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GUTS TO HURT
MY FAMILY: SAIF
13 VIVACITY

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Shooting deepens Lanka crisis

Sacked Min's bodyguard opens fire, kills 1; MEA says India 'closely following' developments in Colombo

AGENCIES ■ COLOMBO

One person has been killed and two others injured in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, when the bodyguard of a Cabinet Minister under ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe opened fire at a crowd of protesters. The shooting on Sunday came amid a constitutional crisis triggered by President Maithripala Sirisena's sacking of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Ruwan Gunasekara, a police spokesperson, told reporters that a bodyguard for Arjuna Ranatunga, Wickremesinghe's Petroleum Minister, fired live rounds at a crowd of people loyal to Sirisena when they attempted to prevent the dismissed Minister from entering his office at the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India is "closely following" developments in Colombo.

"India is closely following the recent political developments in Sri Lanka. As a democracy and a close friendly neighbour, we hope that democratic values and the constitutional process will be respected. We will continue to extend our developmental assistance to the friendly people of Sri Lanka," said MEA Raveesh Kumar.

A 34-year-old man was



Sri Lankan security forces are deployed near the Petroleum Ministry building in Colombo on Sunday

killed in the incident, according to the police. The guard opened fire was arrested and a probe was now under way, the police said.

The shooting was the first incident of serious violence since Sirisena's Friday decision to replace Wickremesinghe with Mahinda Rajapaksa, a former president accused of human rights abuses and corruption. Wickremesinghe, 69, insists his sacking was unconstitutional and has called for an emergency parliament sitting to prove he still commanded a

majority in Parliament.

But Sirisena has suspended Parliament until November 16 in an apparent bid to shore up support for Rajapaksa's appointment.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya recognised Wickremesinghe as the lawful prime minister earlier on Sunday, and asked the president to back the sacked leader's request to retain the "rights and privileges" of his office until another candidate could prove a majority in parliament.

"I consider the said request to be a democratic and fair

request," the parliament speaker said in a letter to Sirisena.

Jayasuriya, a member of Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), also urged Sirisena to reconsider his decision to suspend parliament, saying the decision has "serious and undesirable consequences" for Sri Lanka.

According to the website of Sri Lanka's parliament, Wickremesinghe's UNP has 106 seats in the 225-member House, while Sirisena's UPPA has 95. In a letter to Sirisena, Speaker Karu Jayasuriya backed the ousted Prime

Minister's request to retain his privileges and security until another candidate could prove a majority, saying it was "democratic and fair".

He also questioned the President's decision to suspend Parliament till November 16, saying it will have "serious and undesirable" consequences on the country. Sirisena on Friday night sacked Wickremesinghe and appointed former strongman Rajapaksa as the new Prime Minister. Next day, Sirisena suspended Parliament till November 16 after Wickremesinghe, who had termed his sacking as illegal and unconstitutional, sought an emergency session to prove his majority.

The President also withdrew Wickremesinghe's personal security and vehicles in order to accord them to his 72-year-old successor, who staged a dramatic political comeback.

In his first address to the nation after sacking Wickremesinghe, Sirisena said his former ally's political conduct since the victory in 2015 elections was unbecoming.

"He appeared to treat Sri Lanka's future as a joy ride for a coterie of people around him who had no sense of the common man's thinking," he said. "He completely destroyed the concept of good governance while corruption and waste became rampant.

Farmers prefer stubble burning as it is cheaper

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers prefer to burn stubble and pay penalty rather than to weed out the stubbles. Because the cost of stubble burning is cheaper as penalty works out to be around ₹2,500 per acre. But if they don't burn it then the stubble processing cost comes around ₹6,000-7,000 per acre.

The cost of stubble processing includes rent of machinery, diesel charge, labourer charge. "The rental cost of combine harvester is ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 per acre which includes transportation charge. The cost of diesel is also borne by the farmer. Four to five litre diesel needs per acre. If the cost of labour, crushing of straw cost and other costs included, it will come around ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 per acre in Punjab and Haryana," said Binod Pandey, of All India Kisan Mahasangh adding that was the reason the Government incentive failed to attract farmers.

Officials of Agriculture Ministry also admit that stubble burning could not be stopped as cost of stubble processing comes around ₹6,000 per acre while the fine on stubble burning is only ₹2,500.

"The stubble left on the land is of no use. Currently, for farmers, it has no economic value and no nutritional value to be used as the fodder. So many farmers prefer to pay the environment compensation or fine," said a farmer from



Haryana.

However, the farmers contend that access to straw management equipment comes at a higher cost than environmental compensation. Straw management equipment is beyond the means of a small and marginal farmer.

Moreover, the cost does not end at acquiring equipment. Running the equipment in the fields means spending additional money on diesel and labour. Hundreds of thousands of farmers in Haryana and Punjab, where much of the region's paddy is grown, set their rice fields on fire to clear left-over loose straw after harvesting paddy to make way for wheat.

According to a 2014 study by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), in 2008-09 the country generated 620 million tonnes of crop residue, of which close to 16 per cent was burnt on farms. Of this, 60 per cent was paddy straw, while wheat accounted for just 22 per cent. Going by estimates, Punjab alone produces 19-20 million tonnes of paddy straw and about 20 million tonnes of wheat straw.

Between September 27 and October 14, the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) imposed ₹8,92,500 as fines — or "environmental compensation cess" as it is officially called — as farmers burned paddy stubble. Of these, they collected only ₹3,05,000 till date.

The other reason is that big farmers of Haryana and Punjab resort to stubble burning due to shortage of farm labourers in October and November. A few years ago, the farmers were used to manage straw problem at sources with the help of labourers.

CAPSULE

COP, PDP WORKER KILLED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS
Srinagar: A sub-inspector of police and a PDP worker were killed by terrorists in separate incidents in Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

NSG MILITARY OPS POST HEADLESS FOR 6 MONTHS
New Delhi: India's elite counter-terror force NSG has been functioning without a regular military operations commander for the past six months, posing serious questions on the effectiveness of its combat readiness and planning in case of an impending contingency.

SC TO HEAR AYODHYA CASE FROM TODAY
New Delhi: The Supreme Court is likely to hear on Monday a batch of pleas challenging the Allahabad High Courts 2010 verdict by which the disputed land on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid area in Ayodhya was divided into three parts.

HAZE ENGULFS NATIONAL CAPITAL
New Delhi: A haze engulfed Delhi, which continued to battle dangerous levels of pollution, as it recorded the worst air quality of this season during the day Sunday, officials said. The overall AQI was recorded at 381 on Sunday morning.

BJP hits at Cong over Tharoor's 'scorpion' metaphor against PM

PNS ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor has triggered a major controversy by claiming that an unnamed RSS leader had compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a scorpion sitting on a Shilving. Tharoor said "...There is an extraordinarily striking metaphor expressed by an unnamed RSS source to a journalist which I quote, in which they express their frustration with their inability to curb Mr Modi. The man says Modi is like a scorpion sitting on a Shilving. You cannot remove him with a hand and you cannot hit it with a chappal either," he said.

Suggesting that it was a very profound understanding of the relationship, the Congress leader said,



"Because, if you remove a scorpion with your hand, you will get stung very badly. If you hit it with a chappal, then you have undermined all the sacred tenets of the faith." This might well be a very interesting clue to the rather complex dynamics that exists "between the Hindutva movement and the Moditva expression..." he added.

Lashing out at Tharoor, Union Law Minister Ravishankar Prasad alleged that Tharoor had disrespected Lord Shiva and sought an apology from Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Modi, Abe visit robot factory after talks

Indian PM in Japan to attend 13th India-Japan annual summit

PTI ■ YAMANASHI (JAPAN)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe held informal talks at a picturesque resort near Mount Fuji and visited a factory of industrial robot manufacturer on Sunday as they spent about eight hours together on the first-day of a two-day summit.

Modi, who arrived in Japan last evening to attend the 13th India-Japan annual summit, has said the partnership between the two countries has been fundamentally transformed and it has been strengthened as a "special strategic and global partnership."

The two-day summit beginning Sunday will seek to review the progress in ties and deepen strategic dimension of the bilateral relationship.

Modi was affectionately received by Abe on his arrival



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe depart from Tokyo by Express Train Kaiji, in Yamanashi, Japan on Sunday

at the Hotel Mount Fuji in the scenic Yamanashi prefecture, west of Tokyo. "Delighted to meet PM @AbeShinzo in the picturesque prefecture of Yamanashi," Modi tweeted.

The two leaders "would be holding talks through the day on deepening India-Japan ties,"

Prime Minister Modi's office said.

The two leaders took a stroll in the garden following which Abe hosted a luncheon for Modi at the scenic resort by Mount Fuji.

Modi presented Abe two handcrafted stone bowls and

dhurries made from rose quartz and yellow quartz stone sourced from Rajasthan. A Jodhpuri wooden chest from Rajasthan with traditional work was also presented. The gifts were specially crafted on the occasion of Modi's visit to Japan.

Trump turns down India's R-Day invite



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump has reportedly declined India's invitation to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations next year. The news has neither been confirmed nor denied by either of the two governments, but various media reports have based it on US official sources.

The US reported decision comes in the wake of President Trump's disapproval of India's decision to buy the S-400 long-range missile system from Russia and New Delhi's insistence on continuing with oil purchase from Iran despite upcoming US sanction, which the US considers is within the scope of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act or CAATSA.

Boxing champ-turned gangster held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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involved in, was arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police from Mohan Garden area in Dwarka, police said on Sunday.

After receiving a tip-off that the gang had roped in Vicky who was involved in the murder of a student at Jat College, Rohtak, a team of Special Cell investigating Pradhan gang's activities turned up at the spot.

"Regular efforts were made to nab Vicky, Pradhan and their other absconding associates. Finally, on Saturday, at about 4:00 pm, after getting information that Pradhan and Vicky will arrive at Dwarka, Mohan Garden in West Delhi to meet some of their close aides, a raiding party was rushed to the spot," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said.

Vicky was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 for jumping



the interim bail in the murder case, said police.

In April 2018, during students' election at Jat College in Rohtak, he supported Hardik. Following a quarrel with some people, he along with four

associates murdered the student near a Dhaba at Sheela bypass, Rohtak.

"Vicky was found wandering near the spot and it appeared that he was waiting for his accomplices to turn up. However, even till 6:10 pm, neither Pradhan nor any other person turned up to meet him. After seeing police, he started to run away from the spot but was arrested. One loaded semi-automatic country-made pistol with two live rounds were recovered from his possession," said the DCP.

During interrogation, the accused told police that he had joined Pradhan gang to terrorise witnesses in the murder case he was involved. He wanted the witnesses to either turn hostile or reach to a compromise, he told police.

But Pradhan asked Vicky to help him identify and trace one Sunil Kumar of Najafgarh,

whom Pradhan suspected to be a sympathiser of his rival Tullu gang.

There is a long history of gang war in Najafgarh, Alipur and adjoining areas of Delhi, said police.

According to police, Vicky was previously arrested in nine cases including a murder case, rioting, and attempt to murder case among more. He was first arrested in 2011, in a murder case and remained in jail for 13 months. "In April 2018, during students' election at Jat College, Rohtak, he and his associates Hardik, Deepak and Vijay got into an argument with one Virender following which on May 2018, at around 10pm, he along with four associates murdered Virender near a Dhaba at Sheela bypass, Rohtak," said the DCP.

Ex-ISRO chief Nair joins BJP

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief G Madhavan Nair joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of party president Amit Shrivastava.

Several other people including politicians from other parties also joined the saffron bandwagon before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Among those who joined the party were former president of the Travancore Devaswom Board and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee executive committee member G Raman Nair. BJP on Saturday inducted five prominent personalities from Kerala into their party.

Nair headed ISRO from 2003 to 2009.

Missing 8-yr-old girl's body found in trolley bag at park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An eight-year-old girl, who had gone missing from North Delhi district a few days ago, was found mangled on Sunday with her body recovered from the Yamuna Biodiversity Park stuffed in a trolley bag and dumped there, police said.

Police officials suspect that the girl was sexually assaulted before being murdered. Police are also scanning through profiles of missing girls and trying to identify the deceased.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad said.

Once the process is over and body identified parents of the missing girl will be informed with chances high of getting further lead into the crime to crack the case. According to police, at around 7:30 am, a call was



received about an unclaimed bag lying near the roadside and the body was found stuffed inside the bag. Preliminary reports said the body had strangulation marks on the neck, indicating that she might have been strangled to death. "A cloth was tied around her neck," the DCP said.

The body was taken to the Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital for post-mortem examination. The DCP said a crime team has visited the spot.

GUEST COLUMN



Ashish Joshi

What the Civil Services need

Civil services across the world, including India, are facing demands for an administrative machinery which is responsive, transparent, empathetic and citizen-centric. But the Indian civil services reform effort, since Independence, has been conservative, with limited impact.

The civil servants continue to believe that their authority is derived from corpus of rules and regulations rather than from the mandate of people.

Transformative changes have taken place in United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and these changes have been brought about due to the belief that the civil services ought to be fully accountable to the citizens they serve and reflect their hopes and aspirations.

Some improvement has come about due to incremental reform measures such as Organisation and Method (O & M), vigilance, citizens' grievance organisations, manpower

planning and Right to Information. But the one area which needs to be revisited is civil services recruitment and training. Recruitment to the civil services is through all India competitive examination.

The Civil Services Examination was first conducted as an open competitive examination in the year 1855, in London. At that time, it was called the Indian Government Civil Service (IGCS) Examination and was conducted by the British Civil Services Commission. In 1926, the Public Service Commission (India) was set up which began to conduct the Indian Civil Service (ICS) Examination in India on behalf of the British Civil Services Commission.

Under the Government of India Act 1935, Federal Public Service Commission was set up.

After 1943, recruitment to the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police Service, the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and the allied services were suspended upto 1946.

With the promulgation of the new Constitution for independent India on January 26, 1950, the Federal Public Service Commission was accorded

Constitutional status as an autonomous entity under Article 315 and given the title Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Between 1947 and 1950, the Civil Services examination included three compulsory papers-General English, Essay and General Knowledge. In 1951, two additional and optional subjects of the master's degree standard were prescribed for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

The first major review of the civil services examination undertaken by Kothari Committee in 1974-77 and followed by the second review by Satish Chandra 1988-89. Based on the Kothari Committee recommendation, it was decided in 1979 to have a common examination to avoid hierarchy among services and to have a two-stage examination process, comprising the preliminary and the main examination (written and interview). The preliminary examination included two papers-General Studies and the optional subject. The main examination included eight papers-Indian language, English language, two papers of

General Studies, two papers of first optional subject and two papers of second optional subject. While the revised structure for the examination as recommended by Kothari Committee was accepted and implemented by the Government, certain key recommendations pertaining to the strengthening of induction training and post-training test at the third stage of selection were not accepted. Clearly, if the scheme as conceived by the Kothari Committee had been implemented in its entirety, its impact would have been far better. On the recommendation of Second Review Committee, a paper on essay was included in the main examination and the marks for the interview test were increased from 250 to 300. The Third Review Committee report, under the chairmanship of YK Alagh was presented in 2001. The committee suggested that the existing examination structure of main examination should be done away with and be replaced by three compulsory papers, consisting of sustainable development and social justice, science and technology and society, democratic governance, public system management and human rights. The committee

suggested that the papers should be such as to test the interests and the readiness of the candidates to work for society with some understanding of what they will face in the career. It recommended that the existing 30-35 minutes' interview should be replaced with an extensive and elaborate testing procedure, comprising a personal information form, psychological tests (objective, projective and situation tests) and aptitude tests, followed by an interview. However, the suggestion of three compulsory papers and elaborate personality test were not accepted. The PC Hota Committee in its report in 2004 also recommended that aptitude and ERP tests be introduced for selection.

The recommendations of the review committees have not been accepted in totality and in only in parts.

The problem of civil services recruitment and training begins with the fact that the basic requirement for civil services is graduation and the upper age limit is 32. There is a need to consider whether grooming of a civil servant should start at a young age when the mind is receptive to the value of public service or at

a late age when entrants join with a baggage of entrenched mindsets. The 10th report of Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) titled "Refurbishing of Public Administration" (2008) recommended setting up of National Institutes of Public Administration to run bachelor courses on public administration, management and governance and similarly it suggested that the universities could be assisted to run similar courses to provide a pool of students who could take the civil services exam. But the recommendation has not yet been accepted.

There are more than 20 services for which selection is made through civil services exam each year, and the exam is conducted by Union Public Service Commission. It is a grueling exam with three stages and it takes around one year to complete.

The total marks obtained by the candidates in written and interview determine the overall rank of the candidate. But should the marks obtained in a single exam determine service of a candidate, without testing his or her skill sets? It is obvious that the skill sets required by account and

finance service like the Indian Post and Telecom Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS), Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) would be different from those required for police or foreign service. Then, what should be selection process for the different services?

There is a need to seriously consider post-school recruitment system i.e. All India Entrance Examination (written) for students who have completed school (Class XII), followed by interview and personality test as recommended by Alagh and Hota Committee. There could be a three year course for selected candidates, carefully tailored to meet essential requirements of modern and responsive civil services.

The course could focus on subjects relevant for civil servants-Public Administration, Management and Governance. After that, the services could be allocated to entrants based on their performance during training and aptitude. Candidates could be subjected to psychometric/aptitude tests, especially for selection to uniformed services like IPS, CISF and RPF.

The PMO had sought inputs on the suggestion that services could be allotted after completion of three months' foundation course, which new

entrants join after selection into civil services. This issue could be addressed if the evaluation was made after the three months course for selected candidates as recommended by Kothari Committee. Three months would be too short to make an assessment.

There could be a separate exam for specialised services like finance and accounts services-IP&TAFS, IDAS, ICAS, IRAS etc.

The civil service has to be representative in character and it needs to have a good number from rural areas and disadvantaged backgrounds. At present, the eligibility for the civil services exam is graduation. As per US-India Policy Institute report of 2014 titled "Intergenerational and regional differentials in higher education in India", the access to education beyond higher secondary schooling is a mere 10 per cent among the university-age population of India. Hence, there is a justification to consider post-school recruitment to be followed by a tailor made three years training for selected candidates and allotment of services based on post-training test.

(A civil servant, the writer is presently posted as Controller, Communications, Uttarakhand. He belongs to Jharkhand village in Pauri Garhwal. Views expressed are personal)

Cleanliness drive carried by UOP students



PNS ■ HARIDWAR

On Sunday morning, students of University of Patanjali carried out cleanliness campaign in Dadu Bagh area of Kankhal and Pantdweep. Led by vice-chancellor on the university, Acharya Balkrishna, some 50 students cleaned the garbage from the area.

He said by seeing the crystal clear waters of Ganga touching the banks, it seems Ganga was never unclean and can never be unclean, if the people are determined. Public negligence has led to the pitiable condition of the Ganga. He said that all those things which affect its flow like old clothes, religious things must be

stopped from reaching its waters.

Speaking to The Pioneer, he said, "The organiser of Ganga Raksha Manch Swami Ramdev is concerned about clean Ganga, so Patanjali Yog Peeth volunteers keep carrying out cleanliness drive from time to time. Today the students have carried out cleanliness drive at

new Pantdweep parking in Haridwar". He exhorted the people to pledge for clean, healthy and garbage free India. He said the citizens of India must come forward in the mission to clean India and clean Ganga. They must make it their own campaign then only country can remain clean. "If we depend on the municipal corporation and governments to give us clean surroundings that is next to impossible. One must make Swachh Bharat one's own campaign," he said.

Volunteers clean Ganga ghats in Haridwar

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Many movements for Ganga cleaning have been initiated by NGOs, religious and other organisations and efforts are being made at State and Central level too. All World Gayatri Parivar in Haridwar is also running a grass root level Ganga cleaning movement-Nirmal Ganga Jan Abhiyan since 2013. On Sunday, a Ganga cleaning drive along the ghats from Har Ki Padii was undertaken by members of All World Gayatri Parivar.

During Ganga closure, it is much effective to clean the Ganga riverbed of unwanted material so the volunteers made a human chain to clean along the ghats.

Very soon mass cleanliness drive would be launched when hundreds of volunteers would start the cleaning on all banks of Ganga on same day at same time, a mass movement shall be created. "Lakhs of volunteers of Gayatri Parivar and members of other local organisations, school and college students, every person who has faith with Ganga will come forward with cleaning aids to clean the surroundings of Ganga during this mass movement. We have



begun this today," said Kiran Desai of Shantikunj.

This cleaning will be carried out on about 300 ghats of

Ganga. Students of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya would participate on all 16 ghats and few main ghats at city area.

Pranav Pandya said that the Gayatri Parivar has completed three phases of this Ganga cleaning movement so far. "We have formed more than 1500 Ganga Sewak Mandal in all states near Ganga and made lakhs of people resolved to keep Ganga clean. We have planned this movement up to 2026."

Fifth edition of Rajpur Nature Festival concludes

JASKIRAN CHOPRA ■ DEHRADUN

There are certain events that gradually come to be a part of a city and then remain with it forever. Virasat, organised by REACH since the 1990s, is one such event as far as Dehradun is concerned. The Rajpur Nature Festival has now been added to this cultural calendar of the Doon valley as it is now in its fifth season. Other such events are the Dehradun Literature Festival, the WIC DCLF (Dehradun Community Literature Festival) and in a big way, Valley of Words (VOW) International festival of Arts and Literature which will see its second edition in Dehradun in November this year.

The colourful three-day Rajpur Nature Festival got underway this year on October 26 and concluded on Sunday evening at the Christian Retreat Centre in Rajpur, Dehradun. The Christian Retreat Centre, a popular place in Rajpur, has been an ideal backdrop for the past five years for the fest as it was for the very first.

A variety of activities such as nature walks, a bicycle rally, art and cultural activities, panel discussions on topical issues along with competitions for schools featured in this annual celebration of the beauty of the Rajpur area of the Doon valley.

The festival aims to draw attention to Rajpur, a micro-

cosm of greenery and serenity. This greenery and serenity was once found all over the valley but is now, sadly, vanishing. The forest of all the hills that were put up this year was upon preservation and enhancement of the environment and promotion of awareness to protect the environment. Organic products from the hills, hand woven woollens, home made pickles, hand crafted jewellery and many other products the sale of which benefits people from the hill areas were extremely popular in the shopping section of the fest. Dances, live bands, dangstango (kissango), poetry recitals and nature walks added great colour, depth and breadth to this vibrant event.

The fest makes an effort to revive the love for natural beauty and activities related to nature and the art. It has been organised by Rajpur Community Initiative and the Forest Department (Ecotourism) along with other local partners. Reenu Paul, who has worked tirelessly for the festival, says that the festival is the SOS message sent by the Rajpur community to fellow citizens of Doon Valley to come and show solidarity with their group in their struggle to conserve this last remaining green patch of the city. She adds that the festival aims to attract attention to relevant and crucial issues through photography, panel discussions, film screenings and puppetry. This



festival has indeed moved from strength to strength and is truly successful in bringing

together artists, environmentalists, heritage experts, craftspersons, children and

tourists under one beautiful roof in the very lap of nature. Colour, music, joy, social inter-

action, cuisine and awareness of nature and its charm all mingle in an amazing manner at the RNF.

This fest is aimed at making people aware of the tremendous importance Rajpur holds as a treasure house of natural beauty and serenity. Rajpur is one of those places which have an abundance of stable calm and a quiet beauty about them. It was Rev James Payne Alter, Tom's father, who founded the Christian Retreat and Study Centre in Rajpur in 1954.

The peepal (Bodhi) tree, planted by Gandhiji in 1929, still stands tall at the retreat centre which is an idyllic retreat and hosts religious and educational programmes for groups from all over the country and abroad.

Till the time when the motor road to Mussoorie was built (around 1930), people went up to Mussoorie through the bridge path which goes from near the Shahenshahi Ashram upto Jharjharani.

It was the only way to reach Mussoorie. While some people rode on horses or mules, others preferred being

carried in "dandies" (palanquins).

At the time when the "Cart

the traveller. The opening of the motor road to Mussoorie killed the hotels and agency business

The colourful three-day Rajpur Nature Festival got underway this year on October 26 and concluded on Sunday evening at the Christian Retreat Centre in Rajpur, Dehradun. The Christian Retreat Centre, a popular place in Rajpur, has been an ideal backdrop for the past five years for the fest as it was for the very first. A variety of activities such as nature walks, a bicycle rally, art and cultural activities, panel discussions on topical issues along with competitions for schools featured in this annual celebration of the beauty of the Rajpur area of the Doon valley

in Rajpur. In the early days of British occupation, Rajpur had a sanatorium for invalid soldiers. When the sanatorium was opened in Landour around 1827, Rajpur remained a staging post on the journey to Mussoorie. Here's wishing the RNF many more successful editions!

CS inspects works in Kedarnath

PM expected to visit on November 6

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly expected to visit Kedarnath on November 6, the chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh visited Kedarnath on Sunday to inspect the status of various works there. He issued necessary instructions to the officials concerned, also directing them to ensure completion of the work on time.

The chief secretary directed the irrigation department to complete the work allocated to it by October 31. The electricity department was directed to either replace or complete undergrounding of old wires hanging from electricity poles between the heli-pad and the temple. Singh also directed the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) to provide protection wall or a gentle slope to beautify wire-crate while the district disaster management authority was directed to complete work on the Haat bazaar soon to ensure timely redressal of issues faced by the traders there.

The shops in the Haat Bazaar should be situated equidistant from each other and instead of concrete, the area in front of the shops should be covered with lawn. All sign boards from Rudra point to Kedarnath should be removed, the old Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee structure near the old horse-stop across the Mandakini river should be removed and three



illegal encroachments of tin should also be removed. The chief secretary further directed officials that the Uddhava Kund should be kept open and the route from the VIP heli-pad to the shrine should be repaired.

For the convenience of the pilgrims, he directed officials of the executing agency to prepare a direct route from the banks of the Mandakini to the shrine from near the replica situated near the temple.

Special focus should be laid on cleanliness in the temple and mats should be spread on the courtyard in front of the shrine.

The Rudrapur district magistrate Mangesh Ghildiyal directed the various departmental officials concerned to execute the instructions issued by the chief secretary. The state's director general of police

The shops in the Haat Bazaar should be situated equidistant from each other and instead of concrete, the area in front of the shops should be covered with lawn. All sign boards from Rudra point to Kedarnath should be removed, the old Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee structure near the old horse-stop across the Mandakini river should be removed and three illegal encroachments of tin should also be removed

Anil Kumar Raturi and various state and district level officials were also among those present on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was earlier

slated to visit Kedarnath in the first week of October.

The earlier planned visit not materialising, he is now slated to visit the shrine on October 6 though it has not been announced officially yet.

ABAP, Shivanand at loggerheads

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The national head of Akhila Bharatiya Akhada Parishad (ABAP), Narendra Giri and founder of Matri Sadan Swami Shivanand have come at loggerheads over the death of fasting scientist turned ascetic Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand. The head of ABAP has alleged that Swami Shivanand sacrificed his disciples and devotees of Ganga to undertake fasting unto death and he himself never takes to fasting. He is a 'dramabaz' alleged Narendra Giri. Meanwhile, Shivanand is mulling over sending notice to ABAP head.

The head of Akhila Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, Mahant Narendra Giri said that Shivanand must stop acting in the name of Ganga and 'dharma' and he must undertake fast himself rather than instigating others to undergo hunger strike. He has written to district authorities to set probe in the matter of death of late professor G D Agarwal (Sanand) and take action. He said that those who provoked him to continue his fasting despite his deteriorating health. He demanded case to be registered against the ascetic.

Further, Narendra Giri has extended the members of the religious fraternity to seek advice from the fraternity before taking any such decision.

He said that the life of ascetics was valuable for the welfare of mankind and should be protected. "The sacrifice of a person must not go futile like that of Professor G D Agarwal. Issues can be resolved through talks and there is no need to waste one's life over it."



Narendra Giri questioned why Shivanand always raised voice against mining in Ganga at Haridwar only but never raises voice against the deplorable condition of the river across the country. He said that Shivanand must make it clear what kind of relations he was maintaining with mining mafia of Saharanpur.

He advised Shivanand to leave Haridwar and go to place like Patna and Bihar, from where he originally came. He must begin his Ganga Safai Abhiyan there, said Narendra Giri.

Responding to all these allegations, Swami Shivanand said, "Those who have black glasses over their eyes, see the Tapasya for mother Ganga as 'natak' only. I have taken to Tapasya 17 times in the peak of summer, observing self restraint.

ABAP demands scrapping of Tehri dam

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Supported by Brahmachari of Jairam Ashram and national spokesman of ABAP Swami Rishishwarananda, Narendra Giri demanded scrapping of Tehri dam which has led to the pathetic state of Ganga river by interrupting its natural flow.

Meanwhile Shivanand has also welcomed the move undertaken by Akhada

Parishad to demand scrapping of Tehri dam and said that if they come over the statement in active mode, Matri Sadan shall also support the dismantling of the project.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* on the issue of Sanand's death, Shivanand said that he had written to judges of High Court to order formation of a special investigation team (SIT) to probe into the death of Sanand.

Those who are seeing this austerity measure as drama must undertake such Tapasya

statements like this bore testimony that Akhada Parishad head was speaking under pressure.



A player kicks the ball past a rival during a football match in Dehradun on Sunday

Pioneer photo

BJP releases list of star campaigners for ULB polls

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has finally released its list of star campaigners for the urban local body elections in the State. The list includes 46 leaders including party office bearers and the Chief Minister among others.

46 leaders including CM and cabinet minister to campaign for candidates

The BJP State media in charge Devendra Bhasin informed that according to the instructions of the party's state president Ajay Bhatt, the list of its star campaigners for the urban local elections has been released.

The star campaigners include the BJP state president, its joint general secretary (organisation) Shiv Prakash, party state in charge Shyam Jaju, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Union Minister of State Ajay Bhatt. Further, the list also includes former Chief Ministers and current MPs Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri and Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' along with another former CM Vijay Bahuguna.

Laxmi Shah, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Baluni and party secretary Tirth Singh Rawat will also campaign in support of the party candidates. From the State Cabinet, Ministers Prakash Pant, Satpal Maharaj, Yashpal Arya, Harak Singh Rawat, Madan Kaushik, Subodh Niyaal, Arvind Pandey, state ministers Dhan Singh Rawat, Rekha Arya and various other party office bearers and MLAs are also listed among the BJP state star campaigners for the local body elections.

CM attends centenary event at GIC Karnprayag

Recalls contribution of Victoria Cross recipient

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat joined the centenary celebrations of the War Memorial Government Inter College, Karnprayag on Sunday. On this occasion, the Chief Minister paid tributes to World War I Victoria Cross recipient Darwan Singh Negi. He also paid homage to the soldiers who had lost their lives in the world war.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the contribution of VC Darwan Singh can never be forgotten because instead of seeking a fief from the colonial British Government, he instead demanded a school for his area which has benefited thousands of students. He said that in addition to being Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand is also the land of brave heroes.

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has expressed heartfelt condolence over the demise of the former Chief Minister of Delhi and senior BJP leader Madan Lal Khurana. He



He said that history tells that whenever the enemy tried to infiltrate our border areas, the brave soldiers gave a befitting reply.

Referring to VC Darwan Singh's attachment and contribution to his native land, the Chief Minister recalled that he had also demanded construction of a railway line from Haridwar to Karnprayag, the

work on construction which has now finally begun.

He said that with the efforts and blessings of the teachers, hundreds of children from this school are serving in different areas of the country, which is a matter of pride for the State.

In the programme, retired Colonel Balbir Singh Negi, the son of VC Darwan Singh

Negi, said that the thought of his father was for the benefit and happiness of all.

On this occasion, Karnprayag MLA Surendra Singh Negi, Tharali MLA Mami Devi Shah, former Karnprayag MLA Anil Nautiyal, public representatives and local residents were also among those present on the occasion.

CM condoles Khurana's demise

prayed for the peace of the departed soul and wished that almighty provide strength to the family members of the deceased.

Madan Lal Khurana was an able politician, qualified administrator, public servant and a person associated with the masses.

In particular, his contribution to the overall development of Delhi will always be remembered. He termed the demise of Khurana as irreparable loss to the country.

CPI (ML) to escalate agitation against State

Campaign to be held for revenue village status to Bindukhatta and against elephant corridor

PNS ■ HALDWANI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) is going to escalate its campaign demanding revenue village status of Bindukhatta and derecognise the elephant corridor here.

After detailed discussion the CPI (ML) members decided that a campaign will be undertaken to protest against the Bharatiya Janata Party Government's failure to keep its promise regarding Bindukhatta. A signature campaign will be undertaken by the Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Mahasabha in support of revenue village status for Bindukhatta and for derecognising of the elephant corridor

here. After the signature campaign is completed, a rally will be held on December 26 to submit the public signatures along with memoranda addressed to the Chief Minister and Prime Minister seeking that the Vidhan Sabha pass a proposal and forward it to the Centre for declaring Bindukhatta a revenue village in addition to derecognising of the elephant corridor here.

The CPI (ML) state secretary Raja Bahuguna said that according to revenue village status is the major demand of people living in the Bindukhatta area. Consistent agitation in support of this demand had earlier forced all the major political parties to include accordance of revenue village status to Bindukhatta in the election manifestos. However, the national parties appear to have become habituated to duping the people on this issue, alleged Bahuguna.

He said that the BJP had promised during the Vidhan

Sabha elections that if it was elected to form the Government in Uttarakhand, Bindukhatta would be made into a revenue village.

However, more than a year and a half has passed since the BJP Government assumed office in Uttarakhand but the promise regarding Bindukhatta has not been fulfilled yet.

The State Government has not even taken the initial steps of passing the required proposal in the cabinet and Vidhan Sabha to accord revenue village status to Bindukhatta.

He further alleged that a conspiracy is being orchestrated to "ruin" Bindukhatta in the name of the elephant corridor.

The State Government has not even taken the initial steps of passing the required proposal in the cabinet and Vidhan Sabha to accord revenue village status to Bindukhatta

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NEW TURN IN POLITICAL CRISIS WITHIN SAD

Ready to quit if party wants: Sukhbir Badal

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The political turmoil within the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Sunday took a new turn with its president Sukhbir Badal offering to step down from the coveted post, apparently to put a stop to growing rebellion within the party.

Under attack of the traditional and senior Akali leaders, the junior Badal made an attempt to placate the dissent within the party by offering his resignation "if the party wants". However, the rebels expressed misgivings about his intentions.

With the SAD facing its worst ever political crisis, the murmurs against the functioning style of the party's current "young" leadership have now turned into boisterous voice with its old guard raising a banner of revolt.

While the taksali leadership in Majha region has openly challenged Sukhbir and his style of functioning, the two senior leaders, next to Akali patriarch and former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, have decided to stay away from active politics citing "poor health".

Sacha Sauda sect head, had hurt SAD's image to a large extent, with its own leaders going against the party. Party's resounding defeat in 2017 polls was also attributed to the same reasons.

Soon after Justice Ranjit Singh Commission report was tabled in the Vidhan Sabha, pointing finger at the role of the then SAD-BJP government, especially the then Chief Minister Badal, the Akali leaders started distancing themselves from the party.

The report has indicated that senior Badal for his role in the police killing of innocent Sikhs, two years ago when they were peacefully protesting the desecration of the sacred Guru Granth Sahib.

Facing heat from a section of senior party leaders, Sukhbir on Sunday said: "I'm leading the party on its direction. I'm duty bound to do whatever the party asks me to do. If it demands my resignation, I am ready for it."

Sukhbir said that all the veteran Akali leaders were like his father and he respects them. Earlier also, Sukhbir had stated that SAD was not a "prop-

erty" of the Badal family and somebody else could represent it after a few years.

Switching into damage control mode, Sukhbir has initiated move to pacify disgruntled leaders by visiting them to readdress their grievance.

However, it has been learnt that he could not succeed to much extent.

On Sunday, Sukhbir visited party dissident Bhai Manjit Singh at his residence in Amritsar along with M.L.A. Bikram Singh Majithia in a bid to assuage his hurt sentiments.

After the meeting with Sukhbir, Bhai Manjit Singh said that he discussed many panthic issues but he had never raised any objection on Sukhbir being president of the party.

SAD CORE GROUP MEETING TODAY

SAD has convened the emergency meeting of the party core committee on October 29 in Chandigarh. During the meeting, discussions about the current internal conflict will be held. It is believed that another leader could be made vice-president with Sukhbir to look after the party affairs. Besides it has been learnt that senior leaders may be given more senior posts.

PM appeals farmers to stop stubble burning

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amid concerns over rising air pollution in the national capital region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed farmers from Punjab who do not burn stubble in fields.

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address, he also said, while the world, especially the West, is discussing environment protection and trying to find new ways to adopt a balanced life style, India is also facing a similar problem.

"But, for its solution we only have to look inwards, to look into our glorious past and our rich traditions and have especially to understand the lifestyle of our tribal communities," he said.

Referring to the issue of stubble burning in fields which leads to massive air pollution, he referred to Gurbachan Singh, a Punjab farmer who asked his fields to be burnt parali or stubble in their fields.

You can well imagine the social strength this statement had. This point made by Gurbachan Singh appears quite ordinary but this reveals how tall and strong his personality is and we have seen that there are many families in our society who connect their individual matters with the benefit of the society as a whole," he said.

The Prime Minister also said people of Kallar Majra in Nabha district of Punjab mix

the stubble with the sand by ploughing their fields rather than burning the stubble and adopt the necessary technology for the process.

"Congratulations to bhai Gurbachan Singh! Congratulations to the people of Kallar Majra and of all those places who are making their best efforts to keep the environment clean and pollution free. All of us are carrying forward the Indian tradition of a healthy lifestyle as a true successor. Just as a sea is formed by collection of tiny drops, similarly, a small constructive step, plays a vital role in creating a positive environment," he added.

Data by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) showed a decline in the paddy stubble-burning in Punjab this Kharif season.

The data reflects that 7503 cases of stubble-burning have been reported until Friday in 2018.

During the corresponding periods in the last two years, there were 13,364 and 19,879 cases of farm burning.

The report by the Pollution Control Board shows that Amritsar witnessed a slight dip in stubble-burning cases. A little more than 700 incidents have been recorded in 2018 as compared to 785 in 2017 and little lesser than 1000 in 2016.

The decline can be attributed to various factors, including awareness and farmers adhering to Governmental policies in mitigating the farm fires.

Hry CM declares development works worth ₹60 cr for Radaur

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced the development work worth ₹60 crore for Radaur Assembly constituency which besides several others developmental works also included Mini Secretariat in Radaur village, two senior roads in Yamunanagar, Model Town-Jathlana road up to 7 meters.

He also assured to fulfill all the demands of the Municipal Committee, Radaur. Further giving a major relief to the residents of Yamunanagar, the Chief Minister announced to remove Damla toll barrier from November 1.

The Chief Minister made these announcements while addressing the Jan Vishwas

Rally in Damla village of district Yamunanagar. As many as eight new roads of Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) will be constructed at a cost of Rs eight crore. Many other developmental works would be carried out at a cost of ₹20 crore.

The Chief Minister said that this bridge constructed in Jathlana would connect Radaur with the subdivision of Nakud in Uttar Pradesh and it would benefit the farmers of many villages of Haryana, whose fields are situated either on the eastern side of the river Yamuna or on the Yamuna river bank.

Manohar Lal said that in view of the traffic problem, the road from Damla to Radaur will be made four lanes.



He said that by constructing Kail-Kalanaur bypass by NHAI, the traffic congestion in Yamunanagar-Jagadhri city had significantly been eased out.

achieve development at a right pace and in a right manner, he said.

The Chief Minister also said that all government services had been made online so that the public could avail benefit from their home.

Antyodaya Bhawan had been opened where the benefits of all government services are provided under one roof and people would not have to visit the offices for their work, he said.

He further said that the online system has curbed corruption to a great extent as in case of any complaint, immediate and prompt action is taken.

The corruption could only be completely curbed when the people also come in support of the government and file complaints against corruption cases, he said.

rates to almost half, he said.

Appealing to the people to deposit their electricity bills so that they could be provided 24 hours power, he said that with the help of people, we gave 24 hours power to 2800 villages of six districts under 'Mahara village-Jagmug scheme'.

He said that in two-month period, Yamunanagar district will also become seventh district where all the villages would get electricity 24 hours.

The Chief Minister said that the previous Government made huge announcements in the last year of its tenure but even making budgetary provisions. In the last year of our tenure, we would only make the announcements which we could complete within this year, he added.

AMRITSAR RAIL TRAGEDY - Ministers disburse cheques of compensation to 36 injured

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR

As a part of the Punjab Government's resolve to rehabilitate the families of the victims of Amritsar rail tragedy and lend a helping hand to the injured, a joint team of Punjab Cabinet Ministers on Sunday visited five hospitals to enquire about the recovery of the injured persons who are under treatment in these hospitals after rail tragedy.

Financial help by way of cheque of ₹50,000, was given to each of such injured person. Led by Health Minister Brahm Mohindra, the Ministers' team included Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Revenue Minister Sukhbir Singh, Singh Sarkaria and Welfare Minister Sadhu Singh Dharamast.

MOHINDRA SHOWERED WORDS OF HIGH PRAISE OVER ALL SUCH DOCTORS AND PARAMEDICAL STAFF WHO WORKED 24X7 WITH MISSIONARY ZEAL TO MITIGATE THE MISERIES OF THE VICTIMS BY PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT AT THE CRUCIAL HOUR

Expressing his satisfaction over the prompt delivery of quality medical care and treatment to the victims of the Rail Tragedy, the Health Minister announced to grant financial help to the tune of Rs 10 lakh to Amritsar Civil Hospital, and Guru Nanak Hospital from his discretionary fund.

"The amount will be spent for purchase of the machines required for the urgent treatment of the patients," said Mohindra while calling upon the administrative heads of all the hospitals, where the injured of rail tragedy are under treatment, to discharge these patients after their full recovery.

Mohindra showered words of high praise over all such doctors and para-medical staff who worked 24x7 with missionary zeal to mitigate the miseries of the victims by providing medical care and treatment at the crucial hour. He reiterated that Punjab

Government would ensure that all the victims are getting free medical treatment and their families are rehabilitated.

He expressed satisfaction over the announcement of Amritsar Corporation to give job to family members of the victims saying that this goodwill action would provide livelihood to the affected families.

Sidhu said that all these affected families are just like his own family and he would leave no stone unturned for the welfare of these families especially for the education of the children of these families.

Sarkaria also used high words of praise for the timely actions taken by the Punjab Government for the rehabilitation of these rail tragedy-stricken families.

Mother of two becomes first woman conductor of HARYANA ROADWAYS

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A differently-abled mother of two daughters has become the Haryana roadways' first woman bus conductor, thanks to the ongoing strike by the state roadways employees, forcing the State Government to launch a recruitment drive for drivers and conductors.

Amid the ongoing strike, 32-year-old Sharmilla, hailing from a village in Rewari district, had been looking for a job for long to support her family and got it.

She said, "Both I and my husband were unemployed. We are raising two daughters. I had been looking for a job for last 8 to 10 years and when I learnt about this vacancy, I applied against it and got the job."

Clad in a pair of jeans and a shirt, she has been performing her duties after joining the Rewari depot on Wednesday. Sharmilla said she faces 40 per cent disability in one of her legs, but she has never let it stand in her way.

"I am Haryana's first lady conductor

I AM HARYANA'S FIRST LADY CONDUCTOR AND I AM SO HAPPY TO GET THIS JOB. I HAVE JOINED MY DUTIES THREE DAYS AGO AND HAVE LEARN'T MOST OF THE THINGS RELATED TO TICKETING

-Sharmilla and I am so happy to get this job. I have joined my duties three days ago and have learnt most of the things related to ticketing," she said.

Sharmilla is among the two women who were recruited as bus conductors, the other one being Nirmla Rani, who has joined duty on Sirsa-Ellehabad route.

Earlier this year, 30-year-old Archana had become the first and only woman driver of the Karnal city bus service.

The roadways employees have been on strike since October 16 against the Haryana Government's decision to hire 700 buses from private owners.

The Haryana Roadways has set a record for the biggest and longest-ever agi-

ration launched by its employees. Several rounds of talks between the protesters and the government failed to yield any positive results in the past ten days.

On an average, nearly 12.5 lakh passengers travel by Haryana Roadways buses daily. A government spokesperson said, "As many as 2,503 buses plied on different routes of Haryana on Sunday. As many as 284 employees have been suspended while services of other 72 have been terminated. The employees have, however, extended their strike till October 31."

The roadways employees have alleged that the BJP led State Government is hell bent on privatizing road transport sector. The employees' union has threatened adamant action unless the government issued until now be cancelled under the kilometre scheme.

Under the kilometre scheme, private operators and bus owners will pay salary to drivers, bear diesel and maintenance cost, while conductors would be appointed by the government and the revenue generated from the tickets would be deposited in the state exchequer, government officials had earlier said.

Amit Shekhar: A book release with a difference

■ AMITABH SHUKLA

At the outset, I have to admit that I had never met Amit Shekhar, who wore

multiple hats—a poet, author, journalist, columnist, commentator, singer, writer—you name a field of creativity and he was proficient in it. But despite not meeting him face to face, I can now claim of knowing him much better after attending the posthumous release of his Hindi poetry collection at Delhi International Centre, New Delhi. Attended by his parents, sisters and friends, besides several budding and experienced poets, it turned out to be a memorable evening of literary exposition and unbridled creativity.

A big cutout, specially made for the occasion, had a smiling Amit, looking at the audience with his piercing eyes and as one of his friend Amit Dahiyia Badshah of Delhi Poetry later recalled, participating in the literary evening from wherever he was in this universe.

As poetry was in full flow, someone in the audience remarked, "creativity is oozing out, there is such a natural flow of words". One poet after other either narrated something they themselves had written or read it out



From the book of Amit. I simply read out a poem from the book as I still remain a reader, listener and connoisseur of poetry and literature rather than a writer and I know for sure I can never become a poet in the rest of my life.

The posthumous book of Amit Shekhar—collection of his poetry written recently, was jointly released by his parents and noted poet Nawaz Deobandi who later not only regaled the audience but also forced them to introspect and relate themselves with the harsh realities surrounding them in the year 2018.

His high pitch narration, nuanced by appropriate verbal punctuation, had some of the best he has written in the recent years.

Coming back to the memory of Amit, he wrote as a columnist for The Pioneer for quite a long time though not regularly. He used to write on a range of issues—contemporary, literary, personal account and also a

veiled commentary on current affairs.

Those blessed with literary brilliance have erratic behaviour, bordering on what some would term as insanity on occasions, this is what I could make out of what his friends spoke about him on the occasion.

So he kept missing the deadline of his columns, then he called me to plead that instead of weekly, the column could appear fortnightly. I agreed.

Then he finally called to say that he no longer derives satisfaction from writing prose and would discontinue the column. I agreed again.

"But whenever you feel like writing again, just drop a line on mail, phone, any time," I told him.

If I remember correctly, he called me in February this year and asked whether the

newspaper can publish his poems. As poems are normally not published in the edition, I thought I could make an exception and start it on a weekend, particularly on Sundays when the news flow is relatively less. I kept waiting for the first batch of his poetry.

It never came. I got busy in mundane affairs of the newspaper and forgot about the conversation with him.

I appreciated it in my comments but soon found that I did not have proper words to praise it all the time. "Very good, brilliant, what a poem. Wow... these were the only comments which I could make on Facebook or WhatsApp."

There was so much of creative genius in Amit in the last few months of his life that I found myself lacking in vocabulary. Brilliant, creative, best, and all such synonyms...that perhaps could describe this phase of his creativity.

Back to the Book release that I did not have proper words to praise it all the time. "Very good, brilliant, what a poem. Wow... these were the only comments which I could make on Facebook or WhatsApp."

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India united because of Sardar Patel: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ignoring criticism of the Congress that he was trying to usurp the legacy of freedom fighters and legends like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Subhash Chandra Bose, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday credited Patel with uniting India after partition and said it was his timely intervention which helped save Jammu & Kashmir from 'aggression'.

Last Sunday, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Azad Hind Government formed by Netaji, Modi had urged the National Flag at the Red Fort and targeted the Nehru-Gandhi family for "neglecting" the contribution of nationalist leaders like Bose. In the past also,

Modi had been highly critical of the Congress for alleged backstabbing "Patel and Netaji". While Congress feels that this was Modi's way of slighting Nehru, the BJP leaders have maintained that the PM was only trying to place the history in true perspective.

In his monthly 'Mann ki



Baat' radio address, Modi also urged the youth to participate in large numbers in the 'run for unity' being organised on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Patel.

Modi said, "If we are able to see a united India now, it was entirely on account of the sagacity and strategic wisdom of Sardar Patel."

He said this year, October

31 will be special as the statue of unity will be dedicated to the nation as a 'true tribute' to Sardar Patel. Erected on the banks of the River Narmada in Gujarat, the structure is twice the height of the Statue of Liberty in the US.

"This is the world's tallest statue. Every Indian will now be proud to see the world's tallest statue here on Indian soil. Sardar

Patel, a true son of the soil will adorn our skies too," he said.

In his address, the Prime Minister also paid tributes to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary, which is also on October 31. "October 31 also is the death anniversary of our former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Our respectful tributes to Indira ji too," he said.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Infantry Day is observed every year on October 27 as the first Indian soldiers had set their foot in Jammu and Kashmir to take on intruders from across the border.

Quoting late Field Marshal S H F J Manekshaw, he said Patel was "irked" at the delay in initiating military action to evict the aggressors.

He said, in an interview Manekshaw had said that as a colonel then he was part of a meeting where Patel was irked on the delay in sending troops to Kashmir.

"During the proceedings, Sardar Patel gave him the presidential chair and Gandhi reiterated that there

should be no delay in our Army operation and that a solution should be sought swiftly. And immediately after that, our troops flew to Kashmir... We've seen how our Army was successful," Modi said.

He recalled that in January, 1947 the 'Time' magazine had profiled Patel and described him as a person who possessed the capability to unite the country and 'heal wounds'.

Mahatma Gandhi, the PM said, considered Patel as the only one capable of finding a lasting solution to the vexed issue of the states and asked him to act. "Sardar Patel formulated solutions one by one, weaving the warp and weft of unity on the axis of a single thread. He ensured the merger of all princely states with the Indian Union," he said.

Hyderabad, Travancore, or for that matter the princely states of Rajasthan, if we are able to see a united India now, it was entirely on account of the sagacity and untiring work of Sardar Patel," Modi said.

Keep rotating officers in sensitive posts: CVC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned with instances of alleged irregularities in public sector banks, insurance companies and Central Government departments, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has directed to make sure personnel did not stay in sensitive posts for too long.

The most recent direction is a reiteration of its earlier order instructing these institutions to implement a rotational transfer policy for officers who have been in sensitive posts more than three years.

The move assumes significance as the CVC while dealing with a case pertaining to a public sector bank and insurance companies recently noticed that a high ranking officer, who was associated with procurements etc, was posted in the department for an unending period which was against the spirit of the

Commission's guidelines. CVC officials said that its directive also stands for central government departments and public sector units.

The CVC repeated its observation that rotational transfer policies for officials in such posts would mitigate the probability of such scams occurring. Stating that it was the non-implementation of the rotational policy that has led to many frauds, CVC said. It is once again reiterated that rotational transfers of officers continuing beyond three years may be strictly carried out from sensitive seats/posts, adding however, that this advice was for changes from the sensitive seat/post, and not necessarily from the station, which is to be governed by the policy of respective organisations.

"Analysis of frauds that have not been placed in public sector banks as well as other

organisations shows that one of the reasons for such frauds was non-implementation of the rotational policy," the CVC stated in its order. It has also asked heads or Chief Vigilance Officers to strictly ensure that the rotational policy is implemented in their respective organisations.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), over 23,000 cases of fraud involving a whopping ₹1 lakh crore have been reported in the past five years in various banks. "A total of 5,152 cases of fraud, up from over 5,000 cases in 2016-17, were reported in banks from April, 2017, to March 1, 2018, it had stated. The highest amount of ₹28,459 crore is said to have been involved in these cases of fraud reported from April, 2017, to March 1, 2018, the central bank said. In 2016-17, banks had reported 5,076 cases of fraud involving ₹23,933 crore.

Congress banking on old, new faces to regain power in C'garh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress is banking on a combination of new faces and old-timers to end its 15-year wait to rule in Chhattisgarh. Ensuring that representation is given to all sections of society and a large chunk to SC and ST candidates, the party has put out a third list for the 37 Assembly seats going to polls in the second and last phase of voting on November 20.

The grand old party also received a boost when its former leader and the first Chief Minister of State Ajit Jogi who has formed a different outfit and aligned with Mayawati's BSP, on Sunday said announced he will not target the Gandhi family, but will support the Congress tooth and nail in the upcoming State Assembly polls, he will not speak against the Gandhi family, with whom he

shared warm relations during his long tenure in the grand old party. Jogi left the Congress in 2016.

Congress has renominated 15 sitting MLAs and fielded 11 candidates, who had lost in 2013, besides giving tickets to 11 fresh faces. No sitting MLA was denied ticket in the third list. However, only three women figure in it. With this, the Opposition party has so far announced 55 candidates in the BJP-ruled state, which has a 90-member House.

State Congress chief Bhupesh Baghel (Patan seat), Congress Legislative Party leader T S Singhdeo (Ambikapur), senior Congress leader Satyanarayan Sharma (Raipur Rural) and prominent tribals leader Manojet Bhagat (Sitapur) were among the sitting MLAs who were given tickets.

State Congress working president Shiv Kumar

Dahariya, who had lost the previous election from Bhatnagar (SC) seat, has been fielded from Arang (SC) this time. Similarly, Guru Rudra Kumar, who had lost the 2013 election from Arang, has been given ticket from Ahiwara (SC).

Congress on Sunday also charged the Modi dispensation at the Centre and the Raman Singh Government in

Chhattisgarh for failing to contain naxal violence, saying the Chief Minister has forfeited his right to continue in power.

He claimed that the various schemes launched by the previous UPA Government for naxal-affected and backward districts were discontinued by the present Government at the Centre just because they were implemented by a Congress-led dispensation.

launch its manifesto website on Monday, where it wants the common people to give their opinion. Chidambaram heads the party's manifesto for 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The chairman of the Congress Manifesto Committee, P Chidambaram, announced on Twitter that the party will

Rly plans aircraft-like pressurised coaches for world's highest railway track in Leh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Centre approving the significant Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line along the Indo-China border making it the world's highest rail track, the Railways are now planning to use aircraft-like pressurised coaches in its trains so that passengers do not have breathing difficulties on board. Aircraft cabins are pressurised because the air is very thin at the altitude planes fly. To prevent complications, the cabins of many aircraft are adjusted to near sea-level pressure, which makes breathing almost the same as at sea level.

At a height of 5,360 metres above the sea level, the strategically significant line to be built at a cost of ₹8,360 crore, will see railways' first pressurised coaches which are currently used only in the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Line in China.

Special pressurised rolling stock to deal with lack of oxygen will be used in the train. Aircraft cabins are pressurised because of the high altitude. These will be like the pressurised cabins used by aircraft to maintain the oxygen levels inside," said a senior Railway Ministry official.

The Chinese coaches, manufactured by



Canada's Bombardier Inc, which also makes small planes, are specially designed to carry passengers in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. In order to do this, the train cars have to be pressurised, to ensure that all of the passengers do not finish their journey with severe cases of altitude sickness.

The official said the Tibet train has two kinds of systems used to maintain oxygen levels — one is through the main controls which maintains standard oxygen levels and gets switched on at high altitude areas and the other is through oxygen ports equipped for each passenger to use when they feel that they lack oxygen.

The Integrated Coach Factory (ICF) which is in expansion mode is already pepping up to produce both metro coaches as well as coaches for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train and could be roped

in to make coaches for the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line as well.

The project will connect important locations between Bilaspur and Leh like Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Koksar, Darcha, Upsi and Karu and other important towns of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir en route. The project will include 74 tunnels, 124 bridges and 396 minor structures, according to the first phase of the survey. Final location survey for the project is currently underway.

Besides this, the railways would spend an amount of ₹20,000 crore towards augmenting rolling stock which includes train coaches from 2019-20. Railway Board member (rolling stock) Rajesh Agrawal said the railways had done strategic planning for the financial audit and there would be no problem for funds.

The annual rolling stock production volume is around 6000 to 8000 coaches per year. The plan was to prioritise the requirements of the various railway zones and try to meet their demands," said Agrawal. He shared that some new coaches have come and waiting for CRS (Commission of Railway Safety) permission.

NSG military operations post headless for 6 months; force seeks MHA's intervention

New Delhi: India's elite counter-terror force NSG has been functioning without a regular military operations commander for the past six months, posing serious questions on the effectiveness of its combat readiness and planning in case of an impending contingency.

The special force has recently asked the Ministry of Home Affairs, under which it functions, to intervene and get an officer from the Army on board soon.

The post of Inspector General (Operations) is held by a Major General-rank officer on deputation from the Army, which, sources told PTI, has been vacant since April after incumbent Maj Gen Shaashank Mishra moved to his cadre on promotion.

In the NSG hierarchy, the counter-terror and counter-hijack commando units are placed under the overall command of IG (Operations), a post based in the NSG headquarters in Delhi.

The NSG Director General (DG), an officer from the Indian Police Service, is the top commander of the force.

The sources said as no new Maj Gen officer-rank officer has been posted to the NSG till now, hence another IG of the force (IPS officer) is holding the post in an additional capacity.

They said the non-availability of suitable officers from the Army has been the primary reason that the post is vacant.

While some officers prefer getting promoted in their cadre, in some cases they were not found suitable for the working of the NSG, that remains in combat readiness round-the-clock, they said.

The IG (Operations) is the man who analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the counter-terror and counter-hijack teams in consultation with the force commander based at the NSG garrison in Manesar.

"He is responsible for the on-ground planning and execution of operations when the

commandos are deployed for a task," a senior official privy to NSG operations said.

This is the reason that the IG (Operations) is brought from the military as both the fighting units of the NSG-51 SAG and 52 SAG are manned by officers and jawans from the Special Forces and infantry of the Indian Army and it requires a special bonding and coordination between the two to ensure seamless, precise and successful operational results.

NSG DG Sudeep Lakhtakia told PTI that while it is important to have a full-time IG (Operations) he had "complete faith" in the capabilities of his Deputy IG (Operations) and a Force Commander (a Brigadier-rank officer) in keeping a 24x7 readiness of the commandos.

"We are hopeful that a full-time IG (Operations) will join the NSG soon. Till then, my DIG and Force Commander are rendering the task and they are very capable officers," he told the news agency. PTI

DeMo: Manmohan Singh did not exercise his power when it was needed, says Puri

New Delhi: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday took a dig at former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for terming demonetisation 'organised and planned'.

"There was a group of men around me who were there was a dire situation. Speaking at 'India Ideas Conclave' here, Puri also lambasted opposition leaders for joining hands with the Congress despite their lifelong struggle against the "one family" party.

"One wealthy (former) prime minister termed demonetisation as organised loot. I don't know where he was getting his facts from," he said.

He accused Manmohan Singh of not exercising his "political power" when there was a need for him to do so.

"There was a group of men around Sonia Gandhi who were more effective decision makers. It (the situation) arose because Prime Minister of India was an appointee. He was an appointee and when he was appointed (as PM), the rules of Congress Parliamentary Party were changed. So it was not that an elected member of Parliament became prime minister but it was the other way

around," Puri said.

He also lashed out at efforts of political parties to cobble up an anti-BJP alliance by joining hands with the Congress.

"I look at the people who are coming together. There are people whose entire life is based on opposition to one family," the Union urban affairs minister said.

He asserted that the discourse for 2019 parliamentary elections will be determined by things like how many connections were allotted, how many toilets and PM Awas Yojna houses were built, Ayushman Bharat and not the Rafale deal issue raised by the Congress.

"That's what aspirational India is looking for and not some fictitious thing you do about an airplane whose name you can not pronounce," Puri said. He also differentiated between original and Latin American ways of pronouncing "Rafale".

"I keep telling them, it's Rafale. It's not Rafalyale. Rafalyale is a Latin American name. You have a connection with Latin America, otherwise it's a different name," he quipped. PTI

RBI Guv Urjit Patel to brief Parl panel on note ban on Nov 12

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel, of which former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is a member, will brief the RBI Governor Urjit Patel for the third time to brief it on the Government's demonetisation move.

The 31-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, headed by Verrappa Moily, has been deliberating on the issue for almost two years.

The Government had scrapped ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes on November 8, 2016 and announced issuance of new ₹500 and ₹2,000 notes.

Patel has been called on November 12 to brief the committee's members on the demonetisation move and the "ramifications thereof," according to the panel's meeting notice.

The RBI Governor will also brief the committee on the banning of the Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill and related issues.

Members wanted some more information and details about demonetisation, especially on its impact. Therefore, the RBI

Governor has been called on for the first time when an RBI Governor has been called by a panel for three times on the same issue.

Prior to this, Patel shared details related to demonetisation with the panel in January and July last year.

According to the WHO, the panel has adopted more than 60 reports on various issues, unannounced.



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe depart for Tokyo by Express Train Kajiki in Japan on Sunday

Govt to rope in other countries to popularise AYUSH

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Recognising the popularity of the AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) sector abroad, the Government has intensified its efforts to engage with other countries in a more structured and concrete manner by initiating a slew of measures such as setting up of Academic Chairs, patenting the medicines and focusing on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

Among several steps to boost Indian Traditional medicines abroad, we are in the process of inking pact with at least 45 countries to undertake research and academic activities in the AYUSH sector. The

Government has already signed agreement with eleven countries like China, Hungary and Germany. Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of AYUSH said, "We are in the process of inking pact with at least 45 countries to undertake research and academic activities in the AYUSH sector. The Government has already signed agreement with eleven countries like China, Hungary and Germany. Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of AYUSH said, "We are in the process of inking pact with at least 45 countries to undertake research and academic activities in the AYUSH sector. The

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Court should take cognisance: BSP

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

BSP president Mayawati on Sunday condemned BJP chief Amit Shah's remarks on the Sabarimala verdict, saying the court should take cognisance of the "irresponsible and provocative statement".

In a statement here, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme said that Shah's remarks showed "a lack of respect for the country is in danger".

Addressing a gathering in Kerala's Kannur on Saturday, Shah listed court verdicts which have not been implemented, including the 'Jallikattu' (traditional bull-taming sport of Tamil Nadu) and prohibiting loudspeakers in mosques, and said "impractical" directions should not be given by courts and they should pass orders that can be implemented.

"The statement of the ruling party president is condemnable and irresponsible. Court should take cognisance. It shows the democracy of the

SHAH'S REMARKS ON SABARIMALA



"On this serious matter of Sabarimala temple, BJP leader's speech is provocative and an attempt to take political mileage in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan polls"

country is in danger. Autonomous institutions such as CBI, CVC, ED and RBI are facing crisis due to wrong perspective of the Government and ego," Mayawati said.

"On this serious matter of Sabarimala temple, BJP leader's speech is provocative and an attempt to take political mileage in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan polls," she said, terming it unconstitutional and unparliamentary.

"If the BJP is not satisfied with the SC decision allowing women's entry into the temple, they should approach court and not create chaos on roads

AIADMK offers olive branch to disqualified MLAs

PTI ■ CHENNAI

After labelling them as betrayers, the AIADMK has extended an olive branch to its 18 disqualified MLAs, asking them to jump on to the ruling party bandwagon and played AMMK leader TTV Dhinakaran for "misleading" them.

Asking the debarred MLAs to re-join the party, Dhinakaran said, "I have moved away from AIADMK to revert to the parent party, the top leadership Saturday asked them to 'understand the reality' of the Madras High Court judgement that said that the BJP wanted to divert attention of the people from core issues by raking up religious matters."

On September 28, the Supreme Court paved the way for entry of women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in Kerala. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, in its 4:1 verdict, said that banning the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine is gender discrimination and the practice violates rights of Hindu women.

and affection to again join the massive people's movement nurtured by Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, party coordinator and co-ordinator O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami respectively said.

In an open letter to cadres, the top duo, refraining from naming Dhinakaran or his loyalists, including the 18 debarred MLAs, said party functionaries had chosen to travel in an "alternative path as a result of being misled and due to some bitterness."

"We invite you with love

Ayyappa Dharma Sena chief held for controversial remark on Sabarimala

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Police Sunday took into custody today Rahul Easwar, president of the 'Ayyappa Dharma Sena', for his alleged provocative statement related to the entry of women into the Lord Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala.

A team of police personnel from Kochi took Easwar into custody from his flat here in connection with a case registered under IPC Sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) and 117 (abetting commission of offence by the public or by more than 10 persons), police said.

The arrest will be recorded in the evening after they reach Kochi, police sources said.

A member of the Thazhambal family of Sabarimala tantris (head priests), Easwar had said during a press meet in Kochi last week that they had a contingency plan to face the closure of the temple by spilling blood on its premises by some devotees in case any woman in the 'barred' age group managed to reach it.

Lord Ayyappa devotees opposing the entry of women in the age group of 10 and 50 were ready to inflict knife injuries on themselves on the temple premises, which would have forced the priests to close the gates on account of impurity. "Had their blood fallen on the floor of the temple, that would have forced the priests to shut the shrine for three days for purification rituals," Easwar had said. A case was registered against him later on the basis of a complaint filed by a Thiruvananthapuram native.

Kerala Devaswom Minister Kadakkampally Surendran had claimed that effective police intervention had foiled the protesters' bid to "desecrate" the Ayyappa Temple by spilling blood in the premises if women devotees in the 10-50 age group offered prayers.

He had also claimed that 20

acuity" of the devotees was made clear by the statement of Rahul Easwar.

The Minister had also said the disclosure showed that there was a well-conceived plan, similar to that followed by nations to attack their enemies and added that this attempt was not only "seditions", but also against the interests of devotees.

Easwar was earlier arrested from Sabarimala Sannidhanam (temple complex) on October 17 over the 'save Sabarimala' campaign, and later released on bail. The temple had witnessed high drama with around a dozen women in 10-50 age group being prevented from entering the temple by protesting devotees after the doors were opened for all women, following the Supreme Court verdict.

On September 28, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Apex Court, headed by then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, had ruled that the ban on the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine. BJP state president PS Sreedharan Pillai Sunday lashed out at the police action against Easwar.

Four highly-trained JeM snipers active in Kashmir

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Sniper attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists has emerged as a new source of worry for security agencies in Kashmir Valley with three personnel having been killed since mid-September, prompting the law enforcement agencies to recalibrate their strategy to thwart such strikes by the Pakistan-based group, officials said.

The first such attack took place at Nawa in Pulwama on September 18 when a CRPF personnel was injured. Security officials thought it to be a one-off strike till the recent spate of sniper attacks that claimed the lives of a Sashastha Seba Bal jawan and an Army personnel in Tral, and a CISF jawan in Nowgam.

Based on intelligence inputs, security agencies believe

that at least two separate buddy groups of the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) comprising two terrorists each have entered Kashmir Valley in early September and have entrenched themselves in South Kashmir's Pulwama district with the help of some underground supporters of the outfit.

These terrorists, according to the officials, have been thoroughly trained by Pakistan's external snooping agency ISI for carrying out sniper attacks in Kashmir Valley and have been armed with M-4 carbines, used by the US-led allied forces in Afghanistan.

There is a possibility that these weapons may be part of the arms and ammunition captured by the Taliban, with whom the JeM cadres were fighting the allied forces in

Afghanistan, security officials in the state said. However, they said the weapon was also being used by the special forces of Pakistan Army.

In all the instances of sniper attacks, the terrorists used a heavy calibre to carry out strikes on a security force campus when unsuspecting jawans were using their mobile phones to talk to their family or friends.

"These attacks have been precise, even while targeting a personnel inside a sentry post as he uses his mobile phone. They pick up the light of the mobile phone to carry out the attack on jawans," said one of the officials.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that such operations would be carried out around the security camps,

border/LoC regularly and have SOPs to deal with those that enter the hinterland. This will force a rethink of all manner of security and protection procedures."

The M-4 carbine is mounted with a telescope and the terrorists are using night vision goggles to target their potential targets, the officials said. The weapon can fire at its target up to 500-600 metres with precision.

The security agencies, including army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir police, have already issued fresh guidelines to their jawans and officers located in camps in the militancy-hit areas.

Maintaining a silence over the change in tactics, the officials said that their counter-operations would be carried out around the security camps.

71 tourists saved off Goa coast from rough seas this month

PTI ■ PANAJI

Panaji: Seventy-one tourists have been rescued off the coast of Goa since the first week of October as the state witnesses rough seas and rains, an official of a lifeguard service commissioned by the State Government said Sunday.

A statement from Drishti Lifesaving further said that of the 71 tourists rescued, nine were foreign nationals including three Russians who were saved on October 25. "A total of 217 Indian tourists and 46 foreigners have been rescued while swimming off the state's beaches from January to October this year," Drishti Lifesaving's spokesperson informed.



Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Maharashtra Health Minister Girish Mahajan present cheque to beneficiaries during the Atal Arogya Shibir 2018 in Nagpur on Sunday

Yogi: One-District One-Product to create more jobs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government had kept its promise of promoting traditional cottage and handicraft industry and entrepreneurship by launching the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

The Chief Minister said the creation of huge job opportunities with low capital investment was the unique feature of the ODOP scheme. Addressing a special summit on traditional handicraft of Lucknow, 'chikan and zardozi', here on Sunday, Yogi said that the BJP, during the March 2017 UP assembly elections, had promised to launch a specific scheme for promoting traditional handicraft and cottage industry as each district of the state had a unique identity in the form of its traditional craft.

that so far 11,755 artisans of different crafts had been provided loan amounting to over Rs 1,000 crore.

The ODOP scheme was launched on January 25 this year. Yogi said that so far over 1.65 lakh persons had been provided employment by the MSME sector under the ODOP scheme. Yogi also released a catalogue 'Zari-Zardozi on the occasion.

He also distributed tool kits and cheques of loan to 10 entrepreneurs. The Chief Minister said the future belonged to the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector as it was growing at fast pace and was also labour intensive.

Prominent e-commerce companies also made their presentations on the occasion and provided marketing platforms to the small entrepreneurs producing traditional handicraft items and other products.

Consignment of sleeping pills seized from bus in Gujarat

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A consignment containing 22,000 sleeping pills and other psychotropic substances was seized from a bus in Ahmedabad Sunday and its sender arrested, an Narcotics Control Bureau official said.

The value of the seized consignment is estimated to be around ₹75 lakh in the international markets, the official said.

"We have arrested Dilip Parihar for sending around 22,000 tablets of prescription drug Alprazolam and other psychotropic substances on a bus from Ahmedabad to Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) and other cities," said NCB zone unit director Hariom Gandhi.

Alprazolam is most commonly used for treating anxiety disorder as it induces sleep. It cannot be sold without prescription.

Reducing land, revenue litigation a big challenge: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to reduce litigation in agricultural land and other revenue matters, Union Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday inaugurated an on-line system for issuance of succession and insolvency certificates and other documents issued by the district revenue authorities.

Checking land-related litigation is a big challenge before the State Government and it can be effectively curbed with the application of modern technology by adopting on-line system for issuing succession certificates and other documents, the Chief Minister said while inaugurating the new building of the Lucknow Sadar tehsil at Gonti Nagar here on Sunday.

He said issuance of succession and insolvency certificates was an important func-

tion of the revenue authorities and with the adoption of the on-line system, these certificate would be issued within 30 days to the common man.

The Chief Minister said prompt delivery of justice and ensuring that the benefits of the development and welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiary was an important component of good governance.

He said that 'Tehsil Diwas' was observed every month for the redressal of the grievances of the common man.

Yogi asked the district officers to conduct an on the spot inspection after the receipt of the complaints from the common man.

Several Cabinet ministers and Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, Chairman of Board of Revenue and other officials were present on the occasion.

Guj Cong MLA held for taking bribe from irrigation scam accused

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Congress MLA Parsotam Sabariya was Sunday arrested for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe from persons accused in an irrigation scam in Morbi district, over 100 kilometres from here, a senior official said.

Dhrangadhra MLA Sabariya was arrested by Morbi A Division police for allegedly accepting money through a middleman from some accused in the irrigation scam in return for not raising the issue in the Assembly and with the State Government, said Morbi Superintendent of Police Karanraj Vaghela.

An executive engineer in the Irrigation department, C.D Kanani, and three other officials were earlier arrested in connection with a scam pertaining to construction and repair of check dams, digging of ponds and repair and restoration of percolation tanks etc in villages in Morbi district.

"MLA Parsotam Sabariya

had demanded ₹40 lakh for not raising the issue in the Assembly or before the Government. He had settled for ₹35 lakh, out of which ₹10 lakh was given to him through a middleman.

Another ₹25 lakh was given to the middleman in the form of a cheque" he had demanded ₹40 lakh for not raising the issue in the Assembly or before the Government. He had settled for ₹35 lakh, out of which ₹10 lakh was given to him through a middleman. Another ₹25 lakh was given to the middleman in the form of a cheque," Vaghela said.

Inspector RJ Chaudhary of Morbi A Division police station said that Kanani and others had allegedly offered money to the MLA through a middleman. Chaudhary said the alleged

middleman, identified as Bihari Karki, was also arrested Sunday and based on the latter's statement, Sabariya was arrested.

According to police, 334 minor irrigation projects worth ₹20.3 crore were approved by Gujarat Government in the form of a cheque in previous and current financial years.

Projects worth ₹10 crore were completed and the probe underway is in connection with the implementation of these projects by village-level co-operative societies, police said. According to police, 27 such village-level societies are under the scanner after it was revealed that the works had either not been carried out or were of poor quality.

Morbi SP Vaghela said that the state government, after receiving complaints, had launched an investigation into the irrigation projects which revealed irregularities and mismanagement of ₹11.12 crore in 51 such projects.



Women perform during a function organised by Dr Gangubai Hanagal Music Foundation in Hubballi on Sunday

Three missing after boat capsized in Assam

ASSAM ■ HAILAKANDI

Three persons went missing while 12 others were rescued after a country boat capsized in Katakhal river in Assam's Hailakandi district Sunday evening, official sources said here.

The boat carrying 15 people capsized during a thunder-shower near Lalumukh and local people along with State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel rescued 12 people of them.

The three missing persons have been identified as Sumit Pashi, Ajoy Pashi and Ramesh Pashi — all residents of Lalumukh Tea garden, the sources said.

Students tortured, forced into unnatural sex in Bihar, 7 held

PTI ■ BEGUSARAI

A video of four college students being brutally tortured and forced into performing unnatural sex in Bihar's Begusarai district has gone viral leading to the arrest of seven persons, police said on Sunday.

The inmates of Kuswaha hostel, a private students hostel located in Pokharia area of Town Police Station, were on Wednesday kidnapped by some persons from Kali Asthan chowk, they said.

The victims were taken behind Begusarai divisional jail and assaulted by the miscreants. They were then dis-

robbed and forced to indulge in unnatural sexual acts with each other, police added.

The accused also shot at the toes of the boarders, all college students in the age group of 18-21, and made them drink liquor, police said, adding that the shocking act continued the entire day.

The boarders were subjected to the cruelty allegedly due to their refusal to buy water from a plant owned by one of the accused, police said.

The miscreants made a video of the incident and threatened to make it viral if the students lodged a complaint. However, the video was

anyway released on Saturday after which the police arrested some persons.

Those who were arrested following a registration of an FIR by the boarders are— Golu Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Raja Kumar, Rohit Kumar, Ganesh Kumar and Rahul Kumar. Town Police Station SHO Trilok Kumar Mishra said.

Golu Kumar, who was arrested on Thursday owns the water treatment plant, police said, adding that another six were held on Saturday night. Raids are being conducted to nab their accomplices involved in the case, they said.

Kamal Haasan says his party may contest in TN bypolls

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan has said his party MNM would take the call on contesting the byelections to 20 Tamil Nadu assembly seats, including the 18 which have fallen vacant following disqualification of MLAs elected from there, after the poll schedule was announced.

Haasan, who has been touring the state as part of his "journey with the people" programme, indicated that a firm decision would be taken when the Election Commission announced the schedule for the polls.

Intel cop, PDP worker shot dead in J&K

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Suspected militants shot dead a junior police intelligence officer and a worker of pro-India Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) worker in Kashmir Valley on Sunday.

Police sources said that militants waylaid the private car of Intiyaz Ahmad Mir, the sub-inspector with counter-intelligence department of (CID) &K police, at Washbugh village along the banks of Romsh rivulet in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday afternoon.

Mir's body was found with bullet wounds. Sources said that militants abducted him before he was fired upon from a point blank range. He was resident of Tekina village in Pulwama and was on way to his home in his private car. He was posted in Sagarhati police station in summer capital Srinagar.

In the other incident, militants shot at and injured a senior PDP worker Muhammad Amin Dar at Gangbugh village near Hyderabad on the outskirts of Srinagar. He was immediately rushed to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Suspected militants also attacked an army patrolling party at Poterwala area in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Security sources said the army personnel retaliated in a

befitting manner. They said there was no immediate report of any casualties on the forces' side. Security forces launched manhunt to hit the attackers.

Meanwhile, army and intelligence officials foiled militants' attempt to abduct an Army major in north Kashmir area. Security sources did not divulge further details on the abortive attempt.

PTI adds: The desperation to see his parents prompted sub-inspector Intiyaz Ahmad Mir to shove off his beard and change appearance in his unsuccessful attempt to dodge militants who had laid a death trap for him in his village, his colleagues said on Sunday.

Mir, 30, was shot dead by militants on Sunday when he was on his way home. Posted in the CID department, Mir had been warned against venturing into his village as he was a possibility of being attacked by militant groups, who have been targeting policemen in the state recently.

"I had told him that he should not go as militants could attack. But he was desperate to see his parents reside at Sombabugh in the interiors of Pulwama district," recalled one of his supervising officers.

This morning as he was preparing to leave for home, he came with a changed appearance. He shaved off his beard

and decided to use his personal vehicle to go to his native village, the officer said.

"Now they (militants) will not be able to recognise me" were possibly his last words to his officer before he left for home with a smiling face as he was seeing his parents after a long time.

Mir is survived by his father and mother. Son of a retired police officer, Mir, who was from 2010 batch of sub-inspector, had served in Ganderbal district of South Kashmir for five years before being transferred to Kulgam district last year.

He was shifted to the CID department in March this year and his superiors recalled his dedication towards his work.

In fact, some militants had claimed that Mir had also submitted his resignation.

When the body of Mir was being brought to Pulwama district lines by a police team from Washbugh, it was attacked by stone pelters as security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operations in Chewa and the area where he was shot dead.

The police have also launched a probe to ascertain how the information about his journey to home had been leaked to militant groups, who had been waiting to ambush him at Washbugh.

As Akhilesh belittles 'Krishi Kumbh', State Minister reminds him of Saifai extravaganza

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

An Uttar Pradesh Minister Sunday reminded Akhilesh Yadav of the annual Saifai Mahotsava when the Samajwadi Party chief took to Twitter to belittle a farmers' event here inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Those who had spent crores of rupees during their regime on song and dance shows at Saifai Mahotsava, are talking today about the interests of farmers," State Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said Sunday, attacking Yadav.

The Saifai Mahotsava used to be held annually at STP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's village Saifai in the Etawah district.

The agriculture Minister tweeted further, "I would like to point out that the BJP government has purchased 37 lakh MT wheat and this year the figure is 53 lakh MT. Statistics will show who is the real well-wisher of farmers."

The former Chief Minister had belittled recently, "On one hand, the state government is sacrificing the interests of the farmers, while on the other hand it is organising 'dhong' (fake) Krishi Kumbh."

"What type of Kumbh is it where instead of 'amrit', the

farmers are getting 'vish' (poison), and they are compelled to end their lives. Instead of such theatrics, the BJP should give the price and pass on the profit to the farmers commensurate to their hard work," Yadav had said.

Prime Minister Modi had inaugurated the three-day 'Krishi Kumbh' Friday through video conferencing. It ended Sunday with a participation of over one lakh farmers, said the Minister.

Held at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow by the State Government in association with the Centre, the mega agri-expo was aimed at showcasing the state's agriculture potential and provide farmers a platform to interact with experts in the field.

Talking to PTI Sunday about the mega agricultural event, the Minister said, "This is the first of its kind, organised in the state."

Over one lakh farmers participated in the event, the Minister said, adding a large number of farmers came on their own and at their own cost and returned quite satisfied.

It provided an opportunity to the stakeholders to understand the requirements of each other for investment benefits, he said.

Kannur airport yet to be opened, but its Govt allowed Shah to land, claims LDF

KERALA MINISTER SLAMS BJP CHIEF FOR THREATENING TO OUST THE LDF GOVERNMENT DESPITE THE HOSPITALITY IT OFFERED TO HIM



PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A controversy has erupted over BJP president Amit Shah landing in the yet to be opened Kannur airport, with a Kerala Minister slamming him Sunday for threatening to oust the LDF Government despite it allowing him to arrive there as part of state's tradition of hospitality.

State Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac tweeted that though the state had shown the 'tradition of hospitality' by permitting Shah to land in the airport, which had not been formally inaugurated, the BJP leader had threatened to oust the left ruled Kerala Government.

The official inauguration of the Kannur airport, the fourth in the state, is scheduled to be held on December 9.

But, by arriving in a special flight there yesterday to inaugurate the BJP's new district committee office, Shah has unofficially become the first passenger to land in the airport at Mattanur in Kannur.

Isaac said Shah's 'empty threats' were out of frustration as the saffron party is yet to get

more members in the state Assembly.

Former Union Minister, O Rajagopal, is the lone MLA of the BJP in the house.

"Amit Shah permitted to land in Kannur airport which is yet to be opened. That is our tradition of hospitality. But he is threatening to oust Kerala Government. Such empty threats do not frighten us. Try to win few seats in Assembly. Your frustration is understandable," Isaac tweeted. Hundreds of party workers had gathered Saturday at the airport to welcome Shah who was in Kerala on a day's visit.

After inaugurating the party office located at Thallikkavu, he had made a scathing attack on the CPI(M)-led LDF Government in the state over the Sabarimala women's entry issue and pledged BJP's support for it.

Main Opposition Congress took on the LDF Government for allowing the BJP Chief to use the airport. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, Mullappally Ramachandran allegedly that

"Amit Shah permitted to land in Kannur airport which is yet to be opened. That is our tradition of hospitality. But he is threatening to oust Kerala government. Such empty threats do not frighten us. Try to win few seats in Assembly. Your frustration is understandable"

Shah landed at the airport following an 'understanding' between him and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

"At a time when the Kannur airport is scheduled to be inaugurated on December 9, it was specially opened for Amit Shah. Usually, it is done so during emergency situations," he said in a statement. Amit Shah had arrived in Kannur Saturday on a day's visit to Kerala to attend a party function in that city and the 90th Mahasamadi observance of saint social reformer Sree Narayana Guru at Varkala near Thiruvananthapuram.

Later, in a hard-hitting speech, Shah had warned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that he would have to pay a 'heavy price' if the (attack on Ayappam devotees) continues, as BJP workers "would not hesitate to pull down the Government."

Guwahati has now air links to Sikkim, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

In a bid to improve air connectivity and promote tourism in the North East, Guwahati was connected to three destinations with direct flights from Sunday.

The direct flights linked the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport here with Pakyong in Sikkim, Bhubaneswar in Odisha and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, an Airports Authority of India (AAI) statement said.

SpiceJet's flight SG-3325 from Pakyong arrived at Guwahati at 12.20 pm and the return flight SG-3326 took off from Guwahati at 12.40 pm, it added.

Siddaramaiah warns BJP against Operation Lotus

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at the BJP for predicting that the JDS-Congress Government would fall and warned it against indulging in 'Operation Lotus' again, saying the saffron party was already in a state of "coma" due to its past defeat.

Siddaramaiah is the head of the Congress-JD(S) coalition co-ordination committee.

'Operation Lotus' is a reference to the BJP allegedly luring several opposition MLAs to defect to ensure stability of its then-government headed by B S Yeddyurappa in 2008.

"Yeddyurappa (now state BJP chief) has once again made a statement that the govern-

ment would fall. Already due to several rounds of operations, the lotus (BJP symbol) in Karnataka is in coma. Now once again don't try your hands into the wrong adventure of Operation Lotus."

He said in a tweet.

The Congress leader asserted that the BJP would remain as an opposition party in the state. Siddaramaiah's tweet came

in response to repeated comments by Yeddyurappa and other BJP leaders expressing doubts about the continuation of the coalition government headed by H D Kumaraswamy ever since it came to power in May this year after the elections threw up a hung assembly.

'Operation Lotus' refers to the BJP's strategy during the BJP's previous tenure as the chief minister when it made several MLAs of other parties to resign and contest the elections on the party's ticket and win to strengthen its numbers in the assembly.

Congress and JD(S) have accused the BJP of attempting to destabilise the coalition government by trying to poach their MLAs, a charge denied by the saffron party.

Last rites of CISF jawan performed in native village

Jainpur: The mortal remains of CISF personnel Rajendra Prasad were buried on Sunday to flames with state honours in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district.

Prasad, an assistant sub-inspector with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), was killed in an encounter with terrorists in Nowgana area of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

The last rites were held at Prasad's native village in Chaintapura and the funeral was lit by his wife Pradep and Satyendra. Public representatives, officials from the Army, district administration and police paid floral tributes to Prasad. PTI



Madras High Court Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani inaugurates additional block for nine court rooms on the premises of Integrated Court complex in Puducherry on Sunday. Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy is also seen

BJP doesn't have experience of running country: Azad

PTI ■ GONDA

Senior Congress leader Gshulam Nabi Azad Sunday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks more outside Parliament than inside the House and the BJP does not have the experience of running the country. The former Union Minister made the statement while addressing party workers here.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi seldom speak inside Parliament, but he never gets tired while speaking outside Parli-

ament," Azad said. He claimed that due to implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, lakhs of small and medium industrial units have shutdown. The labourers working outside have become unemployed. Similarly, demonetisation has rendered 35 lakh people jobless across the country," the Congress leader said.

Senior Congress Leader Pramod Tiwari said, "The BJP remembers the Ram temple only when the elections approach, and by the time elections are over, the issue is forgotten."

DMK stops short of offering regret for article on Rajinikanth

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Days after lashing out at Rajinikanth for his political aspirations, DMK's official organ "Murasoli" Sunday said its write-up targeting the actor had hurt some "good hearts" and advised its editorial team to be "cautious" in future.

The mouthpiece of the main opposition party in Tamil Nadu had accused Rajinikanth of being a puppet in the hands of "some persons" and being supported by "communal" elements in a recent article.

"It has been brought to (my) notice that an article on superstar Rajinikanth that appeared in Murasoli has hurt some good hearts. The editorial (team) has

"Those who are speaking for you in the media are communal (elements), who want to divide the Tamil community, which exists after transcending caste and religion"

been advised to be cautious while publishing such write-ups," Murasoli editor S Selvam said in the Sunday edition of the paper.

However, there was no elaboration on the points that had caused hurt or who were anguished by it.

The daily, in effect, stopped short of offering a formal regret for the write-up.

The article targeting Rajinikanth appeared in Murasoli on October 26. It was published in a ques-

tion-answer format under the pseudonym "silanthi", meaning spider in Tamil.

"Those who are speaking for you in the media are communal (elements), who want to divide the Tamil community, which exists after transcending caste and religion," it had said.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) daily had accused Rajinikanth of being cautious, saying "a group" was trying to destabilise his popularity, and added that anyone dancing to the tunes of the group would lose sheen.

If the actor was not eyeing posts, he should have launched an outfit on the lines of rationalist leader, late E V Ramasamy Periyar, it said. Periyar's Dravidar

3,000 UP youths get job offers at Skill India's 'Rozgar Mela'

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A three-day Skill India Rozgar Mela here, dubbed as the largest job fair in Uttar Pradesh, concluded Sunday in which around 3,000 candidates were selected for various job roles.

"Rozgar Melas" organised by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in various cities have been instrumental in connecting thousands of youth to employers, UP Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, he said, "We are committed to creating and providing employment opportunities to the youth of Uttar Pradesh."

"The focus of youths should be on honing skills to

get jobs of their choice. The government is putting in a lot of effort in empowering youth with skill and education that can help them to be successful in their lives," a press release quoted him as saying.

The Skill India's 'Rozgar Mela' gave an opportunity to job seekers of Lucknow to learn more about potential employers and various employment opportunities available, including entrepreneurship.

It also offered a platform to the organisations to meet potential employees in an informal setting.

The 'Rozgar Mela' brought skilled candidates in direct contact with recruiters, HR managers, admission officers and advisory bodies/training providers.



An artisan prepares idols of Goddess Laami ahead of Diwali festival celebrations in Kolkata on Sunday

Operation Goodwill: Army distributes bee boxes among 28 rural women in JK's Doda

PTI ■ BHADRAWAH

Over two dozen women in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district were given bee boxes for honey farming as part of the Army's 'Operation Goodwill', an official said.

The women have been trained in beekeeping under a three-week programme organised by the Rashtriya Rifles based here in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) in Jammu.

The programme was conducted under the Prime Minister's Skill India initiative to impart basic skills among rural women in bee rearing, their management and how to make it a profitable business, the Army official said.

Twenty-eight women from various far-off villages of the

hilly district participated in the training programme, aimed at encouraging them to develop the required skills to become successful entrepreneurs using local resources with very little or no investment, he said.

"I was in a fix over what to do after completing my studies, as in this part of the world, jobs are very hard to find. Luckily for me, the Army took the initiative at the right time and I enrolled myself for the training programme," Sheetal, a trainee from Rounda-Seri-village, told PTI.

She said the training gave her the confidence to start her own business and the bee boxes given by the Army helped her get the equipment to rear bees.

The training was held under the technical guidance and supervision of SKUAST,

senior scientist, Neera Kotwal, gave the training, which was suited for bee rearing and production of high quality white honey. Traditionally, almost every household used to produce honey here, but since the last one decade production decreased due to conversion to changing lifestyle in rural areas," he said.

Kotwal said it was heartwarming to see the Army commit to the revival of this ancient trade and "I hope the female brigade will grab this opportunity to empower themselves and become entrepreneurs in the near future."

The official said all the trainees, after successfully completing the training were given certificates beside bee boxes so that they can immediately start their own business to financially empower themselves.

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"e" Procurement Date Extension Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates of receipt of bid in portal "http://uketenders.gov.in" and opening of the bid at website against e-NIT No. 17/EE(I&CM)/2018-19 for disposal of old & redundant vehicles lying at various Office/stores/sites of UJVN Ltd. invited by the office of the EE(I&CM), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun is hereby extended as follows:

Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal : 12-11-2018 up to 16:00 Hrs
Date of opening of bid on the website : 15-11-2018 at 13:00 Hrs
Time for submission of original : Date 15-11-2018 up to 13:00 Hrs
documents as mentioned of above tender

All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.
Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uketenders.gov.in"

EE(I&CM),
Ganga Bhawan,
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www.ujvnltd.com / Email : UJVN@ujvnltd.com : 27.10.2018
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



The negotiations (with USA) are ongoing. Of course, at this stage they have given an offer and we have also given a counter-offer and we are working on it

Suresh Prabhu, Union Commerce Minister

Use Aadhaar eKYC for DBT users: UIDAI to banks

VOLUNTARY OFFLINE AADHAAR FOR OTHER CUSTOMERS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UIDAI has clarified to banks that Aadhaar eKYC can be used to authenticate beneficiaries of Government subsidies and welfare schemes while for other customers physical Aadhaar card can be used for verification, a source said.

The Aadhaar-issuing authority Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) wrote to the banks last week clarifying the instances and modes in which Aadhaar can be used, and a copy of the same was also sent to the Reserve Bank of India, a senior UIDAI said.

The UIDAI wrote to banks after it received legal opinion on the matter, in the wake of a recent Supreme Court verdict that restricted the use of Aadhaar by private entities but cleared it for welfare schemes.

The UIDAI informed the banks that they can use Aadhaar authentication for beneficiaries of Government subsidies and welfare schemes, and listed various options for the use of Aadhaar (such as Quick Response or QR code and offline Aadhaar) for other banking customers in the light of Supreme Court judgement in the Aadhaar case, said the official who did not wish to be named.

Physical Aadhaar card can be used for verification in an offline mode if produced voluntarily, it clarified.

When contacted UIDAI CEO, Ajay Bhushan Pandey told PTI, "There are viable and completely paperless and digital options available through digitally signed electronic form of Aadhaar which allows identity to be verified online without ping-pong server. And through such methods the services can be seamlessly and digitally offered by banks for non-DBT customers". He also confirmed that UIDAI's views have been sent to banks but did not elaborate on details.

UIDAI has said that banks will be entitled to seek authentication of the beneficiaries availing subsidies, benefits, services under Aadhaar Act, for transfer of any subsidy or benefit to the bank account of the beneficiary, as well as for facilitating the withdrawal of money through Aadhaar based micro-ATM machines.

This means Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) and BHIM Aadhaar Pay shall remain operative and bank can continue to maintain and provide the facilities that Direct Benefit Transfer or DBT beneficiaries can withdraw their money through the micro-ATMs, AePS, BHIM Aadhaar Pay.

In its circular to banks, the UIDAI said that for customers giving their details that they want to receive entitled benefits or subsidies of welfare schemes funded from the Consolidated Fund of India in their account directly, banks can perform Aadhaar-based authentication using e-KYC for opening bank accounts too.

For all other customers, banks cannot use Aadhaar (e-KYC) authentication for opening bank accounts.

Buzz From GOVT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price was cut by 40 paise a litre and diesel by 33 paise a litre on Sunday, the 11th straight reduction in rates on softening international oil prices.

Petrol in Delhi now costs ₹80.05 a litre and diesel is priced at ₹74.05 per litre, according to a price notification issued by state-owned oil firms.

In 11 straight cuts, petrol price has been reduced by ₹2.78 per litre and diesel by ₹1.64 a litre. The rates are off their record high of ₹84 per litre for petrol and ₹75.45 a litre for diesel touched on October 4. On that day, the government decided to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹1.50 per litre each and asked state-owned fuel retailers to subsidise by another ₹1 a litre by reducing their margins.

Subsequent to this, the petrol price came down to ₹81.50 per litre and diesel to ₹72.95 a litre on October 5, the statement said.



We (to Media People) have to think from a legal perspective ... Other aspect of remedy is to educate people, educate voters, educate citizens so that they are not taken in by fake narratives and untruths that people peddle in the garb of actually being the truth. We as the Executive are more than willing to be accountable

Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation



GST Council met 30 times, took 918 decisions in 2 years: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The all-powerful GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, has met 30 times and taken 918 decisions related to laws, rules and rates for the new tax regime within a span of just over two years, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which comprises state finance ministers and Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue as members, was set up on September 15, 2016, as the country's first 'federal institution'.

"Till date, GST Council has taken 918 decisions related to GST laws, rates, taxes, compensation, taxation threshold etc. More than 96 per cent of the decisions have already been implemented through 294 notifications issued by the Central Government," the Ministry said in a statement.

The remaining decisions are under various stages of implementation. Almost equal number of corresponding notifications have been issued by each state, it added.

The working of GST Council has ushered in a new



phase of cooperative federalism where the Central and state Governments work together to take collective decisions on all issues relating to indirect tax regime of the country, it said.

Besides, tax officers of the Centre and states met ahead of the GST Council meetings to enable the council members to fully discuss the issues under consideration.

The Council has held discussions in a "harmonious and collaborative spirit" in the 30 meetings that have taken place so far, it added.

The detailed agenda notes

for the 30 GST Council meetings ran into 4,730 pages, while the minutes of the meetings ran into 1,394 pages, the statement said.

After 17 tumultuous years, a nationwide GST was rolled out at the stroke of the midnight hour on July 1, 2017, overhauling India's convoluted indirect taxation system.

The GST, which replaced 17 central and state levies including factory gate, excise duty, service tax and local sales tax or VAT, is India's biggest tax reform in 70 years of independence and will help modernise Asia's third largest economy.

India, US talks ongoing to resolve trade issues: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has said India and the US have exchanged offers for a possible trade deal with a view to resolving issues related to bilateral commerce.

"The negotiations are ongoing. Of course, at this stage they have given an offer and we have also given a counter-offer and we are working on it," he said at an event here Saturday.

The statement assumes significance as India has deferred a notification for hiking import duties on as many as 29 US products.

India had announced hiking customs duty on 29 products, including pulses and iron and steel items, imported from the US as a retaliatory action against the tariff hike by Washington. The duty hike would come into effect from November 2.

India's exports to the US in 2017-18 stood at \$47.9 billion, while imports were \$26.7 billion. The trade balance is in favour of India.

to certain domestic goods under their Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) as well as greater market access for its products from sectors, including agriculture, automobile, auto components and engineering.

As many as 3,500 Indian products from sectors such as chemicals and engineering get duty-free access to the US market under the GSP, introduced in 1976.

On the other hand, the US is demanding greater market access for its agriculture goods, manufacturing products and medical devices.

India's exports to the US in 2017-18 stood at \$47.9 billion, while imports were \$26.7 billion. The trade balance is in favour of India.

Oil regulator approves sale of Ambani's pipeline to Brookfield

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has won oil regulator PNGRB's approval for selling his loss-making east-west natural gas pipeline to Canadian firm Brookfield, a top official said.

Ambani's Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd, which later changed the name to East West Pipeline Ltd (EWPL), a decade back built a 1,400-kilometer pipeline from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh to Bharuch in Gujarat to transport natural gas discovered in a KG basin block operated by his flagship firm Reliance Industries.

However, the pipeline which had a capacity to transport 80 million standard cubic metres per day of natural gas is currently operating at less than 5 per cent of its capacity as output from KG-D6 block of RIL fell sooner than expected.

While the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had in September approved the transaction where Brookfield is sponsoring an Infrastructure Investment Trust (IIT) called India Infrastructure Trust as the acquisition vehicle, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) gave its nod a few weeks back.

"Yes, the approval has been



accorded," PNGRB Chairman Dinesh K Sarraf said.

This will be Brookfield's first investment in the energy sector in India.

However, the acquisition price has not been disclosed. According to September 11 approval of the CCI, the pipeline housed under EWPL will be transferred to an entity called Pipeline Infrastructure Pvt Ltd (PIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Holding Pvt Ltd (RIHPL).

"RIHPL would sell its entire issued and paid up equity share capital of PIPL to IIT," the CCI order said. "Further,

IIT will also subscribe to the non-convertible debentures to be issued by PIPL."

Brookfield Asset Management Inc's affiliate Rapid Holdings Pte Ltd and Pennington Capital Advisors Pvt Ltd (PCAPL) had executed a framework agreement to buy the pipeline on August 28.

PCAPL is a joint venture between Peninsula Investment Management Co Ltd and Brookfield Capital Partners (Bermuda) Ltd.

"By way of the proposed combination, the entire equity share capital and voting rights of PIPL is proposed to be acquired by India

Infrastructure Trust (IIT), a trust to be established/sponsored by Rapid and registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Infrastructure Investment Trust Regulations, 2014)," the CCI order said.

PCAPL would be appointed as the investment manager of IIT.

EWPL had operating revenue of ₹884 crore and posted a net loss of ₹275 crore in the year ended March.

The loss was mainly because of the pipeline operating at less than its capacity. KG-D6 fields, which began production in April 2009, had hit a peak of 69.43 mmscmd in March 2010 before water and sand ingress forced the shut-down of wells. This peak output comprised 66.35 mmscmd from D1 and D3, the largest of the 18 gas discoveries on the KG-D6 block, and 3.07 mmscmd from MA field, the only oil discovery on the block.

Currently, the fields produce less than 4 mmscmd of gas, which EWPL transports to customers.

The company had a total outstanding debt of ₹13,715 crore as of March while its plant, property and equipment had an asset value of around ₹11,000 crore, according to its last annual balance sheet.

Flipkart Internet narrows losses to ₹1,160.6 cr for FY18

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Flipkart Internet has trimmed its consolidated losses to ₹1,160.6 crore for the financial year ended March 2018, as per regulatory documents.

The company had registered a total loss of ₹1,640.2 crore in the previous fiscal, according to the documents filed with the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

Flipkart's revenue from operations was at ₹2,790.2 crore for 2017-18 as against ₹1,882.4 in the previous financial year, a growth of 48.2 per cent, it added.

When contacted, Flipkart declined to comment.

On standalone basis, the total loss narrowed to ₹1,157 crore, while revenue was higher at ₹2,790.2 crore for 2017-18 as against ₹1,882.4 in the previous year.



Flipkart, which operates different entities for various functions, provides e-commerce and support services through Flipkart Internet. The revenue of Flipkart Internet is

mainly generated from services like collection, marketplace, storage and logistics.

Earlier in this year, Flipkart inked a blockbuster deal with Walmart under which the American retailer picked up about 77 per cent stake for about \$16 billion. The deal gave handsome return to investors like SoftBank who sold their complete shareholding.

In India, Flipkart is locked in an intense battle with US-based e-tailing giant Amazon with both entities pumping in millions of dollars towards promoting and buying infrastructure and logistics as they woo customers to shop online.

Studies indicate the Indian e-commerce market is set to cross \$200 billion over the next few years.

FinMin seeks input from Ministries for Jaitley's Budget Speech

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Finance Ministry has sought inputs from different central ministries for Arun Jaitley's Budget Speech, which would be the last budget of the current BJP-led NDA Government before the 2019 general polls.

Earlier this month, the Ministry began the budgetary exercise for 2019-20. During the process, meetings will be held with ministries of steel, power, and housing and urban development to finalise revised expenditure for the current fiscal and projections for the next financial year.

The meetings are scheduled to continue till November 16.

The finance ministry has requested the ministries to send material related with their departments that may merit inclusion in the finance minister's budget speech for 2019-20 by November 15, according to a communication by the Finance Ministry to all secretaries.

In view of the upcoming General Elections, the



Government is likely to come out with an interim budget also referred to as Vote-on-Account.

The General Budget is presented on February 1. Finance Minister Jaitley is scheduled to present his 6th consecutive Budget with 2019 being Vote-on-Account. As per practice, a Vote-on-

Account or approval for essential Government spending for a limited period is taken in an election year and a full-fledged budget presented by the new Government.

While P Chidambaram had presented the previous UPA Government's Vote-on-Account in February 2014,

Jaitley presented a full budget in July that year. Narendra Modi-led Government scrapped a colonial-era tradition of presenting the budget at the end of February.

With the pre-emption of budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning April.

This gives Government departments more leeway to spend as well as allow companies time to adapt to business and taxation plans.

Previously, when the budget was presented at the end of February, the three-stage Parliament process used to get completed some time in mid-May, weeks ahead of the onset of monsoon rains.

This meant Government departments would start spending on projects only from August-end or September after the monsoon season ended.

Venkiah Naidu felicitates 'RBS Earth Heroes'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RBS India, the innovation and operations hub of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), announced the winners of the RBS 'Earth Heroes' Awards for 2018. The eight winners were felicitated by the Vice President of India, Venkiah Naidu, for going beyond their call of duty to save the planet's ecological assets.

RBS set up the RBS Foundation India in 2007, and has since been strengthening communities, improving livelihoods and promoting conservation in over 1100 villages. The Foundation's 22 projects, across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh, are benefiting over 124,475 families.

MediaTek plans to collaborate with India firms to develop AI based applications

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taiwanese chipset firm MediaTek plans to collaborate with Indian software companies to develop artificial intelligence (AI) based applications which would in high demand with the adoption of emerging 5G technologies, a senior company official said.

Artificial intelligence (AI) based solutions are expected to be in demand when 5G services would start rolling out across the world. Next generation technologies like AI, machine learning etc help devices customise on their own as per the habit or usage pattern of customers.

"So far, for AI applications, MediaTek's partners have been big international companies like Google and Facebook. But for the next step we want to collaborate with local startups who want to develop AI-based applications for Indian market," MediaTek's Wireless Communication General



Manager T L Lee told PTI.

"In 2018, we developed AI specific features function and application for global usage but as we move into 2019 we want to be part of the Indian community," Lee said.

The company says the India Mobile Congress launched its AI-based Helio P70 with in-built central processing unit for computing functions and graphical processing unit for multimedia applications.

India is the second largest market for MediaTek after China which accounts for 20-25 per cent of total smart

devices business in MediaTek's global revenue. AI-based solutions are expected to be widely in demand for services specially for autonomous cars, agriculture and health solutions. "We expect to have MediaTek's 5G solutions to come in market next year. We will start working with telecom carriers first on 5G solutions. Our priority for 2019 is to have field trials on 5G technology in India, US, China and Europe," Lee said.

Lee said that MediaTek is now expanding business in India in area of telecom networks, Internet of Things, consumer electronics etc. "We will also set up labs and other resources to do research and development jobs. We have around 700 people in India in development on new technology in India," Lee said.

OPEN - ENDED (GROWTH)

SCHEME	HDFC MUTUAL FUND	NAV
Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996	
Index Fund Sensex Plus (PI-RS32.161)	462.5623	
Index Fund Sensex Plus-Direct Plan	297.916	
Index Fund Sensex Plus (PI R 32.161)	294.6582	

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan A - Dividend	13.5898
Blended Plan A - Direct Plan Bonus	10.9152
Blended Plan A - Growth	22.7587
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Dividend	13.6408
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Growth	23.0933

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Bluechip Fund - Dividend	30.212
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	32.889
Bluechip Fund - Growth	20.1125
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	213.736
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	20.694
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	23.965
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	33.724
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	36.001
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.1217
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.3219
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.71
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0094
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0636
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.7906
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.5383
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.5358
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	22.115
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	23.788
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	10.2047
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	10.8757
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.7429
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.2381
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	10.9027
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.393
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	10.9792
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.8034
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	14.281
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.016
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	14.281
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	14.949
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	18.794
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	20.836
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	46.105
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	49.615
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Dividend	15.765
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	17.303
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Direct Plan - Dividend Option	18.466
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	18.469
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	33.187
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	35.863
Small Cap Fund - Growth	64.277
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	68.997
Standard Multipcap Fund - Dividend	20.249
Standard Multipcap Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.677
Standard Multipcap Fund - Growth	30.316
Standard Multipcap Fund - Growth - Direct	32.082

SAHARA MUTUAL FUND

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	62.6288
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION	59.0254
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	21.2572
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	20.8465
Growth Fund-Dividend	36.6325
Growth Fund-Dividend-Direct	37.31
Growth Fund-Growth	126.1545
Growth Fund-Growth-Direct	140.9498
Infrastructure Fund - FIXED PRICING - Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund - FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	24.8262
Infrastructure Fund - FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	16.8111
Infrastructure Fund - FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	23.0213
Infrastructure Fund - VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Dividend	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund - VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	27.3297
Infrastructure Fund - VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	19.6405
Infrastructure Fund - VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	26.6988
Mikcap Fund-Auto Payout	70.6968
Mikcap Fund-Auto Payout - Dividend	75.5708
Mikcap Fund-Bonus	70.6968
Mikcap Fund-Bonus-Direct	75.5708
Mikcap Fund-Dividend-Direct	31.6487
Mikcap Fund-Dividend-Plan	31.1796
Mikcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	75.5708
Mikcap Fund-Growth-Plan	70.6968
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	16.1703
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Growth - Direct	20.4355
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Growth Option	18.9587
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
R.E.A.L. Fund - Dividend Option	19.0338
R.E.A.L. Fund - Dividend Option - Direct	19.4172
R.E.A.L. Fund - Growth Fund	19.0307
R.E.A.L. Fund - Growth Fund - Direct	20.9868

Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.7033
Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	16.431
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	22.8314
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	21.2477
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.1645
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	19.7759
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	18.1822
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	28.6581
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	40.4312
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	28.1934
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	39.5865
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend	33.9007
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	47.2721
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	33.4226
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	46.1003

SBI MUTUAL FUND

MAGNUM NRI FLEXISSE PLAN-DIVIDEND	30.3025
MAGNUM NRI FLEXISSE PLAN-GROWTH	30.1918
ONE INDIA FUND - DIVIDEND (PREY CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43
ONE INDIA FUND - GROWTH (PREY CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43

OPEN - ENDED (INCOME)

DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - DIRECT PLAN - GROWTH	14.096
FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - REGULAR PLAN - GROWTH	13.9784

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.266
Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	17.3362
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0088
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.0227
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option - I	10.7
Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
Blended Plan B - option iBonus	11.9703
Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.032
Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122
Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan - Cumulative	72.4243
Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.4684
Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985
Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9656
Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.7894
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan - I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	N.A.
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	11.9883
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	22.6497
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	23.3622
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	21.8977
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	17.9798
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	10.8352
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.4795
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6845
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	20.2137
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	11.7708
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4818
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4088
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0022
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0023
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271

Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9955
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Only Div Payout	10.0085
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Dividend	10.9291
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative	14.9454
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Dividend	10.441
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	13.7979
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct - Only Div Payout	10.2479
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0015
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8425
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.224
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth	14.0233
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Only Div Payout	10.2204
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.2061
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	10.1535
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Only Div Payout	17.7073
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	10.0005
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	13.469
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	10.2309
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0168
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7138
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Only Div Payout	10.0095
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1826
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Only Dividend Payout	10.0046
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.001
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct - Only Div Payout	10.2084
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.1688
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.234
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.9183
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8725
MP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
MP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
MP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
MP - Direct Plan Bonus	49.7829
MP - Direct Plan Growth	13.7171
MP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248
MP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602
MP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
MP - Growth	48.1366

Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option	13.7978
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5788
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.485

JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.6551
MP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
MP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
MP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend	19.5151
MP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
MP Fund (Direct) - Dividend - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
MP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
MP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
MP FUND-Growth	24.1503
MP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362
MP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976

Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188
Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604
Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	40.1443
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.4072
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.7629
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.5893
Bank - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.1687
Bank - Growth - Direct	50.3512
Bank - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.6267
Bank Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.4907
Bank Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Bank Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Bank Regular Plan Growth	48.1351
Bank Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	10.7641
Bank Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Bank Deposit-Growth	42.9354
Bank Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.3029
Bank Short Term Plan (Dividend) - Direct	10.1054
Bank Short Term Plan (Growth) - Direct	33.2564
Bank Short Term Plan (Growth) - Direct	34.6972
Bank Short Term Plan (Half Yearly Dividend)	12.123
Bank Short Term Plan (Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.3083
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan Growth Option	20.9419
Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	24.1787
Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	11.0338
Corporate Bond Fund - Institutional Plan-Growth Option	20.90424
Corporate Bond Fund - Regular Plan-Growth Option	23.664954
Corporate Bond Fund - Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	10.49293
Corporate Bond Fund - Regular Plan-Quarterly Dividend Option	10.66837
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	10.40538
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan - Weekly Dividend Option	10.52361
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option	10.52393
Corporate Bond Fund - Standard Plan-Daily Dividend Option	10.52794
Corporate Bond Fund - Standard Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	12.02999
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend	10.549
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend - Direct	15.

11 worshippers massacred at Pittsburgh synagogue

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A heavily-armed white man, aspewing anti-Semitic threats, stormed a prominent synagogue and massacred 11 worshippers in the US city of Pittsburgh, in the deadliest attack on Jews in the history of America.

The shooter, identified as 46-year-old Robert Bowers, armed with an assault rifle and three handguns, surrendered after he was surrounded during an exchange of fire with the police at Tree of Life Congregation Synagogue at Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh, where a large number of people had gathered for a baby naming ceremony.

Pittsburgh Public Safety Director Wendell Hirsch said that 11 people were killed and six others injured including four policemen. He added that there were no children among fatalities or injured.

Bowers was in fair condition Saturday evening with multiple gunshot wounds, officials said. It is believed he was shot by police.

Tree of Life is located in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, which is known as the heart of the local Jewish community. Bowers, whose social media account reflected his hatred against the Jews, was charged with 29 counts of federal crimes of violence and firearms offenses, federal prosecutors said.

The charges include 11 counts of obstruction of exercise of religious beliefs resulting in death and 11 counts of use of a firearm to commit murder during a crime of violence. Bowers frequently wrote on the social network Gab, where he made a specific threat against Jews hours before allegedly conducting Saturday's attack.

In the post, Bowers said that the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, a humanitarian aid nonprofit group that provides assistance to refugees, brought immigrants to the United States to do violence against others. "Screw you and optics, I'm going in," he wrote.



People stand on the stairs of Sixth Presbyterian Church as the crowd spills up the hill and down the street for a vigil blocks from where an active shooter shot multiple people at Tree of Life Congregation synagogue on Saturday

Suspect charged with 29 counts

The FBI is investigating this as a "hate crime". Before opening fire, Bowers reportedly yelled, "All Jews must die!"

Bowers frequently posted about the "migrant caravan," a group of several thousand refugees walking to the US-Mexico border from Honduras to seek asylum.

Preventing refugees in the caravan from entering the US has been a major talking point among both right-wing commentators and President Trump, who has spoken about it in recent pre-midterm election stump speeches. FBI Pittsburgh Special Agent in Charge Bob Jones said the investigation was in its early stages and there was no knowledge if the shooter was known to the law enforcement till this date.

"Gunman targeted (people) because of their faith. At this time, we believe that he was acting alone," he said. Describing the mass shooting as an "anti-Semitic act", President Donald Trump called for death penalty for such shooters.

"This wicked act of mass murder is pure evil, hard to believe, and frankly something that is unimaginable."

US synagogue attack 'inhuman act of violence': Pope

AFP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis on Sunday called a deadly attack on a synagogue in the United States an "inhuman act of violence", expressing his "closeness to the Jewish community".

A man suspected of bursting into the synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday during a baby-naming ceremony and gunning down 11 people has been charged with murder, in the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in recent US history.

"We are all, in truth, wounded by this inhuman act of violence," Francis said at the end of the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square.

"May the Lord help us put out the flames of hate that develop in our societies, strengthening the sense of humanity, respect for moral and civil values and holy fear of God".

Suspect Robert Bowers, 46, reportedly yelled "All Jews must die" as he sprayed bullets into the Tree of Life synagogue during Sabbath services before exchanging fire with police, in an attack that also wounded six people.

The United States is witnessing a sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents, surging 57 percent from 2016 to 2017, to 1,986 from 1,267, according to the Anti-Defamation League, a civil rights group which has tracked anti-Semitism there since the 1970s.

Saturday's attack comes at a time of heightened tensions — a day after a supporter of President Donald Trump was arrested for mailing explosive devices to Democrats and liberals, setting the country on edge ahead of close-fought elections.

Saudis vow 'complete' probe of Khashoggi murder: Mattis

AFP ■ PRAGUE

Saudi Arabia has promised a "full" investigation into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Sunday following talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir in Bahrain.

"We discussed it... The need of transparency, full and complete investigation. Full agreement from FM Jubeir, no reservations at all," Mattis told reporters following the talks, during which he warned the Saudi kingdom that the murder attributed to the Saudi authorities risked destabilising the region.

No reservations at all. He (Jubeir) said he needed to know what happened and it was very collaborative, in agreement," the Pentagon chief told reporters on a flight from Manama to Prague where he will mark the centenary of Czechoslovakia's independence.

Saudi journalist Khashoggi, 59, who had criticised the kingdom's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, had lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 2017.

He was murdered after entering his country's Istanbul consulate on October 2 to obtain paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée. Grossome reports have alleged that the Washington Post columnist was killed and dismembered by a team sent from Saudi Arabia to silence him.

After weeks of denials, Riyadh has sought to draw a line under the crisis with an investigation. Prince Mohammed, heir to the oil-rich nation's throne, publicly denounced the murder as "repulsive", while the Saudi prosecutor acknowledged for the first time this week that based on the evidence of a Turkish investigation the killing had been "premeditated".



Manama Dial

The murder, which has tarnished the image of Crown Prince Mohammed, has sparked a wave of international criticism and affected Washington's relations with the kingdom.

The United States relies heavily on Saudi Arabia to counter Iran's influence in the region and to defend the security of Israel.

Mattis did not have a formal bilateral meeting with Jubeir on the sidelines of the Manama forum, where he met with several Arab and European leaders. The two men spoke at a dinner gathering all the ministers.

GLOBE TROTTER

5.8 EARTHQUAKE RATTLES ROMANIA Bucharest (Romania): An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 rumbled central and eastern Romania early on Sunday and was also felt in Ukraine, Moldova and Bulgaria. No significant damage was reported.

HIGGINS RE-ELECTED IRISH PRESIDENT AGAIN Dublin: Michael D. Higgins was on Sunday re-elected as the Irish President after receiving 56 per cent of the election vote. Businessman Peter Casey came second in the polls on Saturday but he ruled out while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10 per cent, reports the BBC.

TRANSPORT STRIKE CRIPPLES BANGLADESH A 24-hour nationwide strike in Bangladesh called by transport workers demanding amendments to the "Road Transport Act 2017" threw normal life out of gear across the country on Sunday.

CHINA COAL MINE SHIPW TOLL REACHES 13 Beijing: The death toll in a coal mine accident in Shandong province increased to 13 while eight miners still remain trapped, authorities said on Sunday. The 74-metre-deep tunnel is blocked by a falling coal seam at both ends.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmoond Qureshi also dismissed reports of an Israeli aircraft landing in Pakistan as fake and baseless

harrage, said Chaudhry's reaction showed the government was trying to hide something. "The parliament should be taken into confidence over the issue," he demanded.

BBC Urdu reported that the aircraft in question was a Canadian-manufactured Bombardier Global Express with the serial number 9394. It was registered on February 22, 2017 in the Isle of Man in the UK by a company called Multibird Overseas Ltd.

Almost 2m Iranian pilgrims head into Iraq for Arbaeen

AFP ■ MEHRAN (IRAN)

At the border town of Mehran between Iran and Iraq, a sea of pilgrims surges forward, en route to one of the biggest religious pilgrimages on the planet.

Iranian organisers say more than 1.8 million Iraqi visas have been issued for Iraqis this year for the Arbaeen pilgrimage which culminates on Tuesday in the desert head town of Karbala and one of the holiest sites of Shiite Islam, the shrine of Imam Hussein.

Men and women, young and old, toddlers in prams and elderly pushed in wheelchairs — they converge from all over the Islamic republic.

"I go because my heart demands it of me. I go because of my love for Imam Hussein," said Morteza Taghikhani, a 39-year-old auto worker, who has already been on the pilgrimage five times before.

His wife and young children were accompanying him for the first time. "They insisted on coming. Though it's a difficult trip, they've enjoyed it so much." The pilgrims stream



past tents, called "mokebs", which hand out free food ranging from scrambled eggs to boiled turnips. Full meals are served at midday and in the evenings.

The crossing starts open around the clock, but blankets and tents are provided for anyone needing a rest.

Every few metres there is a free shoeshine, and when the pilgrims take off their shoes the attendant kisses their feet as a sign of respect for Shiites the Arbaeen march is so holy that just serving the pilgrims is

thought to bring divine reward. The pilgrimage marks the martyrdom in 680 of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, who refused to accept the leadership of the "usurper" Caliph Yazid and was massacred along with his followers at Karbala.

Shiite Muslims have honoured his death with elaborate mourning ceremonies ever since and Hussein's last stand has come to serve as a powerful symbol of resolve and sacrifice in the face of oppression. That imagery remains a

key part of Iran's religious and political self-image, and even as modernity has transformed much of the country, the huge scale of the Arbaeen pilgrimage is a reminder of how significant the symbolism remains.

This march shows world imperialism that the Muslim nation cannot be defeated, whether by economic or military or political means," said Sajjad Entezar, a 23-year-old cleric from the Iranian holy city of Qom.

Arbaeen marks the 40th day after Imam Hussein's martyrdom, with the devout marching on foot for all or part of the way to Karbala.

Khashchi Mehrjoo, a 36-year-old city council member from a small town in central Iran, said she was not concerned by the long days and nights — or even Iraq's security issues.

There is no need to worry, I am a Shiite Muslim myself' looked after us," she said. State institutions offer free services and food to pilgrims alongside those of the public, while the national broadcaster gives wall-to-wall coverage for a fortnight before Arbaeen,

Pak Prez rules out establishing any kind of ties with Israel

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan President Arif Alvi on Sunday ruled out establishing any kind of relations with Israel as he strongly rejected reports that an Israeli aircraft carrying some officials secretly landed in Islamabad

on Saturday following several hours at the airport here. "Islamabad is not establishing any kind of relations with Israel," Alvi told the media before his departure for Turkey on a three-day official visit in the west.

It all started when an Israeli journalist Avi Scharf tweeted on October 25 that an Israeli business jet flew from Tel Aviv to Islamabad where it was on the ground for 10 hours, before flying back to Tel Aviv. Social media users took note and flayed the Pakistan Government with the Opposition also joining in to demand an explanation about the "secret Israeli mission".

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmoond Qureshi also dismissed reports of an Israeli aircraft landing in Pakistan as fake and baseless.

Qureshi said that something which is not even real does not warrant a response. In information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has also rejected the reports and said the "government would not negotiate in secret with either Israel or India".

He regretted such reports that were the fact that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had also denied reports of the presence of any Israeli aircraft in Pakistani airspace or at its airports.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Aftab Iqbal, who earlier led the Opposition

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Fans in shock after Leicester City helicopter crash

AFP ■ LEICESTER

Fans laid flowers outside Leicester City's King Power stadium on Sunday after a helicopter belonging to the club's 11th owner crashed outside the grounds.

"I was really upset, I can't get to sleep over it," Kanti Patel, a Leicester City fan, told AFP as emergency workers pored over the crash site.

There was no confirmation whether 60-year-old billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanarabha, who frequently flies to and from Leicester's home games by helicopter, was on board the aircraft. But many in the city in central England and in Vichai's homeland already feared the worst for the man they credit



with the club's against-all-odds Premier League title victory in 2016. "It means a lot to me, he did a lot for the club. To be honest I don't know what to say but I can't get over it. Since him being with the club the club has done well, and I don't know what's going to happen now," Patel said.

Another fan, Tom Lievers, arrived with a "Champions scarf" to pay tribute to Vichai.

"Well you know where we were when he bought the club — we were absolutely nowhere. So I brought down my 'Champions' scarf because he made us champions."

Andrew Aldwinckle said: "He was more like he was a supporter, a proper supporter, rather than a money man. He was one of the crowd. As far as we're concerned, that's it."

Steve Walton, who wore the club's blue hat, said: "I think there's a lot of Leicester fans around the world — not just in Leicester, but around the world — who I think will be devastated and he meant a lot to the fans."

Pak's 'penniless billionaires' expose money laundering frenzy

AFP ■ KARACHI

It took rickshaw driver Mohammad Rasheed a year to save 300 rupees to buy his daughter a bike, so when he found three billion rupees (USD 22 million) had passed through an unused bank account in his name, he was stunned ... And scared.

"I started sweating and shivering," said the 43-year-old — just the latest victim of a money laundering scheme that Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, has vowed to crush.

When he got a call from the Federal Investigation Agency, Rasheed's first inclination was to go into hiding, but friends and family members finally convinced him to cooperate with officials.

His case mirrors dozens of



similar stories in recent weeks that have filled newspapers in Pakistan and riled a populace long accustomed to extravagant tales of corruption and theft. The incidents follow a similar arc — bank accounts in poor residents' names are flooded with cash, then sud-

denly emptied in a laundering scheme that has likely seen hundreds of millions of dollars moved out of the country.

Rasheed's name was eventually cleared, but his anxiety remained. "I stopped driving my rented rickshaw on the roads

because of the fear that some other investigating agencies might pick me up," he said.

"My wife fell sick because of the tension." Only weeks before the fiasco he had finally been able to buy a 300-rupee bike for his daughter — the fruit of a year's careful saving.

The revelation of the laundering frenzy comes as the newly elected Khan has vowed to squash rampant corruption and recover billions siphoned from the country as his government scrambles to shore up Pakistan's deteriorating finances.

"This is your stolen money," said the former cricketer during a televised address to the nation Wednesday. "It was stolen on public contracts... And transferred

into these accounts, then laundered abroad.

Trend Slazer

Swara's serious about new role

Actress **SWARA BHASKER**, who has been a supporter of India's #MeToo movement, said that sexual harassment cases at the workplace are like an epidemic. She hopes to bring awareness about it via film and television industry. The CINTA Association recently announced that it will be setting up committees to tackle sexual harassment in the industry and will have actors Swara Bhasker, Renuka Shahane and Raveena Tandon among other members. Swara added, "It is like an epidemic, like a disease so, awareness regarding that is really important so through this sub-committee, we will generate awareness among our members."



'It's (Uri) going to be one of the most special films of my career. Vicky (Kaushal) and the cast has put in a lot of hard work. It is based on a true event which is important for me not just as an actor but even as a citizen. It's something which had to be shown.'

—Yami Gautam

As #MeToo movement rises in India, actor **SAIF ALI KHAN**, whose daughter **Sara Ali Khan** is gearing up for her Bollywood debut, feels no one has the guts to mess with his family members. "It is a very unequal society. I don't think anyone will misbehave with my people... I don't know why I feel like this, but be it my mother, sister or wife, I feel people will not have the guts to do that with them. It might be because they have certain protection around them. So, we have to protect the ladies who don't have that protection around them or that aura that protects them," said Saif.



Camilia is 'not' pregnant

Singer **CAMILIA CABELLO** has slammed people for calling her 'pregnant' and spreading rumours that she is expecting a baby with her boyfriend **Matthew Hussey**. The rumours started on Friday after Cabello posted a photo of herself with one hand placed on her stomach.

"You're still the only thing I did right," Cabello captioned the social media picture. After seeing the picture, people flooded her post with comments asking if she's pregnant, based on her hand placement. In response to the speculations, she wrote: "Guys don't be crazy. I've been eating delicious foods. Leave me and my belly alone." Cabello and Hussey were first spotted together while on vacation in Mexico in February.



Fragile future

Various artists from different states of India gather to contemporise the long forgotten art of pottery and terracotta. By **TEAM VIVA**

From community festivals to harvest seasons, wedding rituals and religious ceremonies, cooking and dining, storage and even down to house decor, earthenware is the only artform that gets us to our origins as a people and gets seared over fire on our collective imagination. But creativity is a game of talent. So artists at Terracotta — who have come a long way from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Manipur — showed how the earth could still be moulded to changing destinies at the Triveni Kala Sangam.

Trustee Ravi Batra of Delhi Blue Pottery Trust, who organises Terracott every year says, "Pottery is extremely important, potters use their bare hands to transform, almost magically, a lump of clay into products that are functional as well as decorative. If you see the process, you'll instantly fall for the art form's innate ability to reinvent and transform itself. It's one of the traditional crafts which has been alive for hundreds and thousands of years. Yet it too can now die in the next 15-20 years if it doesn't make economic sense for the young generation to continue their family profession. And for that we do showcases to push new markets, upgrade skills and diversify into new bouquets."

Batra strongly feels that the competition from plastic and metal ware has pushed terracotta to the edge of survival. He adds, "We must go back to it even in terms of environment as pottery is the most purest form that uses sand and clay."

One of the artists, Anil Kumar Prajapati from Alwar,



says that traditional artisans are finding it more and more difficult to live above subsistence level. Neither the money nor the recognition comes close to balance the hard work, that goes into the making.

"Fests like these help the artists like us and provide a platform for us where we can showcase our skills," he adds.

He also explains the procedure of how the products are made. Says he, "First of all we collect the sand or clay by digging it from mountains and forests that has been decomposed from rock within the earth's crust for millions of years. The clay is kept for 20-25 days so that it tightens a bit. It is then divided in different ratios because the uses vary. The clay is modelled, dried, and fired usually with a glaze. We also knead it like dough

before glazing it. It is important to note that a clay body is not the same thing as clay. Clay bodies are clay mixed with additives that give the clay different properties when worked and fired; thus pottery is not made from raw clay but a mixture of clay and other materials. There are different ways of making the product, it completely depends on the artisans who create it. Clay may be modelled by hand or with potters' wheel, may be jiggered using a tool or cut or stamped into squares or slabs."

Batra says that they started organising the festival in 2015, and this is the fourth edition of the event. "We do not claim a penny of what the artisans make. We look forward to protecting this purest art form in any manner that we can."

Ranging from earthen diyas and clay cookware to cut-work pieces of smoked-fired ceramics, the festival displays traditional, cottage pottery, and as per Ravindranath, is timely for the festive season.

Behind the scenes

Designers reveal how actor **AAMIR KHAN's firangi** look is stolen from the many people he comes across

In creating the look for actor **Aamir Khan's** character **Firangi** in *Thugs of Hindostan* — a flamboyant, wily, deceptive, smooth talking thug — the actor was minutely involved in the research and design. "For Firangi, what we figured out is that other than the dhoti that he wears, everything else is robbed from someone. Whether it's his hat, sunglasses, shoes, jacket, everything has been flicked,"

said the designers Rushi and Manoshi.

"Firangi is a potpourri of different elements and identities stolen from the myriad people he meets. He loves his name and lives up to it with his top hat and his choice of foreign booze, which also are incidentally stolen from people. He wears an English leather tail coat in a jade colour, the colour of a chameleon," they add.



"Like a magpie, he loves collecting things that shine to his eyes. He has a chataleine belt from which he hangs his

favorite glinting belongings. A rose-tinted sun-glass, an ornate leather canteen of water, a mismatched pair of boots and a *potli* full of tricks, beware of the charmer, **Firangi Mallah!**" they said.

The film is a fictional story set during the British East Indian Company's rule over India. Given its setting and larger-than-life scale, designing the looks and costumes of the film's characters were of great importance as it required audiences to go back in time.

Directed by **Vijay Krishna Acharya**, it also stars **Amitabh Bachchan**, **Katrina Kaif** and **Fatima Sana Sheikh**. It is set to release on November 8 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

'Star-driven films will continue to work'

Director **ASHWINI CHAUDHARY** feels the industry will swing healthy between bigness and rich content. By **ASMITA SARKAR**



India has been hit by some of the **worst** scandals related to education and employment in the past decade. The **Vyapam** scandal and **Bihar school** examination cheating in 2016 were only a few that caught the attention of the national imagination. Every day there are multiple students and parents who are scammed by "setters" or agents who assure a seat in exchange of lakhs of rupees. National award winning writer-director **Ashwini Chaudhary's** next film **Setters**, starring **Aftab Shivdasani**, **Shreya's** **Talpada**, and a large ensemble cast, based on true life events, will expose the networks that work behind the scenes in India.

"I was a journalist before coming into films. For a while I had been thinking of making a film about the education and employment scenario in our country. I met the people who were producing the film, **Lovely Films**, and they had done their research and had ideas about the subject. The chapters in the film are in public domain and its based on real life. The deal with both education and employment mafia across the country," he said, keeping the particular cases under wraps since the film is still in the process of being made.

"It's a socio-political film because of the subject, it concerns the people of the country and nothing is detached from politics. In that sense, we're not trying to make a political statement but raise an issue, which concerns an entire generation like students who are appearing for competitive exams," he said.

The film will try to be an eye-opener but the director believes that people are aware of the problem though it is brushed under the carpet because of how desperate lakhs of people for getting a government job or become a doctor or an engineer. "This subject has not been explored before on the screen. Students and parents are in touch with the mafia some way or the other. When we were students we also knew about them. Times have changed and technology has come in and their method of working has changed. While people know about the issue nobody has talked about it before the way we are trying to do. We're trying to expose the mafia and their modus operandi and their who's who," he said.

They're victims, who are students and parents, investigative agencies who are trying to track down such mafia, and the mafia as well, while doing research for the film. Surprisingly, coaching centres all fall into the ambit and the film will touch upon the role of these coaching centres in the chain of events. **Shivdasani** had added, "The biggest curve the country has been facing for the last two years is the commercialisation of education. Examinations have virtually become a multi-crore industry today. The malpractice has grown to gigantic proportions. While India needs to combat the prevailing malpractices in education system on its own, it will do no harm to glance around and observe as to how education has improved globally. India, too, like fellow educationally-advanced nations must put into practice the adage that investment in education pays the highest returns."

Shreya's **Talpada** added, "Today the mafia has extended its tentacles everywhere. From establishing new universities, framing the curriculum to control examinations to pilfering with coaching systems and fudging grades, the mafia strikes at the very roots of talent creation. The burgeoning power of the mafia poses a petrifying threat to New India who has flooded the country with bogus doctors, illiterate teachers, crippled sanitation and a degraded environment. Unless the establishment is freed from its noxious grip by back-home officials and eliminating the loopholes, the very soul of the nation will be endangered."

Chaudhary believes that print media has been instrumental in exposing the mafia but nobody in the film space has explored this topic so far as a director I found it exciting. The film will be a realistic thriller on the lines of *Catch me if you can*, according to the versatile director, who's also made litigation films like *Jodi Breakers*.

"These days content has become important and for filmmakers like us, who are not big in the perception of the industry, the set-up has been difficult lately. But in the last 4-5 years, the audience doesn't care if there is not **Salman** or **Shah Rukh**, if the content excites them they will watch it. So we chose an ensemble cast with 18 interesting and fine actors," he said. "Earlier, multiplexes in cities had engineered this push towards better content, but now good cinema in smaller cities is being equally appreciated," he said. "It's a good sign and shows the change in taste of the audience. My films will work in the future as well though but content driven cinema has carved out a space for itself and will continue to do so," said the director.

WEBBED

HOMECOMING

GOOD INTENTIONS. Erratic bosses. Mounting paranoia. Unforeseen consequences spiraling out of control. **Heidi Bergman**, played by **Julia Roberts**, works at Homecoming, a facility helping soldiers transition to civilian life. Years later when she starts a new life, the department of Defence questions her as to why she left Homecoming. **Heidi** realises there's a whole other story behind the one she's been



telling herself.

The show stars **Stephan James**, **Bobby Cannavale**, **Jeremy Allen White**, **Alex Karpovsky**, and **Dermot Mulroney**. The series, which received a two-season straight-to-series order, will debut on Amazon this fall.

The series is based on the popular podcast of the same name from **Gimlet Media**.

Homecoming is slated to air on Amazon Prime Video from November 2.

MIRZAPUR

KARAN ANSHUMAN and **Puneet Krishna's Mirzapur** will soon be on air presenting an all-new hinterland gangster drama. The iron-fisted **Akhandaand Tripathi** (**Pankaj Tripathi**) is a millionaire carpet exporter and the mafia don of **Mirzapur**. His son, **Munna**, is an unworthy, power-hungry heir, who will stop at nothing to inherit his father's legacy. An incident at a wedding procession forces him to cross paths with **Ramakant Pandit** (**Rajesh Tailang**), an upstanding lawyer, and his sons, **Guddu** (**Ali Fazal**) and **Babu**.

Vikrant Massey, **Rasika Dugal**, **Rajesh Tailang**, **Harshita Gaur**, **Shweta Tripathi**, **Shruti Haasan**, **Amit Sial** and **Kulbhushan Kharbanda**.

The show is produced by **Excel's Ritesh Sidhwani** and **Farhan Akhtar**. The reaction to the trailer has been tremendous as it has garnered over two million organic hits in 48 hours with positive reactions all round.

With heart-pounding action, violence at an operatic scale, gangsters with sharp minds and dry humour, *Mirzapur* is a hinterland story that is as raw as it proceeds.

The series releases on November 16 on Amazon Prime Video.



TECH TALK

Apple's all-new dual SIM feature

As the company releases its **iOS 12.1**, iPhone users can now enjoy group FaceTime and the other new additions

Apple has reportedly updated its "iPhone User Guide" for the upcoming release of **iOS 12.1**, indicating that the latest version of the mobile operating system (OS) will include **Group FaceTime** and **dual-SIM** support for its newly-launched iPhones.

The e-book, which serves as a digital manual for new iPhone users, now lists **Group FaceTime** as an **iOS 12.1** feature. It allows users to conduct **FaceTime** video conference calls with up to 32 participants.

"Available for free through **Apple Books**, the revised **iPhone User Guide** for **iOS 12.1** is largely unchanged from a previous version created for **iOS 12**," reported **Apple Insider**.

"There are, however, two major additions that confirm upcoming availability of features teased at **Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference** (**WWDC**) 2018 in June and **Apple's iPhone** unveiling last month," they reported. In addition to group



FaceTime, the user guide also notes **dual-SIM** functionality for **iPhone XR**, **XS** and **XS Max** will go live when the **iOS** point update sees release. A tentpole feature of **Apple's** latest smartphones, **dual-SIM** support allows iPhone users to utilise two cellular plans on a single device without constant **SIM** card swapping.

Apple's solution relies on "Dual SIM-Dual Standby technology," which keeps both a physical SIM and an embedded

eSIM — or a second physical SIM card in China — addressable simultaneously.

Apple has not specified a release date for **iOS 12.1**, though beta versions have been in testing since mid-September.

The update could coincide with a media event next week, where the company is expected to unveil new **iPad Pro** and **Mac** hardware.

Apple's "iPhone User Guide" for **iOS 12.1** is a free download from **iTunes**. —IANS

Empowered by different schemes, the families on the margins of society are gradually improving their lot in Jharkhand, says SHAILENDRA SINHA

ON THE DEVELOPMENT ELEVATOR



The success of a democracy can be mapped by whether those sections of society which are poor and deprived and have suffered from neglect and exploitation for centuries, have been given justice and equal opportunities by the society. After independence, the governments of almost all the states along with the Centre have made efforts in this direction. The Welfare Department of Jharkhand government is giving free assistance to the poor families, so that they can stand on their feet and become self-reliant. Dr. Lewis Marandi, welfare minister, Jharkhand, says, "The government has linked the tribal families to this scheme whose homes do not have any earning member due to which they are facing a troubled life." The welfare department has identified 2,000 such families where the woman is the head of the family in two districts of Chaibasa and Dumka and have no one else to support them. In order to raise their living standards and provide them with a respectable life, these families are being given material assistance according to their needs. The Jharkhand government is determined to provide a fresh start to the lives of the poor tribals, through an organisation called Bandhan Kangar. Santhal (Adivasi tribe) women work hard to raise two

square meals for their family. In such a situation, this scheme has started increasing self-reliance now among the families of poor families. With the aim of making this scheme a collective success, these women have now formed their own groups and are now self-employed. Women's groups are supporting the families by doing small businesses, including goat rearing, piggery, poultry and more. For the smooth running of this scheme, a budget provision of ₹2.35 crores has been made by the Department of Welfare, Government of Jharkhand. Under this scheme a goal of two years has been set for making such ultra-poor families economically stable. Women's groups meet each week, where government assistance is provided according to their needs. On behalf of the organisation, women groups are taught how to save money from their profits as well as the benefits of self-employment. Along with this, those who do good work for the organisation also receive encouragement. Paku Tudu of Hariapur Panchayat of Dumka district is supporting her family by running a grocery store. Dozens of women, including Parvati Mohali of Vijayapura, Putul Mohali, Chandravati Devi of Bedia, Prasima Mandradi of Gidhami



WOMEN'S GROUPS ARE SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES BY DOING SMALL BUSINESSES, INCLUDING GOAT REARING, PIGGERY, POULTRY AND MORE

Pahadi, Pramila Mandradi of Siddhartha Saruwa and Fulunai Hembram of Saruwa said that they earn approximately ₹4,000 per month through self-employment. Team leader of the Mosalia Block, Sanjeev Pal said that other women of the village also get motivated when they see the ones who are successful. He said that through this self-employment, many women, including Surajmuni Murmu of Manradihah, Khurja of Murshidabad of Jharkhand, Joshua Hansda of Haroraidih, Sarita Tudu of Katalaha, and many women have improved their lives.

Women from several villages including Hariapur, Saruwa, Bandarjori, Kaharabli, Ramkinda, Gadi, Koraiya, Rampur, Berebank, Chasipur, Dalahi, Sampadhar, Suggaphadi, Amagachi, Belialozore of Dumka district took advantage of this scheme and learned how to earn their living through self-employment. The goal of eliminating poverty among extremely marginalised families is being implemented by the government. The government's plan is not limited to making women self-reliant but also to sending the children of these poor families to schools. Special attention is also given to the health of these women. Efforts are also being made in the direction of their capacity building with the economic advancement of the women's group. This scheme is being run as a 'Sanjivani Boost' (magical herb) for the families of these poor tribal ladies. It is not only that the women are becoming self-reliant, but a positive change can be seen even in the villages. Women have now stopped borrowing money from the money lenders for their purchases. In the field of sustainable development, this scheme is proving to be a meaningful and historical step. —Charkha Features

VALUES, MEDITATION CAN CLEANSE THE SYSTEM

As the nation gets plagued by more corrupt politicians, only trust and self-contentment can bring about peace in the country. By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

In today's democracies, we the citizens, elect some individuals to represent us, to talk on our behalf. In this way, political leaders embody the beliefs, wishes, and will of populations and act as citizen's representatives.

However, nowadays we see a crisis of confidence between citizens and politicians, as a result of which there is mass discontent and a lack of trust in many countries. Undoubtedly, the role of politicians in conducting the affairs of the state, for running the government and for ministering the polity is crucial. In fact, there is no alternative to it in a democracy. Democracy in India, as Pandit Nehru said, in early 1950s, while addressing college students and the intelligentsia, is not the best form of government but the best available form of government. Here, the representatives between citizens and so many things — make laws, run the internal affairs of a state according to the will of the people, devise and enact the state policy for education, human resource development, social welfare, commerce, trade & industry, environment, rural and urban development, transportation, communication, health, multi-media, arts and culture, science and technology, agriculture, natural resources, national economy or finance, accounts, excise and taxation and so on. They also plan and assure defence of the country against external aggression and security against internal criminal elements and insurgency, safeguard the interests of the country, vis-à-vis other countries, regulate the relationships of the state with other states, maintain law and order, national solidarity and public peace. They have to resolve the conflicts between diverse or antagonistic interest of different communities and sectional demands of various groups and classes, provide relief in the case of natural calamities and govern all the internal and external affairs of the state. All these are the essential functions of the work of politicians and their responsibilities.

All these are inter-connected and require co-ordination, mutual consultation and team work. If there is mutual bickering and there is lack of team spirit, the security of the state and the people are bound to suffer. If the ministerial seats are constantly shaking and the game of musical chairs is always on the nation, it will certainly lag behind other countries on all indexes. These are precisely the reasons why some nations have remote-control independence, India has been left far behind by nations like Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea and even Japan which had to rebuild its shattered economy after the Second World War. Now it has become one among a dozen affluent nations whereas India still remains way behind. It is because of disunity, dishonesty, lack of sense of responsibility, poor management of our resources, utter selfishness and lack of a spirit of service for the nation that has led our country to its present plight.

There are two kinds of politicians. One — genuine, patriotic, self-sacrificing or a saintly politician, who has an inner drive to plunge into politics because he is tired with a vision. He wants to work for the poor, the exploited and the neglected. He may work for noble causes such as freedom, human rights, justice and dignity of women. Two — there may be politicians who stealthily enter the portals of politics or gate-crash into it for power, position, prestige, privileges or for amassing wealth without any moral scruples. The latter are over-ambitious and make all attempts to grab the reins of power for selfish goals or for narrow interests of a class, community, party or coterie.

Many reports have been published about the links of some politicians with the mafia, the underworld, criminals and musclemen. One finds that charge-sheets have been filed alleging not only economic offences by front-rank politicians but legal proceedings for such heinous crimes like mass killings are



also going on in courts. Also, there have been reports of booth-capturing, abductions and even killings during the elections to State Assemblies or Parliament. Thus, there has been an all round degeneration of moral standards and the wrong doings of some have done a great damage to the whole party and nation as a whole.

Since politicians hold prominent positions and are in the eye of the general public, the scandals and scams in which they are involved and the strictures passed against them set a bad trend among the people. Common people then also begin to think of making money by shortcuts. As film stars set trends for new fashions in dress and sports persons set in vogue new styles in their game, politicians, because of their power and position, sway the minds of the masses either in the right or the wrong way. So, if politicians are persons of upright conduct, they can do a lot of good to the people and can help mobilise public opinion in the right direction but, to-day, we find that people are demoralised and disappointed and feel that they have been let down by their leaders.

Today we see that so many trees are cut so as to produce paper and so much is spent on the electronic media and the politicians get lot of publicity. But what is this publicity about? Much of the publicity is about the in-party squabbles, intra-party defections, manipulations for capturing seats of power, pandemoniums in parliament, cases in courts, constant in-fights and instabil-



ity. So, very little time and energy are left with the politicians to do solid and constructive work and to fulfil the promises made in their respective manifestos. Much of their time is lost in party conflicts rather than doing good for the public and the country.

There are also leaders who are not in active politics but have remote-control over the parties. There are some power-brokers also who remain in the background but work through their agents. Just as a guided nuclear missile in the hands of misguided people can spell doom so also powers in the hands of those politicians (however few) who don't observe certain essential principles, can wreck a nation. It is time for politicians, as for anyone else, to have a change in their outlook, lifestyle and work-culture. This is possible only through India's powerful system of values and yoga meditation, its ethos. The contribution to the world culture. Remember, there is no other method of cleansing the public life except through values and meditation.

Working or networking?

Start-ups and co-working spaces are evolving into community-building centres, presenting a lively picture of offices

The co-working revolution has swept across the global business environment and announced itself as the future of work. While 2017 witnessed the absorption of more than 1.5 million sq ft by co-working spaces, CBRE group, the world's largest commercial real-estate services and investment firm, reported that the estimated space acquisition by 2020 is 10 million sq ft. With start-ups looking to cut down on operational costs and professionals opting to work out of places of convenience, the co-working space offers a win-win situation for everybody.



However, there is another salient yet integral aspect which makes co-working spaces so popular among modern professionals. It is the sense of community generated by working with professionals of various organisations under one roof. A typical co-working space always presents a lively picture — conversations, games, networking, professional work and group discussion sessions and a camaraderie that is unmissable.

While interactions with colleagues from the same organisation often evoke apprehensions, co-working spaces offer employees an opportunity to interact with fellow professionals from different organisations under the same roof. Minus the apprehension or an environment of formal-ity, the discussions are enriching and

include a free exchange of ideas without any hidden intentions. It also breeds healthy competition. Under a single roof, the achievements of a colleague in the same department but at a different organisation do not remain unknown. Hence, employees are spurred to achieve similar feats as they are impacted powerfully due to the immediacy of the other's performance. It also helps to build the skill sets of interns and those starting out on their professional journeys as they

get to interact with veterans from interdisciplinary professions. The wisdom imparted in impromptu meetings near the coffee machine often prove to be extremely useful in boosting one's career. Additionally, co-working spaces help professionals build their social circle by identifying like-minded individuals in other organisations and interacting with them post work hours. Modern professionals spent more than eight-10 hours a day working with the same set of individuals

and communications over the weekend often do not materialise into long-term relationships. In such a scenario, co-working spaces allow modern professionals to interact with a number of individuals on a daily basis and identify like-minded individuals. Based on their love for various activities such as trekking, love for movies or cooking, many professionals end up making groups comprising individuals from different organisations who develop strong friendships.

Most importantly, co-working spaces provide the necessary collaborative environment for businesses and individuals to grow together, feeding off each other's strength.

Exchange of ideas, resources, experience and opportunities are always essential for the business ecosystem to grow to its optimum and Indian businesses lacked such a scope working in conventional, cluttered workspaces all this while. Co-working spaces, with their quirky designs, modern aesthetics, huge workspaces and a free-wheeling culture of conversations over coffee, monopoly and Playstations, have made work fun, highly productive and emotionally strengthening, all the while ensuring that building a community is the key to get the most out of an individual and the workforce at large. —IANS

Tough times never last, but tough people do.

—Robert H. Schuller

EXERCISE MAY CUT STROKE RISK IN WOMEN

Mid-aged menopausal women may be able to lower their risk of developing stroke, heart disease and Type-2 diabetes if they exercise more or eat a low-calorie diet, as per a study. It showed that physically active women were less likely to get incidents of metabolic syndrome than inactive women. The syndrome shows a cluster of risk factors that increase the chances of developing heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Genetic factors, excess body fat, and lack of exercise can add. For the study, published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, researchers examined 3,003 mid-life menopausal women, identifying patterns of cardiometabolic risk. They found central obesity as the most common factor for causing metabolic syndrome. "Discovering modifiable factors like exercise and low-calorie diet could help with preventive strategies that women can follow earlier," said Jennifer Lee, Professor, Stanford Health Care, US.

PROCESSED MEAT UPS KIDNEY FAILURE RISK

If your diet consists of pro-inflammatory foods such as processed meat, carbonated beverages and vegetables other than green leaves and dark yellow variety, you may be at a higher risk of developing kidney failure, researchers suggest. The findings showed that diets that contribute to inflammation are linked to a higher risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD) progression. "These findings have implications for the prevention of kidney failure using dietary approaches with low inflammatory potential," said author Tanushree Banerjee, from the University of California-San Francisco. For the study, shown at ASN Kidney Week 2018 at San Diego Convention Center, the team studied a national sample of 1,084 adults with CKD. They found that 11.1 per cent of participants developed kidney failure over 14 years of follow-up.

CANNABIS AFFECTS WOMEN DIFFERENTLY

Hormones could be the reason why cannabis affects women differently than men, but new studies on animals and humans suggest. The studies showed that sex differences in response to cannabis are not just socio-cultural, but biological too. The findings showed that men are up to four times more likely to try cannabis and use it higher doses, more frequently. "Male sex steroids increase risk-taking behaviour and suppress the brain's reward system which explains why males are more likely to try drugs including cannabis," said Liara Fattore, Senior Researcher, National Research Council, Italy. "This is true for both natural male sex steroids and synthetic steroids like nandrolone." But despite lower average cannabis use, women go to habit faster than men. Men and women differ not only in the prevalence and frequency of cannabis use, pattern and reasons of use, but also in the vulnerability to develop cannabis use disorder.

WEIGHT-LOSS PREVENTS WOMB CANCER

Undergoing bariatric surgery to combat obesity can prevent women from developing womb cancer (also known as uterine or endometrial cancer), claims a study. The study, led by University of Manchester, showed that women who had gastric sleeve or bypass surgery for obesity found that precancerous tissue in their womb reverted to normal tissue when they lost weight. "For super obese women, quick access to weight loss surgery has benefits beyond improving diabetes and risk of heart disease — can also prevent womb cancer risk," said Emma Crosbie, clinical senior lecturer from Manchester. "Losing weight through dieting is also likely to be effective, but we know that it is very hard to do and the weight loss is often re-gained," she said. In the study, published in International Journal of Cancer, the team examined nearly 100 women with an average BMI of over 50 — considered to be super obese — had biopsies taken from their wombs during gastric or bypass surgery.

TOOTH LOSS IN OLD LINKED TO MALNUTRITION

Older adults with just 10 to 19 teeth are at a higher risk of malnutrition, warns a study. These patients also had higher rates of weight loss, lower appetite and were at increased risk for dementia and/or depression as well as severe illnesses than those who had a normal nutrition status. They were also found to be at risk for impaired oral health. The study showed that the ability to eat the right food and fluid intake. If its integrity is impaired, the functionality of an individual to consume an adequate diet may be adversely impacted," said Rena Zelig, lead author at Rutgers University, US. The study, published in Journal of Ageing Research and Clinical Practice, analysed the health records of 107 senior citizens treated aged 65 and above. The results showed that 20.6 per cent of participants were at risk for malnutrition and 4.7 per cent were malnourished. In addition, greater than 87 per cent of them partially or completely lacked teeth.

PALACE HALT GUNNERS RUN

Emery's side fail to win 12th successive match in all competitions after Milivojevic's late penalty rescues Crystal Palace

AFF ■ LONDON

Arsenal's 11-match winning run came to a dramatic end as Luka Milivojevic's late penalty rescued Crystal Palace in a contentious 2-2 draw on Sunday.

Unai Emery's side failed to win a 12th successive match in all competitions as they fell short of the club's record of 14 victories in a row.

Arsenal fell behind to the first of two Milivojevic penalties just before half-time at Selhurst Park.

Grant Xhaka equalised with a sublime free-kick before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang poked in his ninth goal of the season in controversial circumstances.

Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette flicked the ball to Aubameyang with his hand, but officials failed to spot the offence.

Angered by that blow, Palace felt justice was done when Wilfried Zaha won a second penalty with seven minutes left and Milivojevic slotted home again.

It was a frustrating afternoon for Emery, whose captain Mesut Ozil reacted angrily when he was substituted in the 68th minute, the German throwing his gloves to the floor after stomping past the Arsenal manager.

It was the latest flare-up between the pair after Ozil was reportedly angered by Emery's demand that he work harder in matches earlier this season.

Arsenal remain fourth in the Premier League, but missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Liverpool, who are four points clear of the north Londoners.

"I'm disappointed with the result but to win two goals. We drew, it's not bad, it's better to win but looking at the game in 90 minutes it is a deserved result," Emery said.

"After the second goal, we were on a good result, but I knew we needed another goal for calm."

Palace boss Roy Hodgson was furious with Arsenal's dubious second goal, saying: "I'm not even happy to end up



Ros Barkley celebrates with Alvaro Morata after scoring his side's second goal against Burnley

with one point especially when you see how clear the handball was. Most people will have sympathy with us."

NO HAZARD, NO PROBLEM

Chelsea proved their Premier League title credentials even without the injured Eden Hazard as goals from Alvaro

Morata, Ross Barkley, Willian and Ruben Loftus-Cheek sealed a comfortable 4-0 victory at struggling Burnley to climb into second, two points behind leaders Liverpool.

Hazard, who was ruled out by a back problem sustained in a 2-2 draw with Manchester United last weekend, has



Arsenal, Crystal Palace players battles for ball possession in PL clash

been Chelsea's main source of goals in an unbeaten start to the season under Maurizio Sarri.

However, the visitors were stronger than their relegation-threatened hosts in every department and perhaps the only disappointment for Sarri was that they failed to underline their dominance with further goals.

Chelsea should have been more to show for their first-half efforts than just Morata's 22nd-minute opener, expertly guided past an exposed Joe Hart after the Spaniard was put through by a lovely slide-rule pass from midfielder Barkley in a move instigated by the ever-

inspired N'Golo Kante.

After conceding five goals against his former club Manchester City last time out, Hart excelled with a fine early save from Morata's deft glancing header, while also denying the Chelsea forward from close range.

When Sarri's side eventually found a way past the former England goal-

keeper, the woodwork came to their rescue as a low curled effort from Willian struck the upright.

Scorer of midweek Europa League hat-trick, Loftus-Cheek was introduced after just half an hour due to an injury to Pedro Rodriguez.

Morata wasted a good chance to double Chelsea's advantage after the restart when heading over at the top from a pass from Willian's cross, but the visitors didn't have long to wait before Barkley put the game to bed by

surging forward from Kante's pass to find the bottom corner past Hart from 20 yards.

That soon became three when Willian was rewarded for his efforts by cutting in from the left to find the bottom corner.

France international Olivier Giroud remains without a goal this season as he blazed a good late chance narrowly wide.

But Loftus-Cheek showed him the route to go with a composed finish deep into injury time.



Atletico Madrid players celebrate after Diego Godin scores

Atletico win to top La Liga

AFF ■ MADRID

Defenders Diego Godin and Filipe Luis scored as Atletico Madrid bounced back from their midweek thrashing by Borussia Dortmund with a 2-0 victory over Real Sociedad to move top of La Liga on Saturday.

Despite a stuttering start to the campaign, the poor form of both Barcelona and Real Madrid have allowed Diego Simeone's side to drag themselves to the summit after a seven-game unbeaten run in the league.

Wednesday's 4-0 thumping at Signal Iduna Park was the heaviest defeat of Simeone's seven years in charge, but Atletico put in a commanding display at the Wanda Metropolitano.

"I was convinced that they would respond in the best way," Simeone told Movistar. "Today was 90 minutes that showed good togetherness and creates enthusiasm and calmness."

After a frustrating first 44 minutes which saw Ruben Pardo twice go close for the visitors, Godin struck on the stroke of half-time, latching onto a loose ball to sweep home his first league goal since March 2017.

Atletico dominated after the restart and left-back Luis put the game to bed on the hour mark with a brilliant curling effort after cutting inside onto his less-favoured right foot.

Elsewhere, Valencia were held to their 10th draw of the season and fifth in a row with a goalless stalemate at Athletic Bilbao.

Marcelino's men, who finished fourth last term to qualify for the Champions League, are now just three points above the relegation zone despite having only lost one of their 10 top-flight matches so far.

Spain striker Golo Assanek scored a hat-trick as Celta Vigo thrashed Elbar 4-0 to move into the top half of the table, while Levante clinched a fourth successive league victory by beating Leganes 2-0.

SINGLES

CELTIC BREAK HEARTS TO REACH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

EDINBURGH: Celtic stormed into a fifth straight domestic Cup final under manager Brendan Rodgers as three second-half goals beat Scottish Premiership leaders Hearts 3-0. Scott Sinclair's penalty and two goals in six minutes from James Forrest and Ryan Christie set up a potential Old Firm final showdown with Steven Gerrard's Rangers or Aberdeen. Hearts have been in fine form so far this season, opening up a five-point lead at the top of the league table. But an early injury to top scorer Steven Naismith robbed the Edinburgh side of their most potent weapon and they were unable to contain the Scottish champions after the break. Celtic marched on into another Cup final after back-to-back domestic trebles of Premiership, League Cup and Scottish Cup in Rodgers' first two seasons in charge.

HENRY DENIED AGAIN AS MONACO DRAW

MONACO: Thierry Henry is still searching for his first victory as Monaco coach after the Ligue 1 strugglers drew 2-2 with Dijon on Saturday, while second-place Lille extended their winning run to four matches. Henry, who took over from the sacked Leonardo Jardim earlier this month, needed a powerful header from centre-back Kamil Glik on 78 minutes to prevent Monaco crashing to a fifth straight league loss. Germany full-back Benjamin Henrichs opened the scoring for Monaco on the 30th minute as the 2017 French champions fell behind at home after Dijon responded with goals from Mickael Alphonse and Mehdi Abed. Glik rescued a point for Monaco although they are now winless in 13 outings in all competitions.

ANAND HELD BY ARTEMIEV AS INDIAN CHALLENGE ENDS

ISLE OF MAN: Former world champion Viasnathan Anand was held to a draw by Viasnathan Artemiev of Russia in the eighth and penultimate round, ending the Indian challenge in the Isle of Man International Chess tournament here Sunday. Up against the Sicilian Najdorf, Anand went for a full blooded battle by pushing his king side pawns early in the game, but the Russian seemed familiar with the setup as he broke through in the centre leading to positions akin to French defence. The typical structure gave ample counter play to Black and once the Queens got traded there was little chance for either players. The game lasted 32 moves. S P Sethuraman continued with his fine form and drew with last world championship finalist Sergey Karjakin of Russia but this result only helped him reach 5.5 points along with Anand.

KHALIN JOSHI WINS MAIDEN ASIAN TOUR TITLE

NEW DELHI: Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched his maiden Asian Tour title, claiming the Panasonic Open India at the Delhi Golf Club here on Sunday. Overnight joint leader Joshi carded four under 68 on the final day to win the title by one stroke with a four day aggregate of 17-under. Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman finished second best after finishing with a par on the 18th even as Joshi birdied the final hole. Joshi became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India in the last eight editions of the tournament. "I have no words. Huge monkey off my back. Last few holes were tricky for me. I am really relieved and happy to win. I made some poor decisions. Starting with two bogeys but I remained patient and it was rewarded," Joshi said.

PRANJALA ENTERS MAIDEN WTA MAIN DRAW

MUMBAI: India number three Pranjala Yadlapalli qualified for the main draw of a WTA tennis event for the first time in her fledgling career here on Sunday. Pranjala outclassed her Georgian opponent Oksana Kalashnikova in straight sets in the second and final qualifying round match of the L&T Mumbai Open. The 19-year-old, seeded third in the qualifiers aided by her ranking of 280 on the WTA circuit, needed one hour and 15 minutes to carve out a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Oksana, who is ranked a distant 999. Still, it was a satisfying day for the Guntur-born Pranjala as she joined her Indian compatriots India number one Anika Radha (direct entrant) and wild cards Karman Karu Thandi and Rutuja Bhosale in the main draw of 32.

PANKAJ ADVANCES TO K/O STAGE OF ASIAN SNOOKER TOUR

NEW DELHI: Multiple time world champion Pankaj Advani on Sunday won both his league matches to move into the knockout stages of the second leg of Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China. In his first match, Pankaj overcame a local Chinese challenger Pang Junxi 4-2. Later in the day, the reigning world billiards and snooker champion played exceptional snooker to whitewash Qatar's Ahmed Saif 4-0. Among other Indians in the fray, Manan Chandra and Varun Madan lost their first matches 1-4 and 0-4 respectively while Kamal Chawla registered a narrow 4-3 win. Their final group ties will take place on Monday.

Goa see off Pune 4-2 in six goal thriller

PTI ■ MARGAO

FC Goa beat FC Pune City 4-2 in a high-scoring match to climb back to the top of the Indian Super League football standings here on Sunday.

The match saw six goals being scored in the first 35 minutes and teams reduced to 10 men towards the final whistle.

Ferran Corominas (5th and 35th) struck twice and goals from Hugo Boumous and Jackichand Singh gave the home side their third win. Marcelinho (8th) and Emiliano Alfaro (23rd) scored for the visitors who remain winless.

Diego Carlos and Corominas were sent off late in the match as both teams finished the game with just 10 men.

Just like he had done against Mumbai, Corominas gave the Gaurs an early lead. A well-worked Goa move in the fifth minute saw Ahmed Jahouh release the Spaniard behind the Pune defence and the striker held off Gurtaj Singh before making a smart finish past Vishal Kaithi.

The Stallions hit back immediately though, as Marcelinho beat an outstretched Mohammad Nawaz with a brilliant chipped finish into the top-right corner.

FC Goa retook the lead in the 12th minute through another well-worked move as Coro turning provider this time. Boumous delivered an inch-perfect cross back to the midfielder to head past Kaithi.



FC Goa players celebrate after scoring goal against FC Pune City in ISL clash

Coro had a second assist to his name just minutes later after he sprung the off-side trap before laying the ball for Jackichand to smash into an empty net.

It was a game of shaky defences as Pune once again responded in kind, this time due to an error by Mohammad Nawaz. The young goalkeeper was at fault after he was beaten at his near post by a fierce Alfaro shot.

A frantic first period saw attacks from both sides as defences kept coming with regularity at each end but it was the home side who extended the lead with Coro bagging his second of the night following a goalmouth melee.

Jamshedpur FC, Kerala Blasters lock horns in ISL

PTI ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Two unbeaten sides will square up against each other when Jamshedpur FC host Kerala Blasters at the IRD Tata Sports Complex in the Hero Indian Super League here on Monday.

The teams are yet to lose a game this season but have just a win to show for their efforts. While the home team have played three successive draws after their win over Mumbai City in the opener, the visitors have been involved in two draws after winning their opener against ATK.

Jamshedpur FC, with a possession-based style of play, have dominated games but their failure to convert chances and a lack of accuracy in shooting has contributed to their plight.

The fact that star striker Tim Cahill is yet to attain complete match fitness could be an issue for coach Cesar Ferrando.

The Australian will play a part at some point against Kerala and the Men of Steel will look to him to provide some inspiration up front.

Defensively, they have looked good with Tiri marshalling the backline commendably. Mario Arques and Memo will be looking to dominate Kerala in midfield and set the tempo for Ferrando's side.

Youngster Mohsin Rahman is still injured for Jamshedpur and Ferrando will have to make do without him. Kerala Blasters have played only



Jamshedpur FC players during training session ISL

three games so far but have not impressed since their 2-0 win over ATK in the season opener. Like their Monday's opponents, Kerala paid for their profligacy in the subsequent matches and conceded late equalisers.

While he will want the strikers to score more, maintaining the team's concentration levels throughout the 90 minutes will be high on coach David James' mind.

The Englishman has never gone in with a full quota of foreign players this season, instead opting to give youngsters like Mohammed Rakip and Sahal Abdul Samad opportunities. They have done well so far and the former England goalkeeper will be hoping their encouraging performances continue against Jamshedpur as well.

The good news for James is that Anas Edathodika is back in contention for a start after serving his three game suspension.

Naorem's brace ensures Shillong win in Northeast derby

PTI ■ PANCHKULA

Naorem Mahesh Singh did the star turn for Shillong Lajong, helping the hosts prevail over Aizawl FC 2-1 in the season's first northeast derby of the I-League.

At the near-packed JLN stadium, Mahesh scored two brilliant goals in time left to clinch full three points for his side.

Aizawl's Liberian striker Ansumah Kromah got one back for the visitors but it was not enough.

The young Shillong Lajong side, not fielding any foreigners this season and playing as many as nine U-22 players in the starting XI, ensured that the fans had enough to rejoice.

Expectedly, given the fitness levels and young players in both sides, the game began on a high tempo and continued till the very end.

Talented right winger Mahesh Singh, who had an excellent first half, turned the game on its head with a sensational strike in the 20th minute.

In the 51st minute, after an interchange of passes inside the Aizawl half, Lajong defender Rakesh Pradhan received a ball on the overlap on the left flank. His wonderful cross took out the Aizawl defense completely. Mahesh was following everything including the ball



Shillong Lajong player heads ball during I-League game

and met it with perfect timing to lob over Gurpreet in the Aizawl goal to double the lead.

Aizawl finally got one back after a 1-2 between Paul and Remsanga outside the Shillong box.

Meanwhile, Defending champions Minerva Punjab kicked off their campaign by playing out a goal-less draw with Churchill Brothers in the I-League here on Sunday.

The two sides split points at the end of 90 minutes, in a match characterised by many missed chances and a lack of imagination in attack.

Churchill Brothers gave a good account of themselves while Minerva showed glimpses of what they are capable of in the second half, but both teams failed to break the deadlock at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium.

U-19 EVES BEAT THAILAND

PTI ■ CHONBURI

The Indian women's team registered a 1-0 upset win over Thailand but failed to advance to the next round of the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers here on Sunday.

Grace Lalrampari scored the lone goal in the 36th minute to put India on level footing with both Thailand and Nepal. But, India could not make it to the Round 2 of the Qualifiers courtesy their head-to-head result against Nepal.

When the goal difference of these three teams were counted, Thailand secured the top spot with a plus 2, while India and Nepal were tied at minus 1. Due to this, the head-to-head result between India and Nepal came into play again, and the Himalayan nation went through.

Although Thailand dominated possession, the Indian players worked hard to close down the gaps in the middle of the park.

The tactic almost paid off in the third minute, when Roja stole the ball on the left flank and played a give-and-go with Renu, before pulling the trigger from the edge of the area. However, her shot was weak and rolled wide of the goal.

Around the half-hour mark, Thailand started to get better con-



Indian player battles for ball against Thai opponent during the AFC U19 C'ship qualifiers clash

rol of the game, using the flanks well to put crosses across the Indian goal. However, India managed to negotiate these attacks'side.

India's dream moment came in the 36th minute, when Manisha powered her way down the left flank and sent in an inch-perfect cross for Grace to tap it in.

India soon had another good chance around the half-time mark. Renu hustled her way past two defenders to create a one-on-one chance out of a clearance from Sanathokpi. However, her low shot

was saved by Thai keeper Pomponm.

The match continued much in the same vein in the second half, as India closed down the gaps, not allowing Thailand much space in the attacking third.

The home side's first real chance in the second half came in the 69th minute, when Chatchawan made a wonderful run and sent in a low cross. However, Ratchaphan's shot went over the bar.

In the end, however, India held on to the slender lead, with Archana making a couple of frantic saves.

INDIA SEEK PERFECT BALANCE

After shocking defeat in third game, Men in blue look to fix woes and maintain lead



Former Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni walks to bat during the optional practice session at Cricket Club of India ahead of 4th ODI of 5-match series. PTI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India will look to find the 'perfect' balance in their playing eleven when they take on a resurgent West Indies in the fourth One-day International here on Monday.

Going with five specialist bowlers in Pune on Saturday did not work for India, who ended up as the losing side for the first time in the home series against the West Indies.

With the series surprisingly tied at 1-1 and two matches to go, Virati Kohli's team finds itself in a must-win situation. Credit must be given to the West Indies, who have not only moved on from a dismal Test series but have given the formidable hosts a run for their money in the one-day format.

As Kohli pointed out after the 43-run loss in the third ODI, the return of Kedar Jadhav from injury will give the team a much needed depth in both the batting and bowling department.

"You will always drift to one side when you don't have the balance. We have to think about the perfect balance we need," said the skipper after the defeat.

An unstable middle-order and lack of runs from M S Dhoni's bat are another issues facing India, not just for Monday's fixture but also in the long run with 15 games remaining before the World Cup in England next year.

Having lost his place in the T20 team, Dhoni is in desperate need of runs in the limited opportunities that are left ahead of the 50-over showpiece event.

Ambati Rayudu (22) did get a start in Pune but if the right-hander wants to hold on to the number four spot, he will have to keep scoring consistently.

Rishabh Pant, who batted at five



West Indies wicketkeeper batsman Shai Hope bats during third ODI against India at Pune. PTI

another hundred at the CCI, the skipper would be expecting a much improved performance from his team.

On the bowling front, Jasprit Bumrah made a stunning comeback, clinching four wickets on Saturday. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, however, conceded runs in the death overs but trust him to bounce back.

The role of both the spinners — Viratendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav — will be crucial in restricting the opposition batsmen.

For the West Indies, their biggest asset has been wicket-keeper Shai Hope, who has played two key innings, a 123 in Visakhapatnam followed by a crucial 95 in Pune.

He would be hoping for another big knock on Monday and so will Shimron Hetmyer, who failed to convert his start in the third game.

The 21-year-old southpaw, who had scores of 106 and 94 before the Pune game, would be the one watch out for again.

Apart from those two star players, West Indies would be hoping that the likes of Kieron Powell, Chandernepal Hemraj, Rovman Powell fire in the crucial contest.

The experienced Martin Samuels shone with the ball on Saturday with three wickets but his bat has not done the talking so far. Skipper Jason Holder would also be itching to make a match-winning contribution.

The bowlers would have taken confidence from bundling out India in Pune. Pacer Obedi Mc Coy and off-spinner Ashley Nurse will be high on confidence as the West Indies aim to take the series lead.

With the encounter on Monday, international cricket returns to the CCI, which last hosted a Test in 2009 and an ODI back in 2006.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaled Ahmed, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav.

West Indies: Jason Holder (Captain), Fabian Allen, Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Chandernepal Hemraj, Shimron Hetmyer, Obedi Mc Coy and off-spinner Ashley Nurse, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels.

India vs West Indies
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

FOR THE WEST INDIES, THEIR BIGGEST ASSET HAS BEEN WICKET-KEEPER SHAI HOPE, WHO HAS PLAYED TWO KEY INNINGS, A 123 IN VISAKHAPATNAM FOLLOWED BY A CRUCIAL 95 IN PUNE

ahead of Dhoni in the previous game, has been his usual aggressive self but a significant score in his debut ODI series is still awaited.

Amid all the uncertainty, Jadhav's return in the middle-order is more than welcome. His fitness has been a concern in the recent past but he looked good in his first competitive game, played during the Deodhar Trophy, after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Besides his powerful hitting, his off-spin could also come handy.

Opens Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma, who have had twin failures, are due for a big partnership.

The biggest positive for the hosts has been the form of skipper Kohli, who struck his third hundred in a row during the third ODI, becoming the first Indian to do so.

While most will back Kohli to get

MSD SLUGS IT OUT IN THE NETS

MUMBAI: Under pressure to deliver, a determined Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Sunday slugged it out at the Cricket Club of India ahead of the fourth One-Day International between India and West Indies. Despite it being an "optional" session, the veteran wicket-keeper batsman, who was dropped for the T20 series against West Indies and Australia, batted in the nets for over

45 minutes, facing local bowlers. Dhoni, who has of late, struggled to get big scores in ODIs, was also seen having a brief chat with the team's assistant coach Sanjay Bangar. Opener Rohit Sharma, Ambati Rayudu, who is looking to consolidate the number four spot, young K L Rahul, Manish Pandey and spin all-rounder Ravindra

Jadeja also practised during the session. Before padding up, Jadeja also bowled to his teammates. Maharashtra player Kedar Jadhav, who has recovered from a hamstring injury and is likely to feature in Monday's match, also honed his skills. The West Indies did not have any practice session on Sunday. PTI

Denly stars as Eng beat SL in T20

AP ■ COLOMBO

Joe Denly made his first England cap in eight years court by taking a 4-19 to help beat Sri Lanka by 30 runs in their one-off Twenty20 on Saturday.

Recalled as a batsman who can bowl legspin, Denly underminded Sri Lanka's chase for 188 to win by bowling openers Kusal Mendis for 1 and Niroshan Dickwella for 3 in his first two overs.

Fellow legspinner Adil Rashid added three wickets in his first three overs, and Sri Lanka was reduced to 77-5 in 11 overs.

Captain Thisara Perera tried to revive his side with 57 off 31 balls, including six sixes, but defeat was certain by the time he clobbered a Denly full toss to midwicket in the 20th over. Denly added Lasith Malinga off the last ball, and was named man of the match in his first appearance for England since 2010.

Put into bat first up, Jason Roy gave England a lively start with a six off Malinga's sec-



Joe Denly celebrates with teammates after dismissing opposition batsman in T20 clash. AP

ond delivery.

Roy survived a run out and four dropped catches to score 69 off 36 balls, including six sixes and four boundaries. He was out in the 11th over, at 107-4.

But his opening partner Jos Buttler (13) couldn't do much and was caught in the fourth over by Dinesh Chandimal to Amila Ponson.

While one down Alex Hales (four) was unfortunate after he got out before but it was clearly visible in the replay that the ball was missing the leg stump.

Coming to bat at four, inform skipper Eoin Morgan also failed to add runs and was sent back to dugout after getting runout.

There was a delay for rain, then England was pushed to score off 30 balls, including six sixes and four boundaries. He was out in the 11th over, at 107-4.

England won the one-day international series 3-1, and the first of three tests starts on Nov 6 in Galle.

Ricciardo upsets Max to win Mexican pole

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Daniel Ricciardo upstaged his Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen with a dazzling record lap to snatch pole position in the final seconds of Saturday's thrilling shoot-out for the Mexican Grand Prix, with Lewis Hamilton taking third.

After seeing his young Dutch teammate dominate every practice session, the Renault-bound Australian produced a stunning riposte in one minute and 14.759 seconds, beating Verstappen by 0.026, as Red Bull swept the front row of the grid.

It's Ricciardo's third career pole and the team's first lockout since the United States Grand Prix in 2013.

World championship leader Hamilton, seeking to clinch his fifth drivers' title, was third for Mercedes ahead of rival Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari with Valtteri Bottas fifth in the second Mercedes and Kimi Raikkonen sixth in the second Ferrari.



Daniel Ricciardo celebrates with Max Verstappen after winning Mexico pole. AP

Verstappen was hoping to become the youngest pole-sitter in F1 history and was clearly disappointed. "Thanks, legends," shouted a wildly happy Ricciardo over team radio before adding later, "I knew it was in there somewhere — I just knew the pace was in the car — Max showed that all weekend."

Federer wins 99th title, beats Copil in Swiss final

AP ■ BASEL

Roger Federer won his 99th career ATP Tour title on Sunday, beating qualifier Marius Copil 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the Swiss Indoors final.

A ninth title at Federer's hometown event in Basel, where he was once a ball boy, matched the nine he won at the Halle grass-court event in Germany.

Federer rallied from trailing by a service break in each set against the 93rd-ranked Romanian, whose serve was measured at 243 kph (151 mph) in his opening service game.

The top-seeded Swiss clinched when Copil sent a backhand into the net. Federer's title was his first in more than four months since winning on grass at Stuttgart in June.

He closed the gap on the all-time singles titles list to Jimmy Connors, who leads with 109.

KEVIN WINS IN VIENNA
VIENNA: Kevin Anderson won his second title of the season at the Erste Bank Open on Sunday, sealing his place at next



Roger Federer reacts after win. AP

month's ATP finals. The eighth-ranked Anderson defeated Kei Nishikori 6-3, 7-6 (3), handing his opponent his ninth straight defeat in a final.

Anderson, who also won in New York in February and reached the final at Wimbledon, earned a fifth career title but first at a higher-level ATP 500 event.

He became the sixth player to qualify for the eight-man, season-ending event in London, joining Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Juan Martin del Potro, Roger Federer, and Alexander Zverev.

Svitolina wraps WTA finals title

AP ■ SINGAPORE

An unwavering Elina Svitolina claimed the biggest title of her career with a gritty comeback victory against Sloane Stephens at the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore.

The Ukrainian once again dug deep to triumph 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in two hours and 23 minutes on Sunday. She is the first player to go through the WTA Finals undefeated since Serena Williams in 2013.

Svitolina has been in brilliant, aggressive form in Singapore, beating defending champion Caroline Wozniacki, Czech players Petra Kvitová and Karolína Plíšková at the group stage, and Kiki Bertens in the semi-finals.

Having started slowly in the semi-finals, it was Stephens who made the running early and she broke Svitolina to love in the second game.

It was a matchup of similar styles between the athletic counter-punchers and lengthy rallies punctuated the contest.

Svitolina looked sluggish after playing the two longest matches in the tournament against Wozniacki and Bertens in the semi-finals. She saved three break points in the sixth game but was unable to convert two chances



Elina Svitolina reacts after beating Sloane Stephens in WTA Finals summit clash. AP

of her own in Stephens' next service game. Stephens' blistering forehand dictated, as she ran away with the first set. A more aggressive Svitolina went for her shots and clawed back into the contest. Even though she still struggled on serve, Svitolina attacked on return and broke twice to wear down a suddenly passive Stephens.

Svitolina fittingly forced a decider in a tournament which has had a record-setting amount of three-set matches. After playing the two longest matches in the tournament to break Stephens in the second game.

But Stephens wouldn't roll over as she attacked Svitolina's serve and broke in the fifth game. The twists continued as Svitolina hit back immediately and stormed home as a wayward backhand from Stephens sparked jubilation from the number six seed. Svitolina could rise three spots to world number four on the rankings after her triumph and she has now won nine straight finals. It ended the tournament's five-year run in Singapore with the season-finally moving to Shenzhen. Earlier, Timea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic played a masterclass to upset world number one Barbara Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova in the doubles event. The world number three held the edge throughout to triumph 6-4, 7-5 in 84 minutes.



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates with teammates after dismissing West Indies batsman. PTI

WI lower order made the difference: Bumrah

PTI ■ PUNE

The West Indies lower-order batsmen made the difference in the outcome of the third ODI against India with their smart batting, said pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

"The West Indies were reduced to 227 for eight but they went on to post 283 for nine with Ashley Nurse (40) and Kemar Roach (15) forging a 56-run stand.

"I think we bowled well as a unit, till the 35th over we weren't good. Yes, we gave a little bit of runs in the end, so maybe that could be the difference. Overall, the bowling performance was not too bad. They played well and you have to give credit to the batsmen. It's a combination of both," said

Bumrah at the post match press conference on Saturday. India suffered a 43-run defeat at the hands of the West Indies as the visitors levelled the series to stay alive in the five match rubber.

"If you say that their bowlers made 90 runs, then Jason Holder is an all-rounder. They batted well down the order."

He also defended his pace colleague Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who had a bad in office, leaving 70 runs in 10 overs.

"Bhuvi started well, but in the middle or in the end (went for runs), it can happen sometimes. When you bowl at the depth, it is difficult. It is not necessary that all bowlers will pick every-time," he said.

We have proved our doubters wrong: Nurse

PTI ■ PUNE

West Indies all-rounder Ashley Nurse says his team was written-off before the start of India tour but it has proved his critics wrong with a solid showing in the ongoing ODI series.

Nurse played a key role with both bat and ball in his side's 43-run over India in the third ODI on Saturday.

Nurse's 22-ball 40 helped the visitors post a competitive 283/9 and his two wickets in the middle overs with his off-spin, including that of the opener Shikhar Dhawan, helped them successfully defend the total.

"It was a very good performance by the boys. No one gave us a chance when we came but I think we're showing the public out here that we are here to play," said Nurse at the post-match media conference.

"It's just good to see the boys play consistent cricket and giving India a run for their money," he said.

Nurse said the wicket in Pune was "pretty good".

"It was a good wicket but a bit on the slower side. Don't think the wicket had any devils in it. I just thought from our side Shai got a nice 95 and Virat got a hundred for India. It wasn't a beller. You had to work for your runs but it was a pretty good wicket," he added.

Nurse also said that he does not care about critics. "Every day is fishing day but every day is not catching day. So I just go and put the ball in the right areas, try to create as much chances as possible. And just try do my job, not really care about the critics, just go and do my job for the team each and every day," the 29-year-old signed off.

West Indies have improved their standard of game very well in the ODI series after going tamely in the two Tests which finished in three days.

Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope have contributed well in the two games to boost batting while bowlers played their part in the third ODI to hand Caribbean team their first victory of the tour.