OPINION 8

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LUCKNOW, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹3 the pioneer

WORLD 11

BORIS JOHNSON HAILS UK'S NEW

BEGINNING AS BREXIT DAY ARRIVES

Tareekh pe tareekh...

Justice hangs fire as Nirbhaya convicts not to be hanged today

A Delhi Court on Friday deferred the "death war-rant" of the four convicts of the Nirbhaya gangrape-murder case till further order as the mercy plea of one of the convicts is pending before the President. The hanging was scheduled for Saturday

(February 1) at 6 am.
Additional Sessions Judge
Dharmender Rana of the Patiala House courts ruled that four "death-row convicts"-Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Kumar Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar (31) — of the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case will not be hanged on Saturday and postponed the execution of their death warrants till further order.

Vinay's mercy plea before the President is pending, while Akshay has not filed a mercy plea yet. Pawan is the only one yet to file a curative plea. Mukesh's mercy plea was dis-missed by President Ram Nath Kovind on January 17.

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court dismissed Pawan's plea seeking review of the decision by which his application claiming to be a juvenile at the time of the commission of offence was rejected.

Convicts have the option of moving a mercy petition before the President only after the apex court dismisses their curative plea.

CAPSULE

3 Jem Ultras Killed in Jammu Encounter Bann Toll Plaza: Three Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were killed on Friday in a fierce gunbattle with police at a toll plaza on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway here, officials said, A group of three-four terrorists ere intercepted at the Bann to plaza, about 28 km from Jammu city, when they were trying to enter the Kashmir Valley on a

PM ASKS NDA LEADERS TO BACK CAA STRONGLY

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that his Government has no reason to feel defensive about the CAA and asked NDA leaders to back the measure strongly in Parliament.

WILL NOT TOLERATE PAK'S INTERFERENCE' New Delhi: The Delhi Assembly election is an internal matter of India and interference by Pakistan, the biggest sponsor of terrorism, will not be

Kejriwal said on Friday. CONG SUSPENDS EX-MP MAHABAL MISHRA

tolerated. Chief Minister Arvind

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday suspended ex-MP Mahabal Mishra for anti-party activities during campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections.



The mother of Nirbhaya reacts to the stay on the execution of the convicts, in New Delhi on Friday

The court passed the order on the plea by the convicts seeking adjournment of the hanging has even carried out a dry run of executions "sine die" (with no appointed date for resumption). This is for the second time that the execution of the death warrants has been deferred. The first order for execution of death sentence, issued on January 7 for January

22 was stayed on January 17. Tihar jail administration has completed all the formalities for the execution. The

even carried out a dry run of the hanging and has been housed on the jail premises.

Advocate AP Singh, the

counsel for the three convicts Pawan, Vinay and Akshay had urged the court to adjourn the matter "sine die" saying their legal remedies were yet to be exhausted.

The Tihar jail authorities had challenged their applica-tion saying it was not maintainable and the death-row convicts can be hanged separately. However, the argument of the Tihar jail authorities was not accepted by the court.

The convicts' lawyer had argued that rules dictate that when one convict's plea is pending, the others cannot be hanged. In the order, the judge noted that if an appeal or an application is made by only one convict, the execution of sentence shall be postponed in the

The judge said, "Without commenting upon the dilatory tactics adopted by the convicts, suffice it would be to state that seeking redressal of one's grievances through procedure established by law is the hallmark of any civilised society. The courts of this country annot afford to adversely discriminate any convict, including death-row convict, in pursuit of his legal remedies, by turning a Nelson's eye towards him."

"As a cumulative effect of the aforesaid discussion, I am of the considered opinion that the execution of warrants issued by this court vide order dates January 17, 2020, deserves to be postponed till further orders," the judge said.

The court said a copy of this order be given to the counsel for convicts and the jail officials present in the court. "The jail superintendent is directed to file the compliance

report by tomorrow," it said.

Reacting to the court's order, Nirbhaya's mother Asha Devi on Friday said she will continue her fight till the convicts in the 2012 gangrape and murder case are hanged.

Devi told reporters her "hopes are dashed" but she will continue her fight till the convicts are hanged. "These convicts have no right to live. We keep getting disappointed by the system. I will continue my fight till the convicts are hanged," she said.

Assemble-in-India for \$5 tn economy

Eco Survey sees growth pick-up, recommends labour-intensive export to create 4 cr iobs by 2025; markets recoil on fiscal slippage fears

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey on Friday projected revival of economic growth to 6-6.5 per cent next fiscal and suggested that the Government should relax the budget deficit target to boost growth from a 11-year low of 5 per cent this year.

Sensex skidded 190 points while the Nifty closed below the 12,000-mark on Friday after the Economic Survey suggested relaxing fiscal deficit target to boost growth.

The Survey, released a day before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the Union Budget for 2020-21, suggested a cut in food subsidy to create fiscal space at a time when tax revenues were falling. Facing the worst econom-

ic slowdown since the global financial crisis of 2008-09 that worsened job prospects, the Survey said businessmen should be respected as they create wealth and jobs. For India to become a \$5

trillion economy by 2025, it prescribed strengthening trust in the economy, enabling and



- Uptick in growth projected in second half of current fiscal based on 10 factors: higher FDI flows, demands, positive GST revenue
- 'Feel good' Budget may see cut in tax rate, sops for social sectors After moderation in 6 years, inflation shows reversal on veggies.

empowering markets, promotion of pro-business policies, and measures to enhance farmers' income.

It also suggested reforms to make it easier to open new businesses, register property, pay taxes and enforce contracts.

Giving a new dimension to "Make in India", the Survey suggested that the Government should integrate "Assemble in India for the world" into its flagship programme to boost exports and generate jobs. "By integrating Assemble in India for the world' into Make in India, India can raise its export market share to about 3.5 per cent by 2025 and 6 per cent by 2030. This will create 4 crore well-paid jobs by 2025 and 8

well-paid jobs by 2023 and o crore by 2030," the survey said.

The survey said China's remarkable export performance vis-a-vis Îndia is driven

primarily by deliberate specialisation at large scale in labour-intensive sectors, especially network products, where production occurs across Global Value Chains (GVCs) operated by multi-national corporations.

It batted for aggressive dis-investment to bring higher profitability and efficiency, minimal government intervention in markets, encouraging entrepreneurship, and supporting wealth creation.

Commenting on the Survey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the report focuses on wealth creation for Indians. "It outlines a multifaceted strategy to achieve a \$5 trillion economy through enterprise, exports, ease of doing business and more," he

Continued on Page 4

Al flight on way back from Wuhan with Indians JBB remands Jamia

Army, ITBP ready quarantine facilities for returnees; WHO declares coronavirus outbreak global emergency

PNS NEW DELHI

An Air India jet landed in Wuhan on Friday evening to bring back the Indian str dents stuck in China's Hubei province, the epicentre of deadly coronavirus outbreak. After arrival in Delhi, these persons will be taken to the newly set up Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) quarantine facility. The paramilitary will provide basic amenities like food, lodging and internet facilities besides medical care.

The Army and ITBP have set up separate quarantine centres in the NCR. The ITBP has set up a 600-bed facility, the Army facility will cater to about 300 students being evacuated from China's Hubei province. Meanwhile, as the

death toll due to lethal coronavirus climbed to 213 with nearly 10,000 infections across 15 countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

The facility at ITBP's camp in Chhawla area of south-west Delhi is ready with medicines



A parent places a medical mask on a child as a safety precaution in view of the outbreak of coronavirus, at a hospital in Thrissur on Friday

and monitoring equipment along with a team of qualified doctors from the paramilitary force and Safdarjung Hospital, ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said. A team of doctors have

been stationed at the facility where special arrangements have been made to host children and women at this quarantine facility, Pandey said. After preliminary diagno-

sis at the airport, these families will be brought to the quaran-





A view of the quarantine facility which has been setup by the Army for the 300 students, who are being brought back from coronavirus-hit Wuhan in China, at Manesar, Haryana

tine centre which will coordinate with Safdarjung Hospital for assistance, said the official.

The Army quarantine facility in Manesar near Gurugram will keep around 300 Indian

students. Officials said the students will be monitored for any signs of infection for two weeks by a qualified team of doctors and staff members.

The procedure of screening

and quarantine will comprise of two steps. The first one will be at the Indira Gandhi International Airport followed by quarantine at Manesar.

Continued on Page 4

shooter in 14-day protective custody

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The youth, who fired at a I group of anti-CAA protesters near Jamia Millia Islamia on Thursday injuring a university student on the hand, was on Friday sent to a 14-day protective custody by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).

"The juvenile was presented before the JJB on Friday afternoon. We have also urged the board to form a medical panel to conduct a bone ossification test that will verify the age of the youth," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rajesh Deo.

On Thursday, the accused opened fire at an anti-CAA protester injuring him before walking away while brandishing the firearm aloft and shouting "Yeh lo aazadi" amid heavy police presence. He was soon overpowered by police.

Delhi Commissioner Amulya Patnaik has asked the Crime Branch to probe the case as it is sensitive in nature and should be inves-



tigated from all angles following claims that his Class Xth marksheet issued by the CBSE, shows that he is a vet to attain 18 years of age and he is a minor. The injured Iamia student.

Shadab Farooq, was discharged from AIIMS after a surgery on Friday. No injury to blood vessels or nerves were sustained.

Farrukhabad captor shot, wife lynched; kids safe

FARRUKHABAD

 $T^{\text{he hostage drama ended}}_{\text{early on Friday after the}}$ captor was shot by security forces and his wife was lynched by angry villagers. All 23 children held captive for eight hours were rescued.

Eight policemen and a local resident were hurt when Subhash Batham, 40, opened fire at them during the siege in Kasaria village, police said.

The accused had invited the children for his daughter's birthday party and held them hostage since 5.45pm, UP Director General of Police OP Singh said.

The crisis continued past midnight, he added.

Police said Batham, who was a murder accused and appeared mentally unstable, initially released a six-monthold girl by handing her over to a neighbour from a balcony.

They said Batham, who was out on bail, had demanded the withdrawal of a murder case against him.

The accused was killed and there were about 23 children who were rescued safely," Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi told reporters at a hurriedly called Press conference at 1.20 am on

Batham's wife died in hospital late on Thursday night. She had tried to escape from the spot, but was caught by angry parents who thrashed

her and pelted stones at her. Kanpur Inspector General Mohit Agarwal said. She suffered a head injury

in the attack, but the exact cause of death would be known after post-mortem, he said. The children were confined to the basement of the

Agarwal said Batham wanted to talk to the local MLA, but refused to speak to him when he arrived, Agarwal

Police recovered a countrymade gun, a rifle, about two dozen cartridges and two dozen country-made bombs. The IG said this indicated that he could have kept the children hostage for days, and perhaps

Continued on Page 4

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Anervous New Zealand threw it away yet again as a perseverant India prevailed in the Super Over for the second successive time to take a 4-0 lead in the T20 International series here on Friday.

Needing just 11 runs off the last two overs with seven wickets in hand, New Zealand dug a hole for themselves yet again, taking the game to a Super Over two nights after doing the same in Hamilton.

New Zealand managed 13 runs in six balls and India got there effortlessly. "What's happened in last two T20 games is unbelievable...We are very proud of how we went about our business today," said India captain Virat Kohli, who struck the winning four in the game. KL Rahul smashed 10 runs

off the first two balls before he

was caught. Then, a fired-up

Kohli and Saniu Samson finished the game in style. "It is very tough. To get ourselves into the position we got today and then give them a chance... India grabbed it with both hands," said New Zealand stand-in skipper Tim Southee.

This was after New Zealand won a fourth consecutive toss and opted to field. Their regular captain Kane Williamson didn't take part in the match owing to a shoulder niggle. The Indians weren't off to a great start but Manish Pandey proved his value to the team with an unbeaten 50 off 35 balls, taking the visitors to 165 for eight from 88 for six in the 12th over.

India's total wasn't enough considering the batting-friendly conditions but the hosts made life a lot tougher for themselves from a commanding position before succumbing to pressure.



Detailed report on P16 Virat Kohli during the T-20 cricket international between India and New Zealand in Wellington, New Zealand on Friday



Good attendance reported in all AMU depts

Aligarh (PTI): Almost all Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) departments on Friday reported good attendance for the first time after the university reopened in phases from January 13.

The university was closed early for winter vacations from December 16 last year, a day after students clashed with police during a protest against the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) on campus.



स्चना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मलय श्रीवास्तव पुत्र श्री अश्वनी कुमार श्रीवास्तव, निवासी-532/593, चौधरी टोला, अलीगंज, लखनऊ की वास्तविक जन्म तिथि 23.09.2007 है, जो कि जन्म प्रमाण पत्र पर भी अंकित

NOTICE

I have changed my name son's name Arhum Jamshed to Arhum Jamshed Siddiqui. In future he will known as Arhum Jamshed Siddiqui S/o Jamshed Irfan Siddiqui, R/o C-13, Insaf Nagar, Pani Gaon, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

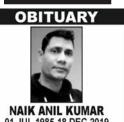
OBITUARY



ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEPOY PARVEEN WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH AFTO

FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY



01 JUL 1985-18 DEC 2019 LL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL COR SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK ANIL KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH HQ 5 MTN

FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

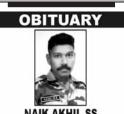
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01 MAR 1992-14 JAN 2020 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORP SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEP CHANDRABHAN CHAURASIA WHO DIED WHILE SERVING

FROM : LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY



NAIK AKHIL SS ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORP SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTE SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK AKHIL SS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 24 RR BN FROM: LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Will make Ganga confluence Five burnt alive in Shamli of faith and economy: Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government would make the river Ganga a confluence of economy and faith.

Addressing a gathering at the conclusion of the five-day Ganga Yatra at Atal Ghat in Kanpur on Friday, Yogi Adityanath said, "Maa Ganga has been the centre of our faith since time immemorial. Now we will make it a confluence of economy as well as faith in accordance with the mantra given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi." The chief minister said that if the Ganga was linked to the economy, the biggest beneficiaries would be the crores of poor people whose livelihood depended on the river Ganga.

Referring to the Namami Gange mission promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to rejuvenate the Ganges, the chief minister said the mission had been accomplished and the river Ganga was now clean and

Yogi said when the Ganga Yatra started, the inclement weather had become a cause of concern but today the weather was perfect and this was the mercy of Goddess Ganga. The chief minister appealed to the people to stop the use of chemicals in villages on the banks of the Ganga and take a pledge to make the river clean and ever-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing a rally in Kanpur on Friday

He said that earlier the most critical point of the Ganga was Kanpur as due to the high level of pollution in the river, aquatic animals especially the fish were found dead in large number at Jajmau. But the Namami Gange mission had brought about a total transformation and now the river's water was clean. He said this could be done successfully because of the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the united efforts of the UP gov-

ernment and the people who had faith in river Ganga.

The chief minister said the UP government's Ganga Yatra had started from Bijnor and Ballia and both routes converged in Kanpur after covering 1338 kms in five days. He said all the schemes announced during the yatra would help in the makeover of towns and villages along the river.

Hitting out at the opposition, Yogi said their canard that law and order was worse in UP had been proved wrong. He

said this could be substantiated by the fact that on the day of Ganga aarti and this special assembly, the UP Police had rescued 26 children held hostage and had eliminated

Pioneer

their captor. Earlier, Yogi Adityanath performed Ganga aarti and offered prayer at Atal Ghat here. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, state ministers Satya Dev Pachauri, Satish Mahana, Neelima Katiyar Devendra Singh Bholey and many BJP leaders were present.

cracker factory blast

 $F^{\rm ive\ people,\ including\ two}_{\rm women,\ were\ burnt\ alive\ in}$ a powerful explosion that took place in a crackers factory in Shamli on Friday.

Police said the explosion took place at a cracker factory near Kandhla Nanupur gate on Delhi-Saharanpur highway at around 4:45 pm.

Fire brigade was rushed to the spot but as explosions were taking place at regular interval, they could do little to douse the flames.

It took over two hours to control the fire.

The police later found that five persons dead in the facto-

The deceased were identified as Saraswati, Nirmala, Naresho and Intazar while the fifth one was still to be identi-

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief at the death of five people in the explosion. He directed the district officials to provide all assistance to the injured and the affected families.

The chief minister also directed the officials to conduct a high level probe to find out the reason for the blast.

Meanwhile in Sitapur, three people were killed and three others were critically injured when their car returning from a marriage function rammed into wall of a roadside house on

happened in Nyamupur village under Talgaon police station early Friday morning. There were six persons in the car.

The deceased were identified as Tanveer Ansari (25), Tauseef (35) and Arif Ansari

The injured were referred to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow.

A two-year-old child was also in the car but escaped unhurt, police said.

In another road mishap reported from Sambhal, a doctor and his driver were killed after a speeding truck crashed into their car on Bahjoi-Sambhal road on Friday morn-

Police said Manish Varshnay was travelling in his car with his driver Deepu when their vehicle was hit by the truck in Bahjoi police station area killing both men on the spot. The truck driver escaped after the accident.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem.

TAILOR FOUND HANGING

A 45-year-old tailor, said to be deep in debt, was found hanging in his shop in a town in Muzaffarnagar district, police said.

Master Naushad, a resident of Mirapur town, was said to be burdened with debt and allegedly committed suicide on Thursday as he was unable to repay the dues, according to SHO HN Singh.

According to the family, Naushad took the extreme step as he was worried over the debt

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UP's investment-oriented policies, reforms showing positive results

PNS LUCKNOW

Investment-oriented policies announced by the UP government and implementation of procedural reforms to encourage industry, enterprise and investment in the state are now showing positive results.

In a short period of just two months — December 2019 and January 2020 — Letters of Comfort (LoCs) have been issued or are being issued by Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation of UP (PICUP) to investment projects wortl ₹3,653.51 crore under the new UP Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy-2017.

To be set up in various sectors, and true to the objective of the state policy, 11,357 people are expected to get employment after the implementation of these industrial

Principal Secretary (Infrastructure and Industrial Development) Alok Kumar said here on Friday that the departments concerned were in regular touch with these investors for the implementation of their projects and progressive administrative and procedural reforms had been implemented to improve Ease of Doing Business in the

state. "As a result, decisive and speedy action is possible on any issue concerned", he added.

Kumar said that the setting up of projects had gained speed due to issuance of timely online approvals through single window portal, Nivesh

Elaborating on the projects, PICUP Managing Director Sujata Sharma said that during the last two months, LoCs had been issued under heavy industry category to 12 companies with an investment of ₹362.99 crore and were expected to generate 2,792 jobs under the UP Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion

Policy-2017. These investors include Green Kashi Bio Energy, Nature Fresh Enterprises, Sunglass Works, Anjani Nandan Premier Package, SD International, BP Industries, Sadahari Shakti, Organic India, Flavicon Eco Boards, Uttam Sugar, Jai Ambe Vineet

IN A SHORT PERIOD OF JUST TWO MONTHS — DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020 — LETTERS OF COMFORT HAVE BEEN ISSUED OR ARE BEING ISSUED BY PICUP TO INVESTMENT PROJECTS WORTH ₹3,653.51 CRORE UNDER THE UP INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION POLICY-2017

Plywood and Orient Bell Limited.

Issuance of LoCs is under process to four companies with an investment of ₹241.52 crore having possibility of creating 573 direct employment opportunities. These companies include SA Iron and Alloy, Dwarikesh Sugar Industries, Shri Balakishan Agarwal Glass Industries and

Chandpur Enterprises. In the mega category, under the industrial policy of 2017, it took just two months to issue LoCs to six companies making an investment of ₹2,360 crores and expected generate 6,692 jobs. They include Nikita Papers, Greenply Industries, JK Cement, Haldiram Snacks, Silverton Pulp & Papers and

SLMG Beverages Pvt Ltd. The process of issuing LoCs is underway to three companies with an investment of ₹689 crore and a potential of creating 1,300 jobs. These include KR Pulp and Papers, PepsiCo India Holding and Triveni

Engineering and Industries. JK Cement Special Executive Madhavkrishna Singhania, said, "We would like to congratulate the Government of UP under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for bringing a paradigm shift in the way we do business in UP. The ease of doing business and the industrial ecosystem

creations is also world class". He said that JK Cement Limited had executed an MoU during UP Investors' Summit in February, 2018 and had completed the process of setting up the cement plant in Aligarh at a cost of ₹325 crore. The commercial production and despatch of cement will be effective from

February 1, 2020.

PepsiCo India President & CEO Ahmed ElSheikh said, "The dismantling of the red tape and the enhancement of positive industrial ecosystem and ease of doing business parameters has been a major encouragement for us under the guidance of the chief minister, for his support."

He said that PepsiCo India was setting up its greenfield snacks manufacturing plant in UP. As part of this project, PepsiCo India would expand its backward integration with local farmers and help bring agricultural best practices to enable socio-economic growth for potato farmers in the state. To enable its supply chain, the company will also set up a cold storage.

The process of providing facilities to investment projects has been expedited significantly under the policies announced earlier in the years 2003 and 2012 also.

According to information received from PICUP, under the Infrastructure and Industrial Investment Policy-2012, four companies of the mega category, viz. Shree Cement Ltd., RCCPL Pvt. Ltd., Varun Beverages and Paswara Papers Ltd. have been provided with an incentive amount of ₹326.27 crores in last two months.

Similarly, under the dustrial Investment Promotion Scheme-2003, an incentive amount of ₹56.60 crore was disbursed to five companies in interest-free loan scheme, while an incentive amount of ₹34.23 crore has been disbursed to nine companies during the last two months in the interest-free loan scheme under the Infrastructure and Industrial Investment Policy-2012.

DGP OP Singh retires

PNS LUCKNOW

Director General of Police OP Singh retired on Friday but the Uttar Pradesh government failed to make a final call on his successor.

Later, in absence of any final decision, the government asked Singh to hand over his charge to the senior-most IPS officer in the state, DG (Vigilance) HC Awasthi, an IPS officer of 1985 batch, naming him as officiating DG till further order. Awasthi took the charge later in the evening.

ment has also failed to decide any name for the post of chief secretary and at present RK Tewari is officiating on the post for the last few months.

Sources said after a panel of three IPS officers to be named as DGP is sent to the state government by the Union Public Service Commission, the government will make some changes as at present all the three top administrative posts in UP — chief secretary, director general of police and additional chief secretary (home) are held by officers belonging

to Brahmin community. Meanwhile, OP Singh was given a ceremonial send-off on

PNS LUCKNOW

Adityanath.

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday announced

that farmers could pay their

power dues of tubewell in easy

instalments from next month.

state Power Minister Shrikant

Sharma on the direction of

Minister

farmers will now be able to pay

their power dues of tubewell in

easy instalments with waiver of

ers would be able to pay their

pending tubewell power bills in

six easy instalments on the bills

up to January 31, 2020.

penalty and interest.

As per the scheme, the

Sharma said that the farm-

The sop was announced by

tenure and will be remembered for introducing the police commissionerate system in two districts of the state. He also has the credit of ensuring peace in the state after the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya issue and incident-free Kumbh Mela.

Meanwhile, IG Amitabh Thakur has raised question over discrimination in organising the farewell ceremony on the retirement of three same grade officers.

In a social media com-Thakur said that on January 31, three officers, all of same rank, were retiring from service but they will be given farewell separately. He mentioned that farewell of DG (Special Enquiry) Mahendra Modi was fixed for the night of January 31, but the same for DGP OP Singh has been fixed

for February 1. Thakur claimed that the farewell of third IPS officer, DG (Intelligence), Bhawesh Kumar, was also fixed for January 31 but now he had no information

also retired on the same day.

Govt allows farmers to

dues in 6 instalments

pay tubewell power

Friday morning. Singh has had an eventful

about his farewell party.

Thakur questioned the discrimination when all the three officers are of same rank and

The scheme will be applic-

able from February 1 to 29. The

farmer will have to pay 5 per

cent of the dues or Rs 1500

before February 29 as their first

instalment along with the pay-

be paid every month and after

completing the dues the penal-

ty and interest would be

those farmers who were served

notice under Section 5 could

avail this facility but they would

have to give in affidavit an

undertaking to pay the dues in

would benefit the farmers who

pay their bills regularly.

However, the scheme

The due instalments would

The minister said that

ment of full current bill.

waived

six instalments.

Email: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in, Website:www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in, Fax No.: 0551-2200721 Tender Notice No. 10 Date 30-01-2020 Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and or behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for of the following items. Complete description of the item and oth ondition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

श्वरी--01. समस्त कार्य 8 विनों के अन्दर पूर्ण किये जाने होंगे 102. कार्य मिनिस्ट्री औप डिफ्रेस्स से प्राप्त निर्देशों के अन्दस निर्धारित समयाविध में पूर्ण करना होगा। 03. कार्य में विकाय होने/कार्य की गुणवाना में कोई प्रतिकृत तथ्य पाये जाने पर कि किसी सुखना के सम्बन्धित ठेकेंदर को कार्ती पूर्ण में कार्य प्राप्त कर स्ता जारीमां 104. कार्य समस्त जमानत परनाशि जन कर ली जारीमां 104 का अनतरहोंच कार्यक्रम में से आध्यादित होने के हिप्पत गुणवाना एवं दाहमताइन में जारी दातरंग्स होने निर्धाद पर आगणन से प्रति प्रति विकाय पर आगणन से प्रति प्रति विकाय किसी 106. 15 प्रति से अधिक निम्म पर 2 प्रतिकृत जिलिस के विकाय किसी 106. 15 प्रति से अधिक निम्म दिवा की के कार्य मित्र कर निर्धार के कार्य कार्य के स्ता कार्य कार्य कर निर्धार के कार्य कार्य में स्वाप्त करने के उपरान्त प्रति होने की कार्यों। 07. शासन्त संस्था-715/नी-5-2018-120काल-2013, दिनोक 17 मार्य 2018 के अनुसार निर्धार से प्रति कर निर्धार के स्ता स्वाप्त कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य के स्ताप्त कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त कार्य के स्वाप्त कार्य कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त कार्य के स्वाप्त कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त के कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त के कार्य के स्वाप्त के कार्य के स्वाप्त के कार्य के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के कार्य कार्य के अनुसार कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त के अनुसार कार्य कार्य कार्य कार्य के अनुसार कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त के कार्य के अनुसार कार्य कार्य के कार्य के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के अनुसार कार्य कार्य के स्वाप्त के कार्य के अनुसार करना स्वाप्त के कार्य के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त करना से साण करना से साण के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के स्वाप्त करना से साण देशक के साण करना से साण करना

Brief Description of Qty. 1 32190792B 27-02-20 Injector asm to DLW Part etc. 2 2195014B 27-02-20 Bio diesel B 100 9,51,290 41.465 IS:15607-2016 Kltr. 3 22191264B 28-02-20 120 00 Overhauling Kit for dun valve of FTRTIL etc. 00 For LHB coaches etc 5 | 22191045 | 28-02-20 | Modified Elastomeric RDSO 5946 ₹1,18,600/ Pad etc. 6 22191116A 28-02-20 Air Brake Pipes with RDSO ₹1,70,950 679 Socket etc. 7 32195011D 06-03-20 CCB 1.5 System RDSO 02 ₹1,12,150/ Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

nger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Expression of Interest

On behalf of President of India, Medical Director, Central Hospital North Central Railway, Allahabad is inviting "Expression of Interest E.O.I." from Govt and various Diagnostic Centres and Private Pathology Labs of Allahabad City for providing facility of Special Investigation having compliance with ISO:15189 and accredited by any recognised accredited body of India.

The Application form with prescribed proforma, can be downloaded from the North Central Railway Website (www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) up to 28.02.2020. The Application Form with prescribed proforma will also be available in the Pathology Lab, Room No 101, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Allahabad up to the same period as mentioned above. All willing Diagnostic Centres and Govt. Hospitals are requested to submit their 'Expression of Interest E.O.I." in sealed Application Form with prescribed proforma upto 15:00 hrs on 28.02.2020. The approximate quantum of the work will be Rs. 32.00 Lakhs per annum (based on previous year records).

Only those Labs/Diagnostic Centres who will submit heir willingness by submitting "EOI" within stipulated time will only be considered for Empanelment and submit their offers for consideration.

All the pages of the Application form and prescribed proforma should be duly signed by the Director of the Diagnostic Centres/Govt. Hospitals.

Medical Director

Central Hospital/North Central Railway, Allahabad

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

Brisk preparations on for Defence Expo

HAL playing leading role

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

 $B^{
m risk}$ preparations are on for the Defence Expo at Gomti riverfront near Khatu Shyam temple. A visit to the site shows that the stretch is witnessing practice by several men from the Navy sailing 'laser bahiya' and other boats that will be performing several stunts.

A senior defence official said that senior dignitaries from Army, Navy and Air Force are expected to be among the audience when the expo kicks off. Spectators will be in for some interesting displays as the men would drop from the helicopter onto the boats for display of rescue activities. The dress rehearsal for the event will start from Saturday

A senior administration official carrying out inspection at the site told this reporter that they have made arrangements for over 2,500 spectators. "People will be allowed to witness these activities taking place here," he said. The official said that all arrangements are being made to ascertain that there is no harm caused to the riverfront. "We are in touch with the Army for all these arrangements. The event will also witness 'Khukri' and the other displays by the army. There are a lot of exciting events in store for Lucknowites and the same will be revealed in days to come," he added.

Meanwhile, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is taking lead role in organising the 11th biennial edition of Def Expo-in coordination with the Ministry of Defence to be held at Lucknow from February 5 to 9. Besides providing huge logistic support, HAL will showcase its prowess in defence and aerospace centered around the theme, 'Digital Transformation

"HAL has been instrumental in organising major defence expos in the last couple of years, including this edition of expo. HAL's indigenously designed and developed fixed and rotary wing platforms will steal the show," HAL CMD R Madhavan said.

HAL will display the models of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Do 228 and Hawk at its indoor Stall avionics, accessories, assem- ences on diverse aerospace blies, products such as Indigenous Digital Map Generator (i-DMG), Engine Accessories Division (Lucknow) and Flight Display Unit, Gas is playing a key role in organis-







(Clockwise from top) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviews preparations for the Defence Expo in Lucknow on Friday; jawans of Sikh Regiment during a dress rehearsal; and a boat sailing in the Gomti river

Turbine Electrical Generator (GTEG)-60, Air Producer Engine, Glass Cockpit for Do-228, Automatic Recognition (ATR), Digital Sand Rapid Prototyping Technology etc will be put up for display. Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) will be showcased at the outdoor static disolay area and ALH Mk IV Rudra, LCH, LUH, Do-228 civil, LCA Tejas will dazzle in flying display. During the course of expo, HAL plans to hold MoU-signing programmes, meetings with foreign delega-

topic, the CMD said. Meanwhile,

ing the expo. Media spokesperson Gopal Sutar said many HAL products from across the country will be on flying and static display at the expo the Lucknow Division is at the heart of all the action.

"Established in 1970 with the primary objective of manufacturing systems and accessories for various aircraft and engines, the division is involved in design, development and production, repair and overhaul of accessories of LRUs for military, civil aircraft and heli-"These include aulics pumps and actuators, flight control system, environmental control system, aircraft and engine fuel system, landing gear, wheels and

brakes, cockpit instruments and

trol and protection system, fuel content gauging system, oxygen system, and escape system," he said. He added that the facilities are spread over 1,16,000 sq mt of built-up area. "The division is turning out over 1,300 different types of accessories. The division has been in the forefront of accessories development and supply not only to Indian Air Force but to Indian Army, Indian Navy, Coast Guard and various defence lab-

machines, electrical power con-

The Aerospace System and Eqpt R&D Centre (ASER&DC) designs and develops mechanical, hydraulic and electrical accessories like hydraulic actu-

oratories as well as for space

sensors, electrical rotating ators, starters, generators and ground test equipment. Meanwhile, HAL will be

showcasing Su30 upgraded cockpit at the expo, reflecting its indigenous upgrade capabilities. Media spokesperson Gopal Sutar said the proposed upgrade cockpit display and control suite has been redesigned into a full glass cockpit. "The upgrade project involves indigenous HAL Mission Computer with new higher size displays. The aim is to present the upgraded cockpit to demonstrate the actual upgraded cockpit with the and also demonstrate the Voice Activated Command System (VACS) from SLRDC Hyderabad, a research wing of HAL," he added.



पावरग्रिड

Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999, CERC Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2014 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff Regulations 2019 for i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and iii Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block For Petition 1: Asset-I: 125 MVAF Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Sonepat Sub-station Extension; Asset-II: 125 MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Jaipur (South) Sub-station Extension; Asset-III: 125 MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Bassi Substation Extension; Asset-IV: 125 MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Manesar Substation Extension; Asset-V: 125 MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Panchkula Sub-station Extension; Asset-VI: 125 MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Kaithal Sub-station Extension and Asset-VII: 125 MVAR Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Kanpur Sub-station Extension under "Bus Reactors In Northern Region (Phase-II)" in Northern Region. **Petition 2**: with Combined Asset for Asset-I: LILO of Dehar-Bhiwani 400 kV S/C Line at Raipura Sub-Station (DOCO 27.06.2016), Asset-II: LILO of Dehar-Panipat 400 kV SIC Line at Panjbula Sub-Station (DOCO 22.06.2016), Asset-III: LILO of Dehar-Panipat 400 kV SIC Line at Panhckula Sub-Station (DOCO 02.04.2015), Asset-III: Extension of Chamera 400/220 kV Pooling Sub-station (GIS)-01 no. of 220 kV line bay (DOCO 06.08.2014). Asset-IV: 400 kV Anta Bay at Kota Sub-Station for 400 kV S/C Anta-Kota Line (Line owned by RVPNL) (DOCO 19.03.2016) associated with

Northern Region System Strengthening Scheme-XXVII.
2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (1) Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited. (2) Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (3) Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (4) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (5) Punjab State Electricity Board. (6) Haryana Nigam Ltd. (4) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (5) Punjab State Electricity Board. (6) nariyana Power Purchase Centre (7) Power Development Deptt., Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir. (8) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (9) Delhi Transco Ltd. (10) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (11) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (12) North Delhi Power Ltd. (13) Chandigarh Administration. (14) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (15) North Central Railway (16) New Delhi Municipal Council (17) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board

True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19 ₹ in lak								
Petition 1:	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19			
Asset1			67.15	299.64	332.66			
AssetII			44.2	214.86	234.99			
AssetIII			92.43	225.1	244.4			
Asset IV			0.00	173.11	368.21			
Asset V			80.48	219.57	242.62			
Asset VI			72.81	199.97	225.53			
Asset VII			46.5	235.86	275.01			
Petition 2:								
Asset1			621.38	849.19	856.66			
Asset II		507.53	549.80	573.31	564.65			
Asset III	119.69	196.14	200.88	196.88	193.89			
Asset IV		5.77	172.12	179.68	178.48			

. 2019-24 Block						
Petition	1	Tariff for 2019-24 block				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Petition 1:	1,633.37	1,620.01	1,590.31	1,560.87	1,528.39	
Petition 2:	1508.84	1479.21	1446.51	1400.37	1345.60	

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained The Suggestions and objections, it ally, or the proposed to determination of the society in the application may be filed by any person, including the beneficiary, before the Secretary.
 Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3st and 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, Janpath New Delhi -110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its Corporate Office "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001 within 30 days of publication of this notice

Place : Gurugram Date : 25.01.2020 General Manager (Regulatory Cell)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719

teg. Office: B-9. Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016. Tel: 011-26560112, 2656012 www.powergridindia.com, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121

Woman deprived of mobile phone by bike-borne duo

wo motorcycle-borne L unidentified persons snatched the mobile phone of a woman near Baba Hospital crossing in Chinhat on Thursday evening. The victim was identified as Sanobar Nafees, who is a resident of LDA Colony under Krishna Nagar police station.

In her complaint lodged at Krishna Nagar police station on Friday morning, the woman said the duo wearing helmets screeched to a halt near her and sought to know some address when she was speaking to her father over phone while waiting for a taxi to reach her

lion-rider snatched the mobile phone and the duo sped off. Taken by surprise, the woman took some time in raising an alarm, and it proved to

be too late. Meanwhile, police arrested three gamblers from Jerahar village under Indira Nagar police station. They were identified as Bachcha Lal,Raghubir Rawat and Hari Ram. A sum of Rs 4,000 and three packs of cards were recovered from their possession.

The police swung into action after the gram pradhan complained to Commissioner of Police Sujeet Pandey last week. A raid was conducted

accused were caught red-handed. The person running the gambling den was said to have absconded and his identity

was yet to be ascertained. Meanwhile, two persons were arrested from Jvotinagar crossing in Mohanlalgani for their alleged involvement in stealing iron rods weighing over one quintal from JP Institute on the intervening night of January 27 and January 28. The complaint was lodged by the institute management on January 28 afternoon. The accused were identified as Kailash and Rasheed Ali. They were arrested after they reportedly confessed to their crime.

Mango flowers fail to bloom this Basant Panchami

the festival was celebrated on

February 22 when most of the

mango trees in Lucknow were

in full bloom. Unusual, early

inflorescence development has

been common in mango trees

for many years but majority of

the trees follow environment

Director of Central Institute
for Subtropical Horticulture Shailenda Rajan said that the blooming of mango flowers has not corresponded with Basant Panchami this year.

"Usually, mango flowers are seen at the time of Basant Panchami and are used for rituals during Saraswati Puja. Most of the fruit trees follow the natural calendar and bloom when they experience that the weather is suitable for flowering. This year, as per the calculations of the Hindu calendar, the festival was celebrated earlier than last year. This is a rare situation when the festival has not corresponded with blooming," he signals, although the abrupt

mango and many other plants, flowering starts at Basant Panchami. "This year on Basant, activities of these pollinating insects are too low and they are also following the natural rhythm, and not our Hindu calendar. Low air temperature does not allow plants to bloom. This is an unusual year when Basant Panchami was celebrated on January 30 while in 2019,

low temperature does not allow them to regulate their flowering. Steady temperature changes are well responded by fruit trees and they flower normally," he explained.

He said that in many parts of India, mangoes are not in full bloom corresponding with the Basant. "In Ĥindu mythology, the mango flower aroma has special significance in the festive season . At many places, Goddess Saraswati is worshiped with mango panicles on Basant Panchami. Mango panicles are important in worship at many places in India and sold in the market along with 'Palash' flower. Climate change has changed the flowering scenario of mango," he added.

Anti-CAA stir: 3 PFI members arrested for inciting violence

Dolice on Friday arrested three members of Popular Front of India (PFI) for their allegedly inciting violence during the anti-CAA protests in Madheganj area under Hasanganj police station of December 19 last year. They were identified as Shakilur Reham (40) of Aliganj, Shabi Khan (35) of Ghazipur area,

and Mohammad Arshad (36) of Khurramnagar.

The police said the trio were named in the FIR lodged at Hasanganj police station on December 20 last year. Since then the police had been make then, the police had been making hectic searches to nab them. Their whereabouts were traced with the help of electronic surveillance and they were nabbed the wee hours.

arrested Hussainabad Clock Tower under Thakurganj police station on Friday afternoon. They were identified as Mohammad Tahir of Nadan Mahal road, Jugnu of Hussainabad, Mohammad Shan Khan of

Meanwhile, seven persons



Naka, Rehmat of Bijnore district presently living in Thakurganj, Shavez of Daliganj, Tufail Šiddiqui of Wazirganj, and Dawood of Daliganj.
They were arrested fol-

lowing a heating argument with police officers on the issue of pitching tents at the protest site. A large number of people, mostly women, have been protesting against CAA and NRC since January 17.

Meanwhile, demanding an open debate on CAA and NRC

with Home Minister Amit Shah and withdrawal of CAA, NRC & NPR, women continued their agitation on 20th day on Friday. Zeenat, a protester, said the government was shying away from a direct debate with them. "The opposition parties have moved court and we will continue our protest till CAA, NRC & NPR are rolled back", she said. Eram, another protester, said no government official took the pains to listen to our genuine demands.

Speech contest on cleaning of Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University's department of Psychology organised a speech competition under the directions of 'Psyche Hub Club'. With 'Cleaning Ganga' as the topic, the department invited participation of students to put forward their innovative thoughts on how mass participation and general awakening can help in cleaning the river and restoring it to its eternal glory. On Friday, the department welcomed a large number of participants on the stage to give voice to their thoughts.

The participants spoke of spiritual and historical significance of the Ganga in shaping India into its modern form and enriching it with spiritual heritage, as well as the new innovations needed to clean it.

The department also organised a debriefing segment in the end in which the students were reminded of their duties as citizens.

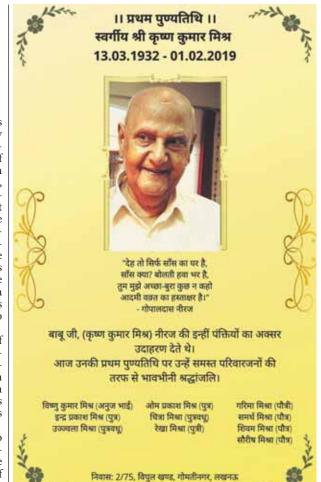
Course

MD (Hospital Administration)

time available, to redeem the secured assets

Date:01.02.2020

DM / M.Ch. (3 years) / &





JULY, 2020 SESSION All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Entrance

Examinations leading to admission in Post - Doctoral [DM/M.Ch.(3 years) / MD (Hospital Administration) & Fellowship Programme] of AIIMS, New Delhi for July, 2020 session Online Registration for applications

Opens On

12.02.2020

Closes On

03.03.2020 at 5:00 PM

Institutions

AIIMS - New Delhi

and other AIIMS

Fellowship Programme	AIIMS - New Delhi only		28.02.2020	19.03.2020 at 5:00 PM				
Date of Entrance Examination								
Course	Date of Exams	Dura	ition of Exam.	Exam Centre				
DM / M.Ch. (3 years) / & MD (Hospital Administration)	04.04.2020 (Saturday)	10:00	AM to 11.30 AM	4 Metro cities in India (Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai)				
Fellowship Programme	11.04.2020 (Saturday)	10:00	AM to 11.30 AM	Delhi/NCR				

Important: For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.org All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent corrigendum Addendum / Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.) davp 17112 / 11 / 0072 / 1920



Estate, Hazratganj, Lucknow(U.P) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule (3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice(s) upon the following er calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice(s) within 60 days from the date of the

borrower calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice(s).

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, the notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him Under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule (8) of the said rules on the date mentioned below against their names. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with properties and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the United Bank of India for the amount(s) plus interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of

Name & Address of the Account Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Date of Demand Notice Possession Notice Claim Amount as per Demand Notice as on	Description of the Immovable Assets
Branch : Raibarelly		
(1)Borrower-:Shri Ram Sagar Singh, Add: (A) 1602, A Veerpal Kothi, Rae Bareli, Behind R.D.A. Complex, U.P229001, (B) Flat No102, Building No. 123/30, At A.K.Apartment, Rakabganj, Lalganj Ghasiyari Mandi, Beni Parsad Road, Lucknow U.P229001, (2) Smt. Sujata Singh Wo Ram Sagar Singh, (Guarantor in the A/c of Ram Sagar Singh) Add: 1602 A, Veerpal Kothi, Behind R.D.A. Complex, Rae Bareli, U.P229001	28.01.2020 Rs. 31,68,863/- + intt. & other expenses	Equitable mortgage of Flat No102, (2 BHK), on first floor in K P Apartment On House No. 123/30-31 whose new no123/35, situated at Village and Mohalla-Rakabganj Jadid, Ghasiyari Mandi, Beni Parsad Road, Ward-Jagdish Chander Bose Marg, Distt Lucknow, U.P. having the area of 78.996 sqr mtr in the name of Sun. Sujata Singh Bounded As: North: House Indra Kumari, South: Open Sky and Stairs, East: Flat No. 101 and House K M Sinha, West: House

Place: Raibarelly

Sushil Kumar Tiwari

Authorised Officer, United Bank of India

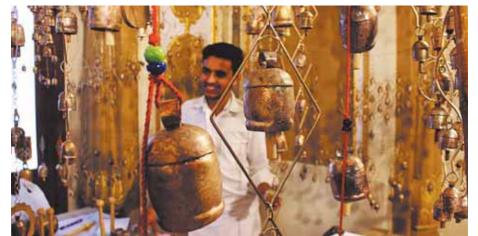
'Qasbati' hues at Sanatkada festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

Sanatkada Lucknow Festival-2020 kicked off at Safed Baradari in Qaiserbagh on Friday. A special bazaar which gave the audience the essence of the festival's theme was put up at the venue. Delicacies and crafts from qasbas such as 'Sandila ke laddoo', 'Dariyabad ke pede', 'Baragaon ke khurme', 'Shahane ki chudiyan from Kakori', 'Dewa pottery', 'Champiwala from Jais' etc were showcased. The exquisite exhibition was inaugurated in the 'Tahkhana', portraying an exhilarating audio-visual experience of the 'qasbati' life. Using light projections, realistic sound effects and multiple art installations, the exhibition recreated for the audience the authentic feel of walking through a baghia, dalaan, temple, mosque, imambara and

Key organiser Madhavi Kukreja said the team started the research six months back. The team made multiple visits to 22 gasbas and prepared written and audio-visual documentation of the same. They spoke to natives, local poets and craftsmen to get the true essence of the places. They visited well-known monuments and key tourist spots to find out about their historical significance and architectural style," she said. She added that to





make the research more authentic, they spoke to various people across the country and

collected relevant information. "The festival highlights the architecture, food and other

intriguing aspects of Balrampur, Maharajganj-Chandapur, Jais, Kakori, Khairabad, Dariyabad, Rudauli and Nanpara amongst other towns," she pointed out.

In the crafts bazaar, more than 70 groups from across the country have displayed a wide range of weaves such as Maheshwari, Chanderi, Jamdani, Banarasi, Ikat, Bodo, Dhakai and Pochampally. Various embroidery forms such as Kantha, Kamdani, Soof and Lambadi apart from Chikankari and Zardozi can be seen in the bazaar. There are also Afghani and Turkish jewellery and hand-carved silver & tribal jewelry. The literary 'Guftgu Session' was held in collaboration with Salempur House. The session including eminent intellectuals and renowned speakers was been dedicated to the fond memory of scholar, activist and Sanatkada mentor Dr Naseem Iqtedar Ali, who passed away

. Sanatkada Film Studio that will be inaugurated on Saturday. It has been working for a couple of years as a part of the theme, research and documentation team. The team has also made eight documentaries on various themes of the festival like 'Husn-e-Karigari-e-Awadh', Lucknow Ki Rehaish, Francisi Awadhi Taluqat' etc. The opening day of the festival ended with a Kathakali performance by Sadanam Krishnakutty and Kalamandalam Kuttykrishnan.

'Economic Survey disappointing'

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Friday hit out at the Central government, saying the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament on Friday was "disappointing" and an example of how the Narendra Modi government was selling dreams to people despite rising inflation, unemployment and poverty in the country.

In a series of tweets, Mayawati said: "Because of the wrong policies and programmes of the Centre, rising poverty, inflation, unemployment etc. have led to constant shrinking of the per capita/family income of the people, yet the BJP government is selling dreams to them. The Economic Survey presented in Parliament today is an example of this."

"The address by the Honourable President (Ram Nath Kovind) is an account of government's work and whatever he said before the joint sitting of Parliament today was detached from reality," she said in another tweet in Hindi.

"The Economic Survey presented by the Central government has left the people of the country disappointed," she further said.

The Economic Survey was released a day before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the Union Budget for 2020-21.

5,000 farmers take part in Kisan Mela



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW

entral Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) organised 16th Kisan Mela in Lucknow on Friday. Nearly 5,000 farmers from different parts of the country participated in the event and interacted with scientists and industry persons.

Founder of honey bee network, SRISTI, GYAN and national innovation foundation Anil Kumar Gupta was the chief guest while director of NISTADS Ranjana Agarwal the guest of honor. In her address, Agarwal briefed the gathering about the impact assessment of CSIR Aroma Mission being undertaken by NISTADS in different clusters across the country.

She said that the feedback from farmers involved in the Aroma Mission is encouraging and the tribal and farmers affected by natural calamities have been benefited immensely. Gupta said that farmers should make self-help groups and diversify their agricultural practices to increase their profit margins. He said that farmer should not only cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants but also get involved in value addition so that they can enhance their income manifold. He requested CIMAP to provide platforms to farmers involved in value addition at Kisan Mela to launch

their products. CIMAP director Abdul Samad briefed the dignities and the participants about the various activities undertaken by the institute for the benefit of medicinal and aromatic farmers. He also spoke about the achievements of CIMAP in the Aroma Mission across the country.

📵 NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E- TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con North Eastern Railway, and Gorakhpu nvites the following E-works Tenders S.N. 1, E-Tender No.: DYCE-CON-HQ-GKP-04- 2020, Name of work: Balance work of Linking of BG Track Transportation of P. way materials Spreading of ballast & other misc, work etween Chhapra to Bakulaha (including) except diversion portion of Bridge No. 16 and Bridge portion in connection with doubling work of Chhapra - Ballia Projec Approximate Value: 4,69,34,273.37 Earnest Money (Rs.): 3,84,700.00, Cos of Tender Form. (Rs.) : 10,000/-Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months, Bidding Start date - 07.02.2020 • Last date of submission of above E-Tender up to 15.00 hrs on 21.02.2020 • Date of pening of above E-Tender 15.30 hrs or eligibility criteria, terms & conditions i vailable on web site https://ireps.gov.i In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tende notice, English version will hold good an will be followed. For item no. 1 : Shri S. K. Singh, XEN/Con/BUI Mob. No.

PRO/W=350 About any passenger amenity plaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955 Do Not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

उ०प्र0 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन सिमेटेड, निविदा संख्या अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा अनुभवी ठेकेदारों फर्मों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु अलग अलग सीलबन्द निविदायें दो भागों आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक 12.00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जायेंगी तथा उसी तिथि को उपस्थित निविदा-दाताओं / उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष 14.00 बजे खोली जायेंगी। निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि व वैधता, तकनीकी एवं अनुभव सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र, व्यावसायिक व अन्य शर्ते आदि एवं दूसरे भाग में दरें बन्द होंगी धरोहर धनराशि, एफ.डी.आर. / सी.डी.आर. / डी0डी0 के रूप में प्रस्तुत की जायेंगी जं अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डत प्रथम, लखनऊ के पक्ष में देय होंगी। प्रथा भाग में वांछित घरोहर धनराशि एवं अन्य प्रपत्र पूर्ण तथा उचित / स्वीकार्य योग्यः होने पर द्वितीय भाग को नहीं खोल जायेगा। निविदा का विवरण-निविदा संव कार्य का नाम, धरोहर धनराशि, खुल की तिथि क्रमशः निम्नानुसार है (1) 155-वि.पा.मं-(प्र.)ल. / 2019-20, अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड— द्वितीय लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड अधिकारी विद्युत पारेषण उपखण्ड-चतुर्थ लखनऊ व प्रयोगार्थ चालक सहित एक नग डीजल चालित टैक्सी कोटे का हल्का वाहन 09 मा की अवधि के लिए किराये पर लिये जाने हेर रु० 2,000.00, 26.02.2020, निविदायें खुल की तिथि को अवकाश की स्थिति में निविद अगले कार्य दिवस पर खोली जायेंगी विस्तृत जानकारी एवं अन्य संशोधनों तथ निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनाँक पर विस्ता आदि के सम्बन्ध में सूचना एवं निविदा प्रपः डाउनलोड करने हेतु हमारी वेब साईट www.upptcl.org देखी जा सकती है। निविद प्रपत्र क्रय करने हेत् रु0 236/- धनराशि (रु0 200.00+G.S.T.@ 18% अतिरिक्त), तथ अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-प्रथम, लखनऊ के पक्ष में देय बैंक ड्राफ द्वारा अथवा नगद रूप में निविदा खुलने वे एक दिन पहले 11.00 बजे तक भुगतान कर PAN कार्ड एवं GST No. इत्यादि की छायाप्रति उपलब्ध कराकर निविदा प्रपन्न प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपन्न डाउनलोड करने की स्थिति में निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य का भुगतान क्रॉस डिमाण्ड डाफ्ट, **अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत** पारेषण खण्ड-प्रथम, लखनक के नाम प लखनऊ पर देय मय टेण्डर ऑफर के जमा करना होगा। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित विस्तत विवरण इस कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर भी उपलब्ध है। ब्लैक लिस्टेड फर्में एवं ऐसी फर्मों जिनके विरुद्ध कोई सतर्कता / सी.बी. आई. जाँच चल रही है अथवा लम्बित है उनकी निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेंगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा अथवा सभी निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत** पारेषण मण्डल – प्रथम, उ०प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 कक्ष सं0 111 से 114, भूतल पारेषण भवन, विभूति

खण्ड-।।, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांकः

221, दिनांक 31.01.2020, "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली

CITYBRIEFS

The two-day 2nd national conference on 'Recent Trends Mathematics with Applications' was organised by the department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences, Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University. Under the leadership of Chancellor Pankaj Agarwal, Pro-Chancellor Pooja Agarwal, Vice-Chancellor AK Singh, director BM Dixit and others, the university came up with the conference. The chief guest on the occasion was former Vice-Chancellor of Avadh University (Ayodhya) Ram Bilas Misra.

LECTURE BY SPIRITUAL THINKER AT VARSITY

Lucknow University Vice-Chancellor Alok Kumar Rai and faculty members welcomed spiritual thinker and speaker Shivani from Brahmakumari Foundation for the first of 12 centennial lectures to be held throughout the Shubhra and Radha. She spoke in her trademark tone and gave the listeners several tips on how to live life positively. 'Om Shanti' and reminded



everyone of the need to remember 'sanskar', traditional teachings. "Peace is a human being's normal state, but today's culture of consumption has created a new normal — one that is not comfortable, one that creates conflict and strife. This

new normal is pushing us away from contentment, happiness and truth, and towards several emotional illnesses like depression, anxiety and stress," she said. She added that the need of the hour is to take care of our inner self, our soul and



Shivani greeted everyone with A training programme of UPS & Battery Making Service has commenced in BOI Star RSETI Sponsored by Bank of India at Vibhav Khand, Gomti Nagar

spirit, because a healthy spirit creates healthy feelings, which in turn create a healthy body, which results in a satisfied work life, and ultimately, a healthy environment. Insisting on the importance of good energy for not just ourselves but also for the environment, Shivani called for making LU an 'anger-free zone'. "We can have discipline, but with dignity and respect, never with anger," she said. She even gave the audience a 24-hour homework of not getting angry, or not letting the actions of others affect their thoughts.

AWARD FOR UPSRTC

Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation has received the 'National Public Transport Excellence Award -2019' for rural connectivity. Managing director Raj Shekhar said that the award was given away to UPSRTC at an international conference and exhibition on public transport. The award constitutes a certifiappreciation, a m to and a prize money of Rs 7.5 lakh. "This award is constituted by Association of State Road Transport undertakings (ASRTU), Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.



worker and chairman of Sahara India Pariwar Subrata Roy Sahara. Roy wished her luck in her quest for the Olympic gold

SCHOOLSCAN

SCHOLARSHIP

Aditya Surbhit, a student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, has been selected for admission with scholarship to four prestigious universities of the USA — US\$ 1,46,000 by Knox



College, US\$ 1,40,000 by th University of Colorado Boulder, US\$ 64,000 by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and US\$ 62,000 by Arizona State University — for the entire study period of four years.

FROM PAGE 1

ASSEMBLE-IN-INDIA FOR \$5 TN ECONOMY

Some economists believe the Survey's growth forecast is too optimistic as the recovery is likely to be slow and shallow amid rising inflation and declining investment.

The Survey has been wide of the mark in forecasting growth in four out of past five years. "The deceleration in GDP growth can be understood within the framework of a slowing cycle of growth with the financial sector acting as a drag on the real sector," it said.

'The Government must use its strong mandate to deliver expeditiously on reforms, which will enable the economy to strongly rebound in 2020-21."

Survey-author Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser to the Finance Ministry, rejected his predecessor Arvind Subramanian's analysis of India's GDP growth rate being overestimated by 2.7 per cent post-2011, saying the allegation was "unfounded" and 'unsubstantiated by the data".

As has been argued earlier, the Government has to prioritise growth, the Survey for 2019-20, which was tabled by Sitharaman in Parliament,

And for this, relaxing the fiscal deficit target could be considered, said the Survey — an annual report card on the economy. Sitharaman had projected the

fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of the

gross domestic product in her budget for 2019-20 but it is widely seen slipping to 3.8 per cent as the slowdown lowered revenue collections and the Government provided a tax stimulus to spur investments. This will be the third straight year when the government will miss its fiscal deficit target. Once the

momentum picks up, the government can take action to consolidate its expenses. Several economies have done this in the past. Cutting some of the Rs 1.84 lakh crore food subsidy bill can create the

It emphasized on raising capital expenditure (and reducing revenue expenditure) that leads to asset cre-

fiscal space, the Survey said.

This means economic growth, which primarily is driven by consumer spending, has to now come from greater investments. The Survey emphasised on investmentled growth by focusing on reviving

the MSME sector.

To further make it easier to do business, it suggested removing the red tape at ports to promote exports as well as measures to make it easier to start a business, register property, pay taxes and enforcing contracts. It also called for improving governance in public sector banks and the need for more disclosure of information to build trust. It also talks about dwarfism in the banking sector.

Stating that only when wealth is created, it can be distributed, Subramanian said, "A feeling of suspicion and disrespect towards India's wealth creators is ill-advised."

In an attempt to boost demand. the Reserve Bank cut interest rate by 110 basis points in 2019 while the government speeded up the insolvency resolution process under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and easing of credit, particularly for the stressed real estate and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs) sectors.

AI FLIGHT ON WAY BACK FROM WUHAN ...

If any individual is suspected to

be infected, he or she will be shifted to the isolation ward at the Base Hospital Delhi Cantonment, they said. Screening at the airport will be done by a joint team of Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and Airport Health Authority (APHO). During the screening they

will be classified into three groups. They include suspect case where an individual with any signs of fever, cough or respiratory distress will be directly transferred to Base Hospital.

Second step will cover any individual without symptoms but having visited a sea food or animal market or a health facility or having come into contact with a Chinese person with symptoms in the last 14 days. He will be escorted in an earmarked vehicle directly to the quarantine facility.

The third category is non-contact case of any individual without any symptom(s) or contact or who does not fit into either of the earlier two categories. He will also be clubbed along with the close contact category and sent to the quarantine

The facility will be administered by a nominated officer who will have under his command a Community Medicine Specialist, two Nursing Officers, a Lady Medical Officer and one Nursing Assistant. No civilian or serving personnel detailed to work inside the facility will be allowed to go outside unless compelled by extreme emergency situation.

With the DefExpo 2020 scheduled to begin in Lucknow on February 4-8 and more than 40 countries expected to take part in the mega international event, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said here on Friday all precautions have been taken for foreigners as regards coronavirus. A delegation from China is also coming. The standard operating procedure is in place and screening will be done as per procedure, he said. DefExpo, the defence exhibition is held every two years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the exhibition on February 5.

FARRUKHABAD CAPTOR SHOT, WIFE LYNCHED

planned to blow up the house. When Batham demanded the withdrawal of the murder case against him, police assured him that they would consider it. They also

talked about offering a Government

While this conversation was oing on, a police team entered the house by breaking open the back door. Batham fired two bullets to scare them away.

We thought he had fired at the children and stopped midway, Agarwal said.

His wife then tried to escape from the front door but the children's parents who had collected there attacked her. Agarwal said she was seriously injured before police could rescue her.

In a tweet, Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the Uttar Pradesh Police and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"It is laudable to get all the children held hostage in Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh safely rescued through the efficient strategy and planning by the police, he said

Earlier, Adityanath had called a meeting of the State's crisis management committee and monitored the situation from capital Lucknow, about 200 km away, an official said.

The CM announced an award of Rs 10 lakh for the police team that carried out the rescue opera-

Atta at ₹2/kg, potable water: BJP's Sankalp Patra for Delhi

SAPNA SINGH NEW DELHI

The BJP has promised good quality wheat flour at ₹2 per kg for the poor and supply of clean drinking water to every household in its Delhi Sankalp Patra for the February 8 Delhi Assembly elections.

The BJP also promised creation of 10 lakh jobs in Delhi in the next five years. It has also promised to implement Central Government's

Bharat and Kisan Samman Nidhi in the national Capital. The manifesto released in

presence of Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Prakash Javadekar, Harsh Vardhan, party's Delhi unit president Manoj Tiwari said in line with the Central Government's Jal Jeevan Mission, the party will also provide clean drinking water to every household.

flagship schemes Ayushman implement Ayushman Bharat, Pradhanmantri Awaas Yojana and Kisan Samman Nidhi in the national Capital.

The BJP said it would develop the river front of the Yamuna as an eco-tourism hub on the lines of the Sabarmati in Ahmedabad and the Ganga in Varanasi if voted to power in Delhi.

Also, it promised a Yamuna Museum" on the The party promised to river"s bank, besides constitut- depositing money in the name

ing a 'Delhi Yamuna Vikas Board" to ensure clean and uninterrupted flow of water in the river.

Besides, the party has offered a slew of freebies to Delhiites, including free electric scooty for college-going girls from impoverished background, free cycle for Class IX girls from poor families, a wedding gift of Rs 51,000 for daughters of poor widows and

of girlchild born in poor families, with pay-out of Rs 2 lakh when the girl turns 21.

The document highlighted the Modi Government's work like providing ownership rights to residents in unauthorised colonies and slum redevelopment scheme to provide permanent houses to those living in Jhuggi-Jhopri (JJ) clusters in the city and setting up of a Colony Development Board (CDB).

"Delhi's future cannot be built by distributing a few freebies. It can be done only through a vision comprising concrete projects," Gadkari said referring to AAP Government's freebies

schemes The party's manifesto focused on air, water pollution, land reforms, employment opportunities for youth, sports facilities under Khelo India, health schemes, new colleges,

schools and implementation of solar and electric policies. In a response to questions

existing subsidies on water and electricity by the AAP Government, Tiwari said none of the existing benefits will be discontinued if the BJP forms the Government. "The schemes on electricity and water are part of a continuous process and will continue. We will not stop any of the existing schemes," Tiwari said.

President hails CAA, calls it 'historic' amid Opp protest

A midst shouts of shame-shame from the black band sporting Opposition MPs, President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday hailed the new Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as "historic" and a fulfilment of Mahatma Gandhi's wish even as he denounced violence "in the name of protests" saying it weakened the society and the nation. The President, however, did not refer to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in his address even as he hastened to stress the importance of "mutual discussion and debate" to consolidate democracy.

As the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) has set the ruling and opposition parties on the path of confrontation since its passing last December, the two sides again stood face to face in the central hall with the government again affirming that CAA was the urgent need of the time by highlighting suppression of minorities in Pakistan and also



citing the 'Nanakana Sahib' incident in the neibhouring

While condemning the atrocities on the minorities in Pakistan, I urge the world community to take cognizance of it and take necessary steps in this regard," the President said.

The reference to the CAA and abrogation of autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 drew loud and prolonged thumping of benches by the ruling MPs, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Ministers Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others, while the opposition members shouted "shameshame". The President looked up for a few seconds but went on reading the written address.

The address devoted generous space to the nullifying of article 370 and the new Kashmir. The President whose address is customarily the account of the government policies, said the historic measure led to the fulfilling of wishes of Shyama

Sangh', who wanted that all states and union territories should be having equal fundamental rights and benefits.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the party's leader in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad sat in the back rows in the Central Hall of Parliament instead of the front seats allotted to them to mark their protest against the law.

Delivering his 70-minute address in Hindi which marks the start of the Parliament's Budget session, Kovind pointed out that mutual discussions and debates strengthen democracy.

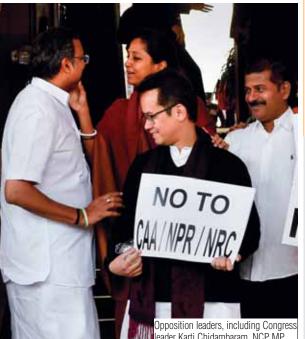
"At the same time, any kind of violence in the name of protests weakens the society and the nation." he said without directly referring to the anti-CAA protests in the country some of which have witnessed violence.

He said Mahatma Gandhi had said that Hindus and Sikhs

it is the duty of the Indian gov-ernment to ensure a normal life

"It is our responsibility to honour this wish of the founding fathers of our nation. I am happy that both the Houses of Parliament have fulfilled this wish, by enacting the Citizenship Amendment Act. At a time when the country is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji, all of you have given paramount consideration to this sentiment," Kovind said.

Referring to atrocities on minorities in Pakistan, the President said, "We have all seen what happened in Nankana Sahib recently. It is the responsibility of all of us to bring the atrocities being committed in Pakistan to the notice of the global community." The . Nankana Sahib gurudwara in Pakistan was attacked by a mob



opposition parties who wore black bands were Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Shiv Sena, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Janata Dal (Secular), Revolutionary

eader Karti Chidambaram, NCP MP Supriva Sule and others stage a protest against CAA and NRC at Parliament ahead of the Budget Session, in New Delhi on Friday

Socialist Party (RSP), Kerala Congress (M), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and the National Conference (NC), besides the Congress, the

Opposition leaders have NDA leaders, who met to strategise as Parliament's said they will raise the issue of nationwide protests against Budget Session began here on Friday, to go on the front-foot the CAA in the Session, as they to take on the Opposition's accused the Modi Government JD(U) asks Govt to remove

questions seeking details

PM to NDA members: No need to

feel defensive, push CAA strongly

charge that the amended citi-

zenship law discriminated

nothing wrong as far as the

CAA is concerned and has no

reason to feel defensive about,

hailed Modi for the Bodo

accord and settlement of Bru tribe members in Tripura.

The Government has done

The NDA leaders also

against Muslims.

of parents in NPR form

NEW DELHI

Afghanistan.

Against the backdrop of ongoing anti-CAA stir across the country, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asked the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)

members to aggressively

defend the new citizenship law that grants Indian nation-

ality to the six persecuted

minorities, barring Muslims,

from Pakistan, Bangladesh and

on the Opposition's charge

that the amended citizenship

law discriminated against

Muslims and said that minori-

ties are as much "ours as other

A BJP ally said after the meeting that Modi asked the

Modi sought MPs to take

¬he JD(U) on Friday urged **▲** the Government to remove parents in the National Population Register (NPR) questionnaire.

Janata Dal (United) leader Lalan Singh said he raised the issue at the NDA meeting and Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured that the matter vill be discussed. Singh said the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), another BJP ally, also supported the JD(U) on the issue.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar had earlier clarified that people are free not to compulsory.

answer questions about their parents such as place and date of birth in the NPR exercise.

The JD(U), which is headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has backed the government on the Citizenship Amendment) Act, and the Bihar government had announced the roll-out of the NPR exercise in the state.

With criticism rising about the questions on parents' details in the NPR on the ground that many people may not be aware about the place and date of birth of their parents, the Government has already said that answering them is not

of arrogance and making no effort to reach out to protest-

The sporadic protests in Delhi and other cities have brought CAA at the centrestage of the current Budget Session with Congress and other Opposition parties set to corner the Government on the issue and the latter set to go aggressive on it and not back out.

The Delhi election in February has already charged both the sides and the issue has, seemingly, a polarising impact on the polls with the BJP trying to inject national issues like CAA in the campaign while AAP is seeking to focus on local developmental

ANTI-CAA PROTEST:

SC seeks UP Govt's response on plea for quashing notices for recovering damages

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear a plea seeking quashing of notices sent to alleged protestors by district administration for recovering losses caused by damage to public properties during the anti-CAA agitations in Uttar Pradesh and asked the State to respond to it. A Bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and K M Joseph issued notice to the Uttar PradeshGovernment on the plea and directed it to file its reply within four weeks.



ANTI-CAA PROTEST -

Opp leaders wear black arm bands during Prez address

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Leaders of 14 Opposition parties, including the Congress, on Friday wore black arm bands during the President's address to both the Houses of Parliament, saying it was "shameful" on the part of the Government to claim the CAA as an achievement. Opposition parties decided to move amendments to President Ram Nath Kovind's address seeking the removal of reference made to the passage of the CAA from it.

The Opposition leaders also staged a protest outside Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parliament complex and raised slogans against the Government while standing in solidarity

INSHORT

CANADA APPOINTED

New Delhi: Seasoned diplomat

appointed High Commissioner to

important in view of India's close

v Risaria was on Friday

Canada, a posting considered

ties with the North American

country. Bisaria was serving as

Pakistan but returned to India in

August last year after Islamabad

expelled him following New Delhi's

decision to reorganise Jammu and

PANEL FOR OVERHAUL OF

ALLIED HEALTHCARE BILL

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel

restructuring of the Allied and

Healthcare Professions Bill and

Healthcare Professions Bill. The

report said the status of the allied

healthcare professions such as

therapy, radiology, etc has to be

of the dominance of doctors by

raised and bring the profession out

standardisation of its education and

practice, an official statement said.

CONFERENCE ON LEPROSY

New Delhi: Noting that 66 per cent

of the global leprosy cases prevail

in India, doctors under the umbrella

of IADVL (Indian Association of Dermatologists Venereologists &

Leprologists) at a four days conference DERMACON 2020 which kicked off on January 30 in Nagpur took a pledge to work

towards the eradication of the

awareness and abuse of steroid

purchased over the counter will

Narasimha Rao, IADVL president

FEEDBACK SUBMITTED TO

New Delhi: All 37 Central Ministers

recently will submit feedback to the

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on

officials said on Friday. So far, 14

assessment on the implementation

taken on the basis of the feedback.

Ministers have submitted their

of the welfare schemes in a

proforma so that action can be

the implementation of various

development schemes there,

PMO ON J&K SCHEMES

who visited Jammu & Kashmir

also be discussed, said Dr P

based ointments, medicines being

crippling disease. Issues like lack of

ERADICATION HELD

physiotherapy, occupational

standing committee on Health

renaming it as the National

Commission for Allied and

on Friday recommended

Kashmir and withdraw its special

India's High Commissioner to

with those protesting against the National Population Register (NPR), National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

including Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and Congress president Sonia Gandhi did not sit on their designated seats in the front and second rows and sat together in one block in the Central hall of Parliament during the president's address as a mark of their protest.

Outside the Parliament Sonia was accompanied by party leader Rahul Gandhi, Azad, senior party leaders Motilal Vohra, Ahmed Patel, Adhir Ranjan Choudhury, A K Antony and all party MPs from

Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. They held placards that read 'Save the Constitution' and raised anti-government slogans while expressing solidarity with the protesters against the CAA, NPR and the NRC. Leaders of these parties,

> The black bands were worn as a mark of protest against the alleged attack on the Constitution of India with the passage of the amended Citizenship Act by the government, the leaders said. Opposition members also otested after President Kovind

> > these remarks, some opposition members shouted "shame, shame" and displayed banners in the Central Hall. Among the leaders of the

hailed the CAA in his address.

As soon as the president made

'Govt interventions hurt more, help less'

⊥ pointed out that the Government interventions like debt waiver or food subsidies end up creating distortions in the functioning of the free market. The Survey says that debt waiver schemes' disrupt credit culture and disrupt formal credit flow to the very farmers it aims to benefit. The share of agriculture and allied sector in the total gross value added (GVA) of the country has been continuously declining from 18.2 per cent in 2014-15 to 16.5 per cent in 2019-20.

The Economic Survey 2020

The Economic Survey picked four instances where archaic Government interventions have created more problems than they solve which include rationalisation of Essential Commodities Act, Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), food subsidies and debt waiver.

The food subsidy Bill has increased from ₹1,13,171.2 crore in 2014-15 to ₹1,71,127.5 crore in 2018-19, it said adding that the reasons for widening of the food subsidy have been many. While the economic cost has increased, the central issue price (the rate at which grains are sold in ration shops) for NFSA beneficiaries has not been revised from ₹200 per quintal in case of wheat and



₹300 per quintal in the case of rice. Foodgrains via ration shops are supplied at highly subsidised rates of ₹3 per kg for rice, ₹2 per kg for wheat and Rs 1 per kg for coarse grains through Public Distribution System (PDS) as per the National Food Security Act

"While the interests of the vulnerable sections of the population need to be safeguarded, for sustainability of food security operations, the issue of burThe NFSA has been imple-

mented in all states and Union territories. However, in Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the NFSA is being implemented in cash transfer mode, under which food subsidy is being transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries who then have a choice to buy foodgrains from open market.

During the financial year 2019-20, the government allocated 603.88 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to states and UTs under the NFSA and other wel-

geoning food subsidy bill needs to be addressed," the Survey fare schemes as on December 2019. Under the NFSA, the govsidised foodgrains to each person per month to over 81 crore people through 5 lakh ration shops in the country.

The Economic Survey also pitched for scrapping of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) and debt waiver saying the law is "anachronistic" that leads to harassment and is of no help in checking price volatility. The survey said that these acts should be let go of for more economic freedom to the market and to spur wealth

Cong cites disconnect in findings

The Congress on Friday came down heavily on the projections of the Economic Survey, saying the findings are "totally disconnected with the reality".

The party said the prices of commodities are rising and the Government has not said how it will contain the food inflation. The "Make in India" has failed so "Assemble in India" has come up but this will not add value to the GDP as already the position is grim, the Congress said

'The Economic Survey comes nowhere close to revealing what the actual situation is. India is facing a very difficult time due to the Narendra Modi Government's mismanagement yet if you look at the Economic Survey, you will find it is totally disconnected from this grim reality," Congress spokesperson Rajeev Gowda said.

Gowda said the Economic Survey is not about talking of the past but the current situation in

the country. "The current situation is - the economy is in the worst phase in 52 years with unemployment at an all-time high," said the Rajya Sabha

member. "In this Economic Survey, the Chief Economic Advisor pays scant attention to distribution and inequality. Even today, inequality is worsening. Recent Oxfam report says richest 1 per cent of India hold over 40 per cent of national wealth," party leader Gaurav Vallabh said

Over ₹2 lakh crore projects under **Smart City Mission** underway: Survey

PNS NEW DELHI

As many as 5,151 projects worth more than ₹2 lakh crore are being implemented in 100 cities under the Government's Smart City Mission. According to the Economic Survey of India 2019-20, all 100 cities under the mission have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs). Talking about achievements of 'Smart Cities Mission' (SCM), the survey said that Since the launch of the mission, 5,151 projects worth more than ₹2 lakh crore are at various stages of implementation in the 100 cities,"

As on November 14, 2019, 4,154 SCM projects worth ₹1.49 lakh crore (72 per cent of the total proposals) have been tendered, of which 3,359 projects worth ₹1.05 lakh crores (51 per cent of total proposals) have been issued work orders. As many as 1,290 projects worth ₹22,569 crores have been completed and are operational.

1.5 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres by 2022: Economic Survey

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

To promote prevention healthcare, 1.5 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres are proposed to be set up by 2022 under the Ayushman Bharat health flagship scheme, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20 tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Friday.

As on January 14, 2020, the Government has been able to set up just 28,000 health and wellness centres under its flagship scheme launched last year.

Citing the latest National Health Accounts (NHA) 2016-17 data, the economic survey on Friday said that out of pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure has declined from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 58.7 per cent in 2016-17. Talking about performance of the Mission Indradhanush, the survey said 3.39 crore children and 87.18 lakh pregnant women in 680 districts across the country have been vaccinated." New vaccines such as

Measles-Rubella



Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Rotavirus Vaccine and Inactivated Polio Vaccine have also been introduced, it added.

Primary healthcare accounts for 52.1 per cent of India's current public expenditure on health as per the National Health Estimates, 2016-17. The National Health Policy, 2017 recommended to spend at least two thirds of the government's health expenditure on primary healthcare, it added.

"Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the world's largest health insurance scheme, is a major step towards providing affordable healthcare to the identified poor," the Survey said.

The scheme has been rolled out based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the Socio-Economic Caste Census for rural and urban areas, respectively, it added.

In a first, habitat assessment in Ganga basin to go hi-tech

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tor the first time, scientists will be Lusing hi-tech sophisticated scientific tools and techniques such as laser, sonar, doppler, GPS and GIS technology to conduct river habitat assessment in the Ganga basin aiming to maintain its aviral dhara (continuous flow) and nirmal dhara(unpolluted flow).

The survey will be conducted by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in collaboration with the Delhi-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the Namami Gange programme of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti wherin ten rivers in the eight States in the

Ganga basin will be covered. The rivers include Ganga, Ramganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Ghagra, Gandak, Koshi, Son, Chambal and Rupnarayan covering from source to its respective confluences

Director General of NMCG, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra said that the survey team will use the state-of-theart scientific tools and techniques such as laser based distance measurement units for channel width determination, sonar-based channel depth estimator, Doppler-based river flow determination, GPS and GIS technology in combination with the local traditional knowledge of the riverside communities.

A large number of Ganga Praharis created for river conservation will support the assessment as the representatives of local communities.

Miishra said that in the First National Ganga Council meeting on December 14, 2019 at Kanpur, it was agreed that aquatic biodiversity conservation such as Gangetic dolphin NAMAMI GANGE Scientific tools and techniques

such as laser, sonar, doppler, GPS and GIS technology to conduct river habitat assessment in the Ganga basin aiming to maintain its aviral dhara

The rivers include Ganga, Ramganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Ghagra, Gandak, Koshi, Son, Chambal and Rupnarayan covering from source to its respective confluences



and Dr Ruchi Badola said that the assessment will generate baseline Project In-charge Dr. SA Hussain data on river habitat conditions

based on which a roadmap will be prepared for aquatic biodiversity conservation in Ganga basin for ensuring Nirmal Dhara and AviralDhara of not only Ganga river but also in its tributaries.

According to a survey by the WII, around 49 per cent of the Ganga River has high biodiversity value and species of conservation concern are reappearing as the river is getting much more cleaner.

Dr. Hussain said the initiative will successfully address the biodiversity and river conservation issues in the Ganga basin, which will be a model for science based river conservation in India.

Raiver Ganga, with over 2,525 km long mainstream, is one resource that sustains multiple functionspertaining to ecological, socio-cultural and livelihoods in India.

3 JEM terrorists killed on Jammu-Srinagar NH

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

 $T^{
m hree}$ highly trained 'fidayeens' (members of a suicide squad) of Pakistan based Jaishe-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit, tasked to target vital security installations, were killed by the joint teams of security forces near Ban Toll plaza on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on

All three heavily armed terrorists were travelling in a Kashmir bound truck, bearing registration number JK03F-1478, when they were intercepted at Bann Toll plaza by police at a security check point around 5.30 a.m. According to police, terrorists hiding inside the truck opened fire on security forces when they insisted on carrying thorough checking of the truck.

During the encounter, three associates of JeM terrorists, including a Kashmir based and conductor were also arrested by the police. The arrested driver is identified as Sameer Ahmed Dar. A year ago,

laden Maruti Eeco car into a CRPF bus, killing 40 personnel on board. Sameer has reportedly done Masters in geology from Kashmir university.

The incident comes days before the Pulwama attack anniversary on February 14.

Preliminary reports gathered by the police teams claimed the trio may have possibly infiltrated from across the International border with Pakistan via Hiranagar sector in Kathua district and were being escorted in a Kashmir bound truck to their destination.

The truck driver along with the conductor had created a special cavity to hide these terrorists by packing polyvinyl bags in a particular

DGP Police, Dilbagh Singh, who visited the encounter site along with senior police and CRPF offilocal guide, along with a driver cers, told reporters, "according to preliminary reports all three terrorists, belonging to Pakistan based Jaish-e- Mohammad terror outfit, were eliminated by the security forces after inter-

cepting a truck in the early hours of Friday morning".

Dilbagh Singh said, "the

the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Friday

Security forces carry the body of a terrorist killed in a gunbattle, after a group of

terrorists travelling in a truck opened fire at a police team, at Nagrota toll plaza on

three terrorists were armed with AK rifles including a sniper rifle and large quantities of ammunition, satellite phone, brand new mobile handsets, wire cutters, grenades, ration supplies and other essential items to last long during the operation".

According to preliminary

all other vital security installations were put on high alert to prevent any attack.

Thousands of Kashmir bound passengers also remained stranded on the highway at different locations between Jammu and Bann Toll Plaza. After the encounter was called off and necessary

called off and necessary sanitisation operation was completed the traffic was allowed to ply on the highway.

Earlier on September 28, 2019, three pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terrorists were eliminated by the joint team of security forces during nine-hour-long operaduring nine-hour-long operation in Ramban district.

One civilian who was held hostage by the terrorists inside his house in Batote town was safely rescued by the security forces while one Army jawan had sacrificed his life and two other policemen received injuries. In September 2018, a group of militants, travelling in a Srinagar bound truck, were neutralised near Kakriyal on Jammu-Srinagar National highway by the security forces after they opened fire on a

Alert cop saves the day, raises alarm on time

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

A'lathi' wielding cop of Jammu & Kashmir police on Friday saved the day for security forces by immediately raising an alarm after detecting presence of heavily armed terrorists hiding in a cavity of a Kashmir bound truck.

Constable Bhomraj, deployed at Police station, Nagrota was the first security personnel on duty who grew suspicious and directed the driver of the truck to uncover the truck, covered with a plastic sheet, so that he can carry out thorough inspection.

Recuperating in an emergency ward of Government Medical college hospital, police constable Bhomraj told reporters, "when i first stopped the truck at Bann Toll plaza i directed the driver to throw open a rear window

Bhomraj said, "first of all, he detected a blanket lying in the middle of the cavity inside



Police constable Bhomraj recuperating in GMC, Jammu

the truck. As he became suspicious, he also noticed a pair of boots lying there".

Bhomraj said, "as he grew suspicious he moved towards the driver and directed him to come down and take out the plastic cover". Bhomraj said, "as he climbed the truck and started searching, a group of terrorists hiding inside the cavity

on my right arm and was barely saved". He said, central security forces, who had taken positions in the vicinity retaliated the fire and the encounter

"I received bullet injuries

DGP police Dilbagh Singh, visited him in the hospital and patted his back for his act of bravery' and wished him speedy recovery.

Economic Survey sees pick up in growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Economic Survey on}}_{\text{Friday projected revival of}}$ economic growth to 6-6.5 per cent next fiscal and suggested that the Government should relax the Budget deficit target to boost growth from a decade low of 5 per cent this year.

The Survey, released a day before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the Union Budget for 2020-21, suggested a cut in food subsidy to create fiscal space at a time when tax revenues were falling.

Facing the worst economic slowdown since the global financial crisis of 2008-09 that worsened job prospects, the Survey said businessmen

For India to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, it prescribed strengthening trust in the economy, enabling and empowering markets, promotion of pro-business policies, and measures to enhance farmers' income.

It also suggested reforms to make it easier to open new businesses, register property, pay taxes and enforce contracts.

The Survey called for boosting manufacturing with 'assemble in India for the world' concept and underlined the need to spend \$1.4 trillion in infrastructure to nearly double the size of the economy to \$5 trillion.

It batted for aggressive dis-

पावर ट्रान्समीशन हजार मात्र)। (4) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई—निविदा संख्या—158—ई0टी0सी0वी0)/2019—2020— **सूचना संख्या – 155 से 162 –** विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड-प्रथम वाराणसी के **ई.टी. सी.(वी.)/2019-2020** अनुमवी फर्मो/ अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र मेलूपुर से ठेकेदारों/अधिकृत विक्रेताओं/निर्माताओं से सामनेघाट (लंका) के मध्य 220 के0वी0 ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट वेबसाइट अन्डरग्राउन्ड केबिल की सरक्षा के लिए www.etender.up. nic.in में पंजीकृत हो पेट्रोलिंग गैंग उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य निम्नलिखित कार्य / आपूर्ति हेतु मोहर बन्द निविदा खुलने की तिथि – 17.02.2020 नेविदायें दो भागों में निविदा खुलने की निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य – रू० 1,000+180 दिनांक के 12:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की (जी0एस0टी0@18%), धरोहर राशि – रू(जाती हैं. जो उसी दिन क्रमशः 15:00 बजे 10.000/- (रू0 दस हजार मात्र) भाग—1 एवं 16:00 बजे भाग—2 सार्वजनिक **(5) अल्पकालिक ई—निविदा संख्या—159**— रूप से अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में **ई०टी०सी०(वी०)/2019-2020-**विद्युत प्रेषण

निविदादाता / उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों जो खण्ड-प्रथम वाराणसी के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपस्थित होना चाहें के समक्ष अधोहस्ताक्षरी उपकेन्द्र कुरसातो (एस.ए.एस.) का एक वर्ष / उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा आनलाइन हेतु परिचालन एवं अनुरक्षण का कार्य। निविदा खोली जायेगी। यदि निविदा खुलने की खुलने की तिथि-17.02.2020, निविदा प्रपत्र तिथि पर अवकाश पड़ता है तो निविदा का मूल्य-रू० 25,00+450 (जी0एस0टी0@ अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक 18%), धरोहर राशि-रू० 25,000/- (रू८ स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर पच्चीस हजार मात्र)। (6) अल्पकालिक खोली जायेगी। भाग–1 में निविदा प्रपत्र <u>ई–निविदा संख्या–180–ई०टी०सी०(वी०)</u> / मूल्य (नान रिफन्डेबिल) एवं घरोहर घनराशि <u>2019–2020</u>–विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड – तृतीर

जो कि S.E. ETC, Varanasi के खाता साहपुरी के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र

संख्या 4045002101942734 एवं IFSC कोड अहरौरा (एस०ए०एस०) का एक वर्ष हेत PUNB0404500 बैंक पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, परिचालन एवं अनुरक्षण का कार्य। निविदा शाखा भिखारीपर, वाराणसी में अलग-अलग खलने की तिथि-17.02.2020, निविदा प्रपट RTGS / NEFT द्वारा जमा करना होगा, का मूल्य-रू० 25,00+450 (जी0एस0टी0@ किसी अन्य माध्यम से निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य 18%), धरोहर राशि रू० 25,000/- (रू. एवं धरोहर धनराशि स्वीकार नहीं किया पच्चीस हजार मात्र)। (7) अल्पकालिक जायेगा () निविदा प्रपत्र, पैन कार्ड, व्यापार **ई-निविदा संख्या-161-ई०टी०सी०(वी०)** कर जीoएसoटीo पंजीकरण एवं इनकम <u>2019-2020-</u>220 केoवीo विद्युत उपकेन्त्र टैक्स रिटर्न प्रपत्र एवं समान कार्य का अनुभव तृतीय साह्पुरी उपकेन्द्र का एक वर्ष के लिए प्रमाण पत्र की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं अनुरक्षण का कार्यनिविदा खुलने की निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य, धरोहर धनराशि जमा तिथि-17.02.2020, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-करने का प्रमाण पत्र जो कि बैंक द्वारा प्राप्त रू० २,०००+३६० (जी०एस०टी०@18%), घरोहर हो तथा तकनीकी बिंड यदि कोई हो, संलग्न राशि-रू0 20,000/- (रू0 बीस हजार मात्र) करना अनिवार्य है। भाग-2 में दरें एवं (8) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या-162-वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्ते होनी चाहिये। **ई०टी०सी०(वी०)/2019–2020–**220 के.वी 1) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या - 155 - विद्युत उपकेन्द्र तृतीय साह्पुरी पर स्थापित इं**०टी०सी०(वी०) / 2019–2020** निर्माणाधीन 2x8+1x5 टन ए०सी० के रिपेयरिंग एव

220 के0वी0 जी.आई.एस. भदोही उपकेन्द्र से ओवरहालिंग का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की कनेक्टिविटी हेतु 220 के0वी0 राजा का तिथि–17.02.2020, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-तालाब (वाराणसी) औराई (400 के.वी.) लाइन रू० 800+144 (जी०एस०टी०@18%), धरोहर के द्विपथ टावरों के द्वितीय सर्किट पर राशि-रू० ८,०००/- (रू० आठ हजार मात्र) कन्डक्टर स्ट्रिगिंग कर भदोही तक अन्य निविदा का भाग-1 (निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य टावर लगाकर लाइन विस्तार का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि, प्रमाण पत्र एवं तकनीकी निविदा खुलने की तिथि - 17.02.20201 बिंड मूल रूप में एवं पैन कार्ड, व्यापार निविदा प्रपत्र का मुल्य – रू० 10,500+1890) जी०एस०टी० पंजीकरण, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर (जी०एस०टी०@18%), धरोहर राशि — रू० प्रपत्र एवं समान कार्य का अनुभव प्रमाण पर 1,05,000/- (रू० एक लाख पांच हजार मात्र)। की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति तथा पूर्व <u>(२)ई—निविदा संख्या—156—ई०टी०सी०(वी०) /</u> निर्धारित योग्यता सम्बन्धी (PQR) प्रपत्र एव <u>2019—2020—</u>विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड — प्रथम भाग—2 प्राइसबिड (दरें एवं शर्ते) निविदा वाराणसी के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 साहपुरी खुलने की तिथि के 12:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट (चन्दौली) से गंगा नदी तक लाइन के द्विपथ www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की टावर्स पर सेकेण्ड सर्किट पर कन्डक्टर जा सकती है। निविदा का भाग-1 उसी रिटगिंग, गैन्टी निर्माण का कार्य। निविदा दिन 15:00 बजे एवं भाग-2, 16:00 बजे खुलने की तिथि-03.03.2020, निविदा प्रपत्र सार्वजनिक रूप से आनलाइन खोला जायेगा का मूल्य-रू० 7,000+1260 (जी०एस०टी० कृपया वेबसाइट <u>www.etender.up.nic.ir</u> @18%), धरोहर राशि-रू० 70,000/- (रू० पर विस्तृत जानकारी, विवरण/डाउनलोड सत्तर हजार मात्र)। (3) **ई–निविदा संख्या–** तथा अन्य किसी प्रकार के संशोधन / विस्ता 157-ई॰टी॰सी॰(वी०) / 2019-2020- हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि को 12.00 बर्ज विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड-प्रथम वाराणसी के तक लॉग ऑन करें। अधोहस्ताक्षरकत अन्तर्गत गंगा नदी से 220 के0वी0 राजा का को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी अथव तालाब (ठठरा) तक लाइन के द्विपथ टावर्स सभी निविदाओं को अस्वीकार / विभाजित पर सेकेण्ड सर्किट पर कन्डक्टर स्ट्रिगिंग, करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा गैन्ट्री निर्माण का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल तिथि-03.03.20201 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य- डी०एल०डब्लू० मिखारीपुर वाराणसी-221004,

रू० 7,000+1260 (जीoएसoटीo@18%) संख्या-78, दिनांक-31.01.2020, "राष्ट्रहित

ारोहर राशि - रू० 70,000/- (रू० सत्तर में **विजली बचायें।**

should be respected as they create wealth and jobs. investment to bring higher profitability and efficiency, minimal government intervention in markets, encouraging entrepreneurship, and supporting wealth creation.

For the current fiscal, it projected a GDP growth of 5 per cent, the lowest in 11 years.

Commenting on the Survey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the report focuses on wealth creation for Indians. "It outlines a multifaceted strategy to achieve a USD 5 trillion economy through enterprise, exports, ease of doing business and more," he tweeted. Some economists believe

the Survey's growth forecast is too optimistic as the recovery is likely to be slow and shallow amid rising inflation and declining investment.

The Survey has been wide of the mark in forecasting growth in four out of past five

"The deceleration in GDP can be understood within the framework of a slowing cycle of growth with the financial sector acting as a drag on the real sector," it said. "The government must use its strong mandate to deliver expeditiously on reforms, which will enable the economy to strongly rebound in 2020-21."

S u r v e y - a u t h o r Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser to the Finance Ministry, rejected his predecessor Arvind Subramanian's analysis of India's GDP growth rate being overestimated by 2.7 per cent post-2011, saying the allegation was "unfounded" and "unsubstantiated by the data".

As has been argued earlier, the government has to prioritise growth, the Survey for 2019-20, which was tabled by Sitharaman in Parliament,

India's Pad Man to address Oxford Union

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

investigations carried out by

the intelligence agencies, these

three terrorists were tasked to

carry out attacks on vital secu-

started in the area, traffic on the

Jammu-Srinagar National

the neighboring Udhampur

district were closed down and

Soon after the encounter

Educational institutions in

rity installations.

 $T^{\text{he Oxford Union, one of}}_{\text{the oldest student debating}}_{\text{societies in the world which commenced its functions in}}$ 1823, will host India's Pad Man, Arunachalam Muruganantham as a keynote speaker to its global audience

on February 11, 2020.
A school drop out from a village in Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu, Muruganantham holds an important position in the hearts of rural as well town women in the lower strata of society. His pathbreaking innovation helped women all over the world with a fresh lease of life, in sanitation, hygiene and

designed to manufacture lowcost sanitary napkins and the products have become part of national folklore while Muruganantham earned a cult status through the 'sanitary revolution'.

No, he is not going to speak in the Oxford Union about the hardship he had to endure to design and develop the low cost but hygienic napkins. Muruganantham is carrying with him a part of the ancient Indian ethos of "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam" (the world itself is a family) and Maanava seva Madhava seva (serving the poor is same as serving the God). "Please don't be under the impression that I'll be speaking about charity. I'll never use that word. My



to be responsible and alert to the society from day one. One should show his compassion and love to the society even as he/she starts building the enterprises from Day One. We should not accumulate wealth and postpone the responsibil-

ity to a later day. That's not fair. It should happen side by side," Muruganantham told The

He said though he was happy to address the Oxford Union, he has no political views. "It is the same podium

Winston Churchill, President Ronal Regan, Albert Einstein and Dalai Lama. I don't have any qualifications to speak like them and would like to remain the same Kongunadu man (the south west region of Tamil Nadu is known as Kongunaadu). But my love for humanity made me accept the invitation," he said.
"It would be a great

privilege to host you as a guest. We would be thrilled to host you for an address," Sara Dube, president, Oxford Union said in ĥer letter to Muruganantham.

So, Oxford Union, please stand by for an enthralling speech in rustic Indian English from a rural person in Tamil Nadu who took the country by

Mumbai police launches 'Honk more, wait more' drive

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Tn an effort to reduce noise pollution levels in the country's commercial Capital, the Mumbai Traffic police on Friday rolled out a novel "Punishing Signal" campaign centred around "Honk more, wait more" theme — to discipline Mumbaikars who love to honk needlessly even when the traffic signal is red.

A video clip released by the Mumbai police ahead of the introduction and activation of "punishing signals" at major traffic junctions in the metropolis like the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Marine Drive, Pedder Road, Hindmata Cinema Dadar and Bandra, has gone viral on the social media.

As part of the "Punishing signal" campaign, the city police have connected decibel monitors to traffic signals at major traffic junctions in the metropolis. When the cacophony triggered by needless honking exceeds the dangerous sound level of 85-decibels,



the signal timers get reset, entailing a double waiting time for all vehicles!. And a "punishing" message 'Honk more, wait more, comes on the digital display board installed near the traffic junctions. "To change your tomorrow, we must change our habits today! We have taken the 1st step to end the menace of excessive honking in #Mumbai. Watch it and #HonkResponsibly," Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Barve gently prods and exhorts the motorists through

twitter @CPMumbaiPolice to watch the video clip lasting for near-

ly two minutes. The video clip opens at a major traffic junction in Mumbai with a commentary: "Welcome! To the Honking Capital of the world..! (Amid cacophony of blaring horns from the vehicles waiting for the signal to turn green)..Here, people honk even when the signal is red! Savai ahe na! (Isn't it their habit). Maybe they think that by honking, they can make the signal turn

Now the video clip introduces a professional actor in the garb of a traffic hawaldar, from the twitterati. who takes the narrative forward. "Wait. We the Mumbai police are itching to do about this. .. One day we connected decibel meters to a few signal poles around the city. If the decibel went over 85 db, the signal would re-set and stay red for longer". The next day, you get to see motorists honking longer and louder. As the traffic signal stays red for a very long time, a digital display board installed at the traffic junction comes up with a message: "Honk more, wait

The Mumbai Traffic Police have, in collaboration with FCB Interface, hit upon innovative idea to curb noise pollution caused by honking at traffic signals. "Horn not okay, please! Find out how the @MumbaiPolice hit the mute button on #Mumbai's reckless honkers. #HonkResponsibly," reads a tweet put out by the commute," Pandey said.

green faster! Samjat nahi Mumbai police. The (They simply don't under- "Punishing Signal" campaign "Punishing Signal" campaign launched by the Mumbai police on the twitter has come in for immense praise

> "Mumbai is one of the sisiest cities in the world get to hear a lot of this noise at traffic signals because of honking...Honking is bad habit and an act of traffic indiscipline. Unfortunately, many Mumbaikars indulge in reckless honking. Honking causes noise pollution, hurts the eardrums, increases heart rate, creates traffic confusion and causes stress," Joint Police Commissioner (Traffic) Madhukar Pandey said.

> "We recognise unnecessary honking is a menace but we do precious little to curb it. The 'Punishing Signal' is one of the many attempts by the Mumbai police to inculcate discipline among the Mumbaikars. We hope that our campaign will encourage Mumbaikars to honk less, and create an atmosphere for a noise-free and stress-free

Thalinomics in times of rising prices: Veg, non-veg thalis more affordable, says survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{ising inflation may have burnt}}_{\text{a hole in common man's pock-}}$ et but Finance Ministry's chief economic advisor believes otherwise as he brought a novel 'thali' concept to otherwise heavy-duty data crunching to drive home the point that affordability of a plate of meal has improved.

Calling it 'Thalinomics', Krishnamurthy V Subramanian compared price of standard veg and non-veg meal plates across the country to say that affordability as a factor of daily wage has improved overtime, indicating improved welfare of the common person. The affordability of vegetarian 'thalis' improved by 29 per cent while that of non-vegetarian by 18 per cent between 2006-07 and 2019-20, the Economic Survey said in its chapter 'Thalinomics — The Economics of a Plate of Food in India".

The conclusion has been drawn after analysing the data from the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers for around 80 centres in 25 states/Union Territories from April 2006 to October 2019. As per

the survey, a vegetarian thali comprises a serving of cereals, 'sabzi and dal' and the non-vegetarian thali comprises of cereals, sabzi and a non-vegetarian component.

"Both across India and the four regions - north, south, east and west - we find that the absolute prices of a vegetarian thali have decreased since 2015-16 though it increased during 2019. This is owing to significant moderation in the prices of vegetables and dal from 2015-16 when compared to the previous trend of increasing prices," the survey said. In fact, the increase in prices of pulses and vegetables contributed to the increase in the thali price during 2019-20 (April-October). "If the prices of a vegetarian thali had followed the trend obtained till 2015-16, an average household comprising of five individuals would have had to spend Rs 10,887 more on average per year for eating minimum two healthy thalis a day. In other words, after 2015-16, the average household gained Rs 10,887 per year on average from the moderation in

thali prices," the survey said. Similarly, an average household of thali prices.

that eats minimum two healthy non-vegetarian thalis per day gained around Rs 11,787 on average during the same period. "As another benchmark, we examine an industrial worker's ability to pay for two Thalis a day for his/her household of five individuals. Using this measure, we find that affordability of vegetarian thalis has improved over the time period from 2006-07 to 2019-20 by 29 per cent and that for non-vege tarian thalis by 18 per cent," it said Comparing between 2006-07 and 2019-20 (April-October), vegetarian thali has become more affordable in all states under consideration. In the case of non-vegetarian thali, affordability has increased during this period in all states except Bihar and Maharashtra, where it has shown a marginal decline. In 2019-20 (April-October), the most affordable thali was in Jharkhand as two vegetarian thalis for a household of five in the state required about 25 per cent of a worker's daily wage. Non-vegetarian thali was also the most affordable there. The survey claimed that 2015-16 could be considered as a year when there was a shift in dynamics

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE (A statutory Authority of Government of India under Architects Act, 1972)

India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

EXAMINATION NOTICE: NATA-2020

Attention: Students, Parents, Architectural Institutions and all Concerned National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2020

shall be conducted by the Council twice a year i.e. first test on 19th April, 2020 and second on 31st May, 2020 at the various designated centres all over India for admission into 1st year of 5 Year B.Arch. Degree Course for the academic session 2020-21 at various architectural Institutions approved by the Council. The candidates are advised to refer to the website of the Council www.coa.gov.in, for approval status of the institutions.

Registration for Examination	Commencement Date	End Date		
First Test	01.02.2020	16.03.2020		
Second Test	01.02.2020	04.05.2020		

The detailed brochure, relevant information will be available from 01.02.2020 onwards on website www.nata.in.

New Delhi Dated: 31.01.2020

Registrar

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

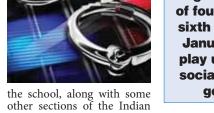
Headmistress, parent held for 'Modi abuse' in drama

Bengaluru: Days after a sedition case was slapped against a school in Karnataka, its headmistress and a student's mother have been arrested for alleged involvement in staging of a drama portraying Prime Minister Narendra Modi in poor light over the CAA and NRC, police said on Friday. The police action came after they questioned the two women, a few staff members of the Shaheen School in the district headquarters town of Bidar and students on Thursday.

They were produced before a court which remanded them to judicial custody, police said adding further investigation

students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on January 21.

The drama was staged by A sedition case was booked



other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on January 26, based on a complaint from social worker Neelesh

The play uploaded on social media had gone

Officials said, the utterances against the Prime Minister were not part of the original script, but the mother of a Class six student allegedly incorporated them during the practice and the teacher by police on January 26 against allowed it to be part of the

The drama was staged by students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on January 21. The play uploaded on social media had gone viral

The complainant has alleged the school authorities 'used' the students to perform a drama where they "abused" Modi in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. The management tried create 'fear' among the Muslims that they would have to leave the country if the CAA and NRC were implemented, Rakshyal

Goa: Plaint against school for involving kids in protest rally

Panaji: The National Student's Union of India (NSUI) on Friday filed a complaint with the director general of police (DGP) against a school in Porvorim for allegedly brainwashing students and making them participate in a pro-CAA march.

The action has come hours after the police registered a criminal case against a wing of Goa Church and an NGO for allegedly making children take part in a rally against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act

NSUI Goa chief Ahraz Mulla filed a complaint with the DGP alleging that Porvorim-based school Vidya Prabhodini had brainwashed students and made them participate in a pro-CAA rally at Porvorim on December 18 last

In its complaint, the NSUI said the management of Vidya Prabhodini has been brainwashing young students and had reportedly asked them to participate in a rally support-ing CAA and National Register of Citizens.

The management exposed children to political ideology and aggressive language, and also exposed them to psychological abuse and an unsafe environment, the NSUI

There have been complaints that students from the institution are forced to be part of such rallies, failing which strict action is taken by the management against students who oppose NRC and the complain



Maha Congress: Slap sedition case against school for pro-CAA event

sedition case be registered and the mother of a student against the management of a school in Mumbai for alleged-ly forcing children to support the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act.

The demand from the Maharashtra Congress comes against the backdrop of a move by police from neighbouring Karnataka to slap sedition charges against a school in Bidar there for staging a drama critical of CAA and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The drama was staged by students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on January 21, and a sedition case was regis-

Mumbai: The Congress on tered on January 26. The head-friday demanded that a mistress of Shaheen School have been arrested by Bidar police in this case.

According to media reports, a programme relating to the CAA was organised at the school in Matunga here earlier this month.

"If sedition case can be registered against students for staging drama against CAA then a case of sedition should be filed against a school management and organisers for holding students to ransom to support CAA at a Mumbai school," Maharashtra Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said in a statement.

Goa: Cong condemns FIR against church wing over protest rally

PTI PANAJI

The Congress on Friday condemned the FIR filed against a Goa Church wing and an NGO over the presence of children at anti-CAA protest, terming it an "assault on a religious institution".

The Goa police's women and child protection unit on Thursday filed an FIR against Council for Social Justice and Peace (Goa Church's wing) and National Human Rights Organisation (Goa Chapter) for using children to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at a rally in Margao on

"The politically dictated FIR by the Goa Police is not only an attack on freedom of expression and speech, but also a direct assault on a religious institution," Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar

Talking to reporters here, Chodankar accused the BJP- led state government of creating "fear psychosis" among the anti-CAA protesters, who have been fighting to save the Constitution.

The FIR was completely "politically dictated" by BJP leaders to suppress the voice of masses, he said.

"When the BJP realised that people are against its ulterior motive of passing CAA, they are resorting to such actions," the Congress leader alleged.

The police has kept several complaints against corruption in the state in cold storage, while it was quick to file an FIR in frivolous and mischievous complaint by an NGO against a Goa Church body, he alleged.

Speaking about the issue, BJP's Goa general secretary and former MP Narendra Sawaikar said, "There is no point in dragging children on the street for this issue. The person who has filed the complaint must have found something unconvincing in the

Society dangerously inching toward civil war-like situation: Yechury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a hard-hitting attack on the Igovernment over the new citizenship law, opposition parties on Friday held it responsible for the widespread unrest in the country following the legislation's enactment and said the society was dangerously inching toward a civil war-like situation. The opposition parties are set to move amendments on President Ram Nath Kovind's address to both Houses of Parliament, seeking to remove his remarks on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, sources said.

Speaking at a press briefing after Kovind's address, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said the gov-



ernment has lowered the prestige of president's office by including the CAA in his address. "The society is dangerously inching toward a civil war-like situation and the government is solely

responsible for it," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said. Azad said the gov-ernment claiming development in Jammu and Kashmir after making it a Union Territory is a cruel joke with people there, and he demanded that the Centre should apologise. He said it was

shameful that the government claimed CAA to be an achievement and

included it in president's address. Kovind hailed the contentious CAA as "historic" in his address to the joint sitting of both Houses, prompting protests by some



FIR against Ghosh for remark against protester

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

college girl has lodged a A college giri ilas iougen against police complaint against Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh for threatening murder lowering a woman's dignity.

The complaint was lodged a day after Ghosh told the media that the woman — who was heckled by the BJP workers while protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act— was lucky to have escaped with a torn poster "otherwise many more things could have happened to her."

Sudeshna Dutta Gupta, a Second Year student of Sanskrit University was allegedly heckled by BJP workers on Thursday while she was standing with an anti-CAA poster by the route of a Abhinandan Yatra (rally) led by Ghosh.

The poster that read "No

CAA, No NRC" apparently infuriated the BJP workers who challenged the woman and pushed her around until the police came to her rescue.

people come to protest? She should consider herself lucky that his party men only tore the poster and did nothing else," adding, "she had come to the spot either to be humiliated or get martyred.... She should remain cautious for the next time. We warn her against such misadventures. We have tolerated enough and won't put up with any such nuisance

The woman who was protesting alone by holding aloft a placard only later lodged an FIR at the Patuli Police Station in south-east Kolkata.

"I was not only heckled but also abused by the people in the

rally and I was luckily saved by the police men," Dutta Gupta said adding, "I have also brought charges of murderous

Subsequently, Ghosh told and trying to divide the peoal remarks. The women in our country are not safe. Every 22 minutes, a woman is raped in India. I am not surprised by his comment. But he should remember that he is a people's representative and must use his ords with caution." Elsewhere CPI(M)'s Sujan

Chakrabarty slammed Ghosh for publicly acknowledging that his party was dividing the people to get votes. "What more is left to know the real face of these people and the party they represent?" Chakrabarty the Left legislature Party Leader said referring to a recent speech by Ghosh where he took pride in divid-

ing the population to garner

"They (opposition) say that we are dividing the people. If I intent... he is creating panic am doing so I am justified in doing that. I will again do that. What happened then when you (Congress) divided India and Bengal? What happened when Hindus were tortured and driven out of their own homeland?... I willgive divisive speeches. Do whatever you can," Ghosh had allegedly told in a recent rally."

Meanwhile, the Left and

Congress continued to protest at Jalangi in Murshidabad demanding the arrest of the main accused and a local TMC leader who allegedly shot dead two persons protesting against the CAA and NRC. "The twin murders only prove that Mamata Banerjee is actually backing the BJP's cause," Chakrabarty saiid.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

panic, patient stable

Thrissur (Ker): A day after India's first novel coronavirus (nCoV) case was reported from Kerala, the State Government on Friday warned the people of the potential gravity of the threat but maintained that there was no need to panic.

Camping in this city, where the woman medical student who came from China tested positive for the coronavirus, Health Minister KK Shailaja activated the health department and said the patient is currently treated at an isolation ward of the Government Medical College hospital here.

The condition of the patient is stable, official sources said. Earlier in the day, health authorities shifted the student from the general hospital to the Government medical College.

The minister requested those who had travelled to China in recent days to voluntarily report themselves to the nearest hospitals. Some have reported to the health facilities in their neighbourhood in response to a directive given by the State Government, she said.

Strengthening its resolve to check the spread of illness to others, the Minister directed those coming from

China and other affected regions to strictly remain under home quarantine. The Minister also requested the fam-

ilies of those who returned from the coronavirus-hit regions to postpone marriages to prevent a possible outbreak of the disease in the state. "Home quarantines are being done

only as a precaution. No need to panic," the Minister told reporters here after meeting the private hospital authorities to prepare them for facing the challenge. She said the family members of the

people coming from the affected-regions should abide by the protocol. "It is heard that in some such fam-

ilies, preparations are being made for marriages. There is no harm in temporarily postponing the date of the marriage. There will be some difficulties in postponing the marriages fixed earlier. But this is a protocol. This must be obeyed," Shailaja said. Those who are home quarantined would be under observation for 28 days.

"Those who are going for job, they should take leave and be under observation. Health volunteers would be around to solve their problems," she said. After holding a meeting with representatives of private hospitals in Thrissur district, Shailaja said isolation wards are being set up in such facilities and training programmes are being conducted for health officials

Kerala Govt: No need to Min: No coronavirus in TN, 242 from China under Govt gaze

Pudukottai/Chennai: Tamil Nadu Health Minister C Vijayabaskar on Friday asserted that there was no case of coronavirus in the State and said 242 people who returned from infection hit China were being monitored. A day after he said 78 people who had arrived from the dragon nation were under 'house quarantine,' he told reporters at Pudukottai that the number of returnees has climbed to 242.

"As of today, 242 have arrived from China and the Public Health Department is in direct touch with all of them. They areall normal. There is no case of coronavirus in Tamil Nadu," he said. Such returnees were being monitored and were under home quarantine,

As regards a techie who recently returned to his native place in Tiruvannamalai district from China, there was no manifestation of any cornavirus symptom in him, he said.

Hence, there was no need as of now to take the software engineer's blood sample to check if he had contracted the infection and similar was the status of a student who has come back to Krishnagiri district, he pointed out.

panic and wanted them to take pre-

The Minister asked people not to

ensuring personal hygiene since the pathogen may spread through airborne

Besides, a woman has tested positive for the virus in neighbouring Kerala, he noted.

The Dean, Madras Medical College and Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, R Jayanthi, told reporters in Chennai that a 40-year-old woman who returned from China last night has been admitted in the isolation ward for observation though she was found to be

The lady was referred to the RGGGH by a Government facility in suburban Chennai after she had gone there with "very mild fever."

Examination by a team of experts, however, found that she was very normal and did not exhibit any symptom of the virus. The top hospital authority said that the woman has been admitted for "only observation."

To a question, she said the city would soon get a coronavirus testing facility. People were being sensitised through IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials like flyers and brochures about the infection that originated from China and precautionary measures that were needed **PTI** cautions like washing their hands and like hygiene, she said.

Man admitted in Goa hospital tests negative

PTI ■ PANAJI

 $A^{ ext{foreign national hospitalised in Goa as a}}$ precautionary measure since January 28 for the novel coronavirus has tested negative and would be discharged soon, a senior State medical official said on Friday.

The man had arrived in Goa after visiting China and was kept in the isolation ward of Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) with symptoms similar to novel coronavirus, officially called 2019-nCoV, infection.

"We have received the report from the Pune-based laboratory. His sample has tested negative. As per World Health Organisation guidelines, he can now be discharged from the ward," GMCH Dean Dr Shivanand Bandekar told

The Goa Government, on Thursday, said six people were under surveillance for suspected novel coronavirus infec-

MEA informed about students from Guj in China

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Government has shared with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Indian Embassy in China the information about over 200 students from the State, who are currently in China and want to return after the outbreak of novel coronavirus in that country, officials said on Friday.

The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Gujarat has collected and shared the information about such students and other people from the State living in

"The SEOC control room in Gandhinagar has shared the details of 215 persons, mostly students, with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in China to help authorities in bringing them back," SOEC Deputy Collector Trupti Vyas said.

"We had received phone calls from the parents and relatives of 215 persons, mostly students. The parents had inquired about various aspects of the steps being taken by the Government to bring the students back, about the airline booking, connecting flights and other things," Vyas

All of the parents were given contact numbers of the Indian embassy in China for any other inquiry about their children. According to officials, no case of coronavirus has been found in the state so

Novel coronavirus belongs to the coronavirus family that causes llnesses ranging from the common cold to acute respiratory syndromes. It has emerged from a seafood and animal market in Wuhan city of China and is suspected to have spread as far as the United

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PAPER WITH PASSION — **Global scare**

No nation can handle epidemics alone. So there is a need to mount a united campaign on surveillance and sharing R&D



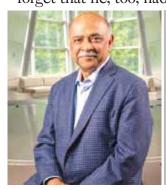
he contagion of the coronavirus has been instantaneous and intense, enough for us to act pronto rather than waiting for the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare it as a global health emergency. Although early studies indicate this strain is less fatal than the respiratory syndromes caused by earlier two variants — SARS and MERS — its spread despite containment protocols shows that the virus, which mutates during species jumps and probably originated in a market legally trading wild animals, has already infected a large num-

ber of people. As it incubates in its host for around 10 or more days before manifesting symptoms, the deaths are just the tip of the iceberg. Experts say that any flu virus can extend its reach by not killing its host too rapidly and/or making the host sick enough to pass it on. Therefore, the outbreak is hardly a measure of the carriers in circulation. No amount of blocking information, which China is known to resort to, will help. For just like climate change, the world is under greater threat from such epidemics than other major diseases. Coronavirus has sickened citizens from every nation in a globalised world that cannot do without engaging with each other. Which is why the fightback must also be a coordinated effort beyond borders with a common mechanism set up along the lines of world bodies that monitor climate threats and solutions. Every nation should be involved in sharing a disease control protocol and pool research for an antidote. As of now, the Chinese are working on one with Alibaba founder Jack Ma promising funds for a rollout. But this is still a post-onset initiative, what we need is a threat preparedness. This will particularly help countries like India where the challenges are many. These include a density of population, low awareness levels, a weak public health delivery mechanism and a compromised infrastructure that is not geared to emergency responses. In fact, even the Chinese public health system has crumbled in the face of such an attack, exposing the chinks in its "great power" armour. Besides, the current outbreak has had many infected people displaying no symptoms. If this is more common than an exception, then chances are that this virus, too, will become endemic with year on year reprisals and mutations. This is why the world needs to wage a united war on pestilence or face an evolutionary culling of human lives. What we must also guard ourselves against is using xenophobia to characterise diseases. Just like ebola and the AIDS virus before it was ascribed to Africa, there's a perception about the flu virus spreading out of lab leaks in China and the nation is being wrongfully proscribed as a giant germ factory. The fear and speculation about a new disease tend to get magnified if it originates in the Orient and strengthen prevalent biases. What we must understand is that whatever be the origin of viruses, in an open world, they become as much of an immediate threat for everybody. No matter how advanced the medical facilities, they always fall short in handling epidemics. We could do without the misinformation and mount a united campaign based on surveillance, sharing information and R&D.

It's early days yet but India is not immune to the coronavirus either as it is trying to contain returnees from China. Pharmaceutical companies are bracing up for a hit as India sources about 70 per cent of bulk drugs and ingredients from China, Wuhan being one of the many source suppliers. Antibiotics like penicillin G, tetracycline and supportive pills like vitamins C and D use ingredients made using the fermentation-based process, which is dominated by China in the pharma market. We are heavily dependent on our eastern neighbour for chemicals-based ingredients that are used for cardiovascular drugs, particularly statins. India also sources components for its own tech products, a secondary sector which might be hit with containment protocols. Besides, the fear psychosis is such that anything coming out of China is being feared to be smeared with the coronavirus from factory floor workers there. So there might be a temporary freeze on these supplies. If anything at all, the virus has been a lesson for India. It has taught us the need to be in continuous deployment mode, something that helped us combat the deadly Nipah virus in Kerala. It has also awakened us to the need of monitoring the health of farm animals and wildlife. But most importantly, it is also warning bells for us to focus on drug manufacturing, reduce dependence on China and keep prices in check. For the inter-connectedness of the South Asian region as a whole, thanks to China's Belt and Road Initiative in the neighbourhood, means that we have to learn to live with threats.

Indians at the fore

Another Indian leads a global tech company. We must not forget that he, too, had to leave India to achieve success



rvind Krishna, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, has been chosen to lead IBM Corporation, one of the oldest names in American technology. This is yet another feather in the cap of engineers from India who have taken over the reins at leading American corporations after Satya Nadella at Microsoft and Sundar Pichai at Google. It is a matter of immense pride to see India-educated engineers and managers take leading roles at global corporate behemoths. But there are a couple of points that must be

raised. First is the inability of India to create leading global companies and the opportunities that follow, which effectively forced thousands of young Indian men and now increasingly, women, to go to the US to make their fame and fortune. None of the three men mentioned above holds an Indian passport anymore, having sworn allegiance to the US.

There is, however, another problem right now, which is India's declining standards of higher education. While the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Management, at least the older ones, might still make some global rankings, the plain and simple fact is that most Indian institutes of higher education are not ranked in the top 1000 universities of the world. One of the surprising facts that has emerged from the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan is that there are thousands of Indian students studying in China despite medical and engineering seats going abegging in India. Most likely that is because the education imparted in India has drastically declined, evident in the number of people who blindly believe WhatsApp posts. China has made it a point of pride to lift its colleges into the global rankings. This particularly hurts given that India has one of the youngest populations in the world. If we are to take advantage of our demographic dividend, we need to ensure we have top-notch centres of education. We must not forget that quality matters just as much as quantity. So while we must celebrate the success of these three men and the countless other Indians who have become successful in the US and elsewhere, we must ask what we are doing to ensure that Indians keep climbing to the top across the world and how we are going to create success inside our shores. Right now, things are plainly not going too well.

opanion

Can invisible hand work?

Seen from an economist's perspective, the Economic Survey looks eloquent. But execution could run into a logiam as politicians are prone to controlling the consumer



he Economic Survey for 2019-20 has been prepared by the Chief Economic Advisor, Dr K Subramanian, keeping the ambitious target of achieving the \$5 trillion economy status by 2024-25, set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at its centre. The rigorous analysis (a lot of it involves running of "regression equations" — a euphemism in econometric analysis to bring out correlation between various economic parameters) done by the CEA has to be seen in the backdrop of deceleration in the GDP (gross domestic product) growth to its 11-year-low of five per cent during the current year (first advance estimate) and the dire need to resurrect it without losing much time. Indeed, he projects the growth for 2020-21 at 6.5 per cent (pertinently, this is significantly higher than the projection of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] at 5.5 per cent).

In sync with this pretty ambitious

rebound and keeping the economy on a high growth trajectory for the next four years, the dominant focus of the survey is on "wealth creation" with better distribution, which in a wav also reflects Modi's assertion time and again that "unless wealth is created, it won't get distributed." These prognostications though need to consider a piece of research released by rights group Oxfam ahead of the just concluded 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. According to the study, India's richest one per cent holds more than fourtimes the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70 per cent of the country's population. Further, the combined total wealth of 63 Indian billionaires is higher than the total Union Budget of India for the fiscal year 2018-19 (₹24,42,200 crore). Between 2014-15 and 2018-19, the average growth in GDP was about 7.5 per cent, which demonstrates that wealth was generated at a fast pace but its distribution was highly inequitable. So, by restoring growth to a higher level 2020-21 onward won't assure better distribution.

The survey gives an indication of decline in growth having already bottomed out (during the second quarter, it was 4.5 per cent) and that during the second half, the pick-up is anticipated in view of increase in FDI, building demand pressure and increase in GST (Goods and Services Tax) collections. The reference here may be to GST collection during November/December, 2019 crossing ₹100,000 crore each (this is likely to touch intensified efforts to rein in tax evasion increasing compliance and checking fraudulent claims of input tax credit (ITC) rather than being indicative of any significant revival in economic activity.

In any case, in view of the survey itself talking of five per cent growth for the whole year, it is abundantly clear that there is not going to be any dramatic turnaround during the second half.

To see resurrection of growth during



2020-21, Dr Subramanian has alluded to the need for deviating from the fiscal deficit target of three per cent set by the Modi government for the year. This in itself is a substantial slippage from the three per cent glide path recommended by the Dr NK Singh committee on review of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act to be achieved by 2018-19. Any reference to the three per cent benchmark is laughable when seen in the backdrop of the current year (2019-20), which is expected to end with a slippage to at least four per cent (against a target of 3.3 per cent), that too when off-budget liabilities and extra-budgetary resources (EBRs) are not included. If EBRs are included (there are some reports pointing to the Finance Minister's intent to making these transparent in this budget), then the year may end up with a deficit close to six

Therefore, for boosting demand and investment (these are the two overarching constraints on growth), to expect the government to achieve this merely by deviating from the socalled prudential fiscal norms (read FRBM) is tantamount to "missing the wood for the trees." Here, it may be pertinent to recap that already, through a

number of mini-budgets presented by the Finance Minister (a spate of policy announcements and support measures made during August/September 2019 subsequent to the main budget presented in July 2019), the Government had already injected a number of demand

Indeed, a number of those measures had meant huge loss of revenue. For instance, the steep reduction in the corporate tax (from 30 per cent to 22 per cent for existing firms and from 25 per cent to 15 per cent for new companies to be set up after October 1, 2019) meant a loss of about ₹1,45,000 crore; even after considering many firms not availing of the lower rates, the availing of the lower rates, the actual is still high at about ₹1,00,000 crore. Taking into account other sops like tax refund to exporters, special dispensation for real estate sector, support to housing finance comport would work out to well above ₹2,50,000 crore.

As stated by the Prime Minister ad infinitum, the survey, too, reiterates the dire need for a whopping investment of ₹100 lakh crore in infrastructure over the next five years. This is to be funded by 39 per cent contribution from the Union Government and States each and

22 per cent by the private sector. This will translate to ₹ 8 lakh crore annually by the Centre and State each. For the Centre, this amount is even higher than its budget fiscal deficit [or total borrowings] for the current year. Likewise for the States, the numbers look theoretical to say the least. The official think tank will really have to look for innovative ways, including much greater participation of private sector (foreign investment included) of financing the mammoth investment in infrastructure. It is not as if the task is not doable. This requires a complete overhauling of the Indian banking sector as also the non-bank finance companies (NBFCs). In this context, the CEA needs to be commended for undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the reforms undertaken in the banking sector since 2015-16, viz cleaning up of the balance sheets of public sector banks (PSBs), Code (IBC) and its use for recovery of NPAs (non-performing assets), improvement in

the quality of lending and so on. He has visibly demonstrated as to how indiscriminate lending during 2008-2013 negatively affected investment and increase in the quality of lending from 2014 onward will positively impact investment and growth. But one wonders whether the "bad loan" syndrome has really bottomed out or more skeletons are yet to come out. The NBFC crisis in particular raises serious concern, especially when one looks at two behemoths in this segment, the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) and Dewan Housing and Finance Company (DFCL) going bust. Considering that a sizeable chunk of the funds has reportedly been siphoned off by dubious promoters/management, the concern only gets aggravat-

With the government now being forced to consider and dispensation/packages even for NBFC (as the stakeholders consider their revival as crucial to revival of credit flows, investment and demand), one wonders we may not be landing in a situation of the exchequer pouring water (read funds) in a bottomless pit. One can only hope that we don't see more cases of willful default or misappropriation of funds or else any revival attempt using tax payers money is bound to fail.

The survey rightly emphasises the need for expediting reforms particularly in the area of banking (the recommendation for reducing the govern-ment's shareholding below the majority mark is pending for long), land acquisition, enforcement of contracts, elimination of bureaucratic red-tape, removing bottlenecks in transportation and clearances at the ports (this is particularly relevant for boosting exports) and so on as these major bottlenecks come in the way of ease of doing business and attracting investment. It has also guarded the Government against too much of intervention and micro-management of activities (including implementation of welfare schemes) which, if left to the market forces, would deliver much better results. Dr Subramanian has aptly articulated the role of what he euphemistically describes as the role of "invisible hand" juxtaposed with "public trust" in stimulating wealth creation.

Both are crucial pillars in galvanising Indian economy on to a high growth trajectory, effects. Seen from an economist's perspective, this looks eloquent. But, when it comes to execution which has to be done by the political class, one gets into a logjam as it is prone to controlling most of the things; in fact, almost all of the essential items in the consumer's basket.

(The writer is a New Delhibased policy analyst)

UNDBITE

When people like Sharjeel Imam, who talk of breaking India, are concerned, they should be shot dead in public

BJP MLA —Sangeet Som



Over the last four years, Abidali helped build a strong execution mindset, drove key acquisitions and scaled our digital business globally.

Wipro Chairman Rishad Premi



Thank you Indigo... a six month suspension is honestly very kind of you... Modiji might be suspending Air India forever.

Stand-up comedian -Kunal Kamra



Watched that super over from Bumrah. He is a fabulous bowler but could use the crease a little more to creat different delivery angles.

Former cricketer Sanjay Manirekar



ETTERS **EDITOR**

Double standards

Sir — Though stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra is absolutely right to feel aggrieved about Arnab Goswami's style of "journalism", he shouldn't have indulged in a forced debate with Goswami without direct provocation from the latter on a personal basis. Of course, the TV anchor threatens, insults and belittles his guest if he/she does not dance to "saffron" tunes and instigates his viewers against the "sickulars" who dare to question the series of unilateral intolerant divisive agenda of Government. Yet eye for an eye is not the answer. Let Goswami play the role of a zealous bhakt in the guise of a journalist but why should Kamra allow himself to engage in such a heated one-way confrontation, thereby "honouring" that very bullying act of the anchor which he is opposing? So let Goswami do his job as he deems fit! And Kamra should vent his fully justified anger through his own civilised way, i.e. comedy shows, which provide him immense opportunity to protest against pseudo-nationalism, intolerance and muscle-flexing by riding on pun and satire. "Playing vic-

Is the virus a bioweapon?

he world has yet another reason to be wary of China. After threatening the West with its economic aggression that re-laid market strategies, where it has tried to have domestic companies replace foreign companies as designers and manufacturers of key technology and products first at home, then abroad, it is being seen as a virus capital. Fears that the real source of the coronavirus is from a laboratory in Wuhan, which is linked to its covert biological weapon programme, give the Communist regime an intimidating aura around its intentions of global dominance. Of course, the Chinese Government is yet to admit the "accidental" pathogen leakage as a probable cause for the virus outburst. But if the news has even an iota of truth behind it, then China needs to be castigated and ostracised by the international community for its unethical ways to gain global supremacy.

But with disclosures that it had also developed an "antidote" for the SARS virus, which again originated from Wuhan city in China in 2002, it becomes evidently clear that China is involved in a mad scramble for recognition as a superpower. A typical arms race where the procurement and hoarding of not only traditional but also biological weapons gives a new meaning to modern warfare is nothing short of an alarming proposition for the whole world. No one in their right sense would want to envisage visions



ing borders pile up weapons of mass destruction to counter threats from enemy countries, we should not forget that we are inching closer to doomsday. The world can never be safe from the effects of these destructive weapons. Meanwhile, novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is gradually spreading across the globe. Many countries are taking precautionary measures and maintaining a strict vigilance at all levels to contain the deadly virus. But with China having become a hub of international business activities, the chances of restricting the spread of nCoV appear challenging at the moment.

Pachu Menon

tim" has been a long-time tactic of Sangh sympathisers, which they ruthlessly milk to their political advantage by playing with foolish religious, caste and ethnic sentiments. Why allow Goswami to act

as a "victim" of tirades? Though the incident took place on Indigo airlines, the Civil Aviation Ministry has promptly suspended Kamra from flying until further notice. But what "exemplary action" had the

Ministry taken when Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad hit a crew member on an AI flight in 2017? The ban on flying was revoked after he offered a token "regret." Not to speak of awarding clean-chit

to Pragya Thakur when she also created a scene and refused to cooperate with Spice jet crew. These are just double standards and are reprehensible.

Kaial Chatteriee

Stop the hate speeches

 This refers to the editorial, "A ban too late" (January 31). Mahatma Gandhi was shot by an indoctrinated fanatic on January 30, 1948. On the same day after 72 years, another fanatic shot at students, who were peacefully protesting against the citizenship law near Jamia Milia, injuring one student in the presence of policemen. The country must realise what speeches of political leaders can do, as this incident followed election rallies in Delhi where BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Verma made vitriolic speeches. This irresponsible behaviour has to stop before it is too late and engulfs the nation in hate.

Sujit De Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Address farm sector woes

If the Government wishes to grow the economy, then it needs to make an all-out effort to turn agriculture into a profitable business



DHIRESH KULSHRESTHA

s India plans to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, it cannot ignore the importance of the farm sector in helping it achieve this target. This is because we are an agriculture-based economy and more than 50 per cent of the population depends on the agri sector for its livelihood. However, the poor state of the rural economy is an area of concern for everyone and is affecting the country's fiscal health too. The Government would do well to pay attention to some of the predominant problems hampering the growth of this key sector in its pursuit of the \$5 trillion dream.

Subsidise inputs: India is a consumption-driven market and not an export-driven one like China and Singapore. As per the report of the National Statistical Office (NSO), half of the country's population lives in rural India. Hence, it becomes a critical consumption market for the fertiliser industry, seed industry, tractor producing companies, other items essential for farm production and a host of consumer goods. The Government needs to provide farmers essential inputs on subsidised rates, especially for those growers who have holdings that are smaller than five acres.

Small and marginal farmers' issues: The Government must focus on the problems plaguing small and marginal farmers. According to a report by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) small and marginal farm holdings generate meagre incomes and result in farmers accruing major debts and then committing suicide due to the inability to pay off those loans. If the Indian economy has to be resurgent, the agriculture sector needs more subsidy and easy agri-credit for small and marginal farmers.

Develop the dairy sector: Dairy farmers can earn as much as 75-85 per cent of the market price by selling the milk produced on their farms to cooperative societies like AMUL and other major milk marketing companies. India also has the largest bovine population in the world. However, the milk production per animal is significantly low as compared to the other major dairy producers of the world. Moreover, nearly all of the dairy produce in India is consumed domestically, with the majority of it being sold as milk. On account of this. the dairy industry holds tremendous potential for value-addition and overall development and the Government must focus on this to better the lot of farmers.

Need to develop vegetable and fruit markets: Indian farmers earn scarcely 10 per cent of the market price for their perishable produces like vegetables and fruits. Since a market is the primary medium for farmers to exchange their produce for money, lack of connectivity to ensure that their harvest reaches buyers in time, results in lowering the farmers' ability to monetise their produce. The Government needs to plug these gaps and provide farmers a way to get their produce to the markets at the earliest and provide cold storages and freezer trucks, better road and rail connectivity so that the 40 per cent of the produce that is lost now can be saved and this in turn improves the monetary gains of the growers.

Reduce imports: As we all know, agricultural imports cause domestic prices to fall and this directly hurts the farmers. The Government needs to focus on increasing agricultural production in the country and review its policy on bumper production. The Minimum Support Price should be reconsidered for the development of the farm sector as farmers are producers and their interests must also be protected by policymakers, just like that of any citizen of the country.

Need for more agri-NBFCs: Adequate availability of finance is a prerequisite for the growth of any sector and the farm sector is no exception to this rule. However, the difficulties faced by growers in accessing loans when they need them the most have hampered the growth of the sector. Many farmers are either left un-served or underserved due to the lack of timely access to institutional finance via agri-loans. Without access to credit, most farmers with small holdings are restricted to farming, trading, processing practices that result in low levels of productivity. Although various financial institutions have come up and have set shops in rural India, the majority of agri stakeholders still have limited or no access to them. For the inclusive development of agriculture sector, financing is an important element and the Government must focus on developing this on a war

Irrigation facilities: Farmers suffer due to floods in one part of the nation and drought in another area. The Government needs to focus on water management through river linkages and also provide subsidy for water conservation in rural areas for agrarian purposes.

If the Government wishes to stem the crisis plaguing the farm sector and grow the economy, then it needs to make an all-out effort to turn agriculture into a profitable business and make major policy decisions to achieve that goal.

(The writer is Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty of Business Management at the Marwadi University, Rajkot)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE HEAR INSTANCES OF HINDU WOMEN PICKED UP BY **MUSLIM MEN. NO ACTION IS TAKEN AS TERRORISTS** LIKE KEJRIWAL ARE HIDDEN EVERYWHERE. —BJP LOK SABHA MEMBER **PARVESH VERMA**





THE PEOPLE OF DELHI WILL DECIDE WHETHER THEY CONSIDER ME THEIR SON, THEIR BROTHER, OR A TERRORIST.

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Iran's loss, ISIS' gain

The terror group stands to gain much from the assassination of Iranian General Soleimani, who was the face of armed resistance against it in Iraq and Syria



ANIL GUPTA

ot very long ago, December 2017 to be precise, the world was celebrating the defeat of the Islamic State (ISIS), the deadly face of terror that had compelled the world powers with differing strategic interests to come together to defeat it and along with it the idea of a medieval Islamic Caliphate. The ISIS had succeeded in recreating it by capturing swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria, including oil fields, refineries and mine fields of strategic minerals. The aura of the ISIS was such that it not only

attracted thousands of jihadists from different parts of the world, including Europe, but also dared to challenge the might of the United States (US) by executing and beheading American citizens. The menace of ISIS grew so fast and rapidly that the entire world was unanimous in countering the threat posed by it. Qaseem Soleimani, an Iranian General, was the face of armed resistance against the ISIS in Iraq and Syria along with the USA, Russia, Turkey and its European allies. Soleimani contributed in a big way in the defeat of the ISIS. The US and Iran, adversaries in the Middle East, identified a common enemy in the ISIS and effectively fought together against it to eliminate the terror group's de facto state in Iraq and Syria. However, realpolitik soon overtook the strategic convergence of interests with Iran and the US almost at the verge of a war with a renewed Middle East crisis.

The ongoing US-Iran crisis reached the peak last month with US President Trump authorising the killing of General Qaseem Soleimani, the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force and an American ally in the fight against ISIS while he was on a visit to Iraq. This raised the tensions between the US and Iran to a new level with the future of the US forces in Iraq in the doldrums.

It also let loose many Shia militias which Soleimani had carefully raised and groomed to counter and challenge the ISIS. Their focus all of a sudden shifted from combatting ISIS to their newly-emerged enemy, the US assets and troops in the Middle East. Under the threat of Iranian retaliation, even the focus of Americans and others has been diverted from the ISIS and other radbeing. If at all there was a clear winner of the ongoing US-Iran conflict, it was undoubtedly the terror organisation. It has provided the ISIS with the much-needed oxygen as well as time and

space to reorganise and regroup.
As a result, the US and its allies now face the dual threat of Shia militias and the Sunni radical Islamist jihadi terror groups led by the ISIS. The fall of Soleimani has provided them a new opening. The growing demand of ejecting US forces from Iraq has further complicated the security scenario in the region and in the process hurt the efforts to counter ISIS which have suffered a serious blow.

My assessment when Iraq's Prime Minister declared a final victory over Islamic State in December 2017 was that the "ISIS may have been defeated but it was not destroyed. It may have been disseminated but was not dissolved."

According to Goldenberg, an American diplomat who had served as Special Advisor in the Middle East between 2009-12, "The ISIS retains an underground presence and could take



BANGLADESH AS LAUNCH PADS TO RENEW ITS THREAT OF GHAZWA-E-HIND. INDIA WILL HAVE TO BE **CAUTIOUS** AND WATCHFUL AND AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHEN ITS INTELLIGENCE **APPARATUS** TO COUNTER THE EMERGING



CHALLENGES IN

THE REGION



advantage of the chaos of an American withdrawal or a US-Iranian conflict to improve its position in Iraq."

The assessments are seeming to be proving true with increased frequencies of terror attacks by the ISIS after the elimination of General Soleimani. The upheaval created by his killing has given rise to such conditions in Iraq that the

ISIS is ever-willing to exploit.

The weakening of the Shia militias as a consequence to absence of Soleimani's charisma as well as sterling leadership qualities will definitely weak en the Iraqi Government which would create a space for the ISIS and other Sunni terror groups to stage a comeback in the region.

Moreover, the US focus shifting the security of green zone, will allow the terror group to manoeuvre more freely. The ISIS fighters, who had dispersed and gone underground are now rebuilding and re-emerging fully recuperated as a potent threat in form of insurgency, Improvised Explosive Devices, bombings, targetted killings suicide attacks, sniper attacks and lone wolf attacks. It is too early to assess if they would continue with this tactics or attempt once again to establish an Islamic Caliphate.

The US is trying to put up a brave front by denying any surge in the activities of the terrorist organisation due to its own activities. It is also obstinately claiming that most of the recent attacks by the group may have been planned well before the killing of Soleimani (because of the time and resources required to plan and execute such operations, more so when the ISIS is suffering from a unified command crisis and dispersion of its fighters). But the fact remains that with a divided focus it has become increasingly difficult for the US to contain the terror group.

The flare-up in the US-Iran crisis

has certainly provided opportunity to Abu Ibrahim al Qurayshi — the newlyappointed successor of the assassinated long-time ISIS leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi — to strengthen his grip and revitalise the terror outfit to intensify its attacks in the region.

Under Qurayshi's leadership, the group may also attempt to regain lost territories in Syria and Iraq depending on the resistance it faces, as this would give the new chief an opportunity to establish his hold more firmly over the

The ISIS attacks on US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have also intensified during the last month. The group is also trying to restore and rejuvenate its social media wing, its main source of funding and recruitment. Disturbingly, the terrorist group's propaganda sites are on the rise on various social media platforms and

The re-emergence of ISIS would have a definite impact on the Afghanistan-Pakistan region (Af-Pak region) with its consequential fallout for India and regional peace and stability in South Asia.

Soleimani's successor, Brigadier General Ismail Qaani, is an old hand at fomenting trouble in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Solemani himself had played an active role in Afghanistan by cooperating with the Northern Alliance to fight the growing might of the Taliban.

In a later turn of events after the American invasion of Afghanistan, Iran courted Taliban to fight the Americans and other Western troops in Afghanistan. General Qaani, who till as late as 2018 was the Iranian deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, was instrumental in managing Iran's Afghan

Pakistan has also been accused of cross-border terror in Sistan-Baluchistan by Iran. Tehran is opposed to the rise of any Sunni-fundamental-ist regime on its eastern border and with Pakistan now assisting the US to forge a deal with the Taliban, Iran has further been angered.

Shia-Sunni violence in Pakistan and persecution of Shias remains a constant int of friction between . Pakistan. Thus a US-Iran conflict may have an impact in the situation in Afghanistan with Iran turning a blind eye to the rise of ISIS in the Af-Pak region as a complimentary threat to the US. In the process, Iran will try its best to derail the Afghan peace process. While Iran may have its own axe to grind in Afghanistan and sort out Pakistan as well for promoting the American interest in the region, rise of ISIS will have adverse impact on India's

ISIS may well use Pakistan and Bangladesh as launch pads to renew its threat of Ghazwa-e-Ĥind. India will have to be cautious and watchful and at the same time strengthen its intelligence apparatus to counter the emerg-

ing challenges. (The author is a Jammu-based veteran, political commentator, security and strategic analyst)

It is possible to fix the economy

When faced with a prolonged slowdown, a prescription of fiscal stimulus is normal. When the private sector is not forthcoming in terms of consumption and investment expenditure, the Government has to step up



MEENAL JAGTAP

inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her second Union Budget today at a time when the Indian economy is grappling with the lowest growth in six and a half years, with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dipping to 4.5 per cent in the July-September quarter. Economists are now more or less in agreement that the current slowdown has cyclical as well as structural features.

Also, most economists believe that it is more of a demand side problem that needs to be tackled by providing more disposable incomes in the hands of the people. The fiscal space availcorporate tax cut announced in September 2019 that have constrained

The Government has already committed an economic stimulus through the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), the proposed expenditure for which in the Financial Year 2021 (FY) is ₹19.5 trillion. Providing such funds (the Centre and States are required to pitch in 39 per cent each) at a time when the resources of the Government have hit rock bottom is a challenge.

Taxes, which are a major source of Government revenue, have reached only 45.5 per cent of the FY 2020 Budget estimates as per the Controller General of Accounts.

Clearly, the tax collections have not matched the seven per cent growth of the economy in the first half of this fiscal. It is highly unlikely that the Government will be able to reach its target tax collection of ₹24.61 trillion by the end of March 2020. Therefore, a larger fiscal hole is able to the Government to leverage the expected in this Budget. The higher to 5.1-4.7 per cent from 3.5-3.7 per

cal deficit worries.

When faced with a prolonged slowdown a prescription of fiscal stimulus is normal. When the private sector is not forthcoming in terms of consumption and investment expenditure, the Government has to step up. The Centre must stretch itself without worrying too much about missing the deficit target. When the fiscal stimulus shows its impact, the corporate earnings increase along with that of retail investors. Also, it directly impacts the jobs and incomes generated in the

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has done its bit by changing its stance on the monetary policy from "neutral" to "accommodative" and reducing the repo rate by 135 basis points in 2019. Thereafter, it adopted a wait-andwatch approach and kept the repo rate unchanged to a nine-year low of 5.15 per cent. This was necessitated by rising inflationary pressures in the economy. The RBI has revised its estimate of retail inflation for the second half

fiscal policy is limited owing to lower than expected tax revenues and the oil prices amid US-Iran tensions have not helped ease the Government's fis-when pursuing an expansionary monwhen pursuing an expansionary monetary policy looks dangerous and the Government finds its hands tied for fiscal stimulus, the question arises what approach should be adopted that can be successful in bringing the economy back on track?

Here are some ways through which the Finance Minister can steer the economy on the path to recovery.

Boost demand: Economists agree that a slowdown in consumption through a lack of demand has been a major contributor in the current deceleration as consumption is the "engine" of the economy. Hence, the Finance Minister should ensure an increase in disposable income in the hands of people who have the high marginal propensity to consume and low marginal propensity to save. Schemes like the Kisan Samman Nidhi, increasing allocations under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, giving income tax relief to the lower middle class and even schemes having the character of the Universal Basic Income (UBI) like Universal Pension can go a long way in boosting demand, especially rural demand.

Allow States to borrow more: States can help the Central Government in providing a fiscal stimulus and distribution of resources. The Centre should in fact raise the borrowing limits of States so that more money flows into all regions, thereby boosting demand.

Fill Government posts: If the Centre and State Governments decide to fill vacant posts in their offices on a priority basis, it will not only create purchasing power but also give a fillip to the youth who are living through the worst employment crisis the country has seen in decades.

Private investment revival: Private investment has not picked up till now due to stress in the banking sector, especially in the non-bank financial company sector, a weakening demand and falling business sentiment. The early December quarter earnings indicate that the stimulus through rate cuts and lower corporate taxes has not been able to boost business growth. Net sales of many BSElisted companies show a lower year on

per cent in the preceding September

Faster revenue generation: The Government's tax revenue for April-November 2019 was just ₹11.7 trillion, just 0.8 per cent more than collected last year. Through disinvestment also, the Government generated revenue of ₹18,099 crore, which is way below the target of ₹1.05 trillion that it set for itself. In order to meet its expenditure, the Government will have to step up revenue generated through the disinvestment route while not giving any further rebates in income tax rates. A major relief in personal income tax rates may also not help in boosting consumption. Given the present circumstances of low business sentiment, uncertainty in the global business environment and deceleration in private investment — any increases in disposable income will not convert into spending entirely — it is likely that most of it will be saved for emergencies. Instead the Government should bring more of high income earners

into the tax net. Control wasteful expenditure Dwarka)

year growth of 4.07 per cent from 4.81 **for fiscal consolidation:** During hard times, no one, including the Government can afford wastages and leakages. The Government needs to seriously plug in leakages from the system and plan its expenditure in a bet-

A cautious monetary policy: At esent the RBI has to worry about infusing capital into banks that need it, ensure smooth mergers and takeovers and prevent any further bank frauds that have proven detrimental to the health of the banking sector in the past. Some relief announcements for the non-banking sector for purchase of bad assets should be there. The transmission of rates must be ensured and at a quicker pace, while further reductions can only be done if inflation allows that. Since the fears of "stagflation" gripping the Indian economy are already there, the RBI can do nothing more than just wait and watch.

(The writer is Professor and Head Department of Management and Commerce at Trinity Institute of Professional Studies, GGSIPU, in

Markets recoil as Eco Survey stokes fiscal slippage fears

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex skidded 190 I points while the Nifty closed below the 12,000-mark on Friday after the Economic Survey suggested relaxing fiscal deficit target to boost growth from a decade low.

Markets had opened on a firm footing, but came under selling pressure in the afternoon trade, coinciding with the opening of the Budget session of Parliament and tabling of the Economic Survey.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed 190.33 points, or 0.47 per cent, lower at 40,723.49. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty shed 73.70 points, or 0.61 per cent, to finish at 11,962.10.

The Economic Survey projected revival of economic growth to 6-6.5 per cent in the next fiscal from 5 per cent estimated in 2019-20. However, it recommended relaxing the budget deficit target to boost

Traders said the prospects of increased government borrowing and crowding out of private sector investment spooked market participants, triggering unwinding of posi-

ONGC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, dropping 5.80 per cent, followed by

Tata Steel and Reliance Industries

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the top gainer, spurting 3.87 per cent, after the lender settled its

dispute with RBI regarding promoter Uday Kotak's stake. SBI rose 2.53 per cent after the country's largest lender reported a 41 per cent jump in net profit to ₹6,797.25 crore for

the December quarter. Other winners included IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp.

Attention now shifts to the Union Budget, to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday. Markets will remain open on Budget Day.

Investors stayed away from taking fresh positions ahead of the big event. Focus will turn to Union Budget as all eyes will be on how Centre is going to bring growth as any increase in spending would result in widening of fiscal deficit," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

'Global economy is also on the edge with slow growth fears significantly high after the outbreak of the virus," he added.

Sectorally, BSE oil and gas, energy, metal, utilities, power, basic materials, IT and auto

indices fell up to 2.65 per cent.

durables, bankex and finance

rose up to 1.23 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and small-

cap indices ended in the red.

ment remained weak as

investors assessed the impact of

the China coronavirus out-

coronavirus epidemic spiked to

213 and total infections reached

9,692, the Chinese govern-

ment said on Friday as the

World Health Organisation

declared the outbreak that has

spread to more than a dozen

countries, including India, as a

South Korea ended in the red,

while Japan rose 1 per cent.

Markets in China remained

opened on a negative note.

Bourses in Hong Kong and

Stock exchanges in Europe

Brent crude oil futures rose

1411.70

176.60

2133.45

6911.70

496.00

107.00

2079.30

1258.90

3202.35

108.90

4365.25

1369.10

438.75

495.00

global health emergency.

closed.

High

321.60

1407.45

176.00

1682.05

480.00

6890.15

480.60

102.65

522.50

106.80

185.20

436.50

254.30

40.10

1454.25

188.30

1720.00

545.25

7063.95

503.10

107.20

532.75

116.05

196.00 1376.25 1360.00

454.35

262.65

43.15

2145.00 2072.40

1271.50 1240.30

3273.55 3190.10

4421.85 4334.00

2144.50 2055.10

Telecom, realty, consumer

On the global front, senti-

The death toll in China's

Crude prices have seen some moderation in the past few sessions over demand slump amid rising coronavirus cases in China and other regions.

RUPEE RISES 25 PAISE

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated by 25 paise to end at 71.33 against the US dollar on Friday after the Economic Survey 2019-20 predicted bullish growth figures for the next financial year.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 71.46. During the day, the local unit saw a high of 71.28 and a low of 71.52. The domestic unit finally settled at 71.33, up 25 paise from its previous close. The rupee had settled at 71.58 against the American

currency on Thursday. Forex traders further said easing crude oil prices supported the local unit.

"Brent crude continued to remain under pressure and trades around five month low. Lower crude is supporting Indian rupee to cap its losses against the dollar," said VK Sharma, head, PCG and capital markets strategy, HDFC Securities.

6-6.5% growth in FY21, say experts, industry Attaining a GDP growth rate of 6 to 6.5 per cent in

2020-21 as projected by the Economic Survey will be "challenging" and the government needs to prioritise growth while unleashing bolder policy measures to achieve it, experts and industry bodies said on Friday.

India's economic growth is expected to "strongly rebound" to 6-6.5 per cent in 2020-21 from 5 per cent estimated in the current fiscal, said the Economic Survey 2019-20 tabled in Parliament on Friday by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, adding that the government with a strong mandate has the capacity to expe-

"The 6-6.5 per cent growth

for 2020-21, is a target that is achievable with the right dose of reforms and public investments," CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said.

Govt must unleash bold reforms to achieve

The chamber said as the Economic Survey is a precursor to the Union Budget, it expects some of the bold reforms highlighting trust, entrepreneurship and primacy of the market to be reflected in the Budget announcements.

Leader economic advisory services at PwC India, Ranen Banerjee, said attaining the projected growth rate of 6-6.5 per cent will be challenging.

'The demand cycle is yet to pick up in India. Global growth including India is likely to be significantly impacted by the coronavirus factor taking cues

UFLEX

PGHL

ITDC

PFIZER

ASHOKA CREDITACO

INOXLEISUR

PERSISTENT

RELCAPITAL

SOUTHBANK

IISLIALEOS

TIMKEN **GMDCLTD** WESTLIFE BAYERCROI SOBHA

ERIS INDOSTAR MOTILALOFS MRPL **PCJEWELLER** INFIBEAM AEGISLOG CHENNPETRO PNCINFRA INOXWIND ZYDUSWELI WELSPUNIND HINDCOPPER ABBOTINDIA

FCONSUMER GODREJAGRO

IAMNAAUTO

VAIBHAVGBL LEMONTREE REDINGTON **JKLAKSHMI** MINDAIND FDC AJANTPHARM VARROC MINDACORP ESSELPRO GALAXYSURF PHOENIXLTD CORPBANK INTELLECT BAJAJCON LAXMIMACH ANDHRABANK ORIENTBANK ALLCARGO GREAVESCOT REPCOHOME NATCOPHARM CENTRALBK BALMLAWRIE LINDEINDIA FINOLEXIND GRINDWELL DCMSHRIRAM KAJARIACER SOLARINDS

JKCEMENT TEAMLEASE BAJAJELEC ALBK BLUEDART ARVINDFASN MASFIN SYNGENE HAL MAHLIFE SONATSOFTW CAPPL **JBCHEPHARM**

PARAGMILK

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NBVENTURES

ENDURANCE

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RESPONING

the SARS outbreak," he noted.

Economist at Deloitte India, Rumki Majumdar, said the Survey projects growth revival in FY 2021 but suggests that the government may have to incur expansionary policy to support growth.

'As has been argued earlier, the government has to prioritise growth. Once the momentum picks up, the government can take action to consolidate its expenses," Majumdar observed.

Assocham President Niranjan Hiranandani said it strongly advocates that the Central government needs to announce bolder policy and fiscal measures to recover from "sharp economic downturn and somnolent market scenario".

growth targets and attaining national aspirations call for not just renewed focus and investment in key sectors like infrastructure and rural empowerment, but also on establishing and enabling a climate of trust," said Elias George, partner and national head (infrastructure) Government and Healthcare, KPMG in India.

"Considering the difficulties in proposing and implementing the budget 2020 at this juncture budgetary policy has to create more trusting and rewarding environment for investors, keeping revenues stable and boosting demand through public investment and spending," said Raktim Chattopadhyay, founder & CEO, Esperer Bioresearch.

'Fiscal deficit target may be relaxed to arrest declining growth'

New Delhi (PTI): The Economic Survey on Friday made a case for relaxing the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP in view of the need to arrest declining growth, estimated to touch a 11-year low of 5 per cent in the current fiscal.

The Medium Term Fiscal Policy (MTFP) statement presented with the Budget 2019-20, pegged the fiscal deficit target for 2019-20 at 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), which was further expected to follow a gradual path of reduction and attain the targeted level of 3 per cent

129.90

13.32

1264.85

184.80

331.00

34.50

201.50

111.05

461.30

318.50

172.30

130.60

96.30

13.42

186.00

332.15

35.20

201.50

111.95

470.60

320.70

176.45

55.40

1290.00 1260.10

124.55

12.89

323.55

33.85

107.65

455.10

170.75

125.05

13.00

1262.35

329.65

34.55

108.80

463.10

171.20

PHILIPCARB

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FRETAIL

EXIDEIND

RAIN

RCF

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WELCORP

of GDP in 2020-21, and continue at the same level in 2021-22. "While, on one hand the outlook for global growth persists to be weak, with escalated trade tensions adding to the risk; on the other hand, the pace of recovery of growth will have implications for revenue collections," it said.

In order to boost the sluggish demand and consumer sentiments, counter-cyclical fiscal policy may have to be adopted to create additional fiscal headroom, it said.

During the first eight months of 2019-20, the indirect tax collections have been

215.05

46.10

210.00

91.00

43.45

4444.20 4301.00 4423.75

91.85

43.90

211.30

46.00

4321.10

goods and services tax would be key to the resource position of both central and state governments. On the expenditure side, rationalisation of subsidies especially food subsidy could be an important tool for expanding the headroom for fiscal manoeuvre.

The survey further notes that the opolitical situation unfolding in West Asia is likely to have implications for oil prices, and thereby on the petroleum subsidy, apart from having implications for current account

11,962.10

40,723.49

V-190.33

NIFTY 50

<u>SCRIP</u>	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>HIgh</u>	LOW	LTP	CHANC
NIFTY 50	12100.40	12103.55	11945.85	11962.10	-73.7
KOTAKBANK	1709.65	1729.00	1683.15	1688.65	60.4
SBIN	313.70	321.70	308.60	318.10	7.4
INDUSINDBK	1245.00	1271.60	1242.10	1255.00	23.5
BHARTIARTL	493.20	499.40	487.00	496.65	6.8
BAJAJ-AUTO	3150.00	3239.95	3150.00	3182.00	36.5
TECHM	796.85	802.50	783.00	800.00	8.6
TITAN	1185.50	1194.80	1180.00	1189.55	10.3
INFRATEL	247.00	253.80	243.70	248.10	1.9
HEROMOTOC	O2508.00	2521.90	2492.05	2499.00	16.7
YESBANK	39.30	40.20	38.70	39.25	0.2
ITC	235.75	238.40	234.05	235.20	1.1
BAJFINANCE	4370.00	4420.10	4333.80	4380.10	15.8
M&M	570.80	577.00	565.30	568.80	0.9
ZEEL	270.00	272.90	267.20	268.00	0.1
HDFC	2417.00	2434.75	2404.50	2416.40	1.4
AXISBANK	734.70	737.25	725.20	731.00	0.1
LT	1375.95	1377.00	1360.45	1370.00	-0.2
HDFCBANK	1231.45	1237.80	1220.25	1224.25	-1.8
INFY	780.55	784.95	771.60	777.70	-3.0
ASIANPAINT	1810.00	1824.00	1788.70	1797.00	-8.0
EICHERMOT	20450.00	20641.70	20211.00	20240.00	-100.3
BRITANNIA	3242.70	3274.60	3186.85	3190.65	-20.0
CIPLA	453.95	453.95	442.10	447.90	-3.1
NTPC	113.75	115.25	111.50	112.85	-0.8
HINDUNILVR	2064.00	2068.25	2020.05	2038.90	-19.2
NESTLEIND	15560.00	15637.25	15310.30	15363.75	-157.0
ICICIBANK	530.00	532.75	522.40	525.80	-6.4
MARUTI	7035.00	7064.00	6895.55	6927.00	-93.4
DRREDDY	3155.25	3191.85	3102.10	3110.00	-44.8
ULTRACEMCO	4502.30	4507.30	4405.00	4422.00	-64.0
SUNPHARMA	442.60	445.40	432.65	435.50	-6.6
GRASIM	793.10	797.95	775.55	777.50	-13.7
WIPRO	238.00	239.15	235.00	236.50	-4.2
BAJAJFINSV	9708.00	9708.00	9410.00	9465.00	-174.6
HINDALCO	194.80	195.15	188.25	189.40	-4.0
TATASTEEL	453.00	454.25	436.45	438.50	-10.0
ADANIPORTS	380.05	381.55	368.25	369.55	-8.4
VEDL	140.85	141.70	137.50	137.70	-3.2
COALINDIA	188.80	189.45	180.00	183.55	-4.4
RELIANCE	1453.00	1453.25	1407.20	1410.00	-33.7
GAIL	124.05	124.40	119.40	120.40	-2.9
JSWSTEEL	258.15	259.00	249.10	250.50	-6.4
TCS	2139.40	2144.35	2071.60	2082.40	-55.4
HCLTECH	607.85	608.90	589.60	591.60	-16.2
BPCL	470.00	472.60	456.05	456.50	-13.1
IOC	118.55	118.55	112.60	113.45	-3.7
UPL	547.45	549.00	525.00	526.80	-17.3
POWERGRID	195.30	195.50	185.10	187.30	-7.1

NIFTY NEXT 50

106.75

110.40

176.90

115.80 116.00

TATAMOTORS 186.30 188.35 175.95

SCRIP .	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>HIgh</u>	<u>LOW</u>	<u>LTP</u>	CHANG
NIFTY NEXT 50	28656.10		28263.15	28294.60	-238.4
DMART	2064.05	2145.05	2061.00	2133.00	81.7
DABUR	483.95	503.45	480.05	496.40	17.
BANDHANBNK	446.00	459.75	446.00	450.40	12.
DLF	257.80	262.80	254.30	260.35	5.
OFSS	2890.00	2950.50	2821.00	2925.05	60.
BAJAJHLDNG	3393.85	3500.00	3350.00	3465.00	71.
IDEA	5.30	5.45	5.10	5.30	0.
PGHH		11053.20	10850.00	11050.00	123.
PNB	60.35	61.20	59.80	60.50	0
GICRE	248.70	253.60	246.65	249.25	1.5
AUROPHARMA	480.65	487.00	477.10	482.00	1.3
UBL	1263.90	1291.50	1258.05	1260.40	4
NIACL	156.45	158.85	154.50	155.70	0
L&TFH	117.60	118.70	114.90	117.00	0.0
PAGEIND	24580.00	24737.85	24120.00	24410.00	-15.
HDFCLIFE	603.10	604.45	597.30	600.00	-0.4
BULHSGFIN	311.90	314.00	304.50	307.00	-0.9
DIVISLAB	1969.00	1984.00	1948.00	1953.00	-6.
HINDZINC	195.15	196.70	193.65	193.90	-0.8
ICICIGI	1320.25	1340.00	1316.00	1321.80	-6.
HDFCAMC	3180.00	3194.00	3160.00	3175.00	-14.0
SBILIFE	1005.00	1006.00	983.15	993.55	-4.
HAVELLS	610.50	613.80	600.20	603.80	-3.
BIOCON	295.50	298.70	290.60	293.75	-1.0
BANKBARODA	93.50	94.10	92.40	92.45	-0.0
SIEMENS	1515.00	1524.30	1482.30	1499.00	-10.
CONCOR	572.80	578.85	563.10	568.00	-4.3
PIDILITIND	1529.80	1538.00	1505.25	1505.70	-15.
PETRONET	271.40	273.25	265.50	266.40	-3.
CADILAHC	268.20	272.00	263.00	264.95	-3.
LUPIN	734.00	734.70	716.00	718.30	-10.0
GODREJCP	684.85	686.55	671.65	672.25	-11.2
ACC	1536.00	1552.00	1500.00	1506.00	-25
BERGEPAINT	568.00	574.50	557.50	560.10	-9.
ASHOKLEY	83.70	83.90	81.50	81.95	-1.4
ICICIPRULI	525.15	526.85	508.85	512.00	-9.
MCDOWELL-N	639.00	641.50	617.05	621.35	-13.
SHREECEM		23683.00	22827.65	23000.00	-485
PEL	1580.00	1600.00	1513.00	1544.00	-34.
AMBUJACEM	210.55	211.75	203.50	205.00	-4.5
SRTRANSFIN	1023.40	1054.95	1016.65	1019.10	-24
INDIGO	1417.00	1426.95	1371.00	1385.00	-34.
PFC	120.00	120.20	114.75	116.55	-2.5
BOSCHLTD	14349.90	14350.00	13840.00	13875.00	-364.
NMDC	120.85	122.30	116.20	116.70	-3.
HINDPETRO	242.00	242.15	231.35	232.55	-7.
NHPC	25.20	25.55	24.10	24.35	-0.8
MOTHERSUMI	139.50	140.30	131.15	134.00	-4.9

1394.80 1394.80 1324.25 1332.95

313.00

341.15

317.15

COLPAL

MARICO

RELIANCE 1451.00

186.90

2055.10

545.10

7042.00

480.90

39.40 102.65

531.90

2140.00

1247.00

3231.55

4374.00

1375.10

451.00

BSE 500

TATAMOTORS

IBULHSGFIN

DMART

MARUTI

YESBANK

IBREALEST

ICICIBANK

INDUSINDBK

BRITANNIA

BAJFINANCE

TATASTEEL

JSL

DABUR

	IOC	110.70	110 00	112.65	113.45
	IOC HDFC	118.70 2425.00	118.80 2435.00	112.65	2412.40
	BEL	96.00	98.90	90.00	
	AXISBANK	739.00	739.00	725.25	729.35
	COALINDIA	190.45	190.45	180.05	
	TATAGLOBAL	383.00	386.80	379.85	
	BAJAJFINSV	9696.00	9711.00		9445.70
	BHARTIARTL	487.05	499.15	486.80	
	PEL	1598.00	1599.40		
	NAUKRI	2830.00	2932.10		
	HDFCBANK	1234.90	1237.80	1220.55	1225.70
	MOTHERSUMI	140.00	140.60	131.10	133.70
	JINDALSTEL	177.55	178.45	172.70	176.15
	MCX	1298.90	1298.90	1233.00	1244.55
	EQUITAS	117.00	120.50	108.25	109.10
	PIIND	1546.25		1538.00	
	NTPC	113.70	115.10	111.50	
	FEDERALBNK	94.50	94.50		
	RBLBANK	325.00	327.25	316.30	
	JUBLFOOD	1922.00	1903.55		
	COLPAL	1205.00	1402.50	1222.00	1020.73
	ITC	1395.00	1402.50		
		236.15	238.35	234.10	235.25
	JSWSTEEL	257.65	257.95		
	IDEA	5.26	5.43	5.14	
	BAJAJ-AUTO	3150.00			3178.95
		2070.00	2070.00		2034.15
	HAVELLS	623.00	623.00	600.40	
	MARICO	344.00	344.00	312.45	315.20
	LICHSGFIN	443.00	444.40		
_	WOCKPHARMA		364.50	347.20	
	GDL	140.00	141.10	137.05	139.25
	FORTIS	157.05	157.40	151.40	153.35
,	RPOWER	1.63	1.71	1.63	1.63
3	NOCIL	105.90	105.90	94.30	95.50
-	NIITTECH	1855.20	1963.50	1855.20	1940.80
	INDIGO	1421.00	1963.50 1427.20	1370.75	1377.50
	SIEMENS	1501.05	1523.35		
	JUSTDIAL	588.00	588.00	559.20	
	TITAN	1180.00	1194.95		
	INFRATEL	246.30	253.60		
	PTC	59.45	59.80		
	VEDL	141.30	141.80		137.95
	UJJIVAN	373.45	387.25	373.45	385.35
	TECHM	799.05	801.75	783.00	
	BPCL	471.40	472.35	456.00	457.00
	ZEEL	270.00	272.85	267.35	
	UPL	547.60	548.60	525.00	
	DRREDDY	3160.00	3190.00		3113.75
	CGCL	191.95	194.70	188.30	
			784.25		
	INFY	781.75			
	JAICORPLTD	113.00	115.95		112.15
	BANKBARODA	93.15	94.10	92.30	92.65
	BEML	988.00	988.00	960.00	975.80
	MGL	1237.50	1240.25		1173.60
	ADANIENT	235.60	235.60	227.35	
	CROMPTON	271.00	294.00	269.85	284.10
	NMDC	120.60	122.30	116.10	116.90
	EICHERMOT	20588.00		20213.00	
	CIPLA	462.95	462.95	442.40	446.90
	ASHOKLEY	83.60	83.70	81.55	81.95
	NCC	56.00	56.70	54.35	54.70
	HDFCAMC	3175.10	3188.00	3160.00	3173.15
					94.45
	BOMDYEING	98.25	99.60	93.90	24.43
	BOMDYEING GRASIM	98.25 808.00	808.00	776.40	778.45
	GRASIM	808.00	808.00	776.40	778.45
	GRASIM CANBK	808.00 205.00	808.00 205.25	776.40 200.50	778.45 202.50
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL	808.00 205.00 44.40	808.00 205.25 44.55	776.40 200.50 42.05	778.45 202.50 42.70
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 8785.00	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS DIXON	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00 4505.00	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00 4715.00	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 8785.00 4457.30	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85 4650.20
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS DIXON 3MINDIA	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00 4505.00 22230.15	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00 4715.00 24110.45	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 8785.00 4457.30 21850.00	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85 4650.20 22904.75
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS DIXON 3MINDIA SAIL	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00 4505.00 22230.15	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00 4715.00 24110.45	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 8785.00 4457.30 21850.00 46.15	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85 4650.20 22904.75 46.50
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS DIXON 3MINDIA SAIL TORNTPOWER	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00 4505.00 22230.15 48.00 319.90	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00 4715.00 24110.45 48.50 322.25	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 8785.00 4457.30 21850.00 46.15 309.05	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85 4650.20 22904.75 46.50 309.65
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS DIXON 3MINDIA SAIL TORNTPOWER JUBILANT	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00 4505.00 22230.15 48.00 319.90 610.00	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00 4715.00 24110.45 48.50 322.25 611.00	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 4457.30 21850.00 46.15 309.05 572.35	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85 4650.20 22904.75 46.50 309.65 581.95
	GRASIM CANBK BHEL AUROPHARMA HINDPETRO LUPIN L&TFH WIPRO BIOCON GSKCONS DIXON 3MINDIA SAIL TORNTPOWER	808.00 205.00 44.40 483.90 240.60 739.00 118.00 240.00 298.40 8934.00 4505.00 22230.15 48.00 319.90	808.00 205.25 44.55 486.75 242.20 739.00 118.65 240.00 298.45 8934.00 4715.00 24110.45 48.50 322.25	776.40 200.50 42.05 477.25 231.20 716.20 114.90 235.05 290.90 8785.00 4457.30 21850.00 46.15 309.05	778.45 202.50 42.70 481.35 232.45 717.90 117.15 236.80 294.50 8816.85 4650.20 22904.75 46.50 309.65

PIDILITIND

ASIANPAINT

1527.35

1810.00

1538.00 1504.65 1510.85

1823.05 1789.05

VANTI	665.00	668.90	641.80	662.20	
IINDALCO DIL	196.95 139.20	196.95 139.20	188.25 128.00	189.20 129.55	
NBHOUSING	445.90	449.30	433.00	436.60	
JLTRACEMCO 1&MFIN	4500.05 370.10	4502.40 377.65	4405.05 365.10	4418.00 368.75	
IESCO	730.05	769.75	724.60	754.75	
IDFCLIFE IEROMOTOCO	603.70 2510.05	604.65 2522.00	597.50 2492.10	599.10 2501.90	
INATIORGA	2294.20	2298.00	2165.00	2221.60	
TAR FC	463.00 120.00	473.15 120.00	461.85 114.80	463.80 116.60	
STRAL	1212.40		1196.30	1209.70	
RTRANSFIN	1030.10 732.00	1054.00 732.00	1017.20 718.50	1020.80	
AJESHEXPO GRAPHITE	302.55	303.90	296.00	720.75 298.20	
GODREJCP	686.00	686.25	671.25	672.65	
UBANK Gail	1054.00 123.30	1077.85 124.45	1040.90 119.40	1069.00 120.45	
NB	60.50	61.20	59.80	60.50	
OROMANDEL MBER	623.60 1576.00	641.35 1639.00	612.90 1498.00	630.40 1508.60	
ECLTD	148.95	149.10	142.45	143.70	
ADICO JAM-INDIA	402.80 363.00	408.50 369.00	390.45 356.50	395.65 363.35	
GLENMARK	319.40	325.00	308.80	310.20	
AGEIND DELTACORP	24450.00 176.00	24725.80 184.55	24117.40 174.60	24432.15 179.60	
RF	3806.00	3860.00	3772.55	3782.25	
ORCEMOT CC	1261.90 1532.15	1304.50 1576.50	1248.00 1500.00	1259.15 1504.65	
DANIPORTS	385.00	385.00	368.10	369.15	
ANKINDIA Danipower	66.65 62.85	68.90 63.20	65.25 60.60	67.75 61.05	
AURUSLABS	460.00	460.00	416.45	430.20	
1&M Ataindia	570.05 1841.10	576.90 1841.10	565.40 1796.30	567.35 1801.25	
NESTLEIND	15598.90	15599.75	15315.00	15360.85	
CUMMINSIND	595.70	595.70	572.05	574.50	
GL 'ATAELXSI	518.00 960.00	520.35 966.05	504.55 942.00	507.50 948.85	
CCL	224.70	227.60	217.70	225.75	
ICLTECH DANIGAS	606.00 168.95	608.00 170.90	589.60 165.80	591.50 166.50	
ATAMTRDVR	78.25	78.45	73.75	74.35	
DANIGREEN POLLOHOSP	184.90 1696.00	189.45 1697.95	177.00 1656.65	189.45 1661.05	
MANAPPURAM	193.70	193.70	187.35	188.15	
IRLACORPN 'ATAPOWER	758.35 60.60	804.60 60.60	754.00 57.70	796.40 58.05	
PITTECH	101.00	101.35	98.00	98.50	
GODFRYPHLP IBCC	1194.10 34.65	1244.00 34.85	1182.40 33.40	1212.25 33.70	
AFSL	495.85	511.55	495.85	506.25	
JATIONALUM DMAXE	44.25 165.00	44.35 165.00	42.30 154.75	42.60 154.85	
VNL	27.90	28.05	26.85	27.40	
ELINFRA CICIPRULI	22.25 530.00	22.80 530.00	21.70 509.00	21.80 510.95	
CASTROLIND	131.70	135.85	130.45	135.15	
PARC BILIFE	202.75 1002.70	204.90 1004.75	190.85 983.40	194.80 993.60	
VSMOTOR	478.95	478.95	464.80	466.80	
PICEJET UNTV	97.00 487.00	97.60 490.95	96.05 467.00	96.45 474.20	
IEG	1075.00	1086.00	1055.10	1073.45	
MINDTREE BCAPITAL	890.65 100.60	902.55 102.75	878.80 98.65	887.90 99.15	
HREECEM	23525.00	23580.55		23016.95	
HARATFORG IHPC	512.00 25.30	512.00 25.50	487.20 24.10	491.15 24.50	
GMRINFRA	23.35	23.45	22.50	22.80	
APOLLOTYRE CANFINHOME	171.25 485.00	172.25 491.15	165.70 480.30	166.45 483.75	
RCON	483.30	484.75	465.05	472.95	
DEEPAKNI ARF	396.10 69853.55	398.35 70463.60	378.35 69387.00	384.10 69641.75	
GUARD	225.35	230.95	220.60	225.05	
TKBANK TRTECH	75.00 126.20	75.35 126.90	73.60 123.30	73.95 124.80	
VR	1975.50	1985.00	1943.00	1955.30	
AYMOND ATACHEM	652.00 761.00	659.65 761.00	641.10 748.00	643.05 751.15	
П	87.45	87.45	83.65	85.50	
MBUJACEM DRIENTELEC	209.15 238.20	211.80 256.00	203.55 237.50	204.45 252.85	
GAYAPROJ	57.05	57.75	54.05	54.05	
ALLIS OCBBANK	230.65 175.00	238.60 180.35	227.65 174.00	235.35 178.20	
ANSAINER	514.00	514.00	493.00	503.40	
SEC OLYCAB	465.00 984.00	472.80 999.00	456.00 931.25	470.30 983.85	
CHOLAFIN	327.85	334.35	324.35	326.70	
CI JAVINFLUOR	61.35 1216.55	61.40 1216.60	59.65 1133.00	59.95 1146.65	
GUJGAS	292.00	293.50	285.40	288.45	
MARAJABAT GODREJPROP	788.70	791.00	764.20	767.80	
MUTHOOTFIN	1080.05 777.70	1084.10 778.40	1058.80 760.10	1080.50 762.70	
KTYRE	75.50	76.55	73.15	74.40	
ETRONET OSCHLTD	270.05 14540.00	273.20 14540.00	265.65 13830.45	266.40 13903.70	
OLTAS INDALSAW	702.35 93.20	708.65 94.25	691.55 89.70	695.05 90.05	
UNDALDAW	95.70	94.75	89.70	90.05	

JINDALSAW

GSFC

DIVISLAB

88.75

1955.00

88.75

1982.00 1949.95

2400.00 2283.45 2394.30

84.35

85.60

1953.45

CF	55.25	55.40	53.65	53.90
ENKYS		1706.30		
EX	161.50	170.00		
UNTECK	399.35	400.10		
BL	770.80		745.50	772.30
LAXO	1681.00		1656.00	
IETROPOLIS			1641.25	
EC	350.90	351.00	327.35	337.90
MAMILTD	302.55	304.95	290.10	294.55
1EGH	58.05	58.60		55.10
ALRAMCHIN		171.30	165.35	166.25
NDIACEM	84.85	84.85	81.55	82.00
ALKRISIND			1062.60	
NDIANB	103.00	104.05	99.70	103.45
ALPATHLAB	1738.70		1738.70	1774.15
AJAJHLDNG	3355.00	3500.25		3456.50
H	379.70	385.70	375.05	377.85
UZLON	2.45	2.45	2.35	2.39
UDARSCHEM	461.50	469.00	452.00	455.75
RB	110.75	111.50	103.60	106.60
MFINANCIL	104.55	108.30	104.40	105.25
DELWEISS	96.90	97.00	93.70	95.40
RANULES	149.40	149.40	145.75	146.10
VHIRLPOOL	2460.00	2488.50		2475.60
IINDZINC	196.10	196.75	193.60	194.10
IOIL	149.00	154.35	146.20	152.85
ELAXO	726.50	743.85	722.65	737.50
SPL	255.85	255.90	244.35	253.80
TUL	4951.25		4870.00	
RIGADE	230.60	246.00	226.35	240.55
BFRL	229.90	234.95		
STRAZEN	2730.00			
		2014 45	2640.00	1002 45
AVAS	1966.55	2014.45		1992.65
HANUKA	525.00	549.00	496.60	514.00
ADILAHC	268.95	271.90		265.35
UESS	619.60	632.00	611.40	622.50
ATACOFFEE	100.00	100.55	97.30	98.10
BTC	1148.80		1125.00	
NRCON	307.00	311.00	299.25	301.20
BULISL	120.00	123.95	117.00	122.40
NFC	199.00	199.00	191.90	193.95
Eco	nomic	Surv	BY 201	19-20
	iDP			
((rowth		96)	
8.2			70)	
O'TE	7.2	-		
	(Motors)	6.8		
		10000	740	
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		(PE)		
		EUG)		
2016-17	2017-18	2018-1	9 201	9-20
Source: Econon			(15)	t Adv
		015-20		st)
PTI GRA	HIC2			
DI V DOLLO	2000 00	2000 00	1950.05	1962.90
PLAPOLLO	2099.00	2099.00	1950.05	
CLERX	669.40	669.40	626.00	629.45
LUESTARCO	844.10	846.90	820.00	835.55
NIONBANK	50.95	51.25	49.25	49.70
IEXAWARE	362.00	367.00	359.00	363.65
CICIGI	1330.00	1340.00	1316.00	1318.60
VABAG	225.00	225.75	214.05	215.15
NDHOTEL	140.80	142.90	138.35	142.05
ORNTPHARM	1945.00	1950.00	1922.25	1930.35
EEPAKFERT	111.00	112.55	108.50	111.20
BEROIRLTY				546.10
DEROIRELL	556.00	561.00	541.10	340.10

- PTI GRAF	Est)			
- HAR GIVE	1110.5			
APLAPOLLO	2099.00	2099.00	1950.05	1962.
ECLERX	669.40	669.40	626.00	629.
BLUESTARCO	844.10	846.90	820.00	835.
UNIONBANK	50.95	51.25	49.25	49.
HEXAWARE	362.00	367.00	359.00	363.
ICICIGI	1330.00	1340.00	1316.00	1318.0
WABAG	225.00	225.75	214.05	215.
INDHOTEL	140.80	142.90	138.35	142.0
TORNTPHARM	1945.00	1950.00	1922.25	1930
DEEPAKFERT	111.00	112.55	108.50	111.3
OBEROIRLTY	556.00	561.00	541.10	546.
KEI	572.30	573.25	558.45	566.
CARERATING	663.20	663.55	653.00	655.
GHCL	190.95	191.70	185.45	185.
PRESTIGE	383.90	389.50	380.00	383.
JSLHISAR	76.15	80.00	75.10	78.2
TATAINVEST	924.70	926.40	893.70	902.0
RAMCOCEM	792.00	792.00	774.00	781.
SUPREMEIND	1375.00	1409.00	1363.05	1394.
NILKAMAL	1416.65	1430.00	1414.40	1421.
SWANENERGY	114.00	114.00	109.00	111.
DCAL*	77.90	78.70	74.50	74.9
COCHINSHIP	378.45	388.40	373.05	379.
SCHNEIDER	83.55	84.45	82.40	83.
HEIDELBERG	202.15	202.15	197.75	199.
ADANITRANS	321.90	334.10	319.75	331.
EIDPARRY	227.00	235.70	227.00	230
HUDCO	42.50	42.65	41.15	41.
LTTS	1696.75	1697.80	1653.80	1679.
JSWENERGY	64.80	64.80	62.80	63.
MIDHANI	164.55	164.55	158.50	161.
LTI	1960.00	1960.00	1915.25	1938.0
FINEORG	2383.90	2394.00	2322.00	2337.
GICRE	248 00	253 60	246.65	250

	293.15	298.75	289.50	290.50	10-190	1.33	1/4	h.	.A.
	4245.10 404.85	4245.10 415.00	4131.00 404.00	4142.65 408.80	* 3/4	MY	112	1	7
	17.10	17.15	16.95	17.00	W		100	777	V-
	115.15	116.60	113.20	114.30	etaco:		1000	-73.70	
	818.00	822.85	793.15	801.85	TOP GAINERS TO	2032010	TOP GAL	NERS TO	PLOSERS
	695.45 718.00	715.15 723.25	691.80 706.90	699.95 709.65	Kutak Marie 3.87 DNG	40		1 371 lata	
	9.30	9.30	8.90	9.08	581 2.53 Pow	er Grid -3.86	581	2.38 ONG	
	582.00	595.00	580.80	589.75	Industrial 2.23 TCS	-2.75		1.91 Pow	
	1284.70	1292.00	1246.80	1253.35	Bharti Airtel 1.62 HCL Bajaj Auto. 1.12 Tata			1.16 KOC	-3.19
	156.25 68.90	158.50 69.00	154.50 65.40	155.70 65.80	OTHERAPHICS.	DEEL 1240	makel water	1.10 AA.	-3.76
	10.67	10.67	10.43	10.47	GODREJIND	426.00	426.50	412.45	414.95
	6.60	6.60	6.23	6.26	BDL	298.35	300.00	288.50	290.10
	7.56	7.56	7.11	7.16	WABCOINDIA	6754.95	6809.95	6754.95	6799.90
	25.65	26.15	25.40	25.70	THERMAX	1051.45	1090.15	1044.80	1066.00
	407.65 883.85	412.95 895.00	403.75 872.00	407.75 873.85	GARFIBRES CARBORUNIV	1472.75 338.00	1511.80 338.00	1448.95 330.00	1504.05 332.75
	25.75	25.80	25.10	25.35	TAKE	96.00	96.15	95.00	95.40
	975.30	1000.90	970.65	990.45	NLCINDIA	60.00	60.00	58.55	58.70
	62.45	62.70	60.85	61.35	AIAENG	1783.00	1790.00	1729.15	1777.60
	437.55 4031.50	438.00 4140.00	426.00 4022.90	433.60 4124.05	TIINDIA Basf	501.55 994.15	515.55 1002.50	500.50 984.50	511.20 987.05
	266.95	271.00	261.85	264.20	DHFL	13.00	13.35	12.95	12.95
	444.40	455.00	444.40	449.50	PGHH	10870.05	11048.00		10942.35
	998.45	1007.00	987.85	1002.85	GESHIP	316.00	316.00	300.55	305.00
	145.05	145.05	139.00	142.25	GICHSGFIN	153.95	154.40	152.05	153.15
	6245.05 34.95	6448.00 34.95	6234.10 33.65	6248.05 33.90	GUJALKALI CENTRUM	411.00 26.90	411.75 26.90	394.05 23.35	398.20 23.80
	532.00	539.80	522.05	528.10	PRSMJOHNSN	70.35	70.80	68.50	69.20
	274.00	287.75	268.55	282.50	MAHINDCIE	174.10	175.05	170.60	173.80
	234.00	234.00	230.10	231.30	KALPATPOWR	443.00	447.25	434.20	444.75
	800.00 45.50	800.00 46.20	772.85 43.75	792.50 46.05	AKZOINDIA Ifbind	2083.00 613.85	2083.00 615.25	2035.00 596.00	2039.25 597.05
	22.70	22.70	22.25	22.40	HIMATSEIDE	128.55	129.00	125.05	126.30
	57.30	58.15	56.15	57.70	CYIENT	491.00	495.50	486.00	490.80
	860.00	894.95	857.20	889.85	JAGRAN*	69.80	70.30	68.00	68.15
)	205.05 130.80	209.85 130.80	203.60 123.40	205.85 124.70	MPHASIS IFCI	920.00 6.42	931.00 6.42	910.05 6.33	929.80 6.36
•	644.90	644.90	628.00	631.50	JYOTHYLAB	153.45	158.00	151.75	156.35
	200.95	201.45	196.35	198.25	CRISIL	1700.00	1729.95	1687.00	1710.60
	40.75	43.15	40.15	41.30	SYMPHONY	1233.00	1233.00	1213.00	1216.30
	1505.45	1510.30	1481.60	1502.40	IOB	10.31	10.39	10.13	10.21
	43.60 43.80	43.65 44.00	42.55 42.35	43.15 42.50	STARCEMENT SUNDRMFAST	86.50 509.50	88.90 513.90	82.50 508.50	83.25 512.80
	12520.00	12520.00		12488.20	UCOBANK	16.35	16.35	15.50	15.55
	23.40	24.50	23.00	23.95	SHANKARA	389.70	395.00	382.40	386.25
	566.10	568.40	554.20	559.25	TIMETECHNO	55.40	55.85	54.15	54.45
	2874.90 43.70	2950.00 43.70	2823.55 42.05	2936.70 42.20	TNPL TTKPRESTIG	191.60 5850.00	194.00 5850.00	189.80 5752.00	190.60 5779.50
	1065.00	1096.00	1043.20	1065.35	SOMANYCERA	217.15	218.10	212.00	214.40
	55.65	55.65	54.00	55.00	ADVENZYMES	170.00	170.40	167.20	170.00
	118.15	118.30	114.05	114.85	FINCABLES	401.50	401.80	391.50	397.25
	356.00 394.00	365.00 400.65	346.00 391.45	354.95 392.00	SANOFI ZENSARTECH	6656.10 173.45	6670.00 173.75	6610.05 170.30	6632.20 170.90
	229.50	239.50	229.50	234.90	SADBHAV	130.85	132.50	129.00	129.45
	1113.70	1117.95	1088.65	1107.05	VMART	1986.65	1999.00	1979.20	1988.50
	476.15	496.00	459.70	469.85	VSTIND	4449.95	4499.70		4453.55
	102.80	105.50	97.55 180.15	102.30	LUXIND	1457.00	1483.15	1435.75	1473.80
	185.95 1620.90	191.00 1636.80	1580.40	181.05 1613.90	GET&D RATNAMANI	172.95 1225.85	173.00 1229.90	166.25 1205.00	166.85 1223.90
	876.80	882.90	853.00	877.20	MAXINDIA	88.00	88.00	85.90	86.25
	23.95	24.15	23.30	23.50	SHILPAMED	263.05	271.20	258.35	266.40
	171.00	171.50	168.60	169.95	CENTURYPLY	175.00	175.00	168.40	170.80
	229.15 3349.00	229.15 3349.00	222.00 3240.00	224.40 3255.05	HATHWAY DBCORP	19.60 139.10	19.60	19.00 137.00	19.25 138.00
K	16.60	17.00	15.90	16.15	SKFINDIA	2100.35	140.40 2100.35	2063.25	2069.40
	51.50	51.90	50.15	50.40	ASTERDM	168.00	168.10	164.35	164.75
	113.20	115.00	111.05	112.60	VTL	1032.10	1047.50	999.40	1033.50
	138.05 334.20	138.75 337.45	135.50 330.00	136.20 333.00	THYROCARE Mahabank	569.55 12.87	573.50	554.10	558.40 13.03
1	653.00	653.35	628.00	634.80	MAHLOG	420.00	13.15 428.00	12.73 417.95	13.03 425.35
	18.65	18.80	17.85	18.00	CERA	2692.00	2705.60	2679.65	2703.90
	21.00	21.00	20.15	20.35	GPPL	89.55	90.00	86.50	87.05
	121.10 768.00	122.40 768.00	120.00 744.60	120.30 746.60	TATAMETALI VRLLOG	615.00 279.35	623.50 281.80	608.80 275.15	620.10 278.75
	25.50	25.60	24.20	24.60	ORIENTCEM	2/9.35 81.00	281.80 81.10	77.05	278.75 77.40
	563.95	567.15	559.00	560.20	JCHAC	2376.00	2425.00	2375.40	2413.30
	642.05	650.45	639.15	642.85	SCHAEFFLER	4650.00	4650.00	4570.35	4570.35
1	379.10 585.05	379.10	368.45 580.05	371.00 580.35	MAHSEAMLES	389.75	393.85	383.10	385.55
	585.05 1310.00	589.00 1325.00	580.05 1254.90	580.35 1259.20	MAHSCOOTER HONAUT	4382.10 27675.00	4387.00 28016.45		4350.80 27974.30
	60.05	62.00	58.85	60.85	MHRIL	234.30	240.00	234.25	236.50
	1390.75	1400.40	1372.00	1381.30	TVSSRICHAK	1701.00	1721.30	1661.00	1698.20
	2541.45	2601.30	2514.60	2594.15	TEJASNET	81.65	82.15	80.55	81.05
	179.10 380.05	185.30 402.00	177.60 371.55	183.10 373.50	NETWORK18 EIHOTEL	27.80 141.05	27.80 141.55	26.55 139.50	26.70 140.15
	18.15	18.20	17.35	17.55	CHOLAHLDNG	547.50	549.15	545.05	547.55
	2723.60	2752.75	2641.00	2714.20	GEPIL	694.95	699.00	686.65	694.35
	387.00	395.00	380.55	389.50	LAKSHVILAS	15.20	15.40	15.10	15.30
	964.45 313.30	1000.00 314.95	959.40 310.60	982.85 313.95	CHALET TVTODAY	332.25	337.40	329.05	330.65
	822.00	824.45	800.95	802.95	SUPRAJIT	246.05 200.85	246.75 203.65	244.10 198.90	244.90 203.50
	173.90	173.90	165.70	167.60	TCNSBRANDS	596.25	596.25	574.55	578.00
	411.65	425.00	410.00	419.55	UNITEDBNK	8.87	8.94	8.71	8.85
	345.25 287.25	346.30	331.10	335.50	SFL	1472.20	1482.00	1442.00	1476.10
	287.25 502.40	295.00 505.45	284.15 493.05	286.85 496.50	HERITGFOOD SHRIRAMCIT	354.35 1372.00	372.80 1372.00	352.10 1346.95	368.60 1349.70
	146.35	146.40	138.30	138.85	SHOPERSTOP	415.10	418.25	413.30	414.00
	74.70	75.00	68.20	71.25	GULFOILLUB	805.10	807.00	803.00	804.05
	27.70	27.70	27.15	27.35	FLFL	406.85	415.00	404.85	413.45
	1071.60 61.30	1094.00 62.00	1064.80 57.05	1088.10 58.20	SHK KPRMILL	112.00 682.00	113.50 683.95	111.05 677.90	112.90 679.35
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Boris hails dawn of new era for UK

PTI ■ LONDON

 $B^{\mbox{\scriptsize ritain's}}$ exit from the EU is not an end but a new beginning, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson who is set to deliver a message of unity to mark Brexit Day on Friday when the country finally leaves the bloc, over three years after the landmark Brexit vote.

In a video message recorded in Downing Street on Thursday and to be aired at 2200 GMT on Friday, an hour ahead of the UK's scheduled exit time, the Conservative Party leader who took charge as UK prime minister last year with a "do or die" Brexit pledge will characterise the historic moment as a new beginning for the country.

'This is the moment when the dawn breaks and the curtain goes up on a new act. It is a moment of real national renewal and change," Downing Street said in a read-out of Johnson's address to the nation.

"Our job as the government – my job – is to bring this country together and take us forward. And the most important thing to say tonight is that this is not an end but a beginning," it reads.

In keeping with the message of unity, Johnson is chair-ing his first Cabinet meeting on tour in the north of England and has chosen the city of Sunderland – the first city to declare support for leaving the EU in June 2016.

"This is the dawn of a new era in which we no longer accept that your life chances – your family's life chances should depend on which part of the country you grow up in. This is the moment when we begin to unite and level up," says Johnson, who has vehemently campaigned for Brexit over the years.

The UK's formal end to its membership of the economic bloc, the so-called divorce, comes into effect at 2300 GMT

on Friday, after which it ceases to be part of any of the EU institutions, including the European Court of Justice. However, the UK will continue to follow EU rules and procedures until the end of a preagreed transition period, which runs until December end 2020.

During that period, both sides are bound by a Political Declaration signed alongside the EU Withdrawal Bill to strike a new agreement for their future trading relation-ship. "We on the UK side want this to be an opportunity to demonstrate that we can be even greater neighbours, allies and friends. Our vision for the future relationship, for which we have a template in the Political Declaration, will define that," UK foreign secretary Dominic Raab told reporters ahead of Brexit Day.

"We genuinely see this as turning a page, looking forward to forging even stronger ties... about reaching out to the rest

of the world and be an even stronger force for good," said Raab, another hard Brexiteer in Johnson's Cabinet.

The end to the UK's 47year membership of the economic bloc, which will now be made up of 27 European countries, will be marked by pro-Brexit celebrations at Parliament Square in London as well as some anti-Brexit marches in London and Northern Ireland.

The UK's Union Jack flags are lining up the Mall, which leads up to Buckingham Palace in London, and all major government buildings in the political hub of Whitehall will be little to the state of the up in its red, white and blue colours as a similarly themed light display in Downing Street counts down the final Brexit hour. A new commemorative 50-pence coin with the message "Peace prosperity and friendship with all nations" will also go into circulation at that

Opposition Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn, who is due to stand down as party leader in April after a bruising General Election last month, described the historic moment as a "crossroads" for the nation.

"We can build a truly internationalist, diverse and outward-looking Britain. Or we can turn inwards, and trade our principles, rights and standards to secure hastily arranged, one-sided, race-to-the-bottom trade deals with Donald Trump and others," he said. Scotland, which voted to stay in the EU in the 2016 referendum, will mark the day with candlelit vigils. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon used a Brexit Day speech to set out the "next steps" in her mission to seek a second referendum for Scottish independence. "To achieve independence, a referendum, whenever it happens – whether it is this year as I want, or after the next Scottish election – must be legal and legitimate. That is a simple fact," she said.

In Brussels, the UK flag will be removed from the EU buildings, with one Union flag expected to make its way to a museum in Brussels.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen paid tribute to the UK, "contributed to the European Union and made it stronger". "It is the story of old friends

and new beginnings now. Therefore it is an emotional day, but I'm looking forward to the next stage," she said. "We want to have the best

possible relationship with the United Kingdom, but it will never be as good as membership," Leyen said.
"Our union has gained

political impetus and has become a global economic powerhouse. Our experience has taught us that strength does not lie in splendid isolation, but in our unique union,"



A man dressed as an undertaker holding a wreath with an EU flag on in Parliament Square in London, ahead of the UK leaving the European Union on Friday. Britain officially left the European Union on Friday after a debilitating political period that has bitterly divided the nation since the 2016 Brexit referendum

Businesses see promising India-UK ties aĥead

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK officially quit the European Union (EU) on Friday night, a certainty welcomed by Indian businesses operating in the country as well as the British businesses who see this as an exciting time to expand into the huge Indian

The official transition period from Saturday until the end of December means status quo in terms of much of the trade and business operations vis-a-vis the UK and EU, but what does change is Britain's free hand to strike new deals and partnerships around the

Leading trade organisations and Indian entrepreneurs in Britain see this as an exciting time for the India-UK trade and economic partner-

There is no question that India will be a vital trading partner as the UK charts a new future outside the EU. The golden opportunities for British firms in India play to the best strengths of UK plc – from infrastructure to healthcare to FinTech," said Lord Karan Bilimoria, founder of Cobra Beer and Vice-President of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) – the key voice of British businesses in the UK.

"To fully capitalise on these opportunities, British firms would like to see further progress in reducing corporate tax rates, data privacy and ease of doing business indicators. If these steps are taken, and the UK maintains an active strategy for engagement and interaction with the Indian econo-

my at all levels, it will remain a significant partner in India's future growth story," notes Bilimoria, who has business interests both in the UK and

GP Hinduja, Co-Chairman of the Hinduja Group, also hailed the "exciting time for relations between Britain and India" and the enormous scope for both countries to reach a free trade agreement, as he welcomed the "energy and dynamism" already shown by Prime Minister Johnson ahead of the historic Brexit Day.

"There are already positive moves like fast track visas to continue to attract top scientists and possible reforms to inheritance tax. "Furthermore, the government should implement more investor-friendly poli-cies to attract new and returning foreign investors and high net worth individuals (HNWI) who have departed over the past few years," said Hinduja, whose diversified group operates across various sectors and

borders. The end of a 47-year relationship was never going to be easy and the long-drawn divorce process between the UK and ÊU took a toll on businesses, which operated on a kind of pause mode as Britain missed Brexit deadlines since 29 March last year.

There was a mess in the handling of the Brexit negotiations, and everyone will just be glad that the mess is over," said Lord Swraj Paul, who heads the London-headquartered Caparo Group with operations world-

The UK has never been entirely happy with its EU membership. But I don't think Brexit would have a very major impact on the UK's working with Europe; that relationship remains even if people voted to leave. As far as India goes, it has a relationship with the UK and the EU and both will be strengthened further," he noted.

Prime Minister Johnson

has repeatedly singled out India in the list of countries he wishes to strike an enhanced trade agreement with, ever since he pitched his tent in favour of Brexit. As Prime Minister now with a thumping majority in Parliament, he is seen to be in a position to action some of

"Prime Minister Johnson will get along very well with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the two will strike a good rapport. Trade, investment, climate change and immigration will be on top of the agenda for an expected India visit," said Mohan Kaul, President of the Indian Professionals Forum (IPF), who believes the technology, financial services and healthcare sectors particularly stand to benefit in a post-

motional agency. "With our strengths in technology and innovation, cities like London, Mumbai and Bengaluru are producing game-changing companies, and as India's economy goes from strength to strength we see lots of opportunities for collaboration between these two nations," he

EU chiefs hail **Britain's exit**

he EU's three chiefs hailed **▲** Britain's departure from the bloc on Friday as "a new dawn for Europe", warning London would not keep the benefits of membership when it leaves.

Charles Michel, Ursula von der Leyen and David Sassoli the presidents of the EU Council, European Commission and European Parliament, respectively used an open letter published they would do "everything in their power" to make the new relationship with Britain a suc-

Britain's 47-year membership of the bloc will end on the stroke of 2300 GMT - midnight Brussels time, three and a half years after a shock referendum vote to leave.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to "get Brexit done" and unite the country in a new era of prosperity, but months of difficult negotiations with Brussels about the shape of future ties lie ahead

The three EU leaders made clear they would not roll over easily or allow Britain to "have its cake and eat it", insisting access to the EU market unless it agrees to follow European labour, taxation and environmental rules.

"How close that partnership will be depends on decisions that are still to be taken," they wrote.
"Without being a member,

you cannot retain the benefits of membership." Nothing will immediately feel different thanks to an 11-month transition period negotiated as part of an EU-UK exit deal ratified

Britons will be able to work in and trade freely with EU nations until December 31, and vice versa, although the UK will no longer be represented in the bloc's institutions.

While Brexit supporters are celebrating, the EU leaders said they would approach the day as one of "reflection and mixed emotions", reiterating their deep regret at Britain's departure. "But tomorrow will also mark a new dawn for Europe," they went on.

The last few years have brought us closer together — as nations, as institutions and as people. This is why the Member States of Europe will continue to join forces and build a common future?

'Existential threat' to Ireland post-Brexit: PM **AFP** ■ DUBLIN to do despite warnings that such talks usually take more pens, there will be bureau-

Brexit supporters have their picture taken in Parliament Square in London as Britain officially kleft the European Union on

failure by Britain and the time. A European Union to reach a post-Brexit trade deal by the end-of-year deadline would Ireland and will be directly Varadkar called pose an "existential threat" to impacted if there is no new Ireland, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said Friday.

"We have to be realistic about the dangers," the Irish Brussels to reach as broad a leader said in a speech in Dublin as Britain leaves the EU after 47 years.

"A failure to secure a trade deal would be a major threat, and an existential threat to our economy in 2021, so we do need that deal."

Britain will continue following EU rules on trade and other issues during an 11month transition period that the sides have set aside to decide their future ties.

London has until July to ask for an extension - something Johnson has vowed not as possible," he said.

eign donors are increasingly

angry over the cost of debili-

tating corruption and the US

seeks a peace deal with Taliban

to withdraw its troops from the

for roughly 75 per cent of all of

Afghanistan's costs while gov-

ernment revenue covers bare-

ly a quarter of Afghan public

Reconstruction, which issues

reports quarterly to US

Congress, monitors all US

spending in the 18-year war in

Afghanistan, America's longest

The agency's latest report

President Ashraf Ghani's

The Special Inspector

expenditures.

frustrated donors.

General

International money pays

trade deal by the end of the

It wants London and free-trade agreement as pos-

But this would require Britain to continue following many of EU's rules.

Johnson has said he wants Britain to set its own standards and regulations.

'We know it's going to be a pretty rocky couple of Varadkar told months," reporters.

We want free trade with the UK with no tariffs, no taxes, no quotas and as little bureaucracy and as few checks

"But no matter what hapcracy and there will be checks, Ireland shares a border because things cannot be as

> day of great sadness that also showed the benefits of single European membership. He also thanked EU lead-

ers for supporting Ireland in the negotiations that allowed Britain to finally leave after three delays.

"The ÙK leaving is not a cause of celebration for us. There will be no issuing of commemorative coins for this event," he said in reference to the 50-pence one issued by Johnson's government.

"But we do celebrate the solidarity that has been shown by EU partners, and we say thank you to our fellow Europeans," he said.

"United we stand, divided

ship to be taken to a new level.

As someone who campaigned for the UK to remain in the EU in the June 2016 Brexit referendum, the Indiaborn entrepreneur is now focussed on ensuring that the opportunities unleashed by Brexit are fully capitalised and that is where comes a checklist for India.

those promises.

Brexit India-UK tie-up. According to fDi Markets data, between 2000 and 2016, the UK invested more than USD 24 billion into Indian industry and between January 2009 and October 2019, a total of 2.78 billion pounds was invested from Indian companies into London alone. This predominance of London is also expected to continue in a post-Brexit scenario.

"In recent years we have n a large number of Indian businesses choosing London for international expansion and in 2018 the UK capital attracted more investment projects from India than any other global city," said Allen Simpson, Managing Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs at London & Partners - the Mayor of London's official pro-

Afghans will need billions more in aid **Afghanistan violence rises** amid US-Taliban talks

AFP ■ KABUL (AFGHANISTAN)

Violent attacks in Afghanistan's war jumped to record levels in the last quarter of 2019, a US government watchdog said Friday, underscoring the conflict's continued toll despite a relative calm in Kabul.

The nation's capital and other urban areas have enjoyed a rare stretch of more than two months without the sorts of large-scale bomb attack that frequently rock the city and cause mass causalities.

Despite the lull, which has come as the US and the Taliban continue talks over a possible deal for American forces to leave Afghanistan, fighting in rural provinces has continued unabated, with reports of skirmishes appearing daily.

According to the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), "enemy-initiated

attacks" rose sharply last year, with the fourth quarter seeing a total of 8,204 attacks — up from 6,974 in the same period in 2018. September, when the first round of presidential voting was held, saw the highest number of casualty-causing attacks since recording began in 2010.

SIGAR noted that attacks appeared to mirror progress in S-Taliban talks, with incidents dropping earlier in the year, then picking up again after US President Donald Trump temporarily halted negotiations in September.

"A turbulent last six months resulted in increases in overall enemy attacks (6 percent) and effective attacks (4 percent) in 2019 compared to the already high levels reported in 2018," SIGAR said in its quarterly report to the US Congress.

The Pentagon has also continued to up the tempo of operations, with American warplanes dropping more the past five years.

bombs on Afghanistan in 2019 than at any other time in at least a decade, according to the US Air Force. Washington and the

wrangle over a possible agreement that would see US troops begin to leave Afghanistan in return for security guarantees.

The US has for months been calling on the militants to reduce violence, but both

Taliban are continuing to

sides have said little in recent days about the status of talks and the Kabul government wants the US to push for a full ceasefire. SIGAR's report also found that Afghanistan's security forces struggled to take the

fight to the Taliban, relying on US support for more than half their ground operations. SIGAR also highlighted a slight increase in the number

of casualties among Afghan military members, who have sustained massive losses over

the international community than in actually uprooting its AP KABUL (AFGHANISTAN) International fghanistan will need vast corruption problem," the report Afgnanistan win need said, referring to the Afghan government's failing anti-graft ing to keep its government afloat through 2024, a US Ghani's future is unceragency said Friday, even as for-

> Ghani the win. His main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, who serves as the country's chief executive in a fragile national unity government with Ghani, has claimed fraud.

tain as final results of last

year's presidential election have

yet to be announced, though

the preliminary results gave

Afghanistan ranked last in the Asia-Pacific region for corfor Afghan ruption, a global watchdog said earlier in January.

According to Transparency International, Afghanistan's global ranking last year — at 173 of 180 countries it surveyed was the worst since the group began ranking the coun-

was sharply critical of the try in 2005. Afghan government's efforts to Even as the international curb corruption, saying it is one community is paying billions of dollars annually, the poverty of the biggest concerns among rate in Afghanistan is climbing.

In 2012, 37 per cent of administration "is more inter- Afghans were listed below the ested in checking off boxes for poverty rate, surviving on less

money pays for roughly 75 per cent of all of Afghanistan's costs while government revenue covers barely a quarter of Afghan public expenditures.

than USD 1 a day. Today that figure has risen to 55 per cent of Afghans.

According to the SIGAR report for the last quarter of 2019, international donors, led by Washington, provide the Afghan government with USD 8.5 billion annually to cover everything from security to education and health care, as well as economic reconstruc-

The United States is paying USD 4.2 billion yearly just for Afghanistan's security and efense forces.

SIGAR added that the overall value of opiates available for export in Afghanistan in

2018 — estimated to be between USD 1.1 billion and USD 2.1 billion — far outstripped the total value of all the country's legal exports at USD 875 million. The report's findings come

ahead of a UN-hosted international donors conference this year that could be critical for Afghanistan's future. In 2016, world donors meeting in Brussels pledged USD 15 billion for Afghanistan. The US agency said the

problem of corruption should be the central issue in the 2020 donor conference. It recommended that inter-

national donors use its Afghan anti-corruption audits as a guide to directing funding more effectively, as well as monitoring actual results and exerting constructive influence on the Afghan government. "Working together, the

international community and its Afghan partners can stem the rot of corruption in Afghanistan. But it will take a greater commitment than we have seen so far to make transformative change," the report

The US agency's report

also documented an uptick in violence in Afghanistan's war, as well as a drop in the number of missions completed independently by internationally-funded Afghan forces. Casualties for Afghan

compared to the same period the previous year, it said. There were also more attacks against Afghan security forces by militants than in any other three month period since the agency began keeping statistics in 2010.

troops increased slightly from

May through October 2019,

The Taliban today control or hold sway over roughly half of Afghanistan, staging neardaily attacks. They usually target Afghan and US forces, as well as gov-

ernment officials and those

seen as linked to the govern-

ment, but scores of civilians die

in the crossfire. The report added that Afghan special forces conducted fewer ground operations than in any other quarter

Only 31 per cent of those missions were completed independently, without US or coalition support.

WHO declares global emergency

CORONAVIRUS: Nations should avoid overreaction, says China

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

s the World Health As the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the coronavirus out-break a global health emergency, China has said all countries should behave in a "responsible" manner and avoid overreaction that may result in more negative spillover

China informed the WHO about the coronavirus cases in late December. The death toll in China's novel coronavirus outbreak on Friday climbed to 213 with the number of confirmed cases totalling to 9,692.

The WHO said there had been 98 cases in 18 other countries, but no deaths. Most international cases are in people who had been to the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the epidemic.

"We are still at a very critical stage in fighting the coronavirus. International solidarity is extremely important and for that purpose all countries should behave in an appropriate and responsible manner," China's Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters here, Zhang said while Beijing understands the concerns of other countries over the outbreak, "we should also listen to the advice" of the Director circumstances, the world needs General of the WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus who outbreak. He stressed that all

The UK government on Friday confirmed the first

two cases of the deadly coro-

navirus in the country and

said the patients were mem-

bers of the same family who

were receiving specialist care.

National Health Service

(NHS) is "well-prepared" to

deal with the virus, which

originated in Wuhan in China

and has claimed 213 lives

"We can confirm that two

PTI ■ LONDON



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (left) and Professor Didier Houssin, Chair of Emergency Committee (right) talk to the media at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on

has said that he "has full confidence in China's efforts" to combat the outbreak.

Zhang said that "there is no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade" and the WHO doesn't recommend limiting trade and move-The Chinese envoy added that under the current

UK confirms first 2 cases

navirus," said Chris Whitty,

the UK's Chief Medical

ing specialist NHS care, and

we are using tried and tested

infection control procedures

to prevent further spread of

used to managing infections

and we are already working

rapidly to identify any con-

tacts the patients had, to pre-

vent further spread," he said.

team has been preparing for

The CMO said that his

The UK's Department for the virus. The NHS is Health stressed that the extremely well-prepared and

patients in England, who are UK cases of novel coron-

"The patients are receiv-

countries should adopt a responsible attitude, work together to combat the virus, and avoid "overreaction that may result in spillover negative effects." He also added that "we are still making our assessment" of the WHO declaration.

WHO's Emergency Committee, declaring the coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency, called on all countries to take urgent measures to contain the respirato-

"robust" infection control

measures in place to respond

immediately. "We are contin-

uing to work closely with the

World Health Organisation

(WHO) and the internation-

al community as the outbreak

in China develops to ensure

we are ready for all eventual-

the coronavirus outbreak a

global health emergency as at least 213 people in China have died from the virus,

mostly in Hubei, with almost

10,000 cases across the coun-

try. There have been 98 cases

of the virus in 18 countries,

The WHO has declared

ry disease. "The main reason for this declaration is not what is happening in China, but what is happening in other countries," said the WHO chief, praising the "extraordinary measures" taken there by authorities.

"China quickly identified the virus and shared its sequence, so that other countries could diagnose it quickly and protect themselves, which has resulted in rapid diagnos-

China's factory activity falls

Beijing (AFP): China's manufacturing activity slipped in

January, official data released Friday showed, as the country grap-

factory activity, came in at 50, down slightly from 50.2 the month

before. A reading above 50 indicates the sector is expanding while

that has triggered an unprecedented shutdown of transport and

was conducted before January 20 so "the impact of pneumonia

caused by the new coronavirus has not yet fully manifested".

of the restrictions only came into effect over the last week.

business in Hubei province — the centre of the outbreak.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), an early gauge of

The figure comes as China battles the spread of a coronavirus

However, the National Bureau of Statistics said the survey

The first patients were taken ill in early December but many

Non-manufacturing activity stood at 54.1, an improvement

from 53.5 in December. Higher demand ahead of the Lunar New

Year holiday was said to have contributed to December's expan-

sion after a tough year for China amid its bruising trade war with

ples with a new virus that has claimed more than 200 lives.

below that number shows contraction.

tic tools," said the statement from the Committee.

According to a press release issued by the Chinese Mission to the UN, Zhang reiterated that the WHO DG clearly stated that the main reason for this declaration is not because of what is happening in China but about protecting countries with weaker health systems and which are ill-prepared to deal with potential spread. He said WHO continues to

have confidence in China's capacity to control the outbreak and the Director-General's recommendations should be seriously considered.

The US issued a 'Do Not Travel' advisory for China due to the coronavirus outbreak. "Do not travel to China

due to novel coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China. On January 30, the World Health Organisation has determined the rapidly spreading outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice. Commercial carriers have reduced or sus-

Last week, the Department of State ordered the departure of all non-emergency US personnel and their family mem-

pended routes to and from

China," the advisory said.

An airplane of the German air force lifts off towards China at the Cologne Bonn Airport in Cologne (Germany) on Friday to fly

Death toll spikes to 213

PTI ■ BEIJING

The death toll in China's 1 coronavirus epidemic spiked to 213 and total infections reached 9,692, the government said on Friday as the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak that has spread to more than a dozen countries, including India, as a global health emergency.

The death toll rose to 213, mostly of elderly people, after 43 new deaths all but one in Hubei, the epicentre of the out break, China's national health authorities said, adding that 1,982 new cases had been confirmed, bringing the total to

About 20 countries, including India, the UK, US, South Korea, Japan and France, have reported confirmed cases of the virus in travellers coming from

The WHO, which held an emergency meeting in Geneva on Thursday, on declared the outbreak a global health emergency, a rarely used designation that could lead to improved international co-ordination in tackling the disease.

Reacting to the WHO announcement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying in a press statement said, "Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic, the Chinese government has been taking the most comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control measures with a high sense of responsibility for people's

Many of these measures go well beyond the requirements of the International Health Regulations, she said.

We have full confidence and capability to win this fight against the epidemic," said the spokesperson.

She said that at the same time, the Chinese side informed relevant sides and shared the genome sequence of the coronavirus in a timely manner with openness, transparency and a responsible atti-

Hua said China has been in close communication and cooperation with WHO.

"WHO experts recently conducted a field trip to Wuhan. Director-General Adhanom Ghebreyesus also visited China and discussed containment and mitigation of the 2019-nCoV with the Chinese side," she said.

A number of airlines have halting or reduced flights to China as the country struggles to contain the spread of the deadly novel coronavirus.

on Friday China announced that it will send charter flights to bring home residents of coronavirus-hit Hubei province, especially capital Wuhan, from abroad.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson in a statement said citizens from Hubei province will be brought back in view of "practical difficulties"

they were facing abroad.

The move followed Chinese officials' announcement that about five million people from Hubei province and capital Wuhan, the epicentre of coronavirus, have travelled out of the region before the province was officially closed on January 23.

These people are reported to have travelled within China and abroad to avail the weeklong holidays of the Chinese New Year and the ongoing Spring Festival.

India on Friday sent Air India's 423-seater jumbo B747 plane to Wuhan to evacuate Îndian nationals.The government has reached out to over 600 Indians living in China's Hubei province, the epicentre of the outbreak, to ascertain their willingness to be brought back to India.

The number of confirmed cases exceeds the 8,096 cases from SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) that spread to more than two dozen countries in 2002-03, and killed 774 people, mostly in China

members of the same family, avirus and that there are including in India. Release contaminated Fukushima Israel strikes water into sea: Japan panel

AFP ■ TOKYO

 $R_{ ext{stricken}}$ adioactive water from the stricken nuclear plant in Fukushima should be released into the ocean or vaporised into the air, an expert panel advised the Japanese government on

The proposal is non-binding and sets no deadline for the government to decide or carry out procedures to deal with the

The panel has been weighing the issue for more than three years, but a decision is becoming urgent as space at the site to store the water is run-

The TEPCO-operated

an earthquake-triggered tsuna-

The radioactive water comes from several different sources — including water used for cooling at the plant, and groundwater and rain that seeps into the plant daily and is put through an extensive filtration process.

The panel convened by the industry ministry said releasing the water into the sea or into the air using vaporisation are "realistic options."

Discarding the water into the sea "can be done with certainty," they added, because the method is also used at normal nuclear reactors.

The panel only has an nuclear plant suffered a melt- advisory role, and in their prodown in 2011 after it was hit by posal said they hope the gov-

ernment "will make a decision with a sense of responsibility and determination".

The government is expected to carry out consultations with local authorities and fishermen, many of whom fiercely oppose putting the water into the sea. It is unclear when any

decision will be made, though no ruling on the sensitive issue is expected before Tokyo hosts the Olympics this summer. The contaminated water should contain only tritium after being processed by the plant's filtration system.

Around 80 per cent of it needs to be reprocessed before it could potentially be

released. Experts say tritium is only harmful to humans in very large doses and the International Atomic Energy Agency argues that properly filtered water could be diluted with seawater and then safely released into the ocean

tal problems. But those arguments have not convinced activists as well as some local residents, including fishermen and farmers who fear the release will imperil their livelihoods.

without causing environmen-

The treated water is currently kept in a thousand huge tanks at the Fukushima Dajichi site.

Plant operator TEPCO is building more tanks but all will be full by the summer of

Hamas targets

AFP JERUSALEM

sraeli aircraft struck Hamas tar-Lgets in the Gaza Strip early Friday in response to new rocket fire from the blockaded territory, the army said. Three rockets were fired at Israel overnight without causing any casualties. Two were intercepted by air defences, a statement said.

Israel swiftly retaliated against Hamas, the Islamist movement which rules Gaza and which Israel generally holds responsible for all rocket fire from the territory, regardless of who launches it. The military struck "Hamas targets in the south of the

Gaza Strip", the army said. Israel has deployed additional troops to the Gaza border area since US President Donald Trump unveiled a controversial new peace plan on Tuesday that was angrily rejected by the Palestinians.

Wildfire creates state of emergency in Canberra

AP CANBERRA

The Australian capital region I declared a state of emergency on Friday because of an out-of-control forest fire burning erratically to its south.

It's the first fire emergency for the Australian Capital Territory area since 2003 when wildfires killed four people and destroyed almost 500 homes in a single day.

The threat is posed by a blaze on Canberra's southern fringe that has razed more than 21,500 hectares (53,000 acres) since it was sparked by heat from a military helicopter landing light on Monday, the Emergency Services Agency said.

"The state of emergency sets a clear expectation for our

No proposal for PoK merger with Pak: F0

community that we need you to be vigilant," Emergency Services Minister Mick Gentleman told

"This is the worst bushfire season in the ACT since 2003."

The fire is burning at emergency level — the highest on a three-tier scale of danger — and embers have created dangerous spot fires nearby, agency officials

Residents of southern Canberra suburbs and surrounding villages have been advised to prepare to either protect their homes or evacuate. Roads were blocked to the village of Tharwa late Friday because the fire posed too much danger for residents to evacuate or return to their homes.

The fire is the most dan-

gerous of dozens of blazes burning Australia's drought-stricken southeast.

Unprecedented fires across southern Australia have claimed at least 33 lives since September, destroyed more than 3,000 homes and razed more than 10.6 million hectares (26.2 million acres). The fire danger is forecast to escalate across the southeast in the Australian Capital Territory and the states of New South Wales and Victoria as summer temperatures rise over the weekend.

The state of emergency gives Canberra's local government additional powers to block roads, direct people's move-ments, control their property and undertake firefighting work on private land.

Boost for Trump: Key senator opposes calling witnesses

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

key Republican senator said Alate Thursday that he would oppose calling new witnesses at Donald Trump's impeachment trial, paving the way for the possible acquittal of the president

by the Senate as early as Friday. Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee said he would vote "no" when the question of calling further witnesses at the

trial is considered on Friday. Four Republican votes were needed to introduce new witnesses into the proceedings, and Alexander had been considered one of a handful of Republican senators who might support the motion.

Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine said she would support the call for witnesses, and Utah Senator Mitt Romney

Another Republican — Lisa Murkowski of Alaska — has said she will announce her decision Friday

Republicans hold a 53 to 47 seat edge in the Senate, and four Republicans needed to side with the Democrats for new witnesses to be introduced.

If the motion for new witnesses is rejected, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell could conceivably call for a vote to convict or acquit the president as soon as Friday.

Democrats are particularly eager to hear from former national security advisor John Bolton, who reportedly claims in an upcoming book that Trump personally told him that military assistance to Ukraine has said he was "very likely" to was tied to Kiev investigating his

Democratic rival Joe Biden. Chief Democratic prosecutor Adam Schiff, in a last-

ditch bid to win over Republican senators wary of a drawn-out process, proposed a one-week time frame to secure new witness testimony. "Let's have a reasonable accommodation here," the

California lawmaker told the 100 senators sitting as jurors at the historic trial. "We'll take one week, and you'll continue with the business of the Senate.' Trump's defense team rejected the Democratic calls for more witnesses, saying the move would be challenged by the White House, sending the matter to the courts and paralysing

the Senate for months. "They said for weeks it was overwhelming case," said White House deputy counsel Patrick Philbin.

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has rejected reports that the government intended to merge Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with the country, saying there is no such proposal.

Pakistani daily Dawn reported that the speculation about the merger had been doing the rounds for a little over six weeks now. It started with comments attributed to Farooq Haider Khan that he had been told that he would be the last "prime minister" of the PoK.

The rumours grew after the the government renamed one of the bureaucracy's service group, the daily said.

There is no such proposal under consideration," Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said on Thursday when asked about the reports.

She also rejected that government was thinking to bring new regulation to change the status of Gilgit-Baltistan. "It is media speculation I, do not wish to comment on it," she said in response to a question.

Such rumours on PoK merger grew often louder ahead of Kashmir related events which are observed in Pakistan. A similar event is scheduled to take place on February 5 which is observed as 'Kashmir Solidarity Day'.

After India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated the state into two union territories, there had been media speculation that Pakistan may follow the same path.

India maintains that PoK is its part and New Delhi expects to have physical

Pak govt dismisses reports of four-fold pay hike for Imran

PTI ■ KARACHI

The cash-strapped Pakistan I government has dismissed as "baseless" reports of Prime Minister Imran Khan getting a near-four-fold hike in salary, according to media reports.

The clarification was issued after news reports claimed the prime minister's gross salary would be increased from Rs 2,01,574 to around Rs 8,00,000. "At a time when the prime

minister was carrying out a campaign to slash the government's expenditures, the propagation of such a baseless and concocted news report was unfortunate," the Prime jurisdiction over it one day. Minister's Office spokesper-

Dawn News. Khan recently said he

could not manage his household expenses from his official salary, the report said.

We have reduced the expenses of the Prime Minister House by 40 per cent. I live in my own home, pay my own expenses. My (official) salary is not enough to cover the expenses of my own house-

hold," Khan said. He has also claimed that his foreign visits have cost the exchequer 10 times less than

his predecessors. Khan said his visit to Switzerland earlier in the month for the World Economic

son was quoted as saying by Forum was the "cheapest" by a Pakistani state leader. Khan said his trip was

sponsored by two businessmen. According to The News, Khan earned Rs 1,96,979 after deductions, as per his February 2019 pay slip. The Pakistan government

has been implementing aus-

terity measures to improve the country's finances. In July last year, Pakistan registered a currency reserve of less than USD 8 billion — enough to cover only 1.7 months of imports.

In August 2018, Pakistan approached the International Monetary Fund for a bailout package after the Khan government took over.

VERVE 45 MINUTES =

YOUNG AT HEART

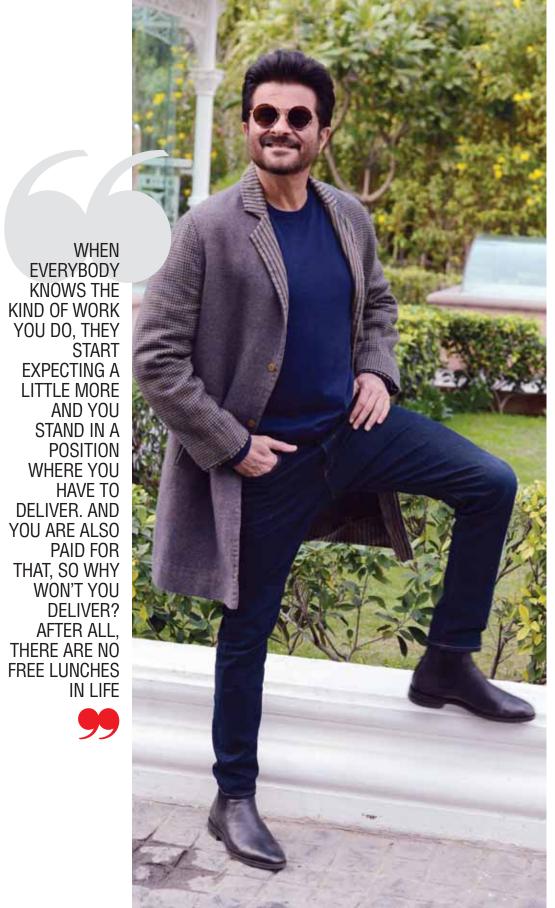
Over the course of 40 years, actor ANIL KAPOOR had straddled the domain of arthouse and commercial cinema with equal ease. By Ayushi Sharma

The recent trailer of Malang has been making waves as people hazard wild guesses about what the film's storyline is about. There are conjectures all around as to who is playing what and actor Anil Kapoor fuels the curiosity further when you ask him about his character. He laughs and says that's the "intent" because it's a thriller. "Yes, it does look a bit confusing and that's the idea — to keep people's curiosity alive. The trailer should be such that people want to watch the film when it releases. Don't you want to?,"

Anil has played a range of characters during the 40 years that he has been a part of the industry. But he is not flagging as he continues to reinvent himself with each film. His first reaction to the trailer was similar to that of most of the audience. So what made him go for such a character? "When I heard the script, I felt what the audience is feeling after watching the trailer. It makes you think about what and how will the film unfold. It confuses you. But then you are eager to find out the layers. The narrative is not simple but it is definitely interesting,"

says he. The film revolves around a couple, Advait (Aditya Roy Kapoor) and Sara (Disha Patani), whose seemingly perfect life comes crashing down when they get linked to a corrupt cop (Anil) and his righteous counterpart (Kunal Khemu). To further complicate matters, all four are on a killing spree. Anil plays a police officer from Goa, who is disappointed with the ways of the world and the hostile environment around him. He feels that the process is slow and taxing. "He just wants justice. While his department is a little unhappy with the way he works, he is also dissatisfied with the manner in which his department handles operations. There's also a simmering anger within him about the decline of Goa. Earlier he was a tourist attraction but now he finds that it has become too commercial," he tells us. Anil feels that such films push one to use their mind and youngsters today enjoy doing that. "They don't want to be spoon-

fed," he says. Amid this flood of good content and realistic cinema, what do thrillers have to offer? Do they still appeal to the audience as they did before?



Moreover, the idea of thrillers has also changed with Sacred Games and Mirzapur. They are no longer infused with fiction or fantasy. It's reality all the way. Anil thinks it's changing because of the kind of exposure to content we have now. "It's so important that even fantasy has a bit of real-ity now. People want the characters and stories to be real. A little larger than life. Nobody starts investing in something the customer doesn't require. It's always according to what people want. There are so many stakeholders, distributors and producers. They always invest in stories which the audience wants to consume. Sometimes they succeed and at times they don't. It's just a part of the business. Also, the choices vary from filmmaker to filmmaker, actor to actor. You just need to do your best and eventually, it is the audience which decides what's right, what's wrong," he says.

The actor is known to

have blended in with the younger generation really well. So does he feel the pressure of putting the right content forward as many people, especially youngsters look up to him? He feels that it's not just him but almost everybody has the pressure of putting the right content forward, no matter the age or the profession. "When everybody knows the kind of work you do, they start expecting a little more and you stand in a position where you have to deliver. That's partially the price you pay for being in the show business. And you are also paid for that, so why won't you deliver? There are no free lunches in life," he laughs

and says. As an actor, Anil has straddled arthouse and big commercials effortlessly. How difficult is it to keep a balance while switching genres? It depends on the actor, he says. For him, the more challenging it is, the more exciting it becomes. "I love challenges. I want to dive into something which I have never done before. So I never step back from trying new things because when you keep on doing same things over and over again, there is a tendency to stagnate and people get bored. So that's not the right move for an actor who really loves his work. And when you start doing great work, people expect you to do the same thing and even that becomes more challenging. Both ways,

it is difficult," says Anil.
Photo: Pankaj Kumar



Helmet will decide if I should play lead: **Aparshakti**

ctor Aparshakti Khurana says he had a great time shooting for his quirky next release, *Helmet*. The film, co-starring Pranutan Bahl, is his first outing as a solo lead actor. He added that the audience response to the film will deterresponse to the film will determine whether he should do lead roles in the future.

"I think these all are wishes of my family, colleagues and the audience that all these things are happening to me. If Helmet connects with the audience then people might think about whether I should play lead roles or not. If it does not connect, then people will say that it was too early for me to do a leadhero film and I should have done two to three films in supporting roles. So, it's all very situational. Having said that, I had a great time shooting for the film. Whatever I have seen and heard about it, it's all going great," said the actor, while interacting with the media at dancer choreographer Shakti Mohan's Break A Leg Season 2 shoot along with actor Nushrat Bharucha

Aparshakti has carved his niche as a fine actor and comedian with some interesting character roles and was recently seen in the dance hit, Street Dancer 3D. "This is the first time I played an emotional character. I have always played comic characters in films. When I used to do theatre, I used to do a lot of dark and intense roles but when I started working in films, I continuously have been doing comic characters and that was a bit weird. I had fun while playing an emotional character in this film and I feel glad that it connected with the audience,"

Helmet, his first outing as a leading man, is directed by Satram Ramani. Nushrat Bharucha, who was also present at the location, talked about her forthcoming film *Chhalaang*, co-starring Rajkummar Rao. "We have recently launched the poster of the film. Everybody is excited to see what is going to happen in the film and why Raj (Rajkummar Rao) is sleeping in the poster. We are going to release the trailer very soon, so I don't want to talk about it any more. The film will release on March 13," she said about Chhalaang, a black comedy directed by Hansal Mehta and Ranjan and Ankur Garg.

This film will be
Aparshakti's first as a lead actor.

Directed by Satram Ramani, Helmet is a funny script which touches upon an unusual topic that is considered embarrassing for most people in India. It is yet to be disclosed. Rohan Shankar, who previously wrote Luka Chuppi has been roped in as the

Aparshakti will play opposite Pranutan Bahl in the film. It has been shot in Varanasi and

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

A7hen David Alan Grier was offered a chance to revisit one of his favourite plays on Broadway, he quickly agreed. He just forgot about all the beatings. In A Soldier's Play, Grier plays a stern Army sergeant who during each show is pummeled twice and later shot dead, again twice. While the violence is fake, the actor does have to repeatedly drop and roll around on the American Airlines Theatre

while this is Grier's third time performing A Soldier's Play, the fact that the role he's playing was so physical slipped his mind. He only remembered the physicality when a fight coordinator appeared.

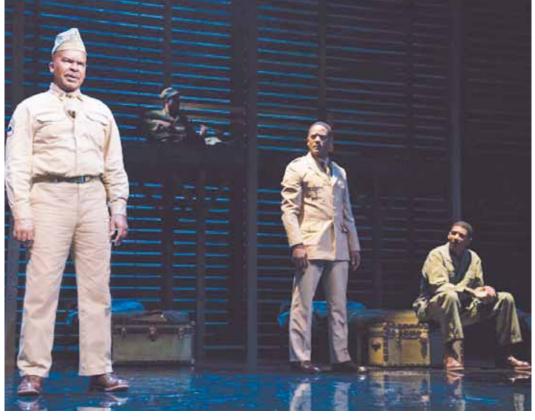
"I forgot about all that. I was like, 'Oh, he has lots of lines. Yeah, I'll do it.' I thought there were little scuffles. I thought, well, he gets pushed a couple times. A lot of monologues. I'll take it," says

To be sure, Grier is the last person you'd expect to be caught unaware. One of his earliest roles was in a small part in the off-Broadway debut of A Soldier's Play when he was in his 20s. He revisited the work when it was turned into a 1984 film. This is his third bite of the apple. "I was the youngest actor. Now I'm the oldest," he says.

The play by Charles Fuller is set on an Army base in Louisiana during World War II. A Black investigator has been called to find out who murdered the Black sergeant of an all-black company. What he finds is racism — but not from white bigots or the KKK. He finds intolerance within the black

'Live in the moment

Actor DAVID ALAN GRIER says that the best part of his day is to feel a sense of belonging while walking into a theatre





The play by **Charles Fuller is** set on an Army base in Louisiana during World War II. A Black investigator has been called to find out who murdered of an all-black company

The play won the Pulitzer Prize for drama and over the years has attracted some of the most accomplished actors in the black community: Denzel Washington, Adolph Caesar, Samuel L. Jackson, Wood Harris, Taye Diggs, Anthony Mackie, James McDaniel and Blair

Underwood. Jerry O'Connell, who plays a captain worrying about the direction of the case, said it's a kick having Grier — who has now played three different roles — around for the Broadway version. "It is pret-ty funny asking Grier for advice, like 'Hey, what happened in the original production?' He's like, 'It was 38 years ago! I don't remem-

ber any of it!" Grier recalls making the film in Arkansas and one day then Gov Bill Clinton stopped by the set. He also vividly recalled the food: Patti LaBelle, who played a nightclub singer, made rice and red beans daily and one day the caterer served something a little odd: catfish sushi. "I abstained. Wisely, wisely, I was told later," Grier says. One reason was that he'd never heard of such a dish. "And I'm going to go out on a limb. I speak for all Japan: Neither have

they."

When you speak to the actor, food often comes up. He's an avid chef and shares his creations on social media and in a food blog. He recently detailed cooking a massive pork shoulder for eight hours. He the Black sergeant managed to pull out the bone and simmer it with root vegetables to make bone broth. Someone mentioned in the comment section they'd also been boiling bones but

they were doing it for three days and the broth tasted terrible. "Yeah, you dummy. Three days? That's what you do to get rid of a body," joked Grier.

Food — well, dessert, really had an important role in how he became an actor. Growing up in Detroit, he knew he was funny but he moved to New York in the mid-1970s to be a musician. And like all struggling musicians, he had a side hustle.

Grier worked at a Häagen-Dazs ice cream store in the Upper East Side of Manhattan and often after his sticky shift would go across the street to a disco. One night he was messing around when an actor spotted him and said he had talent and was wasting his life. "He was really responsible for saying you are on the wrong path. Whatever he saw in that moment was 'You need to go over here," says Grier. "And I listened."

Grier, who after that conversation applied to acting schools and chose Yale, would go on to a career on the stage (Dreamgirls and Porgy and Bess), on TV (In Living Color and DAG) and film (Jumanji and Native Son).

Being on Broadway again these days isn't old hat to the 63-year-old performer. He even likes to get to the theatre early, long before the

place is buzzing.

"To walk into a theater and belong — this is my doorway into my life — is the best. It's the best part of the day," he says. "You walk in this environment before the audience is there and the crew is kind of just vacuuming, setting up, testing everything. I love it.'



RICHA CHADHA

I had not had an experience with respect to pay parity in Bollywood because I feel the industry rewards your boxoffice prowess. It's really the number of bums you put on the seats. I think the day people start commanding a higher box-office (they will get higher pay). The day people bring more business is the day it will all be fine



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

I am really surprised that I was in Roadies 15 years ago and it's the 17th season now. I am glad that the show has garnered TRP. I am really proud of Rannvijay (Singha) that he is taking it forward so well. I am a huge fan of Raftaar, Neha Dhupia, Nikhil Chinappa and Prince — all are my old friends. I always wish the best of luck to them.

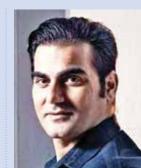


HORT

SHWETA TRIPATHI

CIRCUITS-

I had a zero make-up look for the Mirzapur 2. I would walk into shoot with some sunscreen and that's it. Mirzapur was a long commitment of a few months. So initially we discussed going for a short hair look but then I thought of the hair-do and how it doesn't fit into my other work.



ARBAAZ KHAN

I feel the only thing that needs to be taken care of is the safety and security that will come with late-night places. We have to ask ourselves that 'are we equipped for that?' Otherwise, it's a good thing because we always say that Mumbai is a city that never sleeps. Now, malls and certain places will be open and it will

MARGOT ROBBIE

I love stunt work, I really, really love it. It's just cool to work with an amazing stunt team like 87 Eleven. They're truly amazing, like, backflips, that's Renae Moneymaker. She's an incredible stunt performer. But yes, they got me doing everything else really, other than critical acrobats, so it was fun



WALKTHROUGH 45 MINUTES

LIFE IS ART

The 12th edition of the India Art Fair speaks of the changing socio-political landscape of India and reveals how creativity is flourishing unbound. By Chahak Mittal



Ghiora Aharoni's Thank God For Making Me A Woman

ho said that art is for the afi-cionado? A walkthrough at the India Art Fair clearly inspired us with its new ideas and a very humane approach to life as it is lived everyday. This wasn't an escapade of imagination, it was of owning reality and an attempt to transcend it with human will. It was of a new India that is being scripted in the subterranean folds of the mind, no matter what is being dictated externally. It was a fresh breath that brought us alive.

Voices from India

Curator Sudarshan Shetty's Look Outside This House stayed with us long after we had left the display area. Earlier showcased at the Serendipity Arts Festival 2019, the first part of the exhibition featured six videos of different people, singing in their native languages from different cities of India. The videos depicted how there are people outside our houses who act as objects, which may be dreaming of another world one without and obligations and constraints. From a tribal woman from Jharkhand singing a song inspired by Gandhian philosophy, a Maharashtrian woman singing Powada and initiating a conversation around how plastic is affecting our collective future, to a Mumbai-based Dalit bard standing beside the road, narrating poignant tales of daily battles against injustice and subjugation of the Dalit community... these objects look for meanings in society's changing ways. There was also the Bombay Lokal, the first hiphop band from the suburbs of Mumbai, spreading socio-political awareness, with a vision to unite the country's youth, and recalling the leaders of the freedom movement as they sing, 'Follower hain hum Bhagat Singh aur Azad ke.' Then there were two Miyah poets, the last of their kind who chronicle their sorrow of being called so, the term is a derogatory slur used for Bengali-origin Muslims. They sing about violence, discrimination, apathy and threat of statelessness due to the changing socio-political climate in India.

Making space for more

Next up was the inclusivity portal or Inclusion @ IAF, which hosted a number of workshops at the fair by those who have played small but essential roles in keeping different arts alive and have yet stayed unrecognised. Moving further, Sandeep TK's series of photographs, Declaration of Empathy, gave an eye-opening and evocative message. The photographs represented the aftermath of what happened when Sandeep asked a few of his friends from Kerala who belong to the trans-community to imagine an alternative life. While in one photograph, a transwoman is dressed as a dancer holding her head high in front of her teachers and classmates, who ridiculed her for her feminine behaviour, in another, a transwoman is a dressed as a lawyer, which would have been her answer to all the discrimination she has ever faced. There were also transpersons dressed as a nurse looking after a patient, a police officer riding a bike, a classical dancer, a film actress and a leader of the Communist Party in Kerala.

Art gone live

Carried out in a ceremonial style, Nigerian artist Jelili Atiku's performance-installation, Nobody is Born Wise, invited the audience to re-enact





Jelili Atiku's Nobody is Born Wise

the traditional ritual of colouring sacred idols in turmeric, which is considered crucial during various "cultural, religious as well as culinary practices" in India. Dressed in an allwhite garment, Atiku's clean attire soon turned yellow as he painted a 100 Ganesha idols with the colour, as

Another one was by Maya Krishna Rao, who presented a solo performance, *Loose Woman*, giving short and sharp glimpses of a woman who finds herself in situations that push, pull and stretch her skin, as it were. Known for her feminist and protest theatre, she acted as a person driving through the streets, looking at her mother gardening, playing at a highway and dancing with abandon.

Naksha, an Untold Odyssey, by artist Piyali Ghosh, which will be

showcased tomorrow, is a live drawing performance inspired by the mathematical design and symmetry the Chakravyuh, the military formation mentioned in the Hindu epic Mahabharata.

> Meeting of the two worlds One of the most eye-catching art-

work installations was that by New York-based artist Ghiora Aharoni, who has made some opposites meet with such ease that it looked like they weren't different from each other at all — vintage and technology, science and religion, Hindi and Urdu, and Jeruselam and Varanasi. Talking about the idea behind combining some completely different worlds, he said that the works were characterised by an interest in exploring dualities such as that of religion and science, which might seem distant, but in a way "go hand in hand." Looking around the gallery, one found traditional objects and symbols, cultural artifacts and sacred texts, which had been recontextualised with a new meaning, challenging the conventions. He also created a separate space where he combined Hindu and Urdu as the wall reads, 'Shukr Hai Bhagwaan Ne Mujhe Aurat Banaya,' both in Devanagri and Persian scripts. He said, "I had been working on combining Hebrew and Arabic. The motive behind combining Hindi and Urdu was to unite two

elements which are conflicted yet overlapping."

What struck the most

While Korea's Gallery Tableau's The Sunny Room, Celadon Bowl, and See The World, caught eyeballs, the exhibition Be Reborn at Simyo Gallery from Seoul, South Korea, made waves by showcasing old masterpieces by great artists which were digitally augmented and given a new life. From an old Asian masterpiece of a landscape to the famous Mona Lisa's painting, the artworks come alive through more dynamic, vivid and colourful elements being added to them. Lee Leenam has presented poetic images and transitions of space with new perspectives and

Tapasya Gupta's sculpture series, Sweet Days of Summer, by Gallery Veda presented the concept of destiny through a wry sense of humour and laughter, which, as per the artist, represent the inner beauty of a person.

interpretation through the theme,

'reborn'.



Sandeep TK's Declaration of Empathy

FINDING THE UNKNOWN

Inspired by the golden period of Hindi cinema, global artworks at the fair delve deep into India's history and culture. By Team Viva

As one enters the India Art Fair, time becomes an illusion as you are surrounded by a plethora of creativity and art from across the world. It's enthralling to see how the contemporary art scene has evolved overtime in the country and today has an immense global presence.

There are around 80 galleries from across Indian and international cities, many of them first-timers. Taking a walk through the fair, one could see many live installations,

through the fair, one could see many live installations, events, bookshops and workshops.

Inspired by the imagery of the golden period of Hindi cinema — 1960s, the paintings of Canada-based artist Marcel Dzama gives an insight into the Indian culture, details about Bollywood and regional wildlife. Presented by the David Zwirner gallery, Dzama's works are a visual exploration of the Indian ethos with hints of divine iconography. His works presented a blurred relationship between the real and the subconscious through a understandable visual language. "I have always admired Bollywood I loved visual language. "I have always admired Bollywood. I loved how each character had a specific charm and tone which is somewhere still intact in the hearts of the people. So I have always been drawn to dance, costumes and masks. I

remember, during my childhood, I used to dress up in a costume and pretend that I was a film's character all day long," Dzama said, pointing towards his work that seamlessly merge Indian mythology, pop culture and memories.

While I wondered the depth each painting talked about, the appeal ing tent facade designed by popular Indian artist Sameer Kulavoor, grabbed my attention instantly. It focussed on

the routine Indian life, I couldn't help appreciating him for depicting the everyday ordinariness so beautifully.

Another artist, Chitra Ganesh has explored the the lines between past and future. She has also portrayed a dynam-"There are always untold stories trying to rise to the surface. They are inspiring," said she.

B Prabha, a female modernist, brought one of her prized pieces to the fair. She began painting at a time when very few women were in this profession. Inspired by artist Amrita Sher Gil, Prabha represented real female subjects, liberated from the gaze of the male artist. She painted the trauma and tragedy of women and depicted the melancholy rural women in natural colour palettes.

Moving ahead was the miniature artist, Sahil Naik, who described his meticulous models in a fine manner. For Naik, close examination of structures offers the possibility of understanding what took place and under what circumstances. He is interested in knowing the incidents that led to a particular situation. One of his project called Monuments, Mausoleums, Memorials and Modernism explored the zeal of new nations. Models of structures were inspired by a proposed dam in his native Goa, whose building process would have displaced local residents from there. There is a human cost, Naik implies, to such large-scale

Apart from a diverse selection of contemporary and modern art galleries from across different cities, the fair also features international galleries from New York, Berlin, Seoul, Colombo, London, Hong Kong, and Dubai.

There were sections showcasing solo presentations curated by various galleries — Ratheesh T by Galerie Mirchandani and Steinruecke, Girjesh Kumar Singh by Rukshaan Art, Anjan Modhak by Emami Art, Avijit Dutta by Kalakriti Art Gallery, D Dhasan by Apparao Galleries, KS Radhakrishnan by Galleri Nvya and Subodh Kerkar by Gallery Art Positive.

Next in line were outdoor art projects, ranging from largescale interactive installations to sculptures. It also had giant wooden rain drops by Chennai-based printmaker Vijay Pichumani with Art Houz Gallery. It touched upon the ongoing conversation around water scarcity.

Yet another interesting part of the fair, that extends beyond the venue, are collateral events programmed by galleries, museums and arts spaces around the city. The opening of the newly refurbished Jaipur House, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Gujral Foundation, Khoj International Artists Association, Bikaner House and walkthroughs in Okhla, among others remained a centre of attraction.

Various artists were glad about the fact that they not only do a fair amount of business through the fair but have also been able to build long-term relationships.





SINGLES

fitness tests at the CSA's strength and conditioning camp.

Sisanda Magala, who was also at the camp and named in

the ODI squad, has not yet met the fitness requirements

and will continue to work with fitness trainer Tumi

Masekela, targeting the three-match T20I series that takes

LARA TO PLAY IN BUSHFIRE RELIEF MATCH

SYDNEY: West Indies legend Brian Lara joined the star-

studded list of players who have confirmed their

participation in the charity match organised to raise funds

for Australia's bushfire victims. The legendary left-hander

joined the likes of Yuvraj Singh & Wasim Akram on playing

DORTMUND: Paco Alcacer became the victim of Erling Braut Haaland's spectacular start at Borussia Dortmund as

the Spain striker left to join Villarreal. The 26-year-old

Alcacer reportedly cost the Spanish league side 30 million

euros (\$33 million), including bonus payments, after

signing a deal until 2025 to return to Spain after only 18

months in Germany. "We would like to thank Paco Alcacer

for his performance in the Dortmund jersey and wish him

good health and maximum sporting success in the future, said Dortmund's sports director Michael Zorc.

New Delhi: Ashu will lead the Delhi Under-17 (boys) team

in the Dr BC Roy National Championship to be held in

Shillong. Goalkeeper Shubham Biswas has been named

his. DSA president Shaji Prabhakaran wished the boys

good luck for the upcoming tournament. While handing

over the team kits to young team members Shaji said "You

are lucky 20 to qualify from the 400 boys who participated in the trials and now the onus is on you to come with flying

ASHU WILL LEAD DELHI U-17 SIDE

DORTMUND CONFIRMS ALCACER EXIT

place after the ODIs.

rosters, cricket.Com.Au reported.

NGIDI, SHAMSI PASS FITNESS TESTS DUBAI: South Africa pacer Lungi Ngidi, spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and all-rounder Jon-Jon Smuts are back in contention for the ODI series against England, which begins on February 4. All three players have passed their

Final that nobody saw coming

In a first, Kenin, Muguruza face-off for first Australian title

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Serena Williams dominated talk before the Australian Open but today's women's final is between unseeded Garbine Muguruza and unheralded Sofia Kenin — a 750-1 longshot of a championship match that nobody predicted nobody predicted.

After a tournament of surprises, the 21-year-old Kenin can even supplant Williams as the top-ranked American if she manages another plot twist by beating Spain's Muguruza in Melbourne. The 38-year-old American legend

Williams was attempting to equal the record 24 Grand Slam titles of Australian Margaret Court, but she lost in the third round to China's Wang Qiang.

Reigning champion Naomi Osaka went out at the same stage to 15-year-old sensation Coco Gauff, who was promptly turfed out herself by fellow American Six of the top 10

seeds exited in the third round, seemingly blowing the tournament open for Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty.

But step forward Moscow-born 14th seed Kenin once more, who showed remarkably few nerves in her first Grand Slam semi-final as she broke home hearts in straight sets.

Even if she loses the final, Kenin will reach a career-high nine in the world, rising from her current position of 15th.

If she beats Muguruza and she did so in their only previous meeting, at the China Open in the autumn — she will leapfrog Williams into seventh

No Exit for Bale

Real vs Atletico

AFP MADRID

Zinedine Zidane has said he is

transfer window.

Tottenham.

"not contemplating" Gareth Bale leaving Real Madrid on Friday

Bale came close to joining

English newspaper the Times reported on Friday the

Welshman was in talks to rejoin his former club

But a source at Spurs said they are not in negotiations to sign Bale this month. Another source

close to the player insisted earlier this week that

"nothing has changed" and he would not be leav-

on Friday, Zidane said in a press conference:

"Gareth is with us, I'm counting on him. I do not

on Wednesday, having completed only one full

the city derby against Atletico Madrid at the

Zidane said. "The players all have to be prepared."

his foot injury and could feature against Atletico. "We'll see but he has been training with us all week," Zidane said. "He could be included tomor-

training session following an ankle injury.

Asked about the possibility of Bale being sold

Bale was left out of the Copa del Rey squad

Zidane would not say if he would return for

"I'm not going to tell you who is going to play,"

There was also a positive update regarding the fitness of Eden Hazard, who has recovered from

Hazard has not played since fracturing his foot

Chinese Super League side

Jiangsu Suning last summer and

ing Real Madrid in January.

contemplate this possibility."

Santiago Bernabeu today.

before the end of the January

Kenin vs Muguruza Live from 1:30pm IST SONY SIX & TEN 3 NETWORK

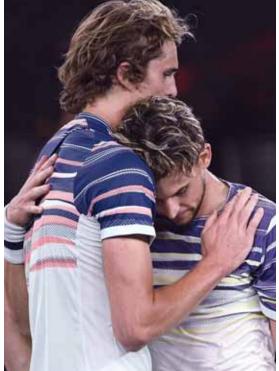


Friday, booking a show-down with seven-time champion Novak Djokovic.

The 26-year-old fifth seed, the first player from Austria ever to reach the Melbourne decider, battled past seventh-ranked Zverev 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4) on a sweltering evening.

Defending champion Djokovic awaits him after the second seed ended Roger Federer's dreams in straight sets on Thursday to make his eighth Melbourne

Thiem has his work cut out against the Serb who is on 12-match unbeaten streak this season and has won all seven of



Dominic Thiem, right, is congratulated by Alexander Zverey after win

Thiem outlasts Zverev the Australian Open deciders he has contested. And if Djokovic needs

extra motivation, winning tomorrow will see him reclaim the world number one ranking after Rafael Nadal crashed to Thiem in the last eight.

"It was an unreal match, two tie-breakers, so tough and so close. It was almost impossible to break him," said Thiem.

"Being in the Australian Open final is unreal. What start to the season for me."

Thiem had dealt with semi-final pressure before, although always on the slower red clay at Roland Garros, where he reached the past two finals only to be beaten by Nadal.

That experience paid dividends as he coolly closed out the match after 3hrs 42 mins to give himself another chance to break the stranglehold of the Big Three and win his first Grand Slam.

LYON SET SHOWDOWN WITH MARSEILLE

colours and bring good name for Delhi.

NICE: Lyon will face in-form Marseille in the French Cup quarter-finals after a last gasp penalty snatched a 2-1 win for them at Nice on Thursday. Moussa Dembele opened the scoring for the away side. Little else happened until the final minutes, when first Kasper Dolberg backheeled straight to Lyon goalkeeper Anton Tatarusanu from a few yards out. Adam Ounas then flashed home a leveller for the hosts in the 89th minute, but just seconds later Lyon were given a penalty for Dante's reckless tackle on substitute Karl Toko Ekambi, with Houssem Aouar tucking home the

ARSENAL SIGN SAINTS DEFENDER SOARES LONDON: Arsenal announced the signing of Portugal defender Cedric Soares on loan from Southampton until the end of the season. Arsenal technical director Edu said

on the club website: "Cedric is a defender with good experience of the Premier League, and of course at international level. He is another strong addition to our defensive unit who will provide our squad with quality.

SAI GIVES RANI OUT-OF-TURN PROMOTION New Delhi: Indian women hockey team captain Rani

Rampal, who has been named the World Games Athlete of the Year, handed an out-of-turn promotion by the Sports Authority of India to honour her achievement. Rani, who joined SAI as an assistant coach in 2015, has been promoted to the post of coach (Level-10), with immediate effect. Speaking about the initiative of SAI to reward Rani on her achievement, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "Ensuring that our athletes have a sound financial standing is of immense importance. This is our way of appreciating Rani for all that she has contributed to the country," Rijiju said.

MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHER XI ENTER SEMIS

by five wickets to enter the semi-final of the 10th Kabir Shah Media Cup Cricket Tournament at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Friday. In another league match played at Chowk Stadium, Amar Ujala edged past Times of India by one wicket. Despite of the defeat Tol made it to the semifinals on bettter run-rate along with The Pioneer and Combined Media XI.

ANANDESHWAR TO GET PHD

Lucknow: Commonwealth University of Kingdom of Tonga is awarding a honoris causa PhD degree to Handball Federation of India general secretary Anandeshwar Pandey for his outstanding work for promoting handball.



in the rankings.

"After this week, she is a top-10 player, she deserves that respect and she deserves the recognition," said the beaten Barty, the latest to succumb to the fiery Kenin. "She's played an

exceptional tournament, she's had an exceptional last 12 months."

Kenin won her first WTA title only 12 months ago in Hobart and added two more during the season with the determination and aggression that has become her trademark in the

"I've always had

I'm playing, where I'm playing, I'm going to fight for it," said Kenin, who moved to the United States from Russia as a baby with her family. The 26-year-old Muguruza will be

the next to try to tame Kenin. British bookmakers William Hill said the odds of a Kenin-Muguruza final were 750-1 before the Australian Open began. They make

Muguruza the favourite because she has experience of the biggest occasions, having won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon

But this is her first final in Melbourne and she is ranked 32 in the world after her form tailed off alarmingly in the past 18 months.
Unseeded for the first time at a

Grand Slam since 2014, Muguruza beat three top-10 seeds in reaching the final.

semi-final against fourth-ranked Simona Halep to defeat her fellow former world number one 7-6 (10/8), 7-5. Muguruza is not one for exuberant

She fought back in both sets in her

celebrations and she gives as lit-tle away in her post-match comments.

So it was left to Halep to say that the Spaniard has the quality to be the world's top-ranked player australian open once more - but with one caveat. "If she can play every day like this,

she can be number one for sure," said the 28-year-old Romanian, also a French Öpen and Wimbledon champion, following their hard-fought semi-

"But it's tough to do that. The consistency on tour — it's the most important thing and the toughest one."



BARCELONA: Lionel Messi scored twice as Barcelona hammered Leganes 5-0 to advance to the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey and deliver a much-needed boost for new

Messi's double, as well as goals from Antoine Griezmann, Clement Lenglet and Arthur Melo rounded off an emphatic win at Camp Nou, where Barca successfully bounced back from Saturday's surprise La Liga loss away at Valencia.

Griezmann made his case by opening the scoring after four minutes as Nelson Semedo cut back for the Frenchman to control and poke home his 13th goal of the season.



Another Griezmann strike was ruled out shortly after, only for Lenglet to head in Messi's corner at the near post to put Barcelona two up after 27

Messi made it three after springing in behind just before the hour and then Arthur Melo, on for Griezmann, added another, banging in after both Ansu Fati and Messi had been

denied. Leganes were finished but Messi had one more goal left in him as he latched onto Ivan Rakitic's pass and rounded Pichu Cuellar, before finishing for his 19th of the season and third under a relieved Setien.

They will now face Athletic Bilbao in away quarter-final game after Friday's draw, while Real Madrid will host Real Sociedad at Santiago

Bopanna gets Tata Open wild card **NEW DELHI:** Ace India tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his partner Ariun Kadhe has been awarded with the wild card entry in the doubles at the third edition of Tata

Open Maharashtra which is scheduled from February 3-9 at Mhalunge Balewadi Stadium in Pune. The World No 38 Bopanna, who clinched the dou-

bles title in the last edition playing alongside Divij Sharan, will lead Indian challenge in South Asia's only ATP Tour tournament alongside local boy Arjun Kadhe. Sharan, who will partner alongside Artem Sitak, have already made into the main draw with a direct entry.

Kadhe also received wild card entry into the singles main draw while the third wild card has been awarded to young promising Indian player Sasikumar

"It's amazing to have Bopanna back in the tournament. He clinched the title in the last edition and we hope he will dish out impressive show with Kadhe this year too," said Prashant Sutar, Tournament Director.

With Kadhe and Mukund's inclusion, five Indian players will now feature in the 28-size singles main

'Couple of good shows can put Saina back on track' Explaining further, Kashyap, himself a former world No 6 singles player, confidence back. I think

Bruno hails Cristiano's influence in United move

AFP MANCHESTER

Dortugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes completed his move from Sporting Lisbon to Manchester United on Thursday, claiming he was inspired to switch to Old Trafford by compatriot Cristiano Ronaldo.

five-and-a-half year contract with an option to extend for a further year. "My love of Manchester United really started when I used to watch Cristiano Ronaldo play and ever since then I have been a big fan of this great club," Fernandes explained of his Portuguese teammate who played for United from 2003-2009.

"For me, to now play for Manchester United feels incredible.



"I have worked hard to get to this

moment and I can promise the fans that I will give everything for the badge to help bring us more success



she will be okay. A couple of good weeks and she will be back on track. But her body has to support her," Kashyap said about his

The 2012 London Olympic Bronze medallist, has not won a title since the 2019 Indonesia Masters in January and she was able to cross the first-round only six times in the last 14 tournaments that she has played.

The gradual dip in her performance saw her slip to the 18th spot in BWF rankings and a lowly 22nd in the Ölympic qualto be inside top 16 by April 28. She has 49000 points and she has to get to around 53000 points by that time, so basically she has to make 4000-5000 points in the next eight tournaments. "She has to defend points at All England and Asian championship. So she has to basically make

said: "Saina is currently

world No 18 and she has

four quarters or semifinals. She has to play better in next few tournaments and she can still

Sathiyan hopes to make Olympic cut soon

PNS NEW DELHI

Though the Indian men's and women's table tennis teams missed out on an opportunity to secure qualification for the Tokyo Olympics in the 2020 ITTF World Team Qualification tournament, earlier this month, but top Indian TT players still have a chance to book a berth in the singles competition. India's TT star G Sathiyan expressed that the top Indian singles players have a great chance of qualifying



'We have a very big chance for qualifying for the singles and I will definitely try to make amends there and see how I can

going great. We have a lot of tournaments scheduled. I am pretty sure that I will make the cut very soon," said the paddler. The Indian table tennis

contingent performed exceedingly well at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2018 with the women's team clinching Gold at CWG and the men's team winning Bronze at the grow in India. "Table tennis has

Spain Masters (February 18-23). It

is a crucial time. She has to get her

improved by leaps and bounds in India. The very fact that we were the favourites in such a big tournament like the Olympic qualification talks about how we have grown in the last four years. We have started proving our mettle in the world arena. It's not an easy job for teams to take on India Asian Games, among other now," said the 27-year-old.

Ashmita, Malvika will lead women's squad in Saina, Sindhu's absence NEW DELHI: Kidambi Srikanth will lead India's full-strength men's team while the upcoming group of shuttlers have been

given a chance to showcase

their prowess in the women's section of the Asia Team Championships to be played in Manila from February 11-16. The Indian men's team, which won the Bronze medal in Hyderabad in 2016, will also have B Sai Praneeth along with

HS Prannoy, Subhankar Dey

and Lakshya Sen in the squad.

With Olympic qualification being the top priority, the event will give India's elite men's players a chance to garner crucial points ahead of the mega quadrennial Games.

In the doubles events, the fast improving pair of Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun would be looking to impress everyone in the tournament and also compliment Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in the team

championships. In the women's team event,

rising youngsters will be fielded as the senior players are concentrating on their Olympic preparations. SAG Gold medallist Ashmita Chaliha, the promising

Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap and Gayatri Gopichand will make the singles unit. Senior national champions

Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam along with the experienced K Maneesha and Rutaparna Panda make up the doubles combinations. PNS

against Paris Saint-Germain on November 26. CARRASCO BACK TO ATM

row but we will never take any risks."

Atletico Madrid have signed Yannick Carrasco from Chinese side Dalian Yifang on loan until the end of season. Carrasco returns to Atletico, where he spent three years before moving out in 2018. 'Our club has reached an agreement with Dalian Yifang for the loan of Yannick Carrasco until the end of the current season," an Atletico

statement read. 'The player returns to Atletico, where he spent three seasons and played a total of 124 games, scoring 23 goals." Atletico described Carrasco as "a player who knows our team and has a lot of talent and provides penetration from both sides".

Sai, Srikanth spearhead Indian challenge medals. Sathiyan said that improve my best and how can maintain my top increased exposure for athform. The preparations are letes has helped the sport

sive Olympics.

by April 28.

'STAY CALM TILL THE END'

Kohli says two Super Over finishes taught him to stay calm and bounce back when chance comes

We will go for whitewash: Manish

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Crediting India's second successive Super Over win to the team's never-say-die attitude, middle order batsman Manish Pandey said they will push for an unprecedented 5-0 series whitewash in the fifth T20I.

The two sides meet for the final match at Mt Maunganui tomorrow.

"It has been our motto, not only for these two matches, that till the time the last ball is bowled, we won't give up any match. If you play with that intent you will get matches like these where you might get a Super Over, and you win from there," Pandey said at the postmatch conference.

"And now we have an opportunity to make it 5-0 and it will be really amazing to do that. Come the fifth match, we will look to go 5-0 up, that is our plan. Nobody has done it before and especially India has not done it before. So, I think it will be a great

start to do that." Asked if the players believed they could pull off a Super Over win yet again as they did on Friday, Pandey said, "In the middle, it looked like we were a little easy on ourselves. But since it had happened the last game, we thought we had to bowl good balls and it is possible we push it to a Super Over. And then, as the balls went by and we reached the last two balls, we were certain that this would go to Super

Over.
"We were ready for it in We h the back of our mind. We have very good bowlers and Shardul (Thakur) bowled a very good last over. For his effort, he deserved it that the game went into a Super Over," said Pandey who made 50



PTI ■ WELLINGTON

ndia captain Virat Kohli on Friday said he has learnt an Limportant lesson in the backto-back Super Over finishes against New Zealand: To "stay calm till the end" and bounce back when the opportunity arises.

A nervous New Zealand threw it away yet again as a perseverant India prevailed in the Super Over for the second successive time to take a 4-0 lead in the five-match T20I series.

'There's something new I've learnt in the last couple of games: when the opposition is playing well, you stay calm till the end and try to come back," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremo-

Needing just 11 runs off the last two overs with seven wickets in hand, New Zealand dug a hole for themselves yet again, taking the game to a Super Over two nights after doing the same in Hamilton. New Zealand managed 13 runs in six balls and India got there

The India skipper said having come out victorious in two consecutive Super Overs for the first time

proves the character of the team. "We couldn't have asked for more exciting games, we've never played Super Overs before and

to take the momentum away, he

young pacer Navdeep Saini, who

pace again. We were very proud

with the way we went about it," he

Southee, who stood in for injured

went wicketless on Friday.

Kohli also lavished praise on

"Saini was impressive with his

New Zealand skipper Tim

should back himself."

India captain Virat Kohli takes a catch to dismiss Martin Guptill

now we've won two. It shows the character of the team," Kohli said. Although Sanju Samson did-

n't make any significant contribution in the match, Kohli said he initially thought of sending the Kerala batsman in the Super Over along side K L Rahul but eventually changed his mind.
"Initially we thought of open-

ing with Samson and KL in the Super Over, but then KL told me I should bat because of the experience and the options I'll bring,

"His (Rahul's) two strikes

were crucial and then you knock said they presented India opportunities and the visitors grabbed the ball into the gap and take your team over the line. Sanju was fearthem with both hands. less at the top of the order. He tried

"It's very tough especially in the positions we put ourselves into. We gave them (India) a chance and they took them with both hands," he said.

"We have a young bowling attack and, it is tough, when you haven't won and you play against a quality opposition in India, give them a sniff and make it tough for

Man-of-the-match Shardul Thakur, who finished with figures

India always find a way



Mitchel Santer celebrates taking a catch to dismiss

PTI WELLINGTON

New Zealand threw it away from a winning position in the last two T20s but opener Colin Munro instead gave credit to the visitors, saying they "always" find a way to bounce

"That's cricket isn't it? We put ourselves in positions to win both of those games I thought. But India, with the roll they're on at the moment and the cricket that they're playing, they always just find a way. And then Super Over is a bit of luck

each way. It can go either way I reckon," he said.

"We're all sitting in the sheds now and talking about it and hurting that we have let two games like that slip. And, I put my hand up too. We talk about running quickly between the wickets and then I was dawdling with that second one, and Kohli picks up and does some magical work and that's it.

"There are a few guys that are hurting. But we are tight in our group and we will bounce back, come Sunday hopefully,"

MOST RUNS AGAINST INDIA IN T20I						
Batsman	M	Runs	AVG	HS	S/R	100/50
Colin Munro (NZ)	11	411	41.10	109*	146.78	1/3
Aaron Finch (AUS)	13	405	31.15	89	137.28	-/2
Glenn Maxwell (AUS)	13	353	35.30	113*	145.86	1/1
Kane Williamson (NZ)	11	325	29.54	95	135.98	-/2
Evin Lewis (WI)	9	322	46.00	125*	173.11	2/-
	FAISFL FFA					

of 2 for 33 and also bowled the crucial last over in which New Zealand needed just seven runs, said such nail-bitting finishes augurs well for India ahead of this

year's ICC T20 World Cup. "I'm feeling good, we play for such nail-biting finishes, we couldn't have asked for anything more in these two games," he said



Harman's six win 1st T20

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Ckipper Harmanpreet Kaur Struck an unbeaten 42 following a fine bowling performance to set up Îndia's thrilling five-wicket win over England in the first match of the women's triangular T20 series on Friday.

Indian spinners -Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/19), Deepti Sharma (2/30) and left armer Radha Yadav (1/33) restricted England to 147 for seven in stipulated 20 overs, while right-arm medi-um pacer Shikha Pandey (2/33) accounted for two at Manuka Oval. Harmanpreet took the run chase deep after the Indian top order, including the 15-year-old Shafali Verma (30), Smriti Mandhana(15) and Jemimah Rodrigues (26) —

squandered good starts. Veda Krishnamurthy (7) and Taniya Bhatia (11) also failed to stay on the crease as

England bowlers struck at

regular intervals. With six needed off the last over, Harmanpreet, whose innings was studded with five boundaries until then, hit a towering six to take India to 150 for five and end the match in style with three balls to spare.

Earlier, put in to bat, England suffered a top order batting collapse as openers Amy Jones (1) and Danni Wyatt (4) were dismissed cheaply.

Natalie Sciver (20) and Fran Wilson (7) soon followed, leaving England reeling at 59 for four in 10 overs.

Skipper Heather Knight then took charge, hitting a brisk 44-ball 67. Her innings was laced with eight boundaries and two sixes.

Wicketkeeper Tammy Beaumont supported her captain with a 27-ball 37. The duo helped England post a fighting total.

RP, Madan, Sulakshana named in CAC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricketers Rudra Pratap Singh, Madan Lal and Sulkashana Naik were on Friday appointed members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) by the BCCI.

task will be to pick replacements for outgoing selectors MSK Prasad and Gagan

"The term of appointment will be for one year," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. Initially,

Gautam Gambhir was to be one of the CAC members but was not eventually considered as he is a serving Member of Parliament, making way for Singh.

The 34-year-old from ing selectors or not.

"I have no idea if t from Uttar Pradesh is the youngest CAC member. Lal is 68 and Naik is 41.

CAC is a high-profile body but its job is limited. However, its seniormost member Lal is looking forward to the challenge.

"Responsibility is a responsibility. Name of the game is to take the responsibility and do the job honestly," Lal said, adding that he has no information yet on whether BCCI is doing away with the zonal policy for pick-

system will be followed or you could pick the selections from any region. Today, I have got official communication on the appointment and in the coming days, we will get to know more," he added.

Cleaver, Chapman put NZ A in driver's seat

Zealand A put India A in a tight spot by amassing 385 for five in their first innings on the second crease with New Zealand taking day of the first unofficial Test.
After Will Young (54) comOn day one, India A wer

pleted his half-century, the hosts suffered a mini-collapse, losing three wickets cheaply but Cleaver (111 off 194 balls) and Mark Chapman (85 off 187 balls) resurrected the innings, adding an unbeaten 209 runs for the sixth

Cleaver sent the ball across Dane Cleaver smashed an the fence 16 times, while Chapman smashed eight bound-

aries in his innings.
At stumps, the duo was at the

out for 216 in their first innings. For India A, Sandeep Warrier claimed two wickets, while Mohammed Siraj (1/104), Ishan Porel (1/61), Shahbaz Nadeem (1/67) accounted for one wicket each.



pacer: Akhtar IANS NEW DELHI

Tasprit Bumrah might be considered one of the best in the business at present, but former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar believes that it is Mohammed Shami who is best fast bowler in the world at present. Akhtar not only praised the Indian pacer for his brilliant show in the third T20I against New Zealand, but also said that Shami uses his experience really well in tough sit-

uations. "Shami is a very clever bowler. He is the find of India and he is the best fast bowler in the world. Whatever situation you put him in, he always excels, whether it's a world cup or a T20 in New Zealand, he's a very very smart fast bowler. When he got to know that yorkers won't work, he immediately switched to length balls and bouncers," Akhtar said on his Youtube channel.

"When Taylor hit Shami for a six in the first ball, I thought the match was over but that's where the experience of Shami came into play. He realized there was little bit of dew which will help the ball skid if he hits the length."

New Zealand needed 9 runs off the last six balls when Kohli handed the ball to Shami and even though Taylor started the over with a six, the pacer kept cool and came back to dismiss him off the last ball to tie the game.

"Taylor hit me a lot through the midwicket region in my last match but unfortunately he dragged the same shot onto his stumps on the last ball. But credit to Shami," Akhtar pointed.

Earlier Rohit Sharma also credited Shami for bringing the team back into the game after a masterclass from Kane Williamson had almost seen the Kiwis stroll home.

"I think Shami's last over was crucial, and actually that got us the victory. Not my two sixes. It was Shami's over where we defended nine runs. It's not easy with the dew," Rohit had said.

Ind-Pak clash in U-19 semis

Ahalf-century from opener Muhammad Huraira on debut and a fine bowling performance powered Pakistan to a six-wicket win over Afghanistan in the ICC U-19 World Cup on Friday, setting up an exciting semifinal against arch-rivals India.

Afghanistan fought hard after posting 189 but just did not have enough runs on the board. Huraira, playing his first game of the tournament, struck a match-winning knock in the fourth quarterfinal.

Qasim Akram (25 not out off 41 balls)and Mohammad Haris (29 not out off 43) saw the team through in just 41.1 overs.



Pakistan's players celebrate after the dismissal of Afghnistan's batsman

Tahir Hussain (1/28 in 10 overs), Fahad Munir (2/29 in 7) and Mohammad Amir Khan (3/58 in 10) were the pick of the Pakistan bowlers.

Defending champions India and Pakistan play their semifinal in Potchefstroom on February 4. India had beaten Australia in their quarterfinal match.

Talking about the team's performance, Pakistan captain Rohail Nazir said: "We dropped 2-3 early catches and had we held on, we could have restricted them to a lesser total. The spinners bowled really well in the middle overs and bowled them out for 190. The wicket was turning a bit and our plan was to rotate strike. The opening partnership was good and we played sensibly in the middle overs.

On the India game, he added: "It is another game. India is a good side and we need to play good cricket. The crowd really motivated us, appreciated us and I hope they turn up for the semifinal and cheer for

Afghanistan captain Farhan Zakhil said 189 was defendable.

"The wicket was good and our batsmen did not take responsibility. They bowled well and created the chances. 190 was a par score for our bowlers. We expected our fast bowlers to provide early wickets and they were not able to do that," said

Tai beats Sindhu, open Raptors account

NEW DELHI: World No 2 Tai Tzu Ying edged world champion PV Sindhu in the most-awaited clash to take Bengaluru Raptors to victory over Hyderabad Hunters in the showdown between the last two years' champions at the PBL. This was the first triumph of the season for the defending champions Raptors after suffering three losses on the

Tai came out as the stronger of the two, making a fast start to go up to 3-0. It, however, did not take the Rio Olympic Silver medal-list long to level matters. Finding her trademark smashes, she made it 3-3 before moving ahead to 8-



seemed to be struggling to $\;$ tion at the net to take two

figure out Sindhu. Amid roars of support

from the crowd, Sindhu looked to be in control to inch her way ahead to 10-7. The Raptors ace then tried accelerating her game 5 as the Chinese Taipei ace and used her skilful decep-

points on the trot. That was all she could manage to do against a determined

Sindhu who never faltered. Running Tai around the court by rotating the direction of the shuttle, the Indian raced ahead to 12-9 and soon bagged the opening game 15-11. A highly competitive

second game ensued which witnessed the stamina and hunger of both. Tai kept answering Sindhu's power smashes with her own attacking game, keeping the game on par till 8-8. Infusing a little more speed in the exchanges, Tai got the better of Sindhu to move ahead to 12-9. With the World No. 2 having reached game points, the Indian banked on her aggression to close the gap between the two to just two points before extending the rallies in an attempt to draw an error from Tai's

racquet. It did not help her

much as Tai took the sec-

ond game 15-13.

With the momentum having swung her way, Tai in the decider to open up a big lead of 6-2, riding on her finesse. Under pressure, Sindhu made unforced errors which did not help her cause further.

Having put Sindhu on the backfoot, Tai kept going for her smashes to lead 13-9. With Sindhu's smash landing wide, the highly anticipated match ended in an 11-15, 15-13, 15-9 victory for Tai, sealing the tie for the Raptors.

Elsewhere in the match

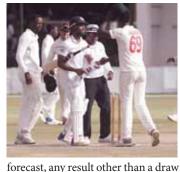
for home team Verma beats Brice Leverdez 15-12, 10-Ervine at mid-on. 15, 15-6 for his first win of the fifth season.

Mendis spoils Zimbabwe party

Astubborn 80 not out from Sri Lankan opener Kusal Mendis frustrated Zimbabwe's hopes of squaring the two-Test series on Friday's fifth and final day of the second Test in

Set a challenging 361 to win, Sri Lanka dropped anchor, scoring just 51 runs in the afternoon session, to reach 156 for three at tea. Sri Lanka lost captain Dimuth Karunaratne in the morning and

Oshada Fernando for 47 just after lunch but Mendis batted though to tea, striking 10 fours in his 170-ball Zimbabwe gained some renewed hope shortly before the interval when Angelo Mathews slapped a delivery from Victor Nyauchi straight to Craig



would now be a surprise. Instead they batted on briefly to

reach 247 for seven before the declaration came with Williams, who made a century in the first innings, picking up the three runs he needed for another half-century to finish 53

Williams then chose to open the Sri Lanka require another 205 in bowling with spinner Raza who took the last session although with rain seven wickets in the first innings.