2019, which is just shy of 20 million tickets with 11 per cent of the tickets being booked before the release. Following this, over 45 films crossed the one million ticket sales mark on BookMyShow. Just three per cent of the total tickets were booked in the last 30 minutes before a film's show time.

TRENDS AS PER TIME AND LOCATION

While Sunday evening was the most preferred show time for movie-goers, Hyderabad was home to the maximum

number of film lovers, which was followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru. Hyderabad moved from fourth position in 2018 to outnumber its peers and lead the charts in 2019. Kochi also witnessed a 56 per cent increase in the number of people using the app to watch films as compared to 2018.

TOP 10 SOLD FILMS

- ★ *Avengers: Endgame*
- ★ *URI - The Surgical Strike*
- ★ *Kabir Singh*
- ★ *Saaho*
- ★ *War*
- ★ *The Lion King*
- ★ *Mission Mangal*
- ★ *Simmba*
- ★ *Gully Boy*
- ★ *Chhichhore*



Lauv is warm and humble: Akasa

Singer Akasa Singh says American singer-songwriter Lauv is warm and humble beyond being talented.

Akasa, popular for singing foot-tapping numbers like *Kheech Meri Photo* and *Thug Ranjha*, got a chance to work with Lauv on song *Dil Na Jaaney* from film *Good Newwz*. Composed by Rochak Kohli and Lauv, the song is sung by Rochak, Lauv and Akasa. The lyrics are by Gurpreet Saini, Ari Leff and Michael Pollack and music is produced by Lauv, Johnny Simpson and Rochak.

"Rochak Kohli has always been one of the dream producers that I have wanted to work with because all his melodies are magical. Gurpreet called me to dub a song for Rochak, they played me the song and the first thing that came into my head was finally I get to sing a slow, romantic song," Akasa said.

"They hinted of the possibility of Lauv being a part of the song but nothing was confirmed. Coincidentally, I had met and interviewed Lauv early this year when he

had come to play in Mumbai for Fly Music Festival. I even went to the concert because I have always been a huge fan of his work and his talent. This collaboration with Rochak and Lauv was like a far-fetched dream for me but is one of the things ticked off my bucket list," she said.

Looking back at her experience of working on the song, Akasa said, "My aim was to just dub and do my best. After the dub there was no conversation about it and one day I just woke up to a post by Lauv and the rest is history! It's been a fantastic feeling. People have been texting me non-stop, appreciating this side of my voice in *Dil Na Jaaney* which is so different to *Naagin* or *Aithya*."

On working with Lauv, she said, "I think Lauv brings so much energy and passion to the song and he is in fact, one of the nicest people I have met from the global music industry till date. He is warm and humble beyond being very talented. I feel blessed to be ending 2019 on such a positive note."

ECHOES OF THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Artist SEEMA KOHLI brings *yoginis* alive amid the greens of Sunder Nursery, says UMA NAIR



Amalgamation of creativity

In the sixth edition of *Vision'20*, a few artists bring out the visual aspects of life on their canvas

An amalgamation of nature, movement, human activity, a manifestation of the artists, their experience and observation of their surroundings are intertwined for the sixth edition of the group exhibition *Vision'20*. The contributing artists Ajay Ghose, Biswapati Maity, Gautam Pramanik, Jyoti Prasad Mallick, Karna Puri, Manoj Sarkar, Rabinranath Choudhury, Saroj Basu, Subrata Biswas, Tapas Basu, Tirthankar Biswas and Tilok Mandal have interwoven these ideas and developed them further.

Rabinranath Choudhury one of the senior contributing artists whose work has been collected by various institutions across the globe says, "In my current series, I am experimenting with colours, forms, textures, and perspectives to uncover the deepest crevices of the human psyche. Nature always haunts me and unleashes my mind a profound thrill with all her beautiful things."

In the exhibition, one can find unity in Ajoy Ghosh's excellent intertwining of nature with mythology or, in the meditative vibes of Karna Puri. While the paintings of Tilok Mandal teach the world tenacity through womanhood, Tapas Basu's works are an amazing example of finding peace in the beauty of nature and contemporary society. As Manoj Sarkar takes you through an adventure of many aspects of human life, Tirthankar Biswas' will make you live through the moment of the topic in his canvas.

Tapas Basu's work reflect an expression of the inner world with eclectic colours. The award-winning artist says, "My work is inspired by the beauty of nature and contemporary society, where life is captured in a symbolic, yet surrealistic approach through colours and forms. Along with them are displayed Biswapati Maity and his feminism, Gautam Pramanik and his colours, Jyoti Prasad Mallick painting humble lives, Rabinranath Choudhury, Saroj Basu and Subhrata Biswas who create a different world with their works. All of these critically acclaimed artists bring out the visual aspects of life on their canvas, overwhelming us into an epitome of non-visual feelings. Most of the artists contributing to this exhibition have been inspired by Nature, and everything that surrounds us. Biswapati Maity says, "Although Nature is the main inspiration of my paintings, I am heavily influenced by human figures and its behavior. In my paintings, human figures come out in a very natural way. Sometimes it can be a full figure and sometimes it may be only the face." Nature is a dominant theme for most artists, it's beauty and the magical colours can draw anyone to itself, however, as Tirthankar Biswas explains, sometimes inspirations are realistic and sometimes semi-realistic, "The common denominator in my paintings is a moment, movement and force. It can be a sixer from an energetic cricketer, it can be an escaping deer from an approaching tiger, it can be an out-posted hut from a flash flood or it can be a swinging head of palm tree with monsoon wind. The variation of the medium is also just like my subject. I use from diluted ink to pencil, pastel, charcoal, acrylic and oil colour depend upon the demand of the subject. The recent works belong to the semi-realistic category with the medium of oil on canvas." (The exhibition will be held from January 3 to 9.)



The Sunder Nursery has brought alive the 64 sandstone *yoginis* and larger-than-life sculptures by artist and performer Seema Kohli.

LOTUS POND AS SITE

Chief architect and CEO of the Agha Khan Trust for Culture, Ratish Nanda, picked out the lotus pond as the right site for the *yoginis* to rest at. With one stroke, he became the confluence of cultures and thereby spoke to us about the essence of a pure spirit.

The Trust has been rehabilitating existing parks and creating new spaces for over 20 years with the objective of demonstrating that these green spaces can be catalysts for positive economic, social and cultural change. The Agha Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) focusses on the physical, social, cultural and economic revitalisation of communities in the developing world.

64 SANDSTONE YOGINIS

The landscape design of the Sunder Nursery has become a plush stage for Kohli's sculptures. When you look at them under the tree and then see the *yoginis*, you know that the amalgamation of art and landscape aims to enhance the historic character. It provides a connection with a truly urban scale as it derives inspiration from the traditional Indian concept of congruency between nature, garden and utility, coupled with environmental conservation.

Kohli has been working with antiquity for the past 15 years. She began creating the *yoginis* first as zinc plates and then translated them into sandstone sculptures with the help of artisans. The temples of the *chausath* (64) *yoginis*, are strewn across the heart of India, in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. In more ways than one, it is the enigmatic aura that keeps us glued to the imagery as we think of the feminine power in a world that has turned a blind eye to the protection of women and abused the feminine body for its own lust.

FROM THE EARTH
The *Tree of Life* sculpture and other ones in bronze and wood are a heady mix of haute history and the power of yogic stances. The placement of the sculptures under the salient tree speaks of the age of regalia. Perhaps in terms of language and grammar, the idea of creating a sculptural park of a precious architectural heritage becomes important in the unveiling of a new trend.

The bronze and the large wooden sculptures echo the pulse of the past and the present. We think of the eternal power of the human mind and hands, the skills of building with the elements of the earth and re-energising the traditions of passing on the knowledge of restoration methods with appropriate technologies and materials. Conservation of ideas spring forth when you see the balance and harmony of the feminine yogic sculptures sitting in peace and utter calm. You also think of the zenith in the dictionary of building traditions, techniques and human heritage.



ing the traditions of passing on the knowledge of restoration methods with appropriate technologies and materials. Conservation of ideas spring forth when you see the balance and

harmony of the feminine yogic sculptures sitting in peace and utter calm. You also think of the zenith in the dictionary of building traditions, techniques and human heritage.

AN ARTFUL OASIS

Over the years, Kohli has worked on the philosophy and the wisdom of the *Hiranyagarbha/The Golden Womb, Tree of Life* and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. This show is an extension of research in the art of illustrative patterns. The sculptures blend well into the expanse of greenery where earlier there was dust and rubble. Offering a contemporary stage to a design inspired by historic Indian myth and sacred literature becomes an important statement in the signal for art events in modern moorings of Delhi. The Sunder Nursery gardens enhance the arrival point on the edge of the lotus pond. The glimpse of the sculptures becomes a testimony to the power and poetry that can be brought alive in a garden as a sculpture court.

FEMININE FIGURES

"The translation of an ancient form, specially feminine, in terms of the goddesses and figures of the past makes art more universal and accessible," states Kohli.

As an artist, Kohli is both engrossed and deeply driven by an instinct. Her sculptures embody the compassion of many avatars of existence. This exhibition also tells Delhi that we have one more space to exhibit and sculptures will get a new lease of life at the Sunder Nursery.

Scarlet shackles sit peacefully on display in front of a sad, gray backdrop. The now rusted leg irons once locked human ankles during 18th century voyages from Africa to some European port, then to the Americas.

Who the shackles held remain a mystery. But as a citizen of the United States, I've likely broken bread with a descendant of the woman forced to wear this instrument. Maybe my uncle fought alongside her kin in a war. Or it's possible one of her distant relatives is now be my relative.

These are the thoughts I entertain recently while walking through the reflective International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, England. Founded in 2007 on the bicentenary of the abolition of the British slave trade, the museum sits just a short walk from the dry docks where slave trading ships were repaired and fitted out in the 1700s. (And it's close by the The Beatles Story, the world's largest permanent exhibition purely devoted to the hometown band.) Once a major slaving port, Liverpool grew thanks to merchants' financial ties to the enslavement of people to the Americas.

Today, the building tells the story of the enslavement of people from Africa and how this British city benefited from human bondage. The Liverpool location reclaims a space once connected to worldwide human suffering and is similar to O Mercado de Escravos — the slavery

Chains of bondage

A museum in Liverpool aims to confront the painful legacy of slavery



museum in Lagos, Portugal, where the European slave trade began. But Liverpool's museum is much larger, more interactive, and more ambitious without being exploitative.

Inside, visitors immediately are taken on a meditative experience focusing on Africa before European contact. You are greeted by quotes of American abolitionists and civil rights leaders etched into stone walls before you see traditional masks from present-day Sierra Leone and Mali. There are vibrant textiles from Ghana, intricate head-dresses from Cameroon and samples of Igbo wall painting from Nigeria. You can listen to samples of drum signals from the Republic of Congo or a Mbuti hunting song. The messages are clear: before enslavement, Africa was a diverse and complex continent with long artistic and religious traditions.

Next, visitors are whisked toward a room tackling enslavement and the brutal Middle Passage. Racial ideologies and Europe's unfamiliarity with the cultures of Africa sparked the slave trade which grew once European powers expanded to the Americas, the museum tells us. In this room, details of the voyage of the ship *Essex* are reconstructed. That's a slave ship that left Liverpool on June 13, 1783, just nine years after the American Declaration of Independence.

During the Middle Passage

portion, visitors encounter shackles and chains used in forts and castles along the African coast to hold humans before their horrific journey. A small replica of a slave boat illustrates how captives were tossed into small compartments. Next to the ship are 18th-century whips and branding irons. Yes, these were used.

Then, there was resistance, liberation, and the long fight for civil rights. Surprising, I walked into an area dedicated to the African American heroes from Harriet Tubman to the Rev Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X. US news footage from the 1950s and 1960s illustrates how the descendants of those who crossed the Middle Passage had to fight for human rights and against violence amid white supremacy — the ideology that launched racialised slavery in the first place. There are also photos of the Civil Rights struggles in the United Kingdom from London's "Keep Britain White Rally" in 1960 to the Toxteth Riot of 1981 in Liverpool over allegations of police harassment.

The museum ends with a space for changing exhibits related to the themes around modern-day slavery. During my visit in November, I encountered an exhibition called "Am I not a woman and a sister?" — a moving image installation by England-based artist Elizabeth Kwant. She co-created the project with female survivors of modern-

day slavery in partnership with Liverpool charity City Hearts. The project links current human trafficking to the story out of the Middle Passage.

In the US, journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones has sparked conversations about the legacy of slavery in that nation's history with her interactive 1619 Project in The New York Times. It examines the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved people from West Africa on the present-day America's eastern shore. The project challenges readers to consider how their own lives have been shaped by the legacy of slavery and it is helping inspire activists in places like Albuquerque, New Mexico, to push for their own museum of black history.

Walking by an installation of former slave and abolitionist Olaudah Equiano, I heard two young black women discussing the 1619 Project and how they didn't understand the criticism it faced for trying to reshape a narrative in the U.S. As we left the Equiano sculpture, we stopped at a display of a 1920-era Ku Klux Klan robe and hood from Port Jervis, New York. The outfit that was once used to terrorise blacks and Catholics stared back down at us. We were silent. But I could feel we were relieved the glass case surrounding it protected us. We were safe for now.

But were we?

—AP

WATCH OUT

On the 157th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, LeRythme Music Academy organises 14th Annual Cultural Conclave — *The Youth Festival-Colours of India*. It will showcase performances by Padma Bhushan vocal maestro Begum Parween Sultana, tabla maestro Ustad Akram Khan, Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Rajendra Prasanna, Bharatnatyam by Padmabhushan Saroja Vaidya Nathan and contemporary dance Legend Santosh Nair. **WHEN:** January 4 **TIME:** 5:30 pm onwards **WHERE:** Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House.

Artist Anindita Kishore presents her solo exhibition *My world of art*. As a contemporary enamelist, she has been practicing enameling since the last 20 years. And now she has developed her individual style with a preference for employing thick and thin metal foils, wires and crystals as a technique to express herself. **WHEN:** January 8 to 14 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Vivanta by Taj, Dwarka, Sector 21.



Curated by artist Akshita Wason, Gallery Sree Arts, presents her solo exhibition *Under a White Cloud*. Her work are an attempt to highlight the current environmental realities and incite human emotions. **WHEN:** January 4 **TIME:** 5 pm **WHERE:** Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Française De Delhi, 72 Lodhi Estate.



Gallery Latitude 28 presents an exhibition of new works by Baroda-based artist Sudipta Das. Through collections and assemblages of her new-iconic doll-like paper sculptures, Das dives into personal history and family narratives to explore themes of exile, refuge and temporariness of life. **WHEN:** Till January 17 **WHERE:** Gallery Latitude 28.

Alexhya, an exhibition of painting and sculpture showcases a magnificent union of different genres of fine arts ranging from artist Nidhi's vibrantly coloured canvases brought to life through the delicate water colour wash technique, artist Ganesh Prasad Sahu's fine oil painting with etching on paper and the exquisite mirror work and paintings of the Buddha articulated by artist Mohit Bharadwaj. **WHEN:** Till January 2 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** AIFACS Gallery, Rafi Marg, Sansad Marg.



Red's 'brilliant' 2019 just a building block for Klopp

AFP ■ LONDON

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp insists the European champions must build on a "brilliant" 2019 to turn a 13-point lead at the top of the table into a first Premier League title in 30 years.

Klopp's men were not at their flowing best and needed the help of two VAR reviews to continue their relentless march towards the title with a 1-0 win over Wolves on Sunday.

Liverpool have now won 18 of their first 19 league games of the season and lost just once in the calendar year in the league, on top of winning the Champions League, Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup.

"2019 was brilliant but it's not important because we count seasons, not years, so the 2019/20 season is not over," said Klopp.

"We are halfway there, we still have 19 games to play and probably 18 or 19 of them will be like this tonight, for different reasons."

"Who cares about points in December? We just created a basis which we will work with from now on, that's all."

FUMING AT VAR

Wolves were angry even before the VAR controversies as the Premier League Christmas scheduling meant they travelled to Anfield just 45 hours after a thrilling 3-2 win over Manchester City.

In the match they were left fuming at the two calls that went against them in quick succession towards the end of the first half.

Mane swept home his 14th goal of the season from Lallana's knockdown with his shoulder and referee Anthony Taylor's initial decision was overturned.

However, Wolves were unhappy that another claim for handball against Virgil van Dijk earlier in the move was not checked.



Liverpool's Sadio Mane, 2nd right, celebrate after scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Anfield Stadium

Liverpool/Twitter

Wolves' frustration was compounded in first-half stoppage time when Pedro Neto's equaliser was ruled out.

Jonny was adjudged to be offside by the tiniest of margins in the build-up to add to a number of Premier League goals over the past two days ruled out for the most marginal of offside calls.

"Anfield is amazing but they were celebrating a non-goal. It doesn't make sense. The referee should sustain his decision," said Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo.

"The VAR referee is miles away taking decisions on a lot of things happening here. Who is inside the game? Who feels the intensity and the flow? The referee here."

Nuno was booked among the Wolves protestations, but the Portuguese coach's decision to start with top scorer Raul Jimenez and Adama Traore on the bench meant he had weapons up his sleeve come the second half.

Traore's pace was unleashed on the hour mark and Jimenez followed shortly after, but only after Diogo Jota's fierce strike forced Alisson Becker into a smart save.

The visitors had lost just once in their previous 14 league games to move into contention for a top-four finish and they did not go down without a fight in the final stages.

"If it would be easy to win that number of games a lot more teams would have done it," added Klopp.

"It is not easy and you have to fight with all you have. Sometimes we have more and sometimes less and the boys do that all the time, so I couldn't be more proud of what they did again. To get that result over the line is just impressive."

Jimenez had the best chance to claim an equaliser, but was denied by a block from Joe Gomez before Joao Moutinho, Romain Saiss, Ruben Vinagre and Traore all fired off target.

West Ham turn to Moyes for second time

AFP ■ LONDON

Struggling West Ham said they had appointed David Moyes as manager for the second time in a bid to safeguard their place in the Premier League.

Moyes, whose career has never recovered from a deeply unsuccessful spell as Manchester United boss in 2013-14, succeeds Manuel Pellegrini, who was sacked after a 2-1 defeat to Leicester on Saturday that left the Hammers to just one point above the relegation zone.



West Ham's manager David Moyes shouts from the side line

AP

doing the same for a second time.

"It's fabulous to be back," said Moyes in a club statement on Sunday.

"I'm feeling very proud that I'm back here at West Ham. But I think more importantly I'll be looking to see what I can do and what I can make improvements to."

"I do believe that the squad of players I've got here is a better squad of players than when I took over before, so I am looking forward to working with them."

The West Ham hierarchy were keen to make a swift appointment following Pellegrini's sacking ahead of Wednesday's crucial clash with fellow strugglers Bournemouth at the London Stadium.

"David proved in his short time with the club that he was capable of getting results and we believe that he will start moving the club in the right direction once again," said West Ham's co-chairman David Sullivan.

"We are delighted to welcome David back - he knows the club well and he built strong relationships during that time which will be crucial for the work that needs to be done going forward."

Moyes won nine and drew 10 of his 31 previous games in charge of the club. He made his name in 11 successful years at Everton, but was sacked after less than a year as Alex Ferguson's successor at Manchester United.

Moyes also struggled in short spells at Real Sociedad and Sunderland before taking the West Ham job first time round on a short-term contract.

He was not offered a new deal despite comfortably keeping the club up by finishing 13th.

However, West Ham's ambitious appointment of former Real Madrid and Manchester City boss Pellegrini did not pay off as the Chilean was let go on Saturday after a run of seven defeats in nine Premier League matches.

Vikas makes Indian squad for Olympic Qualifiers

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Accomplished comeback-man Vikas Krishan (69kg) claimed a slot in the Indian men's boxing squad for next year's Olympic qualifiers after winning his final trial bout along with two others here on Monday.

The former world championships and Asian Games medal-winner, who competed in the middleweight 75kg category for a long time, is back to the 69kg division after recovering from a back injury sustained during his short undefeated stint in the professional circuit.

The 26-year-old, already a two-time Olympian, out-punched national medallist Duryodhan Singh Negi in a unanimous decision in the trial finals.

Also making the squad for the Asia/Oceania zone qualifiers, scheduled from February 3 to 14 in China, were Commonwealth Games medal-winning duo of



Match referee raises Vikas's hand after he qualifies for Indian squad for Olympic Qualifiers

Twitter

Gaurav Solanki (57kg) and Naman Tanwar (91kg).

While Solanki defeated Mohammed Hussamuddin, Tanwar edged past Naveen Kumar. Both the bouts were split verdicts.

On Sunday, Asian silver-medallist Ashish Kumar (75kg), veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) and Sachin Kumar (81kg) booked their places in the squad.

Ashish defeated reigning

national champion and South Asian Games Gold-medallist Ankit Khatana in a unanimous verdict.

Satish, a Commonwealth and Asian Games medallist, booked his berth with a split verdict triumph over Narender. Sachin claimed the 81kg spot with a victory over Brijesh Yadav.

Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) have already claimed their place in the team after winning medals at the world championships in September.

While Panghal claimed a path-breaking silver, Kaushik brought home a Bronze, fulfilling the criteria for selection set by the Boxing Federation of India.

Indian squad for Asia-Oceania Olympic Qualifiers: Amit Panghal (52kg), Gaurav Solanki (57kg), Manish Kaushik (63 kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Sachin Kumar (81kg), Naman Tanwar (91kg), Satish Kumar (+91kg).

CITY EASE PAST BLADES TEST

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Manchester City shrugged off a tight turnaround from defeat at Wolves to beat Sheffield United 2-0 on Sunday thanks to second-half strikes from Sergio Aguerro and Kevin de Bruyne.

City boss Pep Guardiola had lambasted the scheduling that saw the English champions kick off less than 48 hours after playing the majority of Friday's 3-2 defeat at Molineux with 10 men.

Fatigue seemed to get the better of City in the first half as the Blades enjoyed the better of the chances and had a Lys Mousset goal ruled out after a VAR review for offside.

However, the greater individual quality at Guardiola's disposal decided the game as De Bruyne teed up Aguerro to smash into the roof of the net seven minutes after the break.

De Bruyne then rounded off another excellent display by scoring the second himself with a fine finish eight minutes from time to inflict United's first defeat away from home for nearly a year and bring City back to within 14 points of runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool.

"Today I understood why Sheffield United are in the place they're in the table," said Guardiola.

"In the first half we had problems, we changed some things and the second half was much, much better."

Despite claiming that the crowded Christmas scheduling showed the Premier League and broadcasters "don't care" about player welfare, Guardiola made just three changes to the side that started against Wolves.

City's sluggish start should have punished by the visitors with Mousset particularly wasteful.

The Frenchman spurned a glorious early chance to put United ahead when he got on the end of a floated Callum Robinson cross but headed wide.

United thought they had claimed the lead on 29 minutes when Mousset raced onto a long ball from John Fleck and



Kevin De Bruyne celebrates after scoring his side's second goal

AP

fired home.

City were furious because they thought Aguerro had been fouled in the build-up but, while their complaints were brushed aside by referee Chris Kavanagh, VAR came to their aid by ruling Mousset was marginally offside.

"If the Mousset goal was not offside, it would have been very difficult for us," added Guardiola. "In the second half we put more players closer to Sergio, and we passed the ball with more quality."

It was a let-off for City but they were caught out by a long ball again soon after as Oliver Norwood picked out Mousset, who was outside this time but could only shoot into the side-netting with just Claudio Bravo to beat.

"You always know when you comes to grounds like Manchester City you have to take your opportunities, and unfortunately we didn't," said Blades boss Chris Wilder.

"The first goal is the game-changer. We were in the game and then we had to open up to try to get back into it and a world-class player finishes us off in the last ten minutes."

The lack of a clinical finisher has been the only thing holding back Wilder's men, who sit eighth in the table, on their already impressive return to the Premier League and they got a lesson in taking their chances from City's all-time record scorer soon after the break.

De Bruyne picked out Aguerro with a fine through ball and the Argentine blasted high past Henderson from a narrow angle.

Country proud of both Mary and Nikhat: Rijiju

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said not much should be made of the "ugly spat" that marred the trial bout between M C Mary Kom and Nikhat Zareen and the country is proud of both the six-time world champion and her promising challenger.

Mary Kom defeated Zareen 9-1 in the trials held on Saturday to make the squad for Olympic Qualifiers in China in February. The bout was marred by acrimony as the two boxers didn't shake hands after the contest and Mary Kom ignored an attempted hug by Zareen.

"Mary Kom is a legend who has achieved what no other boxer has ever achieved in the World Amateur Boxing. Nikhat Zareen is an amazing boxer who has the potential to follow the footsteps of Mary Kom. India is proud of both of them."

 **Kiren Rijiju** @KirenRijiju

Too much of issues are created on this! Mary Kom is a legend who has achieved what no other boxer has ever achieved in the World Amateur Boxing. Nikhat Zareen is an amazing boxer who has the potential to follow the footsteps of Mary Kom. India is proud of both of them. Period...

Period," Rijiju tweeted. "...Passions & emotions are the souls of Sports! The only point to

bear in mind is, in professional sports, the players & money matter more whereas in amateur sports

it's the nation. The ugly spat (sic) shouldn't have adverse effects on players while representing India,"

he added.

Zareen had approached Rijiju with an open letter when the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) flip-flopped on a stated policy and announced direct selection of Mary Kom for the Olympic qualifiers.

Rijiju had steered clear of the matter at that time citing the Olympic charter.

On Saturday, Mary Kom said she was upset about being dragged into the selection controversy as the call on selection was not hers to take.

The Manipuri icon defended her refusal to exchange post-bout pleasantries with Zareen, saying that the former junior world champion will get her respect only if she "herself shows respect to others".

The 23-year-old Zareen said she expected better from the senior boxer and felt hurt when her attempt at sharing a hug was rebuffed.



japan's Nishikori plays a return shot

ATP/Twitter

Nishikori pulls out of new ATP Cup

AFP ■ PERTH

Japanese star Kei Nishikori pulled out of the inaugural ATP Cup Monday as he continues to struggle with an elbow injury that has kept him out since the US Open.

The former world number four, who has

slipped to 13, said he was disappointed not to be representing his country in Perth at the team event starting on January 3.

"Today, together with my team, we have made this decision as I am still not 100 percent ready to compete at the highest level," he said in

a statement.

Nishikori's elbow surgery in October and it is unclear whether he will be fit for the Australian Open when the first Grand Slam of the year begins at Melbourne Park on January 20.

Yoshihito Nishioka

will replace him as the top-ranked player in Japan's ATP Cup team.

Yasutaka Uchiyama also withdrew from the event earlier this week, with Toshihide Matsui taking his place.

Nishikori's absence is another blow for the event after Britain's Andy

Murray pulled out over the weekend with a pelvic injury and Roger Federer opted not to play.

The innovative team championship, from January 3-12, offers \$15 million in prize money and a maximum of 750 singles and 250 doubles ATP rankings points.

It will see 24 nations split into six groups, with eight teams emerging from the round-robin stage to compete in the knockout phase.

Sydney will host the finals, along with group games which will also be held in Brisbane and Perth.



Kohli maintains top spot in ICC Test ranking

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian captain Virat Kohli will end the year at the top of the ICC Test ranking chart for batsmen but five-day specialist Cheteshwar Pujara slipped a place to fifth.

With 928 points, Kohli is way ahead of second-placed Australian maestro Steve Smith (911) and New Zealand's inspirational skipper Kane Williamson (822), while Australia's Marnus Labuschagne, who has amassed 1,085 runs in 11 Tests this year, improved a place to grab the fourth spot.

Pujara was placed fifth with 791 points, while Ajinkya Rahane was joint seventh with 759 points.

With his enterprising 95 against England in the first Test, Quinton de Kock not only set up his team's win, but also shot into the top of the latest rankings release on Monday.

In bowling, India's lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah, returning from an injury layoff, remained static at sixth position with 794 points, while spinner Ravichandran Ashwin

Ponting picks Kohli as captain of his Test team

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting on Monday picked India skipper Virat Kohli to lead his all-star Test team of the decade, which featured four English players.

Ponting's Test team of the 2010s doesn't feature any other Indian apart from Kohli, who is currently ranked No.1 in both ICC Test and ODI rankings for batsmen.

The Englishmen in his team include all-rounder Ben Stokes, batsman Alastair Cook, and the pace duo of Stuart Broad and James Anderson. Among the

Australians he has opted for Steve Smith and David Warner along with spinner Nathan Lyon.

"Everyone's picking teams of the decade so I thought I'd join in the fun," Ponting wrote on his twitter handle.

"This would be my Test team of the 2010's: David Warner, Alastair Cook, Kane Williamson, Steve Smith, Virat Kohli (c), Kumar Sangakkara (wk), Ben Stokes, Dale Steyn, Nathan Lyon, Stuart Broad, James Anderson."

Kohli was also named captain of the Test XI of the decade by Cricket Australia's official news website.

(772 points) and seamer Mohammed Shami (771) were ninth and tenth respectively in the order.

Australian pace spearhead

Pat Cummins was at the top of the standings with 902 points ahead of Neil Wagner (859) and South African paceman Kagiso Rabada (832).

Rahane, Shaw to play against Karnataka



Prithvi Shaw plays a shot in Vijay Hazare Domestic tournament

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Test specialist Ajinkya Rahane and young prodigy Prithvi Shaw will turn up for Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy game against heavyweights Karnataka.

The two were named in the 15-member squad announced by the association on its website on Monday.

The game will be played at the Bandra Kurla Complex from January 3.

Both Shaw and Rahane played the previous games against Baroda and Railways.

Shaw had hit a blazing double hundred against Baroda in the lung-opener but faltered in both the essays against Railways at Wankhede Stadium.

Rahane also had a horrendous time with the bat against Railways.

Mumbai had won the game against Baroda while lost to Railways by 10 wickets.

Rahane, who has played 63 Tests, will be playing consecutive Ranji games after a long time.

Shreyas Iyer and Shivam Dube, who were criticized heavily for not playing the last Ranji games, have been not named in the squad as they are away on India duty.

Pacer Shardul Thakur, who is also away on India duty, has not named in the squad either.

Meanwhile, young batsman Sarfaraz Khan has been included in the squad.

This could possibly be the last game Shaw plays for the time being as he then heads to New Zealand with the India A squad.

Mumbai squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Captain) Aditya Tare (Vice Captain) Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Sarfaraz Khan, Shubham Ranjane, Akash Parkar, Siddhesh Lad, Shams Mulani, Vinayak Bhoir, Shashank Attarde, Royston Dias, Tushar Deshpande, Deepak Shetty and Eknath Kerkar.

Kohli, Bumrah in Wisden's T20I team of the decade

PTI ■ LONDON

India skipper Virat Kohli and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah were the only two Indians who found a place in Wisden's T20 International team of the decade, which didn't feature Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Australia's limited overs captain Aaron Finch was named captain of the team, which has two more Australian in Shane Watson and Glenn Maxwell, two England cricketers — Jos Buttler and David Willey, two Afghanistan all-rounders — Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan, and New Zealand's Colin Munro and Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga.

On Kohli, Wisden said: "While Kohli's record in domestic T20 cricket is patchy, the same cannot be said of T20Is. Kohli's average of 53 was the best in the decade, and while his consistency compromises his strike-rate slightly, he is still able to score at a good rate, even if not exceptional."

"Strong against pace and spin, and rapid between the wickets, Kohli is an ideal player at No.3, able to fight fires when an early wicket is lost and stabilise the innings, but also



Jasprit Bumrah during a practice session

PTI

accelerate when a platform is set. Following a huge first-wicket partnership, Kohli will

slide down the order in this XI," it said on its website. Kohli, who ranks third in

the list of leading run-scorers of all time with 21,444 runs, was also included in Wisden's Test and ODI teams of the decade, besides being named in Wisden's list of five cricketers of the decade which also features Steve Smith, Dale Steyn, AB de Villiers and Ellyse Perry.

While Kohli was picked in Wisden's T20I team of the decade to strengthen the batting order, Bumrah found a place in the bowling unit due to his superb economy rate and reputation for being a reliable death bowler.

"Bumrah's overall economy rate of 6.71 is the second best in the world among quick bowlers, behind Dale Steyn," Wisden said about Bumrah, who has overall taken 216 wickets, including 51 in T20Is, in his international career so far.

"This statistic is more impressive when you consider he did the majority of his bowling in the death overs, where his economy rate of 7.27 was the seventh best in the world, and comfortably the best by a quick bowler. Bumrah is likely bowl three overs at the death for this side."

Short replaces Abbott for ODIs against India

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia on Monday called up explosive opening all-rounder D'Arcy Short in place of injured pacer Sean Abbott in their ODI squad for the upcoming tour of India.

The tour begins on January 14 with the first One-day International in Mumbai.

The second and third ODIs will be held in Rajkot and Bengaluru on January 14 and January 19, respectively.

Short has been included in the squad after a side strain during a Big Bash League game ruled out Abbott for four weeks.

With fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Kane Richardson already in Australia's ODI squad, selectors have called in Short, a top-order batter who also bowls wrist spin, to replace pacer Abbott. "It is extremely unfortunate for Sean, who is very much a part of our white-ball squad plans leading into the ICC T20 World Cup and the World Cup," selection convener Trevor Hohns was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia.

"D'Arcy offers the squad another spinning all-rounder option along with Ashton Agar, which, along with the four world-class fast bowlers and Adam Zampa, balances the squad out nicely. His proven record and ability to bat anywhere in the order will also be a great asset to the squad."



Australia all-rounder D'Arcy Short in action

cricket.com.au/Twitter

Short has played four ODIs for Australia, hitting 83 runs at an average of 26.66. Unless there's an injury, he will likely bat in the middle order given Warner and Finch are going to open. David Warner and Steve Smith will also be touring India for the first time with the Australian team since the ball-tampering scandal, both expectedly figuring in the squad.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD

Aaron Finch (capt), D'Arcy Short, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

It's too early to say: Ganguly on four-day Tests

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Monday said it's "too early" to comment on the ICC's proposal to make four-day Tests mandatory as part of the World Test Championship from 2023.

"First we will have to see the proposal, let it come and then we will see. It's too early to say. Can't comment just like this," Ganguly said at the Eden Gardens when asked about his views on four-day Tests.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricket committee will formally consider trimming Tests to four days from five for the 2023-2031 cycle.

The ICC wanting to stage more global events, the BCCI's demands for an expanded bilateral calendar, proliferation of T20 leagues around the world and cost of hosting a five-day game are some of the factors contributing to the need for a four-day game.

A four-day Test is not a new concept with the last one played between England and Ireland earlier this year. South Africa and Zimbabwe too played one in 2017.

Ganguly also gave no update on the formation of the Cricket Advisory Committee, which is supposed to appoint the national selectors.



Lyon shoots down Warne call to take a rest for Sydney



Mitch Swepson and Marnus Labuschagne in the MCG nets with Shane Warne

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Australia's Nathan Lyon on Monday shot down a suggestion from Shane Warne that he take a rest for the Sydney Test against New Zealand this week so leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson can make his debut.

Tim Paine's team have already won the three-match series against the Black Caps after crushing them by 247 runs in Melbourne on Sunday, following their comprehensive win in Perth.

Cricket great Warne has championed Swepson and over the weekend flagged the idea of axing Lyon if selectors opt for one spinner in Sydney.

"Just giving Mitchell Swepson a taste of it, giving him a chance, I reckon it will pay dividends in the long run," Warne said.

But Lyon, who took four wickets on Sunday to wrap up late New Zealand second innings resistance, said there was no way he would be standing aside. "Did Warnie ever want a rest and

give Stuart MacGill a go?" he asked, noting the lack of opportunity given to Warne's leg-spin rival at the height of their careers.

"I won't be resting. I haven't met any Australian cricketers that would like to be rested."

"It's that hard playing Test cricket, but it's that rewarding as well so every opportunity you get to play cricket for Australia it means the world to us."

"So I can't imagine Mitch Starc, Pat (Cummins) or Patto (James Pattinson) putting his hand up to say I need a rest."

Queensland's Swepson has been added to Australia's squad for Sydney, where conditions often assist slow bowlers, and was taking tips from Warne in Melbourne.

There is a chance that Australia will play two specialist spinners in the third Test, with the call to be made after Paine and selectors look at the pitch.

Swepson, who has taken 12 wickets from six Sheffield Shield games at 26.58, was a member of Australia's Test squad for tours of India and Bangladesh in 2017 but has yet to make his debut.

Lyon said if both of them played, he would be more than happy.

"Mitch has been bowling brilliantly for Queensland," he said. "He's a great fella to start off with, but he gives it a rip and that's what I really love to see."

"I'm a big fan of Mitch, it's great to see him in and around our squad so he gets his chance and fingers crossed we can have a great combination together."

If Australia go down that road, they would almost certainly retain Cummins, Starc and Pattinson, meaning a batsman would be axed with Matthew Wade the likely candidate after Travis Head scored a century in Melbourne.

Du Plessis criticises 'big three' move

AFP ■ CENTURION

South African cricket captain Faf du Plessis believes cricket needs more, not fewer, elite nations.

Speaking after South Africa's 107-run win in the first Test against England on Sunday, Du Plessis was asked his opinion about plans for an annual 'Super Series' of one-day games, involving the so-called 'Big Three' of India, Australia and England, with one other country to be invited on a revolving basis.

"The last year or so you can see what's going on in terms of the big three countries," he said. "There's a lot of movement going towards that, a lot more matches being played against the top three, or big three. It's probably better if you include more teams, the better to grow the game as much as you can."

Du Plessis pointed out that there was inequality of fixtures, especially in Test cricket, with new Test nations such as Ireland and Afghanistan struggling to get fixtures.

"There's a lot of smaller nations not playing a lot of Test cricket, they're actually playing less," he said.



Ailing NZ call up Somerville for third Test

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand have turned to Will Somerville for his experience of playing in Sydney as they look to avoid a whitewash in the third and final Test against Australia.

Off-spinner Somerville, who was raised in Australia and played Sheffield Shield for New South Wales, will replace injured pace bowler Trent Boult for the Test starting in Sydney on Friday.

Coach Gary Stead said the inclusion of the lanky 1.93 metre (6ft 4in) Somerville was a nod to the expected conditions at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"There's no secret the SCG pitch is one of the more spin-friendly in Australia," Stead said.

"Will offers something different to our two other spinners in the squad with his right arm off-spin and height."

"The fact he's played a lot of cricket in Sydney during his career for New South Wales will also be helpful

as we prepare for this final Test."

Somerville, 35, has played three Tests, taking seven wickets on his debut against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi last year and a total of seven in two Tests away to Sri Lanka four months ago.

Boult is returning to New Zealand after suffering a fracture to his right hand in the second Test which Australia won comfortably by 247 runs on Sunday within four days in Melbourne.

Australia won the first Test by 296 runs, again wrapping up the match inside four days.

New Zealand already have Matt Henry and Kyle Jamieson in the squad to provide fast bowling cover while Somerville's height and local knowledge could see him overtake the incumbent spinners Mitchell Santner and Todd Astle.

Somerville was one of the leading bowlers in Australia's Sheffield Shield in 2016-17 season with 35 wickets at an average of 23.14.