

OPINION 6
IN THE DRAGON'S
EMBRACE

WORLD 11
AT LEAST SIX KILLED IN
KABUL SUICIDE ATTACK

VIVACITY 13
DEVELOPING KIDS'
ATTENTION SPAN

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Voters defy Naxals in their bastion

18 seats in Maoist bastions in Chhattisgarh witness 70 per cent voting



CRPF personnel help an elderly voter to reach a polling station for casting her vote during the first phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, in Naxal-affected Sukma district, on Monday

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit 18 Assembly seats witnessed heavy polling on Monday as voters defied Maoists' boycott call. It has set the tone for the Assembly elections in five States that have been viewed as a "semi-final" before the country goes for the Lok Sabha battle in 2019.

The phase-1 turnout was estimated to be 70 per cent and significantly the Maoist bastions in Chhattisgarh recorded the highest-ever voting percentage amid peaceful polling for which about 1.25 lakh security personnel were deployed across eight districts.

Polling officials confirmed that restive areas — Bheji, Chintagufa and Injeram in Konta seat; Pamed and Bhopalpattanam in Bijapur seat — which had track record of almost zero polling recorded heavy turnout right from early hours of voting.

Government officials,



a monopoly for over a quarter century.

The voting in 18 seats sealed the fate of 190 candidates, including Chief Minister Raman Singh from Rajnandgaon and his two Ministerial colleagues Kedar Kashyap from Narayanpur and Mahesh Gajda from Bijapur.

Rajnandgaon seat where Chief Minister Raman Singh is locked in a direct fight with Congress candidate Karuna Shukla, niece of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, recorded 70 per cent polling.

Women voters mainly in tribal-dominated forested interiors were seen queued up in large numbers even after voting timing ended.

Chhattisgarh's Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo said that Khujji Assembly segment registered the highest turnout of 72 per cent and the poll percentage figure could go up after final compilation of voting data.

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Union Minister and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) chief Upendra Kushwaha meets expelled JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav in New Delhi on Monday

Wary Kushwaha flexes muscles, meets Sharad

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Sharing a hostile political relationship with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, BJP ally Rashtriya Lok Samta Party's (RLSP) president Upendra Kushwaha on Monday met Opposition leader Sharad Yadav, a friend-turned-foe of Nitish Kumar, with a suggestion that he is not altogether averse to switching camps.

Kushwaha met Sharad at the latter's residence and both the leaders were believed to have discussed the current political situation, especially in Bihar, RLSP sources said. In a tweet, Kushwaha described the meeting as a courtesy call.

Seat-sharing within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituents is not a settled matter even as BJP president Amit Shah last month announced here with Nitish by his side that his party and the JD(U) would contest equal number of Lok Sabha seats with other NDA constituents but like RLSP and Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP) of Ram Vilas Paswan need to adjust with lower number of seats than they contested in 2014. The

RLSP, which had fought three seats in 2014 and won all, is unlikely to be spared not more than two seats by the BJP.

Kushwaha has maintained he is ready to "sacrifice" for the NDA and would like Prime Minister Narendra Modi to return to power at the Centre, but wondered as to why he was being kept out of the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U)-BJP coalition in Bihar.

The OBC leader, who is also a Union Minister, has once famously said "Nitish is capable of sinking any boat he rides on." He accused Nitish of conspiring to break the RLSP. Kushwaha had also attacked Nitish for allegedly insulting him and had targeted him again on Sunday over reports that two MLAs of his party may join the JD(U).

The RLSP leader has kept the seat-sharing pot boiling by meeting rival Lalu Prasad's son Tejashwi with reports that he had sought six Lok Sabha seats but was "assured" only four. But Kushwaha described his meeting with Lalu's son at a Government guest house as a "chance meeting".

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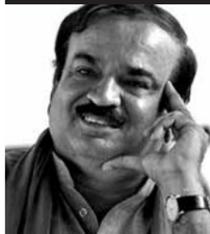
Ananth Kumar passes away

Union Minister dies in Bengaluru after battling lung cancer for several months

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

ANANTH KUMAR

Senior BJP leader and Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar, 59, died at a private hospital here in the early hours of Monday, party spokesman said. He was suffering from lung cancer and had come back from the US in October after treatment at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York. He is survived by wife and two daughters.



—JULY 1959-NOV 2018—

The Karnataka Government has declared a three-day State mourning till November 14 as a mark of respect to Ananth Kumar. His last rites will be performed on Tuesday with all Government honour, an official release said.

Ananth had built the BJP in Karnataka and was the sole Member of Parliament from the State.

His political journey began from Vidhyarthi Parishat and graduated through RSS to the national politics. Known for his integrity, Kumar had friends in the Congress and other parties.

As a Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister, his performance was appreciated by all. Even though he was identified as Advani's man, he succeeded in getting close to Narendra Modi later.

Mourning the death of Ananth, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy said, "Kumar's pro-people attitude and activities made him apple of the eyes of people."

"He always valued and had given priority to friendship. I have lost a great friend in his

death," he said.

Ananth, was widely regarded as an able political organiser who helped the BJP expand its reach in country's south.

His organisational skills and proficiency in Kannada, Hindi, Marathi and English caught the attention of the party's top leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani, who made him a BJP national General Secretary at a young age.

An urban face of the BJP, Ananth was a six-time parliamentarian from the high-profile Bengaluru South Lok Sabha constituency since 1996. He became a Union Minister at a young age (37) in the Vajpayee's Governments of 1998-99 and 1999-2004.

In the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP denied ticket to sitting MP renowned economist Professor K Venkatagiri Gowda from Bangalore South and fielded a new face, Ananth Kumar. The move raised eyebrows.

Continued on Page 4

CVC files confidential report on Verma graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on Monday filed its preliminary enquiry report in a sealed cover before the Supreme Court against benched CBI director Alok Kumar Verma in view of the allegations of corruption levelled against him by his deputy Rakesh Asthana.

Following allegations of corruption, Verma and Asthana were divested of their supervisory authority in the CBI and sent on leave.

Acting CBI director M Nageswara Rao too filed in a sealed cover the decisions taken by him from October 23-26 with regard to the transfer of investigations and change of



SC to examine/hear case on Nov 16

investigators of the agency.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul took both the reports on record and fixed November 16 as the next date for hearing in the matter.

Sources privy to the CVC enquiry said the report has flagged certain questions with regard to the probe against

Verma for which a separate and further enquiry is required. It implies there is no clean chit to Verma and the CVC preliminary report has left it for the apex court to decide further course of action, the sources added.

The CVC and Rao placed three copies of their reports in compliance with the October 26 order of the SC.

"Report of the Central Vigilance Commission with regard to the preliminary enquiry held in respect of the petitioner — Alok Kumar Verma — in sealed cover has been submitted in court by Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General," the Bench said.

Likewise, the apex court noted in its order that the report of the orders passed by the acting director was filed in sealed cover, in terms of the earlier order of the court dated October 26, 2018, by Additional Solicitor General PS Narasimha.

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Abided by DAC to buy Rafale: Centre to SC

Govt submits price details in sealed cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid raging controversy over the ₹59,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal with allegation of wrongdoing, the Government on Monday stated in the Supreme Court that it abided by the Defence Procurement Procedure-2013 and due approval was taken from the Defence Acquisition Council and the Cabinet Committee on Security.

The Centre also placed in a sealed cover before the apex court the price details of 36 Rafale fighter jets which India is buying in fly-away condition from France through a Government to Government deal inked in October 2016.

The SC will take up the case on November 14. The court on October 31 had asked the Centre to place before it within 10 days the pricing details of 36 Rafale fighter jets. In the last hearing, the Centre was reluctant to share the price details and Attorney General KK Venugopal had told a Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi that pricing details of these jets were not even shared with Parliament.

The Centre made public the 16-page document titled "Details of the steps in the decision making process leading to the award of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft order," which stated the process as laid down in the Defence Procurement Procedure-2013 has been followed in procurement of the Rafale aircraft.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi looks on at India's first multi-modal terminal on the Ganga river during its inaugural function, in Varanasi on Monday

4,157 election nomination forms submitted in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: A total of 4,157 nomination forms were submitted in the State from November 2 to 9, 2018 after the release of Vidhan Sabha election's notification. The nomination forms filed in the State were scrutinised by the Returning Officers on November 12, 2018. As per the information received till 7 pm, total 415 nomination forms were rejected in the state during the scrutiny.

Total 6 nomination forms in Morena, 8 in Bhind, 16 in Gwalior, 6 in Datia, 9 in Shivpuri, 12 in Guna, 5 in Ashok Nagar, 8 in Sagar, 6 in Chhattarpur, 15 in Damoh, 2 in

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Stubble fire on wane, Delhi breathes easy

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality improved significantly from "severe" to "very poor" on Monday as stubble burning cases in Capital's neighbourhood was recorded "marginal" down. Its contribution in Delhi's air pollution came down from 36 per cent to 7 per cent on the National Air Quality Index (NAQI) graph.

The week started on a good note in terms of air quality. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) in its air quality forecast said, "Air quality is likely to improve further by Tuesday but will remain in very poor category. The Particulate Matters (PMs) levels are declining and stubble

related impact continue to remain nominal due to slow transport winds."

The SAFAR said the trend on stubble burning is fluctuating between 7 per cent and 10 per cent and will remain like

this till November 15. Incidentally, on October 27, stubble fire's share in Delhi's pollution was 36 per cent, which was the highest of the season. Satellite pictures on SAFAR's website explained how

winds played crucial role in transporting half-burnt particles in Delhi air.

Stubble burning data pointed out that the biomass burning was the highest contributor to air pollution since October 11. The SAFAR mentioned that the moderate north-westerly wind with abysmally slow speed of five kilometre an hour was the reason behind escalation of pollutants in the air.

"Surface wind at 18 km per hour, inversion layer height, favourable to moderate stagnation are the factors for better dispersion of pollutants," SAFAR mentioned in its report. "Shallow boundary layer continued and local weather are the most dominant factors responsible for pollution," the

Center-run pollution watch body said.

The report also analysed the trends of different factors causing pollution since 2010 and it said transport emission in the national Capital has increased significantly at 41 per cent in the last eight years. The residential bio-fuel emission declined significantly in Delhi to 64 per cent since 2010, the report said.

The SAFAR issued a health advisory due to increased pollution levels in Delhi, urging people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children to avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. It also recommended people to go for shorter walks instead of jogging, keeping windows closed and wearing masks while stepping outside.

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CAPSULE

NATIONAL HERALD MOVES COURT AGAINST EVICTION
New Delhi: Associated Journals Ltd, the publisher of National Herald newspaper, approached the Delhi High Court on Monday challenging the Centre's order ending its 56-year-old lease and asking it to vacate the premises in the Press enclave at ITO here by November 15.

LOWER FOOD PRICES EASE OCT RETAIL INFLATION
New Delhi: Lower food prices eased October retail inflation to 3.31 per cent from rise of 3.70 per cent in September, data showed.

DOCTOR FOUND DEAD AT HIS HOME IN N-W DELHI
New Delhi: Body of 65-year-old doctor was found at his home in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area on Monday, police said.

Miscreants burgle Project Officer's house

VALUABLES WORTH LAKHS OF RUPEES WERE LOOTED

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of a Project Officer working with Water Management Institute, at Deepak Society under Chunabhatti police station area, was targeted by miscreants and valuables worth lakhs of rupees were burgled on Sunday.

According to the police, the victim, Sarika Singh had gone to Vidisha on the occasion of festival and when she returned valuables were found

burgled.

A complaint was lodged by the victim with the Chunabhatti police and in her complaint she stated that she along with her family had gone to Vidisha on Friday and returned on Sunday the doors of the house was found open and valuables were burgled.

Gold and silver jewelry and other valuables worth over ₹1 lakh were found burgled. The victim was not able to provide details of the cash burgled. The police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation. The security guards of the society and domestic help were questioned in the investigation.

Police said footages of installed CCTV cameras would be searched during the further investigation to establish the identity of the miscreants. The neighbors have expressed ignorance over the burglary.

Meanwhile, cameras installed over trees to track bear were stolen from forest in Ratibad area; police have started further investigation. A complaint was lodged by forest department employee Mansaram after he found that two cameras were missing. He stated that two cameras installed worth ₹40000 were stolen in the afternoon. The police have registered a case of theft against unidentified miscreants.

Congress tries to pave its way to power

PNS ■ BHOPAL

The Congress has embarked upon a perilous path on its way to a sort of possible way to power in Bhopal. Election surveys have not as yet indicated that the Congress will be able to ride anti-incumbency sentiments accumulated over 15 years to seize the reins of Government in Madhya Pradesh, even though the possibility is not being counted as being remote either.

To be able to do so, the Congress needed to get some simple things right. It failed. Now, unfortunately, it has plumped for some of the more complex things and it's getting them wrong. Let's begin with the main thing it failed to do

Election surveys have not as yet indicated that the Cong will be able to ride anti-incumbency sentiments accumulated over 15 years to seize the reins of gov't in MP

right — alliances. The party had intended to finalise pre-election alliances principally with Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), but also with the Samajwadi Party and the Gondwana Ganatantra Party (GGP). It failed on all fronts.

An alliance with the BSP alone would have exponentially increased the Congress' chances of unseating Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with BJP State President Rakesh Singh, BJP National Vice-President and State In-charge Vinay Sahasrabudhe and other leaders watch the live telecast of BJP Armit Shah in all 230 Assembly constituencies through video conferencing giving tips to booth workers for poll strategy ahead of State Assembly election in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer Photo

Police book man for sexually assaulting minor girl, nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Misrod police have booked a miscreant for sexually assaulting a 17 year-old minor near Sagar Royal Vila on Sunday.

According to the police, the victim was sexually assaulted by the accused Deepak Panthi, who was acquainted and accompanied her to a secluded place in the afternoon. The victim managed to escape and later lodged a complaint with the police.

In her complaint, the victim stated that the police that she was acquainted with the accused. On Sunday afternoon he offered her a ride near Sagar Royal Vila and took her to a secluded place and took advantage of the situation and sexually assaulted her and threatened her of life and told her not to report the incident

to the her family and police.

Initially the victim kept mum but later she mustered courage and reported the incident to her family and a complaint against the accused was lodged by victim.

The police have registered a case under section 376(2) (N), 506 of the IPC and section 3 and 4 of the POCSO Act and have started further investigation. The victim lives at Ishwar Nagar in Shahpura with her family. Deepak was acquainted with victim and used to meet her frequently.

After the complaint was lodged the accused went absconding and search for the accused was started and later he was nabbed. The accused works as a driver with a private firm and was in the car which was owned by the firm. Crime record of the accused would be investigated.

IGRMS organises 4-day exhibition 'Chhath Lok'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal exhibition Chhath Lok is on display in the indoor exhibition building - Veethi Sankul. The festival of folk is because this is connected to our rhythm, our culture, our folk songs, our references and our civilisation. Therefore it has become our identity. Change in festival is a process of social and conscious. This brings mobility in our societies. The festivals are no longer the priority of culture, Rather they become the cause of change.

Chhath Puja is an important Hindu festival that is mainly celebrated in Bihar and other many regions of India. The puja is dedicated to the worship of the Sun god and his wife Usha. Chhath Puja is so called as it is celebrated on the sixth day of the month of Karthika in the Vikram Samvat. People celebrate the festival by

Four-day festival starts four days after Diwali. First day of Chhath Puja devotees take a dip, preferably in the river and carry the holy water to prepare the offerings

following a rigorous routine that lasts four days. The rituals include: fasting (including abstinence from drinking water), holy bathing, offering prayers to the rising and setting sun, and meditating by standing in water.

The four-day festival starts four days after Diwali. This is how the devotees observe the festival. The first day of Chhath Puja (Nahay Khay), devotees take a dip, preferably in the

river and carry home the holy water to prepare the offerings. The second day the devotees observe a fast for the whole day, which ends in the evening a little after sunset. After worshipping the Sun and the Moon, they prepare offerings of kheer, bananas and rice for their family. After consuming the offering, they fast for 36 hours without water.

After preparing the prasad, the devotees take a dip in the holy water body in the evening and worship the Sun god and Chhathi maiya. They offer the evening offerings amid folk songs.

The fourth day, devotees go to the holy waters and offer morning offerings or 'Usha arghya' to the sun, following which they break their fast. In the presented exhibition, all the rituals items related to Chhath rituals has been combined on the according to traditional Madhubani painting of the Mithila region.

Dy AG uploads controversial video, Congress demands action

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Deputy Advocate General of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday courted controversy by uploading a video on social media in which he is seen asking people to vote against anti-national forces in Assembly polls scheduled for November 28.

In the video, deputy Advocate General Pushyamitra Bhargav went on to add that he was hurt by a promise in the Congress' manifesto of setting aside relaxation given to Government staffers to attend Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) shakhas.

The Congress has demanded that the Election Commission strip Bhargav of his Government post for violating the poll code in effect in the State.

Valuables worth ₹75K burgled from railway official's home

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Valuables worth ₹ 75000 were burgled from Gaytari Nagar under Bajaria police station area on Sunday.

According to the police, the victim Purshottam Das Patel who is railway employee is posted in Satna was at work while family had gone to attend funeral in Satna on November 8 and when on return on they on Sunday they found that the valuables were missing.

A complaint was made by the victim with the Bajaria police and in the complaint the victim had claimed that on return family members found that the locks were broken and on entering the house was found ransacked. Gold jewelry and garments worth ₹ 75000 were found missing.

In the burglary the almirah which was having the valuables was targeted and the other valuables were not disturbed. The police have registered a case under section 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started fur-

ther investigation.

Meanwhile, valuables worth Rs 85000 were burgled from Chouksey Nagar under Eitkhedi police station area on Sunday.

The victim, Manoj Singh Parihar, had gone for some work on and when he returned on Saturday the lock was found broken and on entering the house valuables were found burgled. The total loss was around ₹ 85000 claimed the victim.

The police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and started further investigation.

In another incident, valuables worth ₹ 25000 were stolen from scooter at Nadeem road under Kotwali police station area on Monday.

Police said that the victim Seema Singh kept her purse over the scooter and was buying sandals during which purse was stolen. Kotwali police have registered a case under section 379 of the IPC and started further infestation.



Congress candidate PC Sharma from South-West Assembly constituency meets public during election campaign in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Film Division's 'Cradle of Leadership' shows Indian Army grit

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A movie 'Cradle of Leadership' showcasing the valor of Indian Army was screened here on Monday at Shaurya Smarak. The movie was screened under the regular film screening held every day at open air auditorium of Shaurya Smarak.

Produced by Films Division of India Musheer Ahmed and directed by Krishna Kumar Garg, the movie showcases about the life of cadets at National Defence Academy.

From recruitment to training each and everything was showcased in the film Cradle for Leadership. It is noteworthy that candidates are selected on the basis of written examination of UPSC, then admission into a course. The NDA offers only a full-time, residential undergraduate programme. Then at last the training session starts.

NDA has an excellent infrastructure for all-round training of cadets and a vast

array of facilities. A cadet must undergo training for a total of six terms before graduating from the NDA.

It is to be noted that the National Defence Academy (NDA) is the Joint Services Academy of the Indian Armed Forces, where cadets of the three services, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force train together before they go on to respective service academies for further pre-commissioning training. The NDA is located at Khadakwasla near Pune, Maharashtra. It is the first tri-service academy in the world.

NDA alumni have led and fought in every major conflict in which the Indian Armed Forces has been called to action since the academy was established. The alumni include 3 Param Vir Chakra recipients and 12 Ashoka Chakra recipients. National Defence Academy has produced 27 service Chiefs Of Staff till date. Current Chiefs Of Staff of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are all NDA alumni.

Swami Vivekanand Library to launch new books today

CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND TEENAGER BOOK SERIES ON TUESDAY AT THE LIBRARY

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The teenagers of the city will have new book collection to read at Swami Vivekananda Library. The library will launch the Children's books and teenager book series on Tuesday at the library.

Keeping in view the upcoming winter vacations, the mega book collection will have as many as 170 books of different genres. The book collection will be launched with the perspective of Young Readers of the city. The Mega Children collection will also have the DVD collection on the

racks for the teenagers to refer.

To increase the interest of children's books, this collection is being brought in Swami Vivekananda Library. Swami Vivekananda Library Manager Yatish Bhatlele said that the books like 'Catch Them Young' based on sports will be introduced in the collection so that the children would increase their knowledge as well as their interest in reading such books. This time a very attractive series is being launched in the library, which includes some interesting titles, he added.

The name of the series of children's collection includes Ron Roi's A to Z Series, The Moody Series of Megan Macdonald, Philip Pullman's Once Upon a Time in the North, Rick Riordan's camp half-blood, The Famous Five Treasury of Enid Blyton, A.

Clovene's The Hill School Girls Series and so on.

This collection includes books for illustrations for young children. The Library Membership is available in the Library so that the children can issue the books. Family members can also issue these books.

Mega Children DVD Collection includes Parrot's The Lost Village, Jurassic World, Show Dogs, Playhouse, Light suit, Down in the Dumps, Tigger and Pooh, Thieves Police, Little Bhima and so on.

Yatish Bhatlele said that these books will be displayed on Tuesday. Members can book these and they will get issued the next Sunday. Besides, a grand event including quizzes, Japanese arts and crafts and book reading sessions will also be organized for children on November 17 and 18.

IN MEMORY OF RAJ KAPOOR

Film fest 'Ekagra' to open with iconic movie Mera Naam Joker

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A film festival 'Ekagra' in the memory of Raj Kapoor will begin from Tuesday at Bharat Bhavan. The festival will begin with the film Mera Naam Joker.

The festival is being organised by Chhavi series of Bharat Bhavan. On second day of the festival i.e. on Wednesday film Awaraz will be screened.

Marking the third day of the fest, film Barsat will be screened on Thursday. On Friday, film Jaagte Raho will be screened. On Saturday, Jis Desh mein Ganga Behti Hai will be screened. Film Shree 420 will mark the closure of the fest on Sunday.

Ranbir Raj Kapoor also known as "the greatest showman of Hindi cinema", was a noted Indian film actor, producer and director of Indian cinema. Born at Kapoor Haveli in Peshawar to actor Prithviraj Kapoor—he was a prominent member of the Kapoor family—that produced several celebrated Bollywood superstars.

Kapoor is regarded as one of the greatest and most influential actors and filmmakers in the history of cinema. He was the winner of several accolades including 3 National Film Awards and 11 Filmfare Awards in India. The Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award is named after Raj Kapoor. He was a two-time nomi-

nee for the Palme d'Or grand prize at the Cannes Film Festival for his films Awaara (1951) and Boot Polish (1954). His performance in Awaara was ranked as one of the top ten greatest performances of all time by Time magazine. His films attracted worldwide audiences, particularly in Asia and Europe. He was called "the Clark Gable of the Indian film industry".

The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1971 for his contributions to the arts. India's highest award in cinema, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, was bestowed on him in 1987 by the Government of India.

Kerala piravi, Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day celebrated

PNS ■ BHOPAL

HEMA Hr Sec School managed by Heavy Electricals Malayalee Association Education Society celebrated Kerala Piravi and Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day.

The Programme was graced by Rajendra Prasad Modi, Director, Jayashiri Gayatri Food Products Pvt Ltd as Chief Guest, M Isadore GM, HR as Guest of Honour, A Shashi Kumar, Vice-President,

G Thulasidharan, Secretary, A Anirudhan, Jt Secretary, PK Karunakarn, Treasurer and other distinguished Governing Committee members. On this occasion various cultural programme were showcased.

The Chief Guest in his address lauded the commendable contribution of Malayali Community and also on the relevance of the day. Total 50 members of HEMA Education Society were felicitated with Shawl and Shreefal on the occasion.



BMC employees fumigate the surroundings at the banks of Upper Lake to curb the breeding of Dengue causing mosquitoes in wake of Zika virus outbreak in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer Photo

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FATIMA RASOOL VS ARIF AQEEL IN POLLS Tough fight between BJP, Cong for Bhopal North

BJP LEADERS ARE FACING A DIFFICULT QUESTION- AS WHY DAUGHTER OF A CONG LEADER HAS BEEN FIELDED FROM THE CONSTITUENCY

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The only BJP candidate Fatima Rasool Siddiqui pitted from Bhopal North constituency is facing tough fight against the well-known five-term Congress legislator Arif Aqeel.

The voters in the constituency say that they have never heard her name unless the BJP has nominated her from Bhopal North. The BJP workers too in the constituency are surprised with the can-

didature of Fatima, as her father Rasool Ahmed Siddiqui was a senior Congress leader.

A grocery shop owner in Bhopal talkies area told that he has never seen the BJP candidate and thus she is not important for him. "She may get some Muslim votes, but most people will vote for Aqeel," he added.

Aqeel is known for his works for the people of his constituency. People know him with his gesture that he goes with anybody on the scooter, within no time, when needed.

Aqeel is credited with establishing the Arif Nagar, a locality next to the Union Carbide factory after the 1984 gas leak tragedy. Victims of the

gas leak and their kin were settled in the area, which also has a stadium. Many Hindus living in the Chhola area adjacent to this colony also praise Aqeel for his contribution to public welfare.

Sunil Begwani, a resident in his constituency said that he has never seen Aqeel differentiating between Hindu and Muslim; He is available for everybody when needed.

On the other hand, the BJP leaders are still facing a difficult question- as why daughter of a Congress leader has been fielded from the constituency, despite the fact that there were several party workers who had been demanding tickets from there.

Over 37K non-bailable warrants issued

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Chief Electoral Officer VL Kantha Rao has informed that since the model code of conduct has come into effect, 37,181 non-bailable warrants have been issued from October 6 to November 11, 2018 to ensure law and order in the state.

A total of 3,733 illegal firearms have been confiscated and 2,60,118 firearms have been deposited in the police stations during this period. Under the property defacement, total 17,38,539 cases have been registered and action has been taken against 16,84,973 cases.

A total of 13,11,538 cases of government property defacement have been registered and action has been taken in 12,77,896 cases.

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Similarly, 4,27,001 cases of private property defacement have been registered and action has been taken against 4,07,077 cases. Besides, 11,475 cases of misuse of vehicles have been registered during this period.



Former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh cajoling independent candidate from Bhopal North, not to contest election against Congress nominee Arif Aqeel. Pioneer photo

Govt employees can attend RSS meets: CM Speeding car kills three family members

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The controversy revolving around Congress party's proposed plan to ban participation of Government staffers in RSS shakhas refused to die down. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday jumped into the war of words on the issue.

Reportedly, it was Chouhan who had lifted the ban on Government employees and officers attending RSS shakhas in year 2006.

Congress in its manifesto released on Sunday has announced to bar Government staff from attending RSS meetings and also prevent RSS from running activities from the premises of Government buildings.

"Not only Government employees, any citizen could attend RSS shakhas," Chouhan said while addressing a public meeting in the State on Monday. RSS is a nationalist organisation, he said. I had relaxed the norm preventing government staff from taking part in RSS meetings and the respite would continue in future, stated the Chief Minister.

The Congress in the past



Congress State President Kamal Nath addresses a press conference at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer Photo

had approached the Election Commission with the plea that those government employees and officers who are affiliated to RSS should not be deployed in poll duties to maintain fairness and transparency in assembly polls.

The meticulous ploy from the Congress seems to have backfired as BJP in no time grabbed the issue with both hands highlighting the move as Congress conspiracy for banning the RSS in MP and elsewhere in the country.

With the saffron party seniors also jumping into the war of words, Congress apparently on the back foot has been on clarification spree with the latest clarification came from MPCC head Kamal Nath on Monday.

"The BJP is trying to put their words in our mouth making an impression that we have announced to ban RSS," Nath told the media at PCC on Monday. We have clearly stated in the manifesto, Nath said that RSS would not be allowed to run shakhas from government buildings and the Congress would quash the order allowing government staffers to take part in RSS shakhas.

Speeding car kills three family members

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Three members of a family died after their car was hit by a speeding truck at Barkheda on Sunday; a 68-year-old man, his four-month-old grand-daughter died after the accident.

While his 38-year-old son died in the wee hours on Monday while undergoing treatment.

The state capital based family was heading towards Itarsi in the afternoon when their two cars were hit by a speeding truck killing three persons including a four-month-old baby girl.

The injured were rushed to Noble hospital where an elderly man and a baby girl were declared dead while one person died in the wee hours on Monday.

Rakesh Khanna (68) and Ashvi four month old died in the accident while Amil Khanna (38) died late in the night while undergoing treatment at Noble hospital. According to

Obedullahganj police in car bearing registration number MP04CH1242 Harshi Khanna, Ashvi Khanna, Rajana Khanna, Amil Khanna and Rakesh Khanna while in car bearing registration number MP04TA5329 Akash, Sandeep, Pradeep and Pradeep Daar were travelling.

The collision was head-on which proved fatal for two while third died during treatment.

The injured are undergoing treatment at Nobel hospital where condition of the injured is reportedly stable.

The truck bearing registration number NL02G0259 which hit the car turned turtle after the collision and was later seized by the police. The driver managed to escape and is still absconding.

The police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and started further investigation. The bodies were sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation.

1380 teams formed to keep eye on election areas: CEO

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

For proper implementation of model code of conduct 1380 teams have been formed which would be divided equally and one would remain stationary while one would be made mobile to keep eye on the areas said Chief Electoral Officer Madhya Pradesh VL Kantarao while speaking with the media persons on Monday.

He said criminal record has to be published in newspapers according to the list which is provided to district returning officer and newspapers which are not in the list would not be acceptable for publishing crime record of the candidates.

The record has to be published from November 15 to 26 thrice in newspapers and submitted with the campaigning

Election commission has reserved 91 symbols for Madhya Pradesh state assembly elections. Seven symbols for National political parties and 10 regional political parties from other states

expenses with election commission. A TV advertisement of criminal record of at least 7 seconds have to be aired during campaigning.

The election commission has reserved 91 symbols for Madhya Pradesh state assembly elections. Seven symbols for National political parties and 10 regional political parties from other states.

During the media briefing

a comparison of seized cash, gold and silver, illegally transported liquor, drugs and other goods in state assembly elections 2013 and state assembly elections 2018 (till November 11).

According to the comparison in the state assembly elections 2013 Rs 19.18 crore of unaccounted cash, gold and silver worth Rs 77.58 lakh, illegally possessed liquor worth Rs 5.87 crore, drugs worth Rs 30.80 lakh and other goods worth Rs 1.47 crore were seized and in comparison in the state assembly elections 2018 till Sunday Rs 20.58 crore of unaccounted cash, gold and silver worth Rs 7.43 crore, illegally possessed liquor worth Rs 9.57 crore, drugs worth Rs 5.45 crore and other goods worth Rs 6.39 crore were seized.

Digvijay going big for Cong poll fortune

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh has entered in State politics in a big way at a time when the Congress is locked in a make or break in Assembly Polls.

Singh, highly respected in the faction ridden Congress has chosen a rather difficult role. Of placating rebels, dissidents and those who are nursing a grudge over denial of party ticket.

For the past 48 hours, Singh is not only active in cajoling the rebels, but also meeting the party workers and addressing them.

Two days ago, in his presence, BJP rebel Shyam Singh Meena joined Congress and declared to support the Congress nominee from Huzur constituency. He is also inaugurating the election campaigning offices of the

For the past 48 hours, Singh is not only active in cajoling the rebels, but also meeting the party workers and addressing them. Two days ago, in his presence, BJP rebel Shyam Singh Meena joined Cong and declared to support the Cong nominee from Huzur constituency. He is also inaugurating the poll campaigning offices of the Cong nominees

Congress nominees.

Ironically, Singh had himself declared to his supporters last month that his party's votes get reduced if he campaigns for it. A video showing this, recorded on October 13, was out on social media in the last week of October.

Significantly, Singh, the two-time former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, has

been conspicuous by his absence in the programmes and rallies which Gandhi has been addressing in the state over the last few weeks.

"... mera kaam keval ek. Koi prachar nahi, koi bhashan nahi. Mere bhashan dene se to Congress ke vote kat-te hai, mai jata nahi" (I have only one job, no campaigning, no speech. When I

deliver a speech, Congress votes get reduced, so I don't go)," Singh is heard saying in the video.

State BJP Spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal told "The Pioneer" that the PCC has officially not authorized Digvijay Singh to address any public meeting. "He realizes (as publicized in a video) that whenever he speaks out, people do not vote for the Congress party. It means that when he is moving in different constituencies of Bhopal and elsewhere, he is trying to reduce the votes of the Congress," he added.

Agrawal claimed that Singh's frequent movement would certainly affect the outcome of the elections. Since, he is known as Mr Bantadhar and for his misgovernance, whenever he appears before public, real face of Congress would come to fore, he added.

Anandiben greets on Chhath

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Governor Anandiben Patel has extended greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of Chhath festival. Smt. Patel said that ours is a nation of festivals and festivities.

Patel said that ours is a nation of festivals and festivities

The culture of our country is based on unity in diversity. The Chhath festival is a symbol of simplicity and prosperity and it encourages harmony, unity and brotherhood. Besides, the Governor has prayed for long and healthy life of all the citizens on this occasion.

Guv expresses grief over Ananth Kumar's death

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Governor Anandiben Patel has expressed grief over the sudden demise of the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers and Parliamentary Affairs Ananth Kumar. In her condolence message, Smt. Patel has said that Kumar's death is an irreparable loss to the country. Besides, Patel said that Ananth Kumar was such a young leader who was always involved in service to the society. He will be remembered always for his dedication and development of the country. The Governor has prayed to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

State-level arts competition kicks off at SGHSS

WINNERS OF THESE COMPETITIONS WILL TAKE PART IN THE RASHTRIYA YUVA UTSAV

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A wonderful combination of various art forms was witnessed in a state-level performing arts competition 2018. From classical songs to theatre dramas all mesmerising performances were witnessed by the Bhopalites under the state level competition at Subhash Government Higher Secondary School here on Monday marking the grand opening of the fest.

Notably, the programme is being organised by Madhya Pradesh Secondary Board of Education that commenced here from Monday. The participants from as many as seven districts have participated in the youth festival 2018 to present performances under 15 disciplines of art.

These disciplines include oratory, guitar, veena, flute, sitar, mridangam, tabla, harmonium, Kathak, Bharatanatyam, vocal (classical) and vocal (hindustani), mono-acting, folk songs



Students performing classical dance marking the first day of State-level Performing Arts Competition began on Monday at Subhash Government Higher Secondary School. Pioneer Photo

and folk dance.

Notably, winners of these competitions will take part in the Rashtriya Yuva Utsav.

To mark the grand opening of the fest, the participants gave various colourful performances. With immensely colourful lighting design the participants mesmerized the audiences showcasing their classical and theatrical skills.

On Monday solo dance and solo musical performances were held at Subhash Government Higher Secondary School. Besides, a painting competition was organised at Sarojini Naidu Government Higher Secondary School. The students presented the spell binding performances back to back. As the youngsters were presenting a great show, the audiences watched them with rapt attention and were enthralled with the dedication and purity the students performed the classical ragas.

Besides, in painting competition the students brought out their imagination and perceptions over the canvas. The students depicted various issues related to society in different art forms which was beautiful to watch.

Additional Project Director of Madhya Pradesh Secondary Board of Education Gautam Singh was also present on the occasion along with other officials.

Khattar urges corporates to enhance their CSR contribution

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday urged the industrial and corporate houses in the State to enhance their CSR contribution from 2 per cent to 5 per cent of their profits and partner the State Government in the speedy execution of various CSR projects.

At present, the annual contribution under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the state is ₹350 crore and a target has been fixed to increase it to ₹1000 crore, Manohar Lal said while addressing the representatives of leading industrial and corporate houses at the Haryana CSR Summit-2018 in Gurugram.

Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma, Public Works (Building and Roads) Minister Rao Narbir Singh and Industries Minister Vipul Goel were also present on this occasion.

Responding to the call made by the Chief Minister, various leading companies committed the contribution of over ₹177 crore under the CSR in the state in the key areas of sanitation, rural development,

education, skill development, environment, health and women empowerment.

These companies included Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Hero Moto Corp, Honda Motors and Scooters India, Power Grid, DLF Foundation, India Oil Corporation Limited, NHPC, Jamma Auto Industries Limited, Startwire India Limited, Shivalik Prints Limited, Imperial Auto, GKN Driveline India Limited, Sledgehammer Oil Tools Private Limited, Reliance Foundation, Action Construction, India Autotech, Whirlpool India, Vamani Overseas Private Limited, Victoria Auto, Maharani Innovative Paints Private Limited, Poly Medicare Limited, Showa Auto Tech and Fric India.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the Haryana CSR portal www.haryanacsr.org showcasing list of development projects district wise and sector wise to be undertaken in the State.

More than 341 development projects of seven departments including education, public health, rural development and agriculture are listed



on the portal for corporate to pick and choose and contribute in various projects. In addition, details of the State Government implementing agencies were also given on the portal for corporate to contribute further in this regard.

The Chief Minister urged the corporate houses to contribute towards the CSR as a sense of service to the society and not as an obligation.

He also suggested carrying out special or internal audits by

the companies to keep a check on discretion and ensure that the funds allocated for the CSR projects are fully utilized. Now the State Government has made a structured system through which they could choose the projects from the online portal of Haryana CSR and contribute accordingly, he added.

Manohar Lal said that though the State Government make adequate provision of budget for various develop-

ment works yet there are several projects which could also be completed with the help of CSR.

He said that rejuvenation of 15,000 ponds, shamshan ghats (cremation grounds), pavement of village streets, environment conservation and beautification of rural and urban areas are among the key areas where the corporate sector could contribute. An amount of ₹3000 crore is likely to be incurred on the reju-

Overwhelming response: CM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday said that Haryana CSR Summit-2018, the first of its kind initiative by the State Government, received an overwhelming response from the industry as senior business delegates from more than 250 companies participated in the event.

Various leading companies have committed a contribution of over ₹177 crore under the CSR in the state in different fields, Manohar Lal said while talking to the mediapersons at Gurugram. He said that the

industries and corporate houses have been urged to increase their contribution under the CSR fund for speedy implementation of various projects in the State.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister expressed grief over the sad demise of Union Fertilizer and Chemicals and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Ananth Kumar who breathed his last at Bengaluru. Ananth Kumar (59) was suffering from cancer and his demise is a huge loss to the Party, he added.

In reply to a question, the Chief Minister said that the

State Government has taken several steps to keep a check on pollution in the state.

The single use plastic bottles have been prohibited in all government offices and stringent measures have been taken to keep check on burning crop residue. Apart from this, a MOU has been signed with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for the setting of a plant in Panipat for preparing ethanol through stubble husk and straw, he added.

In reply to a question, the Chief Minister said that the

under which 25 lakh saplings were planted by the school students. An amount of ₹75 crore would be spent on the plantation annually, he added.

He said that the Rural Development Department is soon going to launch its website named 'Mera Gaon Mero Gaurav' with an aim to connect the people with their villages. A number of development works would be listed on the website that could be taken up by the industrial

houses and corporates.

The Chief Minister also honoured Corporates, Public Enterprises and Deputy Commissioners for their outstanding contribution in CSR space in Haryana through Haryana State CSR Awards 2018. The Corporates included Hero Motorcorp Limited, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, DLF Foundation, Honda Motorcycles and Scooter India Private Limited and HDFC Bank Limited.

RAGHUNATH BESHA OUTSIDE PURI

SJTA chief in fix for joining event

As eyebrows raised by devotees, servitors

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI

While a controversy has engulfed the 'Raghunath Besha' of Lord Jagannath and His siblings showcased in Bhubaneswar, with many Jagannath devotees and servitors resenting the ritual outside the Puri temple, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Pradipta Mohapatra has added fuel to fire by sharing dais in the event.

Joining as chief guest in 'Raghunath Besha' exhibition in Nalco Nagar Community Center at Bhubaneswar on Saturday Mohapatra had announced that the same 'Besha' would be observed in the Shreemandir in 2020.

In the event Nalco CMD Dr TK Chand, besides some Daitapatis of Shreemandir and

officials of the Law Department, were present. Rajya Sabha member Raghunath Mohapatra was also a guest in the event.

As per sources, a Law Department official with priestly attire was carrying flowers to the dais in a procession amid ringing of bells.

The Chief Administrator, some servitors and a number of high profile people were present there. Like Shreemandir, dry bhogs and Mahaparasad were distributed among the devotees.

There is a sharp contrast within the temple administration following presence of Mohapatra in the event. Niti administrator Pradipta Dash in response on Saturday said that the temple had no involvement in the event as it was a private one.

However, the outsourcing of a rare of the rarest attire of the deities to Bhubaneswar from Shreemandir has not gone down well within the people with many criticizing the temple administration, besides the host and

guests.

Here servitors' community is not prepared to open mouth on camera though most of them have condemned such an attempt.

Aged servitors were found completely opposed to such Besha outside Meghanada Pacheri (Temple boundary). "Age has changed."

Now Jagannath is a big business at hand of some people. We have gone old now. Jagannath is last one to protect self," told an octogenarian Sikhari servitor requesting anonymity.

As per records over past 500 years, 'Raghunath Besha' has never been observed outside Shreemandir any time. This is first such case to showcase the event out of the shrine precincts with involvement of temple officials.

While the attire was last observed in 1905 in the temple, in 1969 and 1983, the shrine administration had failed to conduct on security ground.

Though nobody is alive



Chief Administrator, some servitors and a number of high profile people were present there. Like Shreemandir, dry bhogs and Mahaparasad were distributed among the devotees. There is a sharp contrast within the temple administration following presence of Mohapatra in the event. Niti administrator Pradipta Dash in response on Saturday said that the temple had no involvement in the event as it was a private one

today as eyewitness to explain the Besha, however, it is learnt from old servitors that the Jagannath Temple had dazzled

with tones of gold and jewellery.

A sea of crowd had flocked the pilgrim city with people

jampacking the lanes and by lanes of Puri, when it was organised.



Special Police Establishment of Lokayukta caught red-handed a Patwari taking bribe at district Collector office in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Wary Kushwaha flexes muscles...

From Page 1

Sharad Yadav had snapped his ties with Kumar after the JD(U) chief joined hands with the BJP last year and currently working to rally the Opposition against the BJP-led NDA. Sharad recently also met with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu who has also been working with opposition leaders including Congress president to forge a national alliance against the NDA.

RLSP and LJP leaders and State presidents have insisted that both the parties have not agreed to the reduction of their LS seat share and would contest the same number of seats which were allocated to them

in 2014.

An old rival of Kumar, Kushwaha had also attacked the Chief Minister for allegedly insulting him and had targeted him again on Sunday over reports that two MLAs of his party may join the JD(U).

He had said he would apprise Shah of the "humiliation" he had suffered at the hands of Kumar and also request him to clear the confusion over seat-sharing among the NDA constituents in the State at the earliest.

Kushwahas have good 10 to 12 per cent vote share and are considered the second-most dominant caste in the OBC category after Yadavs (15%) in Bihar.

CVC files confidential report on Verma graft

FROM PAGE 1

Mehta, appearing for the CVC, told the court that former SC judge A K Patnaik has supervised the CVC enquiry as directed by the apex court and the probe was completed on November 10. To this, the CJI observed that the Registry was open on Sunday for one hour but neither the reports were filed nor any intimation was given to the Registrar regarding their filing.

"On Sunday we kept the registry opened for one hour but neither the reports were filed nor any intimation was given. How long will the Registrars wait?"

the CJI said. The Solicitor General later tendered an apology and said though he was not explaining the circumstances, there was delay on their part in submitting the report.

In its order on October 26, the SC had set a deadline of two weeks for the ongoing CVC probe against Verma. The CVC probed the August 24 note/letter of Asthana to the Cabinet Secretary wherein he had alleged corruption by Verma and meddling in high profile cases in disregard of the CBI manual. The Cabinet Secretary had referred Asthana's complaint to the CVC for probe.

4,157 election nomination forms submitted in Madhya Pradesh

From Page 1

Panna, 11 in Satna, 6 in Rewa, 7 in Singrauli, 4 in Shahdol, 5 in Anuppur, one in Umaria, 15 in Katni, 5 in dindori, 5 in Mandla, 10 in Balaghat, 8 in Seoni, 13 in Narsinghpur, 27 in Chhindwara, 24 in Betul, 3 in Harda, 5 in Hoshangabad, 8 in Raisen, 16 in Vidisha, 9 in Bhopal, 2 in Sehore, one in Rajgarh, 8 in Shajapur, 7 in Dewas, 8 in Khandwa, 2 in Burhanpur, 19 in Khargone, 22 in Badwani, 5 in Alirajpur, 10 in Jabua, 22 in Dhar, 10 in Indore, one in Ujjain, 10 in Ratlam, 10 in Mandsaur, and 11 in Neemuch have been rejected.

Ananth Kumar passes away

From Page 1

Ananth Kumar was just 36 years old, a newcomer and an outsider from Hubli-Dharwad. The Congress had fielded Varalakshmi, the widow of former Chief Minister R Gundu Rao, against him. The Janata Dal, led by HD Deve Gowda, was in power in Karnataka. Most thought that Ananth had no chance against such formidable candidates from the Congress and the Janata Dal, though Bangalore South had the unique distinction of electing only the Opposition candidates for decades. Proving the sceptics wrong, Ananth Kumar, the blue-eyed boy of BS Yeddyurappa, won his maiden election, beating Varalakshmi Gundu Rao by a small margin.

Abided by DAC to...

From Page 1

The document says after the Indian negotiation team submitted its report on fully-loaded Rafale jets on August 4, 2016, it was vetted by the Finance and Law Ministries within 20 days and the CCS approved the deal on August 24, 2016. The document also said the Government had no role in the selection of the Indian offset partner.

The Congress is alleging that the NDA Government nudged the French to opt for Reliance as an offset partner. Former President Francois Hollande also said he was nudged by the Indian Government to have Reliance as a partner in the offset deal with Rafale jet manufacturer Dassault.

The document placed before the court said the Indian Defence Ministry negotiated with their French counterparts for a year before signing the Rafale agreement. The details of the documents were shared with the petitioners as directed by the Supreme Court. The petitioners include former

Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, along with activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan. They had sought registration of an FIR into the fighter jet deal alleging "criminal misconduct" by high public functionaries. The trio has also sought a direction to the CBI to investigate the offences mentioned in their complaint in a "time-bound" manner and submit periodic status reports to the apex court.

A team of Indian negotiators formed to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets had got a better deal on price and maintenance of the planes as compared to the earlier offer from French firm Dassault, according to the Centre's report on the purchase of the jets submitted to the Supreme Court last month.

The Indian negotiating team headed by a Deputy Chief of Air Staff rank officer carried out negotiations for over a year. This team submitted its report in July 2016 and the deal was cleared by the Cabinet Committee of Security and Defence Acquisition Council. India is

buying 36 jets off the shelf from France and the entire lot will be delivered within 67 months after the contract was signed.

The Rafale fighter jet is a twin-engine Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA). The UPA regime was negotiating for a 126-jet deal with Dassault with 18 of them to be procured off the shelf and the remaining to be manufactured by the public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) India.

However, the proposed contract could not mature due to various issues and the NDA Government scrapped the earlier process and announced to buy 36 Rafales to meet the urgent requirement of the IAF to bolster its depleting squadron strength.

However, the Congress is claiming that price at which India is buying Rafale aircraft now is Rs 1,670 crore each, three times the Rs 526 crore, initial bid by the company when the UPA was trying to buy the aircraft.

Voters defy Naxals in...

From Page 1

Sahoo said five elite troopers from Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) were injured in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast triggered by Maoists in Bijapur district.

The IED went off when the CoBRA team was cordoning off a jungle stretch. The injured troopers were airlifted to Raipur for urgent medical attention.

Political analysts say that Raman Singh's clean image and popularity could help the BJP to register the record fourth consecutive victory in the mineral-rich state.

The second and final phase of polling in Chhattisgarh will be held on November 20 for remaining 72 seats. The counting will take place on December 11 along with four other States.

Stubble...

From Page 1

It may be recalled, Union Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan had said the Centre has decided to initiate criminal prosecution against agencies which do not comply with the directives to check air pollution.

Meanwhile on Monday, the air pollution levels in Delhi's air were recorded 402 and 268 microgram per cubic. Importantly, the level of PM 10 is still high on NAAQI, however the overall Average Air Quality Index was at 399.

Five areas which recorded severe pollution include Anand Vihar, Dwarka Sector 8, Narela, Punjabi Bagh and Rohini.

Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Greater Noida and Noida recorded severe air quality while Gurgaon showed improvement in air quality as it stood in moderate category, according to the CPCB.

RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY POLLS BJP fields 25 new faces

DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

As the BJP released its first list of candidates for Rajasthan with 25 new faces and almost over with most of its 230 seats of Madhya Pradesh, the party is simultaneously engaging in the task of managing rebel candidates in the tough electoral battles with the Congress in the two States. The Rajasthan list of the BJP has 12 women candidates, 17 scheduled castes and 19 Scheduled tribes. The BJP has 25 new candidates while there are 85 sitting MLAs. Rajasthan is to go to polls on December 7.

Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje will contest from her traditional Jhalrapatan Assembly seat. It has fielded Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria from Udaipur, Urban Development Minister Srichand Kripalani from Nimbahada and Agriculture Minister Prabhulal Saini from Anta.

In both the States BJP is fighting long anti-incumbency and hence dozens of new winnable candidates have found place in place of some "veterans". The party has retained 85 sitting MLAs and dropped 26 MLAs, including two Ministers and one of two Muslim MLAs, while there is no change in the constituencies of 85 MLAs who have been retained.

Ministers Rajendra Rathore,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah during the party's Central Election Committee meeting for the forthcoming Assembly polls in Rajasthan at party headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday

Gulab Chand Kataria, Vasudev Devnani, Srichand Kripalani, Kiran Maheshwari Anita Bhadel, Ajay Singh, Krishnendra Kaur, Gajendra Singh and Prabhu Lal Saini have made it to the list.

The saffron party has also given tickets to family members of a few sitting MLAs and other leaders. These include Poonam Kanwar, daughter-in-law of former BJP MLA Devi Singh Bhati (Kolayat seat); Atul Bhansali, relative of Jodhpur MLA Kailash Bhansali (Jodhpur seat); Hemant Meena, son of Tribal Affairs Minister Nandlal Meena (Pratapgarh seat); Ramswaroop Jat, son of former MP Sanwar Lal Jat who died last year (Nasirabad seat); Suresh Singh, son of former BJP Minister Digambar Singh who died last year, among others. Some of the

candidates like Shambhu Singh Khetasar (Sardarpura), Sumit Godara (Lunkaransar), Satish Poonia (Amber), Jaswant Gurjar (Bari), Babu Lal Kharadi (Jhadol) and Khemraj Garasia (Bagidora) had lost the 2013 Assembly elections.

The BJP has two sitting Muslim MLAs — Habibur Rahman (Nagaur) and Transport Minister Yoonus Khan (Deedwana). The party has dropped Rahman and the candidate for the Deedwana seat has not been announced yet.

Water Resources Minister Surendra Goyal and Tribal Affairs Minister Nandlal Meena could not make it to the list. However, the party has fielded Meena's son from his constituency. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also retained Deputy Speaker Rao Rajendra

Singh and chief whip Kalu Lal Gurjar in the first list.

Jaisalmer-Barmer MP Sonu Ram was also given ticket from Barmer. BJP is almost over with its list of candidates for Madhya Pradesh as on Monday it released the third list of 32 candidates for the ensuing Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. The party released the second list of 177 candidates on November 5 and first list of 17 candidates on November 2. The State is slated to go to polls on November 28 for 230 constituencies.

BJP has fielded national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya's son Akash Vijayvargiya from the Indore-3 constituency and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Babulal Gaur's daughter-in-law Krishna Gaur from Govindpura constituency. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is will be contesting from his home constituency, Budhni.

BJP has denied tickets to over 35 sitting MLAs in Madhya Pradesh. Apprehensive of rebellion in the ranks, the party has deployed central state-charge and other senior leaders to placate party leaders who have not found their names in the lists.

A group of central leaders have been asked to monitor "rebel activities" and resolve issues before nominations are completed.

AJL moves HC against Centre's order ending National Herald building lease

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the publisher of National Herald newspaper, on Monday approached the Delhi High Court challenging the Ministry of Urban Development order ending its 56-year-old lease and asking it to vacate the premises in the press enclave area at ITO. Meanwhile, the Congress has accused the BJP-led Central Government of embarking on a "witch-hunt" and claimed that it was putting pressure on the machinery to revoke the lease of the Herald House at any cost, but its design would be defeated.

The plea, challenging the October 30 order of the Urban Development Ministry ending the lease and asking it to vacate the premises by November 15, is scheduled to come up for hearing Tuesday before Justice Sunil Gaur.

The plea alleged that the Land and Development Office's order was "illegal, unconstitutional, arbitrary, tainted with malafide and without authority and jurisdiction". The petition, filed through advocates Sunil Fernandes and Priyansha Indra Sharma, said that the Centre has warned them of action under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, if they failed to vacate the premises.

One of the grounds men-



tioned in the L&DO order is that no press has been functioning in the premises for last at least 10 years and that it is being used only for commercial purposes in violation of the lease deed. This allegation has been refuted by AJL in the petition. Bjp leader Subramanian Swamy had approached the Urban Development Ministry to take over the Herald House citing that no newspaper activity publishing activity is going there.

Accusing BJP, senior Congress leader and party treasurer Ahmed Patel said National Herald, Qaumi Awaz and Navjivan — all the newspapers run by the National Herald newspapers from the Herald House had the spine to speak the truth, which made those in power uneasy.

"The BJP Government has embarked on a witch hunt and is pressurising the machinery to revoke lease of Herald House at any cost. National Herald, Qaumi Awaz and the Navjivan

have the spine to speak the truth which makes those in power uneasy. "The Government's design will be defeated," he said on Twitter.

In December 2017, the Income Tax Department had imposed a fine of ₹250 crore on Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi-controlled firm Young India, which took over AJL through a "covert and fraudulent" way. The Delhi High Court ordered Young India to deposit ₹10 crore for entertaining its appeal against the Income Tax fine order.

India, Morocco sign pact to help in criminal matters



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Morocco on Monday signed an agreement to help each other in criminal matters and provide legal assistance wherever required, the Home Ministry said. The agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters was signed by Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju on behalf of India and Mohamed Aujjar, the Minister of justice on behalf of Kingdom of Morocco, here.

The pact will strengthen bilateral cooperation with Morocco and enhance effectiveness and provide a broad legal framework for prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes, as well as in tracing, restraint and confiscation of funds meant to finance terrorist acts, a Home Ministry statement said. Both the Ministers reiterated their resolve to jointly counter the threats posed by organised crime and terrorism, it said.

Govt cancels ED officer Rajeshwar's leave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has cancelled Enforcement Directorate Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh's leave without citing any reasons. The leave was granted to him last month by the then ED Director Karnal Singh.

Singh is facing investigation for writing a letter against Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia earlier this year. In his letter, Singh had asked Adhia, who was then Revenue Secretary, if he had developed animosity against him by "siding with scamsters and their affiliates".

The Department of Revenue (DoR), under the Union Finance Ministry, disallowed Rajeshwar Singh's study leave. However, the then ED Director Karnal Singh sanctioned his leave on October 27, days before his retirement on October 31. Rajeshwar Singh had sought leave for pursuing an LLM course.

IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra was subsequently appointed the new ED chief following his predecessor's retirement.

The Department of

Revenue has overturned Karnal Singh's order sanctioning leave to Rajeshwar Singh without citing any reasons, officials said. The ED functions under the Department of Revenue.

According to the leave sanction order approved by the former ED chief Karnal Singh, Rajeshwar Singh will be available whenever he is required for "assistance in investigations or trial in court" with regard to cases probed by him, including the 2G spectrum allocation and the Aircel-Maxis money laundering cases.

Rajeshwar Singh had last month also handed over his charge of joint director (Lucknow zone) of the ED after the leave was sanctioned. The Union Finance ministry had submitted a secret report to the Supreme Court in June, apparently carrying details of a phone call received by Rajeshwar Singh from Dubai.

The report was prepared by country's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and handed over to the DoR.

The Government subsequently launched an investigation against Rajeshwar Singh for the letter against Adhia.

Develop cooling tech to combat climate change & win \$3 mn, announces Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With demand for air conditioning units set to cross one billion by 2050 in India, the climate change-conscious Government is now looking for an energy-efficient technology that will have at least five times less climate impact than the standard room ACs sold at present.

To encourage innovation in this regard, the Government on Monday announced the launch of the first-of-its kind \$3 million Global Cooling Prize, an international competition asking the researchers and innovators from across the world to develop such a cooling technology to combat the climate change threat.

Announcing the award, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science, Technology and Earth Sciences said rising temperature will affect the health and productivity of billions of citizens. We support this innovation challenge, which aims to develop sustainable and efficient technology to provide thermal comfort to all, he said while speaking at the inaugural of the two-day Global Cooling Innovation Summit here.

Presently, there around 1.2

billion room air conditioning units in service around the world. The number is set to increase to at least 4.5 billion by 2050, according to an estimate. India alone will see over 1 billion air conditioning deployed in the market by 2050. The energy consumption associated with comfort cooling represents one of the largest end-use risks to the climate, putting the most vulnerable populations at risk.

The prize is supported by Government's Mission Innovation through the Department of Science and Technology and its partner organizations Ministry of Power, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, and Environment Ministry while a coalition of research institutes—Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), Conservation X Labs, the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), and CEPT University will oversee it.

John Loughhead Vice-Chair, Mission Innovation Steering Committee said, "This is exactly what Mission Innovation was set-up to deliver - new collaborations between governments, innovators and the private sector to unleash innovation in climate critical technologies."

said, "A technology developed through the Global Cooling Prize has the opportunity to capture a \$20 billion market and transform the global AC market for the better."

Over \$3 million will be awarded in prize money over the course of the two-year competition. Up to 10 short-listed competing technologies will be awarded up to \$200,000 each in intermediate prizes to support the design and prototype development of their innovative residential cooling technology designs. The winning technology will be awarded at least \$1 million to support its incubation and early-stage commercialisation, said an official from the S&T Ministry.

On the occasion, "Solving the Global Cooling Challenge" report prepared by the RMI was released. It said adoption of a 5X solution by year 2040, about 75 per cent less electricity will be needed globally to operate the room air conditioners in 2050. "The 5X solution can achieve cumulative emissions reductions of up to 100 gigatons by 2050 — equivalent to taking 50% of today's global stock of passenger vehicles off the road — and help mitigate up to 0.5°C in global warming impact," it added.



President Ram Nath Kovind with Commandant of National Defence College Vice Admiral Srikanth at a meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday

Buffalo meat exports down 5% at 6.18L tonnes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Buffalo meat exports fell by 5 per cent to 6.18 lakh tonnes during the first half of this fiscal, but increased by 8 per cent in value terms to ₹12,980 crore, an official data showed. According to agri-export promotion body APEDA, the country exported 6,18,559 tonnes of buffalo meat for ₹12,980 crore during the first six months of 2018-19 fiscal.

Buffalo meat exports stood at 6,21,541 tonnes worth ₹12,035 crore in the corresponding period of last fiscal. Vietnam, Malaysia and Egypt are the three

major destinations for the country's buffalo meat shipments.

Total exports of agriculture and processed food products rose to ₹61,789 crore from ₹56,741 crore during the period under review. Of the total exports, cereals contributed maximum at ₹27,174 crore during the first six months of this fiscal as against ₹25,813 crore in the year-ago period.

India exported 20,82,583 tonnes of basmati rice for ₹15,331 crore as against 21,34,757 tonnes for ₹13,706 crore. Non-basmati rice exports fell in both the volume and value

terms at 37,23,828 tonnes worth ₹10,426 crore from 42,86,605 tonnes worth ₹11,236 crore during the period under review.

The exports of livestock products rose to ₹15,272 crore during April-September 2018 from ₹13,707 crore in the year-ago period. Fruits and vegetables exports rose from ₹4,230 crore to ₹4,298 crore, while shipments of processed fruits and vegetables increased from ₹3,547 crore to ₹4,141 crore.

The exports of other processed food including Sorghum went up to ₹10,080 crore from ₹8,808 crore.

Promoting role of family in diabetes management, care

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With diabetes becoming a "family disease" that can potentially affect every household—emotionally as well as financially, this year's World Diabetes Day on Wednesday will highlight the role of caregivers in supporting the people living with the chronic disease.

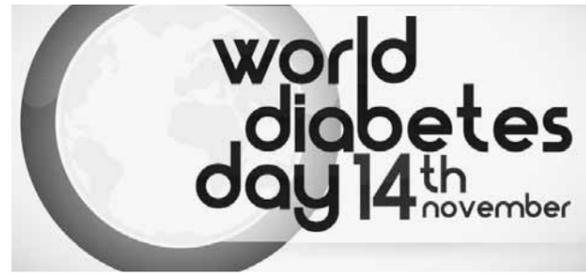
Aptly themed "Diabetes concerns every family," by the International Diabetes Federation and WHO, the two-year-long awareness programmes will focus on raising awareness on the impact that diabetes has on the family, besides promoting the role of the family in diabetes management, care, prevention and education.

"Families have a key role to play in addressing the modifiable risk factors for type 2 diabetes, which can be prevented by adopting healthy lifestyle including regular physical activity, a healthy and balanced diet, and the promotion of healthy living environments," said an official from the Health Ministry.

Hence it is important that families are provided with the education, resources, and environments to help the patient live a healthy lifestyle, he said.

The official added that currently, at least 425 million people are living with diabetes. Most of these cases are type 2 diabetes, a chronic condition that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

While the Union Health Ministry has planned a string of programmes focusing on diabetes awareness programmes for the



Family as healthcare provider

- Diabetic patients show better adherence to treatment regimen if conflict level is low and high cohesion level prevail in the family.
- Family provides emotional & economic support, safe food; takes care intently to ensure the treatment regimen is being strictly followed, reinforce the fight against depression
- Even taking foods cooked by a family member helps to control blood glucose as well as serum lipid profile.
- Strong family ties can provide an ambience where the patients can receive the management with utmost satisfaction and happiness.

families so that they can help ease the life of the patient, the Ayush Ministry will have a special focus on educational programmes about the role of the traditional medicines in ayurveda, Unani and homeopathy can play in controlling the condition.

"There are many scientifically developed anti-diabetic ayurvedic medicines such as BGR-34 developed by CSIR using

anti-diabetic and anti-hyperglycemic agents found in commonly used herbs like daruharidra, giloy, gudmar and bitter gourds. Similarly, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Science (CCRAS) and Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) have developed medicines like AYUSH-D and D5 respectively for Diabetes Mellitus," said an official from the Ayush Ministry.

Suggest two more names for CEO post: EC to Mizoram Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has asked the Mizoram Government to suggest two more names for the post of State Chief Election Officer (CEO). Earlier, the chief secretary of Mizoram has sent the three names — Lalmingthanga, H Lalengmawia, and K Lalthawmmawia for the chief electoral officer's post. There has been no decision regarding the removal of CEO SB Shashank, who had courted controversy in the poll-bound State.

Sources in the EC said the poll panel has sought two more panel names for the CEO's post from the Mizoram Government.

The EC will only appoint someone as CEO if he or she is capable of conducting free, fair and peaceful election. Meanwhile, the EC will again be meeting Shashank to know what exactly the level is of preparedness and what should be done in Mizoram because the new incumbent will have very little time to deliver polls in the State, said officials.

Deputy Election Commissioner Sudeep Jain, who led the second EC team to Mizoram on Friday, had told officials that it would take two-three days to select and appoint a new CEO. Jain had also assured the NGO Coordination Committee leaders — who were spearheading the movement against Shashank — that the CEO would be replaced and the Bru voters housed in Tripura relief camps would exercise their franchise from Mizoram, which were the primary demands of the organisation.

The EC had initiated the process of finding an alternative to the Mizoram CEO on Saturday. Thousands of people took to the streets and picketed in front of Shashank's office for two days last week. The protesters, under the aegis of the NGO Coordination Committee, had also set an ultimatum for Shashank to leave urgently.

SC declines to entertain PIL to make rape gender-neutral offence

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging the Constitutional validity of Section 375 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) which deals with rape on the ground that the provision is not gender-neutral.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul said the issue raised in the petition is a subject matter of the legislature's domain.

"We are not inclined to interfere at this stage as the issues raised pertain to legislations to be made by the Parliament, for which adequate recommendations have already been made by the Law Commission," it said.

It said that NGO 'Criminal Justice Society of India' "may seek such other remedy, as may be available in law" and disposed of the PIL.

"The issue falls in the realm of the Parliament. We don't want to say anything on it right now," the bench said, while granting liberty to the petitioners to make a representation to the legislature.

While Section 375 of the IPC deals with rape committed on a woman by a man, Section 376 lists out the punishment for the offence.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by NGO Criminal Justice Society of India, through advocate Ashima Mandla, contending that

Section 375 violates Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution as it does not account for rape of men and transgender persons.

The plea sought that the definition of rape under Section 375 be held "ultra vires" for being "discriminatory and violative of Articles 14 (right to equality), 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex...) and 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution". The petitioner has submitted that the section applies only to women as victims and men as perpetrators. It does not take into account non-consensual sexual assault inflicted on a woman by a woman, on a man by another man, on transgender by another transgender or a man or woman, on a man by a woman.

The plea referred to the August 2017 order passed by a nine-judge bench of the top court that declared privacy as a fundamental right and also cited the NALSA judgment that recognised transgenders as the third gender.

"It is imperative to note that transgenders including but not limited to homosexuals & bisexuals, and men are sequestered from the point of view of victims of rape under the existing penal laws of the country, despite an impending need for the same", the plea said. PTI

Congress calisthenics

The party's exercises for the Assembly polls are forcing some contortions but victory will make it all okay



The harsh political reality is that the Congress needs to win at least two of the four bigger States, plus retain Mizoram, of the States going to polls over the coming few weeks to be a serious contender for a leading role in the Opposition's plans to unseat the BJP from power in the 2019 General Election. It is, in fact, the worst-kept secret in town. And the leadership of the grand old party is aware of just how quickly all the Opposition bonhomie will dissipate and the Congress pushed into a 'supporting role' for a conglomeration of regional parties if it fails to perform at the hustings yet again.

In Mizoram, the party's last toe-hold in the North-east, the party has deputed AICC general secretary Luizinho Faleiro — who was recently brought back to New Delhi after a couple of years in his home State of Goa — to ensure that his 'magic touch' which saw Congress-led Governments in five North-eastern States till as recently as 2016 helps the party retain power in the face of the BJP and Mizo National Front strategy to fight the elections separately and then come together post-poll. It's a small State but it is vital for the Congress to retain it in terms of the Assembly elections score-line, so Faleiro is pulling out all the stops. That Mizoram is a Christian-majority State helps the Congress which has effectively mobilised Church groups and demoralised the BJP — with a lot of help from the utterances of BJP leaders nationally, it must be said. But in the other four States, it's a different story. Madhya Pradesh has seen the party play what is known in popular parlance as the 'soft Hindutva' card with a vengeance. From promising a *gaushala* in every village and committing itself to promoting research and application of cow urine in medicine and healthcare, to Rahul Gandhi, Kamal Nath and Jyotiraditya Scindia paying obeisance at prominent Hindu temples complete with sacred thread, the party has gone whole hog. Further, in keeping with its strategy of portraying itself as comprising the 'real Hindus' and the BJP/RSS as *katarwaadis* (fundamentalists) within the fold, Congress has announced plans to re-impose the ban on Government employees attending RSS *shakhas* or allowing Sangh-related activities in government buildings if elected. Simultaneously, reports from the ground indicate that the Congress leadership, especially veteran Kamal Nath, has persuaded many of the candidates put up by the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party apart from lesser political groups to 'informally' support and vote Congress come polling day. This tactic, if the Congress can pull it off, may make the crucial difference between winning and losing in a State where the BJP and Congress are widely perceived to be running neck-to-neck. In many ways, Madhya Pradesh, an erstwhile Congress stronghold where the party has managed to retain its rural support base despite 15 years out of power, is the key State for it to win.

Rajasthan, as survey after survey backed up by anecdotal evidence from those who have travelled extensively in the State suggests, is in the bag for the Congress unless it shoots itself in the foot spectacularly. Chhattisgarh looks likely to re-elect Raman Singh as Chief Minister thanks at least in part to the Ajit Jogi-Mayawati combine drawing more votes from the Congress than the BJP though the Congress is still hopeful of propping up Jogi — a la HD Kumaraswamy in Karnataka — if the BJP falls even marginally short. TRS seems headed for a win in Telangana despite a Congress campaign that has over the past couple of weeks shown some signs of coming into its own.

If the above scenario holds, and this is before Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched his election campaign in earnest please remember, the Congress could win in Rajasthan, Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh. With three out of five States in the bag it will be difficult for any Opposition alliance to ignore Rahul Gandhi as he would have finally delivered at the hustings. Congress has all to play for.

Safety last

Drunk drivers and inadequate road barriers; between idiotic users and poor infrastructure, India has a road safety problem



The news that an allegedly drunk female driver lost control of her car, crossed the divider and rammed into a car coming from the opposite side in Delhi a couple of days ago leading to a death is yet another fatal road accident statistic in India. Yes, as modern cars have become safer, fatalities have come down. But there are several worrying issues here. First, the driver is suspected to have been under the influence of alcohol but till a blood-test report comes in, one should treat this report with some scepticism as the police nearly always accuse the driver in an accident of being inebriated. That said, other than

in Mumbai where police have done a stellar job in curbing drunken driving with a massive crackdown, our cities just haven't got this right. This must change and more police personnel should be posted to curb drunken driving; take some cops away from VIP security duties for a start.

The poor quality of road infrastructure in our country, though, often makes a bad situation even worse. Roads have to be as idiot-proof as possible because road users are often idiots. Concrete pavers doubling up as road dividers are not a safety feature. In fact, they can often make accidents worse because instead of absorbing the kinetic energy from an impact which metal and wire barriers do, concrete, particularly the low height concrete dividers that are used in India, can launch a vehicle into the air and into the path of traffic on the other side. And this can happen whether the driver is drunk, distracted or had deliberately rammed into the divider to avoid an accident. Worse still, there are far too many cases where we take road safety for granted. Work on the Delhi-Panipat stretch of National Highway 1 is ongoing with little or no concept of road safety being understood by the contractor. Across Indian highways, workers have little or no regard to their own safety and that of others, water tankers used to water plants on central verges have no warning lights and workers often use a tattered red cloth to warn oncoming drivers of a diversion. This was fine in the era of the Ambassador and the Padmini but today, with cars regularly capable of hitting 200-plus km an hour speeds, our concept of road safety needs to change on both highways and city roads.

In the Dragon's embrace

Imran Khan has received a reality bite: No sops, austerities and repayment of Chinese loans from 2019, all amidst a disintegrating society



SANDHYA JAIN

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's failure to renegotiate parts of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during his visit to Beijing in the first week of November affirms President Xi Jinping's inflexible commitment to making China a leading world power by 2049, the centenary of communist rule in that country. The Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI) and military power are keys to this goal.

While President Xi is extending the B&RI's reach, he cannot be generous with countries that cannot push back like Malaysia, because China has been facing serious problems even prior to the spat with US President Donald Trump. As early as September 2016, the Bank for International Settlements warned that excessive credit growth in China could trigger a banking crisis within three years.

In May 2017, Moody's Investors Service downgraded China's credit ratings for the first time since 1989, saying growth would slow and debt would rise to 40 per cent of GDP by 2018, and 45 per cent by 2020. In October 2017, Standard & Poor's cut China's sovereign credit rating from A+ to AA- for the first time since 1999, because of risks from soaring debt. It lowered the rating on HSBC China, Hang Seng China and DBS Bank China Ltd. and warned that these banks would be "unlikely to avoid default should the nation default on its sovereign debt". Bloomberg noted growing concerns over China's ability to balance economic growth with cleaning up its financial sector. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned (December 2017) that China's growing debt-dependency could trigger a new global financial crisis. Credit growth has surpassed GDP growth; corporate debt is 165 per cent of GDP; household debt has risen 15 percentage points of GDP in the past five years and is linked to asset-price speculation. A serious problem is 'shadow banking' that Moody's in November 2017 put at \$9.8 trillion (86.5 per cent of GDP).

While Beijing has cracked down on debt and the shadow banking sector, the credit squeeze on some sectors has driven companies to the offshore dollar bond market; borrowings touched \$322 billion at the beginning of 2017, a 154 per cent increase from 2016, according to China International Capital Corp. By July 2018, the National Institute of Finance and Development, a regime-affiliated think tank, warned of "financial panic", saying the economy may be on the edge of disaster due to increasing bond defaults, currency depreciation, tightening lending and liquidity, and trade tensions with the United States.

Amidst these pressures, Beijing gave Islamabad a one billion dollar loan to buffer its foreign currency reserves, thus



lending Pakistan over five billion dollar in this fiscal year. Imran Khan fared better with Riyadh post-Jamal Khashoggi murder, but even six billion dollar in investments cannot keep Pakistan's precarious economy afloat. Khan's attempt to raise two billion dollar for two dams in ecologically fragile terrain will remain a pipe dream; an IMF bailout seems the only hope.

Beijing, meanwhile, will resist Washington's economic aggression with its Yuan-denominated oil futures contracts which, since March 2018, have broken the US Dollar's monopoly over the energy trade. Should the oil futures be convertible into gold, it would attract oil-producing nations like Russia, Venezuela, and Iran. Moscow and Beijing are also striving for a gold-backed post-Bretton Woods exchange system to curtail Dollar hegemony and evade US sanctions. Both have been accumulating gold reserves which, if greater than Washington's, can seriously undermine the US Dollar.

Given the scale of China's ambitions, it is not surprising that the joint communiqué appreciated the progress on early harvest projects, especially in the energy sector, and extolled the all-weather partnership in flowery language. Within Pakistan, the visit was perceived as a grand failure; Dawn columnist Adnan Rasool observed that the Pakistani State "is completely clueless regarding the larger objectives of the Belt and Road Initiative", of which CPEC is only one portion.

The B&RI covers around

60 countries and broadly comprises three overland and three maritime routes. Most projects have not been contracted between governments but between Chinese companies and state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Hence, any attempt to renegotiate contracts (the promise on which Imran Khan came to power) would have to be firm by firm, which is virtually impossible. Moreover, any arbitration involved during renegotiations will go to the B&RI court in Xi'an, under Chinese law, so Islamabad would need a law firm to represent it on each contract to be renegotiated or contest the cases itself.

The B&RI, Rasool asserts, is a system which countries join to share the Chinese Dream of sustained growth for China through trade. Partner countries tie their economic destiny to that of China — as China flourishes, so do others. Since Beijing does the "heavy lifting", it is the senior partner, but others must do their share. The CPEC is a series of projects that serve the larger B&RI scheme, and is not a credit line or bailout package. That is the crux of the matter.

Pakistan has to fix its own economy and use the B&RI to gain market access to other partner-countries, and boost its earnings. Perhaps such a clear understanding could have saved Sri Lanka, Myanmar, The Maldives, Tajikistan, Djibouti, and others from the indebtedness that forced them to make costly debt-for-equity deals with Beijing. With the Asian Development Bank estimating

B&RI to cost over \$26 trillion by 2030, and China's foreign currency reserves hovering around \$3 trillion, Beijing is in no position to cancel or mitigate debt.

Interestingly, the joint communiqué included a commitment by Islamabad to support China in safeguarding its sovereignty and security, and combating separatism, terrorism and extremism including the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM). Concerns for the CPEC's security made Beijing build a counter-terrorism base in Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor in Badakhshan province, where Uyghur militants (ETIM) constitute a serious threat to Muslim-majority Xinjiang province. Kabul has refused to join the B&RI-CPEC because Islamabad continues to host the Taliban and Haqqani terrorist network which attack Afghanistan.

Pakistani doublespeak forced Beijing to take a tough line at the Financial Action Task Force in February 2018, where Pakistan was put on the watch list for financing terror. Imran Khan has received a reality bite: No sops, austerities, and repayment of Chinese loans from 2019, all amidst a disintegrating society as witnessed by the turmoil over Asia Bibi's exoneration by the Supreme Court. Pakistan is caught in a pincer: Faith and a bleak economic landscape make uneasy bedfellows.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

“ PARTNER COUNTRIES TIE THEIR ECONOMIC DESTINY TO THAT OF CHINA. AS CHINA FLOURISHES, SO DO OTHERS. SINCE BEIJING DOES THE HEAVY LIFTING, IT IS THE SENIOR PARTNER, BUT OTHERS MUST DO THEIR SHARE ”

SOUNDBITE

Even though there has been the advancement of civilisation, the threat of war always remains and poses challenges.



Vice President —Venkaiah Naidu

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena's decision to dissolve the nation's Parliament will only deepen the crisis.



UN chief —Antonio Guterres

Unlike Bollywood, Iranian films are based on realities, real locations, social subjects and human values.



Iranian filmmaker —Majid Majidi

Competition is normal. Contest must not turn into conflict. Differences between India and China should not become disputes.



Defence Minister —Nirmala Sitharaman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scope for improvement

Sir — This refers to the article, "Science in classrooms" (November 12) by JS Rajput. India's ranking in the list of 'ease of doing business' is laudable. The Government and entrepreneurs, in compliance with each other, have proved their calibre of being a development-savvy nation.

Finagled business units have been broken down by the Narendra Modi Government via steps like demonetisation and the implementation of GST, which in turn also raised the nation's GDP to an all-time high of 8.2 per cent. The scope for development has its doors wide open for India and its youth power. The need of the hour is to grab the opportunity and take it forward.

Animesh Gupta
Ujjain

Tackling pollution

Sir — This refers to the report, "No respite for Delhiites" (November 12). The poor air quality of Delhi was anticipated prior to the onset of winter season. One may not hold only the

New weapon in India's bowling armoury

The India-West Indies series has thrown up a new kid on the block — Khaleel Ahmed. The player, who represented Rajasthan in the Ranji Trophy, gave the West Indies a dose of their own medicine especially in the final two ODIs. Good pace and reverse swing is a heady combo, more so if you are a left arm bowler, and Khaleel has both in abundance. The aggression on the pitch, the exultation on scalping a wicket and believing in giving the batsman an eye for an eye are all good attributes of a young fast bowler.

India captain Virat Kohli had praised Khaleel Ahmed by describing him as one of the finds of the ODI series against the West Indies. Khaleel apparently is working on both his bowling and non-bowling arm to better his game. Two former greats have played a significant role in honing the player's skills — Rahul Dravid and Zaheer Khan. In England, where



the 2019 World Cup will be held, the conditions will be quite favourable to swing bowlers. Khaleel is one player India would hope to cash in on. The recent series and the upcoming ones are viewed as tests for players on the edge.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

No offence

Sir — May be the proposals by the Uttar Pradesh Government to change the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj was unreasonable. But why was it necessary for Akbar to rename Prayag 444 years ago? If he ever needed a city named Ilaahabad to chime

with his Din-e-Ilahi, why was it justifiable to axe a holy place of the Hindus? If the name of an ancient Hindu *tirth* is restored, that should not be construed as an attack on Muslims. If the act of Akbar was right, as the critics make us believe, ipso facto the act of Yogi Government, too, is right, because different yardsticks cannot be used for the same act.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Brilliant innings

Sir — I appreciate the Indian women's cricket team, who chased down the target of 134 with six balls to spare, specially Mithali Raj who smashed an aggressive half-century to guide India to an easy 7-wicket win over Pakistan in the ICC Women's World Cup T20. One hopes that the team will continue to perform well and outclass opposition in the forthcoming matches too.

Mohd Tariq Qasmi
Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

What went wrong?

The anti-immigrant hysteria is almost universal in Eastern Europe and it will bring more illiberal nationalist regimes to power before it is finished



GWYNNE DYAR

I first met Viktor Orbán, the not-quite-dictator of Hungary, in 1989 in Budapest — and the man who introduced us was none other than George Soros. Orbán was then a firebrand student leader, anti-Communist and keen for Hungary to join the West. Soros, a Hungarian refugee who became an American billionaire, was devoting his time and money to finding and subsidising young Eastern Europeans who would lead their countries into the European Union and a liberal democratic future. But Orbán is now the Prime Minister of an 'illiberal' Hungarian Government that controls the mass media and regards the EU as the enemy. In last April's election, he portrayed Soros as the Jewish evil genius who, with the EU's help, was planning to flood Hungary with Muslim refugees and destroy the country's culture and identity. That's ridiculous, but Orbán won almost half the votes and more than two-thirds of the seats in Parliament. Poland, a far bigger country, now also has a far-right, 'illiberal' government that is ultra-nationalist and hostile to the EU (although both countries depend heavily on EU subsidies).

The extremists are not yet in power in other Eastern European countries, but similar trends are visible in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. The dreams and hopes that drove the anti-Communist revolutions of 1989 are not yet dead, but they are definitely fading. What went wrong? These countries are among the most ethnically homogenous in the world (due to the Holocaust and the widespread 'ethnic cleansing' that followed both world wars). They have admitted almost no refugees, yet their politics is dominated by the fear of being swamped by them.

It's beyond bizarre, but Bulgarian political philosopher, Ivan Krastev, has a persuasive explanation for it. He points out that the question "isn't so much where the nationalism has come from, but where it's been hiding all these years." His answer is that it was hiding in plain sight. During the 1970s and 1980s, the nationalists who wanted independence from Soviet rule, formed a close alliance with the pro-Western activists who wanted a liberal, democratic future. From Poland to Bulgaria, the liberals and the nationalists worked together, and even after the overthrow of the Communists in 1989, they continued to believe (or at least hope) that democracy could accommodate them both.

Maybe it could have, but the nationalist wars that destroyed the former Yugoslav federation in the 1990s put an end to the partnership. As Krastev says, the violence there persuaded liberals that "nationalism was the very heart of darkness, and that flirting with it could only be sinful." So, the liberals broke their alliances with the nationalists, and for a while the nationalists went very quiet. Nobody, not even Polish or Hungarian nationalists, wanted to be seen in the same light as monsters like Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic. But nationalism was the most powerful political force in Eastern Europe throughout the 20th century, and it wasn't going to just fade away. It re-emerged in the early 21st century, shorn of its liberal associations with tolerance and diversity, as a major political force in the region — and the driver behind it was what Krastev calls "demographic panic".

After 1989, many people in Eastern Europe not only aspired to emulate the prosperous liberal democracies of Western Europe. They actually wanted to live in them, and when their countries joined the EU they acquired the right to free movement. If Poles thought that life would be better in England, for example, they could just move there and find work — and a million of them did. Since 1989, 27 percent of Latvia's population has emigrated to Western Europe, and Bulgaria has lost 21 percent. Hungary is not so hard hit, but it has lost 3 percent of its population to Western Europe in the past ten years — and almost all the emigrants are young, leaving behind an aging population with a low birth rate. This is the real source of the demographic panic, but it finds its political expression in a paranoid fear that the country's dwindling population will be overrun by immigrants with a radically different culture, particularly refugees. It doesn't matter that there are virtually no immigrants in Hungary, and that it's about the last place a refugee would want to go. In these matters, perception is all.

The anti-immigrant hysteria is almost universal in Eastern Europe, and it will bring more illiberal nationalist regimes to power before it is finished. The remedy, if there is one, is for the liberals to acknowledge the nationalists' concerns and rebuild the old alliances with them without pandering to the panic. That's not easy to do, but it's what every Western European democracy has actually been doing for generations. Although they're not doing too well with it at the moment themselves.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

DEMONETISATION IS A SHREWD SCHEME THAT ALLOWED MODI'S SUIT-BOOT FRIENDS TO CONVERT THEIR BLACK MONEY INTO WHITE.

—CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



IT IS THE RESULT OF DEMONETISATION THAT YOUR COMPANY (NATIONAL HERALD) WAS CAUGHT AND YOU (RAHUL GANDHI AND SONIA GANDHI) HAD TO SEEK BAIL.
 —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Steady military modernisation

Efforts over the last four years by the Modi Government to upgrade India's armed forces despite financial constraints and a huge backlog deserve appreciation



PATHIKRIT PAYNE

From September 2019, India would start to receive the much-awaited Dassault Rafale combat aircrafts and the delivery and testing of the entire fleet of 36 fighter jets is expected to be completed by April 2022. India would also start receiving Apache AH-64E multi-role combat helicopters and CH-47 tactical transport helicopters, contract for which was finalised in 2015, as well as M-777 howitzers, which was signed under a contract in 2016. The Indian Army will also receive most of the 1.86 lakh bulletproof jackets, which were contracted for in 2018. From 2020, India would start getting delivery of S-400 air defence systems whose deal was signed last October. It is also expected that by next year, India would have in place a clear roadmap and contract in place for arming the infantry soldiers of the Indian Army with a battle-proven assault rifle to replace the obsolete INSAS.

What Modi inherited: Lack of modernisation of the armed forces for nearly a decade and challenges of grappling with obsolescence of existing equipment in the rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, were two major predicaments that the Narendra Modi Government had to confront in 2014. Rapid pace of military modernisation by both China and Pakistan exacerbated the situation further. There were only two choices in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi — either continue to play politics of delay on big ticket defence acquisitions or take a decisive approach to modernise the forces while brushing aside all inhibitions and delaying tactics of the vested interests. The Prime Minister chose the latter. He preferred to go for fast-paced military modernisation.

First steps: In June 2014, the keel was laid for India's first missile tracking ship at Hindustan Shipyard after it was ordered by Modi Government as part of developing a robust nuclear shield. In less than four years since then, the 15,000 tonne ocean surveillance ship is almost ready and is undergoing trials before final commissioning. In 2015, the Modi dispensation gave approval for the construction of seven stealth frigates under Project 17A and six nuclear powered attack submarines. While Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited would be making four of the frigates, Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers would make the remaining three. The nuclear powered attack submarines would be built at the Ship Building Centre in Vizag.

Big ticket acquisitions: In September 2015, the Narendra Modi Government signed deals with Boeing for acquisition of 22 Apache AH-64 attack helicopters and 15 Chinook CH-47 tactical transport helicopters under a three billion dollar deal. Order for six more Apache AH-64 helicopters were given in 2018. The year 2015 also saw the Government giving nod to acquisition of 10 Heron TP armed drones from Israel for \$400 million.

In September 2016, India and France inked deal for acquisition of 36 Dassault Rafale combat jets. The 59,000 crore deal, apart from a 50 per cent clause for offsets and local sourcing of components, also included a wide array of cutting edge weapon systems, including Scalp cruise missiles with 500-km range and Meteor radar guided beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile with over 100 km of range. This apart, reports



“ THERE WERE ONLY TWO CHOICES IN FRONT OF NARENDRA MODI — EITHER CONTINUE TO PLAY POLITICS OF DELAY ON BIG TICKET DEFENCE ACQUISITIONS OR TAKE A DECISIVE APPROACH TO MODERNISE THE FORCES. THE PRIME MINISTER CHOSE THE LATTER ”

also indicate that the Rafales made for India would probably be capable of carrying nuclear warheads as well as BrahMos. With one squadron each for the eastern and western battle theatres, the Rafale fleet is expected to significantly boost the combat capabilities of Indian Air Forces. A follow-on order for four additional P8I Poseidon maritime reconnaissance planes for Indian Navy was also signed in 2016.

The Rafale deal was followed by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) clearing the Acceptance of Necessity (AON) in November 2016 for acquisition of 83 Light Combat Aircraft or Tejas in the MKIA configuration, which would be equipped with AESA radars, self-protection jammers and air-to-air refuelling capabilities. A year later, IAF issued the Request for Proposal to HAL and reports indicate that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has submitted quotation for the same, which is under review by the Ministry of Defence. Incidentally, HAL is yet to get the final operational clearance (FOC) for LCA and conclude the delivery of the first 40 Light Combat Aircrafts (LCA), whose orders were placed in 2006 and 2010 respectively.

Modernising artillery: In the realm of artillery acquisition, the first major step by the Modi Government in restarting the modernisation of artillery regiments of the Indian Army was through selection of L&T-Hanwha Techwin combine in 2015 for making 100 self propelled K9 Vajra howitzers. The contract worth around ₹5,000 crore was signed in 2017. Further, a critical deal with the US was signed in 2016 for acquisition of 145 M777 ultra light-weight howitzers for ₹5,000 crore, a deal which was pending for years during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era. In 2016, approval was also given for

raising two more regiments of Pinaka rockets for ₹3,300 crore and the fourth regiment of BrahMos for ₹4,300 crore with more advanced versions of the cruise missile, proficient in trajectory manoeuvrability and with deep diving capabilities, to be deployed in northeast.

Bulletproof jackets for infantry: If there was one product whose deficiency tormented the infantry soldier of the Indian Army for decades now, it has to be the availability of new generation bulletproof jackets. Like many other defence files, dust kept on piling on this one too for years. During the 11th five year plan (2007-12) Indian Army was supposed to receive 1,86,168 jackets but nothing much happened. Eventually, it was in 2016 that permission for a one-time 'interim emergency acquisition' by taking the 'revenue route' was granted by the Modi-led Government to the Indian Army for procuring 50,000 bulletproof vests for ₹140 crore from Tata Advanced Materials.

Later in April 2018, another contract worth ₹639 crore was signed by the Ministry of Defence with SMPP Pvt Ltd for procurement of an additional 1,86,138 bulletproof jackets. In 2017, a contract worth ₹180 crore was also given to Kanpur-based MKU for procurement of 1.6 lakh bulletproof helmets, an equipment as critical for the foot soldier, in the battle front, as bulletproof vest and assault rifle.

Modernising air defence: On the air defence front, in April 2017, India signed a two billion dollar deal with Israel Aerospace Industry and another Israeli company, Rafael, for supplying Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MR-SAM) to the Indian Army. Additionally, a \$630 million contract in 2017 and a \$777 million contract in 2018 were signed with

Israel Aerospace Industries for Barak-8 Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) to arm India's frontline warships. This was followed by the mammoth \$5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for S-400 Triumf air defence systems, capable of shooting down almost all kinds of incoming missiles, fighters and drones.

The deal for 6,000 missiles and associated equipments, including jam resistant phased array radars, was inked in spite of threats of sanctions by US. This was followed in quick succession with a \$950 million deal with Russia for two frigates of Project 11,356 class for Indian Navy.

In between, exclusive deals worth almost ₹20,000 crore were also signed by the IAF and the Indian Army for munitions, spares and engines to have enough reserve for 10 days of intense fighting in case of any eventuality. Many additional deals are in pipeline including 200 Ka-226 and 48 Mi-17V5 helicopters, acquisition of 464 T-90 tanks and local production of AK series rifles. Some are expected to be signed soon. Further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic efforts resulting in India being inducted into the exclusive Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) club and being granted Strategic Trade Authorisation (STA-1) status by the US also helps the country to enhance the range and quantum of warheads in imported missiles and get access to critical and cutting-edge defence technologies hitherto restricted for India.

Efforts over the last four years by the Modi Government to modernise India's armed forces in spite of financial constraints and a huge backlog deserve appreciation.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based strategic affairs analyst)

#MeToo: Clarion call to something bigger

Men should be educated about the nuances of their acts and the consequent impact that they have on a victim. Despite changes that are required in law, the movement should first ignite social change



RAGHAV PANDEY NEELABH BIST

The common incidents that take place in almost every woman's life, incidents that were hushed behind closed doors, have finally found a platform to come out in the open, in the form of the #MeToo movement. The campaign has caused a ripple effect in India, which looks promising enough to bring about a change for good.

However, there is an underlying fear because of which certain women haven't come out with their ordeals — the fear of not being believed, the fear of loss of reputation and more importantly, loss of their jobs and the associated trauma.

Normally, the legal consequences of bringing out the mis-

deeds of someone can result in a nullity if there is no strong evidence to substantiate the claim. In fact, you can end up being the one on the wrong side of the law, as a defamation suit can be filed against you. The same had happened with writer-producer, Vinta Nanda, as a suit for defamation had been filed by actor Alok Nath as a reply to her harrowing contribution to the #MeToo movement.

The whole scenario leads us to essentially question the legal framework within which the #MeToo movement stands. Does it provide enough protection to the victims?

The answer is a big "no", as the accused can only be convicted on the production of substantial evidence against him, which is very difficult to obtain, especially in a sexual harassment case.

Now, if the accused cannot be convicted for his actions then what exactly can be changed so as to create the perfect balance wherein the victims of such harassment, or worse, can be protected, and at the

same time, the framed people can enjoy their fair bit of protection as well?

From the experience drawn from the US, where the #MeToo movement had seen its inception, many valuable lessons can be learned on how to reform the law. The first change that the law should provide for is an opt out option in non-disclosure agreements (NDAs).

It was observed in the United States that a big impediment in the reporting of sexual misbehaviour was the NDA. In many cases, the NDAs were so much customised to such effect that a victim was compensated with a financial settlement while gagging him/her from speaking about the abuse.

Another big problem with the law is that it provides a time frame within which the complaint has to be lodged. Section 9(1) of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 provides for three months from the date of the incident or the date of the last incident in case of a series of events, for

reporting of the complaint. This can be increased to another three months by the internal or local committee adjudicating the claim.

Now, the narrative — that such a limitation should be placed so as to balance the interest of justice between the complainant and the accused — falls short on the count that this is a protective legislation. Such legislations are created because the subjects that they deem to protect are vulnerable and, therefore, need an affirmative protection of the State.

With limitations like that of time period, the Sexual Harassment Act tends to defeat the purpose for which it was enacted as it has to protect each and every individual who faces harassment without any prejudice to the time when she finally gathers the courage to speak up in the patriarchal system.

Further, in the court of law, if such a matter comes for adjudication, it should be reasonably expected from the court that they do not expect an exact testimony from the

victim, in excruciating detail. This is to say that the courts usually expect the victim to recall their experience in a linear fashion by requiring them to provide specific names, dates and facts of the assault. In this manner, the legal system wants the victims to remember and pen down the horrendous experience which they usually try hard to forget. While the accuracy of the events does not destroy their case, it provides an easy way for the defence attorney to do the same by creating a reasonable doubt of the innocence of the accused.

Now comes the question which has created immense fear in the minds of many misogynists since the #MeToo movement has begun: How will the falsely accused men be protected? Well, these people will be happy to claim that if a malicious or false complaint or a complaint made with forged or misleading document is made, then under Section 14 of the Sexual Harassment Act, action can be taken against the complainant.

However, it also provides that the mere inability to substantiate a complaint or provide adequate proof need not attract action against the complainant, thus protecting the victim as well.

Despite the changes that are required in the legal sphere, it can be safely said that the #MeToo movement should first ignite social change, which should then take the form of legal change.

Men should be educated about the nuances of their acts (which might seem casual or commonplace to them but is actually harassment) and the consequent impact that it has on the victim. #MeToo is being termed as a clarion call to something bigger, and with a Constitution which is feminist, hopes are high that India will finally wake up to a better future.

(Raghav Pandey is an Assistant Professor of Law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and Neelabh Bist is a Fourth Year student of Law at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai)



FOREIGNEYE



MISSING LEGITIMACY OF THINK TANKS

Brexit has changed the atmosphere of political debate in profoundly damaging ways. For the newly aggressive leave vanguard, represented by a clutch of think tanks, it has legitimised their dangerous heresy and redefined the previous orthodoxy as being biased and an out-of-touch remain, liberal worldview. (The Guardian editorial)

MODI IN VARANASI 'BJP has done politics for dev, not vote bank'

PM unveils a string of projects for Varanasi

RAMESH K SINGH ■ VARANASI

Making a scathing attack on previous Governments for wasting thousands of crores in the name of making Ganga river clean and pollution-free and neglecting rivers across the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said during the last four years the way development works have been carried out shows that the BJP has done politics only for development and not for vote bank.

"It is also a historic day when for the first time since Independence, waterways transportation began in the country," he said, adding that it is also the 'new vision of new India'.

Addressing an impressive gathering at Wajidpur near Harahuwa where he inaugurated projects worth over ₹2,400 crore on Monday evening, the Prime Minister said: "Contrary to previous governments, we are spending money in making the Ganga river clean and, in this direction, projects worth ₹23,000 crore were sanctioned and out of the same projects worth Rs 5000 crore are being allocated for Namami Gange project."

He said that in the last four years several sewage treatment plants were launched and out of them some were inaugurated, including Deenapur Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), to ensure that not a single drop of sewer water goes into the rivers of Ganga and Varuna. "And all these could become possible only with the cooperation of the people," he said.

Modi said that the government was aiming at the overall development of the waterways transportation which began from Haldia to Varanasi and would help the ancient city to become a gateway to development of the entire eastern India. "When four years ago, we had decided to start inland waterways between Haldia and Varanasi, the Opposition party leaders had made several comments that it could not be possible but today it has become a reality when container vessel (cargo) came here carrying 16 containers," he said, adding that it was not only cheaper transportation but also eco-friendly and hectic works were going on for the development of more than 100 such inland waterways in the country.

Earlier, Modi had inaugurated the country's first multi-modal terminal at Ralhpur in trans-Ganga Ramnagar development worth ₹208 crore where he also welcomed the first cargo from

Haldia. "This will write a new chapter in the development of this city which would become a confluence of nature, culture and adventure," he said, adding that this would not only help vegetable growers of the region to send their products to other markets in eastern India easily but would also help the city to become a global hub for carpet exports from the region.

Modi began his address using local Bhojpuri dialects greeting people for recent festivals and also ended the same wishing good luck for the ongoing famous festival of Chhath. "We're working on the development of good connectivity and, in this direction, hectic work has been done during the last four years to improve road, rail, water and air transportation," he said, adding that prior to independent there was good waterways transportation in the country but shockingly after independence the government had totally neglected the same.

Earlier, the function was also addressed by the Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Mahendra Nath Pandey. The function was also attended by deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Union minister Suresh Khanna, MP Ram Charit Nishad and many others.

Mizoram CM declares moveable assets worth over ₹1 crore

PTI ■ AIZAWL

Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla has moveable properties worth over ₹1 crore and agricultural land valued at more than ₹2 crore, according to the affidavit submitted by him while filing his nomination papers for the November 28 State Assembly polls.

According to the affidavit, Lal Thanhawla has ₹5 lakh in cash, ₹1,28,06,007 worth moveable properties, ₹2.8 crore worth agricultural land and ₹20 lakh worth non-agricultural land.

He also has a land on which he has constructed a building at New Town, Kolkata worth around ₹3.1 crore and a residential house at Zarkawt in Aizawl, the value of which he has not declared.

Lal Thanhawla's wife, Lal Riliiani, has ₹3 lakh in cash, moveable properties worth ₹92,13,740.47 and agricultural land worth ₹25 lakh.

She also has non-agricultural land worth ₹15 lakh.

People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM) president and the party's chief ministerial candidate Vanlalruata has only ₹30,000 cash in hand and his wife has ₹5,000 in cash, according to the affidavit filed by him.

Vanlalruata has two bank accounts and the total amount of money in both the accounts is ₹2,175, while his spouse has ₹539 in her account with the Mizoram Rural Bank, Khatla Branch in Aizawl.

He has an agricultural land worth around ₹7.50 lakh.

Former two-time chief minister and Mizo National Front (MNF) president Zoramthanga has ₹10 lakh in cash and immovable properties, including cars and bank accounts, worth ₹57.22 lakh, according to the affidavit filed by him.

Zoramthanga has agricultural land worth Rs 20 lakh and a land and a building at the Chaltlang locality in Aizawl worth ₹1.25 crore.

His wife Roneihsanghi has only ₹7 in cash, ₹43,756 in her bank accounts and moveable properties and a land and a building worth ₹1.5 crore at the Ramhlun Venglai locality in Aizawl.

Zoramthanga's son and daughter have ₹28,398 each in their bank accounts.

State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president John V Hluna did not mention the amount of cash in hand.

He has moveable assets, including bank accounts, worth ₹20,05,147, according to the affidavit filed by him.

All the landed properties, both agricultural and non-agricultural lands were worth ₹1.30 crore.

Zoram People's Movement's (ZPM) chief ministerial candidate Lalduhoma has ₹70,000 cash in hand and moveable properties, including bank accounts, worth ₹18.34 lakh.

Lalduhoma's total landed properties are worth ₹1.9 crore.

Will move court if permission not granted for Shah's rath yatra: BJP

PTI ■ KOLKATA

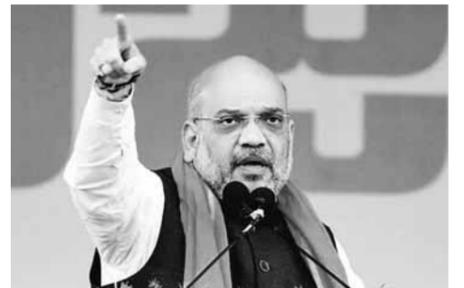
West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Monday threatened to move court if the State Government does not grant permission for the proposed rath yatra of party president Amit Shah in the State next month.

Ghosh said if TMC tries to disrupt the proposed rath yatra then the people of the State will come out in protest as it is meant for restoring democracy in Bengal.

"The police and the State Government are yet to grant permission. Time and again we have tried to meet the police officials and the Home Secretary, but in vain. Until and unless we have the permission how will we organize the entire route?" Ghosh said.

BJP national president Amit Shah is set to kick off three rath yatras which will cover all 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in Bengal on December 5, 7 and 9.

"If the Government is try-



BJP national president Amit Shah is set to kick off three rath yatras which will cover all 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in Bengal on December 5, 7 and 9

permission we will move court and fight it out," he said. At the conclusion of the 'yatra', the party plans to hold a massive rally in Kolkata which is likely to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Locket Chatterjee, the saffron party's West Bengal Mahila Morcha president, had said on Saturday that those trying to stop the Rath Yatra "will get crushed under the wheels of the chariot".

Deb: May Day is for workers, labourers, not for Govt employees

PTI ■ AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has justified the reason behind dropping May Day from the list of holidays in the State and said the decision was taken because Government employees did not need one on International Labour Rights Day.

Deb said that May Day is meant for workers and labourers and none else.

He claimed his Government has done justice by granting holiday on May Day only for workers in industrial sector.

Why do Government employees need holiday on May Day? ... I have noticed that it is a holiday on that day in very few States.

"What are the provisions for a holiday? They (previous Left Govt) used to grant holiday to the entire State on this day here," Deb told a conference of the Tripura Gazetted Officers Sangh here on Sunday. The Tripura Government in a notification on November 3 had said that Government employees would be allowed to avail any four holidays chosen by them out of a list of restricted holidays during 2019.

The list of restricted holidays had 12 festivals or occa-



sions in it. These are New Years Day, Pous Parban - a Bengali harvest festival, Basanti Puja, Mahavir Jayanti, May Day, Ratha Yatra, Jhulanjatra Samapan, Biswakarma Puja, Akheri-Chahar-Sumba, Bhadratritiya, Guru Nanaks birthday and the World Disabled Day. There is holiday on May Day in the industrial sector. That holiday is still valid. But are you workers and labourers in the secretariat? the CM asked.

You (gazetted officers) are not labourers. No. Am I labourer? No. I am Chief Minister. So what for do you need holiday (on May Day)? What will you mourn for (Kya matam manayenge aap)? he asked.

The state government took the right decision by dropping May day from the list of the holidays, he said adding holiday was granted to labourers on that day but not for Government employees.

RSS leaders call on Stalin as DMK, allies are busy formalising seat sharing

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Hectic activities are on in the DMK camp to finalise the sharing of the 39 Lok Sabha seats from the State for the upcoming general election. The DMK has already agreed to give the lone seat from Pudukchery to the Congress, according to party insiders. Sources in the DMK told this newspaper that the party would allocate seven Lok Sabha seats from the State to the Congress. "The CPI-M, the CPI and the VCK would get one seat each while the DMK would contest the remaining 29 seats," said the source.

If the alliance to be floated by Pattali Makkal Katchi, which may include some of the caste groups, joins the DMK camp, the party would release four seats to that group. "The DMK would like to contest at least 25 seats while accommodating as many alliance partners as possible," said the source privy to the discussions.

Meanwhile, MK Stalin, DMK president, had some special visitors at Anna Arivalayam, the party headquarters in Chennai on Monday morning.

A delegation of RSS leaders, a bete noire of Stalin, called on the DMK chief and held discussions with him for nearly 25 minutes.



RSS leaders calling on DMK chief MK Stalin on Monday

The RSS delegation consisted of Prof Kumaraswamy, Tamil Nadu president, PM Ravikumar, State organiser and Sambamurthy, State executive member.

In a gesture of goodwill, the RSS leaders handed over to Stalin a copy of the message adopted by the RSS all India meet held at Mumbai condoling the passing away of the DMK patriarch and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi.

"We discussed with Stalin the good rapport the Sangh had with Shri Karunanidhi. While he was the chief minister of the State, Shri Karunanidhi had helped as in organising the patsanchalan (route march) of the Sangh and Shri Stalin heard it with rapt attention," Prof Kumaraswamy told The Pioneer after the meeting. He said it was a cordial meeting..

The Sangh leaders also presented Stalin with copies of the speech delivered by RSS chief Dr Mohan Bhagawat during the three-day seminar held at New Delhi, a coffee table book on the Sangh and also some of the Sangh publications for his reading.

Senior leaders of the DMK, K Ponmudi and T R Balu were present during the meeting. Stalin has been severely attacking the BJP and RSS since he was anointed as the party president on August 29 following the passing away of Karunanidhi. The meeting between the DMK leadership and RSS delegation is keenly watched by political commentators.

"You cannot rule out anything in Tamil Nadu politics. The BJP has not given up the idea of forging an alliance with the DMK and may employ all tricks for the same," said Sam Rajappa, veteran commentator.



A sadhu waits to meet officials of Kumbh mela festival in Allahabad on Monday. Millions of Hindu pilgrims and holy men are expected to attend the festival, starting in January next.

Soldier martyred in another Pak sniper attack at border

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Sharpshooters of Pakistan Army on Monday evening targeted one of the forward Indian posts in Mendhar sector of Poonch, killing a jawan and grievously injuring another in a sniping incident.

Fresh sniping attack from the Pakistani side followed in response to a strong retaliatory strike carried out by the Indian army inside Pak territory to avenge the killing of Indian soldiers earlier.

According to unconfirmed reports, "at least two Pakistani troopers were killed and five others received critical injuries in heavy firing from the Indian side on Sunday".

According to Ministry of Defence spokesman in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand, "at about 5.15 p.m on Monday Pakistan army resorted to an 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation in Krishna Ghati sector of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch in which one soldier attained martyrdom while another received critical injuries."

The deceased soldier was identified as Lance Naik



Antony Sebastian KM while injured soldier was identified as Havildar Mari Muthu D. According to Defence PRO, Lance Naik Antony Sebastian KM, aged 34, hailed from Ernakulam district of Kerala and is survived by his wife. This is the fourth incident in a row in which Indian army has lost its third soldier while one civilian porter attached with the Indian army had earlier succumbed to his fatal injuries on Friday in Akhnoor sector.

Meanwhile, situation continues to remain grim along the line of control as there has been no let up from the Pakistani

side in 'provoking' the situation. According to Defence PRO, "Indian army too retaliated strongly and effectively targeting Pakistani posts on Monday evening".

Earlier, commenting on the repeated incidents of sniping along the line of control, Indian army Chief General Bipin Rawat had told reporters in Pathankot, "sniping has been a regular affair. We have got to make sure our drills are good and we don't give them the opportunity. We also have a snipers ready to snipe at him (adversary) and why just snipers, we should be able to hit him harder".

General Rawat also claimed, "Indian army is continuously engaging the 'adversary' and hitting back in equal measure". He said there is lot happening from our side also but we don't want to blow a trumpet unnecessarily. Whenever he (Pakistan) is doing something it is a reaction to something. He doesn't take the initiative. He also knows that we are strong and we can take very strong action, he added.

TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HOUSING BOARD HARYANA PANCHKULA	CONDUCTING OF INTERNAL AUDIT OF HOUSING BOARD HARYANA HEAD OFFICE PANCHKULA & ITS FIVE DIVISIONS & ESTATE BRANCHES AT VARIOUS STATIONS IN HARYANA FOR THE YEAR 2017-18	02.11.2018 20.11.2018	5000	http://haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.HB/H/Act/2018/4944 DT. 30.10.2018	0372-2562031
2	UHVBN	CONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORM BRICK FLOORING AT C/STORE ROHTAK	05.11.2018 20.11.2018	1.17 LACS	www.ubhbn.org.in Tender No. 23/CB/2018_19	9354726012 xensivubhbnrohtak@gmail.com
3	THE ROHTAK CO-OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, ROHAK A UNIT OF HDPC LTD	SUPPLY OF PACKING MATERIAL I.E GHEE POLY FILM, EMPTY GLASS BOTTLE 200ML, CPP BOTTLE 200ML, PP CAP FOR 200 ML BOTTLE, PVC SHRINK LABELS & EASY PEEL RETORT GRADE LTD FILM	05.12.2018	1.70 LACS	www.vilindia.org.in Tender No. 2840.10.11.2018	vilcohtak@gmail.com
4	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KATHAL	AUGMENTATION OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN KATHAL TOWN INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, AUTOMATION OF WTP, BOOSTING STATIONS AND O&M FOR ONE YEAR DURING 18 MONTH PERIOD AND FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER UNDER AMBIT PROGRAM	02.11.2018 22.11.2018	2689 LACS	https://ulb.haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.104324 Augmentation of water supply system in kathal town including distribution system, automation	mckathal@gmail.com 9611188854
5	RGTPP, HPGL KHEDAR, HISAR	SETTING UP RUNNING AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRST AID CENTRE AS WELL AS HEALTH CENTRE ALONG WITH AMBULANCE SERVICE, ROUND THE CLOCK, AT FOR 2*600 MW, KHEDAR, HISAR	06.11.2018 26.11.2018	1.18 LACS	https://haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.105219	raman.vadav@hppecl.org.in 01693250192
6	HVPNL	EXECUTION OF WORK FOR REPLACEMENT OF 132 KV BREAKER CONTROLLING 132/33KV 12.5MVA T-1 T/F WITH HEALTHY 132 KV SF-6 BREAKER OF BUS-COUPLER AT 132 KV SYSTEM BOBHE	16.11.2018	1.05 LACS	www.hvpng.org.in Tender No.104653_35/ev-70/2018-19 DT. 08.11.2018	pro@hvpng.org.in 0372-2583789
7	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	NEW INFRASTRUCTURE WORK FOR SURAKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFT MELA-2019 (REPLACEMENT OF MAIN LT PANEL & PDS, CAPACITOR BANK PANEL), PROVIDING & LAYING 80 MM THICK INTERLOCKING PAVER BLOCK IN VARIOUS STREETS IN DHEERAJ NAGAR 9 (PART-A/P) WARD NO. 26 FARIDABAD	12.11.2018 10.12.2018	10.80 LACS	haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No. 2018_HTC_71654	haryanaaeprocurement@gmail.com 9216100561
8	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	PROVISION OF PROVIDING AND LAYING EMC M 35 GRADE WITH CEMENT 400 KG/CM3 IN NEAR RAJIV CHOWK OLD FARIDABAD TO SEC-18 & 17 T-POINT (LEFT SIDE) OLD FARIDABAD IN WARD NO. 31 FARIDABAD	12.11.2018 10.12.2018	245.65 LACS	https://mcbf.haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.105818	shyamingsh.ansar@gmail.com 9818653723
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDABAD	PROVISION OF PROVIDING AND LAYING EMC M 35 GRADE WITH CEMENT 400 KG/CM3 IN NEAR RAJIV CHOWK OLD FARIDABAD TO SEC-18 & 17 T-POINT (LEFT SIDE) OLD FARIDABAD IN WARD NO. 31 FARIDABAD	12.11.2018 10.12.2018	160.25 LACS	https://mcbf.haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.105298	shyamingsh.ansar@gmail.com 9818653723
10	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF DMOLPUR STONE CANOPY 12' DIA NEAR CIVIL HOSPITAL, SECTOR-10 WARD NO-13, GURUGRAM + 2 OTHER WORKS	10.11.2018 26.11.2018	26.02 LACS	https://municipal.haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.104682_104683_104684	eeh@mccg.gov.in
11	THE KARNAL COOP SUGAR MILLS LTD. KARNAL	SALE OF BAGASSE (5000 MT APPROX.), PURCHASE OF COSTLINE + 1 OTHER WORK	09.11.2018 15.11.2018	2 LACS	haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No. smk-18/P/2711 dt. 19.11.2018	8950143977

Public Works Department Government Resolution Number CAT 2017/C.R.8/Building-2, Dated 12th April, 2017.

FORM-1

Government of Maharashtra
Public Works Department
North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri
Telephone No. 022 2623 1964
E-Tender Notice No.39 of 2018-19.

E-mail address:- northmumbai.ee@mahapwd.co.in Telephone/Fax Number 26231964/26205788

E-Tender for the following work in B-1 Form is invited via online e-tendering system from Registered contractor under Public Work Department Government of Maharashtra by the Executive Engineer, North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri (W), Mumbai-58 in behalf of Government of Maharashtra. Tender Documents are downloaded from Government of Maharashtra portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & www.mahapwd.com. Right to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer, North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri (W), Mumbai-58. Tender with condition is never accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)
1	MOW to Renovation of office & Furniture work for Sub Divisional Office Bandra, Taiathi & Mandal Adhikari Bandra at 3rd floor, 4th floor & 5th floor & for the office of the Dep. Registrar, Co.Op. Societies, H/West Mumbai at 2nd floor of Revenue Dept. Building on land bearing C.T.S. No. F/1297 at Village, Bandra (W), Mumbai.	Rs. 84,09,836/-

The Executive Engineer, North Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Andheri (W) Reserves right to Accept or Reject any offer. Conditional offers will not be accepted.
All registered contractor should note
E- Tender Submission Date 12-11-2018 to 26-11-2018
E- Tender Opening Date 29-11-2018
No.EE/NMD /8337 of 2018

Office of the Executive Engineer,
North Mumbai (P.W.) Division,
Dadabhai Road, Near Bhavan's College,
Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400 058.
Date:- 02/11/2018.

For Executive Engineer,
North Mumbai (P.W.) Division,
Andheri (West), Mumbai
DGIPR2018/2019/4239

REVISION PETITION AGAINST SC VERDICT

Sundaram recuses from Sabarimala case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

In what is seen as a major setback to the Travancore Devaswam Board, senior Supreme Court advocate Aryama Sundaram recused himself from appearing for the former in the revision petition against the September 28 verdict by the apex court quashing the customary bar on entry of women in the child-bearing age in the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala. Sources close to the eminent advocate told *The Pioneer* that he may even appear for the petitioners challenging the court verdict.



Protest rally held at Perumbavoor against Supreme Court verdict allowing women's entry in Sabarimala

The *Pioneer* had reported on Monday that Aryama Sundaram, grandson of the late Sir CP Ramaswamy Aiyar would represent the TDB in the apex court which is hearing the revision petition challenging the September 28 verdict delivered by the Constitution Bench on Tuesday.

The report had stated that Travancore Devaswam Board is a government department administering the temples in Kerala. Though no reason has been given by Sundaram for his decision to recuse from the case, sources close to the senior lawyer told *The Pioneer* that it could be due to two factors. "He was under the impression that Travancore Devaswam Board was an autonomous enti-

ty like Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam at Lord Venkateswara Temple. But when he understood that the Board was a CPI-M controlled body he was shocked and hence the decision. Moreover, he was initially told by the Board to justify the ban on the entry of women to the temple but later on it made a vault face asking him to fight against the revision pleas," pointed out the source.

The source also said that Sundaram had argued for another organisation justifying the ban on the entry of women in the holy shrine on an earlier occasion. "If he had appeared for the TDB, it would have been against ethics," pointed out the source.

A Padmakumar, president, Travancore Devaswam Board who is also a prominent CPI-M leader told reporters at Thiruvananthapuram that the decision of Aryama Sundaram to

call off from the case was a political one and smacks of politics.

Kerala saw massive protests all over the State against the Supreme Court verdict allowing the entry of women of child bearing age into the sanctum of the temple on Sunday and Monday. TV Mathew, a former judge and a devotee Christian inaugurated the protest rally held at Perumbavoor on Sunday which saw massive crowd participation. Mathew wanted all women representatives of the three-tier local bodies in Kerala should intimate their views to the Supreme Court while the revision petition is heard. "I see big opposition and resistance from the women to the verdict delivered by the Supreme Court and now it is time for the women members of Panchayath, district panchayaths, municipal and corporation councils to come together and take a call on this issue," said Mathew.

PTI

Kerala Govt mulling all-party meet on Sabarimala

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Government is likely to convene an all-party meeting to discuss various matters relating to the Sabarimala temple, which has been rocked by the issue of entry of women in the menstrual age, ahead of the annual pilgrim season commencing this week.

"We are thinking of having an all-party meeting. We have not taken a final decision yet. There are plans..." Devaswam Minister Kadakkampally Surendran told reporters here.

The hill shrine of Lord Ayyappa at Sabarimala opens on November 17 for the two-month long season in the backdrop of continuing protests against the Supreme Court order allowing women of all ages to offer prayers at the temple.

A batch of review petitions against the September 28 verdict that ended the ban on entry of women in the 10-50 age group into the shrine, will be heard Tuesday.

Surendran said a decision on the all-party meeting would be taken based on the outcome of the court hearing.

The temple and nearby areas had witnessed massive protests from devotees against the entry of young women into the shrine, when it was opened for monthly pujas on November 5 and 6 and for five days from October 17.

Over a dozen women under 50 had been prevented from reaching the temple.

Bengal BJP wants to field more Muslims in LS polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Not only that the Bengal State unit of the BJP has been fiercely demanding to field party president Amit Shah as a parliamentary candidate from North Kolkata in an apparent bid to hammer home the party's sincerity vis-a-vis Bengal, but a large section of the State saffron unit is also wanting the leadership to field far more Muslim candidates in the next year's Lok Sabha elections, sources say.

"Yes we want Amit Shah ji to contest from North Kolkata. His candidature will spice up the workers not only in the city but throughout the State," Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said expressing his wish to introduce more number of Muslim faces in the party's candidate list.

This considering the fact that the State has an effective 30 percent minority voters. "Already we had showed our intention fielding considerable number of Muslims in the panchayat elections to highlight Prime Minister Narendra Modi's philosophy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas," a State secretary of the party said adding "we had fielded nearly 900 Muslim candidates in the rural polls."

Though Bengal has 27 per cent Muslim population the trend of polling brings the number to about 30 per cent as they vote in hordes and almost to the full strength of their community if compared to the Hindus and other communities who do not vote in such large

Though Bengal has 27 per cent Muslim population the trend of polling brings the number to about 30 per cent as they vote in hordes and almost to the full strength of their community if compared to the Hindus and other communities who do not vote in such large numbers, experts say.

Last time the BJP had fielded two Muslim candidates in the general elections "but that was a different story then as we were in number four position. But today we are the main opposition party and the people have started to visualize as the next rulers of Bengal. So we have to include a good number of Muslim candidates so as to reach out to the entire population. And in fact our party wants to reach out to the minorities, take them along in Bengal's development. We will show that the Muslims are not the jagirs of Mamata Banerjee who has done nothing for them save giving lip service," said Hussain Ali another State leader adding the "decision however will be taken by the centrelia leadership."

When asked as to why the RSS was proposing to rename Islampur in North Dinajpur bordering Bihar and Bangladesh as Ishwarpur if at all the BJP wants to project a truly secular face in the State, the leaders said he had no information about that.

Ayodhya issue: Efforts on for out-of-court settlement

Lucknow: Amidst the cacophony over Ram temple construction, efforts are being made to settle the issue out of court with the Muslim plaintiff, in this case, Haji Mehbub, writing a letter to spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in this regard.

An emissary of Sri Sri, Gautam Vig, met Haji Mehbub in Ayodhya on Monday and conveyed to him the feelings of the Art of Living leader about solving the Ram temple issue out of court. In the evening, Haji Mehbub wrote a letter to Sri Sri, showing his willingness to resolve the issue, but with some riders.

What exactly Haji Mehbub has written in the letter is not known but it is believed that he has shown his willingness to solve this vexed issue out of court.

Another plaintiff in the case, Iqbal Hashim, too, has shown his willingness to solve the issue out of court. He is on record saying that if outsiders leave Ayodhya, the residents of this city will solve the issue themselves.

The Art of Living founder is voluntarily mediating to help the warring parties settle the dispute amicably. Last year, in the mid of November, he went to Ayodhya and held a meeting with the sadhus. He also met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath before visiting Ayodhya. After the meeting, Sri Sri said the view that majority of Muslims were not opposed to the idea of building a Ram temple at the disputed site. PNS

Hiking cane price a pre-poll challenge for UP Govt

Lucknow: Ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Uttar Pradesh Government faces the difficult task of satisfying the sugarcane farmers who are pitching for over 25 per cent hike in the State Advisory Price (SAP) of cane for the current 2018-19 crushing season.

If their demands are acceded to by the Government, the sugarcane price will be ₹400 per quintal for the 2018-19 season. The sugar industry, which is predominantly in the private sector, on the other hand, has reiterated its inability to pay even the existing cane price of ₹315 per quintal (common variety) fixed last year for the 2017-18 season.

The farmers and their organisations raised the demand for hike in the SAP during the meeting of the cane price fixation committee head-

ed by the Chief Secretary. The farmers' leaders made a strong demand for hiking cane SAP to ₹400 per quintal on the ground of rise in prices of agricultural inputs like diesel, fertilisers, seeds, etc.

"Both the Central and the State Governments have repeatedly affirmed their agenda of doubling farmers' income and yet there has been insignificant increase in the cane price in recent years," said representative of UP Cane Cooperative Societies, Arvind Kumar Singh, who participated in the high-level meeting.

The Centre has fixed the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of cane at ₹275 per quintal. UP traditionally announces a much higher SAP of cane to be paid by the sugar mills.

The millers have cited

glut in sugar market due to record sugar production in last season (2017-18) which has resulted in high sugarcane arrears of the last season. Currently, the state cane outstanding stands at about ₹7,800 crore for the last season (2017-18). Around 75 private sugar mills have applied for collectively availing a ₹4,000-crore soft loan sponsored by the Yogi Adityanath Government to ease the cane arrears payment situation.

The mills maintain that the fact that the State announced the soft loan package is proof enough that the sugar sector is facing difficulties in making payments and any further hike in price will only compound the problem.

There are about 40 lakh rural households in UP directly associated with sugarcane farming with the sugar and by-products sector infusing as much as ₹50,000 crore in rural economy annually.

In run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party can ill afford to antagonise the state farmers, especially in western UP that has higher concentration of sugar mills. So far, about a dozen sugar mills have started their crushing operations in UP, out of the total 119 units in the private and Cooperative sectors. Minister of State for Sugarcane Development, Sugar Mills (Independent Charge), Suresh Rana on Monday directed sugar mills to commence cane crushing by November 25 and clear the cane arrears by November 30. PNS

VHP performs 'bhoomi puja' at 'dharma sabha' venue

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad performed 'bhoomi puja' of the ground in Ayodhya where the 'dharma sabha' is to be held on November 25, saying a very positive message will emanate from here regarding construction of Ram temple at the designated place and spread across the country within no time.

VHP national vice-president Champat Rai said that Hindus were hurt by the attitude of Supreme Court in solving this issue. "We were quite hopeful about an early settlement of the case but by deferring the hearing to January, the apex court has played with the sentiments of the majority community," Rai said in a statement after the 'bhoomi puja' on Monday.

He said that those in power should realise that society was not indifferent to the Ram temple issue. He said over one lakh Ram 'bhakts' would come to Ayodhya on November 25 while over five lakh people would assemble in Delhi on December 9 for the 'dharma sansad' of saints and seers.

"We will organise such 'dharma sabhas' at 500 places across the country so that the

court and the people settle the issue at the earliest. Our demand is simple, if the court is delaying the whole process, the government should step in and bring a legislation for construction of Ram temple. The BJP is in power not only at Centre but also in Uttar Pradesh," he said, adding that the common refrain was 'ab nahi banega mandir to kab banega' (if the temple is not constructed now, when will it be constructed).

The VHP vice-president said that since 1950, the case was pending in the court, sometimes in the lower court and sometimes in the higher court. He said the Allahabad High Court gave a verdict but it was not acceptable to the masses.

"The verdict says the area under the dome is temple whereas we believe the whole land belongs to Lord Ram. One cannot change the birthplace. Will the court say Lord Ram was not born in Ayodhya," Rai said.

"The issue should have been solved by September but it was dragged, keeping Lok Sabha elections in mind. We want the temple to be constructed at the earliest. The sooner it is done, the better for the country," the VHP leader said.

Shiv Sena leader takes a jibe at VHP

Lucknow: Taking a jibe at Vishwa Hindu Parishad's proposed 'dharma sabha', Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that Hindu saints and leaders should stage protest outside Parliament House or the Supreme Court instead of holding meeting in Ayodhya if they really wanted a Ram temple.

"What is the use of this 'dharma sabha' in Ayodhya? It is clear now that the construction of temple can start only if the Narendra Modi government gets a legislation passed in Parliament regarding it. The sadhus should pressurise the government to bring a legislation (for Ram temple construction) at the earliest," Raut, who is spokesman of his party, said in Ayodhya on Monday.

The VHP has proposed a 'dharma sabha' in Ayodhya on November 25. The same day, similar meetings will be held in Bengaluru and Nagpur. On December 9, the VHP will organise a 'dharma sansad' in Delhi.

Raut said the Shiv Sena would support the Modi government if it brought a legislation to pave way for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya. PNS

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Divya, D/o Ramesh, R/o 9605, Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjabi Basti, Kachhe Ghar, Karol Bagh, Delhi, Aged 22 years, has been missing since Dated 01.11.2018. In this regard a D.D. No. 100-A, Dated 01.11.2018 has been registered at Police Station - Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Clothing:** Wearing not known.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24388641 P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
DP/5843/CD/18 Ph.: 011-23537374, 23613252

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a unknown dead body of male, Age about 60 years, Complexion Sallow, Wearing Sports pajami was found dead at LNJP, Hospital, Delhi on 19.10.18. In this regard a wide DD No. 47-A dated 19.10.18 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.

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

SHO
PS: Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 27280435, 8750870324

CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

PALIKA KENDRA, NEW DELHI-110001

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender ID No. 2018_NDMC_161755_1

Name of Work: MLA LAD Fund
Sub-Head: Providing and placing precast RCC Public Toilets in NDMC area.
Estimated cost: ₹11,56,472/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 08.11.2018
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 20.11.2018 at 4:00 PM
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Sd/- EE (RIP)

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

Regd. & Corp. Office: C-16 Vidyut Sadan, Sector-6, Panchkula, Haryana
Phone No. 09354726012, Web site: www.uhbvn.org.in
CIN: U40109HR1999SGC034166, E-mail: xenciviluhbvnrohtak@gmail.com

Corrigendum

Notice No: 13/CCR/2018-19 Dated: 06-08-2018

Sr. No.	Brief Scope of work	Date/ Time of receipt / opening of tender
1	Annual Buildings maintenance and repair of 33 KV S/STN Under 'OP' Divn. Gohana.	Due date of submission of tenders upto 1:00 PM Dated: 15-11-2018 Date of opening of tenders at 3:30 PM Dated: 15-11-2018

Note: - The detail of above NIT alongwith tender documents can be seen and download from <https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in>

Sd-
XEN Civil Const. Divn.,
UHBVN, Rohtak
RO NO. 73432 Dt. 12-11-2018

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer (Elect), Parliament House Electrical Works Division, CPWD, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids for the following work:-

1. NIT No - 65/EE(E)/PHEWD/2018-2019, Name of Work - Replacement of Emergency Security Siren System at Parliament House, New Delhi. Estimated Cost- Rs. 16,78,423/- Earnest Money - Rs. 33,568/- Period of Completion- 01 Month. Last time & date of submission of bid - 22.11.2018 upto 03.00 PM

The bids forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD or www.eprocure.gov.in.

PRASAR BHARATI [INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER] CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WING: ALL INDIA RADIO NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Executive Engineer [E] - Project, CCW, AIR, Room no. 240, 2nd Floor, Sochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on behalf of President of India invites e-tender in two bid system [Step-I: Pre-qualification of agencies & Step-II: Financial bid] from manufacturers and their authorized distributors / vendors working in the field of "Novoc-1230 based automatic fire detection and fire suppression system" for the following work:-

NIT No.: 17/EE [E]-P/NIT/2018-19, dated: 30.10.2018, Name of Work : SITC of Gas flooding system for server room at 5th Floor, Prasar Bharati House, Mandi House, New Delhi - Balance Work, Estimated cost: ₹ 5, 85, 280/- Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 11,706/-, Period of completion : One Month Last date & time of submission of bid: Up to 3:00 P.M. on 16.11.2018.

Note: - The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: www.tenderwizard.com/AIR

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
davp22439/11/0005/1819 [E]-Project

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi

... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 13.11.2018

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Cost of EMD (Rs.)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/18-19/ RBAK/075	Providing Purchase & Store Support Services in Various Offices/Stores of BYP.L	Rs. 4.27 Crs	Rs. 8.54 Lacs	04.12.2018 12:00 HRS.	04.12.2018 15:00 HRS.

Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BCM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> Tenders -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED -> Open Tenders Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karakardoma, Delhi-110002 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-39997111 | Fax: 011-39992076 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

हरियाणा सरकार Haryana Government

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1	WORKS AND C.D. DEVELOPMENT, REWARI	TPT	CLOSING DATE 25.11.2018	NIL	https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in	perewari_wd@gmail.com 01274-223694
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF I/B/IBP STREET +5 OTHER WORKS	10.11.2018 30.11.2018	177.49 LACS	https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in	prexeeng_sr@hry.nic.in 0184-2262916
3	PWD SBR, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF TFSHS BUILDING AT RANIA IN DISTT. SIRSA	CLOSING DATE 20.11.2018	4.67 LACS	https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in	pwd-eeoi-fhsar@hry.nic.in xenelect.pwd.hisa@gmail.com 01662-226551
4	IRRIGATION DEPT., GOHANA	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF V/R BRIDGE AT RD 40202 NAI NALA DRA V. (WILL OHATE-RA TO JAGSI) +1 OTHER WORK	16.11.2018 28.11.2018	257.52 LACS	www.hid.gov.in	xengh@rediffmail.com
5	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG., BAWAL	AUGMENTATION OF 5 NO. EXISTING CANAL BASED WATER WORKS COVERING 24 VILLAGES & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CANAL BASED WATER WORKS AT BIRPUR CHAMRAWAS & BACHRAWAN VILLAGES COVERING 31 NO. VILLAGES & 3 NO. DHANES OF TENSIL & DISTRICT REWARI.	07.11.2018 06.12.2018	378.40 LACS	https://haryanaprocurement.gov.in	TENDER NO 104508
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG., HISAR	ESTIMATE FOR REPAIR / RENOVATION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME OF VILLAGE JAKHOOD KHEDA DISTT HISAR	CLOSING DATE 20.11.2018	74900	http://phed.haryanaprocurement.gov.in	TENDER NO 104475 1662242227
7	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ROHTAK	EYE MEDICINES/ CONSUMABLE/ P/O/L/ AC/OL	CLOSING DATE 26.11.2018	15000	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	CSRTK/EYE/9/2018 9416570251

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO.73442

Sensex falls 346 pts as crude prices rise

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The equity benchmark Sensex on Monday dived about 346 points owing to an intense fog-end selling mainly in auto and energy stocks as fresh worries about weakening rupee and rising crude oil prices resurfaced.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty fell by 103 points to 10,482.20 points.

The benchmark Brent crude snapped its four-day losing streak and rose 2.09 per cent to 71.62 per barrel after Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, said Sunday it will cut oil output from next month, as major producers held a key meeting to discuss shoring up sliding prices.

Further impacting domestic market sentiments, the Indian rupee again breached the 73-mark, dropping 57 paise (intra-day) to 73.07 against the dollar.

Besides, a caution prevailed among investors ahead of key macro data — index of industrial production (IIP) for September and CPI inflation for October — to be released later in the day.

Mixed leads from most other Asian markets and a lower opening of European shares too fuelled the downturn.

"Markets failed to hold the early gains and lost nearly a per cent, pressurised by weak global cues. Participants were in profit-taking mood from the beginning and mostly sectoral indices traded in tandem with the benchmark index. The decline was wide spread and broader market indices too ended with loss of nearly a per cent each," an analyst said.

The 30-share Sensex opened on a strong footing at 35,287.49 and advanced to scale a high of 35,333.22 in line with a firming trend at other Asian markets and fresh inflows of funds by foreign investors.

However, profit-booking by investors at better prices wiped out initial gains and the Sensex slipped to a low of 34,756.80 before settling 345.56 points, or 0.98 per cent, down at 34,812.99.

During the volatile session, it swung over 576 points on alternate bouts of hectic buying and selling. The gauge had lost 79.13 points on Friday.

The broader NSE Nifty slipped below the 10,500-mark by falling 103 points, or 0.97 per cent, at 10,482.20. It touched a high of 10,645.50 and a low of 10,464.05 during the day.

Meanwhile, on a net basis, foreign funds bought shares

worth a net ₹614.14 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares to the tune of ₹337.28 crore on Friday, provisional data showed.

Selling was more pronounced in auto, oil and gas, PSU and banking stocks which dragged the indices into the negative zone.

Among Sensex constituents, Tata Motors was the worst hit, plunging 4.84 per cent, followed by Hero MotoCorp at 3.82 per cent.

Other laggards include PowerGrid 2.87 per cent, Maruti Suzuki 2.64 per cent, Adani Ports 2.61 per cent, Vedanta Ltd 2.59 per cent, Yes Bank 2.24 per cent, M&M 2.06 per cent, SBI 1.86 per cent, Bajaj Auto 1.80 per cent, Asian Paint 1.74 per cent, Coal India 1.55 per cent, HDFC Bank 1.35 per cent and RIL 1.34 per cent.

Also, ITC Ltd, HDFC Ltd, Sun Pharma, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, HUL, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Wipro and ONGC succumbed to selling pressure and lost up to 1.23 per cent.

In contrast, Tata Steel, Kotak Bank, Infosys, TCS and L&T emerged gainers, rising up to 1.67 per cent. However, consumer durables index remained on the top by rising 1.38 per cent and IT by 0.46 per cent.

Retail inflation cools to year-low of 3.31 pc in Oct

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation fell to a one-year low of 3.31 per cent in October on the back of cheaper kitchen staples, fruits and protein-rich items, official data released on Monday showed.

The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.7 per cent in September 2018 and 3.58 per cent in October 2017. The retail inflation number is the lowest since September 2017 when it touched 3.28 per cent.

The rate of price rise in the food basket contracted by 0.86 per cent in October compared to 0.51 per cent rise in September, according to the Central Statistics Office data.

Vegetable prices declined by 8.06 per cent in October against a 4.15 per cent contraction in September.

Inflation also slowed to 0.35 per cent in the fruit basket as against 1.12 per cent recorded a month ago.

The retail inflation also cooled in protein-rich items like cereals, eggs, milk and related products.

However, inflation quickened to 8.55 per cent for the 'fuel and light' category against 8.47 per cent in the previous month.

₹ drops 39 paise as crude oil rebounds

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Monday dropped by 39 paise to settle at 72.89 against the US currency as oil prices rebounded after Saudi Arabia announced plans to cut production and the dollar strengthened in global markets.

Cutting short the 10-day selling trend, crude oil prices rose by around 1 per cent to touch \$71 per barrel mark after the world's largest oil exporter Saudi Arabia announced plans to cut production by 500,000 barrels per day from December and called for a global output cut of one million barrels per day to support oil price.

The dollar also rose to an 18-month high against its global peers after the British pound tumbled nearly 1 per cent due to growing worries about the Brexit deal with EU.

Weighted by heavy dollar demand amid firming crude oil prices, the rupee opened lower at 72.74 and fell further by 57 paise to the day's low of 73.07.

"Oil reversing successive days of fall, and dollar's resurgence dragged rupee lower today. This bucks the trend of strengthening rupee in the last few days, which was helped by FIJ buying in equities. Key retail inflation and industrial production data due for release later in the day also kept the rupee tentative," Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at

Geojit Financial Services said.

The rupee finally settled at 72.89 per dollar, showing a loss of 39 paise or 0.54 per cent over the last close.

"OPEC talked of cutting supply next year to support falling crude oil prices. Traders rushed to cover their shorts and crude oil surged by 1 per cent in today's trade. Dollar strengthened across the board as jitters over the BREXIT deal in the UK stroked uncertainty in global markets. Rupee was also not spared," said V K Sharma, Head PCG & Capital Markets Group, HDFC Securities.

Domestic stock markets also tumbled on worries about resurging oil prices and caution ahead of the release of key macroeconomic data.

BSE Sensex dropped by 345.56 points or 0.98 per cent to close at 34,812.99. The broader NSE Nifty slipped below the 10,500-mark by falling 103 points, or 0.97 per cent, at 10,482.20.

FIIs remained net buyers in capital markets with net purchases of ₹832.15 crore, provisional exchange data showed. Foreign investors had put in more than ₹600 crore on a net basis on Friday.

Meanwhile, Financial Benchmarks India fixed the reference rate for the US dollar at 72.9078. It set the rate for the British pound at 93.9947 and at 82.4315 for the euro. Japanese yen was pegged at 63.91 for 100 yens.

Business Corner

BHEL COMMISSIONS 120 MW PULICHINTALA HEP IN T
With the commissioning of the fourth and final 30 MW hydro generating unit, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the 120 MW Pulichintala Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) in Telangana. The other three units of the 4x30 MW Pulichintala HEP, commissioned earlier by BHEL, have been operating successfully. Located in Suryapet district of Telangana, the greenfield project has been set up for Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO) on the river Krishna.

GAIL GAS SIGNS MOU WITH EESL

GAIL Gas Limited, a subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for fast-tracking the implementation of co-generation and tri-generation projects and use of natural gas in industrial and commercial segments. The MoU was signed by AK Jana, Chief Executive Officer, GAIL Gas and Saurabh Kumar, Managing Director, EESL in the presence of Gajendra Singh, Director (Marketing), GAIL (India) Limited & Director, GAIL Gas and Rajeev Mathur, Director GAIL Gas at INSPIRE 2018 conference.

KARNATAKA WOMEN MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS VISIT NDMC

Aiming at the capacity building in respect of strengthening of the local democracy and citizen participation in the urban areas, especially for women empowerment, a delegation of Women Municipal Councilors from Karnataka visited New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Head Quarter at Palika Kendra in New Delhi on Monday. The visit has been organized by Urban Research Centre, Bangalore.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK OBSERVED IN POWERGRID

'Vigilance Awareness Week' was observed in Powergrid from 29th October to 02 November 2018. The week started with administration of pledge to all the employees posted at RHO, NR-1, & Telecom jointly by AK Arora, ED & by RK Arora, Chief GM, NR-1 respectively. All the employees participated enthusiastically in various programs, like, essay, online-quiz, debate, slogan writing competitions, Nukkar Natak & Walkathon conducted for "Vigilance & Anti-corruption". A Vendors' Meet was also organized at RHO, NR-1.

NHPC CELEBRATES 44TH RAISING DAY

NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company celebrated its 44th Raising Day on 12th November 2018 at its Corporate Office at Faridabad with great enthusiasm and fervor. RK Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, Singh extended his warmest greeting to everyone present on the occasion of NHPC Raising Day.



Foundation Stone of Auditorium, Guest House & Hostel at ICMR National Institute of Malaria Research, Dwarka in New Delhi was laid by Prof. Balmram Bhargava, Secretary, DHR & DG, ICMR, Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, SEARO, WHO & Neena Valecha, Director, NIMR in presence of Minister of State Health & Family Welfare on Skype. HSSC is the project consultant for this work.

Mahindra launches new Scorpio variant priced at ₹13.99 lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra announced on Monday launch of a new variant of SUV Scorpio priced at ₹13.99 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The 'feature-packed' S9 will be available pan India across Mahindra dealerships with immediate effect, the company said in a statement.

The new variant will be powered by the mHAWK engine with 140 bhp and is

equipped with features such as fully automatic temperature control, 15 cm touchscreen infotainment with GPS navigation in ten languages and panic brake indication, among others. M&M Chief of Sales and Marketing — Automotive Division, Veejay Ram Nakra said, "The new Scorpio S9 offers a great feature package at an attractive price point making it a compelling buy for customers looking for a true-blue SUV."

Jet Airways reports net loss of ₹1,261 crore

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Jet Airways on Monday reported a whopping ₹1,261 crore in consolidated net losses for the three months to September against a profit of ₹71 crore in the same period year ago, impacted by higher fuel cost and the ongoing plunge in the rupee.

Already its larger rival Indigo had reported a net loss of ₹652.13 crore in the September quarter compared to a profit of ₹551.56 crore a year ago, making it the

first loss since becoming a publicly traded company.

On a standalone basis, the Naresh Goyal promoted airline, which has been facing cash crunch from some time leading to delayed salaries and other payments, reported a net loss of ₹1,297.46 crore against a profit of ₹49.63 crore a year ago.

Total sales rose to ₹6,363 crore during the reporting quarter, which is a growth of 6.9 percent from ₹5,952 crore over the same quarter last fiscal.

Niti Aayog to hold meet with digital payments industry on KYC issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog will hold a meeting with all the stakeholders in digital payments industry over customer authentication issue after the Supreme Court verdict that restricted the use of Aadhaar details for KYC in availing host of services, including banking and telecom.

"I will have a round table with the stakeholders. There are

some issues which have come up from the industry, we will sit down and see what the issues are and find out how to move forward. The industry is saying that it may hamper the digital payments system," said Ratan Watal, Member Secretary — PMAAC and Principal Advisor, Niti Aayog on the sidelines of a digital payments programme.

Ficci and the Niti Aayog on Monday jointly organised a

workshop on the 'Online Digital Payments Programme' aimed at capacity building and imparting training to the officials working in this area.

In its ruling on September 26, the Supreme Court had declared the Government's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid but struck down some of its provisions including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admissions.

DSP MUTUAL FUND LAUNCHES DSP HEALTHCARE FUND

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

DSP Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd. announced the launch of DSP Healthcare Fund, an open ended scheme investing in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sector. The fund will be predominantly investing in equity and equity related securities of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies with some portfolio allocation to foreign securities. The NFO is scheduled to open on November 12 and close on November 26, 2018.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
TARAPORAWALA AQUARIUM, NATAJI SUBHASH MARG,
CHARNI ROAD, MUMBAI 400002
E-mail Address:- commfishmaha@gmail.com Telephone No.:- 22821622

E-Tender Notice No.4 year 2018-19 (Second Call)

Commissioner of Fisheries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai, is inviting E-tender (Second Call) in B-1 form for 2 works from the contractors registered with Public work Department of Maharashtra State in IV A class. The details of tender can be seen and downloaded from web site: <http://mahatenders.gov.in> The right of acceptance & rejection of any tender is reserved by the commissioner of fisheries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.

Online E-tender available period	Date from 14.11.2018, 17.31 Hrs IST to 23.11.2018, 17.30 Hrs IST
Date of online E-tender opening	Date : 28.11.2018, 12.00 PM If possible

All information regarding E-tender is available on below web site. <http://mahatenders.gov.in> (If there is any change in tender notice same will be displayed on above website)

Sd/-
(Arun Vidhale)
Commissioner of Fisheries
Maharashtra State, Mumbai

DGIPR/2018/2019/4232

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED
Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P.
CIN-L17291UP1979PLC004804
PH: 0591-2223008/18, Fax-0591-2223009, Email:info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com

Extract of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter Ended 30/09/2018

Particulars	Quarter ending (30.09.2018)	Preceding 3 months ended (30.06.2018)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (30.09.2017)	Year to date figures for current period ended (30.09.2018)	Year to date figures for the previous year ended (30.09.2017)	Previous year ended (31.03.2018)
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	2582.63	2531.30	1701.71	5113.93	3060.09	9973.52
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax and Exceptional items	90.19	63.49	69.14	153.68	103.61	386.86
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and after Exceptional items	90.19	63.49	69.14	153.68	103.61	386.86
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional items	74.92	52.78	60.53	127.70	70.79	245.74
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	74.92	52.78	60.53	127.70	70.79	250.70
Equity Share Capital (Face value Rs 10 each)	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
Other equity	—	—	—	—	—	2608.26
Earnings per share for discontinued & continuing operations (Of Rs. 10/-each):						
(a) Basic	0.73	0.51	0.59	1.24	0.69	2.40
(b) Diluted	0.73	0.51	0.59	1.24	0.69	2.40

Notes:

- The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on November 12, 2018.
- This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The company is engaged in the blankets business, therefore, there is only one reportable segment in accordance with the Accounting Standards on Segment Reporting (Ind AS 108).
- The blankets business is seasonal in nature and accordingly financial results for the quarter are not representative of the whole year.
- Previous year/quarter figures have been regrouped wherever required.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Unaudited Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.prakashwoollen.com).

By Order of The Board
For Prakash woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited
Sd/-
Vijay Kumar Gupta
Whole Time Director & CFO
DIN: 00335325

Place : Village Amhera (Amroha)
Date : 12-11-2018

M/s. KARVY FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Office:- 705/706, 7th Floor, Hallmark Business Plaza, Sant Dnyaneshwar Marg, Opp. Guru Nanak Hospital, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051
Branch Office :- Karvy Financial Services Ltd - BF/4, Janakpuri, 2nd Floor Above Dominos, B-Block, Main Red Light of Jail Road, New Delhi - 110058
Email: siva.damaraju@karvy.com Contact No. 9959101236

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE
SALE NOTICE THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 CUM NOTICE TO SALE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS, RULE 8(6) UNDER SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

In exercise of powers conferred under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and pursuant to the possession of the secured assets of the Borrower(s)/mortgagors mentioned hereunder, the public and all concerned including the concerned borrowers/mortgagors, their legal heirs/representative s, as the case may be are hereby informed that offers are invited by the Karvy Financial Services Ltd for purchase of the properties listed below.

Whereas the authorized officer of the Karvy Financial Services Ltd has decided to sell the properties described herein below on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" AND "AS IS WHAT IT IS BASIS" under rules 8 & 9 of the said Act, through online public auction

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Total Loan Outstanding (As on 31st July 2018)
MR. BALJINDER SINGH (BORROWER) for MRS. DALJEET KAUR (CO-BORROWER) Plot no. 2, Sukh Vihar, NDMC CHBS Ltd, Parwana Road, New Delhi-110051 (Loan Code No. 409903, 505665 and 419032)	19/10/2016 for Rs. 37196901/-	THE PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO-2, (UPPER GROUND FLOOR, FIRST FLOOR AND THIRD FLOOR) Sukh Vihar, New Delhi-110051 Admeasuring Built up Area 180 sq. Yds & UG/FF, AND TF Prop Area 1296 Sq.ft.	Rs. 4,30,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Thirty Lakh Only)	Rs. 43,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Only)	Rs.5,06,48,257/- (Rupees Five Crore Six Lakh Fourty Eight Thousand Two hundred Fifty Seven Only)

IMPORTANT TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The auction sale will be "On line E-Auction / Bidding through website www.bankeauctions.com on 30/11/2018 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes duration each.
- Intending bidders shall hold a valid email address and they should register their names at portal www.bankeauctions.com and get their User-Id and Password free of cost whereupon they would be allowed to participate in online auction. For details with regard to E-auction, please contact M/s. C1 INDIA PVT. LTD. UdyogVihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem Building, building no.301 Gurgaon Haryana, pin: 12205 help Line No. +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24 +91-9821690968 Help Line email ID Support@bankeauctions.com, at the web portal <http://www.bankeauctions.com>
- Prospective bidders may avail online training on e-auction from M/S. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Plot No.301, 1st Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Gurgaon, Pin-122015
- Tender shall be submitted online only in the prescribed format with relevant details, as available in the website from the date of publication.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT to the credit of Account of HDFC Bank, in favour of Karvy Financial Services Ltd, Karvy E-Auction deposit at Manekji Wadia Bldg, Ground Floor, Nanik Motwani Marg, Fort Mumbai - 400023, Maharashtra, Current A/C No. 00600340049390, IFSC Code- HDFC0000060 before submitting the tender online.
- Last Date of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 27/11/2018 within 5:00 PM. Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
- EMD amount shall be adjusted in case of the highest/successful bidder, otherwise refunded within 7 working days of finalization of sale. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
- A copy of the Tender Form along with the enclosures submitted online (also mentioning the UTR No.) shall be forwarded to the Authorized Officer, Karvy Financial Services Ltd, at Branch office: Karvy Financial Services Limited, BF/4, Janakpuri, 2nd Floor Above Dominos, B - Block Main Red light of Jail Road, Delhi -110058 so as to reach on or before 27/11/2018 (48 hours before the E auction).
- The bid price to be submitted shall be above the Reserve Price and bidders shall improve their further offers in multiples of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only).
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the purchase amount (including Earnest Money already paid), immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings on the same day of the sale in the mode stipulated in clause 6 above. The balance of the bid amount shall have to be deposited within 15 days of acceptance /confirmation of sale conveyed to them. Failing which entire deposit shall be forfeited.
- The highest bidder shall be declared to be successful bidder/purchaser of the properties mentioned herein provided always he is legally qualified to bid.
- The Karvy Financial Services Ltd has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn / postpone / cancel the sale / modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason and such cancellation shall not be called in question by the bidders.
- This publication is also thirty day's notice to sale under Rule 8(6) of the said Rules, to the above borrowers/guarantors /mortgagors.

* For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office Address.

Special Instructions and Caution:
Bidding in the last minute/seconds should not be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Karvy Financial Services Ltd nor the Service provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the vendor, in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

For SD/-
Authorised Officer
Karvy Financial Services Limited

Date : 13th November 2018
Place : NEW DELHI

At least six killed in Kabul suicide attack

Kabul: Six people were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up in Kabul on Monday, close to where scores of Afghans had been protesting against Taliban attacks on the minority Hazara ethnic group. The attack is the latest in a wave of violence across war-torn Afghanistan as the Taliban intensify pressure on beleaguered Government security forces, which are suffering record high casualties. Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said 20 were wounded in the blast, which struck in front of a high school in the downtown area of the Afghan capital. Initial reports indicated most of the victims were members of the security forces, but Danish said civilians, including several women, had borne the

brunt of the carnage. A photo shared on WhatsApp showed several bodies lying on the ground. "The suicide attacker on foot wanted to target protesters, but he was stopped at a security checkpoint some 200 metres (660 feet) from the site," interior ministry deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said. A police officer at the scene said he saw 10 to 15 casualties on the ground, as well as body parts. The centre of Kabul was blanketed with heavier-than-usual security for the protest, which began on Sunday night and continued into Monday. "It was a huge blast near Istiqlal high school, very close to where the demonstrators were gathering," witness Qais Nawabi said. **AFP**



Trump largely alone as world leaders take aim at nationalism

AP ■ PARIS

For President Donald Trump in Paris, America First meant largely America alone. At a weekend commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the president who proudly declares himself a "nationalist" stood apart, even on a continent where his brand of populism is on the rise. He began his visit with a tweet slamming the French president's call for a European defense force, arrived at events alone and spent much of his trip out of sight in the American ambassadors' residence in central Paris. On Sunday, he listened as he was lectured on the dangers of nationalist isolation, and then he headed home just as the inaugural Paris Peace Summit was getting underway. Back at the White House

on Monday, Trump tweeted that "much was accomplished" in his meetings, but voiced a familiar complaint about America's allies. He said the US pays billions "protecting other countries, and we get nothing but Trade Deficits and Losses." He added: "It is time that these very rich countries either pay the United States for its great military protection, or protect themselves." His France trip made clear that, nearly two years after taking office, Trump has dramatically upended decades of American foreign policy posture, shaking allies. That includes French President Emmanuel Macron, who on Sunday warned that the "ancient demons" that caused World War I and millions of deaths were once again making headway. Macron, who has been urging a re-embrace of multi-

Lankan parties move SC against Parl dissolution

Colombo: Sri Lanka's major political parties and an election commission member on Monday dragged President Maithripala Sirisena to the Supreme Court, challenging his controversial move of dissolving Parliament, almost 20 months before its term was to end.

Sirisena dissolved Parliament on November 9 and announced snap polls to be held on January 5 next year after it became evident that he did not have enough support in the House to prove the premiership of 72-year-old Mahinda Rajapaksa, whom he has appointed PM after abruptly sacking Ranil Wickremesinghe on October 26. Rajapaksa needed the support of minimum 113 parliamentarians in the 225-member House to prove his majority. Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), the main opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and the leftist JVP or the People's Liberation Front (PLF) were among the 10 groups that filed the fundamental rights petitions in the apex court, seeking declaration of the president's action as illegal, officials said. The petitioners also include Election Commission member Prof Ratnajeewan Hoole. The Supreme Court adjourned till Tuesday morning the hearing of the petitions. The petitions were taken up for hearing before a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Nalin Perera, Justices Prasanna Jayawardane and Priyantha Jayawardane. **PTI**

Grim search for more fire victims; 31 dead across California

AP ■ PARADISE

As wildfires raged at both ends of California, officials released another grim statistic: six more dead in a swath of Northern California wiped out by fire, raising the death toll there to 29. It matched California's record for deaths in a single fire and brought the statewide total to 31. Another 228 remain unaccounted for as crews stepped up the search for bodies and missing people. Two people were killed in a wildfire in Southern California. Ten search teams were working in Paradise — a town of 27,000 that was largely incinerated last week — and in surrounding communities in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Authorities called in a DNA lab and teams of anthropologists to help identify victims. Statewide, 1,50,000 remained displaced as more than 8,000 fire crews battled wildfires that have scorched 400 square miles with out-of-state crews continuing to arrive. Whipping winds and tinder-dry conditions threaten more areas through the rest of the week, fire officials warned. "This is truly a tragedy that all Californians can understand and respond to," Gov. Jerry Brown said at a press briefing. "It's a time to pull together and work through these tragedies." Brown, who has declared a state emergency, said California is requesting aid from the Trump administration. **PTI**

GLOBE TROTTER

DUTCH EMBASSY IN PAK DENIES ITS CLOSURE
Islamabad: The Dutch embassy in Pakistan on Monday rejected the reports of its closure over security concerns after the Netherlands gave shelter to the lawyer of Christian woman Aasia Bibi who was recently acquitted of blasphemy charges.

ROCKETS FIRED FROM GAZA TOWARD ISRAEL
Gaza City: A number of rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip toward Israel on Monday, while Israel's army said an Israeli bus was hit by fire from the Palestinian enclave.

175 DEAD BY NIGERIA CHOLERA OUTBREAK
Lagos: Suspected cholera cases have jumped in northeast Nigeria where Boko Haram violence has forced tens of thousands of people to seek refuge in crowded camps, the Norwegian Refugee Council said on Monday.

POLLUTION MAY UP HEART, LUNG DISEASE RISK
Washington: Exposure to certain air pollutants may increase emergency department (ED) visits for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, a study has found.

B'DESH POLLS PUSHED BACK TO DEC 30
Dhaka: Bangladesh poll authority on Monday deferred the date for next month's general elections by a week to December 30, a day after the country's main Opposition alliance demanded delaying the polls by a month to allow them to prepare for the poll.

MINISTER: REPORTS OF AASIA LEAVING PAK 'FAKE'
Lahore: The Pakistan Government on Monday rejected the reports claiming Aasia Bibi has fled abroad, saying the images on the social media showing the recently-acquitted Christian woman being greeted overseas are "fake".

TULSI PLANS TO RUN FOR US PRESIDENCY IN 2020
Washington: Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker from Hawaii in the US Congress, is considering to run for American presidency in 2020, according to sources close to her.

NEPAL NAMES EX-LAW MIN AS ENVOY TO INDIA
Kathmandu: The Nepal Government on Monday nominated former law minister and senior politician Nilambar Acharya as ambassador to India.

Saudi urges to cut oil production to 1 mn barrels/day

Cairo: Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khaled al-Falih on Monday said the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies have agreed to reduce oil supply by 2019 to some 1 million barrels per day. Al-Falih, who made his remarks at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), pointed out that the technical analysis reviewed on Sunday showed the reduction was required to rebalance the market, Efe news reported. The Saudi Energy Ministry said on Sunday that Al-Falih appreciated the cooperation of all

producers to ensure the "stability of the markets" and that there were "sufficient supplies". For his part, Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, the UAE Energy Minister and President of the OPEC Conference in 2018 — said the member countries of OPEC, mainly the UAE and Saudi Arabia, were prepared to meet the needs of the world crude market in case of a fall in supply for political reasons. The OPEC previously pointed to rising oil prices, while the experts of the organization pointed to geopolitical tensions, in reference to sanctions imposed by the US on Iranian crude since November 5. **IANS**

In China's Himalayas, a wine 'flying above the clouds'

Adong: A \$300 bottle of wine sold in the US and Europe is made in the unlikelyst of places: at the foot of the Himalayas in China, where farmers sing traditional songs while picking grapes. A stone's throw away from Tibet, Ao Yun's vineyards are located beneath the sacred Meili mountain at altitudes ranging up from 2,200 metres in the southwestern province of Yunnan. Wine consumption is soaring in China, it is not known

as major producer, but French luxury giant Moet Hennessy has bet on this remote location to show Asian country can produce first-class bottle of red. It took four years to find ideal spot in vast country and result was Ao Yun, Chinese for "flying above the clouds", which debuted in 2013. "The place is magical, it has this wild side," Maxence Dulou, Ao Yun's estate manager, said as he carefully inspected grapes at one of

China displays J-20 jet's missiles for the first time at airshow: Report

Shanghai: China has shown the missiles in its advanced J-20 stealth fighter jet to the public for the first time at its largest airshow, the Global Times newspaper reported. The newspaper said two J-20 fighter jets opened their missile bay doors during a flypast on Monday, revealing that each jet had four missiles in its fuselage and one on either side of the aircraft. Citing Chinese experts, the newspaper said the demonstration, which came

on the 69th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Air Force, displayed the J-20's superiority to the top US fighter jets, the F-22 and F-35, as well as the PLA's growing confidence. It also quoted military expert Song Zhongping as saying the four missiles in the J-20's fuselage were long-range air-to-air missiles, while the two on the sides were short-range combat missiles meant for aerial combat. **Agencies**

69% Pakistanis between ages 15 to 65 don't know what Internet is: Survey

Islamabad: Around 69 per cent Pakistanis between the ages of 15 and 65 do not know what the internet is, an information communication technology (ICT)-based survey has revealed. The survey was conducted by LimeAsia, a think-tank based in Sri Lanka that carries out ICT research, Dawn news reported on Monday. The report is based on a survey of 2,000 households in Pakistan. LimeAsia claims that the sampling methodology was designed to ensure representation of 98 per cent target population aged 15 to 65 at a national level. Conducted between October-December 2017, this demand side survey helps understand how users use or

do not use ICT services. "The 152 million active cellular subscribers mentioned on Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) website, despite a good SIM registration system, tell nothing about the subscribers — whether they are men and women, rich or poor and does not really help understand access and usage gaps," LimeAsia CEO Helani Galpaya said in the report. The study points out that lack of internet awareness is a considerable problem across Asian countries, including Pakistan, where just 30 per cent of the population in the age group of 15-65 is aware of the internet (they were asked if they use the 'internet' without explaining what it is). **IANS**

Govt. of Bihar
BIHAR STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)
Beltron Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna-800023
Telephone No. 0612-2281857, 2281856 Fax No. 0612-2281857
Email: sujeet.kumar@bihar.gov.in
Tender/NIT No. BSEDC/ 7568 /18 Dated- 03 /11/2018

e-Tender Notice
Selection of System Integrator for Procurement, Implementation & Support of Human Resource Management System (HRMS) in Bihar

e-Tenders are invited by Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. for "Selection of System Integrator for Procurement, Implementation & Support of Human Resource Management System (HRMS) in Bihar" from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their duly authorised Business partner (for participation in this particular tender). For further details the tender document with all timeline is available on the website: www.eproc.bihar.gov.in. Last date of submission of bid is 03.12.2018 till 17:00 Hrs.

Managing Director
PR.11262 (Ni Ni) 2018-19 बेटी है एक यरदान। देहेज देकर मत करो अपमान।।

Govt. of Bihar
Department of Industries
Upendra Maharathi Shilp Anusandhan Sansthan, Patna
Tender Notice

Upendra Maharathi Shilp Anusandhan Sansthan, Dept Of Industries, Govt. of Bihar invites bid for supply of the tool kits for different handicrafts of Bihar under Integrated Development and Promotion of Handicrafts scheme, Development Commissioner-Handicraft, Ministry of Textiles. Experienced and reputed suppliers/ authorized dealers/ registered firms can participate in the bid process for supply of the tool kits related to Applique/Kashida, Bamboo, Jute, Madhubani painting, Manjusha painting, Sikki art and craft, stone craft, Sujani, terracotta, Tikuli and wood craft of Bihar.

Description of Work	Cost of Bid Document	Important Dates
Supply of tool kits for various handicrafts of Bihar under the direct assistant to artisans.	Rs. 5,000/- in the form of DD in favour of "Upendra Maharathi Shilp Anusandhan Sansthan" payable at Patna	Pre-bid meeting: 11.00 am, 19 th November, 2018 Bid Submission: 3.00 pm, 4 th December 2018 Bid Opening: 4.00 pm, 4 th December 2018

The complete tender document containing eligibility criteria and other relevant information can be downloaded from the website <http://www.umsas.org.in>
For further details please visit website www.prdbihar.gov.in

DIRECTOR, UMSAS
Patliputra Industrial Area, Patna, Bihar
PR.11126 (Ni.Ni) 2018-19
अवेश शराब एवं मादक द्रव्य के सम्बन्ध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the following matters.

S. No	Matter Name	Vehicle Make	Vehicle No	Manu Year	Reserve Price (Rs)	EMD Amount (Rs)
1.	ICICI Bank Ltd v/s Sathya Devendra in CS. No 457/18	HONDA AVIATOR	DL85 BZ1497	2016	30000/-	3000/-
2.	ICICI Bank Ltd v/s Shabi Mohammad in CS. No 458/18	Yamaha FZ (FZS-F1)	DM1740	2016	40000/-	4000/-

Date and Time of Auction: 28.11.2018, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.
Venue: ICICI Bank Limited, S-26, 27, 28, 2 nd floor, Veera Towers, Ground Floor, Green Park, Delhi - 110016
Contact person: Mr. Ankit Dhapola, Mobile No: 9205390365.
Terms of Sale:
The particulars of the said assets specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/ themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. The interested participants/bidders are required to deposit EMD as mentioned above in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, Payable at Delhi.
Successfully highest bidder shall have to deposit bid amount within 2 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

Press Notice
Notice Inviting Tender

The Executive Engineer (Elect), North East & Shahdara/M- 251, 4th Floor, MSO Building, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online item rate tender from

A. Approved and eligible registered contractors in appropriate class of CPWD in "Composite" category OR
B. Those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and other State Govt. Departments dealing with buildings and roads and other experienced contractors who satisfy the criteria of execution of similar works i.e. 03 No. works each value not less than 40% of estimated cost put to tender or 02 No. works each of value not less than 60% of estimated cost put to tender or 01 No. work of value not less than 80% of the estimated cost put to tender in the last 7 years Similar work is defined as S.I.T.C of Air Purifiers.

NIT No:- 127/EE (E)/PWD North East & Shahdara/2018-19. Name of work :- Providing Air Purifier in Judges Chambers at District Courts Karkardooma, Delhi, Estimated Cost:- Rs, 14,06,720/- Earnest Money Deposit:- Rs. 29,134/-. Period of Completion:- 02 Months Last time and date of submission of Bid: 16 -11- 2018 at 3.00 p.m.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurementdelhi.gov.in> at I,D, No, 2018,PWD_161812_1

VIDARBHA IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, NAGPUR.
(Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
DETAILED B-TENDER NOTICE NO. 04/GIDG/2018-19 (Second Time)

Main Portal: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Circle :- Bhandara Irrigation Circle, Bhandara
Division :- Gondia Irrigation Division, Gondia

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online electronic bids form for below mentioned work are invited by Gondia Irrigation Division, Gondia from competent and experienced Organization/ Institutions/Architect cum Project Managements Consultant registered in appropriate Department of Government of Maharashtra. Main Tender Documents are available for online bid preparation & Submission on above website from Dt. 13/11/2018 to Dt. 03/12/2018.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money Deposit	Tender Fee	Class of Contractor	Time limit for completion
1	P.M.C service for Construction of Administrative Building for Water Resources Department at Civil Lines, Gondia (Maharashtra)	Rs.1,00,000/-	Rs.2000/- + 12% GST = Rs.2240/-	Organization / Institutions / Architect cum Project Managements / Consultant registered in appropriate Department of Government of Maharashtra.	Till the completion of the Project (Including Monsoon)

E- Tender Period: - As per Online Key Dates

- Additional details regarding 'e' tendering are available in Tender Document on above portal. If any assistance is required regarding e-Tendering (Upload & Download) Please contact NIC E-procurement Toll Free Ninber (24x7) 1800 3070 2232.
- All rights are reserved to reject any or all Main Tender documents without assigning any reason by the competent authority
- The changes If any will be uploaded on above website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Gondia Irrigation Division,
Gondia
DGIPR/2018-2019/4207

Juve keep flying high

Mandzukic and Ronaldo score either side of half-time while Higuain was sent off in Milan's loss

AFP ■ MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo scored as Juventus bounced back from their midweek Champions League defeat by Manchester United with a 2-0 win over 10-man AC Milan in Serie A, as Gonzalo Higuain missed a penalty before being sent off for the hosts.

Mario Mandzukic headed in the opener in the eighth minute at the San Siro on Sunday with Ronaldo adding a second on 81 minutes as Juventus maintained their six-point cushion ahead of the international break.

It got the defending seven-time Serie A champions back on track after suffering their first defeat of the season by United following two late goals despite Ronaldo's stunning volley.

"Winning tonight was the only way to put aside what happened in the final five minutes of the Champions League game," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri.

"It was important to win without conceding a goal and to regain the six-point advantage over Napoli who are having an excellent championship."

A third loss of the campaign, however, saw AC Milan drop out of the Champions League places behind Lazio who moved back into fourth despite a 1-1 draw at Sassuolo.

Juventus have 34 points from 12 games -- six ahead of Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli with Inter a further three behind.

"I'm very happy, especially for the team, because playing away to Milan is always very difficult," said Ronaldo.

"It was important to win, because Napoli beat Genoa last night and we had to keep our distance."

Allegri's side rarely looked threatened by AC Milan with Mandzukic rising highest to nod in

an Alex Sandro cross to dampen spirits among the 75,000-capacity crowd at the San Siro.

The Croatian World Cup runner-up could have made it two shortly after, meeting a cross this time from Ronaldo but Milan skipper Alessio Romagnoli blocked.

Higuain returned from a back problem to face his parent club but it was to be a nightmare outing for the forward who had been loaned out to Milan last summer to make space for Ronaldo.

The Argentine missed a penalty awarded after Medhi Benatia handled in the area five minutes before the break with Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny tipping the ball onto the post.

Ronaldo tested Gianluigi Donnarumma in the AC Milan goal early in the second half before finally blasting in nine minutes from time for his first goal at the San Siro.

Minutes later Higuain saw red after shouting at the referee in frustration after a foul on Benatia, and was led off the pitch in tears.

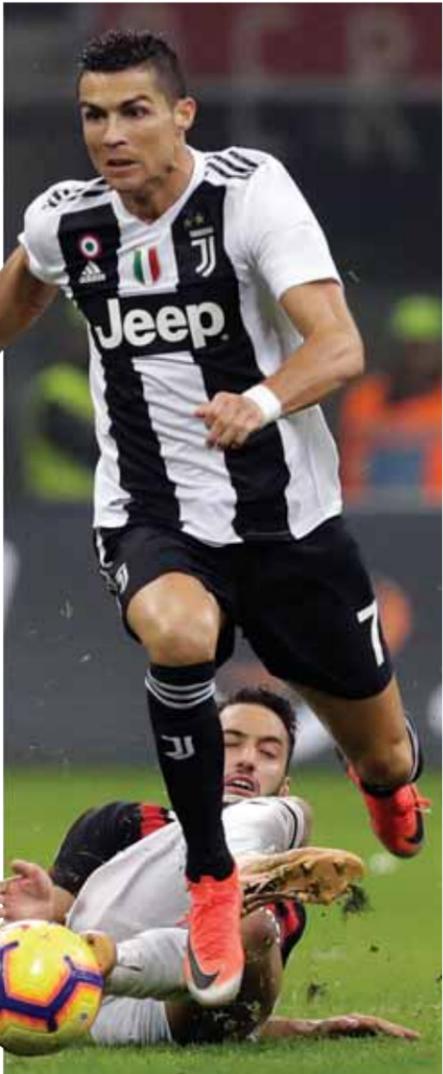
"I told him not to exaggerate, to calm down and not to risk a major penalty," said Ronaldo of what he told Higuain on the pitch.

"He was nervous, he was losing, but we must not blame him, he didn't say anything."

"I know that we are an example for all children, for those who play football, for the people watching, but we are not robots, and we carry things within us," Higuain said after.

"We are human, we feel emotions, the game was not going the right way and it was one of those days."

"I think sometimes the referees should understand the situation," added Higuain, who won two Serie A titles with Juventus after joining from Napoli in 2016.



Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during a Serie A match against AC Milan AP

AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid director Emilio Butragueno has said the club are delighted with Santiago Solari's spell in charge after the team posted their fourth consecutive win by beating Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Madrid claimed a 4-2 victory at Balaídos and the expectation is Solari will now be given the job full-time, following a transformation in results.

Four victories during his tenure have brought 15 goals scored and just two conceded while Real have cut the gap behind Barcelona to four points in La Liga.

The win over Celta was the club's last fixture before Solari's two weeks as an interim coach ends during the international break.

"He has done excellently," Butragueno said on Sunday. "He arrived in a very particular moment and has achieved very good results, above all today against Celta in a very difficult game. We are very happy with how things have gone."

Butragueno would not confirm whether Solari's position would be made permanent but it is likely the Argentinian will remain in the post, at least until the end of the season.

"We will see," Solari said. "I usually don't plan too far ahead but in principle, it's my day off tomorrow."

"The important thing is to do everything for the good of the team and Real Madrid. Nothing else is important for me."

Madrid defender Alvaro Odriozola said the players are behind Solari.

"These things are decided by those at the top, we just have to work to get out of the crisis," Odriozola said.

Solari leads Los Blancos to 4th win



Sergio Ramos after scoring the third goal against RC Celta Vigo AP

SOLARI TO COACH REAL MADRID

Madrid: Real Madrid have submitted documentation to make Santiago Solari their first team coach on a permanent basis.

The former midfielder took over the club at the end of October, replacing Julen Lopetegui. Madrid have since won four games in a row under Solari and have now given him a permanent contract, which has been sent to the Spanish FA (RFEF). Marca has confirmed the news after contacting the RFEF on Monday.

"We'll go to the death with him, he's a great coach and of course we want him to continue."

Madrid dominated a chaotic match against Celta that featured three goals and a red card in the final 10 minutes.

Karim Benzema scored a brilliant opener before instigating a second, his shot cannoning in off Gustavo Cabral.

Hugo Mallo pulled one back for the hosts in the second half but Sergio Ramos chipped in a late penalty to put the result beyond doubt and Cabral was sent off for receiving a second yellow card. Dani Ceballos' stunning effort made it four, with Brais Mendez adding a late Celta consolation.

"The team showed a lot of personality to come through all the circumstances of the game," Solari said.

Madrid suffered a spate of injuries as Casemiro, Sergio Reguilon and Nacho were all forced off. Gareth Bale took a knock by his left ankle in the first half but was able to continue.

"Gareth made a massive effort, his ankle was very swollen," Solari said. "Celta played very aggressively, on the edge of the rules."

SINGLES

CHHETRI OUT OF JORDAN FRIENDLY
NEW DELHI: India's star striker Sunil Chhetri will miss the upcoming international friendly against Jordan due to an ankle injury that has ruled him out for at least two weeks. Chhetri suffered the injury during Bengaluru's Hero ISL match against Kerala Blasters on November 5. The BFC Medical Team have shared the MRI reports and medical assessments and we have scrutinised them thoroughly. Sunil needs rest of around two weeks and proper rehabilitation after which he can get back to training," said Indian team's physiotherapist Gigy George. The match against Jordan is slated to be played at the King Abdullah II Stadium in Amman on November 17. The Indian will depart for the game on November 15.

EVES FACE MYANMAR IN OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS
YANGON: India will have their task cut out when they face hosts Myanmar in their third and final match of the 2020 AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers here on Tuesday. Coach Maymol Rocky's charges will have momentum on their side as they go into the match on the back of a stunning 7-1 win against Bangladesh. After playing out a 1-1 draw in their opener against Nepal, the Indian women responded with a resounding victory in their second game, with Bala Devi getting on the scoresheet four times and Kamala Devi scoring twice. India have four points from two matches, the same as Myanmar who won their first match by a 5-0 margin against Bangladesh and followed it up with a surprising 1-1 draw against Nepal on Sunday.

HARIKA BOWS OUT OF WORLD C'SHIP
KHANTY MANSIYSK: Indian challenge ended at the World Women Chess Championship with grandmaster D Harika bowing out following a defeat against former champion Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia in the second set of tie-break games here. Harika had carried the Indian hopes nicely till the tie-breaker of the third round. However, she got a jolt in the first game of the rapid tie-break where both players had 25 minutes on their clock. The Indian looked down and out but a major comeback on the cards as she won the return game with white pieces to level scores. But in the 10-minute games, Harika again lost the first game with black on Sunday.

LAHIRI LOGS TOP-10 AT MEXICO
PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Anirban Lahiri secured his first Top-10 finish since the first week of August after carding a three-under 68 on the final day of the Mayakoba Golf Classic here on Monday. Lahiri, who once again was off to a brilliant start on the front nine with four birdies against no bogeys - he had five on the front stretch on the third day, aggregated 16-under 268 to finish T-10th. Lahiri's last Top-10 finish was at the WGC-Bridgestone where he signed off at Tied-6th place. In the six starts in between those two Top-10s, Lahiri had four missed cuts and a best finish of T-63 at CIMB Classic. "It was some relief, though it could have been much better," said Lahiri, who is now due to play for India at the World Cup in Melbourne alongside his teammate Gaganjeet Bhullar.

EAST BENGAL HOST CHENNAI IN I LEAGUE
KOLKATA: On a high after two successive away wins, East Bengal will look to begin their home campaign on a rousing note when they face Chennai City in a top-of-the-table I-League clash here on Tuesday. Eyeing an elusive I-League title, East Bengal began their campaign with wins against Neroca FC and Shillong Lajong in the hills and, before playing their first home game of the season at the Salt Lake Stadium, Chennai City, who have played one match extra, have two wins against Indian Arrows and Gokulam Kerala and were held by Churchill Brothers. The last meeting between the two teams at this ground, nine months ago, resulted in a disaster for Chennai City with East Bengal pumping in seven goals.

Cavani's hat-trick adds to Henry woes

AFP ■ MONACO

Thierry Henry's disastrous start as coach of Monaco continued on Sunday as Edinson Cavani's VAR-assisted hat-trick helped Paris Saint-Germain to an easy 4-0 win in the principality that saw them extend their perfect record in Ligue 1 this season.

Neymar netted a penalty to complete PSG's victory, as they made it 13 wins from 13 league games under Thomas Tuchel, further stretching their start to the season that is a record in France and in Europe's so-called big five leagues.

They go 13 points clear of second-placed Lille at the Ligue 1 summit, the club who have been their main challengers in recent seasons continued their deeply worrying slump, with Henry again left to look on helplessly from the touchline.

Champions in 2017, Monaco are in the relegation zone and five points away from outright safety having failed to win in six matches in all competitions since the Arsenal and France great took charge.

They have now gone 16 games with-



Kylian Mbappe, center, battles for the ball with Benjamin Henrichs during Ligue 1 at Stade Louis II AP

out a win altogether, with this result following a 4-0 home reverse against Club Brugge which knocked them out of the Champions League.

France's top flight in 32 years. "We are playing for survival, nothing else," said Henry, who has picked up a squad cursed by injuries. Here he was missing a dozen players

NEYMAR NETTED A PENALTY TO COMPLETE PSG'S VICTORY, AS THEY MADE IT 13 WINS FROM 13 LEAGUE GAMES UNDER THOMAS TUCHEL

due either to injury or suspension at kick-off, while both Belgian international Nacer Chadli and his replacement Jordi Mboula had to come off hurt.

"We lost two more players tonight, so it is starting to become a lot," he said, adding: "I am staying positive because even with all that we managed to create chances against PSG."

PSG went ahead in the fourth minute when Neymar drove the ball across goal

for Cavani to convert. The goal was initially disallowed before being given by the Video Assistant Referee, and the same thing happened in the 11th minute when Cavani turned the ball in again after the flag was wrongly raised for an offside against Moussa Diaby.

In contrast to those two goals, a fine Julian Draxler finish in first-half stoppage time was initially given before being disallowed on review.

However, Diaby squared for Cavani to complete his hat-trick in the 54th minute, and Neymar then rolled in a penalty after Kylian Mbappe had been fouled by France teammate Djibril Sidibe.

"I am very satisfied with the result, and with the fact we showed the hunger to win a 13th straight game. That is extraordinary," said Tuchel.

"Monaco and Henry are in a very difficult situation with lots of players out injured. This wasn't the night for Monaco to challenge us. They can do that if they have all their players back but not today."

Sindhu sets eyes on Hong Kong title



PV Sindhu prepares to return a shot BWF

PTI ■ KOWLOON

PV Sindhu will look to continue her consistent run when she spearheads the Indian challenge at the Hong Kong World Tour Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu finished second best in the last edition after her gallant fight ended in agony against world No 1 Tai Tzu Ying and the Indian will have to once again bring her best to the fore to salvage any hopes of making the podium again in a tough field.

Sindhu begins her campaign against Thailand's Nitchanon Jindapol and is likely to face China's He Bingjiao in the quarterfinals, an opponent who has defeated her thrice this year.

Saina Nehwal, who claimed a second Commonwealth Games Gold and a Bronze at the Asian Games this season, will have a tough task at hand when she faces the formidable Akane Yamaguchi, the second seeded Japanese.

In the men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth will face Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent in the opener and might face compatriot HS Prannoy in the second round if he crosses the opening hurdle.

Prannoy opens his campaign against Denmark's Anders Antonsen, an opponent he had defeated at the Japan Open last year in their only meeting.

Also in action will be Sameer Verma, who won the Swiss Open and Hyderabad Open this season. The 24-year-old will take on Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon in the first round.

B Sai Praneeth, who won the Singapore Open last year, will also face a Thai player in Khosit Phetpradab in the opening round.

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who reached the semifinals at the French Open, will have to fight it out against former world No 1 and London Olympic Silver medallist combination of Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen of Denmark.

Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will take on Thailand pair of Bodin Isara and Manepong Jongjit in the opener.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will square off against the second seeded Japanese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi in the opening round.

Ashwini will also pair up with Satwik to take on Wang Chi-Lin and Lee Chia Hsin in mixed doubles.

Federer crashes to Nishikori in opener

AFP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer suffered a shock straight-sets defeat to Kei Nishikori at the ATP Finals, severely denting his bid for the 100th title of his illustrious career.

The Swiss, who has won the season-ending event a record six times, produced an uncharacteristically error-prone and fractious display in the round-robin match on Sunday as the Japanese seventh seed prevailed 7-6 (7/4) 6-3.

The result means Federer is now in danger of failing to qualify for the semi-finals for just the second time in 16 appearances at the event.

"I felt we both struggled, you know, throughout the first set," he said.

"You could tell it was sort of a first round. I had my chances maybe a bit more than he did.



Kei Nishikori reacts after winning AP

"Then I started to feel better in the second set. I think we both did. The level went up. Unfortunately I couldn't keep the lead that I got early. That was important, I think, at the end. That was the key of the match."

Federer, 37, has beaten Nishikori in Shanghai and Paris

in recent weeks but despite having the backing of a full house at the O2 Arena, he never really settled into a groove.

The normally cool Swiss was warned by the umpire for ball abuse in the 12th game after Nishikori produced a staggering backhand winner down the line.

The Swiss great made 20 unforced errors in the first set and Nishikori capitalised, forcing a tie-break in which he raced to a 6/1 lead before sealing it 7/4.

Federer, showing real urgency, broke Nishikori immediately at the start of the second set but it proved a false dawn as he lost his own serve immediately Nishikori broke again in the sixth game and kept his nerve, serving out for victory.

"I lost to him twice in the last two months so I played more aggressively and things started working, especially in the second set. There were some lucky points but I played well today," said Nishikori.

Overall the statistics made grim reading for Federer, who made a total of 34 unforced errors against 19 winners.

Federer denied that cutting back on his schedule increased the pressure on him to do well at the tournaments he did play.

"I don't think, per se, I'm playing worse because of it," he said. "I think I've had that pressure, not going out early, most of my career."

The ATP Finals is contested by the eight players who have accumulated the most ranking points over the season separated into two groups, with the best four players reaching the knock-out semi-finals stage.

Hamilton wins in Brazil, Mercedes take constructors



AFP ■ SAO PAULO

New five-time world champion Lewis Hamilton steered his Mercedes to a nail-biting victory in Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, a triumph that clinched the constructors championship for a fifth consecutive season for the team.

The 33-year-old Briton took advantage of a collision that cost Max Verstappen the lead in the closing stages to regain the initiative and then hang on with worn

tyres as the Red Bull came home second.

Kimi Raikkonen finished third on his 150th start for Ferrari ahead of Daniel Ricciardo in the second Red Bull, Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes and Sebastian Vettel who came home sixth for Ferrari.

The result ended Ferrari's hopes of stopping Mercedes' title triumph, brought Hamilton his tenth win of the year and 72nd of his career. It was also the first time he had

won a late-season race after winning the drivers' title.

Charles Leclerc finished seventh for Sauber ahead of the two Haas cars driven by Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen with Sergio Perez 10th for Force India.

Hamilton said: "It was an honour to drive for them (Mercedes) today. I saw it happen. I wasn't surprised by it. I saw them racing and they weren't racing for the same position."



Developing kids' attention span

Children often struggle to pay attention, but when they are given a task they view as challenging or hard, they are even more likely to give up before truly trying. If you notice a child that is regularly losing focus during challenging the overall outcome of tasks.

Kids who struggle with attention often do better if they are given brief breaks for active play. Taking a break to bounce on an exercise ball, breaking up learning into chunks, and outdoor play times, or providing a quick stretching or jumping jacks break in the classroom, can all help the attention-challenged student stay focused. Starting with 15 minutes of active play before a challenging task can also help a child stay more engaged.

When a child is struggling with a difficult task, clutter in the classroom or on the desk can make it impossible to keep his/her brain where it needs to be. Remove unnecessary clutter and visual experiences from the workspace. This gives you notice a child is constantly avoiding work or seems overly distracted, ask that child to rate the level of challenge found in the activity on a scale of 1 to 10. If the child indicates the activity is an eight or higher, asks what could be done to make the task a two or three. Sometimes, you will get excellent insight into what you can do to help the student decrease his/her level of frustration the child fewer excuses for not focusing on the task at hand.

When it comes to homework and school, a child's focus may be disrupted because they may think certain things are too hard, or they need more specific instructions and strategies. When doing homework, some children work best if they know that the time to pay attention is limited. Set an egg timer, and help the child learn to expand the amount of time they can pay attention. Start with two or three or four minutes, whatever they can tolerate, and work up from there.

Reading a book is a great activity to increase your child's focus, as are crossword and picture puzzles – anything that forces children to search for details and unusual patterns and cues. Memory and concentration games, where you remember certain pictures, patterns, and where objects are located, are great memory games for tots also, relaxation and positive imagery games are helpful. Have your child close their eyes and describe a fun place and provide details about what they see. You can also let them look at a favorite book or picture, close their eyes, and describe it to you.

Children can tune out and stop paying attention when they think a task is too hard for them. They may need instructions broken into small steps. Keep in mind that that giving short reminders is more positive and works better than long-winded explanations, yelling, or guilt tripping. And remember to praise the children's efforts. A lot of times in our culture, we praise the outcome. We say 'Great job, look what you can do. We don't focus on how wonderful it is that the child put effort into something. Instead of saying 'You didn't write your name quite right, or the letter 'H' goes like this, we should say 'You try so hard to hold your pen and stay within the line. That's wonderful.'

It's just a fact, kids get the wiggles. You keep a kid stuck in a hard seat for more than an hour and they're likely to explode – not to mention lose their ability to pay attention. Kids – especially those who struggle with attention – need to have regular breaks for active play. Incorporating indoor or outdoor play times, jumping jacks, or providing a quick stretching session will do wonders for a child's ability to concentrate on a task and pay attention to what's being taught. 10 to 15 minute "active play" sessions before a challenging task or learning session will help any child to stay engaged and pay attention.

You'd think that paying attention is an intrinsic character of all human beings, but it isn't. Paying attention is something that is learned. It can also be taught. Parents and teachers should take time to teach children what it means to pay attention and what it looks like. Throughout the day teachers should take breaks to practice attentive behavior. Use an electronic timer, stop watch or hourglass and have your child or students practice focusing on an object, discussion or other activity exclusively for just a few minutes. Then have the students ask themselves if they were able to pay full attention during the time. Having attention breaks where students focus on paying attention is a great exercise that will help improve their ability to focus and attention span.

If you've tried just about everything, and you're finding that your child or students still can't stay focused on the task at hand, you may want to break the task

Taking a break to bounce on an exercise ball, breaking up learning into chunks, and outdoor play times, or providing a quick stretching or jumping jacks break in the classroom, can all help the attention-challenged student stay focused says Team Viva



CHILDREN CAN TUNE OUT AND STOP PAYING ATTENTION WHEN THEY THINK A TASK IS TOO HARD FOR THEM. THEY MAY NEED INSTRUCTIONS BROKEN INTO SMALL STEPS. KEEP IN MIND THAT THAT GIVING SHORT REMINDERS IS MORE POSITIVE AND WORKS BETTER THAN LONG-WINDED EXPLANATIONS, YELLING, OR GUILT TRIPPING. AND REMEMBER TO PRAISE THE CHILDREN'S EFFORTS

down into smaller parts – ones that can be completed independent of each other in less time. For example, if the task is to put together a visual report about the state of Texas that includes economy, geography, culture and history components, you may want to have the child focus on one component at a time. Only when one component is finished are instructions given for completing the next component. Once all component parts have been completed, instructions are then given as to how the individual parts are to be combined to create the visual report.

It's also important to recognise that attention span for children develops at dif-

ferent rates for different children. It may be necessary to adjust a task only for certain students who have a short attention span. You may also consider providing students who have attention deficit disorder set intervals to complete work. For example, a student with a short attention span may be given 5 minutes to complete however much work he can. After his 5 minutes are up, he is given a 5 minute break before focusing for another 5 minutes on completing the task. Breaking up a task provides children struggling to pay attention the opportunity to decompress and then re-engage with the task feeling refreshed and renewed.



Trend
Blazer

Anushka hopes to save tigers

Actress ANUSHKA SHARMA has joined hands with Discovery channel to promote a global awareness movement to save tigers from extinction. She will soon be promoting *Project C.A.T. Conserving Acres for Tigers*, aimed at raising awareness on tiger habitats. Says she, "Tigers, the glorious wild cats, are in real danger of getting extinct and they need our help. As a large predator, tigers are an umbrella species and play a critical role in ensuring that the delicate ecological balance in the wild is maintained. The current situation is a sad reflection of us as human beings."



'Manikarnika is a very special project for us. We've got tremendous positive feedback for our teaser's VFX. With the kind of passion and dedication our team is working towards the deadlines is heart-warming. We are very excited for the film's release.'

—Kangana Ranaut



Actors FARHAN AKHTAR and PRIYANKA CHOPRA, who are in the capital to shoot for their next film *The Sky is Pink*, are battling the city's pollution levels with masks. Farhan uploaded a picture on Instagram in which both the actors are seen wearing anti-pollution masks. "Masking our emotions in the Delhi air. Priyanka Chopra, your pose is just," he captioned. Priyanka commented: "Arre Delhi... what has happened to you?" Priyanka shared a photograph of herself basking sun. "The sun and I.. Delhi here we go."

Miley, Butler lose house in wildfire

Hollywood celebrities MILEY CYRUS and GERARD BUTLER have completely lost their homes in the raging California wildfire, which has left filmmaker Guillermo del Toro's home partially damaged.



Cyrus said, "Completely devastated by the fires affecting my community. I am one of the lucky ones. My animals and love of my life made it out safely and that's all that matters right now. My house no longer stands but the memories shared with family and friends stand strong. I am grateful for all I have left."

POP OUT OF THE JEWEL BOX

This wedding season, help a young couple set up a beautiful home instead. Here are a few ideas by TEAM VIVA

Wedding gifting in India has mostly been about ceremonial grandeur or scale. If it's not a piece of jewellery, then it has to be a fat ribbon-crust-ed gift cheque or an exotic vacation. Seldom do we realise that the couple intends to settle back into a normal life after the big day and could do much more with practical aids than having to think of a heirloom closet. A gift for a couple can be equally thoughtful, beautiful and no holds barred. Make sure that the gifts get out of the box and are used, touched and felt everyday.

If you do choose to gift jewellery, leave the traditional gold behind. Trust us it would only be transported to bank lockers and be taken out for other wedding soirees. Opt for a combination of coloured gems and diamonds that has a more cocktail feel. Gift a statement piece like a diamond earring with a square emerald stone or a floral design earring with a pearl and coloured stone that can be worn at any party.

If you must buy gold, opt for lighter designs that can be worn daily. Ear jackets, ear sliders, pendants, stackable bracelets, chokers and rings with coloured gems set in 18K gold make for beautiful gifts for the bride who will be the talk of the town much after the wedding day.

A young couple has to set up home after their marriage and decorative or special kitchenware are a priority for them. Present them with a silver plated and malachite stone tea set or a silver goblet that is equal parts ceremonial and attractive. These pieces can be passed down generations and become heritage pieces as well. Or opt for a Persian plate and saucer holder along with decorative plates and saucers or a cabernet wooden beer tray with beer



Wall plates by Fabuliv



Sterling silver goblets by ArgentOr

mugs, if you want to gift something casual.

An antique coffee bean churner or leather boxes can be great pieces for the den of the house. Imagine how thankful a coffee loving couple will be with a churner that can get them a freshly ground brew every morning. The boxes bring character with their textured feel.

If you want to focus on the groom, ceremonial buttons, cufflinks, bows, shoes or even an attire like a *bandhgala* will be a great personalised gift. Present him with an emerald green bow, in Italian cotton velvet, embellished with a crown figurative embroidery from a famed designer. The small piece can amp up the groom's outfit.

Step away from the vases and miniatures if you want to gift home decor. The latest trend in wall decor comprises decorative plates and dimensional wall art like wall sculptures, 3D wall art and wall panels. Use of dimensional art gives the decor space a layered look that feels more complete. Wood carvings or even raw pieces of metal can solve the purpose of expressing your design vision. For a piece to decorate a table surface, opt for beautifully painted plates.

IF YOU'RE FOCUSING ON THE GROOM, CEREMONIAL BUTTONS, CUFFLINKS, BOWS, SHOES OR AN ATTIRE LIKE A BANDHGALA WILL BE A GREAT PERSONALISED GIFT



Pearl and diamond earrings by TBZ



Bow tie by House of Sunil Mehra

EXTRAORDINARY TAKE

Veteran actor SANJAY KHAN is ready to tell the world about his richly lived life



'TV is making much more money than films these days. It has a greater reach. I have some exceptional stories for that. There is one on the British Raj. It's called *The Beginning of an Empire*'

But what about going beyond mythology and historical genres? "In the larger packaging of my work, there would be stories of romance, etc.," he said.

He doesn't want to focus just on a love story.

"The value of love between a man and a woman is eroding. All kinds of things are happening. The mood of the world is different so, the best bet is catching historical and social-economic problems, which are perennial. Those are the problems that we can address," said Sanjay.

Talking about the content of films made by young Indian filmmakers, he shared: "I like some of them. Indian cinema is coming-of-age though the music is suffering. The lustre of music is gone. The technical quality has come up. Some very good films like *Dangal* have come out."

He is also interested in the digital medium.

"If there is an offer, subject or big companies come to me then I can talk to them," he said.

At the moment, he is focussing on promoting his new autobiography, *The Best Mistakes of My Life*, which takes the readers to his world of films, family, his near-death accident and more.

"I am happy that it has come out the way it has. I worked really hard on it. I had gone into my past and relived all those glorious times," said the actor in his 70s.

—IANS



A wild wide world

Artist ROB divulges the secrets from his imaginarium. By ASMITA SARKAR

A dinosaur out of auto-mobile parts or a spatula for painting with a playing card, materials can be used in multiple ways only if we let our imagination soar.

Harun Robert or Rob, who used to host the famous do-it-yourself TV show M.A.D on POGO, is bringing a live art show *Imaginarium - It's a Wonderful World* that aims to teach children about the importance of going green and recycling everyday materials like bottles, packets and more for decorative or functional purposes.

A performer and art educator, he's worked with children for years and understands what makes them tick.

"Children are interested in spending time outdoors and working with materials. So we wanted to create a space for them to watch and be part of it. This is a dream project of mine. I realised there are no live art shows where they can come and experience and be part of something as spectacular as we are planning," he said.

He also sees himself as a non-preachy green warrior. "You have to treat kids like adults and every time you tell them that you have to recycle and pollution is a problem, they won't listen to you because they are there to have fun. So, I only encourage them to recycle and use the materials lying around. If a child understands the value in recycling, they will get joy in creating something and will value materials and that they are contributing to a bigger change. My goal and mission is to focus on recycling materials," he added.

But how does he make children listen to him? "There is no formula. Kids are the most challenging audience to please and also the most honest. They'll appreciate an idea if you do something great and if it's not well done, they don't care how long you spent on it, they will let you know. I keep in mind that I don't talk down to them. I try to teach in a fun way. I show them that I am a friend not an art teacher and am having fun creating things with trash, so you can have fun too. I don't direct them to do stuff," he said.

Robert is a trained artist who studied art, animation and filmmaking at National Institute of Design. But even before that, with his curious mind, he started picking up things

'You have to treat kids like adults and every time you tell them that pollution is a problem, they won't listen to you because they want to have fun. So, I encourage them to recycle and use waste materials'

to figure out what and how they are made. He spent hours wondering and converting discarded everyday materials to bring them to life. His most loved creation is a 20 feet dinosaur made with autorickshaw and scooter parts that was installed at NID, Ahmedabad. He is also proud of a mural with images of Mary Kom and Milkha Singh that he made on a flyover in Mumbai's Andheri to promote the motto he teaches children, to recycle and reuse. The most popular one though is a painting of Amitabh Bachchan that he made on his show for POGO.

Sometimes, before he starts teaching, he would start with a magic trick to get their attention. "When we are kids, our imagination is more vivid and wide. The growth process according to laid down norms only restricts us. Children absorb and observe. If you break it down, it's easier for them to follow through. Once, for the show, I broke down a really complicated method I learned in art school. And the children could easily follow it," he said.

Many of his creations need as much science as art, both different points on a spectrum of creativity.

"Science and art go hand in hand. When we were learning the basics in art school, we would use science. You need art too to make science workshop models or drawings. If you are doing something in a fun way, you can do anything. We do a lot of projects around science, history and geography. I try and add visual elements to most of my stuff and work with basic material lying around the house, so it's not a challenge for the child," he said.

Bigger than Baahubali?

The writer-director SS RAJAMOULI creates euphoria amongst fans by announcing his multi-starring next

There has been immense buzz ever since director SS Rajamouli has announced his next project. What makes the film more exciting is its massive star power with names like Young Tiger NTR and mega powerstar Ram Charan.

Creating euphoria amidst fans of Rajamouli, NTR and Ram Charan, the film was launched recently in the presence of industry bigwigs.

A special event was held on November 11 where Chiranjeevi, Prabhas, Rana and top directors from the industry were present.

Having the working title as RRR, the multilingual film is being touted as National Cinema's most ambitious project. The film makers are leaving no stone unturned to present a cinematic experience surpassing the grandeur of SS Rajamouli's last

outing *Baahubali: The Conclusion*.

Speaking about the same, producer DVV Danayya said, "It is a matter of honour to be producing probably the most awaited film of Indian cinema. This whole project is like a dream or maybe I can call it a dream come true. Working on a film with the combination of stars like NTR, Ram Charan and Rajamouli is something that is really exciting for me. There are already great expectations on the film with both the Nandamuri Harikrishna fans and



all movie goers expecting something out of the ordinary. I promise, I will make sure no stone is left unturned from my side in that regard. We will make no compromise on anything the team requires. This film will surely remain as the pride of Indian cinema. The shooting of the film will commence on November 19. The first schedule will contain NTR and Ram Charan shooting for a high octane action episode. We will soon make an announcement about the rest of the cast." The dialogues of the untitled

project are written by Sai Madhav Burra and Madan Karky and editing will be done by National Award-winning film editor Sreekar Prasad.

Rajamouli's next will also reunite the dream team that worked on *Baahubali* series with celebrated names like Vijayendra Prasad, who has penned the story, costume designer Rama Rajamouli, VFX Supervisor V Srinivasa Mohan, music composer MM Keeravani, production designer Sabu Cyril and cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar.

Presented by D Parvathy, the film will be made under DVV Entertainment banner. Rajamouli has worked on the film's screenplay as well.

Baahubali: The Beginning and *Baahubali: The Conclusion* had broken records to collectively earn more than ₹1,000 crores.

The Manipuri *Raas Lila* at the IIC Festival became the ultimate closure for a festival that celebrated the beauty and dynamic indigenous tapestry of the Northeastern states. The pristine sound of the instruments and the voice of the soloist became the invocation and the intonation for an evening of exquisite grace and divinity.

Lord Krishna dwells in those who believe in his presence. He embodies the supreme reality — the Brahma Tatva, which is dense concentrated bliss, which is of the nature of the pure consciousness, which is without parallel or comparison and is totally free of time and space limitations.

SACRED AND SUBLIME

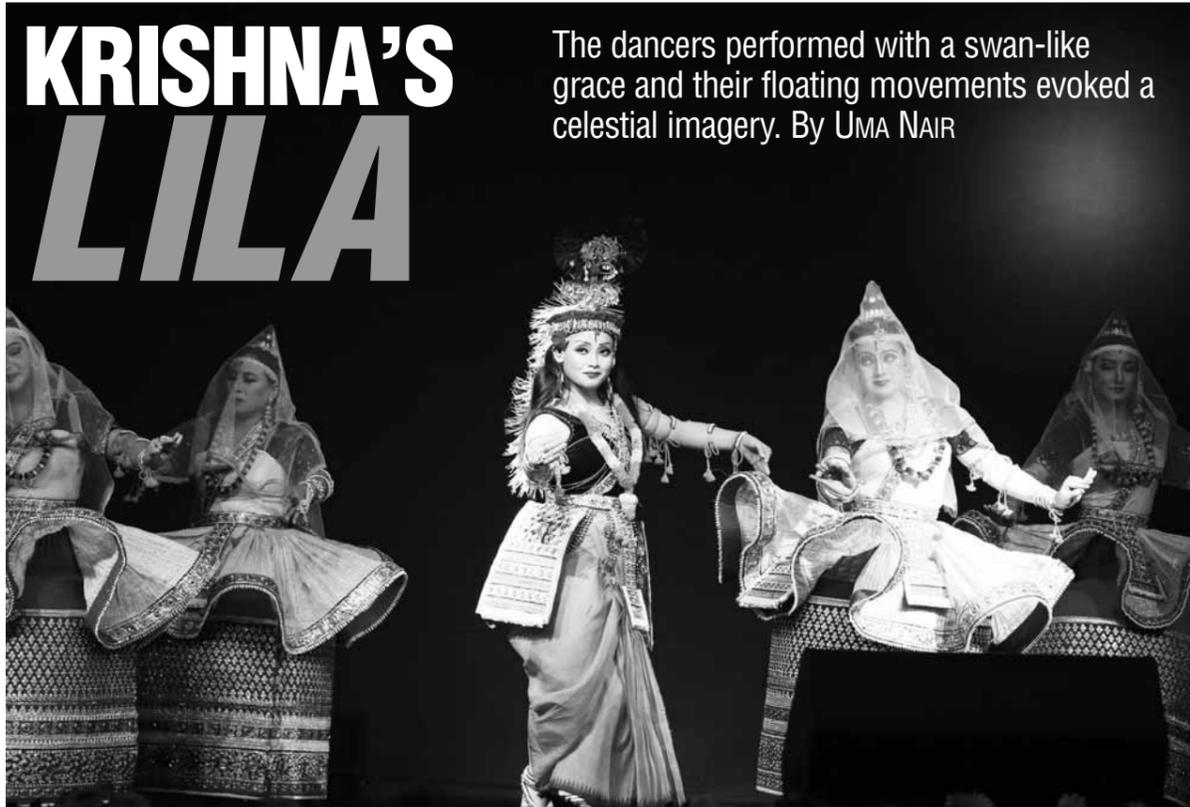
The recital opened with the *Basanta Varnam*, which describes the beauty of the *van* in *Sringara Raas*. Fluid movements and delicate flourishes echoed the trance that you could be drawn into. Haunting lyrics and pealing notes added to the evocation that stepped into the night.

The *Natya Shastra* states that *Sringara* has two varieties: union and separation. As the evening wore on, you sensed the articulation of an arduous theme that was deftly translated into dance. You also realised that an indigenous dance is able to educate both the connoisseurs and the uninitiated, making it a matter of edutainment. One wishes there was a commentary of the narrative to make the understanding of esoteric easier. The romantic verses of the narrative moved from physical yearning to spiritual elevation (masculine and feminine energies inherent in nature), the crux of the *bhakti* philosophy of those times and therein lay the power and the passion.

SWAN-LIKE GRACE

From the word go, the *Basanta Varnam* unravelled the epoch of the *sthai bhava* in which its soul depicts a bright attire; for whatever in this world is white, pure and beautiful is appreciated in terms of *sthai bhava*.

The second performance was the *Samode Damodar (Hari Riha)*, based on the first canto of Jaydev's *Geeta Govindam*. This gave way to the incantation of the Manipuri folk song — *Thoibi na Loi Karakpa* — a rendition that was a repos-



itory of both resonance and heartfelt lyricism. The evening belonged to the finale, the heady *Basanta Raas* that celebrated the yearning as well as the union of Lord Krishna with Radha.

You could watch the swan-like grace of the dancers, watch their floating movements as if on a cloud and imagine the setting — the glances where the eyelids are

The dancers performed with a swan-like grace and their floating movements evoked a celestial imagery. By UMA NAIR

IN *RAAS LILA*, THE FLUTE IS BOTH THE MELODY AND THE INSTRUMENT OF DIVINITY AND DELIGHT IN THE COALESCING OF DEEP LOVE. IF THE MELODY INVITES, IT ALSO ENCOURAGES US TO PARTAKE OF THE DIVINE PLAY IN FULL SPIRIT AND PURITY

not fully opened, the look of sweet surrender and serenity, perhaps tears of joy, in the alchemy of the moment which in the sacred texts is called *smigdha* (loving). It grows out of divine love.

MUSIC OF THE GODS

Lessons from the Puranas came through the exquisite evening. Watching

them sail through the sacred notes, you imagine that every human being is at once milkmaid and Krishna. We yearn for the music of the Gods and are also capable of creating the music. Lord Krishna is like a universal goalpost embodying infinity that inspires. Can we in this millennial world full of materialism attempt to walk in that direction?

Scholars state that in the *Raas Lila*, Lord Krishna makes music not for his pleasure but for the uplift of the milkmaids. The flute is both the melody and the instrument of divinity and delight in the coalescing of deep love. If the melody invites, it also encourages us to partake of the divine play in full spirit but with purity in our souls.

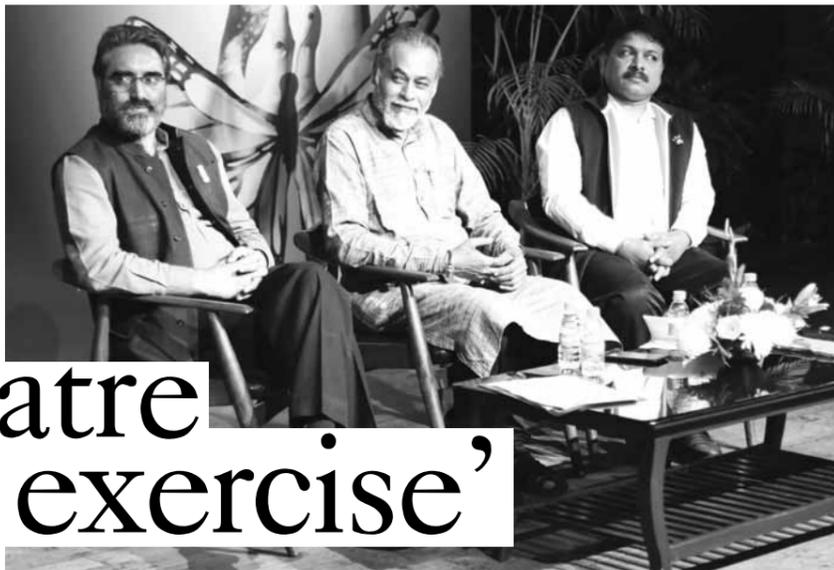
KING BHAGYA CHANDRA

The evening bore testimony to King Bhagya Chandra who composed three of these dances and created history. Rajarshi Bhagya Chandra, also known as Jai Singh Maharaj and Ningthou Ching-Thang Khomba, the 18th century monarch of the Meitei people who adopted Gaudiya Vaishnavism, recorded and systematised Manipuri dance, elaborating the basics of dance in the text *Govinda Sangeet Lila Vilasa*. He is credited with composing three forms of the *Raas Lila* — *Kunja Raas*, *Basanta Raas* and *Maha Raas*, which were staged during his reign at Imphal's Sri Sri Govindaji temple.

SILENT BEAUTY

The leitmotif of the evening lay in the distinctive *abhinay*, the expression that is exhibited through the movements of the body and the feet and the face is cloaked and clothed in serenity with a diaphanous veil. All feelings emanate from the movement of the limbs, at once smooth as satin and flowing like a river. *Shringar* or love then consists of *viyog* (separation) and *sambogh* (union). Graceful restraint and unparalleled fluidity strung an evening worth remembering. The nodes of India's heritage lie in its indigenous arts and it needs to be supported, nurtured and cherished for the ages. For the North Eastern Council and the IIC, this was an epic statement. (The writer is an art critic.)

As NSD launches its 14th edition of *Jashn-e-bachpan: International Children's Theatre Festival*, chief ABDUL LATIF KHATANA and director SURESH SHARMA talk about inclusivity. By TEAM VIVA



'Theatre is an exercise'

Learning isn't just confined to schools and classrooms anymore. And at a time of digital detoxification, engagement with culture and arts is a sureshot way of nurturing the creative potential of the next generation. *Jashn-e-Bachpan*, a nine-day theatre festival for children, brings in plays from various regions and languages under one roof, featuring some of the most eminent and emerging theatre directors and groups working with and for the children.

As the festival features more than 500 participants this time, director of National School of Drama, Suresh Sharma, felt, "It is one of the greatest achievements and accomplishments this year as the entries escalated to more than 200 groups. With a total of 221 entries, 24 groups have been selected."

The entries have come from various states like Maharashtra, Assam, Rajasthan, Gujarat, New Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura. The plays will be performed in a range of languages like Assamese, Marathi, Bengali, and Malayalam besides English and Hindi. Sharma lauded Ram Gopal Bajaj, who is responsible for all such festivals including this one, Bal Sangam and Bharat Rang Mahotsav.

As the festival is a part of Rang Sanskar Toli, an initiative by the Theatre-In-Education (TIE) Company, its chief Abdul Latif Khatana said that initially, it only aimed to attract more and more children to theatre. But "it has become an institution" that aims to teach children outside the conventional school classrooms. The *tolis*, through theatre, highlights various social issues that are crucial for children to know at a tender age, believes Khatana. He added, "Theatre is an exercise — physical, mental, emotional and social — that makes people capable of handling emotions as well as look at the world through a completely different perspective as it exposes them to a society that teaches through experiences."

He reveals that many children from NGOs from around the country have also been considered to participate as they are "the unrecognised sections of the society who aren't much privileged of many such opportunities."

However, the question arises, what kind of an audience does it cater to? "It is a festival that not only acts or shows but also educates both the viewer and the actor. It is a dramatic representation of childhood, which if talking about a certain issue in the society or a background, addresses all

'The idea behind the initiative is to celebrate childhood and hence children from even the underprivileged sections of Delhi-NCR have been invited to attend. It also aims to bring theatre into prominence as it has lost its sheen in the modern era due to technology and digital media'

kinds of families and their backgrounds — upper, middle and backward class. Because that is how they will relate to and understand whatever they are displaying."

The plays, hence, are divided into four categories — performance by children, by adults and children, by adults for children, and puppet performances.

While various Indian states will be a part of the festival, participants from three countries — Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Switzerland — will also be performing.

Sharma shared his vision, "The idea behind the initiative is to celebrate childhood and hence children from even the underprivileged section of the society from Delhi-NCR have been invited to attend. It also aims to bring theatre into prominence as it has lost its sheen in the modern era due to technology and digital media. None of the schools has theatre as a mandatory subject, hence they are not much aware of theatre these days. They watch films on cinema and mobile phones, but hardly take interest in drama."

(The festival begins from November 17 to 25 at the Sammukh, Abhimanch, Abhikalp, and the Little Theatre Group (LTG) Auditoria at National School of Drama.)

Epitome of emotions

Artist DIMPY MENON showcases bronze sculptures in an acrobatic motion. Flight of fancy perhaps? By AYUSHI SHARMA

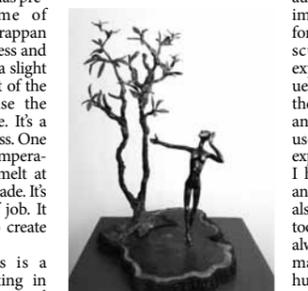
From emotions like joy to sorrow, aspiration to celebration, artist Dimpay Menon has tried to convey all aspects of humankind in her works. With her elongated, elegant human forms that are sculpted in an acrobatic motion, she said that she conceived them as lyrical. "I have given the title as *Breaking Bounds* because it is basically about breaking boundaries and pushing limits. The forms in my works are very acrobatic and there's a lot of movement in them. Although there has been a certain evolution over the years, the human form has remained central in all of my works," said the sculptor.

She added, "I have used the 5,000-year-old lost wax process which has prevailed from the time of Mohenjodaro and Harappan civilisation. With progress and change, there has been a slight change in the treatment of the material. But otherwise the method is exactly same. It's a long and gruelling process. One has to work at high temperatures. The metal will melt at about 900 degree centigrade. It's a very arduous kind of job. It took me six months to create these sculptures."

Lost-wax process is a method of metal casting in which a molten metal is poured into a mould that has been created by means of a wax model. After the removal of the mould, the resultant wax shell is filled with a heat-resistant mixture. Wax tubes, which provide ducts for pouring bronze during casting is fitted to the outside of the wax shell, which is then modelled by the artist. Next, the prepared wax shell is completely covered in layers of heat-resis-



Still on the wall



God's voice

outer plaster and core are removed and the bronze is given the final touches.

Irony is evident in her works as she has used a tough medium of bronze to create the sculptures that appear weightless and in flight. It kind of defies the gravity of law. The artist said, "It is difficult using something that is so heavy to symbolise and capture the essence of lightness. It's not an easy acceptance of the way I have used the material."

Dimpay seeks inspiration from life. She believes that the resilience of the human form, both in terms of spirit and body, is inspiring. She said, "If we set our minds on something it can easily be achieved. We are the epitome of creation. And as I'm a figurative artist, I really like how the audience can effortlessly and immediately relate to a human form. That is the reason my sculptures are loaded with expressions and with great values of humans. With each work there is a different emotion and different content. I have used it, as one uses language to express oneself. It's the form that I have very lovingly nurtured and broken my back over. I have also used a lot of other elements too but the crust of my work has always been the human form. It majorly revolves around the human form, the rest is all embellishments."

The curator and founder of Art Pilgrim, Gayatri Singh, said, "Dimpay has created the work that truly integrates with the space it is built for and hence it is for both homes and public spaces. Her sculptures depict emotions through action and body language. It is absolutely amazing how she manages to make a 100 kg bronze figure appear so light."

tant plaster, and the whole is inverted and placed in an oven. During heating, the plaster dries and the wax runs out through the ducts created by the wax tubes. The plaster mould is then packed in sand, and molten bronze is poured through the ducts, filling the space left by the wax. When it cools down, the

WATCH OUT

Natya Vriksha presents Geeta Chandran's *Swarna*, a solo classical dance performance to pay tribute to her Guru, late Swarna Saraswathy, showcasing salient elements of the Devadasi style of Thanjavoor Bharatanatyam that her teacher practised. **WHEN:** November 19 **TIME:** 7 pm **WHERE:** Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg.

Vadehra Art Gallery presents *The Changing Mood of the Lotus Pond and Insignificant Incarnations*, a distinctive exhibition of paintings and drawings by A Ramachandran. It showcases the artist's visual language, exploring sensuous beauty of lotuses and nature. **WHEN:** November 13 to December 22 **TIME:** 11 am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Vadehra Art gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam.

Directed by Song Seung-hwan, the non-verbal comic musical play, *Cookin Nanta* comically portrays episodes in a kitchen of a restaurant while using Korean traditional rhythm with contemporary music. **TIME:** 2 pm and 7 pm **WHEN:** November 13 **WHERE:** Sri Fort Auditorium.

Slippery Memories: Sunning Histories, a series of digital art works by Masuram Ravikanth brings together elements of the modern world blended with local and personal history and memories. He cleverly positions himself into the archival photographs with his dotted geometric designs. **WHEN:** Till November 21 **WHEN:** 11 am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Digital Art Gallery.

Felcity Theatre presents magnum opus play, *Mahabharata*, written and directed by Puneet Issar. It is presented through the view point of Duryodhana and Karan and highlights the causes that led to the destructive war. **WHEN:** November 17 **TIME:** 4 pm and 7 pm **WHERE:** Sri Fort Auditorium.

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Australia 'different ball game': Rohit

Limited overs deputy believes even without Smith & Warner winning first Test series in Australia will be a tough challenge

AFP ■ CHENNAI

Batsman Rohit Sharma said India were brimming with confidence after their crushing home victories over the West Indies -- but warned that winning their first Test series in Australia was a challenge of a different order.

India completed a 3-0 Twenty20 series sweep over the West Indies on Sunday, to add to their 2-0 Test whitewash and 3-1 victory in the ODIs, extending their dominating home form.

But Sharma said an away series against old rivals Australia, even without their batsmen Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft, who are banned for ball-tampering, would be a much sterner test.

"Australia is always challenging when it comes to going out there and performing. Every time you go there, you are tested as a player, as an individual and as a team as well," the veteran opener said after Sunday's win.

"I think we have got to be at our best and when you win a series like this (West Indies) and when you play like that in the tournament you are high on confidence. It's all about taking that confidence to Australia and doing what we did as a team."

India barely have time to catch their breath before heading on Friday to Australia, where the first of three T20 matches is in Brisbane on November 21. They will also play four Tests and three ODIs.

The world's number one Test side are only too aware that away from



Rohit Sharma plays a shot during his record fourth hundred run innings in second T20

PREPARING FOR AUS TOUR BY WATCHING VIDEOS: SHAMI

KOLKATA: India pacer Mohammed Shami on Monday said he is preparing for the Australia series by watching videos of their opponents in order to get the line and length right.

The Indian pace attack impressed in England but it's the batsmen who let them down to lose the series 1-4.

"As a fast bowling unit, we did well in England. We are preparing for the Australia series and watching a lot of videos. The plan is to focus on the series as much as possible as the opponents are very strong. We will work on getting the line and length right," Shami told reporters here. Shami, who was part of the Test and ODI squads in their just concluded series against West Indies, was back home and visited the Eden Gardens on the sidelines

of Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh.

"We will always try to do our best. Winning or losing also depends on luck. We will give our 100 per cent," Shami said.

According to reports, suspended duo of Steve Smith and David Warner may be reconsidered.

"If those two don't play, they will obviously be weakened. But in the end, you have to stick to your plan and work on your strengths," Shami added.

Asked if he's looking ahead to the World Cup next year, Bengal pacer Shami said: "It depends on who is fit and who is not during that time. My performance will be evaluated and I will expect to get a chance if I do well."

home, their form is fragile. They went down 2-1 in South Africa and then 4-1 in England this year.

Sharma said India must "start fresh" and forget about their recent wins if they are to take their home consistency to Australia.

"Australia will be a different ball game I completely understand. But I think the things that we have been doing as a team and as a player, we keep repeating it," he said.

"The best teams in the world keep repeating those performances. It will be important for us that we start fresh. Not think about what we have done in the past."

Sharma, the only batsman to hit four T20 centuries, is part of India's squad for the Tests which start in Adelaide on December 6 after being overlooked for the five-day games in England.

"I am someone who doesn't think too far ahead. So I am focusing on the T20 series first," said Sharma.

"Of course the Test match is something that I was looking forward for a long time and it will be nice to go out there and represent India in Tests, but we want to win the T20s first." He added: "The last time (2015-16) we played a T20 format in Australia we won 3-0."

Finch warns faltering batsmen of shake-up

AFP ■ HOBART

Australia's one-day batsmen are under mounting pressure to keep their places after a lacklustre series defeat to South Africa, captain Aaron Finch warned on Monday, with a potential shake-up looming.

Finch admitted "we're all under pressure when we lose, no doubt about that" and hinted at changes ahead of their next series against India, ranked two in the world, in January.

"Between the batting line-up not having got it right for a little while now there's going to be questions asked whether it's Maxi, Lunny, Heady, or myself or Stoin," he said, referring to Glenn Maxwell, Chris Lynn, Travis Head and Marcus Stoinis.

"It's important that we really nut out the balance of the side and get that right over the next two months."

"We have to either adapt our game plan a little bit around the way the side structures up best or we slightly change our personnel to fit a style that we think can win."

Big-hitting Lynn was elevated to open the batting in Hobart in



Aaron Finch, right, returns to pavilion

a bid to get quick runs on the board, but it failed spectacularly when he was out first ball.

Despite this, Finch said the powerful right-hander, a prolific scorer in twenty20s, is likely to open again as Australia look for more aggression early in the innings.

"Yeah, it could be a long-term plan," he said.

"It was an attacking option to put Chris at the top, to change him and Travis (Head), to put a couple of guys up there who can get us off to a flyer. It was an attacking move."

"If I had my time again I'd still do it."

Kuldeep reaches career-best T20 rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian chinaman Kuldeep Yadav, who played a key role in India's series win over West Indies, on Monday leapfrogged 14 places to a career-high 23rd in the latest ICC T20 rankings.

Yadav picked up five wickets in two matches at an economy-rate of 5.6 in India's home series 3-0 win over the current T20 champions.

Speedster Bhuvneshwar Kumar jumped nine places to break into the Top-20. He is placed at the 19th spot while Jasprit Bumrah gained five places to be world No. 21.

Among the Indian batsmen, Rohit Sharma, who led India to the sweep, and opener Shikhar Dhawan made notable improvements.

Sharma (up by three places) is ranked seventh with Dhawan (up by five places) securing the 16th spot.

Pakistan and India retained their first and second place in the team rankings, collecting two and three points respectively. Pakistan moved to 138 points while India have 127 points.

There is no change in the top-four of the all-rounders' list with Australia's Glenn Maxwell leading the field. Mohammad Nabi is second, followed by Shakib Al Hasan and JP Duminy.

Meanwhile, Australia will be involved in all four remaining T20s later this month. They will play South Africa in a one-off match in Carrara on November 17, before taking on India in a three-match series from November 21-25.



Ranji Trophy

DALAL, SHOREY FIFTIES LIFT DELHI

NEW DELHI: Hiten Dalal scored a brisk 79 on debut before Himachal Pradesh fought back to reduce Delhi to 305 for eight at stumps on day one. Dhruv Shorey (88) too made a significant contribution but missed out on a hundred on a day when some questionable umpiring calls were made. Gautam Gambhir smashed 44 while Nitish Rana (6) could not do much on his captaincy debut. Dagar was the pick of the bowlers for Himachal Pradesh, taking three wickets for 57 runs in 21 overs while off-spinner Gurvinder Singh took two for 57 in 21 overs.

GHOSH SLAMS TON ON COMEBACK

KOLKATA: Koushik Ghosh slammed his second first-class century in his comeback game, steering Bengal to 246/4 against Madhya Pradesh. Included in the side as an extra batsman, the left-hander repaid the faith in him with his 189-ball 100 (14x4). The 26-year-old, along with Abhimanyu Easwaran (86), stitched a 136-run partnership. But Madhya Pradesh ended the day on a positive note, picking two wickets — including Ghosh's — in two overs before bad light stopped play in 82 overs.

REDDY'S HELPS HYD TAKE HONOURS

TIRUNELVELI: Skipper Akshath Reddy led from the front with a superb unbeaten 114 to help Hyderabad make 249 for 3 to take the honours on the opening day of the Elite Group 'B' match against Tamil Nadu. Akshath found an able partner in Himalay Agarwal (29). The two were involved in a half-century partnership to steady the Hyderabad innings. After Himalay's dismissal the big partnership of the day came as Akshath and B Sandeep (73 batting) joined forces.

MILIND STARS FOR SIKKIM

DIMAPUR: Milind Kumar dished out an all-round show to guide Sikkim to 120 for 5 against Nagaland at stumps. Sikkim first bowled out Nagaland for 179 in 52.5 overs with Ishwar Choudhary (4/65), Bipul Sharma (3/46) and Milind (2/21) taking nine wickets among them. In reply, Sikkim had a jittery start with 9 for 2 in the fifth over. But former Delhi batsman Milind, continued his fine run, blasting an unbeaten 78 from 66 balls. Sikkim ended day one at 120/5, trailing Mizoram by 59 runs.

Santner predicts high-scoring India-NZ series

PTI ■ MUMBAI

New Zealand's left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner believes the upcoming limited overs series in his home country against India could be a high-scoring affair due to the nature of grounds and wickets and hopes to be a part of it.

India, who last toured New Zealand in 2014-15, will return to Kiwiland for a five-match ODI rubber starting January 23 in Napier, to be followed by best-of-three T20 Internationals (T20Is).

"Both teams have changed a lot since then (the 2014 tour). India have performed in England and against (Australia) in conditions similar to New Zealand. It's (depends on) how quickly they (India) can adapt to those conditions."

"If they can hit the ground running on those home conditions for us, it's going to be a very interesting series. It can be a high-scoring series with the nature of grounds and wickets (on offer)," Santner said here on Monday.

Santner, along with compatriot Corey Anderson, spoke to reporters during a special interaction organised by Star Sports.

"Virat (Kohli - the skipper) and other Indian batsmen are scoring a lot of runs at the moment and they haven't been to New Zealand for four years. But they have played all round the country and scored runs everywhere."

"So they will probably like our conditions, where it's quite flat, with not a lot of turn. And obviously if there's not a lot of swing, it (series) can be high-scoring. So the batsmen will like it and hopefully the ball swings for us," added the 26-year-old spinner.

Santner also feels the two teams could take momentum from the series before heading into the 2019 World Cup, which starts in England at the end of May.

"The series will be a good test for



Mitchell Santner, right, celebrates with Ish Sodhi after dismissing Hardik Pandya

'World C'ship must for Test's survival'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson on Monday emphasised that the World Test Championship is "critical" for survival of the longest format of the game.

As per the International Cricket Council (ICC), the nine top-ranked sides will compete in the championship with each side playing six series on a home-and-away basis against mutually selected opponents in a two-year cycle.

The cycle will begin soon after the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, with the Ashes in England set to kick-start the event. The top-two sides will then contest in the ICC World Test

Championship final in June 2021.

"Test cricket will survive as long as there is context. The World Test Championship is critical to its survival. If there is no context to matches and they just operate bilateral tours in isolation, then the relevancy will disappear over time," Hesson said.

Hesson, who coached New Zealand for six years before taking over as head coach of IPL team Kings XI Punjab, stressed Test cricket even now generates a lot of interest.

"People are getting scared that Test cricket is disappearing, but I think that's not the case. There is still a high level of interest," added the 44-year-old Hesson.

NZ PLAYERS AVAILABLE FOR FULL IPL SEASON

MUMBAI: In a significant development, New Zealand Cricket has allowed their players to take part in the entire duration of the next edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

An announcement to this effect was made on Monday by James Wear, GM Commercial, New Zealand Cricket. "One of the things New Zealand Cricket has decided is to allow its players to play in the Indian Premier League right till the end of the IPL," Wear told a select group of reporters here.

"So we are keen to give our guys as much experience playing all around the world as possible so that they get a great experience by playing in the IPL," explained Wear on the reason behind the Kiwi cricket board's decision even with the ICC World Cup following shortly after the conclusion of the T20 league.

"Last season we had 11 players playing in there (IPL), which was great for us and we are keen to continue that," added Wear.

both the sides leading into the World Cup and I guess in similar conditions. Both the teams will be looking forward to the competition and to take some momentum into the World Cup," he added.

According to Santner, India have a "strong batting line up" and the key for the visitors, with wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in operation, will be to get wickets in the middle overs.

"With the nature of flat wickets, the wrist spinners can spin the ball both ways. The key in ODI cricket is to get wickets in the middle (overs)."

"The wrist spinners - they might leak a lot more runs but have the option (chance) of getting more wickets (too)," he said.

All-rounder Anderson, on his part, said he would like to be in New Zealand's 2019 World Cup team.



Rahul Dravid in conversation with Prithvi Shaw

'Kiwi conditions will help seniors'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The playing conditions will not be similar to Australia but it would be still be valuable match practice for the Test regulars, who are part of India A squad in New Zealand, insists Rahul Dravid.

India Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Murali Vijay, Prithvi Shaw, Parthiv Patel and Hanuma Vihari figure in the A squad for the first unofficial Test, scheduled in Mount Maunganui from November 16.

All these six players have also been picked for the four-Test series in Australia, beginning December 6.

"I think it will be a very good opportunity for some of the boys who are requested by the senior team management to be a part of the A tour," Dravid told BCCI.Tv.

"They will be able to gain some match-time experience even if the conditions are not going to be exactly the same or it is not like being in Australia. The A team format is pretty competitive and it is match-time experience. It is a good opportunity in the lead up to international tours."

India A are scheduled to play three unofficial Tests and as many One-dayers in New Zealand.

Dravid feels the youngsters in the squad will also benefit from the presence of seniors.

"What we see nowadays is that there is not much time for practice or practice games in the lead up to an international series because of the amount of cricket that is being played."

"From Indian cricket's perspective by organising these tours, we can give the boys a better chance to prepare for an international series. It is exciting to have the senior boys with us. The objective for us is to prepare them for Australia and at the same time, the younger boys get an opportunity to share the dressing room with them," said the former India captain.

The tour has gained more significance as India just play only one warm-up game before the first Test begins at Adelaide on Dec 6.

"It is really nice to be able to hold such tours just before the Indian team visits these countries. We are trying to achieve that with the A team programme. We are trying to have shadow tours. We did it in England and we could obviously not do it in Australia, but it is great to go to New Zealand instead," said Dravid.

The batting great said the focus will be on red-ball cricket during the team's stay in New Zealand.

"The focus on the New Zealand tour is more about four-day cricket and I think we are playing really good white ball cricket. We have been really competitive and building a very good bench strength."

"The push from my perspective and some of the thinking and planning that has gone into it is that we try and improve our longer format cricket, especially when travelling overseas."

"Keeping that in mind, we have increased the number of Test matches. We are trying to increase the amount of red ball cricket that our boys can get to experience."

Mashrafe to stand in election

DHAKA: Bangladesh's one-day international captain Mashrafe Mortaza will stand in next month's election, the ruling party announced on Monday, after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina endorsed the superstar's foray into politics.

A photograph of 35-year-old Mashrafe, who enjoys rockstar status in cricket-mad Bangladesh, alongside Hasina ran on the front pages of many newspapers in the South Asian nation of 160 million.

A spokesman for Hasina's Awami League said Mashrafe had been given the "green light" from the prime minister, who is seeking a third consecutive term in office on December 30.

"He plans to contest from Narail," said spokesman, referring to Mashrafe's hometown district in western Bangladesh. Mashrafe has not commented publicly on his running for the Awami League.

Hasan, after Kyle Jarvis took two scalps in the afternoon session to complete his third five-wicket haul in Tests.

Mushfiq also had a hand in the previous eighth wicket record when he added 113 with Naem Islam against England in 2010.

Jarvis, who claimed three wickets on the opening day, removed Mahmudullah for 36 and Ariful Haque for four but Mushfiq and Mehidy denied the visitors further success.



Wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim kisses ground after scoring second double hundred in Test cricket

"I knew that converting a fifty would ensure a big score. I had a lot of self-belief. I had my preparations in place."

Mushfiqur, who played 421 balls and hit 18 fours and a six, also surpassed Shakib al Hasan to become the highest individual scorer in an innings for Bangladesh in Test cricket.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad called the batsmen to the dressing room soon after Mushfiqur nudged Sean Williams for a single to pass Shakib's 217 against New Zealand at Wellington in 2017.

Mushfiqur shared a record 144-run in their unbroken eighth wicket stand with Mehidy