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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Right strategic restraint can expose Stalinism

It is more than likely that had the controversy over the abrupt cancellation of Carnatic music singer TM Krishna's concert not centred on the National Capital, it would have passed relatively unnoticed. One of the quirks of news in India is that anything that happens in Delhi becomes a 'national' concern. To my mind this suggests a grave distortion in the prevailing information order.

Having said that, I find the cancellation of Krishna's concert inexplicable and indefensible. The Airports Authority, sponsoring the Spic-Macay festival of classical music, was under no obligation to invite the singer to perform in Delhi. However, having done that it was discourteous to say the least, to abruptly say that he was no longer welcome.

It is important to note that Krishna wasn't asked to perform on the strength of his political views. That he has strong views on various subjects and is sharply critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP is well known. Indeed, Krishna has made it a point to publicise his views at every opportunity. The right to have strong views and even hold views that others find objectionable is inalienable. The views, however, have absolutely nothing to do with his undeniable talent as a Carnatic singer and his contribution in attempting to give this style of classical music a modernist flavour. More than a politician or even an activist — which he often tries to be — Krishna is an artiste and this recognition is due to him.

The blame for the cancellation has been put on those the liberal media chooses to call 'right-wing trolls' active in the social media. The term 'troll' is distasteful and makes it out that most of these individuals with sharp views are only engaged in stalking and heckling those they disagree with. Some no doubt specialise in abusive conduct. But abuse is not the monopoly of the Indian Right. My personal experience suggests that there are individuals professing

Krishna's performances must not be subverted, but neither should the proponents of India's vivisection be allowed to disrupt those they despise. I believe if the Right shows restraint, the Stalinism of the other side will be exposed before too long

'liberal' and 'secular' values who too are obsessed with abusive and very hurtful retorts to social media posts. I tend to ignore such interventions — and as a rule I don't block those who have other perspectives — but I recognise that there are individuals who haven't developed the hide of a rhinoceros.

Whatever the approach to abusive sniping on the social media, there is just no way public bodies should cave in to sustained social pressure, unless they have erred grievously or shown remarkable insensitivity. In the case of the Krishna concert, I don't regard the original invitation to be a step too far. It was perfectly in order and warranted by the occasion.

This brings me to larger issues. For some time now there have been recurrent complaints that social media has lowered the tone of public discourse and introduced gutter language in public life. The complaint is warranted only insofar as social media has allowed disparate voices, previously unheard, to now be heard and factored. Some of the interventions are no doubt lacking in civility and vocabulary but at least the space has been made more broad-based. Gone are the days when only a few editors had the privilege of determining what news or views were suitable for public consumption. In democracy we have to accept the good with the bad.

Secondly, the suggestion that intolerance is somehow a prerogative of the Right is absolutely preposterous. In India, the Left-liberal elite had a stranglehold over intellectual discourse for much of the 70 years since Independence. This wasn't because their ideas were deemed superior in the intellectual marketplace. The grim truth, that many people appear to have forgotten, is that contrarians had to fight a veritable guerrilla war to get themselves heard or even to have access to public and academic platforms.

This was most marked in the field of history writing where, from the time Nurul Hasan embarked on his ideological cleansing, there was a complete stranglehold of those who professed to be Left. The rich tradition of empirical research that the likes of Sir Jadunath Sarkar and RC Majumdar bequeathed was quite consciously suppressed by Stalinists who felt that there was no place for dissent. The manner in which the historical debate around the Ayodhya dispute was sought to be manipulated by the historians and the media has been documented in detail by the Allahabad High Court judgment of 2010. The section dealing with the duplicity and deceitful conduct of the 'secular' historians should be made obligatory reading.

It is also pertinent to remember that this Left intolerance didn't stem from a distaste of so-called communalism. In the field of economics, any dissent from the Nehru-Indira statist consensus was met with ostracism. The likes of Jagadish Bhagwati were literally hounded out of academia and others had to content themselves with writing pamphlets for the Forum of Free Enterprise.

Today, we can see examples of this Left-liberal intolerance in the universities of the US, and to a lesser extent in the UK, where anyone with 'different' views is routinely prevented from speaking in the campuses.

The Stalinist tradition of infallibility and correctness must not be emulated with counter-Stalinism. It is important that the Indian Right, having been intellectually persecuted for decades, goes out of its way to claim the moral high ground. Yes, we know that the Literary Festivals, the international media and the cosmopolitan elite that bankrolls the new news portals believe that the Right should be denied space and dispatched to an Indian Gulag, but that is no reason to give the other side the privilege of victimhood by unleashing a form of White Terror.

India has always thrived in an atmosphere of openness and debate. Krishna's performances must not be subverted, but neither should the proponents of India's vivisection be allowed to disrupt those they despise. I believe if the Right shows restraint and dignity, the Stalinism of the other side will be exposed before too long.

Cong pits Manvendra against Raje

All eyes on Jhalrapatan as Cong hopes Jaswant's son will capitalise on Rajput sentiments

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

It is as interesting as it gets. Manvendra Singh, ex-BJP MP and son of the saffron party's veteran Jaswant Singh, will take on Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje as the candidate of arch-rival Congress — the party that he joined last month — for the December 7 Assembly polls from Jhalrapatan constituency.

The contest between the two will be one of the most keenly observed ones given their acrimonious past as Manvendra sees Raje as the reason for his father's image fall in the party. Whether the son will avenge the insult meted out to his father, the BJP old guard who is in coma for the last four years, will only be known on December 11 when the results will be out.

The Congress hopes to pin down the Chief Minister in her constituency and also seeks to cash in on the perceived Rajput sentiments against her. But Raje looked unperturbed as she said, "The Congress could not find any candidate and he (Manvendra) was to be given ticket from somewhere and therefore, he was sent here (Jhalrapatan). But they should know that it is not a fight of one person, this is a contest fought by Jhalwar and Rajasthan, which is a family."



Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, accompanied by BJP MP Dushyant Singh and Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain, files her nomination papers for the Assembly election, at Jhalwar Secretariat on Saturday

Raje has won Jhalrapatan since 2003, when the Congress fielded Rama Pilot, mother of current Rajasthan Congress president Sachin Pilot. In 2013, Congress fielded a woman Rajput candidate Meenakshi Chandrawat hoping to get some Rajput votes but lost the seat with Raje retaining the seat with a margin of 60,896 votes by securing 63.14 per cent of total 2,28,977 votes.

The BJP, which is feeling a little edgy in Rajasthan with the State's history of not repeating a Government twice,

Manvendra's choice by the Congress is seen as an attempt to use the lineage and heritage of BJP's war horse Jaswant to further rattle the opponent and its Chief Ministerial candidate. Manvendra, who is a sitting MLA from Sheo (Barmer), had also won Barmer Lok Sabha seat in 2004.

Manvendra played out the emotional card of "self-respect" of the Rajput community to put his erstwhile party in the defensive. "I'm ready for the challenge," he said and claimed that people of Rajasthan will take

revenge on the BJP for insulting Rajput leader Jaswant. Jaswant was expelled by the BJP for contesting 2014 Lok Sabha poll from Barmer after he was denied ticket by the party. Manvendra, who campaigned for his father then, was also suspended.

He had accused Raje and a few central leaders of the BJP for denying his father a Lok Sabha ticket.

The rift with Raje goes back to 2007 when Jaswant's wife Sheetal Kanwar had filed a case against the former for

portraying herself as Goddess Annapurna which hurt Hindu sentiments. Soon after a controversy broke out that at a get-together in Jaswant's house opium-laced milk was served to the guests and an FIR was filed and an enquiry was ordered by the Raje administration.

Manvendra and the BJP sought to reconcile over a period with the party also revoking his suspension but he was kept on the sidelines and not given the importance that the 54-year-old Rajput expected from the party. His father, meanwhile, has been in coma for last four years.

Manvendra quit the BJP on September 22 after taking the Rajput community in confidence and coining the tagline "Kamal Ka Phool, Hamaari Bhoor" (lotus was my mistake).

His name was released by the Congress on Saturday in its second list of 32 candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly elections for 200 Assembly seats.

The Congress had released its first list of 152 candidate on Thursday. Ahead of its rivals, the BJP released the third list of 8 candidates for upcoming Rajasthan Assembly elections. Earlier, the BJP had released its first list of 131 and second of 31 candidates for Rajasthan Assembly.

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Anti-SC judgment activist's arrest fuels Sabarimala protest

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Whatever hopes the common man had about the law and order situation in Kerala becoming normal following the Friday decision of the Travancore Devaswom Board to approach the Supreme Court with a plea seeking more time to implement the September 28 verdict of the Constitution Bench on Sabarimala Temple diminished as the police took into preventive custody KP Sasikala, leader of the Hindu Aikya Vedi — an umbrella organisation of all Hindu outfits — which is protesting against the SC judgment on Sabarimala.

Sasikala — a widely respected woman activist who is in the forefront of the agitation against the apex court verdict allowing entry of women of all ages to Sabarimala Temple — who was on her way to the temple with Irumudi (the sacred bag containing offerings to the deity which could be

opened only at the sanctum), was arrested by the police when she entered the Pathanamthitta district and was taken to the police station at Ranni. This led to widespread condemnation and hundreds of devotees rushed to the police station singing hymns in praise of Lord Ayyappa.

Sasikala was released on bail by the sub-divisional magistrate of Thiruvalla on Saturday evening. Speaking to the media, she said the Government has unleashed an unprecedented violation of human rights. "The Kerala Government and Travancore Devaswom Board have failed to provide even basic amenities like toilet and resting places to the devotees. The authorities want to cover up these shortcomings," said Sasikala.

The arrest of Sasikala led the Hindu organisations in the State declaring a dawn to dusk hartal on Saturday and it turned out to be total.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Maldives new President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in Male on Saturday. Modi, the highest ranking regional leader to attend the 54-year-old veteran politician's inauguration as the seventh President, met Solih soon after the ceremony and pledged all assistance to the strategically-located country's endeavour to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country. Modi invited Solih to visit India and the island nation's Foreign Minister will visit New Delhi on November 26 to prepare for the State visit (Related reports on P7)

PIB photo



RINKU GHOSH ■ NEW DELHI

Alyque Padamsee became India's greatest story-teller at a time when we were still coming to terms with our self-worth as a nation, idealistic to the core but yet apologetic, fumbling, barefooted and unsure

Death of a Salesman

about screaming out loud on the world stage. Films were the only expression of our aspiration or wish fulfillment and incredible though we may have been, there was no concept of Brand India, ambassadors and advertising. India's greatest ad guru, who passed away at the ripe old age of 90 — literally as a vanguard of a nation in transit — shaped our identity in popular culture. A people who could have aspirations, chase them and make them happen while retaining their innate Indianness. And concrete wishful thinking with home-grown products. In that sense, he sold us our first global dream. No wonder, till date he is considered the only god of Indian advertising and sales.

So by the time 1970s happened and the angry young man was taking shape on the big screen with Big B, his female counterpart exploded in the

ALYQUE PADAMSEE



1928-2018

form of the Liril girl, soap suds gliding down her green bikini as she splashed about with Amazonian glee and abandon under a waterfall, literally tra la la-ing her way into our minds. The bell bottoms and halter tops were coming but model Karen

Lunel signified the "liberation" moment as it were for a generation of Indian women. Such was the campaign's appeal that it became the launchpad for later supermodels and now stars, Preity Zinta and Deepika Padukone. Alyque researched heavily for what seemed like an easy breeze. In his own words, "The most memorable brand till, possibly, today was Liril soap. We studied the Indian housewife to find out what she thought about when she got 10 minutes to herself. HLL's research came up with an amazing answer that she dreams of escape from a life of drudgery and responsibility. Her thoughts begin to drift as she begins her bath. She hums a tune from a popular Bollywood film and the most popular fantasy of all was Amitabh Bachchan riding on a white horse and carrying her away from work...work...work... We decided on a freshness soap based on these findings. The soap would refresh the housewife as she escapes into her bath. On the basis of that was invented the

girl in the waterfall. The la-la-la jingle became the theme song for young people in India. The ad was partly inspired by Raj Kapoor's movies and largely by the comic Tarzan and Jane."

There was no looking back for the head of Lintas since. While he worked with many lissome ladies, emboldening a generation — Zeenat Aman and Persis Khambatta among them — he knew he had to keep it grounded. The Hindi was in full pop play. So when Surf was desperately looking to beat competition from a cheaper detergent Nirma, he gave us Lalitaji, the quintessential middle class mother who weighed her choices, kept to her family budget and whose somewhat stentorian and disciplinarian ways were familiar and convincing. As she chanted, "Surf ki kharidari mein hi samajhdari hai," he kept changing the situation storyboards to create one of India's first series campaigns that had everyday recall and evolved with people's lives.

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SHOW TIME

Squirmish film around a child

PIHU
*ing: Myra Vishwakarma
Rated: 4/10

What genre is this one? Horror? Not really though the entire film and the situation it puts a little child into makes you squirm.

The opening credits tell you that the film is based on a true story. Apparently something so horrific happened somewhere in Ghaziabad years ago. On screen, it is equally so. Cherubic girl child Pihu brings your heart into your mouth by roaming around in a deserted house with her mother lying dead on the bed and she being far removed from the entire concept of a life end. On her part, Myra who plays Pihu tugs at your heart with all her unguarded moments, which incidentally are many. But the situation she is in gets you. It is eerie, it is highly uncomfortable and it makes you feel the need to somehow, anyhow end her predicament even though she is least aware of



the fact that her mother is not sleeping but lying dead on the bed after a bad bout with her husband who has since left for Kolkata.

Vinod Kapri and Sidharth Roy Kapoor may think this one to be a creative and sensitive film but purely from the point of view of cinema, it is monotonous, stretched and needless. Seeing such harsh realities of life through a child so tender comes across as a bad page of emotional porn.

Myra though is brilliant, thanks to excellent camera work. One can see hours being spent to capture her moods.

Rowling's beast have a blast all their own

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD
*ing: Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Johnny Depp, Katherine Waterston
Rated: 7/10

Rowling's fantastic beast out of the Potter frame have been engaging in their moulds but the second film on them, despite the gravitas of incorrigible screen eccentrics Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Eddie Redmayne, falls flat in netherland. Never mind the groovy French and English locales, the giddy aerial swoops on razor pointed castles and the magical views of Hogwarts where a young and dashing Dumbledore is at work with mid air suspension of candles and training young wizards to discipline their wands.

The film is interesting in parts, very small and few parts actually. But the Rowlings touch both in writing and as producer gives the film expectations which sadly fall short of moments in the war between villain wizard Grindelwald and the rest of the magical world.

The film start from where it left off in the previous edition, with Grindelwald making a stunning aerial escape from a prison facility and then rocking the world with his desire to rule the roost.

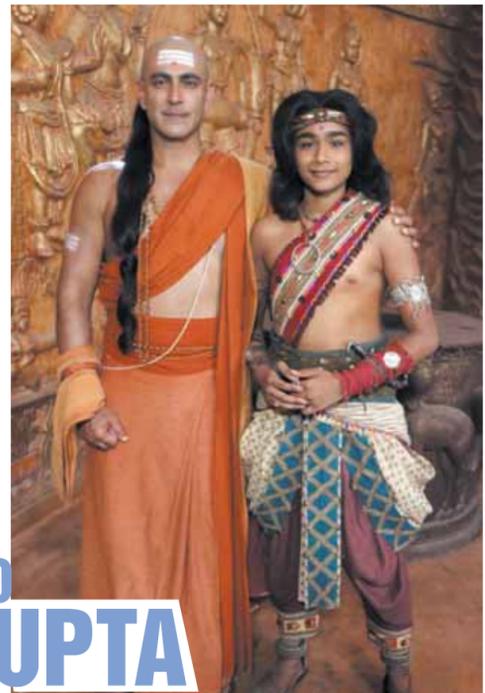
The cataract eyed and silvr haired albino like Johnny Depp does lend weight to a character who is otherwise not given much of a role to play in this wizard story mostly bereft of magic. But yes he does look demonic and mean and perfect foil to a young and dashing Dumbledore played to the hilt by Jude Law. The two sign a blood pact to never fight each other and the faint hint of a gay relationship looks rather inappropriate in a film for young adults.

Redmayne, best remembered as the Danish girl, does what he did in the previous one, a bit mechanically with familiarity of beasts like a tree walker and the feline sky-streaker.

Despite all the beasts, the film lacks the beauty of a sustainable storyline. How could Rowling allow that?

After Porus' death, Chanakya takes the vision of Akhand Bharat forward and propels Chandragupta Maurya from being a carefree petty thief to a celebrated king. **SANGEETA YADAV** speaks to actors about the Shani actor's second innings

PORUS MERGES SEAMLESSLY INTO CHANDRAGUPTA



With an end of Porus who died with the vision of *akhand Bharat* (united India) and fought against Alexander, The Great, only to achieve victory in defeat, Chanakya takes the story forward with the rise of yet another warrior in the making, Chandragupta Maurya.

The show *Porus* highlighted the king's journey and how he and Chanakya worked towards the vision of a united India and prevent outsiders to come into India. Porus succeeds in convincing Alexander to leave India who leaves his general Seleucus Nicator behind. After Porus the assassination by Seleucus, Chanakya takes his thought forward and goes to Dhananand, the king of Magadh, who insults him who considers everyone like dirt. Before leaving, Chanakya tells Dhananand that from this speck of dust he will create a mighty king who will take the vision forward.

"Chanakya realised that Dhananand has joined hands with Seleucus and is not able to see the future. Once Seleucus will capture Magadh, the Greek Army will take over and impose their culture on us. The

culture, religion and language of India will be lost. Which actually happened when Britishers came," Tarun Khanna, who plays Chanakya, says adding that the show will air at the same time slot, every Monday to Friday 8 pm on Sony Entertainment Television. Taking the baton of *akhand Bharat* forward, Chanakya goes on to tell the story of the making of India's brave and most celebrated King in the Indian history — Chandragupta Maurya.

Essaying the role of Chandragupta Maurya, Kartikeya Malviya says, "I am doing an in-depth study on the life of Chandragupta Maurya. Since the show will throw light on the childhood of Chandragupta, who had innate abilities of leadership and was a problem solver and a great friend, I will have to work hard in play different shades of the character. I will be riding a horse, doing *masti* with friends and create light moments which was very contrary to play Shani Dev in the serial."

Chanakya Maurya was a reluctant student who had no feelings for his motherland and harboured only one goal — to earn his freedom from the hunter who he was sold to

as a child. Chanakya, on the other hand, was a wise strategist with a vision of a united India. But how do these two people with such contrasting nature join hands?

"When Chanakya met Chandragupta, he found him to be a carefree child. He and his gang of friends were petty thieves. One thing which Chanakya found endearing was that Chandragupta loved his mother but never said declared it. He thought that a person who loves his mother so much will ultimately come to love his motherland as well. That thought made Chanakya bet on this boy and convinces Chandragupta to be his mentor. This brings a big transformation in his life," Khanna says who draws similarities between Chanakya and Mahatma Gandhi.

"Mahatma Gandhi too was insulted and thrown out of the train in Africa and realised that this is not a personal issue but a big concern for India and its people. He came back to India and made others join his fight against prejudice. If he had wanted, he could have also become the Prime Minister but he gave the power to Jawahar Lal Nehru. The most powerful person is one who has

everything and gives it to somebody else. That is what Chanakya did. His aim was not to rule a kingdom but to make a king out of an honest and just man. He could have easily said to Chandragupta Maurya that you become my commander-in-chief and I will be your king but he chose to be his educator and advisor. Chanakya makes a king out of a commoner," Khanna tells you

Through the concept of linear story which is used for the first time on Indian television, one historical show has paved the way for another without taking a break. "Every end is a new beginning. For the first time on Indian TV one story will move into another seamlessly. It's like one chapter will end and the second will start. The key characters from Porus will take the story ahead in Chandragupta Maurya, one of the biggest warriors of our country who had created a united India against foreign invasion," says producer and director Siddharth Kumar Tewary.

Where Sourabh Raaj Jain will be playing Dhananand and Vikas Verma as Seleucus Nicator, Chandragupta Maurya's mother will be essayed by Shefali Sharma.

A brilliant and emotional film

BOY ERASED
*ing: Russell Crowe, Nicole Kidman, Lucas Hedges
Rated: 8/10

It is rare that a film's storyline and emotional hold are as powerful as the actors

are and *Boy Erased* is that rare one on a gay boy being sent by his very Christian parents to be cleansed of his gay traits at a gay conversion facility.

Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman as the parents of Jared Eamons are more than brilliant. Crowe who never manages to shed his Church inhibitions of being a priest and Kidman who goes by

religious advise to actually send Jared away, take you to quite another emotional level which, is further enhanced by the absolutely fantastic portrayal of Jared's fears and bewilderment by Lucas Hedges. He is, by far, one of the most astonishingly polished actors in the young generation and as Jared he puts life into the film, making it an emotional

rollercoaster even for doubting homophobics. The film never ambles along and is magnificently put together keeping a tight string around your heart through every frame, every dialogue and ever situation that besets this otherwise good family. It is indeed, one of the most powerful films on the gay issue to come out in a long while



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA



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Could be DANGER lurking.

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- Tyre puncture
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- Oil leak
- Begging/asking for help

SAFETY TIPS



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Avoid keeping valuables on dashboard



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Check that doors are securely locked

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TELLYTALE



WATCH ADVENTURES OF ALADDIN

&flix, presents yet another Flix first premiere — The New Adventures of Aladdin — to be telecast this Sunday, November 18 at 9 pm. It will take you inside the magical world of Aladdin, however, with a heavy dose of reality laced with humour. Directed by Arthur Benzaquen, the film stars Kev Adams in the lead role and other French actors like Jean-Paul Rouve and Vanessa Guide who play the role of Vizir and Princess Sofia respectively. This is inspired by the original movie and embellishes it with a modern-day adventure of Genie and Aladdin. Just like how fantasy stories have the ability to transcend us into another world, with the new adventures of Aladdin, the channel does exactly that and more — filled with comedy, drama, action and extra dose of entertainment.

PANCHAM LOSES HIS MEMORY?



Sony SAB's *Jijaji Chhat Par Hai* continues its laugh riot and entertain viewers across the country. In the upcoming track of the show, Pancham loses his memory in a bid to protect himself from Murari's wrath. Pancham finds himself caught on the wrong foot after he misplaces Rs 50,000 entrusted to him by Murari to deposit in the bank. To get Pancham out of this dreadful situation and protect him from Murari's wrath, Elaichi advises him to fake memory loss. After analysing the situation and finding out that there is no other way out of this mess, Pancham follows her advice. Amidst all the drama, Chhote suggests Murari to test if Pancham has really lost his memory but Elaichi turns out to be a savior, rescuing Pancham from another sticky situation. However, later, while helping Elaichi, Pancham loses balance, falling down from the terrace which

leads him to lose his memory for real. Will Pancham ever recover his memory? Will he be able to get hold of the Rs 50,000 misplaced by him? Stay tuned to find out from Monday to Friday at 9.30 pm.

INDIAN IDOL'S SPECIAL EPISODE

The *Indian Idol 10* is all set to take you on a soulful musical journey with Papa Special episode this weekend. Actor Sushant Singh Rajput and Sara Ali Khan will grace the stage for promotion of their upcoming movie *Kedamath*. Top 7 contestants will set the stage ablaze with their performances. Sara Ali Khan said: "I am big fan of Neha Kakkar as she is a great singer, I really love her songs. It's a fan moment for me today as I was excited before coming on Indian Idol 10 to meet Neha. I have been listening to her songs since a long time. Her songs actually helped me to lose weight. I used to run on treadmill listening to some of her hit songs on repeat mode." Watch the special show this Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

SHOW ENDS

Zee TV had set out on a journey earlier this year to challenge stereotypical molds that the society had created over the years by slotting brides into categories and expecting them to change themselves for the sake of marriage with its fiction show *Kaleerein*. Produced by Triangle Films, the show instantly grabbed eyeballs with its compelling storyline and strong characterisation. But like all good things have to come to an end, the last episode of the show was aired on November 16, 2018. The final episode of the show had high voltage drama in store with Tulika (played by Swati Kapoor) trying to kill Vivan's (played by Arit Taneja) daughter Mahi but Meera (played by Aditi Sharma) will put up a tough fight to protect her.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sony YAY! toons celebrated Children's Day with kids' favourite celebrities. The musical Jodi Guru aur Bhole had a gala time with celebrities that children look up to and adore, shaking a leg and spending time together giving them a chance to feel closer to their icons of inspiration. The YAY! toons spiraled their way into the hearts of the celebrities at Indian Idol with the musical maestros Vishal Dadlani, Neha Kakkar and Usha Uthup along with host Manish Paul.

Plan Your Sunday

HORN OK PLEASE 4.0

WHERE: Gate No. 14, JLN Stadium, New Delhi
WHEN: Sunday, November 18, 2018
TIMINGS: 12 pm to 10 pm
Delhi will play host to the fourth edition of the food festival known as Horn Ok Please. Relish plethora of cuisines and fresh new concepts tailor-made to suit the tastes and sensibilities of Delhi's denizens at JLN Stadium.



CHAMPAGNE SUNDAY BRUNCH

WHERE: Pluck, Pullman New Delhi Aerocity
TIME: 12:30 pm to 4 pm
COST: Food lover's brunch: ₹2750 + taxes per person. Sparkling wine brunch: ₹3750 + taxes per person. Champagne brunch: ₹4250 + taxes per person and Kid's brunch: ₹1250+ taxes per person
Plan for a cozy and royal Champagne Sunday Brunch at Pluck, a Modern European & Contemporary Indian restaurant of Pullman New Delhi Aerocity. The diverse Champagne Brunch includes Pan-Indian, Global Cuisines, Splendid Cocktails and Unlimited Pour of Champagne.

FLAVOURS OF PUNJAB

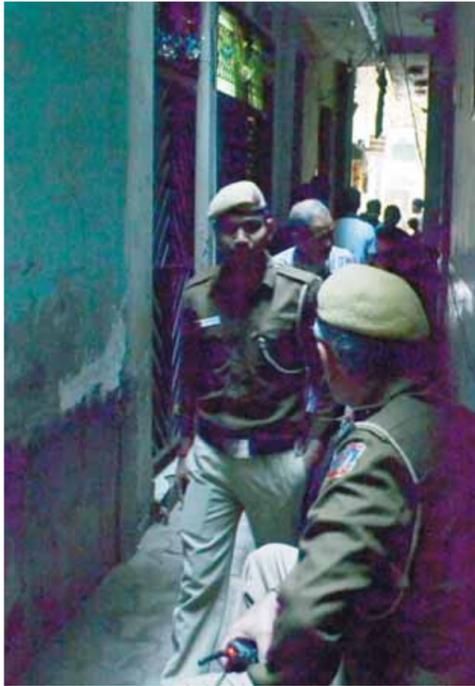
WHERE: K3 JW Marriott, Aerocity
WHEN: November 16 to 25, 2018
TIME & COST: Lunch from 12:30 pm to 3 pm (₹2,450 per person plus taxes) and dinner from 7pm to 11pm (₹3,150 per person plus taxes)
From the streets of Amritsar, the Punjabi food festival will be showcasing some delectable delicacies straight from the heart of Punjab.

Mother slits children's throats, tries to kill self

1 succumbs to injuries, woman and her son battling for life

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Unhappy over marriage, a 30-year-old mother allegedly slit her own and her minor children's throat at Hauz Rani area near Maliviya Nagar of national Capital on Saturday morning. The three-year-old girl succumbed to her injuries during treatment while the woman and her one and half year old boy are still battling for life in hospital.



According to Vijayanta Arya, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, South district, they had received a Police Control Room (PCR) call at around 10.50 am that in a house opposite Saket Max Hospital, the woman has cut her own and her children's throat following which a team rushed to the spot.

"The woman identified as Mohsina and her two minor children were rushed to the Saket Max Hospital by the neighbours and family members in injured condition. During treatment three-year-old minor girl succumbed to her injuries while the minor boy and the mother are still in the hospital and are getting treatment," said the Additional DCP.

"The woman had an argument with her husband on Friday night about him coming home late and drunk, following which he went to his parents'

home in an opposite building. He stayed there while his mother came to Mohsina's house. In the morning, Mohsina's mother-in-law came back to her house leaving her with the children. It was during this time that Mohsina allegedly attacked her children and also tried to kill herself," said a senior police official.

"The woman is unfit for statement. The scene of crime is being inspected by crime team and forensic experts. We have registered a case under section 302 and 307 of Indian

Penal Code (IPC). Further investigation in the case is underway," the Additional DCP added.

Mohsina's father is an assistant sub-inspector with the Delhi Police while her husband sells holiday packages at a mall in Saket. Her family claimed that she was in an unhappy marriage and the incident was triggered due to it. Her in-laws claimed that she would often get upset when her husband returned home late and the couple had fights over it earlier.

Man on run for 25 years held for wife's murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 60-year-old man absconding for last 25 years was nabbed by the Delhi Police on Saturday in national Capital. The man who was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing her wife in Nagpur, Maharashtra had jumped parole in 1993.

The accused is identified as Farid Khan a resident of Nehru Vihar, Karawal Nagar. "We have received specific inputs that parole jumper Farid, would be coming to VP Market, near Gagan Cinema in Delhi on Friday following a team laid a trap and apprehended the convict from the spot," said Dr G Ram Gopal Naik, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), crime branch.

"During sustained interrogation, the accused Farid, disclosed that his first wife did not accepted his second wife. The



accused was not happy with the behavior of his first wife in respect of his second wife. The accused hatched the conspiracy to murder his wife with the help of his associates. The accused murdered his first wife to keep happy himself and his second wife," said the DCP.

"The accused was convicted of life imprisonment in the year 1991 for murdering his wife. The accused got parole from the court in year 1993 and after getting parole from the court he did not surrendered before the jail authorities and fled to Delhi.

Sisodia: Capital can't become smart city till multiple agencies stop fighting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi cannot become a smart city till the fighting among multiple agencies stops, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Saturday. Speaking at an event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the NDMC Convention Centre here, he called for clarity in the national Capital's governance.

Delhi industries Minister Satyendar Jain also attended the event. Sisodia said there is "total confusion" in the national Capital owing to multiplicity of agencies. "Until and unless we make our governance system smarter, no technology can help us," he said.

"We have a Delhi that belongs to the DDA, a Delhi that belongs to LG sahab, one



Delhi that is of the Delhi Police, one Delhi that belongs to the NDMC. You need to bring clarity for becoming a smart city," he added. The Deputy Chief Minister said multiple agencies taking decisions for the people of Delhi results in

"chaos". "There is hardly any coordination among these agencies for the welfare of Delhiites and they are fighting among themselves.

In such circumstances, converting the present landscape of Delhi into a smarter city would not be possible," he said. Sisodia said smart governance is the core solution to develop a smart city in which a single authority is put in place to take decisions without any political ill will to provide a better life to citizens.

Jain concurred with Sisodia and accused the Delhi Development Authority and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi of being corrupt. He said the current system has become quite opaque and there needs to be transparency.

Air purifiers effective to some extent: Docs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

POLLUTION

Installing air purifiers in your homes and offices may help to combat the impact of deadly air on your respiratory and circulatory systems to some extent but the question remains: How effective they can be over time in mitigating the ill-effects of Delhi's toxic air.

While most air purifiers are able to remove airborne pollutants like mold spores, pollen, dust, bacteria and pet dander, are they really effective as the Air Quality Index (AQI) nosedives to life-threatening levels? "The air purifiers are effective but only up to a certain extent.

A person would eventually have to go outside where they would be exposed to polluted air," said Rajesh Chawla, Senior Consultant, Critical Care, at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in New Delhi.

"Air purifiers help reduce air contamination inside the house and reduce indoor air

pollution to some extent. They are shown to have positive effects on respiratory health as well circulatory health. As there is a saying, something is better than nothing," added Gyanendra Agarwal, Senior Consultant, Department of Pulmonology, Jaypee Hospital, Noida. The effectiveness of an air purifier is judged by its capability to filter PM up to level 2.5.

The fluctuating air quality in cities like Delhi depends upon various factors and the air pollution is high because of the particulate matter (PM) found in air, such as dust, dirt, soot, smoke, etc., which are denoted as PM10 and PM2.5 levels. According to Jai Dhar Gupta from New Delhi-based company Nirvana Being that sells air purifiers and masks, most of the brands available in the market today or being sold online are designed for foreign cities. The air purifiers are

designed for "cities like London and Singapore, etc., where, on a really bad day, the PM2.5 reaches a mere 150 whereas in cities like Delhi, the PM2.5 reaches 1,500 plus," Gupta said.

He said air pollution problems here are a "lot more severe and alarming in comparison to other countries and our solutions need to also be equally effective and aggressive". Although most of the available air purifiers absorb volatile organic compounds (VOCs) — a type of indoor air pollutant — including benzene, toluene and xylene, cooking gas, paint and building material vapours, as well as tobacco smoke, they create huge environmental damage, Gupta stressed.

"Every air purifier bought requires a filter change after every 8-12 months and the sad part is that these filters land up in a landfill, thus all the pollutants trapped within the filter go back into the air," Gupta noted.

Space crunch, poor facilities leave traders in a fix at IITF

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Space constraints and lack of facilities have left traders and exhibitors disappointed at 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF).

The Trade Fair this time has been reduced to mere 20-25 per cent of its size due to the implementation of the IECC (Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Center) project at Pragati Maidan.

As per some traders, they are even struggling to avail proper food and water facilities.

UK Mishra, who has set up a stall for Lucknow's famous Chikankari kurta said, "We can manage in this little space but how can we live without water? There are hardly one or two water filters in the whole hall. Just imagine 800 stalls and only one or two water filters."

According to Mishra, the traders are not being allowed inside the fair without a ticket.

"And to get entry, every day we have to buy a ticket. We did not even get an entry card. We have just one entry card and we are two people who manage this stall. My brother has to buy a ticket of ₹500 every day. Organisers should look after this and provide concessions to the exhibitors," he added.

Similarly, Chhattisgarh-based Kannhaiya Lal Dewangan is facing difficulties due to space crunch.

"Earlier I used to get a large stall but this time due to the ongoing construction work, I had to settle with a smaller one. I'm not even able to unfold the saris and display them to customers properly. It gets difficult to handle even one customer at a time now," he said.

AAP MLA gets anticipatory bail in bridge case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday granted anticipatory bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a case lodged against him in connection with the ruckus at the inaugural function of Signature Bridge. Special Judge Arun Bhargava granted relief to Khan, saying that it was not a case where custodial interrogation was required. "It is directed that in the event of arrest, the applicant (Khan) shall be released on furnishing a personal bond or ₹1 lakh and one surety of like amount to the arresting officer," the court said.

It, however, directed Khan to join the investigation and not tamper with evidence or influence witnesses. Three cases were registered at New Usmanpur police station under North East district in connection with the incidents during the inauguration of Signature Bridge following complaints from Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari.

Adv Irshad, appearing for Khan, had moved the application for anticipatory bail saying the MLA feared that he will be arrested by the police.

Pollutant recorded under moderate category in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time the concentration of pollutant in Delhi air Particulate Matter (PM) 10 recorded under moderate category whereas PM 2.5 values touched 'poor' category on Air quality Index (AQI).

Incidentally, the overall AQI was recorded at 258 on the pollution index of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the stubble fire count contribution in pollution is barely two per cent on SAFAR's trend.

The PM2.5 — particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres — level was recorded at 122, while the PM10 level was recorded at 228, according to Central Pollution Control Board data.

Delhi's air quality showed significant improvement on Wednesday and Thursday after rain washed away the pollutants but the rainfall also led to an increase in air capacity to hold pollutants, SAFAR



said. "Although wind speed is better (higher) but holding capacity (of air) is also high due to moisture, which is unfavourable," the SAFAR said in a report.

Fire counts from stubble burning increased in past 24 hours, which may contribute 8-10 per cent to Delhi pollution, the report said. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. According to CPCB data, three areas in Delhi recorded 'very poor' air quality and 31 recorded 'poor' air quality.

3 members of Naveen Khatri gang arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's crime branch on Saturday arrested three members of Naveen Khatri gang who were wanted in two cases of attempt to murder registered at Patel Nagar and Sarai Rohilla Police Station in the national Capital.

The accused are identified as Lakhvinder (27) resident of Jhuggi Rakhi Market Zakhira, Moti Nagar, Rafiullah (25) also resident of Jhuggi Rakhi Market Zakhira and Lal Singh (30) resident of Bhola Colony, Loni, Ghaziabad. According to Rajiv Ranjan, Additional Commissioner of Police, crime branch, on the intervening night of 11 and 12 November a constable Amarjeet posted at Patel Nagar, was shot twice in the abdomen by the accused Lakhvinder and others when he intervened in a quarrel between two groups in Zakhira jhuggies.

The accused fled the spot. A case was registered and during investigation specific inputs regarding their movement was received following which a trap was laid and the main accused lakhvinder with his associates was arrested from Netaji Subhash Palace, Pitam Pura on Friday evening," said Ranjan.

Cops provide lending hands to suicide survivors

Jamia Nagar SHO in touch with family, 25 policemen give ₹200 each monthly

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Sangam Vihar and Jamia Nagar Police Station staff members have set an example by adopting family members who survived after they tried to end their lives owing to financial issues.

Their miseries started after Jitendra, a lawyer by profession, tried to kill his children and wife and himself. Jitendra and his nine-year-old daughter died while his wife and 11-year-old daughter survived.

It was on the night of Holi on March 2, 2018, when Jitendra unable to earn money for his family, slashed the



throat of his family. "We received a call on Holi from the neighbours. When we reached the spot, we found four people, including two children lying in pool of blood," said Upendra Singh the then Station House Officer (SHO) of Sangam Vihar Police Station and now posted at Jamia Nagar Police Station.

"They were taken to nearby hospital where Jitendra was declared brought dead. After 15 days of treatment unfortunately his nine year old girl died too.

The survivor, Jitendra's wife Meenakshi, along with her 11-year-old daughter approached the police station and narrated her ordeal following which some police personnel in Sangam Vihar police station decided to adopt the family and arranged a rented house and even paid the school fee of the child. Now every month we pay rent of the home and buy ration for them," said the SHO.

"About 25 police personnel from Jamia Nagar and Sangam Vihar police station give around ₹150-200 for the family every month," said Krishan Yadav, Assistant Sub-Inspector

(ASI) posted in the area. As a matter of fact, Inspector Upendra is also famous among residents of Sangam Vihar as he helped 52 habitual bootleggers to give up their vice and started selling milk in the area to earn their living.

"We had launched a crackdown on the sale of illicit liquor in the area following which most of the sellers said what else business they should do. I contacted Mother Dairy and urged them to supply milk in Sangam Vihar. Now they sell milk instead of illicit liquor," said the SHO.

Upendra is in regular touch with the family of late Jitendra in order to ensure that they are safe. "Since his daughter is growing and we have ensured that she is safe and is pursuing her studies", said Singh.

Government of India
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Hero of Battle of Longewala dies

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Brigadier (ret'd) Kuldip Singh Chandpuri, known as the hero of the Battle of Longewala during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, died at a hospital in Mohali on Saturday, his family said. He was 78.

Brig Chandpuri was suffering from cancer. He is survived by his wife and three sons, his family said.

Brig Chandpuri was a recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra — the country's second-highest gallantry award — for his role at Longewala, an outpost in the Thar desert of Rajasthan. He held off a Pakistani attack while leading a small group of Indian soldiers through the night in the 1971 war.

The 1997 Bollywood classic, 'Border', in which actor Sunny Deol played the role of Brig Chandpuri, was made depicting the Longewala battle.

The cremation will take place on Monday with full military honours.

Brig Chandpuri passed out from the Officers' Training Academy, Chennai, in 1963 and was commissioned into the



Family members mourn the death of decorated war veteran Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri who died in a private hospital, in Mohali near Chandigarh on Saturday

23rd Battalion of the Punjab Regiment. He took part in the 1965 war on the western sector and, thereafter, served in the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) for about a year. He also served twice as an instructor at the Infantry

School, Mhow.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh condoled the passing away of Chandpuri, saying his exemplary and heroic leadership in the Battle of Longewala would inspire the young soldiers and officers of

the defence services to discharge their duties with utmost devotion, commitment and sincerity

"Very sorry to learn of the sad demise of Brigadier KS Chandpuri, MVC. He was a very brave and distinguished



Brigadier Kuldip Singh Chandpuri

soldier and the hero of the Battle of Longewala. The nation is poorer with his passing away. My heartfelt condolences to his family," the chief minister tweeted.

The citation for his Mahavir Chakra Award reads: "Major Kuldip Singh Chandpuri was commanding a company battalion of the Punjab Regiment occupying a defended locality in the Rajasthan Sector."

At the Battle of Longewala, Brig Chandpuri exhibited dynamic leadership, exceptional courage and determination in holding his command intact and steadfast. He inspired his men moving from bunker to bunker till the reinforcements arrived, the citation added.

Sexual harassment at workplace Act not clear on prevention: NCW

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Some key issues identified in a consultation held by the National Commission of Women (NCW) on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act were that it was not clear on "prevention" and there was no authority to ensure a proper mechanism for monitoring its implementation.

Amid the #MeToo storm, the NCW had decided to take up the review of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to examine whether its existing provisions require any amendments.

"In light of the commission receiving petitions from women explaining past experiences of sexual harassment at their workplaces, and also considering the recent spurt in sexual harassment reported in the media, it was decided to take up the review of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act," the NCW said.

The consultation saw the participation of experts, including judges Sujata Manohar (retired), G Rohini (retired),

Anuradha Paul, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Meghalaya and other stakeholders.

The experts held deliberations on the various lacunae identified in the act and made recommendations for its proper implementation in addressing the issues of sexual harassment of women at all workplaces in the country.

The act is not clear on "prevention" and there is no authority to ensure a proper mechanism for monitoring its implementation are some of the key issues identified in a consultation, the statement said.

The consultation also expressed dissatisfaction with the composition of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).

"Options available to the victim, if she is not satisfied with the process of inquiry and report by the ICC is not clearly defined in the act. Monitoring authority and appellate authority must be defined and established, like a nodal agency," they recommended.

The conciliation clause in the act has to be reviewed and there is a lack of awareness among majority of the employ-

ees working both in organised and unorganised sector, it said.

The #MeToo movement started with actor Tanushree Dutta accusing another actor Nana Patekar of harassing her during the shooting of a Bollywood film in 2008. Patekar has denied the allegations.

The movement intensified sharply as more and more women coming forward with their complaints against men in seats of power in various institutions, including in entertainment, media and advertising.

Journalist-turned-politician M J Akbar had to resign as the minister of state for external affairs following a spate of complaints of alleged sexual harassment during his tenure as editor of various media publications.

He has denied the allegations and has even dragged one of the complainants to court with a defamation case.

Other prominent personalities who have been accused of sexual misconduct include Subhash Ghai, Sajid Khan, Alok Nath, Suhel Seth and Jatin Das, all of whom have denied the allegations even as multiple women have spoken out against them.

6 cr Indians slip into poverty annually due to medical expenses: Ayushman CEO

PTI ■ PANAJI

About six crore people every year, or 7,000 people per hour, slip into poverty in India due to healthcare expenses, Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana CEO Indu Bhushan said here on Saturday.

AB-PMJAY Chief Executive Officer Indu Bhushan was speaking at a health conference organised by the Goa Institute of Management.

The Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23 is touted as the world's largest government funded healthcare programme aimed at benefiting 50 crore people.

Bhushan hailed the country's efforts in reducing poverty, but said, "At the same time, we see that about six crore fall into poverty every year because of catastrophic healthcare expenses. I was astounded by the number. Six crore people means 7,000 people

every hour." Calling the situation a "leaking bucket", he said, "It is like a leaking bucket. Though a lot of effort is being put to bring people out of poverty, due to health expenses, people are slipping into poverty which is puzzling."

Speaking about what he termed were paradoxes in the last 70 years in India's health sector, Bhushan said, "One of the major paradoxes is that 70 per cent health needs of the country are supported by the private sector and only 30 per cent by the public sector."

Talking about another irony, he said people from abroad were flying to India to get quality medical treatment at cheap rates, while large sections of its own citizens didn't have access to good health facilities.

The AB-PMJAY CEO pointed out that despite India emerging as fastest growing (major) economy in the world, its budgetary provision for health had remained stagnant at 1-1.4 per cent over the years.

Amit Shah to undertake 3-day campaign from Nov 25 in T

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

BJP president Amit Shah would undertake a three day campaign in Telangana from November 25 for the December 7 Assembly polls, state BJP president K Laxman said on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also likely to visit the state to address public meetings in the first week of December, he told reporters.

Laxman claimed that the party was getting an encouraging response from people during its campaign and said they believed that a change in Telangana was possible only with the BJP coming to power.

Shah had kicked off BJP's campaign in Telangana in September last and subsequently addressed two more public meetings in the State.

The party has been conducting assembly constituency wise meetings, besides other forms of canvassing.

Need to further strengthen Panchayati Raj system: Pranab

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Former president Pranab Mukherjee Saturday called for massive decentralisation in institutional building and questioned the legal authority of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

He said there was a need to further strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and maintained that concentration of power in the hands of the Centre and the PMO would affect the functioning of a democratic country like India.

The veteran politician was at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) here to deliver a lecture on "Articulating Policy and Institutional Agenda for Future Transformation of India."

Replying to a question from the audience as to why political parties shied away from the issue of empowering local institutions and governments, Mukherjee said, "In institutional building, there should be massive decentralisation."

Citing the example of the PMO, he said it had found a

place in "our political vocabulary and "civil servants, politicians, parliamentarians know that a very powerful institution has been developed".

"But a simple legal question can be put as to where is its authority? In the text of the Constitution, 415 articles, 12 schedules — I do not find anywhere that any power has been given to the PMO," Mukherjee added.

He said an institution like the PMO would "overload our own ways of functioning" and "eat our entire energy and activity". The former president, however, was quick to add that he cited the PMO as an example and had no "grudge" against the institution.

Mukherjee said India could not imitate the presidential form of Government, where the president "enjoys all the power" and is the "real executive".

In India, the real executive is a collective body, the cabinet, accountable to Parliament, another collective body. And Parliament is accountable to its people, its elector.



Congress workers protest over ticket distribution outside Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters in Jaipur on Saturday

Economic offences direct challenge to nation's health: V-P Venkaiah

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economic offences pose a direct challenge to the nation's health and wealth, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said Saturday.

The world must wake up to this new challenge and adopt appropriate measures to deal with it, Naidu said while speaking at The Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence here.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code enacted by the government has begun to turn the wheel, he said, adding that some big resolutions have happened and banks are getting back their money.

"There is now a change in mindset. There is greater eagerness to settle dues in a timely fashion. Because promoters know that once they are dragged to the NCLT, they could lose their companies. Banks are expected to recover over Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bad debts this year itself," he said.

"What does this clean-up mean? It is obvious that credit will go to those with bankable ideas and not to those with clout and connections. This is the democratisation of credit.

"The insolvency law epitomises the new way of doing business where there is no discretion in allocation of resources, there is no interference from the government, and banks take decisions based on merit of the proposal. Efficient allocation of capital is the bedrock of a robust modern economy," Naidu said.

There has been a clear demonstration of resolve, sense of purpose and urgency

on the part of the central and state governments, corporations, entrepreneurs, investors and all other stakeholders to collectively strive for building a new India, where the aspirations of all the citizens will be fulfilled, he said.

"The formalisation of the economy can be gauged by the rapid rise in the number of income tax payers. While the total direct tax collection in 2013-14 was Rs 6.38 lakh crore, the total income tax collection for 2017-18 was Rs 10.02 lakh crore, an increase of 57 per cent in four years," the vice president said.

"We need to convert challenges into opportunities and ensure a nine per cent GDP growth on a consistent basis to improve the quality of life of our citizens. The country can leapfrog in development by adopting innovative solutions across all sectors from education to urbanisation, from health to infrastructure," he said.

It is believed that if India maintains an eight per cent growth rate consistently, we can become a USD 10 trillion and the third largest economy in the world, he said.

Naidu cited a PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) report which suggested that up to 40 per cent of India's USD 10 trillion economy in 2034 could be derived from new solutions.

Such solutions are likely to be implemented with 25-30 per cent less resources than those required by traditional solutions, he added.

"I have recently toured three countries in Latin America and three countries

in Africa. I was overjoyed to hear from the heads of state in all these countries that Indian industrialists and businessmen have made significant contribution to their national economies.

"They welcomed Indians to their countries and strengthened bilateral economic ties. I find that there is vast scope for all of our industrial and business houses to make a mark in the global marketplace," he said.

"I also found during my recent visits that there was tremendous enthusiasm to invest in India. There was also widespread appreciation for the growth, reforms process and massive transformation taking place in India in recent times. I also found that the world is looking towards India for investment and for technology and innovations," Naidu said.

Indians for decades have been playing an important role in global technology landscape, he said.

"In fact, two of the world's biggest technology companies -- Google (Sundar Pichai) and Microsoft (Satya Nadella) -- are led by Indian CEOs. More and more India-trained professionals are taking top positions in the world. The latest to join the high profile post of CEOs are Kalyan Krishnamurthy in Flipkart and Manik Gupta as Chief Product Officer in Uber," he said.

Naidu stressed the need for "eschewing the politics of populism and moving towards politics of pragmatism" which he said will benefit society in the long term.

Anti-SC judgment...

Public transport stayed off the roads, shops and establishments downed shutters and Kerala resembled a ghost State.

The Government fielded Kadakampalli Surendran, the CPI(M)'s Minister for Devaswom and Tourism, who lambasted the BJP and the RSS for the breakdown in normal life. "The Hindu outfits are trying to polarise the Kerala population on communal lines. The BJP and the RSS do not want peace in Kerala," said the Minister while briefing the media at Thiruvananthapuram. He described Sasikala who was arrested on late Friday night as a terrorist and communalist.

The arrest of Sasikala who was on her way to the shrine earned the wrath of all Hindu leaders across the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Karnataka. Swamy Chidanandapuri, head of Advaita Asram at Kulathoor said that this is the first time in

the history that a devotee on his/her way to Sabarimala with Irumudy was arrested. "Once you pack the Irumudy with offerings to the deity and set on the pilgrimage, no force could touch the devotee till he/she reached the shrine and offered the Irumudi at the sanctum," said Chidanandapuri.

Rama Gopalan, the octogenarian leader of Tamil Nadu's Hindu Front too condemned the action of the Kerala Police. J Nandakumar, all India convenor, Prajna Pravah (the RSS think tank) charged that the present attack on Ayyappa devotees is part of an international conspiracy to destroy Sabarimala Temple, a symbol of Hindu unification. He wanted a thorough probe into the conspiracy in which names of leaders of the CPI(M) and top bureaucrats figure.

Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala blamed the RSS and the CPI(M) for the present impasse. "Both these organisations want to destroy the peace in Kerala and they don't want a trouble-free atmosphere in the State," charged the Congress leader.

Death...

He created a desi Charlie Chaplin for shoe polish brand Cherry Blossom, giving an aesthetically twist to something that was not back then considered a self-service job. And by the time he invented the catchline "Hamara Bajaj," he had elevated everyday family life and its outings on a scooter as a cult symbol of "Buland Bharat ki buland tasveer." When he created MRF's Muscle Man, India was indeed ready to proclaim itself.

Alyque had a lot of public service campaigns too and till his last days was on the AIDS

task force set up by the Prime Minister. However, he found the Kamasutra ad a big challenge. In one of his columns, he wrote, "One day Gautam Singhania walked into the Lintas office and told me he had the knowhow for a quality condom. But the idea of creating an ad for a condom caused a bit of a giggle; and there were reservations too. Finally, we came up with an apt name, KamaSutra or KS. Gautam had met Pooja Bedi at a party and thought she was the right person to carry off the condom ad. Finally, Pooja agreed to do the ad for a whopping Rs 7 lakh!"

Cong pits Manvendra against Raje

From Page 1

"I'm honoured that Rahul & Congress CEC thought it useful for me to contest & I'm touched by responsibility shown towards me. I accept the responsibility & will run a fair campaign," Manvendra said.

Reacting to the Congress announcement, State BJP president Madan Lal Saini said the decision will have no impact and the party will retain the seat.

He said Manvendra, who left the BJP and joined the Congress last month, is not a big name and will face defeat. Saini said being born in a Rajput family does not give anybody a "big name".

By the look of it, it is a battle between Raje's 'Gaurav Yatra' versus Manvendra 'Swabhimani Yatra'.

Septuagenarian woman killed by unknown person in Sarita Vihar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 73-year-old woman was killed by unidentified person on Saturday evening.

The assailant allegedly slit the throat of the elderly woman with knife in her house at Sarita Vihar in Delhi.

According to a Chinmoy Biswal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), south east district, they had received a Police Control Room (PCR) call around 6:35 PM on Saturday evening regarding the incident.

"A team rushed to the spot where the elderly woman was lying in pool of blood. She was rushed to nearby hospital where doctors

declared her brought dead" said the DCP.

"There was no ransacking in house. During our initial investigation we came to know that the woman was housewife and was alone at home.

She used to live with her husband. Her husband had returned home around 6:30 pm on Saturday when he found her lying in pool of blood on sofa in house following which he informed police," said the DCP.

"We have registered a case. Entry to house seems friendly. We are scanning for CCTV footage in the area to identify the accused. Further investigation is going on," the DCP added.

years, tapped into. The Congress image-makers relied on him and if Cyberabad and Chandrababu Naidu caught the nation's fancy as the new IT frontier, a fair bit of credit must go to Alyque.

But no assessment of the creative guru would be complete without acknowledging his role in serious theatre, having directed 70 plays, Tughlaq being notable among them. Besides he gave India a near Broadway experience with his epic musical productions like Evita and Jesus Christ Superstar. He also portrayed Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning film Gandhi.

But Alyque was never self-serving, keen on promoting tal-

ent at every stage of his life. So if he created a legion of capable creative directors in advertising, he gave the entertainment industry more leading lights like ex-wife Sharon Prabhakar, singer Alisha Chinai, actors Boman Irani and Javed Jaffery and choreographer Shiamak Davar.

True he won many honours, national and international, in all his disciplines. But his greatest takeaways were the sales of the products he wrapped with his genius. "The greatest ads are the ones that create the greatest sales. A good ad man is a good salesman," he would say. And for every Indian, he will always be the man who taught us to "live life kingsize."

Centre to amend IT Act to curb cyber attacks

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid increasing threat from the Dark Web to national security, the Centre is planning to amend the Information Technology Act to create a legal basis to compel the popular Internet giants, whose servers are located outside India, to share their keys for monitoring by the security agencies here.

Entities hit by cyber attacks will have to mandatorily disclose it to the authorities concerned after the new regulatory framework is put in place.

"Servers of popular sites like social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook and Gmail are located outside India with encrypted data and unshared keys without having any backdoor for monitoring by the law enforcement agencies," a senior Union Home Ministry official said.

In what is indicative of the terror connection with the Dark Net, as many as 9,800 websites and over 46,000 Twitter accounts with terrorist contents have been blocked at the behest of Indian security agencies.

The Government in coordination with the Intelligence Bureau is now working to amend the IT Act to deal with such attacks on even private entities besides subversive activities on the Dark Net.

AMENDMENT TO CREATE A LEGAL BASIS TO COMPEL THE POPULAR INTERNET GIANTS TO SHARE THEIR KEYS FOR MONITORING BY THE SECURITY AGENCIES HERE

The amendment to the IT Act will lead to localization of servers of major service providers and sovereign cloud deployment as was done by Microsoft for China and Germany, the official said, adding this is in a bid to facilitate better monitoring of the service providers.

The Union Home Ministry is working on putting in place legal provisions for mandatory disclosure of cyber attacks besides formulating a regulatory framework for web channels.

The changes in the IT Act and regulatory mechanisms are needed as India now has 120 crore mobile/ telephone subscribers, 42 crore Internet subscribers and 28 crore mobile Internet connections amid lurking threat to cyber communication. India has already displaced the US as the numero uno in terms of number of Facebook users. But India stands at 23rd position out of 165 nations in Global Cyber Security Index 2017 of the

United Nations.

Proposals for making stringent KYC (Know Your Customer) norms for mobile wallets for tracing flow of funds from fraud and crime are also under consideration.

Cyber communication poses threat at personal level, in the social and economic field and in the domain of national security. Threat to national security is mostly posed by the Dark Web which facilitates online trading of drugs and arms, human trafficking, Red Rooms (hidden website on Deep Web where one can participate/see interactive torture or murder), mass mobilization through social media, online rumour mongering and perception shaping. Other threats include radicalization and recruitment by terror groups, inter-terrorist group communication, unregulated communication through VoIP, unauthorized telephone exchanges and unregulated online video channels like Peace channel of alleged terrorist and online terror motivator Zakir Naik.

An international cooperation mechanism through formation of international convention on monitoring and regulation of cyber space, bilateral and multilateral treaties and MoUs with industry and academia of global repute is also being worked out, officials added.

Cong seeks CISF cover for Sidhu



IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing escalation of threat to life of Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Saturday wrote to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh seeking Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) cover for the cricketer-turned-politician.

Surjewala in his letter said that while Sidhu was always a "high-risk" target, there has been "marked escalation in threats ever since he left BJP and joined Congress".

"Sidhu has taken on Akali Dal (Badal) and their anti-people policies, besides exposing their unholy nexus with certain criminal elements on numerous occasions. "After Sidhu left the BJP, the threatening tone and disparaging remarks by various Akali Dal-BJP leaders, including the BJP National President, Amit Shah are also well known," wrote Surjewala.

"Unfortunately, the extension of protection to Sidhu has been driven not by threat perceptions but by his politics," said Surjewala urging CISF cover for Sidhu.

EC directs Chhattisgarh Govt to transfer PR Secy

He was caught on tape offering money for sting operation against Opposition Congress leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday directed the Chhattisgarh Government to transfer its Public Relations

Secretary who was allegedly caught on tape offering money for sting operation against Opposition Congress leaders in the poll-bound state.

The commission directed that S Rajesh Toppo, secretary and commissioner of public relations in the state government, be transferred from his present post "in context of alleged statements made by him", a spokesperson said.

"The commission observed that such statements indicate partisan behaviour apart from use of uncivilised

language unbecoming of a senior civil servant," the spokesperson said.

Toppo was allegedly caught on tape asking a journalist to film a video of Congress members abusing one of their senior leaders. The official is purportedly heard saying that he is willing to spend some money for the sting video.

The second phase polling in 72 assembly constituencies in Chhattisgarh will be held on November 20. The first phase polling in 18 seats took place on November 12.

Court orders framing of charges against Dinakaran in bribery case

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday ordered framing of criminal conspiracy and other charges against former AIADMK leader TTV Dinakaran in the alleged Election Commission bribery case related to two-leaves party symbol.

Special Judge Ajay Bharadwaj ordered to put Dinakaran on trial for the offence punishable under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act.

Dinakaran, who had floated Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam party after being expelled from the AIADMK, was arrested in April 2017 here and was later granted bail.

Alleged middleman Suresh Chandrasekar, who is currently in judicial custody, was also ordered to be put on trial in the case for the offence punishable under sections 120-B and 201 of IPC and under the PC Act.

The court directed Dinakaran to appear before it on December 4, when it will formally frame the charges.

In 2017, Delhi Police's crime branch had filed the charge sheet alleging that Chandrasekar had conspired with Dinakaran and others to bribe the poll panel officials to get the two leaves symbol for Sasikala-led AIADMK faction.



BJP workers take part in the party's Kamal Sandesh bike rally in Meerut on Saturday

PTI

SC agrees to examine plea against stray dog culling in Karnataka



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to examine a plea seeking contempt action against the chief officer of a municipal council in Karnataka and a private contractor on allegations of mass culling of stray dogs.

A bench of Justices N V Ramana and M M Shantanagoudar issued notice to Wilson VT, Chief officer of Municipal Council of Sakaleshapura town, and contractor V George Robert and sought their response in four weeks.

Advocate Siddharth Garg, appearing for petitioner animal rights activist Neveena Kamath, said the contempt proceedings should be initiated against the two respondents for willfully disobeying the specific directions of the apex court.

He said that on November 18, 2015, the apex court had directed that all local authorities and panchayats should strictly follow the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2001 and that no "subterfuge or innovative methods" to circumvent the order of the court will be tolerated.

Garg said the PCA Act 1960 and the ABC Rules, 2001 prohibit any wanton catching

and relocation of stray dogs and only allow catching for the purpose of sterilisation and relocation back to the same place, where the stray dogs were picked up.

According to the petition, Wilson had given contract to George to catch and then relocate stray dogs within his municipality.

George was paid Rs 91,537 for catching and relocating 350 stray dogs. "It must be made clear that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the ABC Rules, 2001 only allow catching then sterilising, vaccinating and then relocation at the very same place. They do not allow any such catching and relocating," the plea said.

It said that the respondents have "deliberately and willfully" violated the orders of this court and contempt proceedings should be initiated against them.

"If such violations are not dealt, swiftly and sternly, by this Court then it will send a very wrong message to society that the orders of the apex court can be trifled with and there are no consequences for even the most open and egregious defiance. The actions of the Respondents are making a mockery of the majesty of this Court and invite the wrath of this Court to its fullest extent," the plea said.

Congress to take up Parrikar's health, crisis in Goa in Parliament

IANS ■ PANAJI

The Congress will raise the issue of ailing Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's continuance in power and the impending "constitutional crisis" in BJP-ruled Goa in Parliament, party's national spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said on Saturday.

The Congress leader demanded the convening of a special session of the Goa Legislative Assembly while during the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition government here to prove its majority in a floor test.

"We are going to nationally put pressure on the BJP and the Centre. If necessary, we will move the President of India. We will also raise the issue inside the Parliament in the forthcoming winter session and we will say that Goa is the



most classic case of a fraud being played on the Constitution of India by the Governor and the BJP government," Surjewala said at a press conference here.

"This will clear all doubts about who is in-charge in Goa and the floor test will determine as to which party has the rightful claim to head a democratic government in people's interest," he added.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) communications cell in-charge said the coastal state was suffering from

a "complete breakdown of constitutional machinery".

Parrikar is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer and has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and Delhi for nearly nine months. He returned from New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences on October 14 and has not moved out of his private residence for any official event since.

The Opposition, as well ruling coalition allies have been demanding Parrikar's resignation, claiming that the administration has come to a standstill due to his absence. On Saturday, Deepak Dhavalikar, president of ruling coalition outfit, the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, demanded that Parrikar step down from the chief ministerial post and appoint a replacement.

'Secrecy around illness of Sonia, Parrikar not comparable'

IANS ■ PANAJI

The cloak of secrecy surrounding the illness of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi is not comparable, Congress national spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said here on Saturday.

He said that while Parrikar is a Chief Minister of a State, Sonia Gandhi was neither a Prime Minister nor was she holding a Cabinet post when she suffered from illness.

"Sonia Gandhi was neither the Prime Minister of India, nor was a Minister in the cabinet holding a cabinet post (when the illness occurred)," Surjewala told IANS.

Surjewala was responding to a question on whether the Congress, which is demanding a medical bulletin and a public disclosure of Parrikar's



health status, had been equally transparent when it came to relaying information about Gandhi's prolonged illness, when she was Congress President and headed the National Advisory Council that had been set up to advise then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Surjewala said that only those in positions of power, especially as heads of state, should disclose the nature of their affliction in public interest.

"I can have five ailments.



I have for example high blood pressure and I take medicine for it, but I had not disclosed it till today, till you asked me. That does not mean that I have to describe every problem that I have in the public domain. It is only when you are holding a position of power and a position of power as the head of the state (that one ought to reveal the nature of illness)," Surjewala said.

The Congress spokesperson, who was in Goa to address a press conference, also alleged

Terrorist killed in Arunachal Pradesh exchange of fire

Itanagar: A terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday, Defence sources said.

Acting on specific intelligence about NSCN cadres carrying out extortion from villagers, Assam Rifles personnel swiftly launched an operation, Kohima-based Defence Spokesman Col Chiranjeet Konwar said.

But the spokesman did not specify which faction of the NSCN was carrying out extortion. During search of the area, the security personnel noticed a few suspected cadres trying to flee.

"They challenged the militants and asked them to surrender. However, the fleeing militants opened fire on them and they retaliated and brought down controlled effective fire on the fleeing militant and eliminated one cadre," the spokesman said in a release.

No State Govt can obstruct probes being investigated under court orders: CPM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday said no State Government could "obstruct" probes being investigated under court orders.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury asserted that the Left party was against the misuse of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for political gains and expected the probe agency to favour neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"We are against the misuse of the CBI for political purposes. We are in favour of justice, not in favour of Modi or Mamata," he told reporters at the CPI(M) office here.

The West Bengal government Friday withdrew the "general consent" accorded to the CBI to conduct raids or probes in the state.

The decision came close on the heels of a similar step taken by the Andhra Pradesh government.

Differentiating between the stand of his party and that of Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief, on CBI, Yechury said, "We are (even) against the misuse of the CBI in favour of Mamata Banerjee."

CPI(M) politburo member Brinda Karat pointed out that the Left party had earlier "crit-

icised the delay by the CBI in a court-ordered inquiry against Mamata Banerjee".

Several TMC leaders are under the scanner of the CBI and other probe agencies for their alleged involvement in the Saradha chit fund scam and in connection with the Narada sting operation.

Yechury said the CBI, which had the powers of the police, had to take the consent of the state governments since law-and-order was a State List subject according to the Constitution.

However, he added that the central probe agency could investigate matters pursuant to court orders.

"The CBI investigations in West Bengal are under court orders. The agency can undertake investigations after court orders and no state government can obstruct those," the CPI(M) leader said.

Banerjee had extended support to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the issue, saying, "What the Chandrababu Naidu government has done is absolutely right. We will also look into the rules under which it was done. Earlier, there was no need to use such provisions, but we need to do it now as the BJP is using the CBI and other agencies to pursue its own political interests and vendetta."

NHSRCL holds Japanese language training for better coordination among officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to ensure better coordination between officials working on the bullet train project, its implementing authority National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) organised a Japanese language and culture learning programme for its men and gave away proficiency certificates to 35 personnel on Saturday.

The high-speed rail technology is being adopted from Japanese Shinkansen train technology, hence there was a need of inter-country exchanges between the offi-

cial of two countries, which would be facilitated by proficiency in Japanese language and understanding of their culture, according to a release.

The training programme on Japanese language and culture has been developed by the Japan Foundation which is based on the established standards for Japanese Language Education. "The study material is designed with an emphasis on using Japanese language for oral communication, and better understanding the Japanese culture," it said.

Several employees of NHSRCL from its project offices in Mumbai, Vadodra,



Ahmedabad, Surat and corporate office in Delhi, including the Managing Director of the organisation, have completed

this five-month course, the release said.

"Similar course would continue to be organised for all the

Similar course would continue to be organised for all the employees. The next course is scheduled to start from December 2018. NHSRCL will also give preference to job applicants who have Japanese language proficiency, said NHSRCL Managing Director Achal Khare

NHSRCL Managing Director Achal Khare. The Director for Japanese Language of the Japan Foundation, Noguichi Kousuke, said, "We hope that the NHSRCL employees who took the course will continue to learn the language and also the culture, and contribute to the success of the High Speed Rail project."

NHSRCL is a joint sector company of Government of India and participating state governments formed for implementation of the High Speed Train Corridor Project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

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Ultras trying to spread arc of terror in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Even after losing more than 200 terrorists in fierce gun-fights and ambush along the Line of Control (LoC) since January 1, 2018, several Kashmir-based terrorist outfits, namely Hizbul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, are desperately trying to spread an 'arc of terror' across Jawahar tunnel in Jammu region.

Killing of a top BJP leader in Kishtwar, frequent recoveries of huge cache of arms and ammunition from relatively peaceful districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch, growing radicalisation of educated youth in the region and use of Mughal road for transporting weapons clearly suggested these terrorist outfits have once again managed to carve a niche for themselves with the help of closed network of over ground workers (OGWs) across Jammu region.

According to official sources, the senior State police officers and intelligence agencies are closely monitoring the investigations in majority of these cases to study a pattern of fresh recruitment, if any.

So far it is revealed that the terrorist cadre are using Mughal road axis for smuggling arms and ammunition in to Kashmir valley from the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

At the same time all out efforts are on to revive militancy in Doda and Kishtwar districts too. Well educated youth from the region have joined ranks of terrorist outfits in recent months. Though their number is less but several youth from the region are in direct touch with the terrorist handlers through use of social media.

Recent killing of a top BJP leader in Kishtwar with active support of OGWs has already sent the alarm bells ringing in



SO FAR IT IS REVEALED THAT THE TERRORIST CADRE ARE USING MUGHAL ROAD AXIS FOR SMUGGLING ARMS AND AMMUNITION IN TO KASHMIR VALLEY FROM THE FRONTIER DISTRICTS OF RAJOURI AND POONCH

the security establishment. The local police authorities with help of National Investigation Agency is probing the killing of a top BJP leader and his elder brother.

Two days ago police had also arrested two terrorists, who were part of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module from Mendhar area of Poonch in the Kashmir Valley.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, Rajiv Pandey said a special investigation team (SIT) headed by a sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) was formed to probe the case.

Auqib Ahmad Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Dar, both hailing from Pulwama district of south Kashmir, were arrested during a joint operation by police and the Army in Mendhar area of the border district on Wednesday.

Two AK-56 rifles, two magazines, 60 rounds and four hand grenades were seized

from their possession.

"Prima facie, it was established that they were part of LeT module and were assigned the task to shift weapons from Poonch to the Kashmir Valley," the SSP told reporters. A joint team of army and State police had also launched search and cordon operations in Rajouri on Thursday following reports about the presence of group of militants in the area.

In Kishtwar, local police had identified two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists — Osama Javed of Dachhan in Kishtwar district and Sajjad Khandey of Pulwama — as the men who shot BJP State secretary Anil Parihar and his brother Ajit Parihar in Kishtwar on November 1.

Two others, including a Government employee, have been detained for providing logistics support to the terrorists. An OGW of Hizbul Mujahideen too had played a key role in identifying the targets.

Apart from this, there has been no let up from the Pakistani side to push small groups of heavily armed infiltrators inside the Indian territory via International border.

At present, security forces are kept in a state of high alert after four suspected terrorists hijacked a passenger Taxi, hired from Jammu railway station, near Madhopur in Punjab late Tuesday night.

74% polling in J&K Phase 1 panchayat polls

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Mid separatist sponsored shutdown and cold weather, 74.1 per cent polling was recorded in the first phase of panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday. The situation remained peaceful in the poll bound areas.

Officials said that Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh region recorded 59.7 and 70.9 per cent turnout respectively. In Kashmir Valley, Srinagar recorded 21.8, Budgam 30.14 Kupwara 71.9, Baramulla 69.1 and Bandipora 56.2 per cent votes. The polling was held in 47 Panchayat blocks covering 21 blocks in Jammu province, 16 in Kashmir valley and 10 blocks in Ladakh region. Udhampur district in Jammu region recorded the highest of 83.6 per cent turnout.

Three blocks of Bandipora district, five blocks each in Baramulla and Kupwara districts, one each in Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam district went to polls in the inaugural phase.

According to the Chief

Electoral Officer, 427 candidates are in the fray for 536 Sarpanch Halqas and 5951 candidates for 4048 Panch Wards in the State for which voting and counting is scheduled to be held on Sunday. The panchayat polls are held on non-party basis in nine phases in 316 blocks in 4483 panchayat halqas comprising of over 35,000 panch constituencies.

The 2nd phase of village polls is scheduled on November 20. The last phase would be conducted on December 11.

Adequate security arrangements in villages and poll bound areas had been put in place to ensure smooth and peaceful polls. High speed mobile internet services had been suspended in poll bound areas in Kashmir region while train services were also suspended.

The last Panchayat elections in the State were held in 2011 after a gap of 20 years and Panchayats completed their term in July 2016.

National Conference and PDP have boycotted the pan-

Outrage in Valley as terror video goes viral

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Two days after body of a teenager killed by Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists was recovered in south Kashmir's Shopian district, another youngster's throat-slit body was recovered from the same area on Saturday afternoon triggering massive outrage in the region. The outfit has claimed that the two youngsters were involved in providing tip-off to security forces that led to encounters and subsequent killing of terrorists.

Sources said that police retrieved body of 19-year-old civilian Huzaif Ashraf from Hermain village in Shopian. He

was a resident of Manzgam village of neighbouring Kulgam district. The body was recovered two days after another teenager Nadeem Manzoor, a student of XI class was killed by militants and a video on his alleged "confessional statement" was released by the Hizb terrorists.

The killings have triggered outrage in the Valley. Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah describing it as "cold blooded murder" said the act was deeply disturbing.

"There can be no justification for this act & should force those who sympathise with these murders make Kashmir a better, freer place," said Omar in a tweet.

On Saturday Omar again tweeted, "Another dastardly killing of a young man, this time the terrorists slit his throat. This barbarism has no place in our society and no struggle, no matter how lofty the claims to justify it, can condone this inhuman behavior."

A purported video emerged on social media on Friday showing terrorists firing a volley of bullets on Nadeem.

In the video, the gunmen could be heard asking Nadeem why he tipped forces about two militants — Idrees Ahmad (Chota Abrar) of Saffnagri and Amir Amin (Abu Shoban) of Awneera — who were killed in a gunfight with forces in Saffnagri earlier this month.

Following a shutdown call by separatist Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), a grouping of prominent separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik. Mirwaiz Umar during his weekly sermon in Srinagar's Grand Mosque on Friday called for shutdown on the inaugural phase of the panchayat polls and asked the people to observe strike in poll-bound areas in subsequent phases.

VHP'S 'DHARM SABHA' ON NOV 25

Govt enhances Ayodhya case litigant Iqbal Ansari's security

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Government on Saturday enhanced the security of Iqbal Ansari, a litigant in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case, after he apprehended threat to the life of minorities living in Ayodhya in the coming days.

Sources said the local administration in Ayodhya provided a sub-inspector and four constables for extending the security of Ansari. The security personnel will remain with him till further orders.

Ansari had said that a huge gathering would be witnessed at the 'dharma sabha' being organ-

ized by Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Ayodhya on November 25 and it was possible that a mob of people attending the conclave could attack the minorities living in Ayodhya.

He had asked the Government to ensure security and safety of the minorities and also that the gathering in the name of 'dharma sabha' would not involve in any kind of unlawful activity.

After his security was enhanced, Ansari thanked the administration and said he had faith in the Government that it would maintain peace in

the coming days.

It may be mentioned here that VHP international vice-president Champat Rai has called a 'dharma sabha' in Ayodhya on November 25 and has said that over one lakh people will attend it.

Earlier, Director General of Police OP Singh had also reacted to Ansari's security concern, saying that not only in Ayodhya, the minorities were feeling safe in the entire Uttar Pradesh as there had been no communal riot in the state in the past one-and-a-half year.

PNS

Smriti to launch projects worth ₹67 cr in Amethi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A galaxy of Ministers and Bharatiya Janata Party leaders led by Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani will visit Amethi on November 19, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Amethi, the bastion of the Gandhi family, is the parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

The Union Textiles Minister along with Uttar Pradesh Ministers will launch development projects worth over ₹67 crore in Amethi.

Sources in the BJP said here on Saturday that along with Smriti Irani, Union

Minister of State Vijay Sapla, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, UP Ministers Shrikant Sharma, Mahendra Singh, Mohsin Raza and others will be present at the function to be held at Navodaya School campus at Khauhar village in Gauriganj.

This will be Smriti Irani's third visit to Amethi after losing the Lok Sabha election to Rahul Gandhi in 2014.

At the function, the Central and State Ministers will distribute artificial limbs among 990 divyangs and senior citizens and inaugurate a three-day job fair of the Ayodhya division. Around 50 companies are expected to participate in the job fair.

Inauguration

of

Kundli-Manesar Section of Western Peripheral Expressway and Ballabhgarh-Mujesar Metro Link

and

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of

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Dudhola, Palwal

Length

₹

3.205 k.m. 580 crore

Length

₹

135.65 k.m. 6,434 crore

Area

₹

82.5 acres 989 crore

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Events at the Project Sites

Ballabhgarh-Mujesar Metro Link at Raja Nahar Singh Metro Station, Ballabhgarh
in the August Presence of

Hardeep Singh Puri
Union Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs (I.C.)

Krishan Pal Gurjar
Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal
in the August Presence of

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GLOBE TROTTER

ANTI-ISIS COALITION RAIDS KILL 43 IN EAST SYRIA
Beirut: Air strikes by the US-led coalition on Saturday killed 43 people, mostly civilians, in a holdout of the Islamic State group in eastern Syria, a Britain-based monitor said. Seventeen children were among 36 ISIS family members killed in Abu Husn village of Deir Ezzor province near the Iraqi border, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

1 DEAD, 47 HURT IN FRENCH FUEL TAXES PROTESTS
Paris: One protester was killed and 47 others were injured during roadblocks set up around France to demonstrate against rising fuel taxes, a new challenge to embattled President Emmanuel Macron. The protester was killed when a driver caught in traffic accelerated in a panic at Pont-de-Beauvoisin, near Chambery, said Louis Laugier, the prefect, or top state official, in the eastern Savoie region.

NUMBER OF MISSING IN US FIRE SOARS PAST 1,000
Chico (US): The number of people listed as missing in a northern California wildfire jumped past 1,000 as searchers found the remains of eight more victims on the eve of President Donald Trump's trip to witness the devastation.

2 KILLED, 10 INJURED IN BLAST IN PAK'S KARACHI
Karachi: At least two people were killed and 10 others injured as a bomb exploded near a flyover in Pakistan's port city of Karachi on Friday. Some vendors were selling fruit and other items of daily use near the flyover at Quaidabad locality of the city when the bomb went off, police said.

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Notice Inviting e-Tenders

(1) & (2) The Executive Engineer (E), Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital Electrical Division, CPWD, New Delhi (Telephone No. 011-23365977/23745834) on behalf of the President of India invites online percentage rate bids from the eligible and enlisted contractors in composite category of CPWD for the following work:-
(1) NIT No. 103/EE(E)/SSKHED/2018-19/III, Name of work: MOEI & Fans in JICA Building at KSCH (New Building), New Delhi. (SH: Round the clock maintenance and operation of Electrical installation), Estimated Cost: Rs. 48,04,056/- Earnest Money: Rs. 96,081/0- Period of Completion: 36 Months, Last date & time of submission of bid: 26/11/2018 upto 11:00 A.M.
(2) NIT No. 105/EE(E)/SSKHED/2018-19/III, Name of work: RMO AC Appliance at LHMC & Associated SSK Hospital, New Delhi. (SH: Annual Maintenance of water purification system), Estimated Cost: Rs. 30,49,764/- Earnest Money: Rs. 60,995/- Period of Completion: 36 Months, Last date & time of submission of bid: 26/11/2018 upto 11:00 A.M.
(3) The Executive Engineer (E), Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital Electrical Division, CPWD, New Delhi (Telephone No. 011-23365977/23745834) on behalf of the President of India invites online percentage rate bids from the firms having experience of Similar Nature of Works in two bid system (Pre qualification & Price bid) for the following work:-
(3) NIT No. 104/EE(E)/SSKHED/2018-19/III, Name of work: RMO 2x1000 KVA HT, DG Set & 2 Nos. LT DG Sets at LHMC & AH, New Delhi. (SH: Operation of HT DG Sets), Estimated Cost: Rs. 17,61,888/- Earnest Money: Rs. 35,238/- Period of Completion: 12 Months, Last date & time of submission of bid: 26/11/2018 upto 11:00 A.M.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD. The press notice is also available on www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD or www.eprocure.gov.in free of cost.

CIA blames MBS for Khashoggi murder

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
The CIA has concluded that Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman ordered the murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul, contradicting the Saudi Government's assertions that he was not involved, according to a media report.



The death of Khashoggi, a onetime insider turned critic of the crown prince and a resident of the US, has spurred a wave of international anger against Saudi Arabia and its ruler. Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, was last seen entering the kingdom's consulate on October 2 to obtain paperwork for his marriage. Saudi Arabia had offered a series of contradictory explanations for Khashoggi's death. After repeated denials, Saudi Arabia finally admitted Khashoggi had been murdered at the compound but blamed it on a "rogue" operation. American officials have expressed high confidence in the agency's assessment, which is the most definitive to date, allegedly linking Saudi Arabia's crown prince to the killing.

according to The Washington Post. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) found that 15 Saudi agents flew on government planes to Istanbul and carried out the killing at the Saudi consulate, the report said, adding that it could complicate President Donald Trump's efforts to preserve US ties with one of the closest American allies in the region. "The accepted position is that there is no way this happened without him being aware or involved," a US official familiar with the CIA's conclusions, told the daily. Saudi Arabia has denied any such linkage. Fatimah Baeshen, a spokeswoman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington, said that the claims in the CIA's "purported assessment are false. We have and continue to hear various theories without seeing the primary basis for these speculations." According to the report, it is CIA assessment that the crown prince who is the defacto ruler of the country would survive the crisis. Officially Saudi Arabia has blamed the brutal murder of Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to rogue elements. Khashoggi was forcibly restrained and injected with a large amount of a drug resulting in an overdose that led to his death, alleged the Saudi prosecutors, who has sought death penalty for 11 of its officials. Turkish investigating agencies provided the CIA an audio recording that proves the brutal murder of Khashoggi. After his killing, one of those involved in it called Saud al Qahtani, then one of the top aides to Mohammed, and informed him that the operation had been completed, according to people familiar with the call. A conclusion that the crown prince was responsible for the murder of Khashoggi could endanger the US relationship with Saudi Arabia, The Wall Street Journal said.

Solih sworn in as Maldives Prez

AFP ■ COLOMBO
Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was inaugurated on Saturday as the new President of the Maldives after the Opposition united to dislodge pro-China strongman leader Abdulla Yameen in September elections. Solih, 54, emerged as common Opposition candidate as all key dissidents were either jailed or forced into exile by Yameen who took power following a controversial run-off in 2013.



Maldives' Chief Justice Dr Ahmed Abdulla Didi, right, administers the oath of office to President elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, left, in Male on Saturday AP

At a special session of parliament held at the National Football Stadium in the capital Male, Solih was sworn in with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi among those in attendance. The Maldives Foreign Ministry said China's Culture Minister Luo Shugang was also an invitee. Modi's presence was a reflection of the relief felt in India, which has long held sway in the archipelago, and in the West that Yameen was voted out. The United States and the European Union had threatened sanctions if the vote had not been free and fair. Both neighbouring India and Western nations watched with concern as Yameen moved closer to Beijing which loaned

the strategically placed archipelago millions of dollars for infrastructure. "I am confident that my visit will herald a new era of even closer exchanges and cooperation between our two countries," Modi said on Facebook, especially in "infrastructure, health care, connectivity and human resource development." Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) has pledged to end what it called "China's colonialism" and to resist a "land grab" in the country which straddles key East-West shipping routes. MDP leader and former president Mohamed Nasheed has vowed his party would reduce reliance on China and renegotiate millions of dollars in loans taken from Beijing. More than 80 per cent of the Maldives foreign debt is owed to China, he said.

China has also loaned other countries around the Indian Ocean and beyond large amounts of money for infrastructure projects as part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, alarming the West. Sri Lanka last year granted a 99-year lease on the Hambantota deep-sea port to repay Chinese loans for the \$1.4-billion project. Mahinda Rajapakse, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister when Colombo took over the loans, is looking to return to power in the severe current political crisis gripping the island nation. During a recent visit to Colombo in the middle of his election campaign, Solih told reporters that he wanted to repair ties with immediate neighbours Sri Lanka and India. Yameen awarded major infrastructure projects to China while taking away a major airport development from India. He also relied on Beijing for diplomatic support as the Maldives faced international isolation over his dismal rights record. Modi had cancelled his first visit to the country in 2015 after Yameen detained pro-India Nasheed and eventually had him convicted on a terrorism charge and jailed for 13 years.

UK leader fights back against critics, defends Brexit deal

AP ■ LONDON
British Prime Minister Theresa May fought back Saturday against critics of her Brexit deal, telling her Conservative opponents that their alternative plans for Britain's departure from the European Union wouldn't work. May is battling to win over rebels in her own ranks and save her leadership after a grueling week, with two Cabinet ministers quitting and other Conservative critics plotting to oust her immediately after Britain struck a divorce deal with the EU. In a public relations offensive, May tried to win support in a Daily Mail interview that revealed how her husband supported her during what she admitted to be "a pretty heavy couple of days." She also laid into political opponents, saying the alternatives they favour to tackle a key



stumbling block — the issue of how to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland after Brexit — wouldn't resolve the problem. "People say 'If you could only just do something slightly different, have a Norway model or a Canada model, this backstop issue would go away. It would not. That issue is still going to be there,'" she said in the interview, published Saturday. "Some politicians get so embroiled in the intricacies of their argument they forget it is not about this theory or that theory, or does it make me look

good," she added. Calling her husband Philip her "rock," May said that when the Conservative revolt erupted on Wednesday, the first thing he did was pour her a whisky. While May appeared to have survived the week's political storm intact, her trial is far from over — disaffected "Brexiters" believe they have the numbers required to trigger a challenge to her leadership within days. They are aiming for 48 letters of no confidence, the number needed for a vote under party rules. So far, more than 20 have publicly said they submitted such letters. British media also reported that several pro-Brexit senior Conservatives, including House of Commons leader Andrea Leadsom, are working to persuade May to change her Brexit plans and renegotiate the divorce deal to make it more acceptable to them.

Trump asks reporters to behave after Acosta row

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
President Donald Trump has played down a court decision that forced him to restore the press pass credentials of CNN's correspondent Jim Acosta and threatened to walk out of future press briefings if reporters do not act with "decorum". The press pass of Acosta, CNN's White House Correspondent, was suspended last week after an altercation he had with President Trump during a news conference. The White House had accused him of placing his hand on an intern. Acosta and the CNN had denied the allegations. A federal US court on Friday ordered the White House to immediately reinstate the press credentials of Acosta in a ruling seen as a major victory for mediapersons. Trump played down the ruling, saying it wasn't "a big deal". But, he said, "people have to behave", adding his staff



were "writing up rules and regulations" for the press to abide by, including sticking to the agreed number of questions. "If they don't listen to the rules and regulations we'll end up back in court and will win," Trump said. "But more importantly, we'll just leave, and then you won't be very happy." "You can't take three questions and four questions and just stand up and not sit down," he added. "Decorum. You have to practice decorum." CNN this week it filed a lawsuit against the White House urging the court to reinstate the press pass of its Chief White House Correspondent.

Thai officials recover boat that sank, killing 47 Chinese

AP ■ BANGKOK
Officials on Saturday recovered a boat that sank in rough weather off Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket in July, killing 47 Chinese tourists. Two tour boats sank off Phuket on July 5. Tourists from one boat were rescued, while the sinking of the double-decker Phoenix left 47 Chinese tourists dead.

The Executive Engineer, Dharmnagar Division, PWD (R&B), Dharmnagar, North Tripura, Invites e-tender(s) against press NIT No. 19/EE/DD/2018-19 Dated, 01.08.2018.
For Replacement of existing SPT Bridge by RCC Bridge over river Kakkri on the road from D.T. road to Dupirbondh Panchayet Office near i) Krishnapur H.S. School (Length=51 m Job No. TP/COM /60/2012-13) ii) Raj brick klin (Length=51 m Job No. TP/COM/61/2012-13) Sanctioned for implementation under NABARD (RIDF-XVIIII)/Balance Work.
DNIT No: 06/SE (I)/KGT/2018-19
With Estimated cost: Rs 1,42,86, 801.00, Earnest Money: Rs 1,42,868.00
Time of Completion- 6 (Six) months. Last Date of dropping of e-tenders- 28.11.2018.
For details please visit: www.tripura.nic.in/www.tripuratenders.gov.in/www.tsu.tnp.nic.in/tenders
Note: *NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER*
ICA/C-1711/18

Pence, Xi trade barbs in speeches at Pacific summit

AP ■ PAPIA NEW GUINEA
Chinese President Xi Jinping and US Vice-President Mike Pence traded barbs in speeches at a summit of world leaders on Saturday, outlining competing visions for global leadership as trade and other tensions between them simmer. Pence said there would be no letup in President Donald Trump's policy of combating China's mercantilist trade policy and intellectual property theft that has erupted into a tit-for-tat tariff war between the two world powers this year. The US has imposed additional tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods and China has retaliated. Pence reiterated Trump administration threats to more than double the penalties.

"The United States, though, will not change course until China changes its ways," Pence said, accusing Beijing of intellectual property theft, unprecedented subsidies for state businesses and "tremendous" barriers to foreign companies entering its giant market. Pence announced the U.S. would be involved in ally Australia's plan to develop a naval base in Papua New Guinea, where the summit is being held. China has been intensely wooing Papua New Guinea and other Pacific island nations with aid and loans for infrastructure. "Our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific will prevail," Pence said.

African leaders applaud Ethiopia PM for reforms

AP ■ ADDIS ABABA
Africa's leaders applauded Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for making substantial reforms in his country as they met to consider improvements to the continent-wide body at a summit that started on Saturday. "Ethiopia is undergoing a profound renewal. In the past seven months, far-reaching reforms were made in response to various challenges," said Abiy, 42. "We have opened a new political space for dialogue, released thousands of prisoners, lifted bans placed upon political parties and media outlets and unblocked websites.

We are now actively cracking down on corruption and reforming our judicial system in its entirety," said Abiy, winning enthusiastic applause from African leaders at the meeting. He stressed that his government must be accountable for its actions. He also highlighted that his administration has achieved peace with neighboring Eritrea and has appointed a Cabinet in which 50 per cent of the members are women. Abiy spoke as African Union leaders, led by Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, convened an extraordinary summit at its headquarters in Addis Ababa to consider reforms to encourage peace, development and a united Africa.

Space station supplies launched

2nd shipment in two days

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL (US)
A load of space station supplies rocketed into orbit from Virginia on Saturday, the second shipment in two days. And another commercial delivery should be on its way in a couple weeks. "What an outstanding launch," said NASA's deputy space station program manager, Joel Montalbano. Northrop Grumman launched its Antares rocket from Wallops Island before dawn, delighting chilly early-bird observers along the Atlantic coast. The Russian Space Agency



Northrop Grumman Antares rocket lifts off from the launch pad at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Va. on Saturday AP

launched its own supplies to the International Space Station on Friday, 15 hours earlier. The US delivery will arrive at the orbiting lab Monday, a day after the Russian shipment. Among the 7,400 pounds (3,350 kilograms) of goods inside the Cygnus capsule: ice cream and fresh fruit for the

coming up, up there: The space station marks its 20th year in orbit on Tuesday. The first section launched on November 20, 1998, from Kazakhstan. "As we celebrate 20 years of the International Space Station," Montalbano noted, "one of the coolest things is the cooperation we have across the globe." Then there's the US commercial effort to keep the space station stocked and, beginning next year, to resume crew launches from Cape Canaveral. "To me, it's been a huge success," he said. This Cygnus, or Swan, is named the SS John Young to honour the legendary astronaut who walked on the moon and commanded the first space shuttle flight.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K, JAMMU

Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032(Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255(Jmu) Website :- www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail :- phj@jkpolice.gov.in.
EXTENSION NOTICE
The critical dates of e-tender notice No. 52 of 2018 dated 24.10.2018 floated for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Video Conferencing Systems are extended as under :-
1. Last date for receiving of bids :- 29.11.2018 up to 1800 hours.
2. Date for online opening of technical bids :- 01.12.2018 at 1100 hours.
Sd/-
Mubassir Latifi JKPS
(AIG Provision/Transport)
For Director General of Police
J&K-Srinagar
No: DIP/K-3887-NB/18
Dated: 17.11.2018

सेन्ट बैंक Cent Bank
होम फायनेंस लिमिटेड Home Finance Limited
(Subsidiary of Central Bank of India)
Branch Office:- 103-104, First Floor, 2E/23, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi - 110055
(CIN No. U65922MP1991PLC006427)

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd., New Delhi Branch, 103-104, First Floor, 2E/23, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi - 110055, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) & 13(2) read with rule 9 & 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice upon the borrowers / guarantors mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/ guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower / guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 14 & section 13(4) of the said Act read with the applicable rules of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the below mentioned dates. The Borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Cent Bank Home Finance Limited, Branch office 103-104, First Floor, 2E/23, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi-110055.

S. No	Name of Borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Amount in Demand Notice
1.	Ms. Vinita Gupta and Mr. Manish Gupta Account No. 00602080001461	Entire Ground Floor, Plot No. II-B/270, Sector-2B, Vaishali, Ghaziabad UP-201002. Boundaries of property:- East: Plot No. 271, West: Plot No. 269, South: 35-0 wide road, North: Plot No. 201, Built Up Area: 639.81 Sq. Ft.	13-03-2017 12-11-2018 (Physical)	Rs. 1124623.00 + interest and all other expenses - If any amount deposited
2.	Mr. Sapan Ahlawat, Mrs. Kalpana Ahlawat, Mr. Chandravir Singh Account No. 00602080001498	Shop at Min Jumla Kharsara No. 8494,8495-10274/8497, Moja Rohtak, (Shop No. 128, Delhi Road, Opposite Jeevan Eye Hospital-Medical Mor-Rohitak Haryana). Boundaries of property: East: Plot No. 45-0" Road, West: 45-0" Plot of Suraj Kaur, South: 16-0" Property of Om prakash, North: 16-0" Rohtak-Delhi Road.	14-07-2017 13-11-2018 (Symbolic)	Rs. 92,07,304.00 + interest and all other expenses - If any amount deposited
3.	Mr. Satish Kumar Sain and Mrs. Priyanka Account No. 00602320000057	E-9, Upper Ground Floor, Krishna Garden, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad UP. Boundaries of property: East: Plot No. E-10, West: Plot No. E-8, South: Property of others, North: 8.00 mts wide Rasta	24-05-2018 16-11-2018 (Symbolic)	Rs. 20,83,377.00 + interest and all other expenses - If any amount deposited
4.	Mr. Sachin Verma, Mr. Ravinder Verma and Mrs. Shashi Verma Account No. 00602090000050	House No. 11124, Entire Second Floor, Gali No.1, Dorwalan, Manakpura, Karol Bagh, Delhi - 110005. East: Property No. XIV/11102, West: Property No. XIV/11125, South: Gali, North: Property No. XIV/11124-B	27-08-2018 17-11-2018 (Symbolic)	Rs. 15,48,661.00 + interest and all other expenses - If any amount deposited

The above mentioned borrower / guarantor are hereby given 30 days notice to repay the amount, else the above said mortgage property will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, as per provision under the rule 8 and 9 of security interest (enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: 17.11.2018
Place: New Delhi
Authorized Officer
Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd., New Delhi Branch

Investors want Facebook chairman to step down

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Facebook investors have called on the company's chief executive Mark Zuckerberg to step down as chairman following reports that the company hired a public relations firm to smear its critics, a media report said on Saturday.

The *New York Times* recently published a report revealing that Facebook at times smeared critics as anti-Semitic or tried to link activists to billionaire investor George Soros, and tried to shift public



anger away toward rival tech firms.

It also said that the company also used a Republican public relations firm, Definers Public Affairs, to help repair its

battered reputation following intense criticism of the social media platform's handling of a scandal over Russian interference in the 2016 US elections and the Cambridge Analytica scandal, *The Telegraph* reported.

Jonas Kron, a senior vice president at Trillium Asset Management, a US investor which owns an 8.5m stake in Facebook, last night called on Zuckerberg to step down as board chairman in the wake of the report, the paper said.

"Facebook is behaving like it's a special snowflake," the paper quoted him as saying. "It's not. It is a company and companies need to have a separation of chair and CEO," he said.

The attack on Zuckerberg is set to complicate the daunting challenge facing Sir Nick Clegg, Facebook's new global head of policy and communications, who joined last month and has been asked to conduct a review of Facebook's use of lobbying firms.

Definers allegedly encouraged the depiction of Facebook's critics as anti-Semites and had published news articles criticising Facebook's competitors.

The business has also been accused of attempting to encourage journalists to report that anti-Facebook groups were linked to Mr Soros, the paper said.

In a call with journalists on Thursday, Zuckerberg denied knowing that his business had hired the firm.

"As soon as I learned about this, I talked to our team and we are no longer working with this firm," he said.

Kron said the new revelations about Facebook's use of Definers offered fresh reasons for Mr Zuckerberg to relinquish his dual role as chairman and chief executive.

Finance Secy Adhia to retire on Nov 30; Jaitley praises his contribution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Showering praise on Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, who retires on November 30, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Saturday said he was a no-nonsense civil servant who performed his job with professionalism.

In a Facebook post titled 'Dr. Hasmukh Adhia retires', Jaitley said "he was unquestionably a highly competent, disciplined, no-nonsense civil servant and of course, with impeccable integrity."

His only diversion from his duties was his passion for spirituality and yoga, he added.

Jaitley also said the Government wanted to use the outgoing Finance Secretary's capability and experience in some alternate capacity. "He (Adhia) had informed me earlier this year that he would not work for a single day after the 30th of November 2018. His time thereafter belongs to his favourite passion and of course his son," Jaitley wrote.

Adhia, a 1981-batch Gujarat cadre officer of the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), moved to Delhi in November 2014 as secretary in the Department of Financial Services after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. In a series of tweets, Adhia thanked Modi and Jaitley for their guidance and expressed gratitude to his officers and staff.

"I am indeed privileged to have worked in Finance Ministry for 4 years under the guidance and leadership of Hon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley," Adhia tweeted.

"I retire on 30th November with a sense of great satisfaction for what I could do for the country. I am grateful to all those officers and staff who

worked with me. "My special gratitude to Hon Prime Minister for his guidance and to Shri Arun Jaitley ji for having acknowledged my contribution publicly," Adhia added.

Giving credit to Adhia for implementing GST, Jaitley said, "It was his efforts supported by his team of officers of centre and State Governments, which made it possible to hit the deadline of 1st July 2017. Rate reductions and smoothening of the rough edges were also achieved in a record time."

Recalling Adhia's tenure as Revenue Secretary, Jaitley said tax base and tax realisation saw an "exponential increase".

"He was ably supported by the two boards, CBDT and CBIC. The follow-up after demonetisation in detecting the large cash depositors and making them accountable was no mean challenge," the Finance Minister noted.

During his four-year stint in the Finance Ministry, Adhia spearheaded rollout of the historical Goods and Services Tax (GST) besides implementing a host of laws to unearth black money. He was also deeply involved in formulation of various social sector programmes of the Modi Government.

Jaitley in his post said Adhia's tenure as the Revenue Secretary will be remembered for various initiatives where he provided the bureaucratic leadership in shaping and implementation of the policy.

"The campaign against black money both within and outside the country was the initial highlight of the Revenue Department," he said. Jaitley also noted that the Income Tax department now functions online with no physical interface between the assessee and the assessment official.

Prez Kovind to inaugurate CII Agro Tech fair on Dec 1

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the international agricultural fair on December 1 here, a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) official said Saturday.

CII Agro Tech 2018, India's biennial four-day Agro Technology and Business Fair, organised by the CII is being held from December 1 to 4 here.

The theme for this year, which happens to be the 13th edition of the fair, is "Technology in Agriculture: Increasing Farmer's Income," he said.

In a statement, Ajay S Shriram, Chairman, CII Agro Tech 2018, and Chairman and Senior Managing Director, DCM Shriram Ltd, said partner country is Great Britain while focus countries are Canada and China.

THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THE 13TH EDITION OF THE FAIR, IS 'TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: INCREASING FARMER'S INCOME', HE SAID

Two special pavilions have been added this time - States of India Pavilion and country pavilions from Canada, China, and the UK, besides participation from Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and the US, they said.

The CII Agro-Tech 2018 exhibition area will be spread over an area of 16,000 square metres with 110 exhibitors, which would include 103 domestic and seven international.

While the host states are Punjab and Haryana, partner ministries included the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

UK Min blocks export of unique Indian painting of 'Trumpeters'

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's arts minister has imposed an export bar on a unique watercolour painting depicting a traditional musical performance in mid-18th century northern India in an attempt to find a UK buyer for the 550,000-pound artwork.

Michael Ellis, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism, is hoping a museum would be interested in acquiring 'Trumpeters' by Nainsukh of Guler (1710-1778).

The painting is described by experts as a delicate miniature of a "rarely found calibre", showing seven village musicians on a terrace, striking differing poses and faces, while energetically blowing the exceptionally long Pahari horns called Turhi, in the hill region of northern India.

It has been categorised as a fine example of Nainsukh of Guler's trademark gift of detailed observation and complex directional composition. "Nainsukh's artistic influence has been felt around the world for generations and this piece demonstrates the outstanding aesthetic importance of his work," said Ellis.

"I hope that this piece can be kept in the UK, not only for its beauty, but to help further the study of Indian art and history," he said.

The artist is considered to be one of the most acclaimed of the Pahari Movement, a major and popular genre of Indian miniature painting during the period.

Some of his other works are exhibited in public collections in the UK, including the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum.

Business Corner

JACK & JILL HOSTS INDIA'S BIGGEST EDUTAINMENT EXPO

New Delhi: India's biggest edutainment expo, Jack & Jill hosted its 4th edition exhibition of 2018 witnessed the presence of chief guest Mr. Ashwani Lohani, the Chairman & MD Railway Board. Redhat Communications, the leading experiential marketing company in partnership with National Rail Museum New Delhi has organized the Expo for Kids this November. "Jack & Jill" is an edutainment concept that combines education and entertainment rendering real experiences that empower, inspire and educate children and will covers 4 important aspects i.e. wellness, education, tourism and entertainment that are crucial to a child's development. Delhiites can get ready to spend an amazing weekend with two day exhibition. An exclusive platform for children experiences & products from age group 0 - 14 to learn and enjoy on 17th & 18th Nov 2018 at National Railway Museum, New Delhi. The event had 70-80 exhibitors from various verticals who showcased products related to kids.



INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
Asset Recovery Management Branch, SCO 26, 2nd Floor, Madhya Marg, Sector 7-C, Chandigarh-160019, Ph: 0172-2790035, E-mail: iob2575@iob.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No 54 of 2002) whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken physical possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal www.iob.in and <https://iob.foreclosureindia.com>

Name and Address of the Borrower: M/S Yes Farms Pvt. Ltd., Village: Janti Khurd, P.O. Janti Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, PIN: 131028

Name and address of Director: 1. Sh. Rajpal Singh Village: Janti Khurd, P.O. Janti Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, PIN: 131028 2. Mr. Satpal Singh Village: Janti Khurd, P.O. Janti Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, PIN: 131028

Name and address of Guarantor and Mortgagor: 1. Sh. Rajpal Singh, Village: Janti Khurd, P.O. Janti Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, PIN: 131028 (Mortgagor and guarantor), 2. Mr. Satpal Singh, Village: Janti Khurd, P.O. Janti Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, PIN: 131028 (Mortgagor and guarantor), 3. Smt. Kesar, Village: Janti Khurd, P.O. Janti Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, PIN: 131028 (Mortgagor and guarantor), 4. Smt. Sureshna, House No. 110, Pradhan Keshar Singh Gali, Iradat Nagar, Naya Bans, Narela, Delhi-110040 (Guarantor)

Date of NPA: 31.12.2015 **Date of Demand Notice:** 01.03.2016 **Dues claimed in Demand Notice:** Rs. 13,63,82,843.50 as on 19.02.2016 with further interest & costs **Date of Physical Possession Notice:** 20.09.2018 **Dues claimed in Possession Notice:** Rs. 13,63,82,843.50 with further interest & costs.

Outstanding dues of local self Government (Property tax, water Sewerage, Electricity etc.): Not known to the Bank

Description of the Immovable Properties	Reserve Price (Including income tax of 1%) (Machinery-Applicable GST will be paid by Purchaser)	EMD
Property 1. All that part and parcel of the property consisting Land of khatwa no. 24/27 khatla No: 41 Kila no 25/21/2 (12-04) and on the land of and khatwa no 25/2/28-59, khatla no. 42, kila no-26/1/2(6-13), 2 (8-0) measuring 3.05 Acres within the revenue estate of village Janti Khurd the registration sub-District now Rai and District Sonapat, Haryana-131021.	Rs.7,95,03,000/-	Rs.79,50,300/-
Property 2. All part and parcel of Machineries at M/S Yes Farms Pvt Ltd	Rs.1,89,70,000	Rs.18,97,000

Bid Multiplier: Rs. 100000/- for Property No. (1) and Rs.50000/- for Property No. (2)

Encumbrance if any: No known

Inspection of Property: 03.12.2018 between 12.00 AM to 4.00 PM or any other working day with prior consultation with authorized officer

Date & Time of E-auction: 11.12.2018 between 11:00 AM to 1.00 PM, with auto extension of five minutes each till sale is completed.

EMD Remittance Deposit: EMD through EFT/NEFT/RTGS A/c No: 02840200012884

Name of Beneficiary: IOB EMD AUCTION ACCOUNT **Name of Bank:** Indian Overseas Bank

Name of Branch: Chandigarh, Sector - 7C **IFSC Code:** IOBA0000284

Branch Address: Indian Overseas Bank, SCO 26, Sector 7C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160019

Submission of online application for bid with EMD: 19.11.2018 onwards Last date for submission of online application for bid with EMD: 10.12.2018

For terms and condition, please visit www.publishertenders.gov.in, www.iob.in & <https://www.iob.in/4Closuresindia.com> or call the undersigned at Ph- 0172-2790035, 7874821957, 9815018138, 9082262682 and service provider Mr. Vikas Kumar Mob No. 8142000809 E-Mail : vikas@auctions.in or info@bankauctions.in and 040-2389405, 81420006265

This publication is also a 15 days notice to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor of the above loans under Rule 9(b) of SARFESI Act 2002 about holding of the e-auction sale by inviting tenders from the PUBLIC in General. For sale of secured assets for terms and conditions please visit our web portal www.iob.in and <https://iob.foreclosureindia.com>

DATE: 17.11.2018 PLACE: CHANDIGARH AUTHORIZED OFFICER

केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग
ई-टेंडर्स आमंत्रण सूचना

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से कार्यपालक अभियंता 'एस' मंडल, के 0 लो नो नि नि रामा पुरम, नई दिल्ली द्वारा अधोनिर्दिष्ट कार्यों के निष्पादन हेतु के 0 लो नो नि नि के approved and eligible टेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन प्रतियोगिता दर निविदा प्रणाली अमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. नि आओ सूच सं 104/EE/S Div/2018-19-(Revised)-(3rd-call) Name of Work "A/R & M/O to various types of qtrs. at Sector-1, R.K. Puram, New Delhi during 2018-19 (SH: Providing Male Security Guard)", अनुमानित लागत रु. 5,94,177 /- , धरोहर राशि रु. 11,884 /- , कार्य निष्पादन अवधि- 12 (बारह) मास बिड को जमा कराने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 26.11.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।

नोट:- बिड प्रचल और अन्य विवरण वेसाईट www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। प्रेस विज्ञापन www.eprocure.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No.: UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kamwali Road, Dehradun-248001
Tel. No. 0135-2783672-76, Fax No. - 0135-2780289

E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

This office e-tenders specification No. CCP-I/30,31 & 36/2018-2019 invited previously, for supply of Revenue Receipt Book as per format size 6"x12", SBM Rolls of size 57mmx58mm of 30 Meter Long on 70 GSM paper, Revenue Receipt Book, 11KV XLPE Cable 3x120 Sq. mm & 11 KV XLPE Cable 3x240 Sq. mm respectively are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tenders can be purchased and submit upto 17:00 hrs of 28.11.2018, Part-I of the e-tenders shall be opened on 29.11.2018 at 15:30 hrs, 15:45 hrs & 16:00 hrs respectively.

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

No. 601/EE(CM)/UPCLA-2/ Dt. 16.11.2018

Superintending Engineer Corporate (C&P-I)

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" use L.E.D. bulb save Electricity, Toll Free No. 1912 Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org, For Information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/ Fax No. 0135-2780911.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Jasvir S/o Ranvir Singh R/o Village & Post: Matanhail, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 87/13 U/s 454/448/380/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Jasvir** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Jasvir** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Jasvir** of FIR No. 87/13 U/s 454/448/380/34 IPC act on P. S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 21.12.2018.

By Order
Sh. Ajay Singh Shekawat
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 146, First Floor
DP/7976/WD/18/Court Matter)
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara, Gujarat - 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051
Branch Office: Branch Office: Icici Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSETS
(See proviso to rule 8 (6))
Notice for sale of Immovable Property

A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective (successors, assigns, heirs), E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(ies) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (in ₹)	Reserve Price (in ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (in ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Auction Date & Time
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	Mr. Jitender Chaudhary (borrower) M/s Green City Buildtech Ltd., Sumita Chaudhary (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00001652522	Property No 5, Block B, Gama, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.p. Covered Area 350 Sq. Mtrs.	Rs. 1,26,23, 083/- (as on Oct 10, 2018)	Rs. 74,00, 000/-	Rs. 7,40,00 0/-	Dec 07, 2018 From 12.00 Noon to 4.00 PM	Dec 28, 2018 From 11.30 AM

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency "Shriram Automall India Ltd" (**JURL Link** <https://auctions.samil.in>). The Mortgagors/ Noticee are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **Dec 27, 2018 before 5.00 PM** failing which, this/these secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at **ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Delhi- 110055** or our marketing agents **Shriram Automall India Ltd** having their office at **2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034** on or before **Dec 27, 2018 before 5.00 P.M.** The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at **Delhi**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. **9650193259/ 9599281817** of secured creditor or **9910453434** of **Shriram Automall India Ltd**. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Secured Creditor/e-auction vendor's official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit Secured Creditor's website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page>

Date: 17, 11, 2018
Place: Delhi

SD/-
Authorised Officer
On Behalf of Secured Creditor.

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055.

Notice under Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

This notice is being issued in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term includes its successors and assigns) and the borrower and co-borrower mentioned below. A notice is hereby given by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorised Officer") that the following borrowers has defaulted the repayment of principal and payment of interest of housing loans obtained by them from the Secured Creditor and the loans have now been classified as Non Performing Assets. Notice dated has been issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the Secured Creditor by them. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset To Be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Suraj Kumar Sah, Ravindra Kumar Sah, Chandra Kumar Sah, D 59/ 37 Mahmood Ganj, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh A/C No: LBDE00001131142 & LVRN00001468690	C- 21/87 E (New), Old Plot No. 61 B, Mahamandali Nagar, Chetganj, Varanasi	06-Oct-2018, Rs. 7126896.57/- & Rs. 5054642.09/-	05-10-2008 and 08-11-2008

The above borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of all outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : 17-11-2018
Place : Delhi/ NCR

SD/-
Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

Govt to resolve issues impacting coal output, supply: Goyal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Union Coal Minister Piyush Goyal Saturday said the Government is committed to resolve the issues impacting production and supply of coal in the country.

He said the situation in the key sector has improved in the last four years. "We will be importing less coal than what we did four years ago and the quality of coal today has never been so good," he said at the ET Awards 2018 here.

The Government is committed to resolve all issues related to the sector, he added. Captive power producers coming from sectors like aluminium, steel and copper have been complaining the issue of coal supply to run their plants. In this regard, the Indian Captive Power Producers

"We will be importing less coal than what we did four years ago and the quality of coal today has never been so good"

Holding responsible the previous Government for contributing to the issue, Goyal said "This is the weakness of the previous Government that they insisted you (the players) to design power plant on imported coal then we will allow you environmental permission to set it up. "They could never imagine that country could have 10 per cent growth of coal production which we have this year in the first half."

In the monsoon, he said there was stress of power, the requirement shot up and coal production could not keep pace with the monsoon.

Earlier this month, the minister urged state-run Coal India Ltd to pledge self-sufficiency in production to eliminate import of the dry fuel, and look at reviving the 1-billion tonne output aim.

Trump thinks US will have a trade deal with China

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday said he thinks there will be a trade deal with China, reiterating that he wants a deal which is fair and on a reciprocal basis.

Trump's statement came ahead of his meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Argentina later this month. The US President kicked off the trade war in June by slapping additional tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese exports, piling up pressure on China to reduce over USD 335 billion trade deficit in USD 710.4 billion bilateral trade.



"We have tariffs coming in on USD 250 billion worth of goods and we're talking about billions and billions of dollars a month will flow into our country, and has already started flowing into our country, that comes from China," Trump told reporters during a news conference. **PTI**

Oracle veteran Thomas Kurian to head Google Cloud

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oracle's ex-product chief Thomas Kurian will head Google's cloud division, replacing Diane Greene.

In a blog post Friday, Greene said Kurian will join Google Cloud on November 26 and transition into the leadership role in early 2019.

"I believe that he'll do an amazing job helping to take Google Cloud to the next level. Thomas has 22 years of experience at Oracle; most recently he was President of Product Development," she said.

She will continue as CEO through January, working with Kurian to ensure a smooth transition. Greene, who will remain a director on the Alphabet board, had joined Google in December 2015 to run its cloud business. "After an unbelievably stimulating and productive three years, it's time to turn to the passions I've long had around mentoring and education," she added.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND UNDERTAKING)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kamwali Road, Dehradun, Tel No. - 91-135-2783672-76 Fax No. 91-135-2780289
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358

CORRIDGMENT TO E-TENDER NOTICE

This office e-tender specification No. CCP-II/17/2018-2019 invited previously for Procurement of Underground Cable Fault Locator Machine mounted on van with diagnosis for LT, 11KV, 33KV Electrical Network of UPCL along with operation for three years are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 04.12.2018. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 05.12.2018 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

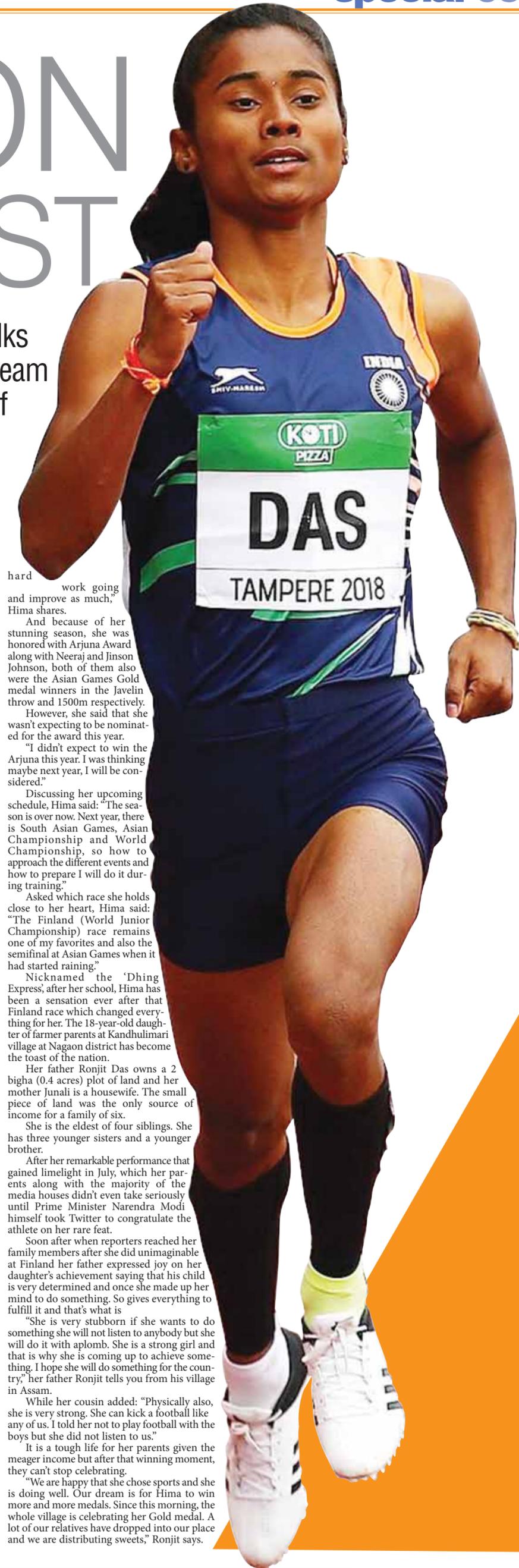
No. 604/EE(CM)/UPCLA-2 Date: 17/11/2018

Superintending Engineer Corporate (Contracts & Procurement-II)

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS, Use Led Bulb Save Electricity, Toll-Free-1800 419 0405 or 1912." Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/ Fax No. 0135-2780911.

CHAMPION FROM EAST

HIMA DAS, the doughty athlete from the North-east, talks to HARSHIT BISHT about how she grew up with the dream of representing the nation and became the poster girl of India's track and field events with just one single race



Hima Das after she was appointed UNICEF's Youth Ambassador at an event in New Delhi on Nov 14 — PTI

In the second week of July 2018, when the entire world was curious to know about who's going to lift the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, around 1,200 km away from the jampacked Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow at Tampere in Finland, the world saw a rise of a new star in track and field from India, which isn't a familiar face in the world of fast moving world.

Participating in her maiden International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Under 20 championship, 18-year old Hima Das created history by becoming the first ever Indian to win the Gold medal in track and field events at world level. Participating in 400 m category, with bib number 1731 in the back, Das was one of the favourites to win and the young athlete stands up to the expectations by running supreme (51.46 seconds) and create history.

She had done well in the earlier rounds as well, winning Heat 4 with a time of 52.25 seconds. She emerged on top in the semi-finals as well, winning her race in 52.10 seconds.

Initially, after having a slow start, where she was trailing by three athletes, the Assamese pressed the final gear in the last segment and produce a powerful sprint in the final 100m of the race and left everyone miles apart to not only win her maiden title at world level but also enroll herself in record books of Indian sports in spectacular fashion by doing something which hasn't been done before by anyone.

Talking about that race which gives her so much to cheer about in such a small span of time, Hima remembers that moment saying it was like a dream come true for her which she had in her mind ever since she came into this sport.

"It has been like a dream so far. I have always wanted to get into Indian team and wear Indian jersey. My goal was to make India proud and I am happy that I did that by becoming the world junior champion," she says.

She is the only Indian — male or female — to have won Gold in a track event at the world level. She joined Neeraj Chopra, who won Gold in the javelin — a field event — in the IAAF World U-20 Championships in the last edition in 2016 in Poland.

Das' rise has been nothing short of meteoric. One of her village school teachers saw her pace while she was playing football on a muddy field at his village. He told her to take up athletics. And soon the teenager was spotted by Nipon Das, an athletics coach with the Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare during an inter-district meet late in 2016.

Nipon asked her to shift to Guwahati, 150 km from her village and convinced the youngster that she had a future in athletics. Her parents were initially reluctant but later relented.

However, her coach Nipon Das feels that this is just a start for her on the road to victory as she will get more medals in upcoming tournaments.

"She always had the zeal and dedication to achieve her dreams and make it happen. When I met her for the first time in January 2017, I knew that she will touch the sky and will do something great for the country," Nipon, the athletics coach with the Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare tells you.

But before the big win in Finland, the 18-year-old had to spend days practicing football in the mud pits adjoining rice fields. This was the time when Nipon met her.

He convinced her parents to shift her to Guwahati and got her admitted to the State academy that only served in boxing and football. He along with the State coach Nabajit Malakar was so impressed with her talent that they took loans to send her to the World Youth Championships in Kenya the same year.

Talking about her love for the game, Nipon said: "She was always into 100 and 200-metre race and was doing great, but we thought that she can do better in 400 meters as well. I started taking her trial for 400 meters and she performed really well. After that, her schedule for the 400-metre race started.

"I feel that Hima is very hard working, dedicated and has strong psychological power. She learns by observing things. She has good relations with everybody. When she is on the ground, nothing can distract her except work."

He also says that Hima always liked training

with the boys.

"That was a strategy. If a girl trains with a boy, her performance improves. She has a high confidence level and when she thinks of doing something, she ends up doing that," he said.

Talking about her future goals, Nipon is confident that she will win big at upcoming events too. "I am sure she is going to win the upcoming events too. She is more confident than me. She keeps telling me: 'Sir I never run after medals but against time. When I will take less time to finish a race, I will automatically win. She will definitely make India proud once again,'" he said.

Refreshing the memories about when she (Hima) told her parents that she wants to pursue her career in sports her father, who was himself a footballer lend her support and inspired her to follow her passion.

"My father was a football player and he always used to say me that get into sports. My family has been very supportive. My father has been a source of inspiration for me and because of him, I am into this sport," Hima tells you.

Das trained at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium at the Sarusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati. Then, she won Gold in the 400m race of the Federation Cup in Patiala in March to qualify for the Commonwealth Games.

She finished sixth in the Commonwealth Games' 400 m finals and then lowered the Indian U-20 record in 400 m to 51.13 seconds while winning Gold in the National Inter-State Championships in Guwahati to qualify for the Asian Games in Indonesia.

At the Asian Games even she maintained that top level of performance which was expected from her and broke two national records in a span of two days in the women's 400m (51.00 and 50.79 seconds) race though she had to be content with a Silver behind Salwa Naser (50.09) of Bahrain.

Hima was also part of the Gold winning 4x400m relay team and Silver-winning mixed 4x400m relay quartet.

Talking about her vision as an athlete, Hima, who is still shaping herself for big challenges ahead, is very much clear about her goals and about the priorities she is going to have in her career. Unlike any other, the girl from the Northeast doesn't want to run behind medals. That isn't her priority but more importantly, wants to improve on her timing as much as she can before her body gives up.

"I never wanted to run behind medals, my aim since the time I begin to understand this sport has been to improve my timing. More than thinking about how to make a podium finish, I am more concerned about beating my previous best score," she says.

"Like at moment my personal best timing is 50.79 seconds, so before my next race, I am more concerned about how to make it 50.78 or even less. Because it is very important for a sprinter to work on his timing especially because even a difference of single microsecond can make a difference on its day," Hima says.

In April 2018, Das competed in the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Gold coast, in the 400 meters and reached the final where she finished sixth with a time of 51.32 seconds, 1.17 seconds behind Gold medalist Amantle Montsho from Botswana.

Remembering that race, she said: "I lost in CWG because of just a difference in a microsecond. I was tied with the fellow athlete but since she got better of me in one-hundredth of a second, I wasn't able to win the medal. So to avoid further mishap of such kind, I train more extensively to not let go any chance of failing at any point."

It's her building years in this sporting world and she well realizes this fact that for an athlete the major challenge apart from competitors is his physical fitness level, which doesn't tend to remain same throughout. So before that stage arrives she wants to work on everything she could improve.

"For a sprinter, it is never easy to maintain the same level of performance throughout her career. Because after a certain point of time the body doesn't remain in that good shape and you can't really help over it. It's a part of life. So my aim is that before I reach that stage, I keep the

hard work going and improve as much," Hima shares.

And because of her stunning season, she was honored with Arjuna Award along with Neeraj and Jinson Johnson, both of them also were the Asian Games Javelin medal winners in the Javelin throw and 1500m respectively.

However, she said that she wasn't expecting to be nominated for the award this year.

"I didn't expect to win the Arjuna this year. I was thinking maybe next year, I will be considered."

Discussing her upcoming schedule, Hima said: "The season is over now. Next year, there is South Asian Games, Asian Championship and World Championship, so how to approach the different events and how to prepare I will do it during training."

Asked which race she holds close to her heart, Hima said: "The Finland (World Junior Championship) race remains one of my favorites and also the semifinal at Asian Games when it had started raining."

Nicknamed the 'Dhing Express', after her school, Hima has been a sensation ever after that Finland race which changed everything for her. The 18-year-old daughter of farmer parents at Kandhulimari village at Nagaon district has become the toast of the nation.

Her father Ronjit Das owns a 2 bigha (0.4 acres) plot of land and her mother Junali is a housewife. The small piece of land was the only source of income for a family of six.

She is the eldest of four siblings. She has three younger sisters and a younger brother.

After her remarkable performance that gained limelight in July, which her parents along with the majority of the media houses didn't even take seriously until Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself took Twitter to congratulate the athlete on her rare feat.

Soon after when reporters reached her family members after she did unimaginable at Finland her father expressed joy on her daughter's achievement saying that his child is very determined and once she made up her mind to do something. So gives everything to fulfill it and that's what is

"She is very stubborn if she wants to do something she will not listen to anybody but she will do it with aplomb. She is a strong girl and that is why she is coming up to achieve something. I hope she will do something for the country," her father Ronjit tells you from his village in Assam.

While her cousin added: "Physically also, she is very strong. She can kick a football like any of us. I told her not to play football with the boys but she did not listen to us."

It is a tough life for her parents given the meager income but after that winning moment, they can't stop celebrating. "We are happy that she chose sports and she is doing well. Our dream is for Hima to win more and more medals. Since this morning, the whole village is celebrating her Gold medal. A lot of our relatives have dropped into our place and we are distributing sweets," Ronjit says.

SHE IS THE ONLY INDIAN — MALE OR FEMALE — TO HAVE WON GOLD IN A TRACK EVENT AT THE WORLD LEVEL. SHE JOINED NEERAJ CHOPRA, WHO WON GOLD IN THE JAVELIN — A FIELD EVENT — IN THE IAAF WORLD U-20 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE LAST EDITION IN 2016 IN POLAND

AT THE ASIAN GAMES SHE MAINTAINED THAT TOP LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE WHICH WAS EXPECTED FROM HER AND BROKE TWO NATIONAL RECORDS IN A SPAN OF TWO DAYS IN THE WOMEN'S 400M (51.00 AND 50.79 SECONDS) RACE THOUGH SHE HAD TO BE CONTENT WITH A SILVER BEHIND SALWA NASER (50.09) OF BAHRAIN

RIGHT ON TRACK



JINSON JOHNSON

Gold medallist in 1500 m and 800 m Silver winner in Asian Games Jinson Johnson is another hotshot athlete that gained highlights this year because of his brilliant performance in 2018 at International level. After featuring in 800 meters event at the Rio Olympics. In 2018 Commonwealth Games he finished fifth setting a new national record in the 1500 meters race by breaking the 23-year-old record of Bahadur Prasad. And later went on to win the Gold medal in the men's 1,500 m at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta with a timing of 3:44.72 in the final event, as well as a Silver medal in 800 meters. He also broke the long-standing national record of Sriram Singh in 800 meters in June 2018 when he clocked a time of 1:45.65 secs in Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships.



SWAPNA BARMAN

Born with six toes on each foot. Barman faced a lot of challenges in life ranging from inability to find proper running shoes to get a necessary diet for an athlete. But despite all these hurdles, she didn't let the spark go in vain and become the first ever Indian athlete to win the Gold medal in Heptathlon at the 2018 Asian Games. However, it didn't come easily to her as the 2017 Asian Athletics championships winner suffered a jaw injury but the 22-year old athlete from Bengal broke many of her personal records and already gained enough points in the initial six events that despite finishing fourth in the 800 m she was able to finish at the top.



MANJIT SINGH

Born in Ujhana village of Jind district in Haryana, Manjit's introduction to athletics wasn't too difficult as his father was himself a field athlete, in the Discus throw and shot put watching whom he got enrolled. Part-time farmer, Manjeet, who once worked with ONGC on two year contract and had to wait for five months to see his newborn child because of training schedule rose to fame in this year's Asian Games after he surprises everyone in the 800meters final by beating medal favorite and countrymen Jinson Johnson to become first Indian in 36 years to win yellow metal in this category finish with the personal best timing of 1:46:15 minutes.



ARPINDER SINGH

Triple jumper Arpinder, who had won a Bronze medal in 2014 Glasgow CWG added laurels to his name this year. On the eve of National Sports Day in India, the 25-year old won the Gold in triple jump event in 18th Asian games. He covered the distance of 16.77 m and bagged the No 1 spot becoming the second Indian to achieve this after Mohinder Singh Gill who was the winner at the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games.

Hat-trick of wins at Boxing World

Sonia, Pinky and Simranjit advance into pre-quarters of women's World C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hosts India kept its all-win record intact on the third day of the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships with Pinky Rani, Sonia and Simranjit Kaur notching up victories in their respective bouts to enter the pre-quarterfinals here on Saturday.

Sonia, a farmer's daughter from Haryana, secured a unanimous 5-0 win in 57kg category before seasoned campaigner Pinky (51kg) and Simranjit (64kg), who was fighting a bout after the death of her father in July, scored identical 4-1 wins to maintain a clean slate for the host country.

On Friday, Sarita Devi (60kg) and Manish Moun (54kg) had won their respective bouts to enter the pre-quarterfinals.

On Sunday, five Indians, including five-time world champion M C Mary Kom, will take the field. The 35-year-old Mary Kom, who got a first round bye, will begin her campaign against Aigerim Kessenayeva of Kazakhstan in 48kg.

Sonia was the first Indian to take the field and the 21-year-old used her "defensive" style to good effect to emerge winner in an unanimous 5-0 verdict against Doaa Toujani of Morocco.

It was a close bout with all the five judges giving 10-9 points in all the three rounds to either boxers. Toujani got only one favourable decision from a judge in the second round as Sonia won 29-28, 30-27, 30-27, 30-27, 30-27.

This was Sonia's first major international event having risen to senior level



Sonia (blue) fights against Toujani Doaa in women's 57 kg category bout during AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships at IG Stadium

es told me to play from a distance, draw her in and punch. That I did," Sonia said after her bout.

"I knew I had to maintain my distance and go close only to find openings. I was successful on a few occasions in the first two rounds. But in the third, I went attacking and used my combination punches."

Sonia's opponent Toujani, who had beaten Somali Ramla Ali in the first round, was in tears after losing the bout, but said she had no issues with the result.

"I had a good fight and I am happy to have competed at this stage. I have no issues with the result," she said through an interpreter.

The next up for India was Pinky and the 28-year-old boxer from Haryana in Haryana beat Armenia's 2014 youth World Champion Anush Grigoryan 4-1 (30-27, 30-27, 30-27, 30-27) on points.

Pinky is a seasoned campaigner who began the sport in 2006. This year, she won Gold in India Open and a Silver in Ahmet Comert tournament. She now now faces Alice Jones of England in the pre-quarterfinals on Monday.

"I am an aggressive player but in the first round, I observed my opponent to decide my strategy. My coaches told me that I was playing closer to my opponent. So in the second and third round, I changed my strategy and kept distance. I dodged some of her punches and then returned the punches," she said.

"This is my third World Championships and I have not won a medal yet. This time, I want to make my countrymen happy by winning a medal."

The 23-year-old Simranjit, who won a Gold in the Ahmet Comert tournament in Turkey this year, was taking the ring three months after her father passed away and she said she would try hard to win a medal for him.

From Chakar village in Ludhiana, Simranjit had a tough fight against 28-year-old Amelia Moore of the United States. Four judges ruled in favour of the Indian while one went for Moore (30-27, 30-27, 30-27, 27-30, 30-27).

"My father passed away in July and it was tough for me to be here but it is World Championships. I want to win a medal for him," she said.

by winning a Gold in the National Championships in 2016. Last year, she won a Gold in the Serbia Cup. She won a Bronze in the Ahmet Comert Boxing Tournament this year.

Sonia began with an open guard inviting the Morocco pugilist to take the initiative. The rookie Indian managed to land a couple of left jabs and a straight during the first round which looked a close one.

Sonia continued with her left jabs, trying to land on the real scoring areas of her opponent using her unconventional methods, especially with the right. The

Women's Boxing WC
Live from 1:00pm IST
STAR SELECT 1



ON SUNDAY, FIVE INDIANS, INCLUDING M C MARY KOM, WILL TAKE THE FIELD. THE FIVE-TIME CHAMPION WILL BEGIN HER CAMPAIGN AGAINST AIGERIM KESSENAYEVA OF KAZAKHSTAN IN 48KG

experienced Moroccan, too, changed her strategy and lowered the guard more out of frustration than anything else. Though she did manage a few blows, she struggled to connect her punches.

But the third round proved to be decisive when the Indian landed a right, then a combination of right-left and a left jab, even as both pugilists went attacking.

In the pre-quarters, Sonia, who got a first round bye, faces 2014 World Championships Gold medalist Stanimira Petrova of Bulgaria on Monday.

"I began boxing in 2011 (at the school level) and this is my first major international event and I am happy to win this bout. It was a tough fight. My style is basically defensive and I stuck to it. My coach-

Maxwell's all-round goes show in vain

A clinical display with the ball allowed the visitors to seal a 21-run win in the 10-over-a-side contest

AFP ■ GOLD COAST

Speedster Chris Morris claimed two wickets as South Africa struggled Australia to a 21-run victory in their rain-reduced Twenty20 international on Saturday.

The South Africans easily protected their 108 for six total off 10 overs to restrict Australia to 87 for seven with Morris the star of the Proteas bowling attack.

Morris claimed the wickets of D'Arcy Short for a golden duck and Chris Lynn for 14 in his opening over to trigger a wicket slide.

The Australians fell away from 21 for one after two overs to be 60 for six upon the dismissal of Alex Carey for eight in the seventh over.

Glenn Maxwell was Australia's topscorer with 38 off 23 balls with two sixes but was guilty of moving around the wicket and missing hittable deliveries as the pressure mounted on the home side.

In the end the difference was the execution of the powerplays. South Africa smashed 42 runs, losing just the one wicket, while Australia could manage only 27, and lost their top three batsmen.

Earlier Andrew Tye and Nathan Coulter-Nile claimed two wickets each as South Africa reached 108 for six after being sent into bat.

The Proteas got away to a flyer with opener Quinton de Kock clubbing 22 off 16 balls with two sixes and skipper Faf du Plessis hitting 27 from 15 balls.



Tabrez Shamsi celebrates after wicket

The South Africans raced to 42 inside the opening three overs before Coulter-Nile claimed the wicket of Reeza Hendricks for 19 caught in the deep by Ben McDermott.

Maxwell had de Kock stumped by wicketkeeper Carey and two overs later du Plessis fell to a brilliant leaping catch over the boundary rope by Maxwell off Billy Stanlake.

That left South Africa at 84 for three, triggering a rash of late wickets for only 24 runs. Heinrich Klaasen chipped in with 12 and David Miller hit 11, before he was the first of Tye's wicket double.

Tye bowled out his only two overs at the end of the innings to finish with two for 18 while Coulter-Nile captured two for 19.

The match was reduced to 10 overs a side after heavy rain prevented a scheduled start.

'Avoid confrontation with Kohli'

MELBOURNE: South African captain Faf du Plessis offered tips to Australia ahead of their big-ticket clashes against India: avoid confrontation with Virat Kohli and give him "silent treatment". Du Plessis on Friday said that his team gave India captain the "silent treatment" in an attempt to keep him quiet when the two teams squared off earlier this year.

"There are guys who enjoy the confrontation. We feel like that when we play against someone like Virat Kohli, he wants to get into the fight," the Protea said. Du Plessis' South Africa beat India 2-1 in the series but Kohli emerged as the top run-getter

with an aggregate of 286 from three Tests at an average of 47.66.

"There's one or two guys in each team around the world that we as a team discuss before playing against them. We're like, 'better not say too much to him because you'll get him going.'"

Du Plessis said, "He's an amazing player. We gave him the silent treatment and he still scored runs in South Africa, but we felt like it was not huge runs - he scored the one hundred there in Centurion when the wicket was slow.

"So every team will have what they think works - for us, that was silent treatment."

Bowlers toil after India A post 467/8

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Parthiv Patel top-scored with 94 before India A declared at 467 for eight, but their bowlers struggled in the face of New Zealand's strong response in the unofficial first Test here on Saturday.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, India A declared their first innings after some useful contributions from the lower-order batsmen. The visitors were 340 for five at stumps on the opening day at the Bay Oval.

Medium pacer Blair Tuckner was the most successful bowler for the home team, returning figures of 4/80.

New Zealand made a strong response, reaching 176 for one at stumps on the second day. Opener Hamish Rutherford, son of former New Zealand

captain Ken, was going strong at 106 off 169 balls, hitting 16 boundaries and a six. Is opening partner, Will

Young, made 49 before falling to off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham.

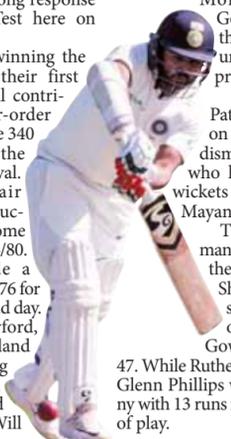
Gowtham was the only India A bowler to pick up a wicket, as the New Zealand A opens put on 121 runs.

Mohammed Siraj and Gowtham did the bulk of the bowling while medium pacer Deepak Chahar proved to be ineffective.

Earlier, the experienced Patel narrowly missed out on a hundred, having been dismissed for 94 by Tickner, who had earlier bagged the wickets of Murali Vijay and Mayank Agarwal.

The wicket-keeper batsman's departure didn't derail the Indian innings as Vijay Shankar stepped up to score an impressive 62 off 96 balls while

Gowtham chipped in with 47. While Rutherford was looking good, Glenn Phillips was giving him company with 13 runs from 60 balls at the close of play.



Shrubsole clinches hat-trick in T20 WC

AFP ■ GROS ISLET

Anya Shrubsole took a hat-trick as England thrashed South Africa by seven wickets in Saint Lucia to boost their hopes of reaching the Women's World Twenty20 semi-finals.

Hosts and reigning champions West Indies could send themselves and England into the last four if they beat Sri Lanka later on Saturday.

It was a must-win game for World Cup champions England after their opening game against Sri Lanka was washed out, but a tame effort with the bat from South Africa ensured the match was never a real contest.

"Anya's bowled brilliantly for us, and to have so few runs to chase was nice," said England captain Heather Knight.

The usually big-hitting Lizelle Lee crawled to a 26-ball 12 before being trapped by Natalie Sciver, who ended with incredible figures of three for four from four overs, as South Africa mustered a paltry 85 all out.

Shrubsole, the star of England's thrilling World Cup final win over India last year, wrapped up the innings by becoming only the second woman from her country to take a T20 international hat-trick after Sciver against New Zealand in 2013.

She dismissed Shabnim Ismail, Masabata Klaas and Yolani Fourie with the first three deliveries of the final over.

England openers Danni Wyatt and Tammy Beaumont put on a quickfire 55, and wicketkeeper Amy Jones' driven four wrapped up a thumping victory with 35 balls to spare.



Pak maintain lead against NZ

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

Left-arm pacer Trent Boult helped New Zealand foil Pakistan's advantage with four wickets as the first Test was evenly poised after day two in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

Boult's 4-54 derailed the Pakistani batsmen who were bowled out for 227 in response New Zealand's first innings total of 153.

He was well supported by debutant spinner Ajaz Patel (2-64) and Colin de Grandhomme (2-30) as Pakistan managed a first innings lead of just 74.

New Zealand then battled to 56-1 when bad light forced umpires to end the day with 4.2 overs still remaining.

The Black Caps still trail by 18 runs with nine wickets remaining.

Skipper Kane Williamson will hold the key for his team as he walked off with 27 not out and with him opener Jeet Raval on 26 not out.

The pair has added 56 for the second wicket after Tom Latham was bowled by Hasan Ali for nought in the second over, negotiating the spin bowling well under cloudy conditions.

New Zealand can take heart from the fact that Pakistan lost a Test at this venue last year against Sri Lanka by 21 runs, falling short of a target of just 136.

Pakistan squandered a good chance of taking a big lead through some inept batting, with only Babar Azam (62), Asad Shafiq (43) and Harris Sohail (38) making significant contributions.

Azam hit five boundaries in his 109-ball knock and was the last man out when he edged Boult for wicketkeeper BJ Watling to take a low diving catch.

Pakistan had resumed at 59-2 but lost overnight batsmen Sohail and Azhar Ali (22)

SL chance hangs by a thread

The hosts need 75 more runs to win, and level the three-match series, but with only three wickets in hand

AFP ■ KANDY

Spinners led by Jack Leach helped England close in on a series-clinching victory after Sri Lanka lost a fighting Angelo Mathews for 88 in the second Test on Saturday before rain stopped play.

Moeen Ali trapped Mathews lbw in the first over after tea to end the senior batsman's solid resistance that had kept alive Sri Lanka's hopes of chasing down a target of 301.

Leach struck soon to get Dilruwan Perera for one when torrential rain halted proceedings for the day with Sri Lanka on 226 for seven in Kandy.

The hosts, who trail the three-match series 0-1, need another 75 to win with three wickets and three sessions in hand. Niroshan Dickwell was batting on 27 when play was stopped.



Angelo Mathews plays a shot during his innings against England on fourth day

Sri Lanka on a shaky 26-3.

The former captain played a gritty innings that lasted 137 deliveries and also built crucial partnerships.

His 73-run fifth wicket stand with Roshen Silva (37) frustrated the English spinners in the afternoon session.

Ali had Silva caught behind with a faint edge. The umpire had given Silva not out before England successfully reviewed the decision in their favour.

Leach rattled the Sri Lankan top-order with three early wickets after the tourists were bowled out for 346 in the morning session.

Left-handed opener Dimuth Karunaratne then put on 77 runs with Mathews before falling to Adil Rashid for 57.

England, who had resumed the day on 324-9, stretched their second innings lead to 300 with overnight batsman Ben Foakes hitting an unbeaten 65.

Foakes, who hit a ton on debut in Galle, added 14 to his overnight 51 and shared 41 runs for the last wicket with James Anderson (12).

Shakib returns for Windies Test

DHAKA: Skipper Shakib Al Hasan returned from injury as Bangladesh on Saturday named a 13-man squad for the first Test against the West Indies, starting in Chittagong on November 22.

It was feared Shakib would be sidelined for at least three months after he underwent surgery on an injured finger in late September.

He missed the recent home series against Zimbabwe but Bangladesh chief selector Minhajul Abedin said the all-rounder recovered from the injury sooner than expected.

"He has been cleared by the physio to play against the West Indies," Minhajul said.

"There is no pain in his finger now. And he should be available from the first Test. He has a lack of match practice. But we thought as a senior cricketer he could adjust," he said.

Left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam, who played against Zimbabwe, made way for Shakib.

Batsman Liton Das, Nazmul Hossain, and pacers Saiful Islam and Abu Jayed, who were also part of the squad for Zimbabwe, have also been excluded.

Top-order batsman Soumya Sarkar was recalled for the Test. The hosts also included uncapped off-spinner Nayeem Hasan in the squad.

Nayeem was in the squad for the home series against Sri Lanka earlier this year but did not play.

The West Indies will play two Tests, three one-day internationals and as many Twenty20 internationals during their month-long series in Bangladesh from November 22 to December 22.



AFP



Zverev packs Roger's bag

AFP ■ LONDON
Alexander Zverev came of age to beat Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) on Saturday and set up a title decider at the ATP Finals against either Novak Djokovic or Kevin Anderson.

The 21-year-old German, leading the charge of the new generation against the old guard, has flattered to deceive on the game's biggest stages but is now just one win away from the biggest title of his career.

Serve dominated the first set of a high-class match at London's O2 Arena, with neither player able to make serious inroads, Zverev sending down howitzers around the 140 miles per hour (225 kilometres per hour) mark.

Six-time champion Federer, 37, and third seed Zverev both showed a willingness to get to the net in a match featuring power and guile.

The Swiss veteran eventually faltered in the 12th game of the opening set, watching helplessly as Zverev zipped a magnificent passing shot past him down the line on his way to breaking to love.

The second seed regrouped and drew first blood in the second set, breaking in the

Cilic upbeat ahead of Davis Cup final

AFP ■ LONDON

Marin Cilic said that playing against some of the top players in the world at the ATP Finals had given him a boost ahead of next week's Davis Cup final against France.

The Croatian crashed out of the tournament at London's O2 Arena in the group stage, winning one of his three round-robin matches against John Isner.

But the world number seven said he would approach the Davis Cup final, being held on clay courts in the northern French city of Lille, in good heart.

"Just playing against top guys just maybe lifts your level a bit, focus-wise," he said Friday after his 7-6, (9/7), 6-2 defeat against world number one Novak Djokovic.

"Playing-wise, you have to play every single point on a high level. I feel that might help me."

Cilic, 30, will be joined by Borna

Coric, ranked 12th in the world, as well as Franko Skugor, Mate Pavic and Ivan Dodig at the final, which takes place from November 23 to 25.

It will be Croatia's third final after winning the 2005 title and losing in 2016 to Argentina.

Last year, the French beat Belgium to claim their 10th crown. In 2014 they lost to a Swiss team led by Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka.

The meeting is a repeat of the football World Cup final in July in Moscow, which France won 4-2.

"We are expecting great atmosphere obviously in Lille," said Cilic, who reached the Australian Open final at the start of the year.

"It's going to be great. The French team always plays great at home. They're known for having great results in France. So it's going to be fun. It's going to be great to play, great excitement for both teams."

third game with a thunderous backhand down the line that drew enormous cheers from the partisan crowd.

But the frustrated 20-time Grand Slam winner could not consolidate his position, losing the next game as Zverev levelled at 2-2.

Federer's level slipped as his young opponent stayed focused but he clung on to take the set to a tie-break.

The tie-break went with serve until the 10th point, when Federer netted a simple forehand at the net to hand Zverev two match points.

He saved the first but Zverev sealed the match on his own serve.

Zverev, who has three Masters series titles under his belt in his short career, is the youngest finalist at the event since Juan Martin del Potro in 2009.

In Saturday's later match, world number one Djokovic takes on South Africa's Kevin Anderson in a repeat of the Wimbledon final for the right to face the German in Sunday's final.

The Serbian top seed has stormed up the rankings in the second half of the year and is just two wins away from pulling level with Federer's record number of titles at the season finale.

Earlier on Friday late-night clash, Novak Djokovic prepared for last-four clash with Kevin Anderson in ominous fashion by outlasting Marin Cilic 7-6 (9/7), 6-2.

The Serbian world number one started Friday's evening match at London's O2 Arena with the luxury of knowing he had already qualified as the winner of the Guga Kuerten Group but looked sharp and focused from the first point.

Djokovic, dressed all in black, won a remarkable 31 points in a row on his serve from the third game of the first set until the fourth game of the second against a determined Cilic, who was unable to progress even with a victory.

"Obviously I knew before the match that I had already qualified, and I knew who I'm playing, so it wasn't easy to approach this match with 100 per cent willingness to win it," said Djokovic. "But this is a unique format and both of us wanted to win from the first point. It was a close first set which probably decided the match."

Lakshya enters World Jr semis

PTI ■ MARKHAM

Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen defeated Aidil Sholeh Ali Sadikin of Malaysia 21-8, 21-18 to storm into the semifinals of the men's singles event of the BWF World Junior Championship.

The world No 3 Lakshya opened strongly against his Malaysian rival and completed the quarterfinals tie in just 31 minutes. He surged ahead with a solid lead in the first game where his opponent was a mute spectator.

But in the second game, the Malaysian did well to keep abreast of Lakshya and was separated only by a few points. The Indian used his court craft and hitting to led throughout.

In the semifinals, Lakshya will take on the top-seeded Kunalvut Vitidsarn of Thailand, who disposed of Indonesian Alberto Alvin Yulianto 21-14, 21-17.

"He is a very good player and I am aware of it. I will have to be on my feet to beat him. I am up for the challenge," Lakshya said.

However, the Indian pair of Vishnu



Lakshya Sen attempts to return a shot. File Picture

Vardhan Panjala and Srikrishna Sai Podile could not progress any further as the duo went down to Koreans Tae Yang Shin and Chan Wang in the quarterfinals. The 10th-seeded Koreans won 21-11, 21-8 in the men's doubles quarterfinals.

The Indian doubles pair was no match to the Koreans which worked in tandem and complimented each other with better display, especially at the net.

Momota stunned in Hong Kong semis

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Top-ranked Kento Momota was sent packing from the Hong Kong Open on Saturday after a stunning semi-final loss to South Korean Son Wan-ho.

Son triumphed 18-21, 21-16, 21-19 in an exhausting 89 minutes — the longest match of the tournament so far — after seeing off a late boost from the exhausted Japanese star in the decider.

Momota led through the first game but slipped for long enough for his opponent to level at 17-all after conceding six consecutive points.

He kept the edge after the interval before Son broke into the lead at 12-11 with a gravity-defying let after a tap at net.

Momota evened with a backhand after springing back from prone position after a stumble but couldn't stop the sixth seed from powering ahead.

Son led through most of the third game but Momota kept at his heels, drawing level five times before an agonising miss on match point.

Momota has been in searing form since his return to the sport after a gambling scandal saw him slapped with a 12 month ban.

But the 24-year-old has had a slow run through the Hong Kong tournament. He beat Chinese great Lin Dan in the first round but complained of burnout after his first three matches all went to three games. Son, 30, is through to his first top-flight singles final since his win at the 2016 Korea Masters.



Prajnesh crowned Bengaluru champion

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Prajnesh Gunneswaran out-classed compatriot Saketh Myneni in straight sets to win the ₹1,50,000 Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger title here on Saturday.

In the all-Indian summit clash, Gunneswaran thrashed Myneni 6-2, 6-2 under an hour to improve his ATP rankings from 144 to 110.

The Chennai lad did not allow Myneni to make a comeback in the entire match as he smashed heavy serves and forehands to neutralise his opponent.

Gunneswaran played with lot

of confidence, unlike the last time he met Myneni in an ATP Challenger event.

"I knew it would be tough playing Prajnesh (Gunneswaran). Yes, I made far too many errors. Credit should go to Prajnesh, whom I found a tad confident in this match, compared to the last time I played where he was tentative," Myneni said in the post-match press conference.

More than anything else, Gunneswaran started off very strongly in both the sets which derailed the confidence of a tired looking Myneni.



"Saketh (Myneni) looked tired. Hence I said to myself that I should not give away and sustained pressure on him. From outside 6-2 6-2 wins looks easy, but it wasn't. The walkover in the quarterfinals also helped me save some energy coming into the finals," Prajnesh said.

Myneni committed far too many unforced errors that ruined his day.

"It is very tough to play against left-handed players as they have heavier spin in their shots. Also many right-handed players are not used to left-handed players," Myneni said.

Dutch hunt France in Nations League

AFP ■ ROTTERDAM

The Netherlands have qualification for the Nations League semi-finals in their sights after beating France 2-0 on Friday to hand Didier Deschamps' side their first defeat since winning the World Cup.

Georginio Wijnaldum struck on the stroke of half-time and the dazzling Memphis Depay chipped home a cheeky stoppage-time penalty to bag a win in Rotterdam for Ronald Koeman's revitalised side that leaves the impressive Dutch needing just a point against relegated Germany on Monday to leapfrog France and make the semi-finals.

The Dutch are a point behind leaders France, who only needed a draw themselves on Friday to qualify for the knockout stage in their last match of the group but came up way short.

"I was not expecting a perfect match from our side but that's really what it was. We were very, very good," said Koeman.

Wijnaldum's goal came practically at the midway point of a match dominated by the hosts, who have bounced back from the doldrums after failing to qualify for the World Cup.

They dominated the lacklustre world champions from the off and were only denied an even bigger win by a magnificent per-



Germany must accept painful relegation: Loew

BERLIN: Head coach Joachim Loew said that Germany must move past their "painful" relegation from the top tier of the inaugural Nations League. "For us, this result is obviously painful, but we must accept it," Loew said on Friday. The Germans beat Russia 3-0 in a friendly with youngsters Leroy Sane, Niklas Sule and Serge Gnabry scoring the goals, and Loew insisted his side has a bright future. "Our eyes remain fixed on Euro 2020, for which we will qualify and where we want to send a strong team again," he added.

formance from France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

"This win shows the spirit of the team, the quality of the players we have," said Depay.

"It shows that we have a bright future, we have to continue like this. This is just the start."

Neymar's penalty punishes Uruguay

AFP ■ LONDON

Neymar kept his cool to score the controversial penalty that fired Brazil to a 1-0 win over Uruguay in a full-blooded friendly.

Brazil captain Neymar was subjected to some ferocious fouls from Uruguay as the clash between the South American rivals boiled over at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

But the Paris Saint-Germain striker had the last laugh, netting from the spot late in the second half after Diego Laxalt was harshly ruled to have fouled Danilo.

Brazil are now unbeaten in their last 10 meetings with Uruguay, who haven't defeated the five-time world champions since 2001.

Brazil, building towards hosting the Copa America next year, take on Cameroon in another friendly in Milton Keynes on Tuesday.

It will be their last match of 2018, having recorded five successive friendly victories since



Neymar celebrates with teammates after converting penalty. AP

losing in the World Cup quarter-finals against Belgium.

"It was a typical South American derby. We have respect for Uruguay. They have dangerous players," Brazil boss Tite said.

"We managed to control them. This is our third game now without conceding a goal."

Uruguay manager Oscar Tabarez added: "Neymar was playing with freedom. We weren't controlling him very well."

"But I thought our young team matched Brazil. It's a shame it comes down to a controversial situation."

Neymar was the headline act as the

Maracana came to the Holloway Road.

His every touch brought cheers of approval from the crowd and it wasn't long before he conjured the Selecao's first chance.

Uruguay's Lucas Torreira was on home turf and the Arsenal midfielder showed the steely streak that has endeared him to Gunners fans when he earned a booking for clattering into Neymar.

That crunching tackle was typical of the robust approach that has remained Uruguay's trademark for decades.

There was little love lost between the sides

and referee Craig Pawson dished out five bookings in the first half alone.

Brazil nearly fell behind just before the interval as Alisson was forced to repel Edinson Cavani's close-range strike from a Suarez cross.

Suarez went close himself, blasting a low free-kick that forced Alisson to save at full stretch after the interval.

Neymar was growing increasingly irritated by the Uruguayan tackling, shaking his head in frustration after being clipped by Mathias Suarez.

But he almost found the perfect response with a mazy run and shot that tested Alisson.

Neymar finally got his revenge for the rough treatment in the 76th minute.

When Uruguay's Laxalt dived in on Danilo, the Brazilian launched into a theatrical fall that convinced Pawson to give a dubious penalty.

Neymar grabbed the ball and stepped up to send Campana the wrong way from the spot.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice EL-WS-GKP-2018-06

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Workshop, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for & behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work

Tender No. & Description of work	Approx. Value	E.M.D Money
EL-WS-GKP-2018-06	₹ 1,85,25,813.29	₹ 242630.00
Provision of power supply arrangement for PU Painting system in Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur.	Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 5000/-	Completion times/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 04 Months

• E-tender online will be submitted upto 15:00 Hrs on dated 05.12.2018.
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website www.ireps.gov.in

CPRO/EL-68 Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (WS)/Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

AFP ■ CORDOBA

Juventus forward Paulo Dybala shone as Argentina comfortably beat Mexico in a friendly on Friday despite the absence of Lionel Messi and Sergio Agüero.

In cruising to a 2-0 victory in Cordoba, Argentina showed more signs of a newfound unity under interim coach Lionel Scaloni as they rebuilt following a fraught World Cup in Russia.

"We're on the right path," Scaloni said after his side secured their third victory in five games under his command as they eye next



Paulo Dybala in action against Mexico. AP

year's Copa America in Brazil.

Mexico could have opened the scoring when Raul Gimenez's header hit the crossbar early in the game, but Argentina went ahead when

Dybala's free kick was headed in by Mexican defender Ramiro Funes Mori moments before half-time.

Loudly applauded by the home fans, Dybala supplied the creative spark throughout and could have doubled the score but his second-half lob narrowly missed the target.

Argentina's second goal came when Mexican defender Isaac Brizuela put into his own net under pressure from substitute Mauro Icardi.

Mexico have a chance for revenge when the same countries meet again in Mendoza on Tuesday.

Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Sambhal

E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders Short Term

No. 2798/E-Nivida /18-19 Dated : 12-11-2018

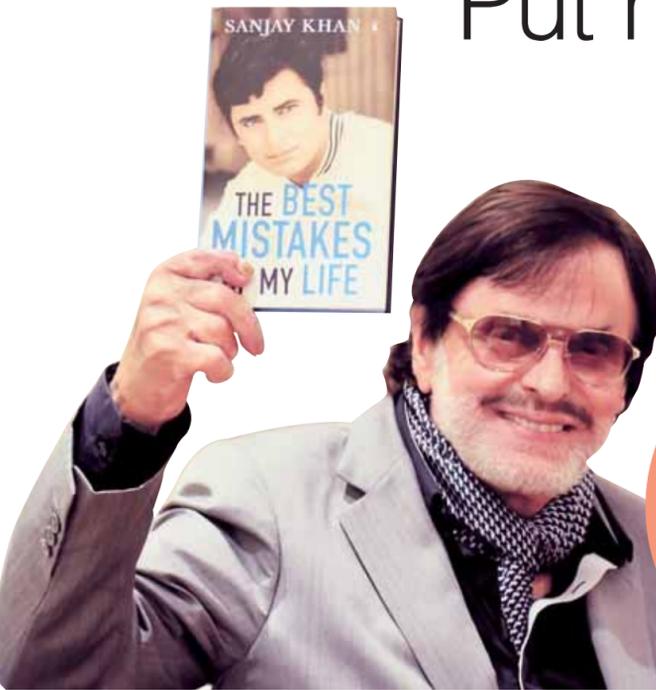
1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD Sambhal online on website <http://letender.up.nic.in> from Contractors registered in Road work Class A, B, C, & D Category from 20-11-2018 at 10.00 am to 26-11-2018 at 5.00 pm. Technical bid/Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 27-11-2018 at 2.00 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Sl. No	DIS TR I CT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs)	Time of Completion of the work (Including rainy Session)	Cost of the Tender Documents including G.S.T. (in Rs)	Category of Road Work contractor eligible
1	Sambhal	R/E of Sambhal to Sirsi Pota Barahi to Navada.	22.59	2.26	02 Month	854.00	Road Work A, B, C, & D Category
2	Sambhal	R/E Madhawli Rasulpur to Jhande wali Milak (150 m Drain)	10.99	1.10	"	"	"
3	Sambhal	SR of Mahmoodpur Mafi to Barahi road.	27.80	2.78	"	"	"
4	Sambhal	Repaire work of BB road to Machkhara road.	7.29	0.73	"	"	"
5	Sambhal	Repaire work of Bahjoi Mandi to Bheempur road.	7.00	0.70	"	"	"
6	Sambhal	Repaire work of Bahjoi Mandi to Chilnampur road.	7.29	0.73	"	"	"
7	Sambhal	Repair work of Rampura road.	8.00	0.80	"	"	"
8	Sambhal	C/o Cc road and drain, (400m CC and 900 m Drain) at Babrala Anupshar road to Sindhalanpur.	26.21	2.63	"	"	"
9	Sambhal	Repair work of Moradabad Sambhal road to Chimyabli road. (800 m Drain)	34.50	3.45	"	"	"
10	Sambhal	C/O CC road and drain of Babrala Gawan Rahra to Bhirawti road. (150m CC and 400 m Drain)	10.84	1.09	"	"	"
11	Sambhal	Repair work of Alampur Kudaiya to Bahtakhas road.	23.60	2.36	"	"	"
12	Sambhal	Repair work of Chandausi Berni rith ka Bazar to Alampur Kudaiya road (500 m CC and 1000 m Dain)	31.00	3.10	"	"	"
13	Sambhal	SR of Dharangpur to Hasanghar ki Madaiya road.	6.25	0.63	"	"	"
14	Sambhal	Repair work of Saldnagli Chaudharpur to Ghansurpur road.	18.40	1.84	"	"	"
15	Sambhal	Repair work of Begum sarai Nai Masjid to Wajidpur road.	23.00	2.30	"	"	"
16	Sambhal	Repair work of Moradabad sambhal road to Milak Sirsi road.	17.50	1.75	"	"	"
17	Sambhal	Repair work of Raysatti to Madlai via Nai sarai road.	12.00	1.20	"	"	"
18	Sambhal	Repair work of Shahpur Chamran ro Milak Girhari road.	16.90	1.69	"	"	"

Rules and Conditions and Details of Tenders are available at website <http://letender.up.nic.in>

A.E. (Manik Chand) Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Sambhal Email - eepdbheemnagar@gmail.com For and on behalf of Governor of UP
UP 134753 Date 16.11.2018
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

'Put heart into everything you do'



What prompted you to write *The Best Mistakes of My Life*?

It was a fascinating journey. From becoming a star to having a wonderful family to the extraordinary experiences and adventures I have had overcoming life threatening situations. Meeting some of the most powerful men in the world and becoming friends. All these stories have been some of the best mistakes of my life. My friends used to gather around me listening to stories and urged me to write a

Can you tell us an anecdote from your book?

I was in Iran to shoot a film in 1976 when I got a call from an assistant of a warlord who said that the chief was a fan of mine and would like to meet me. I accepted the invitation and took two flights along with a friend — George Masbetuny. We drove to the desert in the starry midnight and came to a large tent city. People received us and ushered us inside the tent which looked like a fairytale with Persian carpets, chandeliers, a centre table which had a wide spread of fruits and snacks to eat. We were wondering what type of Khan he was. A bearded one with a black robe and turban in a typical Iranian style. I oppose to meeting religious people, so I was hoping that he would not be one.

Isn't that dramatic?

Suddenly, from the wings, like an actor enters the stage, a 35-year-old man came out wearing turtle neck black sweater and say, 'Hi, I am the Khan' (laughs). We embraced each other and sat down. He called his four wives and said: 'They are your big fans and they are going to sing a song.' I was delighted. The eldest was about 25 and the youngest was about

16-year, all dressed in long Qashqai tribe gowns. They played mandolin and sang so beautifully. Khan was looking at me and I was looking at the ladies. When I noticed that Khan is watching me, he said: "You can look at the first three but not the youngest, she is my favourite (laughs)." It was such an amusing experience. He was liberal, honest and my regard for this man went up. What happened later, one will have to read the book. There are more such interesting anecdotes.

How has your relationship been with your family?

Once a banker asked me my net worth and I just smiled and said, 'take a head count of my wife, four children, three son-in-laws, nine grandchildren and one daughter-in-law. Attach a figure on each and you will get the total. That is my net worth. That is how much my family means to me and I am not overtly concerned with the ups and downs of the material world.

What is the best thing that has happened in your life?

Zarine! I am very grateful to have her in my life. I, as a husband and father, have fulfilled my duties. My children have received a good education and learnt to be patient, to respect the elders and help the

weak and the poor. This may sound to you like any standard parent, but all this was taught to me by my parents. I still remember my mother's words, she said: 'Son, you God's hand. You must help people.'

How was the phase like when you met with a fire accident during the shoot of *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*?

It is easy for one to imagine, but to experience 65 per cent third degree burns, the trauma of 13 months and 73 surgeries was difficult. That time, I felt like an insect trapped in a deep circular space and I just wanted to come out a little hole which was like a window from where the light was coming in. I kept telling myself that I must fly out. The treating doctors in the US said perhaps I am the only man in a billion who can be described as a miracle. That's why they used to call me The Miracle Man.

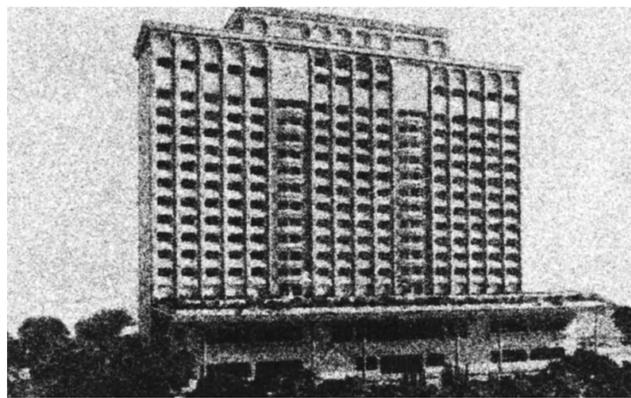
How has the Bollywood journey been?

It has been very fruitful. I was very popular at one time and everybody wanted to work with me. When I was labeled as the most handsome actor in the industry, I used to look into the mirror and say to myself: 'These guys are pulling my leg. Even after my recovery, I never stopped working. One thought which kept me going was one should put the heart in whatever they do, and the body will follow.'

Talktime

SANJAY KHAN

Miracle man who rose from death after 65 per cent third degree burns and 73 surgeries, the 77-year-old Khan talks to Sangeeta Yadav about penning his extraordinary journey in his memoir *The Best Mistakes Of My Life*



The old Machan at the Taj Mahal, Delhi

The opening of the hotel on October 11, 1978 — Dusshera Day

From introducing a concierge service to personalised a butler service for the very first time, the Taj Mahal Hotel in the Capital is an iconic one that has stood tall for 40 years. SHALINI SAKSENA tells you how it has been a trendsetter in the hospitality sector

Delhi is known for its historical monuments. From the Red Fort to the Qutub Minar, people who visit the city make a trip to them. But the city is not just identified with its monuments that have stood the test of time. It is also known for several iconic buildings. The Taj Mahal on Mansingh Road is one on the list. Such was the beauty of the hotel's facade that when George Harrison (Beatles band member) was in town, he so was "intrigued and attracted" by it that walked into the hotel only to be spellbound by its interiors. So much so that he ended up staying there!

The hotel which surrounds itself with culture and tradition and has a list of a few firsts. It was the first hotel in the country to introduce a concierge service; it was also the first with its butler service.

Most of us who have visited the property are also familiar with Machan, the coffee shop, which was a trendsetter back then. It introduced the concept of the midnight buffet. The buffet was a success and the hotel often buzzed at midnight. The timings were 12-3 am and it was so popular that there would be queues during the

Wah Taj!

those hours to enjoy the buffet, priced at just ₹21!

The decor at Machan was thought over and designed by Divyabhanusingh Chawda, an avid wildlife enthusiast. Guests visiting the restaurant loved it so much that the present decor continues to resonate the theme.

Satyajeet Krishnan, Area Director-North and General Manager, Taj Mahal, New Delhi, who has been with the property for four years but with the company for 25 years, tells you that the hotel came up in the late 70s. "Back then the only luxury hotel in the city was The Oberoi. The Government was hosting an important international conference for the first time. That is how the story of this hotel started. We partnered with the Government (NDMC) in creating it. In many ways, we are the pioneers of bringing luxury hoteliering to the city. We start-

MENU CONCEPTS THAT WERE A HIT IN THE 80S

- The 7-minute lunch menu (1985) was designed keeping business travelers on the go. The concept was to serve travelers lunch within 7 minutes of the order being put forth.
- The Bionic Burger (1979/1980) was meant for a family of 3-4 people. The burger was divided into four equal shares for the family.
- Coffee was served and enjoyed most in pots — 1978

ed several concepts that we today take for granted. For example, we were the first to introduce concierge service which began in England. We were the first to introduce Sichuan Chinese food in North India. We created a restaurant Haveli which brought traditional Indian food to the table," Krishnan says.

He tells you that the location of the hotel has dual advantage. First, it is strategically placed — close to CP for business travellers and Government offices; for those on a leisure traveller, most monuments are within a 20-minute drive. Second, this is the most sought after address. Nowhere in Lutyens Delhi would one find such a big piece of land. Interestingly, a hotel — Fonseca — was already being run by a family in the place

where Taj Mahal stands today. "They shut shop and we took over. The Government demolished the old hotel and a new structure was made which took three years. Once the building was complete, we took over and did the decor," Krishnan recalls, adding that over the years many changes in the menu have been made.

"When we started off, we created new dining concepts, some of the menu concepts have stood the test of time like Machan and House of Ming. Ten years back, we decided to revisit the dining experiences and brought in fine dining Japanese food — Wasabi by Morimoto. We also revisited Indian food and replaced Haveli with Varg," Krishnan recounts.

Chef Tapash Bhattacharya tells you that his journey with The Taj Mahal Hotel, particularly at Machan, has been wonderful. "My unparalleled passion and zeal for Machan has only strengthened over the years. My priority is our guests who have been frequenting the legendary restaurant. They have woven memories here, they have numerous stories and nostalgic experiences to cherish. The guests are extremely senti-

mentally attached to this eatery and they are the ones who have made it so special not just for the hotel but for the entire city," Bhattacharya says.

As for the service staff, many have been with the property for decades. Krishnan himself started his career from this property in the 90s and came back to the property as General manager. Some of his colleagues who were there back then are still here. "That is why we are so successful in getting repeat guests. The recognition that the staff has with the guests brings builds a connect which is the third most important reason why people return to this property," Krishnan says and tells you that the staff is taught to be professional.

"The staff is trained to cater to the guests' need. What they are not taught is warmth, this comes naturally to the staff and to the Taj hotel.

This leads to a bond," Krishnan says and tells you that they are looking at renovation but they are not going to shut shop.

Will this renovation also bring back the Cona Coffee to Machan? We hope that it does but only time will tell!

'There's diversity in indie cinema'

AADISH KELUSKAR's movie Jaon Kahan Bata Ae Dil, was recently showcased at MAMI. The director speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his favourite films and what he considers to be honest work



What is your film Jaon Kahan Ae Dil about?

It is an anti-romantic movie. It takes the conventional genre of romance without any filters. The couple in the movie talks about things what I have heard from people in real life. It is a kind of film that Bollywood has been talking about making but never did due to budget constraints and industry concerns. The movie explores how deep and dark relationships can get.

Why such a realistic portrayal of romance?

There has been under representation of factors that exist in the society. Each filmmaker can come up with an explanation why he chose to tell one side. Cinema, according to me, at the end of the day is a medium for the masses. In spite of calling it commercial cinema, we don't show working population or talking about politics. If we want to talk about masses, we should be able to do so

What are the challenges in making such films?

The challenge or constrain is to keep the movie within a budget where the people involved don't suffer losses since one is taking such a big risk. Next, comes working within that amount and develop an OS for that particular film.

How does a director then make money and ensure that masses watch it?

There is no way that one can make masses watch a film. We have a population of over 1.3 billion. In theatres, around 3-4 crore people watch it; out of this 35-40 per cent are satellite subscribers, digital is even less. So 50 per cent of India is any which way not watching movies. That leaves 50 per cent. Even here, the kind of noise that needs to be made depends on marketing. People go and watch films that are recommended. In this whole scenario, independent films are way below. How much time it will take for films to go viral can't be predicted. Therefore, directors like me depend on the digital space.

Why do such movies do well at the digital platform or film festival circuit?

There is diversity in independent cinema. When we see the history of Hindi cinema — art or parallel cinema — there were different school of thoughts. Shyam Benegal school of thought was very different. Salim-Javed were writing films that were very different from the kind of movies that were made in the 60s like *Deewar* and *Zanjeer*. If a main stream film is spending ₹6-8 crore on marketing for a nation-wide release, the independent cinema budget is way below; in fact there is no comparison and hence not be able to do so well.

Does this mean there is some hope?

I don't see any hope. I don't want to be a pessimistic but for me to see any hope, I have to be able to see some changes but that is not happening at present.

How do you showcase honest work through a film?

One has to be clear why one is making it in the first place. If it for the audience, then you have to make sure that this is the effect you want to portray. Then there are kind of films where the makers make the kind of movie that they want and let the audience decide it for themselves.

Define good cinema.

Something that makes you think for more and feel for more. Right now, it doesn't do this.

How do such stories/scripts come to you?

Till now, I observe things around me without any direction in my mind. This gets accumulated in my mind. Then one fine day, it explodes and comes out in a story format. Whether this will work in the future can be predicted.

All time favourite films.

At present, they are *Ardh Satya*, *Pyaasa*, *Naya Daur*, *Satya* and *Black Friday*.

Cutting the wind with its electric blue symmetrically patterned wings, taking a swirl up in the air moving to form a figure of eight and then smoothly landing on to a blooming flower. "That's rare Blue Swallowtail," says Ajmal Hasan, education manager at the Meilha Archaeological Centre and Al Noor Island in Sharjah, as he brings his both palm close to the butterfly in order to make him sit on his hands.

"There are many techniques to hold these gentle creatures. Holding its wings would leave them injured. It is best to hold them gently from their body. The best way is to just bring both your hands close to butterfly and try to give a space for them to step on your hand. You can also put a cut fruit on your hand and they will come to suck the nectar from it. If you wear a bright floral dress, they will come and sit on you considering you a flower," Hasan says, who is originally from Bengaluru.

Amid hot climate, beautiful architectures and in middle of the Arabian Gulf sea, there lies Al Noor Island, a place of wonder nature which is home to over 15 exotic species of butterflies whose egg and larva are imported from the Philippines and Costa Rica and kept in a man-made habitat. Species like Zebra longwing Heliconian, passion-fruit butterfly, monarch butterfly, red admiral, orchard butterfly, squinting bush brown, malachite, and many others flaunt their bright colourful wings. Resting with its wings held

Giving colour to the desert

Who says butterflies can't flutter in a desert? The Al Noor Island in Sharjah buzzes with exotic and colourful wingers imported from The Philippines and Costa Rica, says SANGEETA YADAV



upright over its body, these butterflies suckle the nectar of not just flowers but cut fruits as well like orange, banana, pineapple, and other fruits.

"They are fed fruit slices where they suck the nectar from the fruits using their long proboscis. Also, regular medicinal supplements are sprayed onto the fruits in order for the butterflies to obtain their mineral salts. The eggs and larvae are procured from suppliers based in the Philippines and Costa Rica currently. The Butterflies arrive in their chrysalis state when they are nurtured and hatch within the Butterfly House. The total population has reached 400 now. Most of the Butterfly are common species and not

threatened in the wild. The life cycle of most butterflies housed with the island us from three to four weeks maximum," Hasan explains.

No matter what the temperature is outside, the oval-shape glass enclosure maintains a tropical temperature between 26 to 30 degree C with 80 per cent and above humidity, best suited for the butterfly to flourish. "A lot of hard work, money and conservation time has been spent in developing the Island, primarily so that Sharjah residents can enjoy a lush tropical paradise retreat in between the concrete jungle. Many tropical and milkweed plants have been installed inside the enclosure which gives a natural habitat to these

butterflies to lay eggs and transform into the next generation. The hope is to promote butterfly conservation awareness on the island and promote being outdoors appreciating nature's beauty. We routinely educate school children and visitors with engaging

workshops and guided Butterfly house tours in order to make the community more aware about how butterflies are not just beautiful but are part of nature and need to be protected," Hasan says.

A walk through the Al Noor Island, especially in the evenings, will mesmerise you with a light and sound show. The Island is home to over 2000 trees and plants including Khejri trees, palm trees, peepal, hibiscus and many others. There are numerous art installations like Wind Column Structure which have been strategically placed across the island and aims to spread positivity. Inaugurated in December 2015, the island, which is spread across 45,000 square metres, has been designed by the famous Australian designer Andre Heller, the man behind creating many famous landmarks like Swarovski Crystal Worlds of Watters in Austria and designing green spaces and landscapes in the gardens of Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna. Connecting Khalid Lagoon with a pedestrian bridge over the sea, this island is truly a great leisure destination that combines nature and art.

the pioneer agenda

I have joked that I would have either become schizophrenic or an actress, but as an actress you can do both
— Carla Gugino



3 Chasing the rainbow
Simrita Dhir's *The Rainbow Acres* is a historical novel about migration in which a young Punjabi man sails to a new life in California in America



6 The vegan boom
Despite the stereotypical litany of vegan-related myths, veganism is steadily becoming one of the most popular diets around the world



7 The leadership question
The course open for our leaders is to have noble intentions and pursue the path with dedication, without aiming to satisfy all the people all the time

FROM THE INSIDE

Sri Lanka owes it to Lalith Athulathmudali for its emergence as a nation of enlightenment. The farsighted policies initiated by him as the Education Minister in the 90s, and the Mahapola Trust Fund set up by him in 1981 for providing financial assistance to students for higher education, turned out to be game-changers in the country's high literacy rate, says KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

A SILENT REVOLUTION IN SRI LANKA

A silent but spectacular revolution has taken place in India's neighbourhood, which went unnoticed by our agile and alert media, specialists in 'breaking news' every other minute. This is a revolution which has large-scale implications for India in the immediate future itself. Sri Lanka — which witnessed a more than three-decades-long ethnic war that culminated in 2009 with the obliteration of the LTTE terrorists fighting for a separate Tamil country by vivisectioning the island nation — overtook India and emerged as South Asia's most literate country.

The United Nations rated Sri Lanka as a country with 94 per cent literacy rate, while big brother India is far behind with a mere 74 per cent literacy. "Yes, Sri Lanka has become the country of enlightenment in Asia," says Prof BM Hegde, leading educationist and former Vice-Chancellor of Manipal University.

It is no mean achievement. A country, which has an area of 65,610 sq km to India's 3.287 million sq km and which has been devastated by an ethnic war between Sinhalese and Tamils, rose like the proverbial phoenix from its own ashes to emerge as a global leader in education and counter-terrorism operations.

The striking feature about the island nation is the uniqueness of the politics practised by its leaders. They had to face a lot of problems, internal as well as external. The average Sri Lankan citizen is still in the dark when asked about the terrorism unleashed in the country by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The LTTE wanted to create a separate nation inside Sri Lanka by integrating the northern and eastern provinces, which would have made the country shrink by 18,880 sq km. Though there is no justification or rationality in the demand by the Tamils for a separate country, it got support from many parts of the globe, thanks to the media blitzkrieg let loose by the Tamil diaspora.

The Tamil expatriates from Sri Lanka spread the news all over the world that they were being discriminated against by the majority Sinhala population and the Government. That was absolutely false. The effort by the Government at Colombo to make Sinhala the national language was resisted by the Tamils. The fact is that 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 2.16 crore speak Sinhala, while Tamil is spoken by just 15 per cent of the population. It is natural for any sovereign country to have a national language.

The scenario is similar to what we experience in India where the Dravidian political parties are out and out

against Hindi as the national language. Hindi is not taught in Government schools in Tamil Nadu and it is the only State in India which does not allow Navodaya Vidyalayas, launched by late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, to make public school education available to the poorest of the poor, especially the rural poor. The Dravidian politicians, who have not given up their demand for a separate Dravida Nadu, are afraid of the fact that if the students are taught Hindi — the language spoken by majority of the population — it may make the youngsters from Tamil Nadu join the national mainstream.

The ethnic riots, which began in the 1970s with the indirect help offered by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, pulled Sri Lanka backwards by many decades. Tamil Nadu played host to armed training camps for the LTTE guerrillas and they used the State as a base camp to organise suicide attacks in the island nation.

Anton Balasingham, the LTTE ideologue, in his autobiography has described how Tamil Nadu politicians, especially late Chief Minister MG Ramachandran, had hosted him and Velupillai Prabhakaran and provided them with crores of rupees to mobilise arms for fighting the Sri Lankan Army. Not only that, MGR deputed his police chief to ensure that the duo reached Talaimannar in Sri Lanka without any problems. The Sri Lankan Army of the 1970s and 1980s vintage were mainly for ceremonial parades as the then leaders, mainly peace loving Buddhists, did not foresee the possibility of an armed uprising against the Government.

In spite of the ethnic crisis and terrorist attacks, which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians including some of the best statesmen and scholars, there were some silver linings in the country's dark horizon. There were many Sinhala leaders who worked for the uplift of the poor and the downtrodden, irrespective of ethnicity, language, and religion. The shining star of Sri Lanka was Lalith William Samarasekera Athulathmudali, Lalith to his friends and well-wishers. He rose like a meteor in Sri Lankan politics, did a lot for the people in a short span of time before the bullets fired by the LTTE assassins felled him at a comparatively young age of 56 in April 1993.

Born in a family of lawyers on November 26, 1936, Lalith was a bright student who was internationally recognised for his academic brilliance. Sri Lanka owes it to him for its emergence as a nation of



LALITH'S DREAM WAS TO MAKE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR ETHNICITY OR LANGUAGE. WHAT MAKES THIS FUND UNIQUE IS ITS INCLUSIVITY. STUDENTS FROM ANY ETHNIC COMMUNITY OR RELIGION OR CASTE CAN GET THIS SCHOLARSHIP, PROVIDED THEY MEET THE MANDATORY NORMS

enlightenment. It were the farsighted policies initiated by Lalith as the Education Minister of the country from 1990 to 1991 that turned out to be the game-changers in its high literacy rate. Lalith was educated at Oxford, from where he graduated with distinction. "He was doing his post-graduation at Oxford in 1959 when his father passed away. Lalith had to return as he faced financial strains. But the then Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, SWRD Bandaranaike, wanted him to continue his education and offered him the national scholarship with which he completed his post-graduation as well as law," reminisces SVD Kesarialal Gunasekera, his long-time associate and friend.

The national scholarship offered to him by the Government was the turning point in Lalith's life. Having completed his education with flying colours from Oxford and Harvard, he returned to Sri Lanka and launched a career which saw him working as a lecturer in some of the best universities in the world. In 1973, he joined the United National Party and contested the 1977 General Elections. President Junius Richard Jayewardene appointed Lalith as the minister for trade. His raise in the Government hierarchy was spectacular, as he was entrusted with the responsibilities of many sensitive ministries, including national security. That was the time when the LTTE was very aggressive, causing murder and mayhem all over the island nation demanding a separate country within Sri Lanka. It was Lalith who initiated steps to modernise the Sri Lankan military, which hitherto was a ceremonial force, and he succeeded in controlling the terrorist activities to a certain extent.

Even before becoming a minister, Lalith had set up the Mahapola Trust Fund in 1981 for offering financial assistance to students opting for higher education. He was the chairman of the Trust Fund and the Government allowed him to retain the chairmanship even when he was a Union Minister handling various portfolios. The Mahapola Trust Fund has been renamed since as the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund.

What makes this Fund unique is its inclusivity. Students from any ethnic community or religion or caste can get this scholarship provided they meet the mandatory norms. Even while the Tamils in the island nation were campaigning

against the Sinhala politicians accusing them of discrimination, Tamil students were offered the Mahapola Scholarship for higher education. Lalith's dream was to make higher education accessible to all, irrespective of their ethnicity or language.

"I was the son of a retired police sergeant when I was at the University of Peradeniya 22 years ago. It was not easy for our family-of-six to afford my higher education with all other commitments of the family. Thanks to Lalith, I also received the Mahapola Scholarship, which helped me manage my expenses on studies. I still remember that there were students sending money from their Mahapola to their families for a living. I believe what I am today wouldn't have been a reality if Mahapola Scholarship did not exist. Dreams of many university students, who are lucky enough to enter a State university in Sri Lanka but are not financially blessed, would be the same," said GD Kapila Kumara, a senior lecturer at the faculty of agricultural sciences, Sabaragamuwa University in Sri Lanka.

Kapila Kumara says millions of university students are benefited in the country because of this scholarship. Mahapola has contributed to preserve education "as a right to all" and to alleviate poverty through education, says Kumara, who also disclosed that he says a prayer for Lalith every night before he goes to bed. "As a tribute to him, a gold medal named 'Lalith Athulathmudali Memorial Gold Medal for the Best Academic Performance' is awarded annually at the general convocation of Sabaragamuwa University," said Kumara.

The Trust Fund was established by the Act of Parliament in 1981. The management and control of the Fund is with the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka; Minister of Trade, Secretary; Ministry of Higher Education, Secretary; Ministry of Education; and Secretary, Ministry of Trade. There are also two nominated members, whilst the other five are all ex-officials.

"The vision is to create an educated society with the aim of alleviating poverty. The mission is to provide scholarships for the underprivileged youth to complete their higher education and creation of equal opportunities through the development of facilities for higher education," said Siri Fernando, a Trustee, friend and close confidante of Lalith.



IN BALI, HINDU CELEBRATION OF NYEPI (DAY OF SILENCE) SEES THE ISLAND FALL SILENT, WITH BUSINESSES CLOSING AND EVEN THE AIRPORT SHUTTING

A TROPICAL PARADISE

Pictures on a high swing against the blue of sea on Bali beaches and green of the rice terrace fields may be a rage with every Instagrammer these days, but it is the island culture and the idyllic beauty it offers that makes Bali an absolute favourite among world travellers and Indian honeymooners, says NAVNEET MENDIRATTA, as she shares travel recommendations from her recent vacation



A flight lands in Bali every seven minutes. This was actually an observation made by my friend as we sat gorging on delicious sea food at a restaurant by Kuta beach, very close to Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar. The sound of waves slapping the shores was music to ears, even as the eyes got attracted to the lights hanging in the mid air, before they made a perfect landing. Soon, we lost count of the number of air planes that made it to the island, but not before concluding what a popular tourist destination this island nation was.

Part of the world's largest archipelago, Indonesia, Bali is the most favoured destination among tourists what with its forested volcanic mountains, iconic rice paddies, beaches and coral reefs. Ancient temples on cliff sides and shores speak of the island's connect with ancient India, that lives in the form of a prevalent Hindu society that this part of the island nation is today.

Happy go lucky island vibe throbs in the lively bars of Kuta and resort towns of Seminyak, Sanur and Nusa Dua to the south. Those who love clubbing swear by Potato Head Beach Club, Seminyak and the Rock Bar at Ayana Resort and Spa, Jimbaran! For a mind and body balance, you find a generous smattering of spas, yoga and meditation retreat.

RAFTING ON AYUNG RIVER

From Rishikesh to Bali — though I can't really boast much of water adventure sport experience, but the thought of traversing rapids on Ayung River that flows through Ubud in Bali is quite appealing. Dressed aptly and armed with respective safety gear and oars, our group of five women set out on this fun adventure.

The trek to the river is a decent climb down and an equally treacherous climb up, especially when your clothes are all wet and clinging. However, it is worth every step once you get into the raft. The river stretch is surrounded by lush forest and panoramic views along the course. Somewhere along the way we crossed a stretch with black rock carvings depicting stories from *Ramayana*. Covered in moss, these carvings looked real-

ly old but apparently these have been crafted not too long ago by a skilful artisan on a commission from a local hotel owner.

With rapids of grade moderate to easy and a busy stretch, rafting on this river is often about avoiding big stones and bumping into a fellow raft as one goes along. Nevertheless, it is a fun activity with all the brief stops one gets to make by the banks for a coconut water/snack break or a halt by the small waterfalls for some splashing fun.

MONKEY HAVEN

When travelling towards Ubud, visit to Sacred Monkey Forest is a must. The forest is a sanctuary or natural habitat of Balinese long-tailed Monkey and a very popular tourist attraction. Well known for its conservation efforts, over a hundred macaques inhabit the forest, and in-depth research and studies are carried out for observing their health, diet and breeding habits. Shiva Shakti Temple is housed inside the forest and dates back to the 14th century. It is only open to the locals for performing religious ceremonies.

We were well warned not to carry any sunglasses or jewellery on our body. The guides tell you to even remove hair accessories, if you happen to be wearing any. Stone statues inside the forest pay ode to the inhabitants and make for a hangout spaces for them. I chose to hang out near the temple rather than venture into the forest. Given the familiarity Indians have with their cousins here, there is not much novelty, but then perhaps...

TURTLE ISLAND

The Indonesian Islanders have great respect for nature and strongly believe in co-habitation. This also explains the efforts made by them to conserve the fast getting extinct species. Green sea turtles is another such example. Located 10 km south of Denpasar is Serangan Island, a frequent nesting ground for green sea turtles.

Not too long ago, consumption of turtle meat as well as the use of sea turtles in ceremonies led to extinction threat for this beautiful species. Public awareness and timely community action, however, checked the loss and now, a conservation project is run by the



local people in partnership with the government on this island to conserve the species.

A popular tourist spot, visitors combine with other water sports activities that they can participate on the eastern side of Serangan, especially surfing. You can choose to just ride on the waves in a glass boat, should you just want to take it easy. After all, Bali is part of the Coral Triangle, the area with the highest biodiversity of marine species and is home to over 500 reef-building coral species. This, indicate the statistics is about seven times as many as in the entire Caribbean!

RICE FIELDS OF TEGALLALANG

These rice terraces offer a perfect Bali photo opportunity with its dramatic views. Located on the north side of Ubud (around 20 minutes drive), Tegallalang makes for a famous tourist attraction for beautiful rice terraces. The vista sprawls down and away to the rice terraces on the slopes across the valley and offers a great showcase of Subak (traditional Balinese cooperative irrigation system), which according to history, was passed down by holy man Rsi Markandeya in the 8th century.

The highlight of our visit was also the adventurous Bali swing that flies over the rice fields and offers an opportunity for a per-



fect Instagram shot. Well that is what most tourists come here looking for. Quite a scary adventure, if you don't have a thing for heights, the swing is well secured with harness to keep you in place. I have to admit, with all the courage I could muster, I could do it only one way looking into the fields.

TEMPLES OF BALI

No visit to Bali is complete without a visit to their beautiful temples. A pocket of Hindu religion and culture, locals not only worship the same gods and goddesses, perform similar rituals, and build sacred temples as Indian Hindus, but Hinduism is a way of life for them. I found it fascinating to see that every Balinese Hindu home houses a temple of its own, especially in Ubud, and elaborate one at that. Some of the famous temples of Bali and most fre-



quented by tourists include, Ulun Danu Beratan Temple in Bedugul, Tabanan; Tanah Lot in Tabanan and Uluwatu Temple, Jimbaran. Most temples are dedicated to the trinity and pays homage to the local gods. In most temples visitors are not allowed to pray inside the temple and can only enter the premises if they are wearing a sarong. The rituals and prayers can only be performed by the locals and follow strict codes.

There is a lot that is there to be shared about the local culture and religious beliefs. Perhaps another time. But as a travel destination, there is so much that the visitors can do as part of their stay here, or not should they choose to. It's not for nothing that it tops people's travel list. And you just can't cover all in one trip. You have to come back for more. Well, that's my promise to self.

FROM PAGE 1

Though he had presided over most of the ministries in Sri Lanka, Lalith had a passion for the department of education. He was enchanted by the Chinese proverb which stated that: "Give a fish and be fed for only a day. Teach how to fish and be free from hunger forever." He had visualised a Sri Lanka where there won't be any illiterate people and the youth would have some professional skills or other, which would ensure an assured livelihood.

It was in 1990 that Lalith was designated as the Minister of Education. By that time, he was an internationally acclaimed statesman having led various ministries of the Government. "But he met the press only after 10 days because he was adamant that he should familiarise himself with the nuances of education before making a policy statement. For a person like Lalith, it was not a tough job, but he knew that he was in charge of the most sensitive ministry," recalled Gunasekera.

Gunasekera, who was present during the press meet, reminisces: "One of the reporters asked Lalith what would be his top priority as the Minister of Education. Lalith replied instantly that students would be his top priority. The journalist asked him what would be the second and third priorities. 'Students and students,' replied Lalith, without batting an eyelid."

"Any changes made in the field of education would bear fruit only after 10 years. That is, to know the impact of the changes, we have to wait for 10 years. Then only we will know whether the change made was for the best or for the worst. If we rectify the mistake, it will take another 10 years to know the results. That's why education and the changes in education policy are important for us," is what Lalith told journalists in the press meet.

Lalith insisted that no student in Sri Lanka should be denied the right to higher education due to lack of funds. He got a law enacted to ensure that all students, irrespective of their ethnicity or the language they speak, got scholarships for higher education. "It is another thing that the Tamil students who benefited from the Mahapola Foundation Scholarship go abroad and complain that they were being discriminated against in Sri

A silent revolution in Sri Lanka



KESARALAL GUNASEKERA



SIRI FERNANDO



KAPILA KUMARA

Lanka," said an educationist, who did not want to be named. The funds for running the LTTE Government in exile, operating from Europe and Canada, are mobilised by these same expatriate Tamil youth, who completed their higher education with the scholarship.

The Mahapola Trust, which began in 1981 by awarding 422 scholarships, has benefited more than 3,50,000 students by 2017. "At any time of the year, 60,000 students are beneficiaries of this scholarship," said Gunasekera, who has set apart five to six hours of his daily life to ensure the smooth functioning of the scholarship scheme. According to Gunasekera, 65 per cent of students enrolled for higher education in Sri Lanka are getting the Mahapola Scholarship.

The scholarship is in the ₹5,500 to ₹7,500 range per month, depending on the course of study. The beneficiaries are selected depending on the financial status of the parents. "If the income of the parents is within the stipulated amount, the students are offered the scholarship for the entire duration of the course, with a limit of four years," said Gunasekera.

Siri Fernando said most of the students manage to supplement the

income of their parents by sending home a part of the scholarship amount. "It is as good as a source of income, even as they study in professional colleges," said Fernando, former chief of a British company in Colombo, who shadowed Lalith throughout his life as a friend and follower.

The scholarship programme, which began with the funds donated by Lalith in 1981, has emerged as the biggest education programme in the country. It is sustained by Mahapola Lottery organised by the Development Lotteries of the Government.

"The students who complete their education using this scholarship are in no way obliged to us. Lalith was not for it because he wanted no commitment from the beneficiaries other than completing the education successfully. Till date, we have not asked for any favours from the students who benefited from this unique scheme," said Gunasekera.

It was the Mahapola Foundation that set up the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology. So, don't be under the impression that the Foundation only disburses scholarships and sits back for the rest of the time. Not a single student has committed suicide in Sri Lanka for want

of funds or denial of opportunities for higher education. This is the biggest achievement of the Mahapola Scholarship. *Pola* in Sinhala language means festival and the scholarship has helped the beneficiaries make their life a great festival, pointed out Siri Fernando.

There is one factor on which the entire political spectrum of Sri Lanka is unanimous. They are all of the view that Lalith was the best President or head of the state Sri Lanka did not have. But politics is a strange and treacherous path where there are terrorists and landmines of different forms waiting to take lives out of unsuspecting victims.

The objectives and missions of the Mahapola Foundation, drafted and written by Lalith, speak volumes about his vision:

■ To provide higher education facilities to the youth.

■ To provide assistance to deserving youth, enabling them to complete their academic, industrial, or technical education in a higher education institution in consequence of the successful completion of their secondary education.

■ To set up and assist in the management of vocational training institute with the view to improve skills of the youth.

■ To set up and assist schools and other institutions in the furtherance of education.

■ To provide assistance for the improvement and development of skills of persons who are engaged in the furtherance of education.

The question which comes to mind is whether we have a scheme like this in India or in any other neighbouring countries? Mahapola Foundation is the one and only inclusive scheme which has made a big impact in the lives of the poor in the island nation. There are ministers, bureaucrats, educationists, military officers, lawyers, vice-chancellors, medical doctors, and other professionals who came up in life only because of this scheme.

A vice-chancellor, who hails from the northern province, recounted his gratitude to the Mahapola Foundation for the scholarship. "The first thing I did with the scholarship amount was to buy a time piece which helped me get up early in the morning. This was useful because I could complete my homework and also supplement my mother's income by working as a helping hand in the nearby store for a few hours daily," he said.

Lalith gave his countrymen a rose garden itself while they were looking for a simple rose. This inclusive scheme itself would qualify him for the Nobel Prize for Peace as he had implemented this scheme in a war-torn country. Lalith was a proponent of human rights as well as democratic rights. The steps he initiated to resolve the ethnic crisis in the island nation during his tenure as Minister for National Security could be told only through a comprehensive book.

But the truth is that Lalith died an unsung hero of Sri Lanka; a person who was felled by the bullets fired by a vile assassin. Lalith would definitely have taken Sri Lanka to newer heights had he been alive. Strange are the ways of this world. If there is one person who qualifies for the Nobel Prize from this part of the world, it is Lalith Athulathmudali.

What struck the mind after hearing Lalith's story was the scenario in

Tamil Nadu, a State in India where the Dravidian politicians bay for Sinhala blood for alleged discrimination against Tamils. We come across reports routinely in Tamil Nadu about youngsters committing suicide because of failure to get admission in medical colleges. Do we have a scheme like Mahapola Foundation in any of the Indian States?

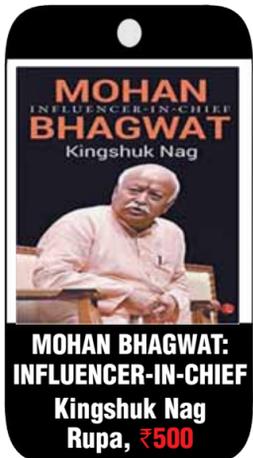
"All we have to do is divert 10 per cent of the funds allocated for corporate social responsibility to a corpus account and all States in India too could boast a Trust like Mahapola. It should be based purely on merit," said Jayaprakash Valliathan, a veteran marine engineer, who has opened a school for the poor in his village after retiring from service. He adds that the political leadership of the country should have the will power to implement such innovations.

Tamil Nadu, hardly 30 nautical miles off the Sri Lankan shore, saw many students committing suicide following failure to crack the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), the gateway to medical colleges. This is unheard of in Sri Lanka where all beneficiaries of the Mahapola Scholarship laugh all the way to the banks. Had he been alive, Lalith would have turned 82 this November 26. As usual, his friends and associates from all over the world would assemble under the auspices of the Lalith Athulathmudali Foundation to take stock of last year's performance and to discuss future plans.

Sri Lanka is less than half the size of Tamil Nadu and does not have monikers like the Oxford or Cambridge of the South. Sri Lanka has neither this many engineering colleges or medical colleges which you see in Tamil Nadu. Still, the students (both Sinhala and Tamil) are happy and confident of their bright future. Lalith Athulathmudali revolutionised education into a mission, while in our own Tamil Nadu, it is a multi-billion dollar business along with TASMAR (Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation), the State monopoly on liquor trade.

A BID FOR THE RASHTRA

Kingshuk Nag charts the history behind the emergence of the key players in the 2019 General Elections and shows how the fates of BJP's Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat seem to be intertwined, writes GAUTAM MUKHERJEE



Government, and, of course, Mohan Bhagwat and the RSS itself. Interestingly, there is support for an urgent commencement of the Ram Temple construction from the Shia Wakf Board too. The Supreme Court however continues to drag its feet on the title dispute.

Nag refrains from putting words into Bhagwat's mouth throughout the book. Instead, he lays out the multiple concerns of the RSS as very much a work-in-progress. Of paramount concern to a pragmatic and modernising Bhagwat today is the BJP's and particularly Modi's winnability.

Today, even as the RSS exerts its influence on the choice of electoral candidates, policy matters and union ministers alike it has not made much headway on core issues. The commitment therefore to a second term for Modi and the BJP is perforce intact.

This is the eighth decade of the RSS' existence though Bhagwat is only the sixth sarsangchalak. Because of Bhagwat's relative youth, ascending to the top job at 59, the reach of the RSS has been markedly extended. It is active in Bengal, and more effectively, in the North East, for the first time. In terms of inclusion, the Muslims and Dalits feature significantly in the RSS structure today.

Bhagwat has been less successful in influencing educational policies of the Government, possibly because of a large cadre of entrenched Leftists.

The fates of Narendra Modi and Mohan Bhagwat are, on the face of it, intertwined, looking at 2019. But waiting in the wings, is Nagpur's first choice for prime ministership, should Modi falter.

Nitin Gadkari, elected from Nagpur, is the only union minister who has had a free hand in the Modi Government, and the only other senior leader with both Modi's developmental credentials, BJP's organisational experience, and consummate RSS backing.

The visit by Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India, to the RSS headquarters at Nagpur, earlier in 2018, has set the ideological stage for the 2019 General Elections.

Pranab Mukherjee's political career has spanned the decades from the long innings of absolutist Indira Gandhi, all the way through to the present dispensation. He has been a consummate Congress politician and man for all seasons at the highest echelons of the Government.

Kingshuk Nag, in his eighth book, has used Mukherjee's illustrative and unabashed tribute to the importance of the RSS today, for his insightful study on RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Earlier, Nag, a veteran former journalist, has written books on Narendra Modi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Subhas Chandra Bose, The BJP, Vijay Malia and the Kingfisher Airlines imbroglio, and the infamous Satyam scam featuring its key actor, Ramalinga Raju.

The symbolism of the RSS and its Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat at centre-stage in today's politics, stands in stark contrast to

the RSS' much vilified past during the decades of Nehru-Gandhi domination and this book is therefore very timely. The RSS, indicates Nag, prefers to paint on a much wider canvas than the Nehruvian reference points of Western inspired modernism. It draws inspiration from "Bharat", albeit an inclusive continuum, that is centuries old, rich in history, tradition, knowledge and culture.

That the time has come to acknowledge and incorporate this broader view of India's nationhood is possibly why Pranab Mukherjee went to Nagpur. However, other reasons, have also been advanced for the visit.

The RSS, often painted as an anachronism by the Congress, seeks to derive its vision of

Hindu Rashtra from the gaze of millennia. That this automatically tends to dwarf and render shallow the Nehruvian vision of a "secular" India is the very problem according to the Libleft.

The RSS and the NDA has gained traction however precisely because the idea of Nehruvian secularism has been moulded to discriminate against the majority community of Hindus.

The Indian electorate has awakened to this discrimination against Hindus combined with a distaste for the blatantly dynastic politics promoting the Nehru family gradually. This found its first expression in voting in non-Congress Governments in the eighties and nineties as the erstwhile captive vote banks began to

migrate to other political parties. Then the seeming anathema of voting for a "communal" BJP, as opposed to a socialist and diverse Janata Dal, was also penetrated when the Vajpayee Government completed a full-term in power.

The induction of more and more RSS stalwarts into key positions in the BJP, both in the Party and Government has marked a shift during the current Bhagwat-Modi period. However, despite this, effective in governance has not exactly been stellar.

Vajpayee tended to hold the RSS at arms-length in governance. Modi has a much better equation with Bhagwat, the same age as himself, as Nag points out. Both are 1950 born, well after independence.

The lines have indeed blurred between RSS as the ideological compass, and the BJP as the vehicle of governance. However, some differences in emphasis are apparent. Modi tends to regard development or *vikas* as a universal panacea. The RSS wants Hindu Rashtra and some historic wrongs against the Hindus righted on a priority basis.

It is clear Modi and the BJP could not have won without RSS support in 2014, though the magnitude of the win, took the RSS by surprise. This sort of majority win may repeat in 2019, given a weak and disparate Opposition. This, despite Narendra Modi having failed to keep many of the promises he made. And the effects of controversial decisions such as the

sudden demonetisation, that is thought to have hurt small businesses and the poor.

Also, the Modi Government has done next to nothing to promote the RSS agenda for a Hindu Rashtra. Still, the RSS may be constrained to back Modi once again as its best hope for realising its vision in the future.

The construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya is a sticking point, as is the unchanged status of J&K, despite RSS inductee Ram Madhav being in-charge of party matters in the latter state. The Mandir construction, long pending, is coming to a head now. The pressure is coming from the VHP, the SS, groupings of seers and *mahants*, members, some union ministers of the Modi

NEW ARRIVALS

OF LOVE, LIFE AND LAUGHTER
Savita Singh
Kalamos, ₹249



A very disturbed God confides in his friend and confidant Chitragnpta that he is considering destroying the world as his best creation the humans are busy fighting, killing, raping, cheating and doing worse. He is in total despair. An agitated Chitragnpta tells him to relax and says that things on earth are not as bad as they seem. To convince God, he brings an old Brahmin Devta who narrates various tales of love, life and laughter and convinces God that humanity deserves a second chance.

MEE AND JUHIBABY
Susmita Mukherjee
Speaking Tiger, ₹350

Mee's mother, Juhibaby, is the unwanted child of constantly travelling *jata* artistes in rural Bengal. Growing into a ravishing sixteen-year-old, she is married off to a family in distant New Delhi, where Mee is born. Mee's life is a far cry from Juhibaby's, as she grows up in a respectable middle-class family and goes to an upmarket convent school. But what she inherits from her mother is a love of acting. She becomes a successful Bollywood actress. But a failed marriage and a bruising rejection by a movie mogul derails her.

RELAPSE: THE CONSEQUENCES OF LOVE
Srikant Verma
Speaking Tiger, ₹230



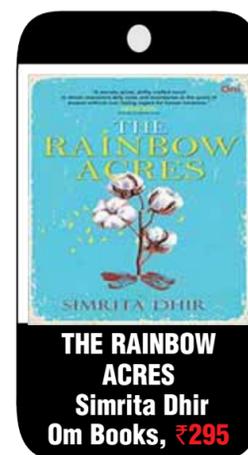
A man comes home to find a note from Bindo — his estranged lover — asking to meet. Everything about Bindo angers him — her beauty, pride and poise; the sexual attraction she continues to exert upon him. He recognises in himself again the agonising jealousy which had forced her to leave him. And he fears her uncanny ability to pierce the barriers he has erected around himself. Yet the two meet. But when, after a drunken evening, he wakes up in Bindo's bed, at her feet, he finds himself stripped of all ego, and helpless.

What makes *The Rainbow Acres* work is that the narrative captures the universal human desire to move about in search of better opportunities and a better life. Human diaspora is as old as human civilisation itself. By interweaving the stories of Sophia from Mexico and Kishan Singh Dillon from Punjab, the writer further underscores the ubiquity of this experience. As the novel tells its readers, unlike popular perception, immigration is not only about the destination, it is also about the journey. The immensely exhausting, endlessly dangerous, and yet uniquely invigorating journey of the countless Mexicans, Punjabis, Japanese, and Chinese immigrants is at the heart of this book. Every individual has a heart wrenching (and heart-warming) story, waiting to be told: Be it Han-Gan or Harbans Singh. Like many others before and after them, Kishan and Sophia are also drawn by the siren's call that is California — the land of gold and golden opportunities.

As a reader, the cultural and linguistic shock and alienation that characters like Kishan, Jaspal and Han-Gan experience are easy enough to understand, and even pre-empt, but what is not as easy to grasp is the bitter-sweet taste of nostalgia that lingers in the heart of these expatriates. The longing for the homeland is a persistent ache that can find respite, only temporarily, in hazy memories. Trying to capture it in words is a failed enterprise. Hence, the immigrant is always locked in an unbreakable hold of his own memories. As Jaspal, Kishan Singh's adoptive brother, tells him, he will never be able to fully explain certain experiences to his wife Isabel: "She will never know the lost wheat fields back in Noor Mahal or the smell of simmering *saag* that filled up my house on winter evenings. She will never know how influenza came in through the dark of the summer nights and tore my world apart. She

Chasing the rainbow

The American dream and the idea of spring inevitably following winter find a unique context in this book about Punjabi diaspora, says AVANTIKA POKHRIYAL



The American Dream is a constant presence in the text and informs and shapes the destiny as well as the life-choices of the protagonists. Both Kishan and Sophia are enterprising individuals, thus, their success in this land of opportunities is almost a given. Entrepreneurship is shown to be the cornerstone of the American economy and the writer seems to be fully invested in this ideal, at a personal level almost. The praise of America and the boundless avenues of personal and professional growth it offers are often on the verge of turning into populist puree. But, usually with Kishan Singh as her mouthpiece, the author also manages to make the readers understand the irony of it all. America is the land of freedom and yet for immigrants, like Jaspal and Kishan, freedom is a like the receding horizon — tantalising but ever just out of reach. And, it is in these

will never know the reckless farmer boy that I was before boarding the ship to California in search of new moors."

Yet, this untranslatability forms a bond which connects all immigrants, irrespective of religion, language and national-

ity. As a woman of Indian origin, living in the US, Dhir has captured the complexities of the diasporic life with both subtlety and nuances. The character of Kishan Singh has been very well-etched, especially in the first part of the novel. Sophia's

character on the other hand, seems a little rushed, in parts at least. Sophia's turmoils en route California are too predictable and just as easily brushed off. She lacks the detailed delineation that has been bestowed on Kishan.

moments that the protagonist truly shines out as the moral center of the text. Kishan Singh and Sophia are heroic not in the martial sense but in their actions and intentions. Their perseverance, integrity and zeal, whether for themselves or their loved ones, makes them stand out.

As mentioned above, the narrative operates on two levels — the story of Sophia's life in Mexican Acapulco, then Guadalajara, and her (much) later life California; and the story of Kishan which begins in Punjab and then moves to Colorado. This interesting narrative technique eventually becomes one of the most jarring aspects of the novel. The two stories intersect much too late in the text and the later bond between Kishan and Sophia is not given sufficient time to develop.

In the final section of the novel, it seemed as if the writer decided to shift the focus from Kishan to Jaspal which would not have been such an issue but for the fact that the latter does not have a well-defined character arch until this point in the text and as a reader it is difficult to suddenly invest in him.

Other than this, the novel is a gripping read and adds a great deal to one's understanding of the diaspora of the Punjabis — Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs — to the US as farmers and a farmer's undying love and commitment for his land. Both these aspects are especially interesting as one rarely reads about such topics in popular fiction. Kudos to the writer for her painstaking research and her lucid prose.

The Rainbow, like the rainbow at Kishan Singh's farm after the storm, is the promise of hope that keeps one going in spite of all odds. It represents the quintessential American promise of wish-fulfilment at the end of a trial. It represents the cycle of nature that transcends all nationalities and political boundaries — where spring will inevitably follow after winter.

Midterm setback to Trump's 'America First'



MANAN DWIVEDI

Still the core constituency of the Republicans is just rattled and the battle for the next American Presidency might still be a tough task for President Trump's rivals despite the good showing of the Democrats in the midterm polls

Elections in the United States are a spectacle par excellence. This is equally true for both the anointed Presidency and the Congressional elections. Awareness and deliberations about the US Foreign Policy across the larger international system are everyone's pet peeve but the scenario in the domestic politics remains a realm which has been investigated to a lesser extent elsewhere. Also, it is a theoretical principle in the discipline of international relations that there lies a continuum between the domesticity of a nation and its larger footprint in the international ecosystem. It is in this twilight zone where the electoral narrative holds sway.

Typically, 218 seats are required for a majority in the US House of Representatives, which has Paul Ryan as the Republican leader and Nancy Pelosi standing forth as the leader of the Democrats in the House.

The related aspersions is that the verdict of the midterm elections has played a substantial role in the firming up of a substratum for the future of President Donald Trump in his next tenure if that transpires at the second-term electoral hustings. In the recently concluded elections, 55 Congressmen didn't seek re-elections; it makes the midterm outing as significant and decisive in the making of a political consensus for the crucial future and the American Dream.

Several outcomes of the elections are of significance: The Republican and Democratic control the Intelligence, Investigative and Foreign Affairs come through as a key and crucially contextual realm of these midterm elections, but the results have denied them this privilege. The Supreme Court vacancies are up for the grab as the elections have weakened the prerogative of President Trump, especially in the light of the Kavanaugh candidature for the Supreme Court. The Obamacare repeal was defeated by one vote in 2017 and the Bill could get finally erased. In the light of the refugees and undocumented aliens marching on to the US-Mexican border, immigration and President Trump's eviction oriented policies have come up for scanner with the southern and immigrant oriented populations, all across the United States being real testing grounds for the immigration theme of the Republicans which further found them divided under the White House's decisions in the context.

It has been witnessed that the House of Representatives has been won over by the Democrats and the Republican Party has retained its majority in the Senate. Still, a great iota of unpredictability was associated with some of the races as the "tug



US President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence wave to supporters at a rally in Pensacola on November 3

AP file photo

of war" was a very narrow one in them. In the midterm polls of 1994, 2006 and 2010, the parties of the Presidents with dwindling approval ratings lost out but does that hold up as a role model trend, after the Trump inaugural, has been testified as a hypothesis at the November 2018

hustings. The *Washington Post* and Schar College pointed towards advantage Democrats, where the quotient is bigger for psephological error as most of the races were very closely fought. It is definitely an acid test for the "Trump surprises" wherein the decision-making and

the influence-potential of White House might be up for the asking which gets weakened as Democrats have performed.

Also, on the other hand, going by Democratic candidates such as O'Rourke, apart from the Democratic strongholds, the youngsters, Texans and the Hispanic

voters have replicated their inclinations and choices elsewhere also to give Democrats a win in the overall picture, which is far from being picture perfect. The final results point towards better days for the dandy Democrats. Also, now after the midterm polls, Democrats hold 47 seats

and the Trump's gladiators are on the 51 mark in the US Senate. In the House of Representatives, the number 36 is the trick wherein Democrats have improved their tally by 36 votes with their tally reaching the healthy figure of 231. The Republicans have gone down by 36 seats wherein their strength has come down to a measly 198. The Guardian has called it a blue wave. What needs to be relooked by President Trump that though the nation's economy is roaring and unemployment figures are under control, but still the "America First" Brigade has not done well in the House of Representatives. That demands a re-look by the Republican Party and the issue of environment also has impacted results.

As results have come out, the all important State of Arizona has gone the Democrat way with the leading critique of President Trump, Krysten Sinema, pipping Republican Senator Jeff Flake to the post. The British national daily has called the midterm polls as not a Democrat "Blue wave", but an affront to the Republican vanguard which resulted in flipping seven stately Governorships. It was only after the Richard Nixon's Presidency and the Watergate scandal in 1974 that Democrats have performed in such a positive manner in the midterm Congressionals.

The elections in a blitzkrieg manner have obfuscated the Trump Presidency as he will have to combat the Democrats mortally and the Democrats will be numerically emboldened to persist with their investigations on the Trump Administration after the elections. Still, as the Senate majority still rests with President Trump, his Supreme Court, Cabinet and other representatives will continue to sail through for another two years. What surprises is that the Arizona winner compared the immigrant rage to the Iraq war outrage, and her outrage was combated by the Republican candidate on the context of the Democrat candidate opposing the creation of new Air Force bases and weakening the national security objective of Washington exemplified by President Trump.

Still, the core constituency of the Republicans is only rattled and the battle for the next Presidency might still be a tough task for President Trump's rivals after the good showing of the Democrats in the midterm elections. Some analysts, after the elections, are pointing towards a sub-urban revolt which might have pivoted the Democrats in the midterms.

(The writer teaches International Relations at Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi)

PERSPECTIVE

Elusive solution to Israel-Hamas trust deficit



SUDHIR HINDWAN

It is high time both sides realised that violence is not the answer to regional peace. Only dialogues and prudence approach can provide a ray of hope for solution to the Israel-Palestinian crisis

The recent upsurge in conflict between Israeli security agencies and Palestinian organisation Hamas that has taken seven lives in Gaza Strip in last one week is a reminder of an array of issues the West Asian region has to grapple with. As many as 2,000 civilians and over 100 soldiers have died in the conflict ever since resurgence of conflict after a lull that ended in 2014.

Deeply concerned at the violent onslaught, the UN is pulling out all stops to find permanent solution to the vexing problem. But the road to peace is not that easy as the current state of affairs does not offer any hope for resuming dialogue between warring factions for ceasefire. A trial of strength is going on between the security forces of Israel and Hamas.

The present crisis is the outcome of a combination of factors, deeply interwoven in the complicated saga of the conflict in West Asia since 1948. Although on many occasions the Israeli Government had designed a series of policies aimed at quick results, Hamas took the extreme step of working against the peace proposals. However, recently a third party (Egypt supported) brokered peace and reconciliation efforts have been agreed upon by Hamas, but only time will test the sustainability of such efforts as the third party mediation has not yielded positive results in the region in the past.

solution to the biggest West Asian crisis depends on the present leadership of Israel and Hamas. However, the mounting Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip have aggra-

vated the crisis further dashing the hopes for peace. Also, Hamas has already vowed to avenge the "Israeli slaughter" and is preparing for a fresh onslaught. Hamas has poten-

tial to strike with efficiency and its expertise has extended beyond conventional guerilla warfare.

The emboldening factors favour Hamas locally. Hamas enjoys an

immense advantage because of three factors: politically, the Palestinians want Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip; militarily, Hamas has suffi-

cient arms & ammunition and well-trained fighters; and, at the local level, Hamas has been able to mobilise people ideologically.

The ongoing Israeli attacks have not only jeopardised US President George Bush-led Israeli-Palestinian Peace Accord of November 2007 but have also created serious concern among the security and military intelligence throughout the region.

The violent attacks, some of which were retaliatory, suggest that the present crisis is deeply interwoven in the issue of separate national identities and the never-ending claim over a common piece of land. Gradually, both Israel and Palestine have understood that they could only survive if a two-State solution was accepted. The Oslo Peace Accord allowed the Palestinians to build an air and sea passage in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with then Palestinian President Yasser Arafat denouncing terrorism and the recognition of Palestine by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. However, Hamas does not recognise the right of Israel as a State and its claim over territory.

Earlier, Israel was keen to build around 30,000 houses for its citizens on the West Bank and Gaza Strip by 2020 but the Palestinians were vehemently against it. The Palestinians always wanted to have full control of the

West Bank and almost 90 per cent withdrawal of the Israeli Army.

Palestinians always accused Israel of not abiding by the 34 commitments such as freeing of Palestinian prisoners, dismantling settlements in Jerusalem, free movement for Arabs from other countries and allowing free air and sea passage to Palestinians. The formation of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was a welcome step towards the restoration of peace and reconciliation in the war-torn area but the increasing number of attacks and conflict between the Fatah and Hamas members compelled Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to dissolve the Unity Government and allow Hamas to take control of the Gaza Strip.

The existence of two separate Governments in West Bank and Gaza Strip has created many complications for the peace process. Soon after, in June 2007, Hamas members tried to dismantle the Fatah authority in Gaza. The very idea of control over the Gaza Strip did not go down well with Israel and the US. Ever since the victory of Hamas in the Palestinian parliamentary elections in January 2006, Israel has made all efforts to isolate it.

(Author is Chandigarh-based Professor of Political Science and an expert on strategic affairs)



Protesters walk toward the fence of Gaza Strip border with Israel during a protest east of Gaza City on November 16

AP

In these circumstances, the



'BEEN 52 YEARS, NOW NO ELECTION', WAS SHARAD PAWAR'S REPLY ON BEING ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD CONTEST NEXT YEAR'S LOK SABHA POLLS FROM PUNE

A Kashmiri political scientist once said to me, "You cannot discuss Kashmir, or the Kashmir conflict, without starting with history". I was puzzled: What did the region's ancient or medieval history have to do with a conflict that began after the Partition of India in 1947? It was only when I started researching this book that I found that many contemporary threads of the conflict — and, more importantly, its solution — lead back in time.

Internally, the valley's particular form of religious syncretism, which is so different from the demographic pluralism of Jammu or the "living together separately" model of Ladakh, is rooted in the opening centuries of the 1st Millennium CE. Kashmir was amongst the earliest regions of the Indian subcontinent to record its history, and through the ages, Kashmiri historians and mythologists preserved much of the culture as it developed. The traditions that were anchored through retelling were not unbroken: Kashmir too fell under a series of empires as well as a rapid succession of dynasties, each of which left its imprint. But the philosophical underpinnings of Kashmiri tradition were relatively undisturbed, perhaps because it was at the periphery of empire and few ancient empire-builders treated peripheries as bulwarks. The beliefs that Kashmir and Kashmiris are exceptional, that they are guardians of the religious sites of all faiths, that the pursuit of knowledge requires engagement with every view, that the military is an inferior occupation — a view shared by India's nineteenth-century social reformer Swami Vivekananda — remain strong even today, though they are increasingly under threat.

Externally too, the region's horizons have not altered in any major way despite the changing geopolitics of the region. Neighbours continue to play make-or-break roles in the state. Afghanistan's leaders, who once ruled Kashmir, no longer seek control or influence there. Yet, events in Afghanistan continue to affect Kashmir, largely because of Pakistani activism in both regions. Attacks from modern Pakistan, which includes the ancient territories once called Dardistan, have increased, but only to the extent that there are shorter lulls between attacks than there were centuries ago. While Iran is less prominent than ancient Parthia, it continues to sway Shias in the state politically and Kashmiri elites culturally. China is no longer a potential ally for Kashmir, since it occupied a large part of the state's territory after the 1962 India-China War and became a stakeholder in the Kashmir conflict. Tajikistan and

Uzbekistan, once of some significance for both trade and cultural exchange, may regain those ties if plans for connectivity take off. Kashmiri leaders lobby for inclusion in emerging regional road and rail networks that will revive the relations they built during the ancient Silk Route period, in a more peaceable neighbourhood than there was then.

No wonder any discussion on Kashmir has to begin with history, however mythologised some of it may be. For ancient Hindus, Kashmir was a sacred geography to which humans were introduced by divine intervention. The *Nilamata Purana*, also known as *Kasmira Mahatmya*, was regarded as one of the texts in the *Vedanta*, a body of scriptural literature that combines myth and legend with what may have been real-life events and often interprets one through the other. It describes the Kashmir valley as originally one vast lake, home to the gods Shiva and his wife, Parvati, but it also refers to the valley itself as Uma, another name for Parvati, turning it into a place to worship as well as a place of worship.

This vast lake, says the *Nilamata*, was drained at the order of the sage Kashyapa, grandson of the god Brahma, by cutting a rock gorge at Varahmula, which is Baramulla today. It grad-

ually separated into large and small lakes when the divine clan of Nagas, who were protagonists in the epic *Mahabharata*, and other fortunate mortals settled there. "Because water called Ka was taken out by Balarama the plough-wielder from this country, so it shall be called Kasmira in this world." A paradise to live in, with soaring mountains and flowering orchards, the goddesses Sati, Suci, Ganga, Aditi, Yamuna, Diti and Karisini all took the form of rivers flowing through it. "The water of Vitasta [today's Jhelum] mixed with that of Sindhu [Indus] is like milk mixed with nectar, beauty combined with elegance, and knowledge combined with good nature."

Descendants of the sage Kashyapa, whose wife Kadru gave birth to the Naga clan, the *Nilamata's* writers saw Kashmiris as guardians of the sacred "who perform sacrifices and are engaged in self-study and contemplation, virtuous ascetics well-versed in the Vedas." Their life sounds idyllic, if unreal; protected by the formidable mountains that surround it, Kasmira had never been conquered and its people were free from fear. The valley echoed with the sounds of lutes and drums, religious chants, dance and theatre in an unending round. "One should feast in the

company of friends and should play to one's content."

Yet, if they failed to follow the edicts of their founder-king Nila, retribution would descend on them in the form of "floods, excess of rain, drought, famine, deaths, untimely death of the king, and dreadful punishments." Just such an eventuality was described in the *Mahabharata*, written a thousand years earlier, with Kashyapa's two wives falling out and turning their children, the Nagas, and the great bird Garuda, into sworn enemies. To trump his foes, Garuda brought the Nagas the nectar of immortality but prevented them from swallowing it, and a series of disasters followed. The Naga chiefs fell out, their people were massacred, their king, Gonanda I, besieged the god Krishna in Mathura and was killed by Krishna's brother, while Krishna himself killed Gonanda's son, Damodara I, in Gandhara, which comprised present-day Kandahar and Kabul in Afghanistan together with Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Swat. A repentant Krishna anointed the dead king's wife, Yasovati, the new ruler of Kashmir, because "the goddess Uma (was) the same as Kasmira."

Whether these myths constituted imaginative interpretations of actual alliances and conflicts

between rulers of the time is debatable, though it would be aetiologicaly unsurprising given Kashmir was a Hindu kingdom during the *Mahabharata* period. It became a part of the Buddhist Mauryan empire between the 3rd and 1st Centuries BCE. The Emperor Ashoka founded the beautiful city of Srinagar in the 3rd Century BCE, some twenty kilometres from today's capital Srinagar, abutting its suburb Soura. Modern Srinagar dates back to the 7th Century and is in fact built on the site of the 6th Century royal capital Pravarapura, mentioned in the Chinese annals of the Tang dynasty. The modern city took the older Ashokan name.

Buddhism flowered in Kashmir under Ashoka, who dispatched hundreds of monks from Gandhara to spread the faith, at the same time building a Shiva temple at Vjeshwari to support what was then the religion of the majority. Vjeshwari is now Bijbehara in Anantnag district, the constituency of former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed from 2002-15. Buddhism continued to blossom in close proximity to Hinduism under Ashoka's son and grandson, as well as under the Kushana kings who captured Kashmir from the Mauryan empire in its decline. The Kushanas are believed to be

of Turkic origin and possibly belonged to the Xinjiang and Gansu regions of modern China. Folklore has it that the Kushana king Kanishka hosted the Fourth Buddhist Council in the first century at Harwan, today's Shalimar Garden in Srinagar. The council drew 500 Buddhist and Hindu scholars from all over the region, including China, to codify Sarvastivada, the precursor to Mahayana Buddhism.

First under the Mauryas and then the Kushanas, Kashmir's horizons stretched across the Indian subcontinent, from Magadha in the southeast, comprising modern Odisha and parts of Bengal, to Malwa or modern Rajasthan in the southwest. In modern-day Pakistan, they covered Gandhara to the north and the lands of the Dards in the northwest, comprising Chitral, Gilgit and Kohistan in Swat, Gurez in Baltistan and parts of northern Punjab, and Mehrgarh or today's Balochistan in the west. Beyond the subcontinent, they reached further west to Palmyra in Syria and Parthia or Persia, which is present-day Iran; north to Bactria, lands in the Amu Darya or Oxus basin including parts of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, through Sindh and northeast to China.

Macron is trying his best to take UK's gold crown, writes AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

Paris has vaulting ambitions to capture a share of the world gold trade from London, reviving its historic role as a top-tier power in the international bullion market. The Banque de France has teamed up with JP Morgan to offer a full range of swaps, leases, and gold deposits for global central banks and sovereign wealth funds. Global reserve managers will be able to pledge bullion as collateral for deposits or for raising foreign currency on the Paris market.

Sylvie Goulard, the BdF's deputy governor, called it the spearhead of a sweeping shake-up of the French gold industry and left no doubt that one aim is to challenge the hegemonic position of the City in bullion dealing. "While these gold investment services have until now only been offered from London, it recently became possible for the Banque de France to offer them also from Paris. As a result, Paris could gradually re-emerge as a key marketplace for gold," she wrote in the *Alchemist*, the in-house journal for the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA).

While the French plans pre-date the Brexit referendum, they have taken on fresh salience as President Emmanuel Macron openly strives to peel away some of the Square Mile's banking, wealth management, euro clearing, and insurance business.

Mme Goulard said the BdF will act as a 'principal' for the first time so that foreign central banks can generate a return from gold transactions without taking on counterparty risk, a crucial service in the ultra-cautious world of reserve managers.

One aim is to muscle in on the swap business as gold becomes eligible collateral under the Basel III framework for banks. The BdF

is upgrading the quality of its gold reserves to ensure that they meet the LBMA benchmark standard for global trading. This means refining to a 999.9 per cent purity. It is reported that the BdF is offering much lower storage costs than the Bank of England.

Paris was a central hub of the world bullion nexus in the 19th Century when the Napoleon 20 franc gold coin rivalled the British gold sovereign and the American Eagle. The gold reserves of the French Third Republic were stored in the wine cellars of Hotel de Toulouse in Paris until the First World War. Deemed vulnerable, they were switched to the famous Souterraine beneath the Seine River in the 1920s, the deepest and biggest gold vault in the world. Its underground cathedral of 720 pillars and Dantesque circles, with its seven ton armoured door, were immortalised by the interwar writer Stefan Zweig, who called it the "heart of our economic world, the epicentre of the invisible waves that stir markets, bourses, and banks."

The London gold market — or loco London in trader parlance — is a hard nut for the French to crack. The Bundesbank has been repatriating gold holdings from vaults in Paris and New York to assuage Germany's "bring-home-our-gold" movement, but it has not yet withdrawn any bars from the vaults of the Bank of England. "If the Bank for

International Settlements want to trade on behalf of central banks, for example, it does so in London. It is an all-or-nothing effect, and it is self-reinforcing. Although Shanghai is breathing down London's neck," he said.

Peter Hambro, a London gold veteran and president of the Russian miner Petropavlovsk, said the French held onto to most their gold when Gordon Brown

sold half the Bank of England's bars at the bottom of market, for a quarter of current price.

France sold 580 tonnes under Nicolas Sarkozy — to great protest — but remains the world's fifth biggest holder with 2,436 tonnes. "The Banque de France has an excellent reputation as the manager of the French national reserves of gold and foreign exchange. It is in a select club of countries like

China and Russia that still understand the value of gold as a store of value and a medium of exchange that is in itself no one else's promise," he said.

Ross Norman from Sharps Pixley said there is a reason for this stickiness. London remains the most liquid gold market in the western world by far, with trusted courts under the rule of law. "I haven't heard of a 'loco Paris' gold

trade for decades, so it is going to be tough for them," he said.

The LBMA says the daily notional trade in London in 2016 was \$234bn, far ahead of the COMEX in the US at \$28.9bn, or the combined Shanghai futures and gold exchanges at \$9.4bn. However, the LBMA members provide deep liquidity to the market and this cannot easily be replicated. "Constructing anew such a system would be expensive and wearisome. For Paris to challenge London's pre-eminence the BdF would need to encourage more than just JP Morgan to operate there with such a back-up," he said.

France's 20th century reverence for gold had unintended consequences. The country accumulated too much of the world's bullion stock in the 1920s after it returned the post-Versailles Gold Standard at an undervalued rate. This exerted a deflationary effect on the international system, deepening the Great Depression. At one point it amassed 5,000 tonnes.

Gold hoarding recoiled with a vengeance in the 1930s when France remained the last major power fixed to the Gold Standard, and therefore remained trapped in contractionary vortex that delayed recovery and led to bitter Left-Right political conflict. It was a key reason why the country succumbed to defeatism in 1940.

London can boast an even more illustrious past than Paris as a bullion hub. It dates back to

the gold shipping partnership of the East India Company and Moses Mocatta in the late 17th Century — later helped by the great gold enthusiast, Sir Isaac Newton, master of the Royal Mint and part-time alchemist, when he could tear himself away from gravity theory.

The Bank of England established the London Good Delivery List in 1750 to set a unified standard for gold refiners. The quintet of N M Rothschild & Sons, Mocatta & Goldsmid, Pixley & Abell, Samuel Montagu & Co. and Sharps Wilkins ran the celebrated 'London Fix' for decades. The anachronistic Fix was reformed after the global financial crisis to make it more transparent. It is now electronic and partially regulated. Barclays was fined \$26m in 2014 for abuses linked to the old system.

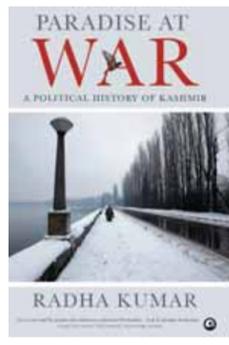
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The Daily Telegraph



KASHMIR THE ANSWER IS IN THE PAST

RADHA KUMAR's *Paradise at War* makes the various approaches to the Kashmir conflict accessible to lay readers. An edited excerpt:



YOU CANNOT DISCUSS KASHMIR WITHOUT STARTING WITH HISTORY. MANY CONTEMPORARY THREADS OF THE CONFLICT — AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ITS SOLUTION — LEAD BACK IN TIME

A historic rivalry over gold is reborn

Macron is trying his best to take UK's gold crown, writes AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD



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The Daily Telegraph



A JEWISH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION HAS CONDEMNED K-POP BAND BTS OVER PHOTOS OF THEM WEARING NAZI-STYLE HATS

CULTURE LANE

Aretha's famous outfits auctioned

Aretha Franklin's voice established her reputation as the queen of soul, but her style was the stuff of legend. Fans had the chance to snap up more than 30 of her history-making looks at a fashion auction in New York. Franklin, who was 76 when she died from cancer in August, was known for an elaborate and glitzy aesthetic, heavy on sequins, fur and feather boas. A public exhibition of her outfits was held at the Hard Rock Cafe last week before going under the hammer. Highlights of the Julien's Auctions collection included the red ruffled dress Franklin wore for a Radio City Music Hall concert in 1993, the denim crew jacket from the 1980 Blues Brothers film, in which she played Mrs Murphy, and the regal cream gown she wore to Bill Clinton's nomination ball.



Franklin sang for three presidents — Jimmy Carter, Clinton and Barack Obama — and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by George W Bush in his second term. She died without making a will, leaving her niece as the executor of her \$80m estate. More than 100 pink Cadillacs were part of her funeral procession in Detroit and the service stretched for eight hours in a church packed with 4,000 guests. In signature style, Franklin had three outfit changes for each public viewing, ahead of her funeral. Martin Nolan, executive director of the sale, said the auction was "celebrating the tremendous talents, power and grace of America's greatest singer of all time".

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Bid to find Degas looted by Nazis

Somebody, somewhere knows its location. But the one man who could help is refusing to talk. Portrait of Mlle. Gabrielle Diot (1890), a painting by Edgar Degas, hung above the desk of a renowned Jewish art dealer at his Paris gallery until 1940 when, along with numerous other works, it was confiscated by the Nazis. Now, the descendants of Paul Rosenberg have hired London-based art detectives to try to recover it, almost 60 years after the art dealer's death. "It's not impossible that somebody has seen it," said Marianne Rosenberg, Paul's granddaughter. "We reserve the right to seek recourse to the law in all jurisdictions."



Paul Rosenberg, a patron to both Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, whom he affectionately called "Pic", kept meticulous records of the works in his keeping, a practice that has greatly helped his family over the years in its quest to reclaim them. Of the 400 or so works looted from his gallery, only 65 have yet to be recovered, according to Marianne.

Paris in August 1944 by a unit of the Free French forces led by Lieutenant Alexandre Rosenberg, Paul Rosenberg's son, an intervention depicted in the 1964 film *The Train*, starring Burt Lancaster. But the 1890 Degas was not among them, and its whereabouts since the theft by the Nazis has been a mystery. The painting first resurfaced in 1974, when a Hamburg-based art dealer, Mathias Hans, is said to have brokered its sale to a Swiss buyer.

Many of the pieces were loaded on to a train that was stopped outside

Disney planning Star Wars spinoff



Disney is moving ahead with another *Star Wars* spinoff TV series. It follows the announcement, in October, of the Jon Favreau-created *The Mandalorian*. In an earnings call with investors, Disney CEO Bob Iger said that the new show would act as a prequel to *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. It will star Diego Luna as Cassian Andor, the rebel alliance spy he played in the movie. According to a statement from Disney: "The rousing spy thriller will explore tales filled with espionage and daring missions

to restore hope to a galaxy in the grip of a ruthless Empire." Like *The Mandalorian*, the *Rogue One* series will be available on Disney's new streaming service, which Iger revealed will be named Disney+. A Marvel-related TV series, to star Tom Hiddleston as Loki, is in development, also for Disney+. Also planned are series spinoffs of the Disney-Pixar film *Monsters Inc*, and the Disney Channel film *High School Musical*. Disney+ is due to launch in the US in late 2019. It will remove its content from Netflix at the same time.

THE VEGAN BOOM

Despite the stereotypical litany of vegan-related myths, veganism is steadily becoming one of the most popular diets around the world, says LUCY RAHIM

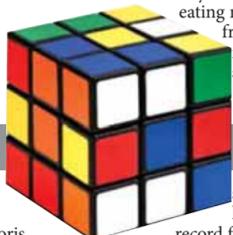
You might have noticed that veganism has been in the news recently. As the fallout from former *Waitrose Food* magazine editor William Sitwell's vegan comments continues apace, November 1 marked the World Vegan Day, and the start of World Vegan Month. Veganism isn't about to slip from the agenda, either. As a new poll reveals that one third of Britons are trying to reduce their meat intake, we're only two weeks away from the annual month of Veganuary, in which people eliminate all meat, fish, dairy, and eggs from their diet. The initiative, launched in 2014, seeks to encourage people to try a vegan diet, stating that, "Veganism is one of the most effective choices a person can make to reduce the suffering of animals, help the planet, and improve personal health."

Despite the stereotypical litany of vegan-myths (think: Under-nourished, long-haired, hippie lentil-lovers), veganism is steadily becoming one of the most popular diets around the world. Propagated by the clean eating brigade, it has a lengthy list of celebrity backers: Russell Brand, Ellen DeGeneres, Natalie Portman, and Samuel L Jackson. And then there's the ever-growing list of vegan athletes, including Serena Williams, Mike Tyson, and former Mr Universe Barnabas du Plessis (a past PETA spokesperson), which should put paid to anyone with the phrase "but what about protein?" on their lips. Intrigued? Here are some scientifically tested reasons to give veganism a go:

- IT CAN HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT**
Heads up: Diet season is on the horizon! If the four weeks of endless boozing, chocolate-nibbling and mince pie-scuffling that essentially makes up December traditionally leaves your belt a little tight, a vegan diet may be just the ticket to help you shed the extra pounds (as long as you move a bit as well). A 2015 study showed that those following a vegan diet lost comparatively more weight than those following omnivorous and vegetarian ones. Good news for anyone still in a cheese-induced coma.
- IT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**
Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions (more than all transport), potentially increasing to 50 per cent by 2050. Rearing livestock for animal-based products requires far more land, water and energy than producing grain; 27kg CO2 is generated per kilo of beef in comparison to 0.9kg per kilo of lentils. According to a 2016 Oxford study, the adoption of a vegan diet globally would cut food-related emissions by 70 per cent. That's got to be a good reason to put down the ham sandwich.
- IT MIGHT MAKE YOU LIVE LONGER**
While veganism isn't necessarily a one-way ticket to a zen-like, eternal youth, numerous scientific studies have been taken to measure the impact of a plant-based diet in reducing the risk of major diseases, including diabetes and heart disease with positive results. A vegan diet also eases the symptoms of arthritis-sufferers and can help prevent

PROPAGATED BY THE CLEAN EATING BRIGADE, IT HAS A LENGTHY LIST OF CELEBRITY BACKERS: RUSSELL BRAND, ELLEN DEGENERES, NATALIE PORTMAN, AND SAMUEL L JACKSON. AND THEN THERE'S THE EVER-GROWING LIST OF VEGAN ATHLETES, INCLUDING SERENA WILLIAMS AND MIKE TYSON

- obesity, which affects one in six Britons and is a leading cause of death. A 2016 study from Oxford argues that the mass adoption of a vegan diet could cut 8.1 million deaths a year. Becoming vegan for 31 days is not going to have the same effect, but it's worth bearing in mind.
- EATING VEGGIES GOOD FOR YOU**
No one needs to tell you that eating fruit and vegetables is beneficial, but in case you've forgotten everything your parents and teachers ever taught you, they're full of essential vitamins and minerals (including calcium, potassium and Vitamin C) and dietary fibre. All of these should keep you feeling and (ideally) looking great. Even though you've had the five-a-day mantra drilled into you for years, the chances are you're still not eating enough fruits and vegetables. Unless you plan to survive on a diet of crisps and vegan sausages (I don't recommend it) trying out Veganuary will, if anything, force you to eat more of the good stuff.
- IT MAKES YOU SMELL BETTER**
Go ahead and raise your eyebrows, but a recent study analysed the sweat of those who eat a diet of mainly fruit and vegetables, and found that it was deemed to be more attractive to women (who actually had to smell and evaluate each sample) than those on a carb-heavy diet. The sweat produced by veg-eating men was described as "floral, fruity, sweet or having medicinal qualities." Do you need another reason?



ODDLY ENOUGH

YOUTUBER COVERS SINGER IN CLING WRAP FOR GUINNESS
A popular Japanese YouTuber set a Guinness World Record by wrapping a volunteer in cling wrap in only one minute, 58 seconds. Dekakin, a comedian and YouTuber known for food and arm wrestling related stunts, enlisted the help of Ichiko Shirahata, a member of the group "Gekijo-ban" Gokigen Teikoku singing group whose ballet experience came in handy during the attempt. The pair practiced for hours to perfect their technique before the official attempt, which was timed to coincide with Thursday's Guinness World Records Day. Guinness stipulated Shirahata had to be covered from her feet

to her shoulders in cling wrap without any gaps. An adjudicator for the record-keeping organisation kept time and inspected Shirahata to make sure the attempt was an official record. Dekakin was awarded a certificate once the time was verified at 1 minute, 58 seconds. (UPI)

FRANCE SEIZES JET AFTER RYANAIR DOESN'T PAY BILL
Storms, strikes, computer failures S—you can now add "your plane has been seized by the Government" to the list of things that can delay your flight. In France, 149 passengers were preparing to take off for London late Thursday when French authorities ordered their Ryanair Boeing 737 impounded. The budget carrier owed money and it was "regrettable that the state was forced" to evacuate the plane, the civil aviation authority said. The passengers had gone through passport control and security and were about to walk on the tarmac to board the plane when

airport authorities told them to turn around, passenger Boris Hejblum said. "The airport staff told us there was an issue with the plane," he said. No Ryanair staff members were available, and the only communication from the airline was two text messages saying simply that the departure was delayed, and a 5-euro (\$5.75) voucher for food — "less than what a sandwich cost at the airport café," the 30-year-old Frenchman said. The passengers were put on another flight that finally brought them to London's Stansted airport — five hours late. The multi-million dollar jet, meanwhile, was released only Friday after Ryanair paid a bill of 525,000 euros. (AP)

CHINESE TEENAGER SOLVES THREE RUBIK'S CUBES AT ONCE
A Chinese teenager who already holds two Guinness World Records broke two more by solving Rubik's cubes in unusual ways. Xiamen resident Que Jianyu was observed by a Guinness adjudicator when he solved three Rubik's cubes at once — one in each hand and one with his feet — in 1 minute, 36.39

seconds. Que then suspended himself from a bar and broke the record for fastest time to solve a Rubik's cube upside-down, finishing with a time of 15.84 seconds, 1.6 seconds faster than the previous record holder. (UPI)

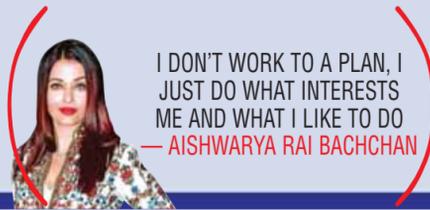
'FROG LADDERS' HELP CRITTERS ESCAPE DEATH-TRAP DRAINS
A small group of British conservationists are installing mesh-covered ladders in roadside drains to save trapped amphibians from certain death. The Warwickshire Amphibian and Reptile Team — the memorably acronymed WART — hopes that by placing 20 of the rust-resistant aluminium ladders down drains near known breeding pools in England's West Midlands, they can boost the dwindling amphibian population. "The amphibians are coming to breed and then hitting the road, getting across the roads, hitting the curb, along the curb and into the drains. And then that's it - end of story for them, game over," said Tim Jenkins, a ladder fitter at WART. "By installing the amphibian ladders, it enables them to get back out of

the drains and back to their breeding pools and doing what they should do and making more amphibians." The issue of trapped toads is not limited to Britain. A 2012 study in the Netherlands estimated that more than half a million small vertebrates like frogs, toads and newts end up trapped in gully pots and drains each year. (Reuters)

DUTCHMAN, 69, SEEKS AGE CHANGE TO 49
Self-styled positivity guru Semile Ratelband thinks age is just a number. And his is a number the Dutchman wants changed. The 69-year-old TV personality has asked a court in the Netherlands to approve his request for a new birthday that officially would make him 49. Ratelband says his legal appeal is consistent with other forms of personal transformation that are gaining acceptance and Government recognition in the Netherlands and around the world. "With this free(dom) of choice, choice of name, freeness of

gender, I want to have my own age. I want to control myself," he said Thursday. Ratelband says he wants to avoid age discrimination in society — especially on dating websites. "So when I ask for a mortgage, for example, they say it's impossible," he told The Associated Press. "If I go on Tinder, then I get women from 68, 69 when women are there." How about just being economical with the truth about his age? "I don't want to lie," he said. "I want to be myself, so don't force me to lie." (AP)





BRIEFLY
speaking



CHOLESTEROL CONTROL & ALZHEIMER'S RISK

Managing cholesterol might help reduce Alzheimer's risk, says researchers, including one of Indian-origin, who identified a genetic link between the progressive brain disorder and heart disease. Examining DNA from more than 1.5 million people, the study showed that risk factors for heart disease such as elevated triglyceride and cholesterol levels (HDL, LDL, and total cholesterol) were genetically related to Alzheimer's risk. However, genes that contribute to other cardiovascular risk factors, like body mass index and Type-2 diabetes, did not seem to contribute to genetic risk for Alzheimer's. "The genes that influenced lipid metabolism were the ones that also were related to Alzheimer's disease risk," said Celeste M Karch, Assistant Professor at the Washington University's School of Medicine. Thus, if the right genes and proteins could be targeted, it may be possible to lower the risk for Alzheimer's disease in some people, added Rahul S Desikan, Assistant Professor at the UCSF.

VEGETABLES FOR A HEALTHY HEART

Turns out, if everyone on the planet ate a healthy, fiber-rich diet which includes vegetables, there wouldn't be many instances of heart disease. A new research at the Medical University of Warsaw found that low-dose treatment with trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) reduced heart thickening (cardiac fibrosis) and markers of heart failure in an animal model of hypertension. The study is published in the American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology. Elevated levels of TMAO — a compound linked with the consumption of fish, seafood and a primarily vegetarian diet — may reduce hypertension-related heart disease symptoms. TMAO levels in the blood significantly increase after eating TMAO-rich food such as fish and vegetables.

HEART ATTACK RISK FACTORS IN WOMEN



Although men are at greater risk of heart attack than women, unhealthy lifestyles such as smoking, besides diabetes and hypertension increase the risk of heart attack in the fairer sex than in their male counterparts, a new study has found. The study showed that an elevated risk of heart attack was found among women with high blood pressure, and Type-1 and Type-2 diabetes, but not with a high body mass index (BMI). Overall, more men experience heart attacks than women. However, several major risk factors increase the risk in women more than they increase the risk in men, so women with these factors experience a relative disadvantage," said Elizabeth Millett, epidemiologist from The George Institute in the UK. Generally, heart attack patients experience symptoms of chest pain, shortness of breath, and pain in their arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach. But women are likely to experience additional symptoms such as unusual tiredness, dizziness, cold sweats, and nausea.



Human beings spend their entire lives in constant fear of the unknown without realising that the soul's knowledge is eternal, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

Why do we have fear? Fear arises from doubt and from the unknown. When we have doubts about how something is going to turn out, it opens the door to fear. When we doubt ourselves, we fear making a wrong decision or making a mistake. If we doubt our abilities, we fear that we will fail in a competition or a test. When we doubt whether an outcome will turn out right, we fear the consequences. If we doubt the existence of a controlling power, we live in fear of chance occurrences and accidents.

Untruth also leads to fear. If we tell a lie, we live in the fear of being caught. We must create an intricate web of lies to cover the first lie. The number of lies becomes so great that it is hard to track what we said to whom and when we said it. Rather than bringing closure to the situation by telling the truth, we spend weeks, months, and even years spinning yarns to cover up the initial lie. Fear grips us any time someone comes close to knowing the truth, for then we will be exposed and must pay the consequences of the deed we were trying to hide.

We fear being weak. The young boy or girl on the school playground fears the bully. Each day as he or she walks home from school, the weak child lives in fear of being physically attacked by the bigger children. At work, the employee fears the employer. The employer holds the future of our salary and job in his or her hands. We may feel weak and powerless to speak up for injustices on the job because those who hold the power may retaliate and punish us for doing so.

If we examine our lives, we find that we are fearful of many things. As children, we fear and worry about how long our parents are going to be there to support us. As students, we live in fear of failing our examinations. As parents, we fear whether or not our child is going to be healthy or whether or not he or she will grow to be a good person. As business owners, we worry about whether our competitors are getting the better of us. Each one of us is fearful about one aspect of our life or

another. Behind all these fears is the fear the fear of the unknown.

Those who fear death actually fear the unknown. We all know that one day we are going to die. Many believe that annihilation of ourselves is the end of our existence. That fear is always trying to eat us up in one manner or another. People fear the unknown because it may be unpleasant or painful. Since they do not know what to expect, anxiety and fear builds within them. There are many people who do believe in life after death. What they fear then is the unknown of how they are going to die and what they will experience at the time of death. They fear the pain of death.

Our soul, which is totally conscious, is a part of God and, therefore, is without fear. Since God is all-consciousness, and the soul is one with the Lord, it is God in a microcosm. God is without fear, and the soul is also without fear. It is only when we are out of touch with our soul that we begin to be afraid. The soul is truth; the soul is totally conscious. Being in connection with absolute truth means there is no fear. Thus, there is no fear in the soul.

The soul's quality of wisdom gives it access to the knowledge of all that is. There is nothing potentially unknown to the soul. It knows what is and what is to be. What does it have to fear? Those who have been in touch with their soul — the saints, mystics, prophets, and enlightened beings — have come to understand the process of death through firsthand experience. This knowledge helps eliminate the fear of death. They say that what dies is the physical body, which is made of matter. Being made of matter, it deteriorates, it decays, and is finally destroyed. But our true self, which is our spirit or soul, is eternal. It lives on and on and on.

What we call death in this world of ours is only a physical death. For the soul, it is just the changing of a vesture. Therefore, the first thing to understand is that our soul is everlasting. If we can realise this, fear of the unknown nature of death, will be eliminated.

The soul is truth. Untruth lives in fear of being exposed. But as Mahatma Gandhi often said, "Truth always wins

in the end". Truth conquers all. If we live in truth, we have nothing to fear.

We may not want to recognise it, but there are laws by which the universe is governed. Ignorance of the laws is no excuse. We may think we can get away with deceiving others, with deceiving ourselves, with deceiving God, but we cannot get away with these acts. Sooner or later, truth is revealed.

If we read the newspapers, we find thieves may rob a bank and get away. Parents lie to their children, and children lie to their parents. We may take money that is not ours from our place of employment. We may cheat on our loved ones. We may pretend to have power that we do not have in order to get people to do what we want. We manipulate others to get our way. We make promises we have no intentions of keeping. There are numerous shades of untruths in which human beings are involved. But in the end, the truth will catch up with us, if not in this life, then on our day of judgment. No matter what religion we follow, there is accountability for our doings. There is a day of reckoning for each of us.

Living in truth frees us from fear. We neither fear having to account for untruth, nor fear being found out. The prisoner who has served time in jail for wrongdoings based on lies, deception and dishonesty decides to live a clean life of truth. How freeing it is for that criminal to wake up each day and enjoy life without looking over his or her shoulder in fear of getting caught. The person who speeds on the highway is always tense wondering whether the police will stop him or her for a traffic violation. The driver can enjoy neither the scenery nor the conversation in the car. But the person who drives at the accepted speed limit does not have to drive in fear. That person can enjoy the sights along the way, the music on the radio, or the discussions with other passengers without fear hanging over his or her head. The soul's existence is truth. If we can tap into the soul, then our real nature as truth will govern our lives and free us from fear.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

The leadership question



Time and again the leadership question crops up to find out what is the right mix of leader qualities. Yet, the issue fails to be resolved. In other words, people are not consistent in their views. This is true not only for nations but also organisations. However, in the case of organisations the people do not have as much say as is the case of nations, particularly in the democracies. But the essential question remains the same — the transient nature of perception of the people about the leader. Why do people get disillusioned with the leader they once admired? Management theorists and political scientists, psychologists, and sociologists have all tried to give prescriptions for effective leadership, only to realise that the said effectiveness fails to last long. Does it mean that attempts to find out consistent qualities of effective leaders are futile? But it does call for some serious thinking. Interestingly, evolution of leadership theories have passed through all these stages in the last over hundred years, though inconclusively. Still, there is a need to examine the issue afresh because leadership is one of the most talked about subjects in management literature. As experts galore try to broach over the subject, an old Indian story is worth recapitulating. Once, Lord Shiva and Parvati decided to visit the world along with their ox. The God was disguised as an old man, whereas Parvati wore her natural young and beautiful look. As they took to the streets people would gaze at this odd couple of an old man and a young woman. On the way, Lord asked Parvati to ride the ox while he chose to walk alongside. As they were travelling they heard comments disapproving the young lady riding the animal while the old man is made to walk. Hearing this, Parvati asked Shiva that since people disliked this it will be good if the Lord rides the ox and Parvati walks along side. The God agreed and acted accordingly. Now Shiva was riding and Parvati walking. They had travelled a little distance when another set of people started murmuring sarcastically saying that how mean it was for the old man to enjoy riding the ox while the young lady is being made to walk. The God then changed his mind and asked Parvati to also sit on the ox so that people do not comment. They both were now riding the ox. But barely had they travelled a short distance that another group of people commented that how inhuman the couple was to ride and torture the dumb and poor animal. Shiva again changed his mind. They dismounted the bullock and started walking alongside the animal. But after travelling some distance they found a group of people ridiculing their foolishness on having an ox, yet choosing to walk. The Lord could now realise that no matter what you do there will be people to criticise you. Moral of the story — do not try to please everybody. No matter what you do or how noble your intentions are, people will find fault. Perhaps, this may give some clue as to why people's perception about leaders is fickle. The course open for leaders is to have an agenda with noble intentions and pursue the path with dedication, without aiming to satisfy all the people all the time. Leadership is not about being politically correct. It is about being just correct. Let the conscience be the judge.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

Suffering due to present actions

Blaming the course of destiny or force of habit for our mistakes is an escapist way of living. It's important to take control of things and act consciously towards the fruits we wish to reap, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

for it when violence breaks out and destroys him? How do you justify greed? A banker colludes with a client and allows a large loan to an undeserving person. Once the facts come out and he is sent to jail, then, can he blame his bad luck? Two hot-headed persons get into an ugly fight over a minor car accident, and get seriously hurt. Can luck be blamed for such aggression?

Ego influences behaviour is most families and offices. Is someone forcing us to do so? No, we choose to do so. Someone may give a justification stating that this habit developed long ago. Okay, then, we have to also admit that there is nothing like intelligence in us. We cannot claim to be intelligent and also at the same time, be helplessly consumed by our faulty emotions.

Yes, there is destiny, which must come to pass. But there is a difference between what is avoidable and what is unavoidable. An act of income tax fraud will surely bring punishment but doing so now cannot be



blamed on destiny. Habits are formed but they can also be given up. It is up to us.

Our scriptures warn us against having attachments for material objects, but do we heed the warning? Rather we want to be oblivious of this danger, which takes away our peace of mind. Pride of possessing material objects is a brother of ego. Don't we realise that these things are with us temporarily and can be taken away? If we must be proud, we should be of good behaviour, impeccable manners, etc. Many of us become anxious or fearful for no good reason. We are so accustomed to blame our luck that even common sense becomes a foreign concept. Let us wake up and stop blaming fate; we have many options in the present to minimise our sufferings. We are not robots. Arjuna gave up his ego (18.73). We, too, can give up our bad habits and faulty emotions.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



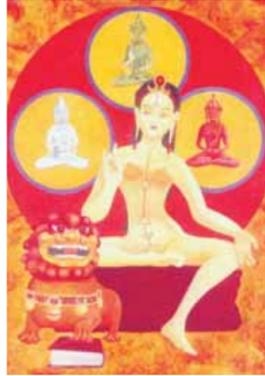
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You are going to enjoy good health along with high vitality and vigor this week. You are disciplined and health conscious. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be very important for you. It is advisable to start the week with a resolution to live a healthy and enjoyable life. You should regularise your routine, discipline your senses. Your career shows a good indication this week; you will experience a sudden financial gain. Changes at this time will be positive. Business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or a desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for a project. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special are indicated.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you will be surrounded by anxiety and tension. You are extremely worried about the future. This will cause you stress and give you sleepless nights. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP (blood pressure) may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. And the best part is you are positive and know how to control the situation and come out as a winner. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will enjoy good health, good vigor and stamina. You will not only be able to care of yourself but also your family. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On your career front, you should have a practical approach and need to take some important decisions. There are high chances of you being emotionally blackmailed at the work place. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will witness one-sided love, therefore, you need to have lots of patience and strength. Otherwise, you will lose your mental peace. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of performing some important responsibilities.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy blue
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Health-wise, this week will be good. You will feel full of energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help to meet the needs of your health and will also be the motivating factor to maintain balance between physical and mental health. You may slow down on the career front because you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted in life. Your addiction to alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationships may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In the area of love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to trade the temptation of instant gratification for the higher cause. Singles need to wait longer for their special someone.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter mental conflict and nervousness that may cause BP (blood pressure) issue. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In your career, you will prove yourself to be trustworthy. It is likely to have genuine affection for someone in the work area and this can be a reason for your success. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. Those in job, the favor of a senior will boost your confidence. Your amicable behaviour and polished communication skills will work in your favour. In matters of love and emotions, you may feel blessed.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, it is important that you look after your health. You have been avoiding this important issue for a long time now and therefore, a visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good, and will help you to have a peaceful personality. You have good news awaiting you on the career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to a desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In order to maintain good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements — earth, water, air, fire and the sky. You are likely to feel highly ignited and need a balanced approach to life. Any irregularity in diet and lifestyle will have a bad impact on you. Therefore, control your cravings and keep your anger under control. At work, you are meticulous and laborious. You are willing to learn new skills, and techniques. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is you are committed to get those changes done. This week, you will be lucky in love matters and have the high level of emotional contentment. You will see perfection all around you.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you are full of energy, creativity and positive energy. Your health and vitality will be good. You need to utilise the energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader and people will listen to you. You will win hearts with your kind and honest nature. This week, you are likely to emerge as an efficient participant in meetings, collaborations and contacts. Support from someone from the opposite sex will help you achieve your desired success. For those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exams this week, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in relationships by showing generosity.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are filled with positive energy this week. Recovery from an illness and leading a healthy life are indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Avoid overeating to stay away from extra kilos. Follow a health routine like physical exercise and balanced diet to stay fit and healthy. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your senior authorities and may find space on the top employees list of your boss. Promotion is likely. There could be a new beginning such as new job, or a new residence. In terms of love life, manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan a date or romantic trip.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you will be careful in all health-related issues. You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or follow your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at the standstill and you will feel stagnated. This is the time you need to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors for new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard-earned money will be spent quickly and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship-wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get the good message of love. Romance with your desired partner is on the cards.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

In the matter of health, change is for good. Your positive outlook will bring further improvement. Mental tension and fatigue due to fast moving life will go away and you will feel very relaxed with improved vigour. Physical exercise and being with nature will be best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured and they are likely to be called for an interview. Good news in terms of promotion or salary hike is on the cards. Your hard work and goal-oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In your love life, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and will leave you disheartened.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, you will be a moody and many a time an irritated person. This may cause concern for your physical health too. You might face health issues like headache, nausea and BP etc. You need to control the wild aspect of your mind and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. When it comes to your career, you need to take action towards developing your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed before you see the results. This week, your career will have lots of challenges. Put in your best efforts; rewards are assured. Abundance of happiness is stored for you in terms of relationship. Balance and stability in love is on the cards.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky blue
Lucky day Tuesday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot & Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Timely help for mental health

Evolutionary urge seems to be intrinsic to human spirit. This is what has propelled progressive civilisational evolution down the ages through conscious human efforts. Even in individual terms, most of us wish to make it big in life, and accordingly set our dream destinations. Dreams are necessary for people to reach heights they are capable of. Since time immemorial, the Moon has fascinated and evoked man's curiosity, seen every day — yet unknown. A longing to know and understand it led scientists to send man on the Moon. But not everyone's dream comes true, non realisation of which often brings in frustrating experiences. Why? Are we so helplessly fated?

There is little doubt that we are all born with immense mind-power, carrying limitless potential. If we could access, unfold, and optimise our indwelling potential, one would know no limits. Our power of free will aided by the faculty of discriminate intelligence, helps us achieve this end through conscious efforts. Provided, we are aware of our true nature — with all the core strengths and weaknesses. The paradox, however, is that our mind-power ordinarily remains under cloud; for, it

remains under a lot of self-acquired limitations, coming as they may as the effect of Karmic residuals carried over from the past. That restricts the scope of our vision. Mind, the mover and shaker of a being, thus fails to have access to major part of its landscape, thus limiting our indwelling potential.

Seen in real terms, we are all born with a preconditioned mind in terms of our desire trends, virtues and attributes as well as habits and attitudes. That sets the usual trends of our ongoing life. What further compounds our problems is ego, which doesn't let us look beyond our preconceived limits. With such a narrowed vision, we fail to look at issues in hand in the right perspective. Consequently, often we are not able to make the right choices in life, and with obvious consequences. When we meet failures, instead of looking for our own inadequacies for necessary correction, we try to find refuse in our destiny. Truth, however, remains that we don't succeed or fail in life simply because that would be so scripted in our destiny. We fail in life only when we do not strive sufficiently to address our limitations and unfold the immense power within. In the process, our evolutionary potential gets compromised, leaving us restive from



within, which in turn doesn't let us process our thoughts objectively.

The irony of the whole situation is that caught up in the usual mills of life, seldom does one care to figure out one's own limitations. Instead, people keep looking for a probable promising moment in future. A couple of years back parents of an errant young man came seeking guidance on how to bring him back on the rails. Following a look into his chart, they were told that the young man's thought process seems to have become incoherent, calling for immediate medical intervention. They got badly offended. "Our child has gone mad — is that what you mean? Just suggest the probable time frame when he is expected to behave responsibly, and remedial measures if any necessary," they retorted. "I have offered you my piece of advice. It is now your call," I humbly suggested. Meanwhile, the young man's condition has been getting worse day by day. He often turns violent, abusing elders and at times has even assaulted them. He has wasted a huge sum of money in the last couple of years.

Let us now look at his astrological pointers. *Lagna* lord Sun as well as mind-signifying Moon are locked in adverse formation with Uranus and Neptune.

That, in the first place, accounts for his mercurial temperament. Second, he should be self-willed, tactless, and unstable. He would be an escapist, stuck to his delusional dream perception, and not open to look beyond in search of better options. He may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance and would rather continue pursuing his own dream perception undeterred. Third, he may not be keen on taking pains to achieve something by himself. He may wish from his elders to meet all his demands. Intelligence signifying Mercury is placed adverse to Mars. That makes him restless, lacking focus, bad tempered, irritable, hyper-critical, and a habitual liar. Mars ill-disposed off to Saturn, makes him suspicious, impatient, bad tempered and evil minded. It also gives him a revengeful attitude. Venus opposite Uranus and Neptune brings in self-indulgent tendencies. All put together makes him vulnerable to mental disorder, calling for sustained psychiatric help.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi — 110 025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: pioneerqueries@bharatastro.com
Website: www.bharatastro.com