

OPINION 8
SHADOW OF TERROR
LOOMS LARGE

MONEY 10
RBI NET SELLS \$18.66 BN OF
DOLLARS BETWEEN APR-SEP

SPORT 16
ENGLAND BEAT SRI LANKA
IN 2ND TEST, SEAL SERIES

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the pioneer

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I NEVER HAD
A CAREER:
SHEKHAR
13 VIVACITY

Terror revisits Amritsar

3 die, 20 hurt in grenade attack on Nirankaris, Punjab Police thinks it is terrorist act; 2 held

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

In a reminder to dark days of militancy in Punjab, three people were killed while around twenty injured in a grenade attack during a religious congregation at Rana Sansi in Amritsar district on Sunday at a time when the State is on high alert after terror inputs since Thursday.

The Punjab Police has described it as a "terrorist act" and is probing all "possible angles". By the evening, police have arrested two suspects from Bathinda, and seized live cartridges from them.

Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has decided to investigate the incident that took place at Nirankari Bhawan in Adliwal village. The NIA has registered a case into the incident and its team, comprising senior officers, left from Chandigarh in the evening, to reach Raja Sansi to further investigate the matter.



Wailing relatives of a victim after two men on a motorcycle reportedly threw a grenade at the Nirankari Bhawan during a religious congregation, in Adliwal village near Amritsar, on Sunday

♦ Two youths, aged between 25 and 30, forcibly entered the Nirankari Bhawan and lobbed the grenade amid the crowd when the congregation at Rana Sansi in Amritsar district was on

♦ Police have launched a massive search operation and also sealed Punjab's border with Rajasthan

The blast came at a time when police have sounded high alert across Punjab, especially in Amritsar after the terrorist-outfit Ansar Ghazwatul Hind (AGH) chief Zakir Musa was reportedly spotted in the holy city along with a few other men on Friday.

Security was beefed up across the State since Thursday after four people snatched an SUV at gunpoint near Madhopur in Pathankot district last week, followed by an intelligence input claiming that a group of six to seven Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists were reportedly in the State, possibly in Ferozpur.

Sunday's blast attack at Nirankaris — considered to be

a subsidiary of Sikhism but following their own living Guru and religious text — harked back about four decades back. In 1978, 13 Sikhs and three Nirankaris were killed in Amritsar following a violent clash between the two groups — an incident considered to be the starting of the Sikh militancy in Punjab.

As per initial inputs, two youth, aged between 25 and 30, with their faces covered, forcibly entered the Nirankari Bhawan and lobbed the grenade amidst the crowd when the congregation was on.

Continued on Page 4
P4: Woman volunteer, eyewitnesses recount blast horror

MHA prepares list of Rohingya sympathisers

Ex-envoy, Amnesty International, top lawyers among those who figure

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Following report by intelligence agencies, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has prepared a list of several suspected organisations and individuals, who are backing and providing assistance to Rohingya immigrants.

The organisations mentioned in the list include Working Group on Alternative Strategies, Crown Newsing, Community Mobilisation, Choton Das of Bondi Mukti Committee, Kolkata, Md Saleel of Kerala Muslim Culture Centre and Amnesty International, India. The list also named a former Ambassador, top lawyers, civil society members and a professor of a renowned university.

The document accessed by *The Pioneer* also gives state-



wise data of Rohingya immigrants. "There are 1,234 illegal Rohingyas immigrants in the national Capital. Of them 163 are untraceable. Demographic details of 894 have been captured", the document said.

As per the document, there are 6,523 illegal Rohingyas in Jammu and Kashmir. Of them, 6,461 are in Jammu and 62 in Kashmir. There are 264 Rohingyas in Uttar Pradesh, 26 in Assam, 102 in Tamil Nadu, 60 in Karnataka, 16 in Kerala, and one in Maharashtra.

Continued on Page 4

PM to inaugurate ₹6,400 cr KMP e-way in G'gram today

Modi to flag off Escorts Mujesar-Ballabgarh section of Delhi Metro's Violet Line, lay foundation stone of Vishwakarma Skill University

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After delay of nine years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate much awaited ₹6,400 crore Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP), also known as Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE), at Sultanpur village Gurugram on November 19.

Also, Modi will inaugurate the 3.2 km-long Escorts Mujesar-Ballabgarh section of Delhi Metro's Violet Line and lay foundation stone of Vishwakarma Skill University, Dudhola Palwal. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, along with his Cabinet Ministers, will also be present on the occasion.



The Expressway will not only ease burden of heavy traffic using Delhi as transit point but also provide high-speed link between northern Haryana and southern districts.

It will facilitate uninterrupted high-speed link for traffic, especially commercial traffic, from Haryana to the

neighbouring States.

The expressway will act as a Delhi bypass for traffic coming from north of Delhi on NH-1 and going to south of Delhi on NH2 and to the west along NH-8.

Once the KMP expressway is fully operational, vehicles going from North India to the Western and Southern parts of the country would be able to do so without entering into Delhi.

According to officials, ₹6,400 crore had been spent on the expressway project and 3,846 acre was acquired at a cost of ₹2,788 crore. The design speed of the expressway is 120 kmph for light vehicles and 100 kmph for heavy ones.

Continued on Page 4

Fadnavis Govt OK's quota for Marathas

Accepts Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission suggestions

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having accepted the recommendations made by the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission (MSBCC) on the socio-economic status of the Marathas, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday announced that his Government would grant reservations to Marathas in jobs and education under a new Socio-Economic Backward Class (SEBC) category.

Talking to mediapersons here on the eve of the start of the Winter Session of Maharashtra Legislature, Fadnavis said, "We have accepted the recommendations made by the MSBCC. We have decided to accord reservations to the Maratha community under a new SEBC category. The reservations to be granted to



Marathas will be independent of the existing reservations for the OBC category."

The Chief Minister said the State Government had constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to take statutory steps to implement its decision.

Fadnavis said the MSBCC had made three recommendations in its submission to the Maharashtra Government on November 15. "The MSBCC has recommended that Marathas be given reserva-

tions on the basis of their socio-economic backwardness under extraordinary situations. As per the guidelines of the Supreme Court (which has pegged the cap on reservations at 50 per cent), we have an extraordinary situation on hand. Based on the commission's recommendations, we have decided to create a new SEBC category under which we intend to accord reservations to Marathas without affecting the reservations already given under the OBC category," the Chief Minister said.

Replying to a question, the Chief Minister said there is no need for the State Government to seek the permission of the Central Backward Class Commission to grant reservations to Marathas in jobs and education.

Official sources said the Maharashtra Government would introduce a Bill in the

Winter Session of the State Legislature to create SEBC category and accord 16 per cent reservations to Maratha community in addition to the existing 52 per cent reservations in the State. When the law is enacted, the reservations will go up to 68 per cent in Maharashtra.

According to sources, the Maharashtra Government is contemplating to take the route adopted by the Tamil Nadu Government under late Chief Minister Jayalalitha, which achieved its objective of increasing reservations to 69 per cent by passing the Tamil Nadu Act of 1994 and adding the 1994 Act to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Article 31B of the Constitution stipulates that the legislations in the Ninth Schedule cannot be challenged in courts.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

JAWAN MARTYRED IN NAXAL BLAST; 2 HURT

Raipur: A jawan of the District Reserve Guard was killed and two others were injured in an blast triggered by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district.

INDIAN ORIGIN MAN SHOT DEAD BY TEENAGER IN US

New York: A 61-year old Indian-origin man in the US has been shot dead by a juvenile boy in a suspected robbery and carjacking incident in New Jersey, prosecutors said. **P12**

CAMPAINING FOR C'GARH PH-II POLLS CONCLUDES

Raipur: Campaigning for the second and final phase of the Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh concluded on Sunday.

2-YR-OLD GIRL KIDNAPPED, RAPED IN DELHI; 1 HELD

New Delhi: A two-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped and raped and was left near the Old Delhi Railway Station, police said on Sunday. The accused, a drug addict, has been arrested. **P2**

14 killed as bus falls into gorge in Uttarkashi



Officials undertake rescue operation, rush injured to hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Fourteen passengers died and 14 were injured when the bus in which they were travelling fell into a deep gorge near Janakichatti in Uttarkashi district at about 12:30 pm on Sunday. According to the Uttarkashi district emergency operation centre, the accident took place on the Naugaon-Damta-Vikasnagar Road in Badkot tehsil involving a private bus bearing registration number UK 07 PA 1127. The bus fell off the road down about 250 metres into the Yamuna riverside.

The District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and other officials reached the site with six ambulances and doctors to undertake the rescue operation. Fourteen people were reported dead on the spot.

Of the 14 injured — six in serious condition — were airlifted by helicopter. Three were admitted in AIIMS Rishikesh and three were admitted in Jolly Grant hospital. The remaining eight injured were transported by ambulance to Dehradun. In other accident which took place in Pithoragarh district three people died and two were injured when their car fell into 500-metre deep ravine in the afternoon. The accident took place at Gyarah Devi. One of the two injured was taken to Sushila Tiwari hospital in Haldwani while the other injured person was taken to the military hospital in Pithoragarh.

Continued on Page 4



'Freedom is that which helps us to break out of the confines of fear and hate, of chauvinism and obscurantism and the shackles of dead habit. Freedom is the atmosphere which enables each individual to grow to his full height. This is the freedom for which we must strive.'

Indira Gandhi

Remembering

INDIRA GANDHI

on her Birth Anniversary

19th November, 1917 – 31st October, 1984



24 Akbar Road, New Delhi

2-yr-old abducted, raped by drug addict

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a horrific incident reported from the national Capital, a two-year-old homeless girl was forcibly picked up from a footpath in North Delhi's Kotwali and sexually assaulted by a 24-year-old man in a railway washing yard in the early hours of Saturday. He then abandoned her near the tracks of Old Delhi Railway Station. The girl was admitted at LNJP hospital as her condition was quite critical. Doctors performed emergency surgery to save her life as she was bleeding profusely.

The accused identified as Anil, a drug addict, was arrested on Sunday morning after ten teams of Delhi Police raided various locations in the neighbourhood. Anil is a habitual offender and in the past he was arrested in a case of theft in Haridwar.

According to a senior police official, the two-year-old child was allegedly abducted by the accused while she was sleeping with her mother on a footpath in north Delhi's Kotwali area in the early hours of Saturday.

Around 2.30 am on Saturday the woman found



her daughter missing and started looking for her. As the search did not bear fruit, the woman approached police around 10 am on Saturday following which a kidnapping case was registered, he said.

The same day in the afternoon, police learnt that a baby girl had been admitted to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan

(LNJP) hospital in Delhi and subsequently, she was identified as the one who was kidnapped from Kotwali, the official said.

It was revealed that she had been sexually assaulted and the accused dumped her near the railway tracks from where she was rescued by a team of police personnel, he said, adding the girl underwent surgery and is now better.

The police identified the accused by scanning CCTV footages. Following this, a trap was laid at various temples and gurdwara where street dwellers usually come for food and subsequently the accused

was nabbed.

The 24-year-old Anil used to collect garbage for a living and also worked as a waiter during wedding season, police said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Commission for Women Chairperson Swati Maliwal tweeted on the matter and wrote, "Met her in the hospital and can't describe her condition. Her beggar mom is inconsolable. Her cries ring in my head. Through my Anshan, law for death to rapist was created but till date no rapist is given in Delhi! No fear among criminals."

Ten held for running baby-selling racket, 5 children rescued

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ten people were arrested for allegedly running a baby-selling racket here and five babies were rescued, police said on Sunday. Delhi Police filed a 24-page charge-sheet against all the accused persons in a city court in this regard.

Acting on a tip-off, two police personnel met one of the accused posing as a childless couple on August 14. "A woman sub-inspector Preeti and head constable Rajesh posed as husband and wife and met one of the accused Mohammad Jahangir," the charge-sheet said.

The couple chose a baby and Jahangir demanded ₹4.30 lakh but after some negotiations, the final amount was decided at ₹3.30 lakh. "He asked the couple to get the money in an hour and told the two that his accomplices Jyoti and Rahul will bring the child near a bank in Naraina Vihar," the charge-sheet said.

Jahangir was arrested after he handed over a newborn baby to the police personnel, it said. The baby was admitted to

a hospital, where he died on August 26. Jyoti and Rahul were arrested and during interrogation, they told police that the baby was bought from Mithila, a resident of New Friends Colony.

Subsequently, Mithila was arrested and police later learned about one Jitendar Kumar, who was also involved in the racket. Kumar told police about one Kavita who had bought a five to seven days' old infant from a woman agent named Parveen for ₹4 lakh and later sold the child to a chemist named Balbir Singh for ₹5 lakh, the charge-sheet said.

More arrests were made but Kavita continued to remain elusive. A non-bailable warrant was issued against her by a city court on September 10. Later, a look-out circular was also issued against her and she surrendered on September 20.

The charge-sheet was filed under various sections of the IPC pertaining to kidnapping, trafficking, forgery of record of court or of public register and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

32-year-old woman arrested for peddling drugs in Taimur Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old woman was arrested from Southeast district's Taimur Nagar for allegedly peddling drugs in the area. Police recovered around 265 grams of Heroin from her possession. The woman Hasina Begum allegedly employed young men to sell heroin packets and keep a watch on police movement.

The accused was arrested after police received information that there were several drug peddlers based in the slums of Taimur Nagar, New Friends Colony, Khirjabad village and other areas. Hasina Begum was allegedly working in the drug business for the past seven-eight years.

On Friday, police laid a trap near the drain in Taimur Nagar and about 4:45 pm Hasina was seen sitting near water supply pipe. On seeing the police, she tried to run away. However, police staff were successfully able to arrest her. 265 grams of heroin was recovered from her possession.

"During sustained interro-



gation, Hasina Begum disclosed that she is illiterate and is a resident of Taimoor Nagar since her childhood. Her brother-in-law Maidul used to peddle drugs and in the early 20s accused Hasina Begum got married with Maidul's brother, Mohammad Saleem, and indulged in drug-peddling. Her husband and in-laws used to support her in Narcotics peddling," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal stated.

Hasina revealed that she used to purchase heroin at ₹12 lakh per kg from drug suppliers. She would then prepare small packets of heroin weigh-

ing one gram and sold it for ₹150 each. She earned a profit of Rs three lakh with the sale of one kg of heroin, the DCP added.

To manage her business, she employed youths to sell heroin packets for her paying them ₹500 per day. She also deployed young men in plain clothes to keep a watch n any police movement. These 'watch dogs' were paid ₹200 per day.

The accused revealed that she used to purchase drugs from a local peddler Farooq Mohammad, who was arrested last month by the district narcotics squad. "We are further investigating the case efforts are being made to trace the other drug peddlers," said the DCP.

"We have launched a sustained campaign against drug dealers and a dedicated team has been keeping a watch on their dealing and movements. Drugs are a menace and we will not slacken out singlehanded on drug peddlers", Biswal said.

Former CCRT Director arrested in connection with scholarship scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police crime branch Dhas arrested former Director and Deputy Director (Finance) of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) in connection with the 'scholarship scam' in which 11 accused persons were arrested. They were able to siphon off over ₹50 lakh scholarship money in three years from 2015-2017.

The CCRT which works under the ministry of culture provides scholarships to young children all over India. Police said that both the directors have been sent to judicial custody.

The accused former director GC Joshi and deputy director (finance) Anil Kohli were arrested for siphoning scholarship money disbursed for children in various fields of art.

The scam came to light when the former director Joshi himself placed a complaint in Dwarka Police Station.

The then director of CCRT alleged that there were major frauds in the department in the name of scholarships. "During this investigation, the involvement of GC Joshi and Anil Kohli also came to light and they were arrested on Saturday," Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Dr Ajit Kumar Singla stated.

Crime Branch reported that in August-2011, the accused GC Joshi appointed the earlier arrested accused Sandip as an IT Programmer on the contractual basis and attached him with the Accounts Section, which was under the supervision of Deputy Director (Finance) Anil Kohli.

"In Accounts Section, the accused Sandip became acquainted with the loopholes and procedure of payments to the scholarship holders and planned a scam. He roped some of his friends, co-staff, the former Director and Deputy Director (Finance) in his plan offering them certain percentages as commission. In this way, more than ₹50 lakh were peculated by the accused persons during the year 2015," said Singla.

It was in 2016, when a dispute arose between Joshi, Kohli and Sandip over their share as there was lack of currency in banks during demonetization. Finally on March 8, 2018, Joshi terminated the services of Sandip prior to the completion of his contractual period and filed a complaint against him in Dwarka Police Station accusing him of the fraud, Singla said.

Three held for smuggling 27 gold bars at IGI Airport

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested by customs officials of Indra Gandhi International airport for trying to smuggle 27 gold bars of foreign origin weighing 4.482 grams from Myanmar to India through Dimapur in Nagaland via Kolkata to Delhi on Thursday. The accused persons allegedly tried to conceal the gold bars in their rectum and handbags. The market value of the gold



bars were reported at ₹1,38,14,420.

According to customs officials, information was received regarding the three accused persons. They were then intercepted when their plane flying from Dimapur via Kolkata landed in IGI airport. A detailed search of accused persons, their baggage resulted in the recovery of 27 gold bars.

Consumers buying polluting Euro 4 fuel from neighbouring States: Dealers



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Consumers are buying cheaper and more polluting Euro 4 fuel from neighbouring States due to high taxes in Delhi, defeating the purpose of introducing cleaner Euro 6 emission norm-compliant petrol and diesel in the national Capital, an oil dealers' industry body claimed Sunday.

The Delhi Petrol Dealers Association (DPDA) in a statement issued on Sunday said the apex court in November last year directed the oil companies to sell and market only Euro VI fuel in National Capital Territory of Delhi from April 1, 2018 onwards.

"But the purpose of introducing Euro 6 emission standard compliant petrol and diesel in National Capital under directions from the Supreme Court is being defeated as consumers are going in for buying cheaper and ten times polluting Euro 4 fuel from neighbouring States," the body said in a statement.

The major reason behind this is higher price of fuel in Delhi compared to NCR cities including Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Sonapat and Bahadurgarh, it said.

"Due to reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) by neighbouring states recently the prices of petrol and diesel are lower in these states selling unclean Euro 4 fuel. With price disparity of ₹2 to ₹3 the consumers in Delhi are buying Euro IV fuel from these states and adding to air pollution in the capital," DPDA President Nischal Singhania was quoted as saying in the statement.

He further said that the Euro VI emission standard compliant fuel was introduced in capital from April 1, 2018 as the apex court had found issue of vehicular pollution as very serious and critical.

The statement has come at a time when the rising pollution level and poor air quality have

become a reason of concern for people living in the national Capital.

Meanwhile, petrol price Sunday was cut by 20 paise a litre and diesel by 18 paise, the 29th straight daily reduction in rates that has wiped away all of the massive price increase in petrol witnessed in two months since mid-August that had triggered a political uproar.

Petrol price in Delhi was cut to ₹76.71 a litre from ₹76.91 on Saturday, according to a price notification issued by state-owned fuel retailers. Diesel is being now sold at ₹71.56 per litre as compared to ₹71.74 on Saturday.

Foundation Day Programme at the IGNCA

Monday, 19th November 2018

- Pandulipi Vigyan : Bhavi Sambhavnayen (Seminar)**
19th and 20th Nov. at Conference room, C.V. Mess, IGNCA Time at 10:30 am
- Inauguration of Vedic Gallery**
at Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) II, Mansingh Road, New Delhi Time at 3:30 pm
- Foundation Day Celebrations**
at Auditorium, IGNCA, C.V. Mess, New Delhi Release of IGNCA publications, CDs Time 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
- Inauguration of Exhibition- "Hanuman : The Divine Simian"**
Time at 5:30 pm
- Malav Rang**
Classical Music based compositions from the Region of Malwa Time at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Overnight Concert**
19th November 2018 from 9:00 pm to 20th November 2018 6:00 am Time from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am

Tuesday, 20th November

- Roundtable on Technology in Arts**
at Conference Room, C.V. Mess, IGNCA Janpath, New Delhi Time from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- "Guru Ji: Ahead of Time"**
A screening of the documentary film at Auditorium Time from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon
- Ever-changing Women & Middle age Dilemma**
Panel Discussion Time from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm
- Pandun Ke Kade (Folk Music)**
Time at 3:00 pm
- Mahatma and the Poet-Play**
English Drama Time at 5:30 pm

21st

- "Shaam-e-Qawwali"**
Wednesday, 21st November 2018 Time at 5:30 pm

Arth Exhibition is on at IGNCA, Mansingh Road and Matigarh till 25th November 2018

igncan.nic.in | igncakaladarsana@gmail.com | @igncakd All are Cordially Invited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Muthoot Fincorp Ltd.
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Ph: 0471-4911400, CIN: U65992KL2012PTC032248.
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For operational reasons, we are closing our KINGSWAY CAMP DELHI branch with effect from 18th February, 2019. Existing customers will be serviced by the nearest: NEW DELHI BHAI PARAMANAND COLONY branch at Ground Floor, Door No.14, Main Road Bhai Paramand Colony, Opposite MCD Office, Delhi - 110009 from 19th February, 2019. Customers may contact their current branch for any clarification or assistance till 18th February, 2019.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW
(Jurisdiction - Part of U.P. and Uttaranchal)
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007

Summons For Filing reply & Appearance by Publication
OA No. 1340/2016 Date:
(Summons to defendant under section 19 (4) of the Recovery of debt due to the Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Recovery Tribunal (procedure rules, 1993)

STATE BANK OF INDIA VERSUS **APPLICANT**

SRI SHAHID ALI DEFENDANTS

To,
1. **SRI SHAHID ALI** adult s/o SRI ABRAR ALI, r/o New House, Model Town Colony, Circular Road, Muzaffar Nagar, U.P.-251001
Also Residing at 310, Village Sujdu (Village Abadi), Mohalla Kungarpatti, Pargana, Tehsil and Distt. Muzaffar Nagar, U.P.-251002

DEFENDANTS

In the above noted application you are required to file reply in paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his Counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 29.01.19 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that our client has negotiated and agreed to acquire on lease basis the property described in the Schedule I hereunder from 1)EROS CITY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD., (CIN: U74899DL1981PTC011314) and 2) NEHRU PLACE HOTELS PRIVATE LTD. (CIN: U55101DL1976PTC008285), both private limited companies and deemed to be registered under the Companies Act 2013 and having their registered Office at S-1, American Plaza, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi- 110 019 AND 3) 34 INVESTORS/PURCHASERS (the details of the 34 Investors/Purchasers with their Unit/Shop Nos. and areas are mentioned in Schedule II hereunder).

Any person having any claim against or to the Scheduled Property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, pre-emption, or otherwise, howsoever are required to make the same known in writing supported by authenticated photocopies of valid/effectual documents to the undersigned at their office within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication hereof, otherwise the lease of the Property for a lease period of 29 years 11 months in favour of our client will be completed without reference to such claims and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE I [Description of the Property]
ALL THAT Commercial Premises/Unit/Shop being 1) Area admeasuring 11,006 sq. ft. carpet area i.e. 17,470 sq. ft. super area including Unit No. 26 (owned by Eros City Developers Pvt. Ltd.), 2) Unit Nos: 1 to 12, 14, 15, 17A, 18A, 27, 29 to 36, 38 to 42, 44 to 47, 47A, 48, 52, 60, 62 to 78, 82, 83, 87 to 90 admeasuring 13,144 sq.ft. carpet area i.e. 20,864 sq. ft. super area and area bearing Unit Nos. HS-1, HS-2 and HS-3 admeasuring 12,022 sq.ft. carpet area i.e. 19,082 sq. ft. super area aggregating to 25,166 sq. ft. carpet area i.e. 39,946 sq. ft. super area (allotted to Nehru Place Hotels Private Ltd.) and 3) Unit Nos. 16 to 19, 19A, 20 to 25, 28, 37, 43, 49 to 51, 53 to 55, 55A, 56, 56A, 57, 57A, 58, 59, 61, 79 to 81, 84 to 86 aggregating to 5536 sq. ft. carpet area i.e. 8787 sq. ft. super area (allotted to 34 Investors/Purchasers) in the Lower Ground Floor in aggregate admeasuring 41,708 sq. ft. carpet area i.e. 66,203 sq. ft. super area with the right to use the Appurtenant Areas, Facilities and Amenities with Parking in the Mall/Multiplex Building known as "Eros Market Place" constructed on Plot No.2, situated at Shakti Khand- 2, Indra Puram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Pin- 201014 and butted and bounded as on or towards South by Site for Commercial, On or towards North by Road 100' M RW, On or towards East by Vacant Plot, and On or towards West by Road 80' M RW

SCHEDULE II [Details of the 34 Investors/Purchasers with their Unit/Shop Nos. and areas]

Sr. No.	Name	Unit Nos.	Super Area (Sq. Ft.)
1	Mr. Tarun Aggarwal and Mr. Shyam Sunder Gupta	LGf-16	334
2	Mr. Rajender Singh Bhatia and Mr. Jasmit Tiagi	LGf-17	169
3	Mr. Om Prakash Tyagi and Mr. Narender Singh	LGf-18	168
4	Mr. Subhash Chandra Gupta	LGf-19	164
5	Mr. Sarabjeet Singh	LGf-19A	225
6	Mr. Subhash Chandra Gupta	LGf-20	356
7	Mr. Sumit Mahajan and Mr. J. S. K. Mahajan	LGf-21	244
8	Mrs. Sobha Devi	LGf-22	224
9	Mrs. Asha Devi	LGf-23	231
10	Mr. R. P. Arora	LGf-24	219
11	Mr. Sadat Zaman	LGf-25	267
12	Mr. Arun Khanna	LGf-28	351
13	Mr. Raman Sharma	LGf-37	345
14	Mohd. Akrama	LGf-43	346
15	Mrs. Sharda Jain	LGf-49	401
16	Mr. Sanjay Chaturvedi and Mrs. Rajni Chaturvedi	LGf-50	381
17	Mrs. Meenu Mehrotra and Mr. Sameer Mehrotra	LGf-51	426
18	Mr. Rajeev Gupta and Mr. Ashish Aggarwal	LGf-53	411
19	Mr. Deepak Goel and Mr. M.P. Jain	LGf-54	308
20	Mr. Tajuddin	LGf-55	177
21	Mr. Sanjay Shukla and Mrs. Neena Shukla	LGf-55A	241
22	Mohd. Ashraf and Mohd Amjad	LGf-56	178
23	Mr. Madhav Karki	LGf-56A	240
24	Mr. Sanjeev Sharma & Mrs Anupama Sharma	LGf-57	177
25	Mrs. Jaya Thapa	LGf-57A	236
26	Mr. Ravi Kumar Gulati	LGf-58	193
27	Mr. Rajiv Chopra and Mr. Sukhbir Singh	LGf-59	250
28	Mrs. Rekha Rani	LGf-61	177
29	M/S G. Square (Neeraj Gautam)	LGf-79	235
30	Mrs. Amita Tyagi and Mr. Pawan Kumar Tyagi	LGf-80	208
31	Mrs. Reena Tyagi	LGf-81	186
32	Mr. Rohit Mehra & Mrs. Deepthi Mehra	LGf-84	252
33	Dr. Alka Malhotra	LGf-85	247
34	Mr. Sonison James & Mrs. Leela James	LGf-86	220
			8,787 sq.ft. super area)

Dated 19 Nov.2018 Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh For Kanth and Associates, Attorneys and International Legal Consultants, A9, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110013, India.

DMRC fines 18,540 ticketless travellers

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Despite Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) joining hands and putting up a robust system to regulate entry and exit at Metro stations across the city, there are passengers who have been beating this system nonchalantly and travelling ticketless. According to a reply by the DMRC in response to an RTI query, the number of ticketless travellers has been increasing and a total of 18,540 passengers have been fined by the DMRC officials.

After witnessing a person who managed to enter the station without a ticket at the Mayur Vihar Metro Station, Zeeshan Haider, an RTI activist filed an RTI with the DMRC which revealed shocking information.

The data shared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in this regard further revealed that from January 1st to July 31st the DMRC has issued challans to 18,540 people and collected a total of ₹24,10,200 for commuting without tickets in the Metro.

"Earlier, we caught many people who use to make pair with their friends and used to enter the station very fast

1ST JANUARY TO JULY 31	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS	FINE COLLECTED(₹)
Travelling without tickets	18,540	24,10,200
Walking on the tracks	10,88	1,63,200



before the Automatic Fair Collection (AFC) gates get closed. Also, there are many parents who enter stations with tickets and cleverly make their children to crawl under the AFC gates to enter the stations. Having noticed this breach on a regular basis, staff members have deployed near the AFC gates to keep an eye on such people and now AFC gates remains open after the passenger enters, however gates close when passengers reach near to it. It opens only after a valid coupon or token is used," said an official.

Further, as per data, a total of 1,088 passengers have been fined for walking on the metro tracks and the DMRC has col-

lected ₹1,63,200 from them.

"Metro stations in the National Capital are built in a way that no one can enter without a ticket. The entire metro network is highly secured with CCTV cameras, hundreds of metro personnel and Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) who keep a round the clock vigil on everything. But even after that there are people who commit such petty offences quite frequently. First timers who do not know the ticketing process of DMRC and enter its stations as normal railway stations and they get caught by the CISF personnel or DMRC staff who counsel them about the rules and regulations and in extreme cases impose penalty," said a senior DMRC official.

"The Delhi metro is the largest network in the country with a length of 314 km, with having 30 lakhs passengers on a daily basis. Ticketless commuters do create nuisance and ways and mean have been devised to ensure they are not allowed to reach the course," said an official.

Escorts Mujesar to Ballabgarh Metro stretch to open today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Now, commuting will be smoother and relaxing for around 2 lakhs people residing in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) as the much-awaited 3.2 kilometre (km) extension of the Violet will be finally thrown open to public on Monday.

The new Escorts Mujesar to Ballabgarh section will be flagged off to the public by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi via remote control.

"Once the section will be operation, commuting will be easier for around 2.14 lakhs of people residing in Faridabad, Ballabgarh, South-East Delhi and Central Secretariat. After Faridabad, Bahadurgarh and Gurugram, Ballabgarh will be the fourth city in Haryana to be connected by metro, taking the total length of the Metro to 29 kilometres," said a Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official.

The extended section will have two elevated stations at

Sant Surdas (Sihi) and Raja Nahar Singh. Moreover, Raja Nahar Singh station will also be integrated with the Ballabgarh Railway station and interstate bus terminal Ballabgarh directly with a Foot over Bridge (FOB) which currently under construction.

The two new elevated stations- Sant Surdas and Raja Nahar Singh will extremely be beneficial to people residing in Ballabgarh which is developing fast, scores of people who reside in the area travel on a

daily basis to and fro Delhi for work.

"Both the stations are located on the side of National Highway-II and will be connected to the other side of Highway with Foot Over Bridges (FoB). This station is having parking on the other side of the National Highway-2 which will be directly connected to the station via FOB. The Sant Surdas (Sihi) Station is situated near NCB (National Council for Cement and Building Material Institute),"

added the official.

Further the officials said that a peak hour frequency of six minutes and 48 seconds will be maintained on this section between Badarpur and Raja Nahar Singh on weekdays.

A total of 40 trains will be operational on this entire section. After the opening of this extension, the entire Kashmir Gate - Raja Nahar Singh Metro corridor will become 46.6 kilometres long with having 34 stations. The entire length of the metro network is 314 km.

Kejriwal condemns Haryana CM Khattar's remarks on rape

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday condemned the controversial remark of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on incidents of rape, and raised the issue of their security in that State.

"There is anger among women on Khattar's statement. Women say that when a Chief Minister can make such comments against them, how can women be safe in his State?" Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

At a function in Kalka town of Panchkula district on Friday, Khattar said, "The incidents of rape have not increased... Rapes used to take place in the past and happen even today. (Only) the concern (over such incidents) has increased."

"The biggest concern is that in 80 to 90 per cent of rape and eve-teasing cases, the accused and the victim know each other. In many cases, they know each other for a long time and, on one day, when there is an argument... An FIR is lodged, saying: 'He has raped me,'" Khattar had said.



Condemning the statement given by Haryana CM Khattar and calling it disgraceful and unpardonable, Delhi Commission for women (DCW) released their official response to the statement.

"It's really unfortunate for our country that people with such mentality are governing our States. No wonder women in Haryana are in very bad state today and crimes against women are increasing day by day," stated the official release.

The commission quoting figures stated, "Today half of Haryana's women are anemic and only 55% women are literate. Haryana is the state with least sex ratio. And Haryana has a chief minister who should focus on Women's health, education and security but he is just trying to defend himself by just giving bizarre statements one after another."

Air quality fluctuates between poor & very poor categories

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

There was no respite for the people living in the national Capital as air quality fluctuated between 'poor' and 'very poor' categories on Sunday due to increased pollutant-holding capacity of air after rainfall a few days back.

According to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), the overall air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded at 326, which comes under 'very poor' category.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed the overall AQI at 299, which falls in the 'poor' category. According to data provided by the apex pollution control body, 14 areas in Delhi recorded 'very poor' air quality and another 14 recorded 'poor' air quality.

The PM2.5 - particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres - level on Sunday was recorded at 153, while the PM10 level was recorded at 289, the CPCB data 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'.

The SAFAR, in a report, said Delhi's air quality is fluctuating between poor and very poor and it is expected to be in the very poor category in the next two days.

"Wind speed is quite good for dispersion of pollutants which is keeping pollution in check," its said, adding, "Fire counts from stubble burning declined significantly and hence have negligible impact."

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

HC seeks Centre's stand on plea over supply of drug to treat HIV

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has sought the Centre's stand on a plea alleging that it and the AAP Government were not following through on their assurance to the court to ensure there would be no shortage of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, used to treat HIV. Justice Sunil Gaur has asked the Ministry of Health to file a status report in response

to the petition seeking contempt proceedings against the Centre, Delhi Government and the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) for "willful disobedience" of the assurance given to the court last year.

The plea, listed for hearing on March 12 next year, has contended that the two governments and NACO had assured

the high court that there would be no shortage of ARV drugs in future. The contempt petition was moved by Delhi resident Rekha Devi, who said the assurance was given in May last year after she had moved a plea claiming shortage of ARV drugs at all Government-run hospitals and antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres in Delhi. PTI

EC's inspection of deleted voters' name a farce: AAP

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday slammed the Election Commission for its conduct towards checking deleted names from electoral rolls by calling the inspection a "farce and a complete joke to the people of Delhi".

"The whole exercise of checking whether the deleted voters' names was factually correct or not was turned into a complete joke by the Election Commission officers," AAP national spokesperson Raghav Chadha told the media here.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had approached the poll panel after AAP's South Delhi Lok Sabha in-charge Raghav Chadha claimed that about one lakh voters' names have been dropped from the South Delhi parliamentary constituency alone at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The EC had agreed to

'The whole exercise of checking whether the deleted voters' names was factually correct or not was turned into a complete joke by the Election Commission officers'

inspect two areas — Lal Kuan and Tughlakabad — by sending its officers there with a list of deleted voters' names.

Chadha, on Sunday, said even though the EC has set up 11 teams for the inspection and took three days for the process, "it (EC) had a completely different list of voters as compared to the list on its official website".

"Now, this matter is not just bound by any political party. This can have grave consequences for the democracy of Delhi," Chadha asserted. "We want a complete, accurate, and comprehensive list of deleted voters after 2015 assembly elections," he added.

SDMC App to provide live feed of children in schools to their parents

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Soon parents would be able to watch classroom activities of their children on their mobile phones as South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has decided to develop a mobile App to provide live feed of all the actions in the school premises.

Education Committee Chairperson of SDMC, Dr Nandini Sharma said the civic body would complete installing over 4,300 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in its 581 schools by December-end. Sharma said that the initiative has been taken to provide a safe environment for children. "The process of installation would be completed by January 2019 thereafter parents will be provided access of footage of these cameras to track the activities of their children," she said.

She further said that the parents will have to create a user ID with the registration num-



ber of their children. After verifying their account with a verification code that will be sent on their registered mobile, they will be able to watch videos, she said.

The announcement was made during the Children's Day celebrations organized by the civic body. Besides, several other announcements were also made including constitution of Bal Sansad, a parliament of children from primary schools, new awards to encourage principals and teachers.

In order to inform children about culture and life style of people in different states, the corporation also announced that the number of schools having science clubs will go up from 100 to 140.

NGT imposes ₹1L fine on DPCCC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Having taken a dim view of a report submitted by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCCC), the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh for submitting a report based on "hearsay" without verification on burning of tyres and illegal denting and painting shops in northeast Delhi.

A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the report furnished by the DPCC in compliance of its order was based on the stand of the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) and not actual verification.

The tribunal directed the DPCC to conduct a fresh inspection at Gokulpur village in Shahdara to ascertain the facts, particularly with regard to alleged illegal denting and painting shops.

It said the inspection



should be conducted under the supervision of a representative of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The NGT directed the DPCC to shut down the denting and painting work, "if found necessary and appropriate, as per law".

"The amount may be deposited with the Central

Pollution Control Board within one month. For any delay, interest at the rate of 12 per cent per month will be payable. The personal responsibility to deposit cost will be of the member secretary, DPCC," the bench, also comprising Justice SP Wangdi, said.

On August 24, the tribunal had ordered the DPCC and the

East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) to conduct an inspection in this regard. It had also ordered the municipal corporation, DPCC and the DCP, of the area to take immediate action against such units in Gokulpur village.

The tribunal's direction came on the plea filed by the Resident Welfare Association seeking execution of the order of NGT banning tyre burning in open and closure of unauthorised units running in Shahdara area.

The NGT had earlier noted that various units like bakeries, welding shops and slaughter houses were functioning in residential areas without proper permission.

The tribunal made it clear that if there was non-compliance of its order, it would take coercive measures in terms of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 against the authorities concerned.

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GRENADE ATTACK IN AMRITSAR

Woman volunteer, eyewitnesses recount blast horror

Amritsar: Nearly 200 devotees attending a religious congregation at 'Nirankari Bhavan' in Amritsar rushed for safety after unexpectedly being pushed into chaos on Sunday, when two men on a motorcycle hurled a hand grenade in an apparent terror attack at the premises, from where messages of peace and spirituality are sent out, eyewitnesses said.



An injured victim being treated at a hospital in Amritsar after two men on a motorcycle reportedly threw a grenade at the Nirankari Bhavan during a religious congregation in Adliwal on Sunday

Recalling the scenes that followed the attack on "Nirankaris", the eyewitnesses said they were panicked, shocked and scrambled through a thick blanket of smoke. They said it was a usual Sunday congregation at the Bhavan on the outskirts of Amritsar city, until the bombers struck.

"Each Sunday, I do 'sewa' at the Bhavan. I was on duty near the stage when I saw a person, who appeared young, with his face covered, throwing something and run. The next thing I remember is that there was a blast, smoke all over and everyone ran around for their lives," Simranjeet Kaur told reporters

outside the premises. A man said his daughter was deputed at one of the entry gates to frisk women devotees visiting the place. "She told me that two people came there and pointed a pistol at her after which she panicked. The next thing she

knows that people were rushing out in fear after a grenade was hurled inside," he said. A devotee who was inside the Bhavan said, "I saw blood at the spot after the blast. Although I did not see the attackers, I was told by other devotees that two youth had

Amritsar international airport. "I was in my home when someone said a cylinder had burst at Nirankari Bhavan. When I reached there, I saw injured people being taken to hospital in ambulances," he said. Pawandeep Singh, an ambulance driver, said he took many seriously injured to Guru Nanak hospital in Amritsar. Injured people were also rushed to a private hospital.

The grenade attack has left three people dead and at least 10 injured, police said. The Punjab police chief said they were treating it as a terrorist attack. DGP Suresh Arora told PTI that the attack "appears to have a terrorist angle... We will take it as a terrorist act."

Punjab was put on alert following an input claiming that a group of six to seven JeM terrorists were reportedly in the state, possibly in Ferozepur area. Four people had carjacked an SUV at gunpoint last week near Madhopur in Pathankot district.

Capt suspects ISI hand in Amritsar 'terror' attack

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh suspected on Sunday Pakistan's ISI-backed Khalistani or Kashmiri militants' role in the Amritsar terror attack that killed three persons and injured twenty others, and vowed that he would not let the "forces of terror" destroy the State's "hard-earned peace".

"The possibility of involvement of ISI-backed Khalistani or Kashmiri terror groups could not be ruled out (in the Amritsar terror attack)," said Amarinder Singh in an official statement, adding the forensic teams have been rushed to the spot and "all angles were being investigated".

The Chief Minister said his Government was "on the top of things" and would "get to the bottom of the incident" soon and ensure that the culprits are nabbed and brought to book.

"Nobody will be allowed to get away with trying to disturb the peace and harmony of the state," he said.

Three persons were killed and at least twenty others were injured when two motorcycle-borne miscreants hurled a grenade at a religious congregation of over 200 devotees inside a Nirankari Bhavan at Adliwal village near Amritsar's Rajasansi area on Sunday, the police said earlier.

In his statement, the chief minister said the preliminary investigations have revealed that two men - one of them with a flowing beard and both with their faces covered - forced their entry into the hall, brandishing a pistol.

They detained the sewadar, lobbed the grenade into the prayer room and fled on a motorcycle on which they had come, he added.

SAD, AAP take aim at Congress Govt over attack

Chandigarh: The SAD and the AAP on Sunday attacked the Congress-led Punjab Government over the grenade attack in Amritsar and alleged that there was a "complete breakdown" of the law and order in the State.

Three persons were killed and 20 injured when two motorcycle-borne miscreants hurled a grenade attack at a religious congregation of over 200 devotees inside a Nirankari Bhavan in Amritsar earlier on Sunday.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal claimed that the law and order situation in Punjab had "deteriorated" immediately after the Congress came to power.

He alleged that the Congress Government was "encouraging" elements whose sole aim was to disturb Punjab's hard-won peace.

MHA prepares list of... Cong, its 'naamdar' hurling abuses at me: PM

From Page 1
According to the document, five Rohingyas from Kerala have left their base for Hyderabad. In Tamil Nadu, 94 have secured United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) card. The details of Rohingya immigrants in West Bengal are not available.

anonymity. The Home Ministry has asked all State Governments to identify them strictly as per the Myanmar verification form. The MHA also advised the States to capture Rohingya immigrants' personal particulars in the new bilingual nationality verification form and got signed by such illegal immigrants and their guardians.

Jihad al-Islami (HuJI), a terror organisation active in Bangladesh and Pakistan, were spotted among the Rohingya refugees.

Chhindwara (MP): Peeved at Congress president Rahul Gandhi's repeated "chowkidar chor hai" jibe at him on the Rafale issue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the "naamdar" (dynast) and his party were hurling all kinds of abuses at him.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting in Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday

Modi targeted Gandhi without naming him and said he did not like that the Government has plugged the leaks in various welfare schemes and weeded out bogus beneficiaries.

The 'naamdar' did not like this," he said at a rally in Chhindwara, the home turf of state Congress chief Kamal Nath.

"He (Gandhi) is in pain. He is in trouble. What all is he saying? He is hurling all type of abuses from all dictionaries, (be it) Hindi, English... At me,"

Sources said that the State Governments have been directed to keep a close watch on the illegal Rohingya immigrants. "These illegal Rohingya immigrants are required to be deported back to Myanmar post nationality verification through the Ministry of External Affairs. Due to free floating nature of these illegal immigrants, the process of nationality verification and deportation may be affected. Therefore a vigil on their movement is required," said an official on the condition of

Recently, the intelligence agencies submitted fresh reports to the Home Ministry suggesting there has been mass movement of Rohingya refugees from India's north-eastern States to the south, especially Kerala and Hyderabad. Last month as many as 44 FIRs - 42 in Balapur, 2 in Kanchanbag - related to illegal Indian identity proofs sourced by Rohingya immigrants have been registered by the Telangana Police. The fresh IB report also says that some people from the Harkat-ul-

There are about 16,000 UNHCR-certified Rohingya refugees in India. The Government estimate puts the figure of Rohingya refugees living in India beyond 40,000 with maximum concentration in and around Jammu. The Central Government is concerned over Rohingyas' stay in India for security reasons. In its affidavit to the Supreme Court, the Government had said that some of the Rohingyas with militant background were found to be very active in Jammu, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mewat. They have been identified as a very serious and potential threat to the internal and national security of India, the Centre told the Supreme Court.



Visitors enjoy horse dance at the Pushkar Camel Fair on Sunday

14 killed...

From Page 1
Meanwhile, Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Premchand Agrawal, BJP State president

Ajay Bhatt and Pradesh Congress Committee president Pritam Singh expressed grief over the casualties.

the injured, the Chief Minister also directed that the seriously injured be airlifted by helicopter to Dehradun. He also told the Uttarkashi District Magistrate to make ex gratia payments to the families of those killed as well as to those injured.

October 2014 Assembly polls — subsequently moved the apex court challenging the stay granted by the High Court on an Ordinance promulgated by the previous Congress-led DF Government.

Fadnavis Govt OK's quota for Marathas

From Page 1
However, in 2007, the Supreme Court in IR Coelho vs State of Tamil Nadu ruled that even those laws which are placed in the Ninth Schedule are subject to judicial review if the laws violate the basic structure of the Constitution. Interestingly enough, a petition challenging the Tamil Nadu Reservation policy is expected to come up for hearing before the Supreme Court later this month.

NCP, are in favour of according reservations to Marathas, there will be absolutely no difficulty for the Devendra Fadnavis Government in ensuring the enactment of a law granting reservations to Marathas. However, it remains to be seen if the new law will pass the scrutiny of the Supreme Court in the event of a challenge of the State Government's reservation policy in the Supreme Court.

that they were not in conformity with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in three cases. However, a HC Bench, headed by then Chief Justice Mohit Shah, had subsequently allowed reservations to Muslims in educational institutions, on the ground that their educational achievements were "abysmally low" and that there was a need to draw them into the "mainstream of secular education".

On its part, the BJP-led saffron alliance Government - which came to power after the

October 2014 Assembly polls — subsequently moved the apex court challenging the stay granted by the High Court on an Ordinance promulgated by the previous Congress-led DF Government.

However, the Supreme Court rejected the State Government's petition. The matter came back to the High Court after advocate Vikas Patil filed an intervention petition in the Supreme Court on the issue. The apex court directed the High Court to hear the bunch of petitions pending before it.

Given that all the political parties, including the Opposition Congress and the

Currently Maharashtra has 52 per cent reservations cap in jobs and educational institutions. Of the total 52 per cent reser-

On its part, the BJP-led saffron alliance Government - which came to power after the

October 2014 Assembly polls — subsequently moved the apex court challenging the stay granted by the High Court on an Ordinance promulgated by the previous Congress-led DF Government.

Deputy Commissioner, Asansol Police Commissionerate, Abhishek Modi told reporters the organs

Terror revisits...

From Page 1
"Out of 250 people who were present in the religious congregation, three died, and 15-20 were injured," said the State IG (Border) Surinder Pal Singh Parmar. All victims were

act. Till proven otherwise, prima facie we will take it as that."

sect followers from nearby villages who had gathered for the Sunday weekly religious meeting. SP Harpal Singh said that earlier, religious congregation used to be held at a house in Lopeke village which were stopped by Satkar committee - a radical Sikh organisation.

"There was no issue with this group as such... There was no specific input on Nirankari Bhavan," he said, while adding that the security across the State has been beefed up, especially around all Nirankari buildings.

The State's all top police officials, including the State police chief Suresh Arora along with DGP Law and Order and Intelligence, rushed to the site immediately and camped there until the area is properly scanned. Dog squads have also been deployed to collect the evidence.

Arora told The Pioneer that it was too early to say if it is a joint action by Kashmiri and Sikh militants. He also Xmaintained that it was too early to compare it with the 1978 situation when the Nirankaris were targeted.

The Police have also launched a massive search operation to nab the suspects, with Special Weapons and Tactics team also deployed. The police had also sealed Punjab's border with Rajasthan.

Condemning the incident and appealing the people to maintain peace, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of deceased. He also directed the civic hospital to provide free treatment to those injured in the attack.

Media need to ask questions to those in power: Pranab

New Delhi: With the people in power reaching audience directly, the media needs to ask them questions, former president Pranab Mukherjee said Sunday, asserting it is fundamental for the preservation of the nation and a truly democratic society.

He was delivering the keynote address on the "Role of Media in Indian Democracy" after unveiling the masthead of "The Morning Standard", a daily launched by New Indian Express Group.

There is a need to be sensitive to the trait of communal narratives, Mukherjee said. He also described fake news as "the greatest menace we face today", saying all it took was a morphed picture, a bogus tweet or a photoshopped statement to create social, political and communal hatred.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public at large by our client Vijay Kumar Slo Late Sh. Mohan Lal R/o Flat no. 228A FF, Pocket A-I, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi that he had lost all original (DDA) file of his shop bearing No. 35, CSC No-3, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi along with some other documents. It is to be noted that misuse of the above stated lost documents will be illegal. Finder of the same call on 9868265180.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to General public that my client Ghanasyam Singh is going to purchase property i.e 2nd floor, without roof right, RZ-322, Khasra no. 94/1, Gali no. 17, Sudh Nagar, Palam Colony, Area of Palam, New Delhi, from Sandeep Kumar Bansal and further mortgage with D/F/L Ltd. And said Sandeep Kumar Bansal purchased the said property from Vinod Krishan Vats, Pushp Lata, Kiran Bala Vashishth, Darshan Vashishth, Asha Kaushik, Pushraj Gaur, Shiv rattan, Ram Rattan Sharma, Dharmveer Vats, Ashok Kumar and Pawan Kumar vide sale deed no. 11440 dt. 29.12.2017. And said Vinod Krishan Vats and others, became owner of the said property after death of Sr. Chander Muni, Indermuni, Ishwar Chand, Ramesh Chand and Shri Krishna in capacity of legal heirs of said Chander Muni, Indermuni etc. And if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heirs of said Chander Muni, Indermuni and other or in any manner or said mortgage then he may contact the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this notice.

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Parliament Works Division-III, CPWD, I.P. Bhawan, New Delhi invites on behalf of President of India Online Item Rate bids (CPWD-8) on single bid system from approved & eligible furniture registered contractors of CPWD for SI.No.1 and Online Item rate bids (CPWD-9) on single bid system from approved & eligible furniture registered contractors of CPWD for SI.No.2 & 3 for the following works:-

- NIT No.:** 216/2018-19/PaWD-III/Delhi: **Name of Work:** R/R to Non-Durable furniture to 176 Nos. Spl. Type MP's Flats at BKS/BD Marg under Sub-Div.-V of PaWD-III, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH: Supplying of curtain, upholstery cloths, stitching of curtains & fixing of drapery rods). **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 11,85,000/- **Earnest Money :** Rs. 23,700/- & Period of Completion: 06 Month. Last date and time of submission of bid: 26.11.2018 upto 3:00 P.M.
- NIT No.:** 217/2018-19/PaWD-III/Delhi: **Name of Work:** R/R to Non-Durable furniture to 176 Nos. Spl. Type MP's Flats at BKS/BD Marg under Sub-Div.-V of PaWD-III, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH: Supplying of R.C. Mattresses). **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 2,09,500/- **Earnest Money :** Rs. 4,190/- & Period of Completion: 07 Days. Last date and time of submission of bid: 26.11.2018 upto 3:00 P.M.
- NIT No.:** 218/2018-19/PaWD-III/Delhi: **Name of Work:** R/R to Durable/Non-Durable furniture to 164 MP's Flats at North Avenue under Sub-Div.-III of PaWD-III, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH: Supplying of Plastic Chairs, High back Chairs, Computer Chairs, Computer Table & Visitor Chairs). **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 5,69,088/- **Earnest Money :** Rs. 11,382/- & Period of Completion: 15 Days. Last date and time of submission of bid: 26.11.2018 upto 3:00 P.M.

PM to...

From Page 1
The length of the Kundli to Manesar stretch is over 83 km. The stretch would have 14 major/minor bridges, 56 underpass/agricultural vehicular overpasses, seven intersections and seven toll plazas. The width of the median at the stretch has been kept at 8 km. Similarly, the Manesar-Palwal stretch is over 52 km long. The expressway also has eight small and six large bridges, four railway overbridges and 34 underpasses and 64 pedestrian crossings. Officials said two rows of shrubs would be planted in the median. Apart from this, tress like neem, arjun, keekar, kanail, peepal and sheesham would be planted near the extreme end of two rows on each side. In June 2012, in a multi parties meeting attended by Haryana, Delhi, the Centre and the developers in which a revised deadline of May 2013 was fixed. However, due to delay in construction, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSI-

DC) decided to penalize the company in April 2012 after which the dispute went to the court and the project was stalled. Later on, the lenders led by the IDBI Bank served the concessionaire KMP Expressway with a substitution notice due to its continued defaults in the performance of its financial and other obligations. Subsequently, then Haryana Government decided to terminate it contract and pay lenders of Rs 1,300 crore as termination fee. In 2014, the project was revived. Following that the 53 km stretch between Manesar and Palwal was opened in April 2016. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, Nitin Gadkari, and was opened for the public in April 2016. The original deadline for this project conceived by former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002 was July 2009 but missed several deadlines due to various reasons including land acquisition hurdles. Along with the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPW), the KMP expressway is expected to divert more than 50,000 heavy vehicles away from Delhi. The six-lane expressway will

have parking lots, refilling stations, police stations, a trauma centre, helipad, refreshment centres, and recreational facilities. The WPE was first proposed in 2003 along with Delhi EPE. It was envisioned as a Build Operate Transfer project to construct a 135.6 km four lane expressway from Kundli Sonipat to Palwal near Faridabad. The Haryana Government has approved the development of five cities on 50,000 hectare each side of the Western Peripheral Expressway which would cover eight districts--Sonipat, Jhajjar, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, Rohtak, Mewat and Palwal. With the opening of the expressway, traffic congestion would not reduce in northern Haryana and national capital region. The EPE and WPE combined together effectively form an Outer Ring Road around Delhi with a total length of 270 km, of which about 183 km passes through Haryana and the remaining about 87 km through Uttar Pradesh. It connects four of India's busiest National Highways namely, NH-1 near Kundli (Sonapat), NH-10 near Bahadurgarh, NH-8 at Manesar (Gurgaon) and NH-2 near Palwal (Faridabad).

Cong a private limited company: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a fierce attack on the Congress, BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday described it as "private limited company" of the Nehru-Gandhi family. Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election rally in Chhattisgarh dared the Congress to appoint a head from outside the family. Shah issued a statement saying the Congress had become more of a family enterprise aimed at dynastic service than a political party aimed at public service, and that no person outside the family had any right over it. Taking a dig at the Congress leaders, including P Chidambaram who had named

several party presidents hailing from outside the Gandhi family, he said Modi's challenge had ruffled several feathers with "many courtiers going out of the way to prove their loyalty". At a poll rally in Chhattisgarh on Friday, Modi had said if the Congress appointed someone not from the Gandhi family as its president for at least five years, then he would believe that Jawaharlal Nehru had indeed put in place a truly democratic system in the Opposition party. The Prime Minister repeated his words at another poll rally in the State on Sunday. "The Prime Minister is right. The Congress (Indira) since its inception in 1978 has been led by four members of one family for

most of the years, thus making it more of a family enterprise aimed at dynastic service rather than a political party aimed at public service," Shah said. "The Congress is Nehru-Gandhi family's private limited company over which nobody outside the family has any right," he added. Shah was referring to the split in the Congress in 1978 following its loss in the 1977 parliamentary polls, with the Indira Gandhi-led faction recognised as the Congress(I). As she returned to power in 1980, her faction was later recognised by the Election Commission (EC) as the real Congress. Two Congress chiefs, who were not from the Nehru-

Gandhi family, were treated in the "most shabby" manner possible in the recent past, Shah alleged. While PV Narasimha Rao's body, after his demise, was never allowed inside the Congress office, Sitaram Kesri, a towering leader, was "roughed up by goons loyal to we know who," he added. Modi, at a rally in Chhattisgarh on Sunday, also alleged that Kesri was not allowed to complete his term as the Congress chief and was forced to make way for Sonia Gandhi. The BJP chief cited the examples of several "non-family" Congress presidents to back his claim. "Going further back in time, the likes of Babu Jagjivan

Ram, S Nijalingappa, K Kamaraj were humiliated by one family. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, though senior, was not allowed to be president by one family. U N Dhebar was asked to step aside as Congress president for Mrs. Indira Gandhi," he said. Shah claimed that Acharya Kripalani, a stalwart who worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was "humiliated" by the Congress leadership through the 1950s and 1960s. "His crime — he moved the first motion of no-confidence against the Nehru Government," he said. Following Modi's challenge, Chidambaram had hit back by listing out the names of Congress presidents from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family.

Union Minister defends Govt for failing to bring AYUSH under PMJAY

In touch with health Min and Niti Ayog to resolve the issue, says AYUSH Minister

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik on Sunday sought to defend his Government for failing to bring the alternative medicine system in the ambit of the world's largest national medical insurance scheme under the Ayushman Bharat — Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY) launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently, saying nitty-gritty's were being discussed. He said, "My Ministry is in touch with the Union Health Ministry and Niti Aayog to ensure that the medical insurance cover is given to the patients seeking alternate medical system AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy). We hope this will happen soon," said the Minister on the sidelines of an event held here to mark the first Naturopathy Day.

Earlier, after inaugurating the first Naturopathy Day Programme, Naik said his Ministry is introducing several schemes to expand the naturopathy treatment which is cost effective and side-effect-free system.

Work on building natural clinics is already in progress in Pune, Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, the Minister said as he pointed out that the health challenges including rising non-communicable diseases we are facing today is because we have forgotten our traditional system of medicine.

Jaiprakash Aggarwal of International Naturopathy Organisation, which had organised the event in collaboration with the Ministry, explained that all the treatments given under Naturopathy are based on Pancha Mahabhootas theory and elimination of morbid matter is the best remedy in all disease conditions.

The Chairman of the Surya Foundation also favoured taking the system to each and every household.

Naturopathy experts such as Dr Yogesh Gupta and Shailu Gupta, both from Delhi-based Ojas Nature Cure and Yoga Centre called for regulation and standardisation of the sector which is gaining popularity not only amongst Indians but foreigners too owing to its several benefits.

Dr Navdeep Joshi, naturotherapist from Navyoga Kendra, Delhi too agreed saying, that people are now accepting the efficacy of these sciences as panacea for psychosomatic ailments and lifestyle disorders.

Cong calls BJP misogynist over Khattar's rape remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP leadership of being "misogynist", the Congress on Sunday demanded an apology from Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for reportedly claiming that most rape cases were "fake" and took place among people who knew each other well. "Misogyny has become a buzzword for BJP leadership. Humiliating India's women has become a characteristic style of BJP leaders. The Taliban thought process of the BJP leadership particularly Khattar has been exposed," Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said.



awareness in the society. There should not be any politics on this issue," Khattar said.

On the other hand, Surjewala blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party for Haryana becoming a crime hub and rising incidents of crimes against women, particularly rape and molestation. Asking Khattar to apologise for his derogatory remarks, Surjewala also demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi breaks his silence on BJP leaders often making sexist remarks.

Addressing a rally in Kalka town of Panchkula district, Khattar on Friday reportedly said that 80-90 per cent of the rape and molestation incidents took place amongst people who knew each other well.

"They roam around together for some time and if one day they get into some quarrel, they file an FIR claiming that they have been raped." In the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Khattar had made another sexist remark asking women to "run around naked if they wanted freedom".

He also came under fire from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who indicted his Haryana counterpart for "justifying rape".

Govt wants to capture RBI reserves, alleges PC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Board meeting, Congress leader P Chidambaram on Sunday alleged that the Central Government was determined to "capture" the central bank to gain control over its ₹9 lakh crore reserves.

In a series of tweets, the former Finance Minister also claimed that the Government and the RBI were heading towards a "confrontation" in the Monday's board meeting of the bank.

"Government is determined to 'capture' RBI in order to gain control over the reserves. The other so-called disagreements are only a smokescreen (sic)," he said on Twitter.

Chidambaram said, "Nowhere in the world is the central bank a board-managed company. To suggest that private business persons will direct the Governor is a preposterous idea."

"November 19 will be a day of reckoning for central bank independence and the Indian economy," he tweeted.

The RBI has a massive ₹9.59 lakh crore reserves and the Government, if reports are to be believed, wants the central bank to part with a third of that fund — an issue which along with easing of

norms for weak banks and raising liquidity has brought the two at loggerheads in the recent weeks.

The Government on November 9 had said it was discussing an "appropriate" size of capital reserves that the central bank must maintain but denied seeking a massive capital transfer from the RBI.

Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg had also clarified that the Government wasn't in any dire needs of funds and that there was no proposal to ask the RBI to transfer ₹3.6 lakh crore.

"There is no proposal to ask RBI to transfer ₹3.6 or ₹1 lakh crore, as speculated," he had said.

"The Government's FD (fiscal deficit) in FY 2013-14 was 5.1 per cent. From 2014-15 onwards, the Government has succeeded in bringing it down substantially. We will end the FY 2018-19 with FD of 3.3 per cent. The Government has actually foregone ₹70,000 crore of budgeted market borrowing this year."

Garg said the only proposal "under discussion is to fix appropriate economic capital framework of RBI".

Economic capital framework refers to the risk capital required by the central bank while taking into account different risks.

Amba....
Rainbow memories
21 beautiful years.
We've been blessed to have your Laughter
And your wonderful, loving presence
Every precious moment

You are Always in our hearts

Gun Nidhi & Manju Kapur Dalmia
Agastya, Katyayani & Maya
Amba's friends and family

19.5.1980 - 19.11.2001

Inauguration

of

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

and

Foundation Stone Laying

of

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Dudhola, Palwal

On Monday, 19th November, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at Sultanpur, District Gurugram

Length ₹

3.205 k.m. 580 crore

Length ₹

135.65 k.m. 6,434 crore

Area ₹

82.5 acres 989 crore

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

Guests of Honour

Satyadeo Narain Arya

Governor, Haryana

Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana

Inderjit Singh

Union Minister of State for Planning (I.C.)

Narbir Singh

Minister of PW (B&R), Forests, Architecture and Civil Aviation, Haryana

Events at the Project Sites

Ballabgarh-Mujesar Metro Link at Raja Nahar Singh Metro Station, Ballabgarh

Hardeep Singh Puri

Krishan Pal Gurjar

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal

Giriraj Singh

Vipul Goel

All are Cordially Invited

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

www.prharyana.gov.in

CITIZEN ROW

Didi to take NRC battle to BJP's camp

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Striking the iron while it is hot, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has decided to take the battle to the saffron camp in Assam. Agenda: Continued struggle against alleged "biased implementation" of National Register for Citizens in that State "pushing lakhs of Bengalis on the verge of denationalisation" and recent killings in Tinsukia district.

The Chief Minister has decided to launch a "sustained and intensified campaign" in that State leading the battle personally. Her Assam campaign is likely to commence in the month of January after the January 16 grand rally at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata where the TMC chief has invited all the anti-BJP outfits.

TMC-led protests against the "discriminatory implementation of NRC" and killing of Bengali people in Assam, has already found support in that State.

According to sources the Chief Minister has formed a 16-member committee which will lead the campaign against attacks on the minorities, mainly the Bengalis in Assam and the allegedly discriminatory NRC regime.



Seasoned Trinamool Congress Firhad Hakim has been asked to coordinate the movement in Assam. Hakim a Bengal Minister is likely to call upon the Muslim leaders too to join Banerjee's campaign. "Our campaign in Assam is not directed against any particular community but against the Government's initiative to drive out the minorities including the Bengalis, Biharis, UP wallas and Muslims. This cannot be tolerated and a sustained movement has to be built up in that State. The TMC will lead the movement there," Banerjee is known to have told her party delegates who had recently come from Assam.

Following the Chief Minister's directives TMC leadership in Assam has started taking measures to build up a movement in Barak Valley and Brahmaputra Valley, sources

said. "We will go to the people with the message that the TMC is by the side of all the tormented people in Assam."

The Assam unit of the party is planning to hold Mamata Banerjee's rallies at Goalpara, Dhubri, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup (rural), sources said adding the first such rally could be organized at Khanapara in Guwahati.

TMC's Assam ambitions is further underscored by its decision to contest the panchayat elections in that State. The party is likely to field candidates from at least 9-10 districts where the Bengalis have sizeable population.

"The TMC has good prospects in Assam. We want to good in that State. We have been able to find some base their too. But the gains can further be cemented if our leader Mamata Banerjee addresses a few rallies in that State," an Assam TMC leader has said.

Meanwhile, Telugu Desam Party chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is likely to meet his Bengal counterpart on Monday noon, sources said adding he is likely to invite Banerjee to the all-party meeting in Delhi.

3.5L submit proof for inclusion in NRC

Guwahati: About 3.5 lakh people, out of the total 40 lakh, who were excluded in the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC), have claimed that they are Indian nationals, two months after the window opens for claims and objections in the Supreme Court-monitored exercise, sources said Sunday.

Besides, less than 100 applications have been received by the authorities challenging the inclusion of the names of suspected illegal immigrants in the NRC, a list of Assam's residents.

So far, about 3.5 lakh people have submitted applications for inclusion of their names in the NRC and they have submitted relevant documents claiming that they are Indian citizens, a source privy to the development said.

The issue of low turnout in the claims and objections period was also discussed at Saturday's high-level meeting in New Delhi attended by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP president Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Director of Intelligence Bureau Rajiv Jain, among others.

The Supreme Court has also finalised a set of standard operating procedure (SOP) for disposal of claims and objections in the update of the NRC. The draft NRC was pub-

lished on July 30 and included the names of 2.9 crore people out of the total applications of 3.29 crore. There has been a huge controversy over exclusion of 40 lakh people from the draft NRC.

Following a directive of the Supreme Court, the process of filing claims and objections to the draft NRC began on September 25 and it will come to an end on December 15.

Initially, the apex court had allowed the claimants to rely on any of the 10 documents -- land documents, permanent residential certificate issued from outside the state, passport, Life Insurance Corporation of India policy, any licence or certificate issued by any government authority.

Document showing service or employment under the Government or public sector undertaking, bank or post office accounts, birth certificates issued by a competent authority, educational certificate issued by boards or universities and records or processes pertaining to court provided they are part of processing in a judicial or revenue court.

However, on November 1, the court allowed five additional documents to reply upon for inclusion of names in the NRC. The additional papers are -- 1951 NRC, electoral roll up to March 24, 1971, citizenship certificate, refugee registration certificate and ration card. **PTI**

Toll rises to 45, Opposition alleges poor relief work

IANAS ■ CHENNAI

The death toll due to the severe cyclone Gaja that devastated several districts in Tamil Nadu two days ago has risen to 45 and it damaged 1,17,624 houses, Chief Minister K Palaniswami said on Sunday.

Opposition leaders have criticised what they say was the Government's apathy in reaching out relief materials like food, drinking water and other materials to the cyclone affected areas.

In Pudukkottai district, people complained about not getting relief materials and protested on the roads. They also set fire to five government vehicles.

Speaking to reporters at Salem, about 350 km from here, Palaniswami said 45 persons have died in the cyclone and the loss of livestock was put at 735.

He added that 88,102 hectare of crop and 39,938 electricity poles were damaged in the cyclone.

The central government has been asked to depute a team from the National Disaster Management to assess the destruction.

To a query about dropping relief materials by helicopters, Palaniswami said removal of trees from the roads would be



A view of the damage caused by cyclone Gaja, after it hit Velankanni, in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu **PTI**

completed fully on Sunday. Palaniswami said he would visit the affected areas on Monday.

DMK President M.K. Stalin in a letter to the party cadres wondered whether Palaniswami's heart was made of iron as he appeared to be more interested with inaugurating projects rather than visiting the cyclone battered areas.

Stalin, who toured the areas, accused the government of failing to provide sufficient food, clothing and drinking water for the people at the relief centres.

He said had only the gov-

ernment carried out the dredging of canals and other water bodies, much of the damage could have been averted and several trees could have been saved.

Stalin said coconut trees in about 7,000 hectares in several districts have been damaged.

PMK founder S. Ramadoss said it was a shame that the AIADMK government was not providing even food for the cyclone affected people.

He said that various districts in the Cauvery delta region like Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur had been severely affected.

Tourist facilities to boost eco-tourism in VTR: Nitish

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said a slew of facilities inaugurated by the State Government in Valmiki Nagar of Bihar's West Champaran district would promote eco-tourism in the area.

The Water Resources department has transferred 200 acres to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department for developing eco-tourism in Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve (VTR), the Chief Minister said on Sunday.

There should be a convention centre here in Valmiki Nagar where people can hold programmes and also enjoy the natural beauty of the place, Kumar said.

He said he has plans to hold a cabinet meeting here, the timing for which would be decided later. The Chief Minister told reporters that a lot has been done for the development of tourism in Valmiki Nagar area such as constructing cottages which are running at full capacity throughout the year and can be booked online.

With the promotion of eco-tourism at VTR, people will become more aware about the forest and the issue of environment, he said. About 45,000 tourists had visited the VTR till mid-November in 2018 itself, Kumar said.

"I hope that the number of

tourists will cross over one lakh after the development of eco tourism in the area," the chief minister said.

"People have an attraction for VTR as it is a unique place which is surrounded by mountain on one end, while river Gandak is flowing on the other side with the greenery of jungle.

"There can not be any other better place than VTR. There is huge potential for eco tourism in Valmiki Nagar for which the state government is working hard to promote it," the Chief Minister said.

Various options of eco-tourism, including jungle safari and trekking, are already available at VTR. Eco-huts have been inaugurated in the area and old watch towers have been given a facelift.

The total number of tigers stood at eight in VTR when he took over the reins of the State for the first time in November 2005 and at present, the number of tigers has increased to more than 35. Stating that the green cover area of Bihar was nine per cent after its division, Kumar said it has increased to 15 per cent with the Government's massive plantation drive during which 22.50 crore saplings were planted.

"We have set a target of 17 per cent of green cover in the State," he added. **PTI**

Sushil Modi a camp follower of Bihar CM, says Kushwaha

PTI ■ PATNA

Rashtriya Lok Samata Party chief Upendra Kushwaha made a sharp attack on Sunday against BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi by calling him a "pichhlaggu" (camp follower) of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Without naming Modi, Kushwaha in a series of tweets said some people are "publicity hungry, opportunist and pro-power by nature". He described Modi as a "loudspeaker" and "blood-sucking mosquito" which spreads diseases around it.

Kushwaha's remarks could deepen the differences within the National Democratic Alliance, which is struggling to find a seat-sharing arrangement for the 2019 general election. The RLSP chief has said the number of seats offered to his party was "not respectable" and the matter should be resolved by November 30.

On Saturday, shortly after Kushwaha set the deadline, Modi in a tweet responded to him, saying the NDA will "not be browbeaten" and seats will be allotted based on "ground realities".

The JD(U) and the BJP last month announced they will contest equal number of seats, but did not say what their share would be.

Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party, the fourth partner in the alliance, has said it



expects to contest a "respectable number" of seats in the state.

During the 2014 election, the RLSP, which Kushwaha formed in 2013 after breaking out from the JD(U), contested and won three seats. The LJP contested seven seats then. Bihar has 40 Lok Sabha seats.

"There are people who are 'rajnitik pichhlaggu' (camp follower in politics). Such people are publicity hungry, opportunist and pro-power by nature. The utility of such people are merely confined to work as loudspeaker for alliance partner or its leader. Such people thrive in the party by sucking blood and spreading malaria and dengue in their own party," Kushwaha tweeted in Hindi.

By "loudspeaker", the RLSP chief apparently referred to Modi's denial that Chief Minister Kumar called him "neech" (lowly person).

During a programme on November 4 when Kumar was asked about the seat-sharing



issue with Kushwaha, he had said, "Itna neeche baat ko nahi le jaiye" (do not take the debate to such a low level). The RLSP chief construed that the chief minister called him a lowly person.

Also on Sunday, Kushwaha asked Deputy Chief Minister Modi to say "something" on the Srijan scam as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought to provide a corruption-free Government. In another tweet, he said, "You have rightly said that our PM Sri @narendramodiji made every effort to provide corruption-free Government. Please say something on Srijan scam too."

Srijan scam, detected last year, is being probed by the CBI. The government funds worth about Rs 1,000 crore were allegedly transferred to the accounts of Srijan Mahila Vikash Samiti, Bhagalpur.

Kushwaha recently met RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and Sharad Yadav.

Operation to attach ex-Min Manju Verma's properties ends

PTI ■ BEGUSARAI

The Bihar Police on Sunday concluded its two-day operation to attach properties of former State Minister Manju Verma, who's evading arrest in an Arms Act case filed by the CBI while probing the Muzaffarpur shelter home scandal.

The exercise to attach Verma's property in Arjuntola village on Sunday was led by Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Suryadeo Kumar.

Police attached 16 articles on Sunday, while 109 articles were seized on Saturday, the SDPO said.

Armed with a court order, a police team led by Superintendent of Police Awakash Kumar had initiated the process of attaching Verma's property in Arjuntola village here on Saturday.

Police had handed over a list of the seized articles to Verma's brother-in-law, Hemant Verma, on Saturday. "The operation to attach the property of Manju Verma in the Arjuntola area ended on Sunday," the SDPO said.

Police had removed the grill, doors, door frames of a house belonging to her while carrying out the attachment

process on Saturday. All articles inside the house were seized during the two-day operation- initiated under sections 82 and 83 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Verma had stepped down as the minister for social welfare in August, following reports that her husband, Chandrashekhar Verma, had close links with Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home scandal.

Over 30 girls were allegedly raped at the shelter home. A few days later, the CBI raided Verma's Patna residence besides her in-laws' home in Arjuntola village from where a cache of ammunition was seized. A case was then registered against her.

She moved an application for anticipatory bail before a Begusarai court which was turned down and a similar plea was rejected by the Patna High Court. Her husband surrendered before a Begusarai court on October 29.

The Supreme Court had on November 12 rapped the Bihar Police for failing to arrest the former minister and directed the DGP to appear before it in person on November 27 if she was not nabbed by then.

Goa Government non-functional, Parrikar being self-centred: Velingkar

IANAS ■ PANAJI

The Goa Government has virtually become non-functional and Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar is being self-centred in not letting go of the top post despite suffering from pancreatic cancer, former State RSS chief Subhash Velingkar said on Sunday.

"People are being taken for granted. Had this happened in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, people would have stripped the politicians naked and taken them on a procession," Velingkar, who formally entered politics by joining Goa Suraksha Manch near here, he said.

Velingkar has served as the state RSS chief for more than two decades and is considered responsible for the political grooming of the State BJP's top leaders, including Manohar Parrikar, Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik, and former Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar.

Velingkar also said that the State is heading for a mid-term poll along with the Lok Sabha elections next year because the Government is already beset with infighting

He was, however, sacked from the RSS in 2016, after he took on Parrikar, accusing the latter of going back on the principles of both the Sangh as well as the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Velingkar accused Parrikar of being self-centered in allowing his administration to "virtually shut down" on account of his illness, while holding on to more than two dozen portfolios.

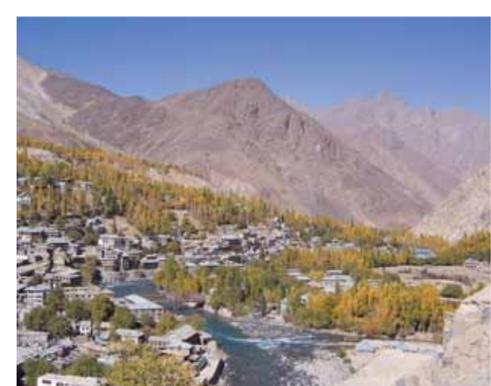
"The Government is functioning in a way no Government ought to function at all. The CM is taking treatment. He does not have the courage to come and face the people. The Opposition has been demanding that they want to meet the CM, but he has not been able to meet them. Therefore, the departments and portfolios are not getting any justice," Velingkar said.

Velingkar also said that the State is heading for a mid-term poll along with the Lok Sabha elections next year because the Government is already beset with infighting due to Parrikar's inability to attend to office and take decisions.

This State of indecision would lead to the disintegration of the coalition of BJP, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, Goa Forward and four independent MLAs, he said.

"Along with the Congress, the BJP too will be demolished in the next elections and Goa will see the rise of a new leadership," Velingkar said.

Kargil coldest in J&K at -9 degrees Celsius



IANAS ■ SRINAGAR

Kargil town was the coldest in Jammu and Kashmir at minus 9 degrees Celsius on Sunday while the minimum temperature across the region was around the freezing point, the weather office said.

According to a Met Department official, the minimum temperatures in Leh, Gulmarg, Pahalgam and

Srinagar were minus 5.1 degrees, minus 4.5, minus 1.1 and 1.6, respectively.

"Dry weather conditions were likely to continue in Jammu and Kashmir during the next four days," the official said.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 11.1 degrees Celsius, Katra 10.4, Batote 6.3, Bannihal 4.0 and Baderwah 2.8 as the night's lowest temperatures.

BRO personnel brave adverse weather conditions to lay first glaciated road in Ladakh

Srinagar: Braving extremely adverse weather conditions, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under Project Himank, is carving out the world's first glaciated motorable road.

"The BRO is laying the motorable roads by cutting the world's highest glaciers which are here in eastern Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir," an official of the BRO said.

Being constructed at an altitude of over 17,800 feet, the road from Sasoma to Saser La will be a vital link paved in a region which is mostly cut-off during the severe winter months.

Saser La, also known as Saser Pass, is a high mountain pass which lies in the Karakoram range. It is located on the ancient summer caravan route from Leh in Ladakh to Yarkand in the Tarim Basin.

"As the temperature in the region falls to minus 50 degrees Celsius during winter and hovers around 12 degrees Celsius

during peak summer, work in such condition is a herculean task.

"Besides, the biting cold and bone chilling winds, there are dangers of unseen crevasses and avalanches. Further, the glaciers shift constantly when the snow melts, adding to the difficulty in construction," he said.

The months when construction works can be taken up are few, forcing officials to be ready with plans and strategies in advance to achieve targets.

"The short working period needs to be utilised to the maximum, thus requiring effective management of manpower and resources. Planning of work starts four to five months prior to the working season," he said.

The official said meticulous planning and hard work of the BRO officers has been extremely essential for the successful completion of the tasks. **PTI**



Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot being welcomed on his arrival at the airport in Jodhpur on Sunday **PTI**

CRPF jawan martyred in J&K terrorist attack

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

A CRPF jawan was killed in a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday, police said.

Militants lobbed a grenade and fired on a CRPF camp in Kakapora area of the district in south Kashmir Sunday evening, a police official said, adding the attack was successfully repulsed by the security forces.

However, in the attack, a CRPF jawan identified as Head Constable Chandrika Prasad sustained injuries, the official said. Prasad was shifted to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

The official said as the militants were trying to flee the area after the attack, security forces immediately cordoned off the area and initiated searches.

"Consequently, exchange of fire between security forces and terrorists took place till the last report was received," he said, adding further details were awaited.

Two terrorists killed in Shopian encounter

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Two terrorists belonging to the Al-Badar outfit were Sunday killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Based on a credible input about the presence of militants, a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces at the crack of dawn in Rebban area of Zainapora in the south Kashmir district, a police spokesman said.

He said as the search operation was going on, the search party was fired upon by the hiding militants.

The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter in

which two militants were killed, the spokesman said.

He said the slain ultras have been identified as Nawaz Ahmad Wagay, a resident of Rebban Zainapora and Yawar Wani, a resident of Batnora Litter Pulwama.

"They were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit Al-Badar. Both the killed terrorists were involved in a series of terror attacks on security establishments and many other civilian atrocities in the area," the spokesman said.

Arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter.

No collateral damage took place during the encounter, he said.

SABARIMALA ROW

BJP leader's arrest sparks protest

PTI ■ SANNIDHANM (KERALA)

A calm atmosphere at the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala marked the second day of the two month-long annual pilgrimage season, even as the rest of Kerala witnessed protests against the arrest of BJP General Secretary K Surendran while on his way to the temple.

Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages the shrine, will file a petition in the Supreme Court Monday seeking more time on implement the court's Sept 28 verdict allowing women of all ages to offer worship at the shrine, board president A Padmakumar said.

So far, no women in the 10-50 age group has sought police protection to trek the holy hills, though over 500 odd young women have made online bookings for darshan.

Facing flak over inadequate facilities and severe restrictions for devotees at the

temple complex, Padmakumar also said no unnecessary curbs would be there and the "small issues" being faced now should be seen as "starting troubles".

Briefing reporters at Thiruvananthapuram after a meeting with DGP Loknath Behara and M V Jayarajan, the Private Secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he said the devotees would be allowed to perform the "Neyyabhishekam" ritual from 03.15 AM to 1230 PM daily.

"The police, board or government will not take any step causing hardships to the pilgrims", but police would take action against those coming to Sabarimala with an intention to protest, he said.

More parking facilities and bio-toilets will be provided at Nilackal and Pamba, he said.

Meanwhile, the State Human Rights Commission observed there was gross violation of human rights of the devotees and directed authori-

ties to ensure all necessary basic facilities for them and sought a report within two weeks.

The temple had opened Friday evening for the 64-day annual pilgrimage season as the stand-off continued over entry of menstrual age women into the shrine.

So far, more pilgrims have arrived from other states than from within Kerala. On the second day of the Malayalam month 'Vrischikom', the pilgrims offered prayers at the shrine early Sunday.

Though the devotees were relieved to get more time for 'darshan' due to less crowd, many were unhappy at not being allowed to spend some more time at the "sannidhanam" (the main temple complex).

Meanwhile, BJP workers blocked traffic on the national highways for over an hour across the state protesting against the arrest and remand of Surendran. In vatakara, a KSRTC bus was stoned, police said.

Surendran, who was taken into preventive custody as he tried to proceed to the Lord Ayappa temple, was Sunday produced before a magistrate and remanded to 14-day judicial custody after he was charged with non-bailable offences.

Condemning the manner in which Surendran was arrested, Union Minister Alphonso Kannamtham said it was "despicable" and described the police action as "condemnable".

"There is need to take a path of consensus on matters relating to Sabarimala, he said in a Facebook post.

Implementing things which were against people's interest had no place in democracy, he said adding the people's verdict was for five years not life long, he said. CPI(M) state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan alleged the BJP's "agenda" was to create violence.

The Congress, which deputed a three-member del-

egation to Sabarimala, accused the CPI(M)-led state government of creating a 'terror-like atmosphere' in the name of security of the hill shrine.

The delegation comprising former state ministers Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Adoor Prakash and V S Sivakumar took stock of the situation in the temple complex. Prakash slammed the state government and the board for not making required facilities for devotees at Sabarimala.

Spearheading a campaign against the Kerala government over the Sabarimala issue, BJP state unit chief P S Sreedharan Pillai alleged the state government was making the Ayyappa shrine "a centre of dispute to destroy its uniqueness".

Condemning the police action against "peacefully agitating" devotees, he said BJP will extend all possible assistance to the protesters to protect the hill shrine from the "hidden agenda of atheists".

MAHA WINTER SESSION

After quota for Marathas, what about Muslims, Dhangars, asks Opp

Roots for ₹50 k per hectare compensation for drought-hit farmers, calls BJP-led Govt 'thug of Maharashtra'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Opposition Congress and NCP on Sunday set an aggressive tone for the winter session of the Maharashtra Legislature beginning here on Monday, by rooting for reservations to Muslims, Dhangars, Lingayats and other socio-economic backward communities along the lines of Marathas and a compensation of ₹50,000 per hectare to drought-affected farmers in the State.

On a day when chief minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that his Government would grant reservations to Marathas in jobs and education under a new Socio-Economic Backward Class (SEBC) category, the Opposition parties gave foretaste of their belligerent mood by boycotting the customary tea hosted by Fadnavis on the eve of the winter session of the State Legislature.

Addressing a news conference after a joint meeting of the group leaders of various Opposition parties held a day ahead of the start of the winter session of the State Legislature, leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil dubbed the BJP-Shiv Sena Government in the state as the "Thug of Maharashtra" which had failed to fulfil all its promises during the last four years of its rule.

"The Chief Minister has asked the Maratha community to prepare themselves for celebrations on December 1 (over grant of reservations). While we are for the State Government according reservations, what about the reservations for Muslims, Dhangars, Lingayats and other socio-economic backward communities?" Vikhe-Patil asked.



BJP and Shiv Sena Ministers during the tea party hosted by Maharashtra Chief Minister on the eve of winter session in Mumbai on Sunday

Charging that the Maharashtra Government had put pressure on the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission (MSBCC) to come out with its report on granting reservations to Maratha community, Vikhe-Patil said: "We would like the State Government to clarify as to how it would accord reservations to Marathas without disturbing the existing reservations to other communities. We want the State Government to table the MSBCC's report on the first day of the winter session of the State Legislature tomorrow."

Vikhe-Patil accused the Devendra Fadnavis Government of having gone back on its promise of according reservations to Dhangar community. "A study report submitted to the State government by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on socio-economic status of the Dhangar community is gathering dust," he said.

Slamming the state government for its failure to remedy the drought situation in the state, Vikhe-Patil said: "Though the state government declared drought in many parts of the state, it has not come relief measures or financial assistance for the affected farmers. We demand that the farmers be given ₹50,000 per hectare of compensation and horticulturists be given ₹1 lakh per hectare. In addition, the state

Government should waive 100 per cent crop loans taken by farmers during Kharif season".

Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council Dhananjay Munde of the NCP, who addressed the news conference with Vikhe-Patil, also demanded a compensation of ₹50,000 per hectare to the drought-affected farmers. Munde came down heavily on the ruling Shiv Sena for raising the Ram Mandir issue at this stage. "Through an announcement by Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray that he would go to Ayodhya on November 25 to press for the construction of Ram Mandir, the Sena is running away from its responsibility of being the ruling party. What was holding the Shiv Sena from constructing Ram Mandir during the last four years?" Munde asked.

Charging Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray as "Thugs of Maharashtra", Munde said: "Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray have cheated the people of Maharashtra during the last four years. They deserve to be named as Thugs of Maharashtra".

Munde also hit out at the chief minister for its failure to act against the 16 ministers in his Cabinet facing allegations of corruption. "We will not rest till the state government does not act against these 16 ministers," he said.

CPM leader's son, daughter-in-law attacked; one held

PTI ■ KOZHIKODE

A worker of a right-wing Hindu outfit has been arrested in connection with the alleged attack on a CPM leader's son and his journalist daughter-in-law during a shutdown called by the outfits in Kerala on Saturday, police said.

Julius Nikithas and wife Saniyo Manomi, working with a leading Malayalam news channel, were attacked at Kuttiady as they were going to a hospital in a car to visit a patient.

Police Sunday said that a worker of a right wing outfit has been arrested in connection with the attack and a search was on to nab nine others.

Nikithas, son of party district secretary P Mohanan, suffered head injuries and Manomi was also injured.

The couple have been admitted to the government medical college hospital here.

The CPM had alleged that they were attacked by activists belonging to the Sangh Parivar. Right-wing Hindu outfits had observed a dawn-to-dusk har-

The CPM had alleged that they were attacked by activists belonging to the Sangh Parivar

tal in Kerala Saturday in protest against the "preventive detention" of Hindu Aikya Vedi state president P Sasikala, who was on a pilgrimage to the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple.

Sasikala was taken into preventive custody Saturday after she allegedly defied directions not to spend the night near the temple complex.

Police had decided not to allow devotees enter the temple premises when it was closed for the night.

Sasikala, who was on a fast at the Ranni police station, protesting her detention, was later produced before the sub-divisional magistrate, who is also the Thiruvalla Revenue Divisional officer (RDO), and granted bail.

KJ Alphons to visit shrine

Thiruvananthapuram: Union Minister of IT KJ Alphons will on Monday visit the temple town of Sabarimala to study the facilities meant for the pilgrims.

Alphons told IANS that he will reach the Pamba base camp at 9 a.m.

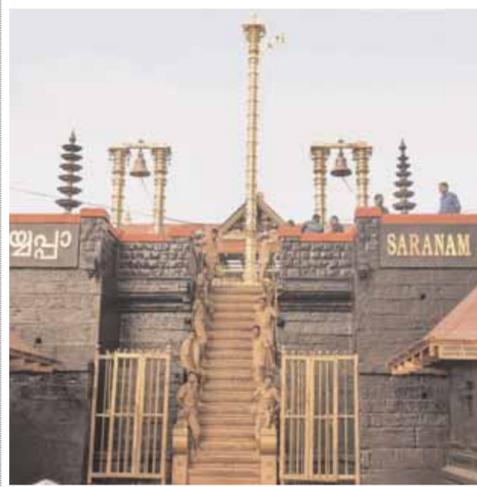
"I had visited the temple town two months back and found out that it was in a pretty bad shape due to the floods. I had suggested that a lot of things had to be done to make

it fit for a smooth pilgrimage," he said.

He said he had come to know that the facilities were not up to the mark.

The bureaucrat-turned-politician's visit comes at a time when the Kerala unit of the BJP observed Sunday as a protest day by blocking highways across the state following the arrest and remand of its senior leader K. Surendran.

IANS



Police personnel stand guard at the 18 sacred steps of the Lord Ayyappa temple on the 2nd day of Malayalam month of 'Vrischikom' in Sabarimala on Sunday

Kerala Govt destroying Ayyappa temple's uniqueness: Pillai

Kochi: Spearheading a campaign against the Kerala Government over the Sabarimala issue, BJP state unit chief P S Sreedharan Pillai Sunday alleged that the CPI(M)-led dispensation was making the Lord Ayyappa shrine "a centre of dispute to destroy its uniqueness".

Condemning the police action against "peacefully agitating" devotees, he said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will extend all possible assistance to the protesters to protect the hill shrine from the "hidden agenda of atheists".

Pillai said the BJP and Sangh Parivar will expand the ongoing agitation against the state government's "hasty move" to implement the Supreme Court verdict, permitting entry of women of all age groups into the temple, to other parts of the country.

"What is going in Kerala (over Sabarimala) is a fight between devotees and atheists," he told PTI.

"BJP workers will continue to join the devotees' protest if any woman in the menstrual age group tries to enter the temple. The devotees have so far succeeded in preventing such women from breaking the custom," he said. PTI



A tourist family takes selfies under the Chinar trees at a garden, during autumn in Srinagar on Sunday

Poor, downtrodden getting their share, says Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that the poor and the downtrodden were getting their share in the Bharatiya Janata Party government because it was implementing the pro-people policies of the Narendra Modi government in letter and spirit.

"India has progressed in true sense in the last four-and-a-half years. The country had suffered because of the partisan policies of the previous government. Their policies were so lopsided that the chasm between the poor and the rich increased. It was BJP which tried to bridge that chasm," Maurya said while speaking at Loktantra Senani Aabhaar Sammelan held here on Sunday.

The loktantra senanis are leaders who were jailed during the Emergency.

Maurya said the Congress had ruled the country for the maximum time after Independence but it had not shown respect for leaders other than the Gandhi family.

"Everyone knows what happened to Sardar Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose. Even leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sharad Pawar and Raj Narayan were looked down upon by the Congress government. It is only Narendra Modi who broke the barriers of political lines and gave respect which was due to the leaders," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

"The world now knows



MAURYA SAID THE CONGRESS HAD RULED THE COUNTRY FOR THE MAXIMUM TIME AFTER INDEPENDENCE BUT IT HAD NOT SHOWN RESPECT FOR LEADERS OTHER THAN THE GANDHI FAMILY

about Sardar Patel and the Statue of Unity. This is the true respect the BJP government has given to the leaders," he added.

Maurya said, in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was giving respect to the leaders of various political parties.

He said the Congress stooped low when it arrested a leader like Jayprakash Narayan during Emergency. "Then people like you revolted against the then government and courted arrest. It is history that all jails across the country were full but there was no bed in your enthusiasm," he said.

"Leaders have taken lessons from your sacrifice and have not stepped into the shoes of dictator," he added. BJP MLC Yashwant Singh also addressed the loktantra senanis.

Akhilesh threatens to break friendship with Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday struck a blow to the prospects of a 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) of opposition parties for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls by launching a fierce attack on Congress, hinting that if the grand old party restricted the success of samajwadis, the SP would break the friendship.

Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday campaigned in Madhya Pradesh.

"I want to tell the Congress that when they will be the weakest, the Samajwadi Party will be their dearest friend. But the Congress leaders don't want 'cycle' to succeed. Hence, we have decided that if you try

to stop the 'cycle', we will take your hands off the cycle and give the control to some other party," Yadav said at a rally at Damoh in Madhya Pradesh.

Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress are two sides of the same coin. Both the parties are responsible for the loot of public sector banks by big business and industrial houses. These two parties are behind the Rafale scam — first the Congress played the tricks and now the BJP is exploiting it for its narrow political gains," Akhilesh charged.

Cycle is the political symbol of Samajwadi Party.

Akhilesh dropped strong hints that his party may not ally with the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, saying this would deal a huge blow to the Rahul Gandhi-led party as



they had been rallying for a grand coalition to stop the BJP juggernaut in the country. Apparently miffed with the Congress for refusing to share seats with SP and BSP in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, Akhilesh had on Saturday attacked the

Congress while campaigning in Chhattisgarh. He had accused the grand old party of scuttling Samajwadi Party's prospects in the poll-bound state. Hinting that SP might not enter into a tie-up with Congress for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Yadav said, "Humne bhi tay kar

liya hai ki cycle ko rokoge to aapka haath handle se hata diya jayega... Control aur kisi ke haath chala jayega (We have decided we will remove your hands from the cycle handle if you try to stop the cycle and the control will go in the hand of someone else)."

Without directly taking the name of any political party, the SP chief used their symbols (hand of the Congress and cycle of SP) to hint at the growing rift between the two parties.

Yadav's statement came during a rally in Durg in Madhya Pradesh while campaigning for SP and its alliance partner Gondwana Gantantra Party.

The former Chief Minister had earlier also slammed the Congress for wasting time in

"calculations" in the poll-bound states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. "When the alliance did not happen, we went with GGP.. It is difficult to understand what the Congress is calculating and trying to do, but one thing becomes obvious... they want to stop SP from surging ahead," he had said.

Akhilesh said that there was no difference in the policies of the BJP and Congress. His anti-Congress statements come barely 20 months after the two parties entered into an alliance for UP assembly elections in March 2017.

The SP leadership had then said that the 'cycle' would run even faster with the 'hand' to help in the ride but the alliance failed as the BJP swept the polls.

Whose wings clipped?

The CBI may be a caged parrot but the step taken by Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal is certainly dramatic



The question is why did Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu suddenly revoke the 'General Consent' that all Indian States offer the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)? And this, a few weeks after the Telugu Desam supremo ordered the Andhra Pradesh Police not to give protection to either Enforcement Directorate or Income Tax Department officials during raids. While Naidu's move also resulted in West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee following suit and that State, too, withdrawing its General Consent to the CBI under the Delhi Special Police

Establishment Act, one wonders what purpose this will serve. Even at the height of the vilification campaign by the Centre against certain State leaders in the past, such a move has never been initiated. There is certainly a risk for the political capital accumulated by both leaders in taking this step because while the public at large might be sympathetic to the view that the CBI is an extension of the Central Government, the fact that no State Government has taken such a step in the past will be used by the BJP to imply that regional leaders have something to hide. On the other hand, reports of the ruling dispensation in Delhi allegedly using the CBI to try and 'fix' regional leaders also must be factored in.

Additionally, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, was this decision taken after several raids recently exposed the financial underbelly of the political world in that State? Considering the ruling TDP is under pressure from both the YSR Congress and the BJP, Naidu tried to gain first-mover advantage by switching sides from Narendra Modi to Rahul Gandhi virtually overnight. Essentially, this was because the Central Government did not extend the financial support it had reportedly promised for Naidu's new dream capital, Amravati. While there is no doubt that the Modi Government has spent money foolishly on some vanity projects, Naidu's posh plans for Amravati were never going to be funded in the main by the Union of India even if he was part of the NDA. Naidu twiggled and left. Mamata Banerjee, meanwhile, while looking as strong as ever on the ground and confident of increasing its Lok Sabha seats tally even further in 2019, is facing an aggressive BJP looking to win a few more seats in the forthcoming General Election. With the Congress and Communists virtually disappearing from the political landscape of West Bengal, this two-way battle was always going to be one of raids and arrests which the Trinamool leader seems to have moved to prevent. Who said politics in India was fair?

With the CBI itself in disarray on the BJP's watch and the two top officers of the agency fighting each other publicly, Naidu and Banerjee have gambled that by the time the CBI can regain its wits and mount a legal challenge to the decision it will become a fait accompli. However, it must be kept in mind that individuals always have legal remedies available to them if they feel they are being wrongfully prosecuted by the CBI. Yet, if the decision by two of the strongest State leaders in India today is such as they have taken, it implies a complete breakdown of trust in the Centre. The Supreme Court, which is dipping its hands into all manner of issues, is likely to come into play sooner rather than later. In the interim, it would help immensely if the CBI itself managed to get its act together and the Centre dispelled the suspicions of the States by reaching out and assuring them that the probe agency's neutrality would be maintained. As it is, all other police forces in India are highly politicised; if the CBI too heads that way as it certainly seems to be, other Opposition-ruled States may soon follow Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. At the end of the day, though, if India has any pretence of being a robust, rule of law state, it needs police reforms desperately, starting with the CBI.

Justice at last

The two senior-most surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia get their just desserts



The term Year Zero, applied to the takeover of Cambodia in April 1975 by the Khmer Rouge as the followers of the Communist Party of Kampuchea were known, is an analogy to Year One of the French Revolutionary Calendar. During the French Revolution, after the abolition of the monarchy, the National Convention instituted a new calendar and declared the beginning of the Year 1. The Khmer Rouge takeover of Phnom Penh was rapidly followed by a series of loony 'revolutionary de-industrialisation' policies resulting in a death toll in the millions. On Friday, in 'Year 43', going by their demented, psychotic calendar, the two most senior surviving leaders of Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime were found guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in a historic ruling by an international tribunal officially called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

Nuon Chea, former Brother Number 2 (to Pol Pot's Brother Number 1) and Khieu Samphan, the former head of state, have been sentenced to life in prison. They become the first Khmer Rouge leaders to be held to account by an international court for a campaign of genocide against the Vietnamese and Cham minorities in Cambodia in the 1970s. The Khmer Rouge takeover was achieved by promising an agrarian utopia which was sought to be brought to fruition by forcibly emptying the cities to establish vast rural communes; this so-called radicalism which had its admirers in India too resulted in what has been termed as "auto-genocide." Starvation, overwork and execution all contributed to this crime against humanity. The ECCC convictions covered the atrocities at Khmer Rouge established work camps where murder, deportation, enslavement, torture persecution on political, religious and racial grounds, enforced disappearances, forced marriages and rapes were common.

There has been some commentary that in practical terms a life sentence for Nuon Chea, 92, and Khieu Samphan, 87, and both in very poor health, doesn't mean much. But the symbolism of the verdicts cannot be underestimated. For crimes of the nature and magnitude perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge need to be called out if humanity itself is to be protected. The sense of closure the verdicts have brought to the Cambodian people, especially those from the Cham minority, many of whom were in the makeshift court inside the prison complex where the two were being held, is real. Equally, the message being sent out is loud and clear — whatever the ideological motivations, evil is evil. There are lessons to be learnt for all those who believe power still flows from the barrel of a gun.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Shadow of terror looms large

Every Sikh can decide for himself or herself whether s/he wants to follow in the footsteps of great Gurus and be inspired by their message and life or walk on the path laid by the British



BALBIR PUNJ

The news from Punjab is ominous. Media reports quoting intelligence sources and a string of terror related incidents that have hit the State in the recent past indicate the possibility of a revival of Pakistan sponsored violence in the border state. Delhi police is also on alert after inputs stated that a group of six-seven Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists are reportedly in Punjab, possibly in Ferozpur area and are planning to move towards Delhi.

Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) says a common link has been found to all the recent six killings of Hindu leaders in Punjab. The anti-terror probe agency has revealed that these killings were part of a larger conspiracy hatched by Pakistan's intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to foment communal trouble and in turn revive Khalistani movement in the State.

Interrogation of the Jalandhar blast accused has established that a nexus of Kashmiri and Khalistani militant organisations is trying to revive militancy in Punjab on the directions of Pakistan's ISI. Intelligence agencies fear that Khalistani militants are getting consignments of illegal weapons, including AK 56, magazines, pistols and RDX from Pakistan as the same cannot be sourced from Jammu.

Whatsoever is happening today in the border state, is a mere repeat of all that shook the country in 1980s, resulting in unfortunate 'Operation Blue Star' by the Indian Army at the sacred Golden Temple in Amritsar, subsequent dastardly assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the hands of her Sikh body guards, followed by the horrible killings of innocent Sikhs in Delhi and several other parts of the country.

The hands of the ISI were obvious in creating this bloody mess, which posed a serious threat to the unity and integrity of the country. But how did a section of Sikh community (known for its valour and patriotism) get so alienated from the Indian mainstream that it became a willing partner in ISI's plans to dismember India? This unfortunate chain of events has its origins in British stratagem of "divide and rule", employed by them to perpetuate their control over India in the wake of the first war of Independence by Indians in 1857. The wily colonial masters underlined six fault lines in Indian society, did the necessary academic exercise to back their divisive plans and worked simultaneously on all of them.

The easiest to work on was the Hindu-Muslim fault line. The two communities have mostly been at war against each other for over 600 years. Their alliance during 1857 uprising was nascent and limited. The British wisely picked up Syed Ahmad Khan (please see my column of October 23, 2017



and October 22, 2018 in this paper) to carry forward their divisive agenda among the Muslim of the sub-continent.

The British obviously found it impossible to get someone in the patriotic community of Sikhs to play the treacherous role that Sir Syed was happily doing among the Muslims. So, they found someone from within their ranks. He was one Max Arthur Macauliffe, born on September 10, 1841, in Newcastle West, Ireland. He got into the coveted Imperial Civil Service (ICS) in 1862 and was quickly posted to Punjab in 1864.

Macauliffe soon converted to Sikhism and with the help of Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha, undertook the task of translating Sikh scriptures, including the holy *Guru Granth Sahib*. In 1897, Bhai wrote a pamphlet "Hum Hindu Nahi", the very basis of the present day Khalistan movement, which has since largely been hijacked by the ISI and Islamic zealots.

A white man converting to Sikh faith, was a major development in Punjab. His high profile in the British colonial set up naturally gave Macauliffe, now a 'devoted' Sikh, an esteemed position in the Sikh community. He undoubtedly pioneered the exercise of creating a divide between Hindus and Sikhs.

In an introduction to Macauliffe's celebrated work, "The Sikhs, Their Religion, Gurus, Sacred, Writings and Authors", noted historian and author, Sardar Khushwant Singh wrote: "It has been suggested that the British Government of the day had sinister motives in commissioning Macauliffe to under-

take this work. That Sikhs were fast relapsing back into the Hindu fold was recorded by Lord Dalhousie soon after he annexed the Sikh Kingdom. He and other British administrators felt that it would serve their interests better if the Khalsa Sikhs were encouraged to retain their distinct and separate identity."

The technique adopted by both, Sir Syed and Macauliffe, to achieve their dubious objective had lot in common. Both invoked 'divine' injunctions to alienate the targeted community from the main stream and convert it into an ally of the British masters. Here is a sample from Macauliffe's work (*The Sikhs, Vol 1*).

"One day, as Guru Teg Bahadur was in the top story of his prison, the Emperor Aurangzeb thought he saw him looking towards the south in the direction of the Imperial zenana. He was sent for the next day, and charged with this grave breach of Oriental etiquette and propriety." The Guru replied, "Emperor Aurangzeb, I was on the top story of my prison. But I was not looking at thy private apartments or at thy queens. I was looking in the direction of the Europeans who are coming from beyond the seas to tear down thy pardas and destroy thine empire."

The follow-up of action on the divisive and motivated "academic" exercise by the colonial power was calibrated and swift. On May 1, 1905, the then manager of Golden Temple issued orders banning the practice of worshipping of Hindu deities on the banks of the holy tank by Brahmins. The statues of Hindu

Gods and Goddesses were thrown out. Those who spear-headed this divisive agenda termed themselves as "Tat Khalsa" or the "neo Sikhs". The trend of eviction of Hindu practices and symbols from the Golden Temple was subsequently followed in rest of Gurudwaras of Punjab.

The population of Sikhs, according to 1901 Census, was a little over a million. Prior to 1911 Census, the Census Commissioner of Punjab issued special instructive to the enumerators, to try to record Sikhs, separately from the Hindus. The result was that the number of Sikhs in the State moved up by 300 times, over three million, in just a decade.

In the British Indian Army, a separate Khalsa regiment was created wherein the soldier were required to observe all the five kakars, so as to underline the distinction between the Khalsa and other followers of Sikh Gurus.

In the following decades, (even after Independence) this divisive mindset and practices have continued unabated. The neo-Sikhs, completely different from the ones who follow the Gurus in letter and spirit, dominate the public discourse and political life of Punjab. No wonder Pakistan makes use of this gap in our polity.

Every Sikh can decide for himself/herself — whether s/he wants to follow in the footsteps of great Gurus and be inspired by their message and life, or, walk on the path laid by the British.

(The writer is a political commentator and a former BJP Rajya Sabha MP)

“
THE NEO-SIKHS DOMINATE THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND POLITICAL LIFE OF PUNJAB. NO WONDER PAKISTAN MAKES USE OF THIS GAP IN OUR POLITY. THIS UNFORTUNATE CHAIN OF EVENTS HAS ITS ORIGINS IN BRITISH STRATAGEM OF DIVIDE AND RULE
 ”

SOUNDBITE

We have two Chhattisgarhs — one of the rich and another of the masses, poor and the marginalised.

Congress president —Rahul Gandhi



History has shown that in confrontation, whether in the form of a cold war, a hot war or a trade war, will produce no winners.

Chinese President —Xi Jinping



I came from a long line of women who felt invisible for years. Courage is just fear said with prayers.

Actor —Viola Davis



The BJP is a puppet for the rich. They (rich) have a key, which they turn and make them (BJP) bend to their will.

Congress leader —Navjot Singh Sidhu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Passenger's safety

Sir — A senior pilot of a Delhi-London Air India flight was found in an inebriated state before takeoff. He failed the pre-flight breath analysis test for alcohol for the second time. The passengers were stranded in the airport because of the delay.

The pilots, for all practical purposes, are not expected to consume spirits 12 hours before commanding a passenger aircraft. After his present folly, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation was quick to bar him from entering the cockpit for three years. Alcohol limits are a lot stricter in India than some countries abroad.

Around 58 Air India pilots were apprehended for reporting drunk to duty in the last decade. Alcohol can cause giddiness, agitation, delirium, lack of coordination and clouding of consciousness — not a single symptom is safe for the pilot or the passengers.

An eagle's eye should be kept on the chronic alcoholics. Random checks should be in order.

Sabarimala row refuses to die down

Surprisingly, both BJP and Congress are on same page with regard to opposition on lifting the ban on entry of women in the age group of 10-50 to the Sabarimala temple. However, it is welcome that the sworn enemies have come together in espousing the cause of devotees rather than backing the Supreme Court judgment which has created ruckus. "We will implement the SC order. The Government is with the devotees. We don't have an agenda. There is no politics in this issue", says Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan.

The Chief Minister had mooted the idea of designating a separate date for women to enter the temple. This idea was quite in contrast to the popular feeling of devotees against the entry of women of menstrual age. This idea also contradicted his statement that he was with the devotees. The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) is expected to borrow more time to enforce the Supreme Court order. If the apex court makes a climb-



down on its September 28 judgment, it becomes an object of ridicule among the people that the apex court has succumbed to the pressure tactics of devotees. If it does not review its judgment to pave way for restoration of law and order with the BJP and Congress having locked horns with the Government, destruction of life and public property is imminent.

KV Seetharamaiah Hassan

Offensive remark

Sir — Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's latest remark crediting Jawaharlal Nehru for creating democratic institutions that enabled a 'chaiwala' to become the Prime Minister of the country is not only laughable but absurd as well.

Narendra Modi is the consti-

tutionally elected Prime Minister of the country. The Constitution is the creation of the Constituent Assembly and institutions are creation of the Constitution, least of Nehru.

Tharoor should have gone through the history of his party. In 1946, in the process of nominations for the post of the president of Congress and thereby the first Prime Minister of India, 12

out of 15 Pradesh Congress Committees, the only legal bodies having power to nominate and elect president of the party as per the party constitution then, nominated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The remaining three did not nominate Nehru or anyone else. Despite that, Gandhi managed Nehru's nomination by a few members of the Working Committee and Patel withdrew

his nomination in favour of Nehru. Thus, Nehru was elected as the Congress president by Gandhi's choice. Initially, as first Prime Minister of India, Nehru was neither the choice of the Congressmen nor elected by the people of the country.

MC Joshi Lucknow

World peace

Sir — November 17 was the International Day of Peace. When interest of one person or group clashes with that of the others, there is a possibility of violence. If a grave situation is not dealt in a calm manner and people immediately resort to violence, it may have serious repercussions and it may even wipe out the entire mankind. "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind," said Mahatma Gandhi, who also said "the day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."

TS Karthik Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Inclusive education for whole of India

No school has the right to deny high quality education to a child simply because s/he has a disability



UMA TULI SUDHANSH MALHOTRA

As per the Census 2011, out of over 120 crore people, 2.2 per cent in India are disabled. In absolute terms, this implies that over 2.68 crore people live with one form of disability or another. It is significant to note that of these, 66 lakh are children in the age group 5-19 years. These numbers are most likely much higher — it is generally accepted that surveys all over the world grossly undercount the actual number of disabled people. The World Report on Disability jointly produced by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank in 2011 estimated that about 15 per cent of the global population live with disability. Whatever the actual number of the disabled, they constitute a significant resource that can and should contribute to the social, economic and political life of the nation. Children — with or without disabilities have the right to a quality education — no matter what special needs they may have. Education is the prime tool that equips a child to meet the challenges of life. Children with disabilities need this even more to supplement their different talents. Indeed, disability need not be an impediment to achievement.

Inclusive education is a model of education in which children with disabilities spend all or most of their time in school with children without special needs. Fully inclusive schools do not separate 'general education' and 'special education' programmes. Such schools are structured so that all students learn and grow together. Disability exacerbates existing vulnerabilities arising from social and economic inequities such as poverty and gender, lack of access to services, social stigma and so on. Universal access to inclusive education has the potential to shift society towards a more just and equitable future.

Inclusive education allows children with disabilities to develop friendships with peers and feel less isolated. Children who are placed in standard classroom environment generally have higher self-esteem than children who are isolated in special needs programmes. Policy-makers and civil society need to recognise that no school has the right to deny high quality education to children and families who want the best for their child simply because s/he has a disability. A common misconception that needs to be dispelled is that the presence of disabled children in classrooms impedes the learning of non-special needs children. In fact, children without disabilities in inclusive schools get an opportunity to receive their own education in a non-discriminatory environment and develop a more accepting and wholesome perspective.

Although much progress has been made in the education sector, India faces immense challenges in addressing educational needs of children with disabilities. In the age group five to 19 years, 28 per cent disabled girls have never attended an educational institution. The figure for boys at 26 per cent is only marginally better. Only 16 per cent of the disabled male population and nine per cent of the disabled female population has matric/secondary education. Not surprisingly, only nine per cent of males and three per cent of females with disability are graduates.

A mission approach is needed to make the provisions for inclusive education in the Right to Education Act 2009 and Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 universally available in all educational institutions — public as well as private. Educational institutions in the private and NGO sector have made a beginning in introducing inclusive education. However, most of these schools are in urban settings. The need of the hour is to learn from these pioneering efforts to make inclusive education a reality in public sector institutions at scale. As the country strengthens the education sector further, the universalisation of inclusive education in the public and private sectors must become a foundational principle of the nation's education sector.

The Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, New Delhi — a pioneer in the field of inclusive education in collaboration with the Asian Centre for Inclusive Education, Dhaka — is organising the 5th International Conference on Inclusive Education (IGIE) from November 28-30, 2018 in New Delhi. Over 300 participants from developing as well as developed countries are expected to attend the conference. Persons with disabilities, students, parents, educationists, academics, policy-maker, et al. will utilise the platform for sharing new initiatives. They will also exchange international trends and good practices, discuss policy-making strategies with different stakeholders and strengthen networking of national and international institutions that provide and promote inclusive education.

(Uma Tuli is founder & Managing Secretary, Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust. Sudhansh Malhotra is Former Regional Adviser — Child Health & Development, WHO, South East Asia)

THE BJP AND THE CENTRE ARE USING CBI TO DESTABILISE THE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T GIVE CONSENT TO INVESTIGATE ANY CASE IN THE STATE.

—ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER N CHANDRABABU

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THERE'S NO SOVEREIGNTY OF ANY STATE IN THE MATTER OF CORRUPTION. ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE A LOT TO HIDE TAKE THE STEP OF NOT LETTING THE CBI INTO THE STATE.

—FINANCE MINISTER ARUN JAITLEY

Don't undermine national heroes

There is a trend in contemporary political debates to abuse Gandhi and Nehru by distorting historical facts to secure facile victories on public platforms and television debates



PRASHANT TEWARI

If any person chose to think of me, then I should like them to say: "This was the man with all his mind and heart, loved India and the Indian people. And they in turn, were indulgent to him and gave of their love most abundantly and extravagantly."

—Jawaharlal Nehru

India is an ancient civilisation privileged to witness a rare cultural synthesis and fusion. To know India, one has to travel across the country to understand the unity in diversity. Yet in an era of hate and distrust, the national icons are targeted for an immediate political polarisation. It is a shame that figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Abdul Kalam Azad are disgraced in public debate without valid reasons. It is a fashion in contemporary political debates to abuse Gandhi and Nehru by distorting historical facts to secure facile victories on public platforms and television debates.

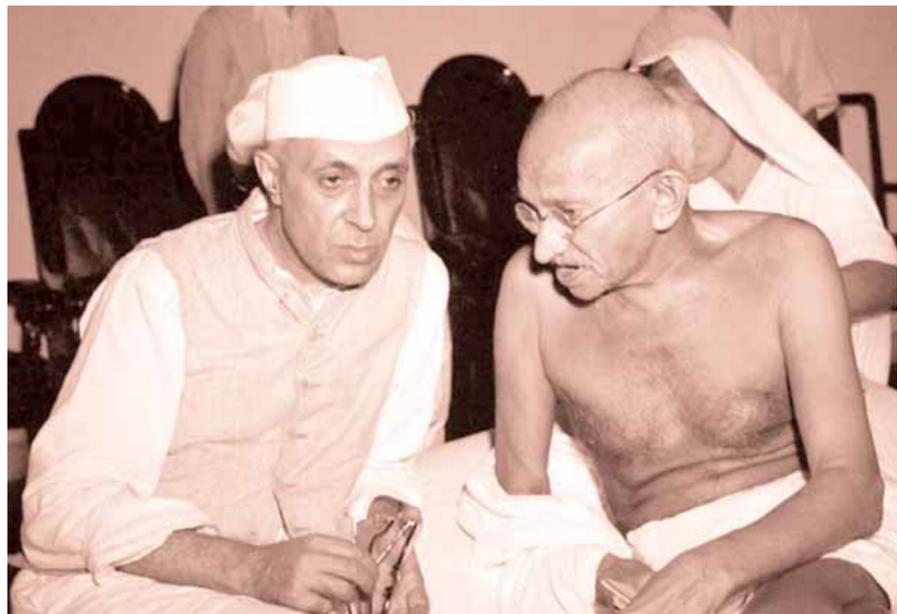
Likewise, the other side targets the right-wing leadership of Syama Prasad Mookherjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, KB Hedgewar without realising that all of them have contributed their respective best to attain the freedom for our country. We are doing a great disservice to our great nation by disgracing our national heroes either way. The nation that doesn't worship its heroes leads to a path of utter disaster.

Jawaharlal Nehru was one among the few freedom fighters of India who sacrificed his life for the cause of the motherland. He was one of the fortunate leaders who brought the independence struggle to a successful termination. Among Gandhi's great lieutenants in the struggle for freedom, no doubt, Nehru had a prominent place. Jawaharlal Nehru, as one of the most distinguished leaders of Third World solidarity, reached out to the rest of the colonised world and forged a joint front against colonialism and reinvented imperialism.

Nehru was born on November 14, 1889 in an affluent family of Allahabad. His father Motilal Nehru followed his education with extreme passion. Young Nehru was sent to Harrow school, and then to Cambridge University in England to obtain a degree in natural sciences. After spending two years at the Inner Temple, London, he qualified as a barrister. During his stay in London, he studied subjects like literature, politics, economics and history. He got attracted to the ideas of liberalism, socialism and nationalism. He was, by temperament and experience, a cosmopolitan. His frequent visits to Europe, his deep familiarity with the past and his understanding of the contemporary ideologies of the day, from liberalism to Fabian socialism, to communist internationalism, had convinced him that the future of India was incomplete without the liberation of other colonies.

History fascinated Nehru. It gave him an insightful command over the past, a keen and immediate sense of the present and a rare foresight to think and plan for the future of all. Nehru was a historian of repute; he felt that many historical writings were uncritical descriptions of events and people. He was equally drawn to science and firmly believed that scientific

“ YOUNG JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HAD THE OPTION OF LEADING A COMFORTABLE LIFE BY INHERITING THE FLOURISHING LEGAL PRACTICE OF HIS FATHER BUT HE OPTED FOR THE JOURNEY OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE WHICH EVENTUALLY MARKED HIS ENTRY INTO INDIAN POLITICS ”



temper and scientific approach to problems would liberate India from economic misery and social injustice. Indeed amazing was his intellectual blend in science and history, idealism and realism, literature and politics, the revolution of Marx and the non-violence of Gandhi, all of which were integrated in his unique personality. As Norman Cousins observed Nehru "was not one man but a procession of men."

After completing his education in England, Nehru came back to India in 1912 and joined the Allahabad High Court Bar. Young Jawaharlal Nehru had the option of leading a comfortable life by inheriting the flourishing legal practice of his father but he opted for the journey of the freedom struggle, which eventually marked his entry into Indian politics. Indian National Congress already had a split due to the conflict between the moderates and the extremists. The Congress was yet to have a mass base. With the "divide and rule" policy of the British Government, the Muslim League was already formed. He met Gandhiji in the Lucknow session of the National Congress in December 1916 and was tremendously influenced by his towering personality.

Nehru was shocked with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of April 1919; the event changed the life forever. When the non-cooperation movement was launched in December 1920, he participated in it and was arrested for his active role in the *satyagraha*. In 1923, he was appointed as the General Secretary of the Congress. As the official delegate of the Indian National Congress in 1927, he participated in the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in Brussels. Nehru utilised this opportunity to impress upon other countries about India's non-violent struggle against the imperial British Government and became

the global ambassador of peace. In 1928, the Congress rejected co-operation with the Simon Commission and Nehru participated in the *hartals* in protest of the Commission along with Subhas Chandra Bose and Srinivas Iyenger. Nehru put forward the demand that complete independence should be the goal of the Congress Party as opposed to the idea of Dominion status. He became the president of the Indian National Congress in Lahore and the historic independence resolution was passed on the midnight of December 31, 1929. He was re-elected as president of the National Congress in 1936, 1937 and 1946. Nehru participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement at Allahabad and was imprisoned till January 1931.

Nehru severely opposed the "Communal Award" of the British Government, which provided separate electorate to Sikhs, Muslims, Europeans and other oppressed classes. When Gandhiji started his fast till death against the communal award, it created a deep impression on Nehru. The Government of India Act 1935 was far away from the demands of the Congress. Nehru termed it as "a charter of slavery and oppression." Yet the Congress decided to participate in the election, which was announced as the provision of the Act. Under Nehru's leadership, the Congress secured absolute majority in six provinces and formed coalition Governments in two others out of the total 11 provinces and it established Nehru's leadership in the entire country.

With the failure of the Cripps Mission, Mahatma Gandhi urged for the right of self-determination to India. Gandhiji was determined to start *satyagraha*. The Quit India Resolution was moved by him and on August 8, 1942, at the Bombay session of the Congress, it was adopted. He

was arrested and imprisoned for three years. After the war when Nehru was released, he became a leading figure of the Congress in various negotiations with the British Government. Being invited by Lord Wavell to form the Government, he headed the first Indian (interim) Government of India. In the same year, elections to the Constituent Assembly was also held. Lord Mountbatten was deputed as the Viceroy of India and completed the transfer of power. Despite the opposition of Gandhi, Nehru and other Congress leaders, India was partitioned under the "two nation" theory of Jinnah.

On August 15, 1947, a free India was born. Nehru was elected as the first Prime Minister of independent India. He was the first Indian Prime Minister to hoist the National Flag and make his iconic speech "Tryst with Destiny" from the ramparts of the Lal Quila (Red Fort). The time had come to implement his ideas and build a healthy nation. Nehru's stint as Prime Minister of India is characterised by his secular and liberal approach. He carried out his vision to carry the young India towards the road of technological and scientific excellence with great zeal. He implemented a number of socio-economic reforms and paved the way for rapid industrialisation.

Nehru continued to be the Prime Minister of independent India till his death on May 27, 1964. He was the chief framer of domestic and international policies during his term as Prime Minister (1947-1964). It was under Nehru's supervision that India launched its first Five-Year Plan in 1951. He had laid the foundation of democracy, secularism, planning and socialism.

(To be continued in these columns on Tuesday. The writer is Editor-in-Chief, Opinion Express Group)

From denial to confession

As the plot thickens in the Khashoggi tapes affair, except for Trudeau, Western leaders keep dithering over the journalist's killing. The question, however, remains: What exactly can they do about Mohammed bin Salman's crime?



GWYNNE DYER

How odd! Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan sends an audio recording of the murder of journalist, Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul to the Governments of all Turkey's major NATO allies, and the only one that gets it is Canada. What happened to the copies that President Erdogan sent to the United States, France, the United Kingdom and Germany? Lost in the mail-room, no doubt, or maybe just lying unopened on somebody's desk. Or perhaps the Turks just didn't put enough stamps on the packages.

"We gave them the tapes," said Erdogan on November 10. "They've also listened to the conversation, they know it." But still not a word out of

Washington or London acknowledging that they have heard the recordings, and French Foreign Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian denied that France had received a copy. When asked if that meant Erdogan was lying, Le Drian replied: "It means that he has a political game to play in these circumstances." Like most Western politicians and diplomats, he is desperate to avoid calling out Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as a murderer. The French has a highly profitable commercial relationship with the oil-rich kingdom, mostly selling it arms, and they don't want to acknowledge the evidence on the recording (which may directly implicate the Crown Prince) because it could jeopardise that trade.

Erdogan was furious when the French foreign minister issued his denial, and his communications director insisted that a representative of French intelligence had listened to the recording as long ago as 24 October. But it was all just "he said/she said" stuff until Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, blew the game wide



open on Monday. Yes, Trudeau said, Canadian intelligence has the recording, and he is well-aware of what is on it. In fact, Canadian intelligence agencies have been working very closely with Turkey on the murder investigation, and Canada is "in discussions with our like-minded allies as to the next steps with regard Saudi Arabia."

Why did Trudeau come clean? One popular theory is the nothing-left-to-lose hypothesis. Last August, the tempestuous Crown Prince killed all future trade deals with Canada, pulled thousands of Saudi Arabian foreign

students out of Canadian universities, and generally showered curses on the country after Canadian officials called for the release of detained Saudi campaigners for civil rights and women's rights.

Canada's bridges to Saudi Arabia have already been burned, and according to this theory, Trudeau felt free to say the truth. But he's not really free: Canada still has a \$13 billion contract to build armoured vehicles for Saudi Arabia that the Saudis might cancel, and this is a real contract, not one of Trump's fantasy arms sales. Maybe

Trudeau is just braver than the others, but his purpose is clear. He waited more than three weeks after getting the recording for the "like-minded allies" to agree to a joint policy towards the murderous prince — nobody believes Khashoggi could have been killed without Mohammed bin Salman's consent — and then he spilled the beans. Of course, all the major NATO Governments have the recordings. They have had them for at least three weeks. They were just dithering over what to do about them, and Trudeau decided it was time to give them a push. Good for him, but what exactly can they do about Mohammed bin Salman's crime?

It almost certainly was Mohammed bin Salman, who ordered the killing. Since his elderly father, King Salman, gave him free rein to run the country less than three years ago, he has become a one-man regime. Nothing happens without his approval, least of the murder of a high-profile critic in a foreign country by a 15-strong Saudi hit squad, including several members of his personal

security team.

No Western leader (except perhaps Donald Trump) will be seen in public with Mohammed bin Salman any more; foreign investment in Saudi Arabia this year is the lowest in several decades, and the price of oil is falling again. So, he has to go if it's still possible for anybody in Saudi Arabia to remove him from power. But that's the big question. The Saudi royal family is no longer a tight and united body that can just decide Mohammed bin Salman has to go and make it stick. It's a sprawling array of people, many of whom scarcely know each other, and without the agreement of King Salman, any smaller group within the family that organised a coup against the Crown Prince, would almost certainly fail.

So, he may go on for while despite the disaster of his military intervention in Yemen, his pointless, fruitless blockade of Qatar and even this ugly murder. He wouldn't be the only killer in power. But the bloom is definitely off this particular rose.

(The writer is an independent journalist)



TECH GIANT FAILS TO LOOK INTO DARK CORNERS
 Facebook needs to own up to its many failings by establishing specific ethical practices to regain users' trust. The company needs to be honest and direct about how all personal data is used and sold. Security ought to be tighter. News feeds have to be valuable to users, not just advertisers. (Chicago Tribune editorial)

CAG to report performance audit of GST soon

In current fiscal, GST collections stood at ₹1.03 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is conducting performance audit of GST and is likely to finalise its report soon.

The performance audit report on implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) could be tabled in Parliament as early as in the forthcoming Winter session beginning December 11, according to sources.

The CAG is auditing the functioning of the new indirect tax regime since its implementation on July 1, 2017.

The audit aspect would include registration, refund, input tax credit, transition credit mechanism, ease of payment of taxes and the impact on the economic activity, the sources told.

The CAG team has already visited the GST Commissionerates in major states to get clarity on the functioning of the new indirect tax system and its efficiency and effectiveness, the sources said.

As part of the performance audit, the CAG looks at programmes, systems and activities to check if they are in accordance with the principles of economy and whether there is any scope for further improvement.

The performance audit will not take into account revenue collections. Its focus would primarily be on the implementation aspect of GST, which has subsumed 17 local taxes.

Tagged as the biggest tax reform since Independence, GST has faced some teething problems in the initial months



of its implementation with the GST Network unable to take load of last minute monthly return filing rush.

Also, there were hiccups with respect to refunds to be claimed by exporters as well as excessive transitional credit claims.

The monthly average revenue collection from GST in the previous fiscal (July 2017-March 2018) was ₹89,885 crore. In current fiscal, the collections stood at ₹1.03 lakh crore in April, ₹94,016 crore in May, ₹95,610 crore in June, ₹96,483 crore in July, ₹93,960 crore in August, ₹94,442 crore in September and ₹1 lakh crore in October.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) net sold \$18.662 billion of the greenback in the spot market, during the first seven months of the current financial year, according to RBI data.

In the same period last year, RBI was a net purchaser of the greenback, as it had bought \$16.301 billion.

In September, 2018, RBI sold \$31 million of the US currency in the spot market on a net basis, as per the latest RBI data.

In the reporting month, the central bank purchased USD 1.012 billion, while selling \$1.043 billion in the spot market.

In August, and July, it had sold \$2.323 billion and 1.87 billion, respectively, on a net

RBI net sells \$18.66 bn of dollars between Apr-Sep

In FY17, RBI had bought \$12.351 billion of the US dollars on a net basis

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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RBI board to meet today, likely to reach common ground on key issues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing rift with the Government is set to play out at the RBI's crucial board meeting Monday, with the Finance on Ministry nominees and some independent directors expected to take on Governor Urjit Patel and his team over issues ranging from MSME credit to the central bank's reserves, though both sides are in favour of reaching a common ground.

While there have been reports and demands from some quarters for the Governor to step down, sources said Patel is unlikely to yield under pressure and will rather mount a strong defence of the central bank's policies regarding stringent NPA recognition norms as well as measures taken to ease credit supply to MSMEs.

Patel and his four deputies, who all are members of the RBI's 18-member central board, will present a united front, while a few independent directors too are expected to support the central bank's mission to clean up bank balance sheets, sources said.

The central board, headed by the RBI Governor, is expected to discuss issues mentioned in the agenda circulated to the board members in advance.

Off-agenda items can also be raised in the meeting, with the chair's permission. The RBI's central board currently has 18 members, though the provision is that it can go up to 21.

The members include Governor Urjit Patel and his four deputies as 'full-time official directors', while the rest 13 have been nominated by the government, including two Finance Ministry officials -- Economic Affairs Secretary and Financial Services Secretary.

Sources said the government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are looking to reach at an agreeable solution with respect to relaxation of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework and easing of lending norms for the MSME sector.

If not in this board meeting, the issue of relaxation of PCA framework would reach a resolution in the next few weeks, they added.

As a result of the relaxation, some banks may come out of the PCA framework by the end of this fiscal.

Of the 21 State-owned banks, 11 are under the PCA framework, which imposes lending and other restrictions on weak lenders.

These are Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

The PCA framework kicks in when banks breach any of the three key regulatory trigger points -- namely capital to risk weighted assets ratio, net non-performing assets (NPA) and return on assets (RoA).

Globally, PCA kicks in only when banks slip on a single parameter of capital adequacy ratio, and the government is in favour of this practice being adopted for the domestic banking sector as well.

The RBI is also expected to consider a special dispensation for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) which have been facing liquidity issues.

The government feels that the MSME sector -- which employs about 12 crore people and plays a critical role in the economy -- needs some support after being impacted by demonetisation and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

However, the central bank has been averse to the government's demand as it considers the sectors to be vulnerable.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday said that growth must not be throttled by limiting credit availability and liquidity.

It is necessary that the growth process does not suffer due to the cleaning up of the banking system from the "collectively committed sins" during 2008-14 when the regulatory mechanisms also overlooked high debt accumulation, he said.

BSE to part ways with S&P Dow Jones; plans to develop its own indices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asia's oldest bourse BSE has decided to snap ties with S&P Dow Jones, which manages and operates benchmark Sensex, and plans to develop indices through its own in-house development team, exchange's officials said.

The two entities had announced a joint venture -- Asia Index -- in 2013 to provide an array of indices enabling global and domestic investors to participate in South Asia's vibrant economies.

The deal with BSE came after the expiry of the licensing arrangement between India Index Services & Products (IISL), a joint venture of NSE and S&P-owned Crisil.

The exchange officials said that BSE will not renew its agreement with S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC which expires on December 31, 2018 and it is looking to develop indices through its own team.

"Basically, we had done this tie-up five years back, but the joint venture could not do much in terms of expanding in the foreign jurisdiction, the usage of the indexes and all," BSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Ashish Kumar



Chauhan told investors in a conference call.

"And that is why we have decided to not renew it, but overall the impact on profits or on the revenues will be minuscule," he added.

Rival bourse National Stock Exchange's indices are managed and operated by NSE Indices, an arm of NSE.

S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies, is the world's largest global resource for index-based concepts, data and research.

BSE is Asia's oldest stock exchange and home to the iconic Sensex index -- a leading indicator of Indian equity market performance.

Petrol price cut by 20 paise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price Sunday was cut by 20 paise a litre and diesel by 18 paise, the 29th straight daily reduction in rates that has wiped away all of the massive price increase in petrol witnessed in two months since mid-August that had triggered a political uproar.

Petrol price in Delhi was cut to ₹76.71 a litre from ₹76.91 on Saturday, according to a price notification issued by state-owned fuel retailers.

Diesel is being now sold at ₹71.56 per litre as compared to ₹71.74 on Saturday.

With this, the reduction in rates in the last one month totals ₹7.29 per litre for petrol and ₹3.89 a litre for diesel.

Rates have been on the decline since October 18. This has wiped out all of the price hike on petrol in two months beginning August 16 and more than half on diesel.

The reduction in diesel rates has been slower due to moderate fall in its benchmark international prices, according to oil company price notifications.

Petrol price had touched a record high of ₹84 per litre in Delhi and ₹91.34 in Mumbai on October 4. Diesel on that day had peaked to an all-time high of ₹75.45 a litre in Delhi



and ₹80.10 in Mumbai.

Prices had started to climb from August 16. Petrol in Delhi was priced at ₹77.14 per litre and in Mumbai it cost ₹84.58 on August 15. Diesel on that day was priced at ₹68.72 per litre in Delhi and at ₹72.96 in Mumbai.

Petrol in Mumbai Sunday cost ₹82.28 per litre and diesel was priced at ₹74.97.

Between August 16 and October 4, petrol price was hiked by ₹6.86 per litre and diesel by ₹6.73.

On that day, the Government decided to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel

by ₹1.50 per litre each and asked state-owned fuel retailers to subsidise prices by another ₹1 a litre by reducing their margins.

Many states including Maharashtra matched that with a reduction in local sales tax or VAT.

Subsequent to this, the petrol price came down to ₹81.50 per litre in Delhi and diesel to ₹72.95 a litre on October 5. In Mumbai rates fell to ₹86.97 per litre for petrol and ₹77.45 in case of diesel.

As the international oil prices continued to rise, price of petrol and diesel in Delhi increased to ₹82.83 and ₹75.69

on October 17. In Mumbai, rates touched ₹88.29 a litre for petrol and ₹79.35 for diesel.

But since then, international oil prices have been falling and rupee has also appreciated, resulting in decline in retail rates.

Industry source said as per the assessment, the retail prices of petrol and diesel may reign easy in the next few days.

The retail selling price of petrol and diesel is dependent on the international prices of benchmark fuel and the rupee-US dollar exchange rate. This is because a large proportion of country's requirement is met through imports.

BSNL vows swift action on BharatNet concerns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drawing flak from the telecom department over gaps in maintenance of BharatNet infrastructure, BSNL has promised to take action against erring officers, but asserted that its maintenance responsibility pertains to only the optical fibre portion, sources said.

The telecom PSU has also sounded out Department of Telecom (DoT) about ₹617 crore of dues pending from Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL), as operation and maintenance payment for BharatNet project.

When contacted, BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava refused to comment on the matter.

But sources aware of the matter said the company has written to DoT pointing out that while the onus of preventive and corrective maintenance of the optical fibre portion connecting gram panchayats is with BSNL, the responsibility of remaining network elements lay with other agencies.

Responding to concerns raised by the Telecom Secretary on BharatNet project, BSNL has also suggested that mechanism be worked out at the earliest that allocates faults pertaining to only the optical fibre

portion, to the telecom corporation.

BSNL has claimed that BBNL has not taken steps to put in place such a mechanism despite the state-owned telecom service provider repeatedly insisting on the same.

Earlier this month, the telecom department reportedly pulled up BSNL and BBNL over underutilisation of BharatNet infrastructure as well as deficiencies in maintenance of the project that seeks to connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats through high-speed broadband by March 2019.

Absence of a mechanism to segregate the faults in the network makes it difficult to initiate action against officials, as some of the problems may turn out to be beyond their area of responsibility, BSNL has said.

In the same breath, BSNL has assured DoT that it will take disciplinary action against the officials lacking in discharge of duties. Sources said BSNL CMD has also instructed Director (enterprise) to look into the outstanding issues in streamlining operations and maintenance of BharatNet.

BSNL has also pointed out that states would need to take equal responsibility of ensuring utilisation of the massive rural broadband infrastructure that is being put in place.

Vice-President launches Krea University

VIKAS KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday launched Krea University in New Delhi. Based in Sri City (near Chennai), the University offers BA (Hons) & BSc (Hons) degrees in a host of disciplines ranging from economics to computer science. The University has opened its admissions process for the first cohort of undergraduate students who commence classes in August 2019. The newly inaugurated university is backed by some of the best academics in the world and the top industrialists in India.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu said, "Happy to know that the core of this University's philosophy lies in a pioneering paradigm of Interwoven Learning, weaving together

NTPC invites EoI to build fly ash-based roads at its plants

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NTPC has invited expression of interest (EoI) for construction of fly ash-based geopolymer concrete roads at its plants to demonstrate use of this technology, a company official said.

"NTPC has invited players to construct fly ash-based geopolymer concrete roads. About 1,100 tonne of fly ash is used per km of geopolymer road," the official told PTI.

Earlier, the company has successfully completed similar project at Dadri station as per Indian Roads Congress (IRC) specifications & accreditation. Moreover, 1.2-km double lane stretch are being constructed at Ramagundam and Farakka stations. These projects are being developed by NETA, the R&D wing of NTPC.

NETA has also developed geopolymer concrete spun/hume pipes, tetra pods, tiles and is working on other

Govt should stick to fiscal deficit target, continue reforms: Panagariya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre should stick to the fiscal deficit target for 2018-19 and continue with the reforms undertaken during the over four years of the Narendra Modi-led Government, former Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya said Sunday.

The present Government, Panagariya said, has made a huge progress in implementing reforms including some difficult structural ones such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) that previous Governments had difficulty in introducing.

"Government should not shift its goal posts as far as fiscal deficit target is concerned. Fiscal consolidation has been a key achievement of the government and it has played a central role in macroeconomic stability that has characterised the economy during the last four years," the eminent economist told.

The Government aims to strictly maintain 3.3 per cent fiscal deficit target for 2018-19

fiscal. The NDA government came to power in May 2014 and the next general elections will be held before May 15, 2019.

"At this stage any reforms that require legislative change such as the Higher Education Commission Bill will have to wait till the elections.

But reforms that can be done through changes in rules and regulations can still progress. Lateral entry into civil service is one such reform. Privatisation of listed PSUs and closure of sick PSUs are other such reforms," Panagariya noted.

What matters most is the top leadership, he said, adding that if the top leadership believes in reforms, you can count on their implementation.

Panagariya, who is currently a professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University pointed out that in the last four years, growth has averaged 7.3 per cent compared with 5.9 per cent during the last two years under the UPA.

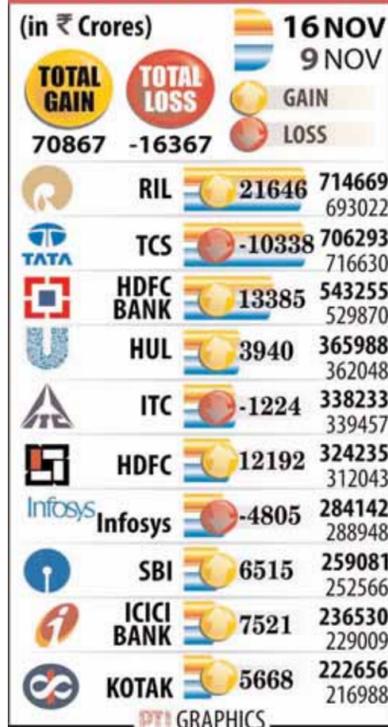
vice chairman also opined that under the previous UPA Government, Congress President Sonia Gandhi effectively led the government and she had no interest in implementing structural reforms.

Replying to a query on government's move to raise import duties on a host of products with an aim to contain current account deficit (CAD), Panagariya said, "Sadly, bureaucrats in the Department of Revenue and Ministry of Commerce have not understood the importance of openness to trade. If they had, they would also be better able to explain it to politicians they serve."

Stating that "we have forgotten the lessons of our own experience and returned to the road we had left many years ago," he said "let us hope we will soon do course correction".

Recently, the government Wednesday raised import duties on 19 items, including jet fuel and air conditioners, as it looks to check the widening current account deficit resulting from high crude oil prices.

Scheme	NAV	1Yr %	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	40.18	1.93	Value Fund(G)	9.97	-5.29
Tata Digital India Fund-Reg(G)	13.97	33.24	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	62.29	1.77	HDFC Equity Fund(G)	622.07	-1.97
ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)	56.7	28.02	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	10.6	1.53	Principal Nifty 100 Equal	69.36	-2.03
SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	60.69	26.2	Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	16.38	1.49	Weight Fund(G)	53.36	-2.06
Aditya Birla SL Digital India Fund(G)	50.17	23.94	Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	47.94	1.33	L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)	11.95	-2.11
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	26.81	22.36	Aditya Birla SL India GenNext Fund(G)	77.45	1.24	Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)	122.02	-2.11
Franklin India Technology Fund(G)	152.84	19.46	Invesco India Growth Fund-Reg(G)	31.9	1.14	SBI Healthcare Opp Fund-Reg(G)	202.33	-2.17
Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-A(G)	20.78	18.16	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	84.97	1.05	Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	21.46	-2.19
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	14.2	17.51	L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.36	1.04	DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)	563.3	-2.29
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	28.61	15.67	SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	127.5	0.91	Franklin India Equity Fund(G)	40.67	-2.31
DSP US Flexible Equity Fund-Reg(G)	24.59	14.97	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Fund(G)	10.71	0.88	ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G)	50.7	-2.42
Reliance Pharma Fund(G)	153.16	14.74	Pan European Equity Fund-Reg(G)	461.16	0.88	Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	14.96	-2.5
Kotak US Equity Fund(G)	16.32	12.61	HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	26.28	0.77	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	40.48	-2.5
DHFL Pramerica Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	16.94	12.56	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	26.28	0.77	Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	55.48	-2.59
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	14.25	10.57	ICICI Pru Value Fund-5(G)	14.93	0.74	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund(G)	153.74	-2.6
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	14.41	10.53	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	141.87	0.67	Motilal Oswal Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	16.17	-2.62
ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	15.01	10.12	UTI India LifeStyle Fund-Reg(G)	24.92	0.19	DHFL Pramerica Euro Equity Fund(G)	13.17	-2.66
ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	228.48	8.24	Reliance Capital Builder Fund-II-B(G)	12.35	0.18	ICICI Pru Exports & Services Fund(G)	55.45	-2.74
Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)	87.1	7.92	Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	92.91	0.12	Tata India Tax Savings Fund-Reg(G)	16.6	-2.92
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)	313.49	7.91	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	57.27	0.1	Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)	27.73	-3.03
Reliance Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)	17.47	7.42	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	13.06	0.01	JM Tax Gain Fund(G)	15.63	-3.05
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	18.8	7.02	HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	41.92	-0.02	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	43.11	-3.16
Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	26.11	7.01				DHFL Pramerica LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.31	-3.2
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	15.85	6.94				Reliance Close Ended Equity Fund-Reg(G)	22.74	-3.21
DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)	16.55	6.7				L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	34.39	-6.99
Tata India Pharma & Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	8.89	6.23				L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	45.45	-7.09
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)	11.33	6.19				ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	11.18	-7.14
Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	60.21	5.87				IDFC Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	35.49	-7.18
IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	22	5.85				Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	14.87	-7.27
HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)	96.75	5.7				IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)	20.64	-7.37
UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	69.35	5.66				UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	89.68	-7.46
Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	64.31	5.49				Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.15	-7.46
Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	24.01	5.47				Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	94.62	-7.5
UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)	131.25	5.35				HDFC TaxSaver(G)	495.04	-7.51
DSP Global Allocation Fund-Reg(G)	12.09	5.32				DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	50.89	-7.52
SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	91.5	5.19				SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G)	33.32	-7.53
Canara Rob Bluechip Equity Fund-Reg(G)	23.08	5.1				Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)	126.82	-7.54
Reliance Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)	17.86	4.87				Invesco India Multicap Fund(G)	45.44	-7.68
ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)	356.52	4.74				Reliance Growth Fund(G)	1039.03	-8.08
ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	102.88	4.73				ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund(G)	16.27	-8.13
Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	41.42	4.71				Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme(G)	36.06	-8.15
Reliance Japan Equity Fund(G)	12.55	4.71				Franklin Build India Fund(G)	38.87	-8.2
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund(G)	48.93	4.57				IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)	49.89	-8.22
Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)	84.53	4.49				UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)	13.28	-8.55
Aditya Birla SL Index Fund(G)	104.7	4.42				ICICI Pru Value Fund-4(G)	20.47	-8.82
ICICI Pru Business Cycle Fund-2(G)	14.21	4.33				JM Value Fund(G)	29.55	-8.86
ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	279.71	4.18				Reliance Focused Equity Fund(G)	43.46	-8.89
Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	17.23	4.17				L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	130.81	-8.94
DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	7.93	4.17				L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)	24.33	-8.94
DSP World Energy Fund-Reg(G)	13.05	4.08				Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.16	-9
IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	19.68	4.07				HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund(G)	51.57	-9.07
Axis Midcap Fund(G)	33.86	3.83				HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)	73.74	-9.16
Mirae Asset Great Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	32.73	3.82				ICICI Pru Value Fund-1(D)	10.46	-9.29
Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)	12.55	3.74				DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)	32.04	-9.51
Canara Rob Equity Diver Fund-Reg(G)	123.72	3.64				Templeton India Value Fund(G)	241.2	-9.79
UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	193.75	3.6				Motilal Oswal Midcap 30 Fund-Reg(G)	23.35	-9.83
Sundaram Select Focus(G)	165.22	3.51				ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)	48.57	-10.11
Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	32.51	3.31				BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G)	43.77	-10.2
Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)	32.95	3.29				UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	98.38	-10.24
DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.77	3.22				DHFL Pramerica Midcap Opp Fund-Reg(G)	17.56	-10.32
Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	25.7	3.13				Franklin Asian Equity Fund(G)	19.92	-10.44
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	96.64	2.99				Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series IV-Reg(G)	28.5	-10.48
Canara Rob Consumer Trends Fund-Reg(G)	36.15	2.76				Invesco India Infrastructure Fund(G)	16.13	-10.54
JM Large Cap Fund(G)	64.62	2.58				SBI Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	49.29	-10.57
Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	23.15	2.55				IDBI Midcap Fund(G)	10.48	-10.58
Reliance Large Cap Fund(G)	32.87	2.53				Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series I-Reg(G)	30.7	-10.66
SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)	112.33	2.26				Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage Fund(G)	384.89	-10.68
UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	114.66	2.2				Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series III-Reg(G)	29.97	-10.72
ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	29.17	2.1				SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)	104.13	-10.74
Invesco India Contra Fund(G)	45.27	2.05				Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series II-Reg(G)	30.53	-10.77
Mirae Asset India Equity Fund-Reg(G)	47.37	2.05				Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-IV-Reg(G)	13.08	-10.8
						IDBI Small Cap Fund(G)	9.21	-11.01
						Baroda Pioneer Mid-cap Fund(G)	8.54	-11.23
						Tata Infrastructure Fund(G)	52.03	-11.28

Market Capitalisation


L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)	79.15	-0.12	Fund-A(G)		
Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	14.06	-0.2	SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	22.54	-3.24
Sundaram Value Fund-II-Reg(G)	15.37	-0.3	SBI Magnum Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	44.72	-3.33
IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	20.4	-0.34	Tata Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	16.18	-3.36
Principal Focused Multicap Fund(G)	60.23	-0.38	HDFC Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G)	107.06	-3.57
Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	29.19	-0.58	JM Multicap Fund(G)	29.27	-3.65
Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	720.62	-0.58	IDFC Tax Advt(ELSS) Fund-Reg(G)	53.41	-3.65
Edelweiss Multi-Cap Fund-Reg(G)	13.62	-0.58	UTI LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)-Reg(G)	81.65	-3.76
Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)	51.4	-0.62	DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)	35.42	-3.82
Motilal Oswal Focused 25 Fund-Reg(G)	20.2	-0.81	DHFL Pramerica Tax Plan(G)	28.87	-3.86
Reliance Close Ended Equity Fund-II-A(G)	17.16	-0.85	ICICI Pru Value Fund-3(D) Fund(G)	10.21	-3.88
Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	189.21	-0.92	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	311.13	-3.89
Kotak Bluechip Fund(G)	214.97	-0.97	ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	58.23	-3.9
DSP Top 100 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	192.07	-1.03	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	11.64	-3.96
Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)	49.01	-1.28	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	24.46	-4.02
Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	29.99	-1.28	Templeton India Equity Income Fund(G)	44.16	-4.13
IDFC Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	30.25	-1.34	Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	75.87	-4.23
Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity Fund(G)	211.86	-1.37	Canara Rob Emerg Equities Fund-Reg(G)	87.4	-4.24
Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)	692.88	-1.38	DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	44.13	-4.29
Reliance Banking Fund(G)	256.05	-1.41	Sundaram Global Advt(G)	15.97	-4.45
Franklin India Taxshield(G)	537.66	-1.42	Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	127.78	-4.54
ICICI Pru Value Fund-15(G)	10.31	-1.43	IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	88.22	-4.62
BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	81.28	-1.48	ICICI Pru Value Fund-2(D) Fund-Reg(G)	10.54	-4.69
Baroda Pioneer Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	20.4	-1.59	JM Core 11 Fund(G)	8.25	-4.7
SBI BlueChip Fund-Reg(G)	36.72	-1.63	Reliance Value Fund(G)	69.54	-4.75
IDBI Equity Advantage Fund-Reg(G)	25.82	-1.64	L&T Long Term Advantage Fund-I(G)	48.55	-4.77
Invesco India Midcap Fund(G)	46.73	-1.68	Reliance Consumption Fund(G)	61.07	-4.82
SBI Large & Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	208.09	-1.72	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	109.37	-4.88
Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-B(G)	17.73	-1.77	SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	162.17	-4.97
Reliance Quant Fund(G)	23.81	-1.78	DHFL Pramerica Diversified Equity Fund-Reg(G)	12.45	-5.11
Franklin India Bluechip Fund(G)	443.56	-1.82	IDBI India Top 100 Equity Fund(G)	22.29	-5.23
Baroda Pioneer Large Cap Fund(G)	13.44	-1.83	Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)	10.51	-5.23
Tata Ethical Fund(G)	152.47	-1.87			
HDFC Capital Builder	279.57	-1.93			

SBI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	13.85	-11.33
L&T Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	15.9	-11.37
Aditya Birla SL Dividend Yield Fund(G)	155.2	-11.38
Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	13.04	-11.43
Baroda Pioneer ELSS 96(G)	41.32	-11.43
Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)	279.28	-11.63
UTI Focussed Equity Fund-I(G)	12.59	-11.64
Franklin India Smaller Cos Fund(G)	51.78	-11.71
Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)	67.74	-12.09
Tata Infrastructure Tax Saving Fund(G)	22.92	-12.14
SBI Magnum Comma Fund-Reg(G)	34.5	-12.14
Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)	446.3	-12.2
UTI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	49.04	-12.27
Tata Resources & Energy Fund-Reg(G)	13.61	-12.36
UTI LT Adv Fund-V(G)	9.42	-12.42
SBI LT Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	12.23	-12.46
SBI Magnum MidCap Fund-Reg(G)	69.59	-12.57
L&T Business Cycle Fund-Reg(G)	14.56	-12.58
Edelweiss Gr China Equity Off-Shore Fund-Reg(G)	24.13	-12.95
DSP India T.I.G.E.R Fund-Reg(G)	84.95	-13.19
DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	10.32	-13.44
Reliance Power & Infra Fund(G)	96.75	-13.47
UTI Transportation & Logistics Fund-Reg(G)	101.48	-13.68
SBI LT Advantage Fund-II-Reg(G)	12.83	-13.74
Canara Rob Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	43.1	

Toll rises to 76 in California fire

Chico (California): Northern California crews battling the country's deadliest wildfire in a century were bracing for strong winds, with gusts up to 50 miles per hour, creating the potential to erode gains they have made in containing a disaster that has killed at least 76 and levelled a town.

Even as hundreds of searchers sift through the rubble in the town of Paradise looking for the dead, nearly 1,300 people remain unaccounted for more than a week after the fire sparked in Butte County, Sheriff Kory Honea announced Saturday night.

Authorities stressed that the long roster does not mean they believe all those people are missing.

Honea pleaded with fire evacuees Saturday to review the list of those reported as unreachable by family and friends and call if they are safe. Deputies have located hundreds of people to date, but the overall number keeps growing because they are adding more names, including those from the disaster's chaotic early hours, Honea said.

"It's really very important for you to take a look at the list and call us if you're on the list," he said. The remains of five more people were found Saturday, including four in the decimated town of Paradise and one in nearby Concow, bringing the number of dead to 76. Honea said among the dead was Lolene



Rios, 56, whose son Jed tearfully told KXTV in Sacramento that his mother "had endless amount of love for me".

President Donald Trump toured the area Saturday, joined by California's outgoing and incoming Governors, both Democrats who have traded sharp barbs with the Republican administration.

He also visited Southern California, where firefighters were making progress on a wildfire that tore through communities west of Los Angeles from Thousand Oaks to Malibu, killing three people.

The president pledged the full support of the federal Government. Gov. Jerry Brown and Governor-elect Gavin Newsom thanked him for coming out. "We've never seen anything like this in California, we've never seen anything like this yet. It's like total devastation," Trump said as he stood amid the ruins of Paradise.

Rain was forecast for mid-week, which could help firefighters but also complicate the search for remains.

Northern California's Camp Fire has destroyed nearly 10,000 homes and torched 233 square

miles (603 square kilometres). It is 55 per cent contained.

The fire zone in Northern California is to some extent Trump country, and that enthusiasm was on display as dozens of people cheered and waved flags as his motorcade went by.

Kevin Cory, a wildfire evacuee who lost his home in Paradise, praised Trump for coming to a State that is often at odds with the White House.

"I think that California's been really horrible to him and the fights. I mean they're suing him," he said. "It's back and

forth between the State and the feds. It's not right."

But for the most part, survivors, some who had barely escaped and no longer had homes, were too busy packing up what little they had left or seeking help to pay much attention to the president's visit.

Michelle Mack Couch, 49, waited in line to get into a Federal Emergency Management Agency center in the city of Chico. She needed a walker for her elderly mother and tags for her car.

"Let's hope he gets us some help," said Couch, who voted for Trump and whose rental home burned down last week.

But as far as taking time out to watch the president, she said wryly, "We don't have a TV anymore." Honea expressed hope that Trump's visit would help with recovery, saying the tour by the Republican president and California's Democratic leaders "signals a spirit of cooperation here that ultimately benefit this community and get us on a path toward recovery".

In Southern California, Trump also met briefly at an airport hangar with families and first responders touched by the shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks more than a week ago.

Trump called the shooting at a country music bar, which left 12 dead, "a horrible, horrible event." AP

Lankan Prez holds all-party meet to end political crisis, no breakthrough

COLOMBO: An all-party meeting called by Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena failed to make any breakthrough on Sunday to end the raging political crisis set off by his controversial decision to remove Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe last month. The crisis erupted when President Sirisena suddenly announced on October 26 that he had sacked Prime Minister Wickremesinghe and installed ex-strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa in his place.

Sirisena later dissolved Parliament, almost 20 months before its term was to end, and ordered snap election. The Supreme Court on Tuesday overturned President Sirisena's decision to dissolve Parliament and halted the preparations for snap polls on January 5.

The crisis talks came after Sri Lanka's parliament witnessed unprecedented violence as lawmakers threw furniture and chilli powder at each other. The lawmakers on Friday approved a second vote of no confidence against Rajapaksa but Sirisena refused to accept it, saying his advice was not followed.

Sirisena on Sunday called an all-party meeting which ended without making breakthrough, Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP)

said. This was the first time that Sirisena, Wickremesinghe and Rajapaksa met face to face since the crisis erupted on October 26.

Wickremesinghe has maintained that his sacking by Sirisena was unconstitutional and illegal and he was still the Prime Minister.

"We placed our cards on the table. We told Rajapaksa that if the Speaker's rulings are wrong, they can move a motion to challenge it and get it passed. Response from President Sirisena was nil," Lakshman Kiriella, a senior UNP leader, said after talks which lasted for over 2 hours.

"We told President we have the majority. We are in a position to present the affidavits we signed," Ajith P Perera, another UNP leader said.

The JVP or the People's Liberation Front stayed away from Sunday's meeting. The party, in a letter to Sirisena, said that he was the creator of the crisis so he should end it. The party said it had no reason to attend the meeting.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, who on Wednesday announced there is no Prime Minister or Government following a no-confidence motion against disputed Prime Minister Rajapaksa, also boy-

cotted the meeting. Sirisena and Jayasuriya are at loggerheads ever since Jayasuriya decided to summon parliament on November 14 despite Sirisena's dissolution of the Assembly to hold fresh elections.

The chaos on Friday in Parliament forced the Speaker Jayasuriya to summon police inside the House. Jayasuriya, using a microphone, conducted the proceedings while standing on the floor of Parliament, which for the second time passed a no-confidence motion against Rajapaksa and his Government by a voice vote. Jayasuriya first offered to take the vote by name, but was unable to do so because of the commotion and opted for a voice vote. He then adjourned the house until Monday.

After the second vote against Rajapakse, Wickremesinghe demanded that his Government be restored, but there has been no response from Sirisena yet.

Wickremesinghe's party meanwhile asked Facebook to safeguard the identity of its supporters on the social media platform, fearing information sharing with what it calls the country's "illegal" Government can lead to a crackdown against the users. PTI

APEC leaders divided after US, China spat

Port Moresby: Leaders from 21 Asia-Pacific nations failed on Sunday to bridge gaping divisions at a summit overshadowed by a war of words over the US and China as they vie for influence in the region.

For the first time in the history of the APEC grouping, leaders were unable to agree on a formal written declaration amid sharp differences over trade policy. "The leaders agreed that instead of a traditional leaders' declaration, they would leave it to the hands of PNG as the chair to issue a chair statement on behalf of all the members," said Zhang Xiaolong, a spokesman from the Chinese foreign ministry.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau admitted there were "different visions on particular elements with regard to trade that prevented full consensus on a communique document."

The annual gathering, held for the first time in Papua New Guinea, was overshadowed by speeches from Chinese President Xi Jinping and US Vice-President Mike Pence, which appeared to represent competing bids for regional leadership.

Pence warned smaller countries not to be seduced by China's massive Belt-and-Road infrastructure programme, which sees Beijing offer money to poorer countries for construction and development projects. The "opaque" loans come with strings attached and build up "staggering debt", Pence charged, mocking the initiative as a "constricting belt" and a "one-way road".

He urged nations instead to stick with the United States, which doesn't "drown our partners in a sea of debt" or "coerce, corrupt or compromise your

independence".

In a speech to business leaders just minutes before Pence, Xi insisted the initiative was not a "trap" and there was no "hidden agenda" amid criticism that it amounts to "chequebook diplomacy" in the region. Xi also lashed out at "America First" trade protectionism, saying it was a "short-sighted approach" that was "doomed to failure".

The feisty barbs on a gleaming white cruise ship moored in Port Moresby set the scene for a potentially fiery meeting between Xi and US President Donald Trump at the G20 summit in Argentina at the end of this month.

But Xi and Pence, who both wore shiny, red shirts provided by the Pacific island did hold talks on Saturday night at the leaders' gala dinner.

Pence told reporters on Sunday: "I spoke to President Xi twice during the course of this conference. We had a candid conversation. He told him that the US is interested in a better relationship with China "but there has to be change" in Beijing's trade policies.

With fears that a trade war between the two rivals could cripple the Pacific Rim economy, some attendees voiced concern about the growing rivalry for influence in the region.

"Business leaders do not want to speak out, but behind the scenes here, they are talking over dinner saying 'how has this happened?'" said Denis O'Brien, the billionaire chairman of Digicel. "It's a very forced situation, one country is trying to force all the other countries to change tariffs agreed over years," O'Brien told AFP. Trump and Russian President Vladimir

Putin both decided to skip the gathering, leaving the spotlight on Xi who arrived two days early to open a Chinese-funded school and road in Papua New Guinea's dirt-poor capital Port Moresby.

Xi has been the star of the show, front and centre at official photos whereas Pence has kept a lower profile, only deciding at the last minute to stay overnight in Port Moresby -- shelving original plans to fly in and out from Cairns in Australia.

As if to counter Chinese largesse, the US, Australia, New Zealand and Japan on Sunday announced a project to boost electricity capacity in Papua New Guinea.

The project aims to raise the percentage of the PNG population with access to electricity from 13 per cent to 70 per cent.

And as the US and China vie for influence in the region, the statement dangled the prospect of similar projects for countries that "support principles and values which help maintain and promote a free, open, prosperous and rules-based region."

With the official business of the summit relatively low-key, much of the focus has been on the unlikely venue of Port Moresby, which is hosting its first international event of this scale.

The city is on lockdown with hundreds of police and military patrolling the streets of the notoriously crime-ridden capital. Warships are stationed just off the coast to provide security for the leaders, and delegates and media have been housed in enormous cruise ships due to a dearth of hotel rooms. AFP

Khaleda Zia challenges 7-year sentence in graft case

DHAKA: Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Sunday challenged the seven-year sentence handed out to her in a corruption case for embezzling millions from a charitable trust in her late husband's name, claiming that she has been convicted "illegally and unjustly".

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief challenged the trial court's decision four days after receiving the full text of the verdict announced on October 29.

The 638-page decision and the 700-page appeal petition also include a petition for bail, said her lawyer Kayser Kamal after submitting the petition to the High Court on Sunday, the bdnws reported.

"The BNP chairperson has been convicted illegally and unjustly," she was quoted as saying by the daily. "We have appealed for her sentence to be dismissed and for her release."

A High Court bench will be formed to decide on the appeal.

The trial court in its verdict in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case found the former prime minister guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 and sentenced her to seven years in prison and fined her Tk 1 million. Zia, 73, has been in custody since February 8, when she was sentenced to five years in prison in another case related to embezzlement of funds of an orphanage named after her husband late president Ziaur Rahman.

The latest sentence, which comes ahead of general elections in December, is related to the Zia Charitable Trust. According to the case, Zia and three others abused their



power and collected USD

The trial court in its verdict in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case found the former prime minister guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 and sentenced her to seven years in prison and fined her Tk 1 million

375,000 for the trust from unknown sources.

The Zia Charitable Trust graft case was filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2011.

The judge granted the three other suspects in the case the same sentence for abetting corrupt activity under the Penal Code.

The court order also allowed the government to seize the 70 decimals of land bought in the name of the Zia Charitable Trust. PTI

61-yr-old Indian shot dead by teenager in America

New York: A 61-year old Indian-origin man in New Jersey was shot dead by a 16-year old boy, who is facing charges in connection to the murder, prosecutors said.

Sunil Edla was shot to death Thursday evening outside his apartment in Ventnor city, Atlantic County Prosecutor Damon Tyner said in a statement.

Ventnor City Police Department was informed on the night of November 15 about the shooting. Police located Edla on the sidewalk, with gunshot wounds. Edla had succumbed to his injuries by the time the police arrived. Edla's vehicle, a 2002 Subaru Forester, was missing from the scene. The vehicle was subsequently found by Atlantic City Police Officers in a different area. After the vehicle was located by the officers, the suspect was subsequently tracked with the assistance of the Atlantic City surveillance center.

Further investigation by the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Ventnor City Police Department and the Atlantic City Police Department led to the identification and arrest of the sus-

pect, a juvenile male, on the morning of November 16.

Preliminary autopsy showed the cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death homicide. The suspect was charged via Juvenile Complaint with murder, robbery, carjacking, unlawful possession of a handgun. He is being held at the Harborfields Juvenile Detention Center in Egg Harbor City. "I'm just speechless right now they could have just taken the car and let him go," Edla's son Morrison Edla said in a report in NBCPhiladelphia.Com.

A report in the Press of Atlantic City said Edla, a father of two and grandfather, was a 30-year resident of Atlantic County and worked in Atlantic City's hospitality industry. He was planning to travel to India to visit family. "He (Edla) was humble. He never argued. I helped him when he came to US in 1987. I was very close to him," his cousin Raj Casula said.

"Everyone was calling him and talking to him because he was leaving for India so soon," said Casula. Edla had planned a two-month trip to India to

visit his mother for her 95th birthday and celebrate Christmas with family.

Family friend Dave Nethagani said Edla was a kind man and active in the community. Edla was best known for playing piano during church services at Chelsea Community Presbyterian Church in Atlantic City.

A neighbour said the killer ambushed Edla and shot him dead right after the grandfather had brought a child into his house. Surveillance video showed the teen riding up to Edla's home. The boy dropped his bike and hid as he waited for Edla to exit the house. J u s t before 8 p.m. Thursday, family members said, Edla was leaving his home to work the overnight shift at the North Carolina Avenue

Rodeway Inn in Atlantic City. According to family, he started his car then went back in the house briefly. After walking back down the second-floor apartment stairs, he was shot on the sidewalk and left for dead. Ventnor police Chief Doug Biagi said an officer has been posted in the neighborhood "just to ease anybody's fears." PTI

Pak PM meets Abu Dhabi crown prince

Dubai: Imran Khan held talks with the crown prince of Abu Dhabi on Sunday and discussed matters of bilateral, regional and mutual interest, amid reports that the UAE is ready to extend financial assistance to Pakistan to minimise the cash-strapped country's dependence on an IMF bailout package. PTI

Taliban hold talks with US envoy in Qatar

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Taliban have held three days of talks with US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Gulf state of Qatar, where the Afghan insurgent group has a political office, a Taliban official and another individual close to the group said Sunday.

The talks are aimed at renewing the Afghan peace process and eventually winding down America's longest war.

Seventeen years after the US-led invasion that ended Taliban rule, the militants control nearly half of Afghanistan and carry out near-daily attacks on local security forces and government officials.

The two individuals said Khairullah Khairkhwah, the former Taliban governor of Herat, and Mohammed Fazl, a former Taliban military chief, attended the marathon talks.

The two individuals spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

US officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The State Department has refused to comment on reported talks

with the Taliban.

A third individual with knowledge of the discussions said the Taliban pressed for a postponement of next year's presidential elections and the establishment of an interim government under a neutral leadership.

Abdul Sattar Sirat, an ethnic Tajik and Islamic scholar, was suggested as a candidate to lead an interim administration.

The individual, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said Khalilzad wants to reach a settlement within six months, a timescale the Taliban said was too short.

Khalilzad also proposed a cease-fire, which the Taliban rejected, the individual said, adding that there was no agreement on the release of prisoners, opening the Taliban office or lifting a Taliban travel ban.

Khairkhwah and Fazl were among five senior Taliban members released from the US prison at Guantanamo Bay in 2014 in exchange for US Sgt Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured by the Taliban after walking off his base in Afghanistan in 2009.

Have been briefed on Khashoggi tapes but advised not to listen it: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he has been fully briefed on an audio recording related to the brutal killing of the dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but was advised against listening to those "suffering" tapes.

Khashoggi, 59, who wrote for The Washington Post, was killed last month inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul where he had gone to collect papers related to his marriage.

Turkish investigators say they have audio recording of his killings, which it has shared with key partners including the US.

In an interview with Chris Wallace of Fox News, which was aired on Sunday, Trump for the first time acknowl-

edged that he has been briefed on the audio recording of the Khashoggi's murder.

Trump said he hasn't listened to it, as he was advised not to hear the "suffering tape", according to the news channel.

A day earlier, Trump spoke with the CIA chief on the agency's assessment of the killing of Khashoggi.

He expects a full report on it by Tuesday.

In the interview, Trump defended his policy on Saudi Arabia, saying "We have put on very heavy sanctions, massive sanctions on a large group of people from Saudi Arabia. But at the same time, we do have an ally and I want to stick with an ally that in many ways has been very good."

He also said it "takes two to tango" to resolve the conflict in Yemen, where Iranian-backed

insurgents are facing off against Saudi-backed forces, noting that "I want Saudi to stop, but I want Iran to stop also".

A day earlier he told reporters in California that (Khashoggi's murder) was a horrible thing that took place.

"It's a horrible thing that took place, the killing of a journalist...It should never have happened," Trump told reporters travelling with him to California.

Asked about the reports that the CIA had assessed involvement by the Saudi Crown Prince, the President said, "they haven't assessed anything yet. It's too early. That was a very a premature report."

"We'll be having a very full report over the next two days, probably Monday or Tuesday," the US President said.

May warns rebels removing her as leader won't make Brexit easier

PTI ■ LONDON

Defiant British Prime Minister Theresa May on Sunday warned her Conservative Party rebel MPs that overthrowing her as leader would only make negotiation process with the European Union tough over the future of Britain's relationship with the bloc after Brexit.

Britain is facing a political crisis after this week's announcement about the Withdrawal Agreement struck with the 28-member European Union. Two Cabinet ministers and several junior government members have quit the May Cabinet and some of her party MPs have submitted letters of no-confidence.

May could face a no-confidence vote if at least 15 per cent of her party lawmakers -

meaning 48 MPs - submit letters saying she has lost their support.

According to reports, the party's influential 1922 Committee is edging closer to the 48-MP mark that is needed to trigger a leadership contest.

But May vowed to fight on for what she believes is the best deal possible.

"Politics is a tough business and I've been in it for a long time," she said during a television interview on Sunday, adding that the next seven days "are going to be critical" for the future of the UK and that she will be travelling to Brussels to meet with EU leaders before an emergency European Council summit on November 25.

Asked whether Sir Graham Brady, Chair of the backbench

Trend
Slazer

'I never had a career'



Internationally acclaimed Indian filmmaker **SHEKHAR KAPUR** says he never had a career and that life, for him, has always been an adventure. When asked him if "anything was left in his career" The filmmaker replied, "I never had a career. I dropped that word from my life when I was 24 and walked away from a successful 'career' as a Chartered Accountant in London. Since then life has been, is, and will always be an adventure. On this journey I've done so many things. Including making films." Kapur is known for his recurring role in the TV series *Khandan* in the mid-1980s and his directorial debut in the cult Bollywood film *Masoom* in 1983 and then *Mr. India*.

'I like trolls. I don't hate them at all because they bring a lot engagement and content to my videos, because the way they type sometime it is so funny that I end up using it. And I feel the best way to deal with



them is by not reacting because I feel the minute we react, we give them the power that they do not deserve.'
—Prajakta Koli

Actress **RASIKA DUGAL**, is all set to lend her voice to audio platform Audible.in, says audio books might be her next obsession. The Audible original story is written by novelist Durjoy Dutta. It's a dystopian love story titled *The Last Boy To Fall in Love*. "As an actor, when working on a visual medium one has so many tools at ones disposal to create something. But here you only have your voice. It was an interesting challenge to have to work on that in isolation to create a sense of urgency without losing clarity," Rasika said.

'My wife is awesome'

Model **HAILEY BALDWIN** subtly confirmed her marriage to pop singer **JUSTIN BIEBER** on social media by changing her last name to Bieber. "Hailey Rhode Bieber," the daughter of Stephen Baldwin wrote. The two reportedly wed in a secret ceremony in September, just two months after Bieber proposed with a custom oval engagement ring on July 7 in the Bahamas. Also on November 15, Justin confirmed their marital status. "My wife is awesome," he captioned a photograph of the pair smiling and holding hands.

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Mystic yogi SADHGURU and singer MOHIT CHAUHAN narrate tales from their childhood to give examples of how lives have transformed today because of storytelling. By CHAHAK MITTAL

How often do you see two soul-stirring beings — one through his wisdom and words, the other through his voice and music — collaborate and narrate some untold tales? When mystic and yogi Sadhguru and singer Mohit Chauhan came together on one stage at Kathakar, a storytelling festival — a rare sight, they held the audience in their thrall.

It is the contact between the storyteller and the listener that brings a story alive, especially when the audience spans across all age groups. It was much more than just telling stories when the duo held centrestage.

Surrounded by two to three large incense burners placed before the stage, the place encapsulated a spiritual vibe as the fragrance of camphor spread all around the venue. The fire invoked the setting of a temple or a pious holy ritual and the atmosphere too acquired spiritual overtones. So when the number of seats fell short, the remaining audience found space on the floor and sat cross-legged in the *padmasana* position. All eyes and ears were directed at the stage listening to the *kissey*, *kahaniyaan* and conversations between the two mystics.

Narrating his story of how he dreamt about mountains every now and then, Sadhguru's search for his dreams began when he first trekked across the hills in South and North India, including the Himalayas, but couldn't find what he was looking for. "It was only when I trekked back to the South and I reached Yelagiri hills in Coimbatore that I could



find what I had been dreaming of," said Sadhguru on the first day of festival. So what is it that he wanted to convey through the story? asked Mohit. "Stop putting logic to everything, it is all about attention," laughed Sadhguru. He pointed towards today's technology-driven world and how children are

moving away from storytelling and reading books, to just devoting themselves to gadgets which are eventually distracting them from paying attention to academics. He said, "I don't think we need to blame it on technology. Long ago, when technology was not so advanced, we lost the art of storytelling and even the process of

learning. Earlier, we read books and papers to gain knowledge. Today if they are browsing the internet for stories, what is the harm? But the problem is that they are not focussing on one story, rather multiple stories and hence do not know even one of them." But the story that Sadhguru narrated

was universal and not meant just for children. It began with his childhood when Sadhguru saw a calculator for the first time. He almost cried that despite the fact that the calculator could do a maths problem easily and quickly, his teacher tortured him in the maths class everyday. Sadhguru said, "The idea of education has destroyed a more holistic and dialectical impression of life. That was an evidence that education in the coming times would become completely meaningless. A simple gadget will be able to do the things better than somebody who calls himself an intellectual."

He continued with stories about life, human race and aspirations and the session ended with Sadhguru and Mohit's collaboration of the holy song, *Shankar Sankat Harna*.

It did not only seem like a spiritual session rather an experience worth cherishing and narrating forward.

Sadhguru also talked about a wide variety of stories from his life as a maverick child, as an adventurous teenager pursuing biking and trekking and finally, as a spiritual seeker. As a four-year-old, he decided to study the life of insects, so he would store tadpoles and different species of insects in the penicillin bottles belonging to his physician father. The other story was about his grandmother, who died at the age of 113. She was famous for her typically unfeminine uproarious laughter, "which would shake the whole street."

The podium was surrounded by stalls of books by Sadhguru, Rachna Rawat Bisht and other writers who told tales at the three-day festival that ended yesterday.

Wonder girl

Young scientist **GITANJALI RAO** talks about her creation with **ASMITA SARKAR**



She is all of 12 and is known globally as girl wonder for receiving the 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. What catapulted Gitanjali Rao to the high table was her invention, Tethys, a low-cost technology for testing lead in water.

What inspired her to make it? "I was originally inspired by the Flint Water Crisis which I had been introduced through a STEM lab and by watching news. After I learned about Flint, a town in the US, I continued to research and follow it for the next couple of years. When I saw my parents testing for lead in our water, I immediately realised that using test strip would take quite a few tries to get accurate results and I really wanted to do something to change this not only for my parents but for the residents of Flint and places like Flint around the world," she said.

The Indian American girl has created a sensor-based device that is faster than current technologies available in the market and is cheaper.

"After my testing and developing a method for gathering data for analytics, I intend to partner with the US Environmental Protection Agency to

crowd source water quality data. The idea is to not only test local water sources but try to use the data from various sources to produce a heat map that shows the contamination levels in a region in a single view. It can also help in developing in prediction models of the spread in future. Parallely, I intend to create about 30-50 reproducible prototypes which can be used for field-testing starting with Flint," Rao said.

For developing the project, she worked with a mentor, Dr. Shafer, who helped her with her experimentation plans and made sure she wasn't immediately rushing to the next steps. "On the first Skype call, I was a bit nervous to talk to someone so knowledgeable who was an accomplished scientist, but as soon as I started talking to her, she made me very comfortable. I learnt to be diligent and persistent from her. She listened carefully when I narrated my failures to her and provided me with alternate paths to keep moving ahead. She taught me to reach out and ask for help," said the pre-teen. She added that she earlier hesitated in asking questions but having met Dr. Shafer she's learnt to reach out to college professors and high school teachers for either space to perform her tests or ask questions related to her research.

She looks up to her parents, who have encouraged her to pursue her ideas with abandon and provide the necessary resources to make them a reality but on the scientific front she looks up to not younger and newer scientists but Marie Curie. "She didn't just discover two new elements, but also performed life-threatening tests and put others before herself. That is what a true role model means to me," said she.

Her age is no benchmark to judge her intelligence as concerns like the wage gap among men and women already weigh heavily on her mind. For this too, the young problem solver has a solution. "I wrote a sample bill for the Colorado legislature, proposing that the wage gender gap be closed by giving women the opportunity to stand up and discuss their wages without repercussions from an employer. It is important to say what you believe. If your male co-worker, who is doing the same job as you, for the same amount of time, is getting a higher salary, then speaking up and talking about it is important. We normally don't do that or aren't allowed by company policies. I believe that women shouldn't be prevented to talk to their employer about their salary and share it openly with coworkers. This can help us close the wage gap once and for all," said Rao.

She has a wise head resting on her small shoulders as she understands the immediacy of the environmental disaster facing us. She has a message for young girls where she says, "I would like to let them know that each one of us can observe around us and understand the social or environmental problems — and find a way to solve them. Do not be afraid to try as failure is part of the learning process. Solving problems does not always have to be about science. If you are worried about marine pollution, create posters to bring awareness and share it. If you think your community needs more recycling bins, approach lawmakers or other influential people by writing or meeting them. There are many ways to solve problems, and technology is just one aspect," she said.

The young scientist will be in India for the 10th edition of TEDxGateway on December 2 2018 at Dome — NSCI, Worli, Mumbai.

MARY POPPINS IS BACK

The film's sequel will bring back the adventures and tales of the nanny who was loved for her magical skills

Remember the practically-perfect nanny with unique magical skills who would turn an ordinary task into a fantastic adventure?

Starring Emily Blunt, Disney's *Mary Poppins* (1964) is back as *Mary Poppins Returns*. In this new musical and sequel, Mary Poppins is back to help the next generation of the Banks family find the joy and wonder missing in their lives following a personal loss. The enigmatic nanny is joined by her friend Jack, played by Lin-Manuel Miranda, an optimistic street lamplighter who helps bring light — and life — to the streets of London.

Directed by Rob Marshall, screenplay is by David Magee and the story by Magee & Marshall and John DeLuca, the film is based upon the *Mary Poppins Stories* by PL Travers.

"I was incredibly honoured to be approached by Disney about directing a sequel," said Rob. "This is a brand new original film musical from top to bottom, which is very rare, and it is a wonderful opportunity to create something specifically for the screen," he added. The film also

stars Ben Whishaw as Michael Banks, Emily Mortimer as Jane Banks, Julie Walters as the Banks' housekeeper Ellen, Pixie Davies, Nathanael Saleh and introducing Joel Dawson as the Banks' children, with Colin Firth as Fidelity Fiduciary Bank's William Weatherall Wilkins, and Meryl Streep as Mary's eccentric cousin, Topsy. Dick Van Dyke is Mr. Dawes Jr., the retired chairman of the bank now run by Firth's character.

"*Mary Poppins* was the first film I saw as a child and it opened my mind up to movies and to the love of musicals, adventure and fantasy in film," said Rob. "But this film isn't just for children... it's for the child in all of us," he added.

Produced by John DeLuca, Rob Marshall, and Marc Platt, with Cillian McDougal serving as executive producer, the film is set to release in Indian cinema on January 4, 2019.



WEBBED



RAJMA CHAWAL Set in the chaotic, vibrant Chandni Chowk, Delhi, the show captures the relationship between a father (Rishi Kapoor) attempting to reconnect with his estranged son (Anirudh Tanwar) through social media assuming the online persona of a young woman. The film is an emotional roller-coaster, interspersing grief and the pressure of family expectations with humour, compassion and love. Starring Amyra Dastur, and Aparshakti Khurana among others, the film is slated to release on Netflix on November 30.

THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES After accidentally crashing Santa's sleigh, a brother and sister pull an all-nighter to save Christmas with a savvy, straight-talking St. Nick. The show follows Kate (Darby Camp) and Teddy (Judah Lewis), two siblings whose plan is to catch Santa Claus on camera. Their efforts turn into an exciting and unexpected journey that most can only dream about. As their wild night unfolds, the two work together with Santa and his loyal Elves to save Christmas. The film, also starring Kurt Russell, releases on Netflix on November 22.



TECH TALK

'AI is transforming lives'

Ethical Artificial Intelligence a pressing need, says UN expert

While digital solutions like Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming lives, these also raises concerns, ranging from security to human rights abuses, says an expert.

According to Eleonore Pauwels, Research Fellow on Emerging Cyber technologies at United Nations University (UNU), AI is transforming our lives, from reshaping our intimate and networked interactions to monitoring our bodies, moods and emotions, both in visible and invisible ways. "The all-encompassing capture and optimisation of our personal information — the quirks that help define who we are and trace the shape of our lives — will increasingly be used for various purposes without our direct knowledge or consent," Pauwels was quoted as saying to the UN News.

Thus, how to protect independent human thought in an increasingly algorithm-driven



world goes beyond the philosophical and is now an urgent and pressing dilemma, she stressed. Importantly, the evolution of AI is happening in parallel with technical advances in other fields, such as genomics, epi-

demiology and neuroscience. "That means that not only is your coffee maker sending information to cloud computers, but so are wearable sensors like Fitbits; intelligent implants inside and outside our bodies; brain-computer interfaces, and

even portable DNA sequencers," Pauwels said. As a result, while the AI revolution presents great promise, on the other hand there is also a great peril, especially when it comes to ownership and control of our most intimate data. It is because besides analysing our shopping patterns and dating preferences, computer codes can also read our genes, cells and vital signs. The digital representation of our characteristic data could help create the world's largest precision medicine dataset or it could render everyone more vulnerable to exploitation and intrusions than ever before, Pauwels said. "These reflections exhibit an entanglement of ethical and policy challenges that needs to be mapped, unveiled, and analysed to nurture an inclusive foresight discussion on the global governance of AI," Pauwels said.—JANS



two team) leopard hunt game that is played in South India, it is meant for children above eight. One player controls three tigers and the other player up to 15 lambs/goats. The tigers 'hunt' the goats while the goats attempt to block the tigers' movements. The chequered lines across the red and yellow cloth board and the stone pieces made for an interesting way to spend an evening.

Another game called the Pallankuzhi, which apparently Sita used to play, reminded one of an African tribal game called the Mancala. The wooden board with bowls and tiny glass pebbles does not end until one player has no pebbles to continue with. The start-up also brought with them the miniature version of the Chaupad called Ashtachema and there were also small diaries decorated with Kalighat paintings and miniature Phads from Rajasthan. The studio also brought with them rare art forms like the Kaavi, from the Konkan coast which only exists in two temples in Goa currently and Bidri art from Karnataka which is made in the village of Bidar.

But not just old Indian games, more contemporary ones but indigenously developed too could be seen here. Sphero's stall was dotted with robots that stood about 15 cm tall. But don't go on their diminutive size, for they can teach coding and programming.

The pottery and science stalls — each appealing to different faculties of the brain — Murti Arts Academy and Wonderlab, held small workshops because they believe that the only way to teach children and engage them is by showing them how it is done. Children observe and absorb before they get engaged in a creative pursuit.

Multiple children of all sizes, some pulling their pants up during a small dance workshop with a choreographer while proud parents milled around taking pictures could also be seen.

"A great event for the kids, a unique one that lets them enjoy and learn at the same time, as the children today have forgotten what outdoor fun is, the expo will inspire them to have fun and learn away from technology and gadgets," said Ashwani Lohani, chairman and MD Railway Board.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

WORKOUT FOR THE BRAIN

Forget gadgets and tech toys and instead opt for Indian board games that exercise the white and grey cells. By ASMITA SARKAR

Indian games have become almost extinct since social media and video games have taken over the attention spans of children. Board games like Snakes and Ladders, strategy games like Chess or even card games like Patience that helped develop a child's brain by testing memory and cognitive skills have become a novelty.

There are several reasons why the board games are making a comeback as opposed to the ones played on a screen. These are believed to be beneficial for the brain. They stimulate the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex, which are responsible for complex thought and memory formation. Board games help the brain retain and build cognitive associations well into old age too. It has been known for preventing cognitive decline, which is associated with dementia and Alzheimer's.

A good place to pick them up is an exhibition called Jack &



Jill, the wonder years festival which has multiple stalls and activities for the little ones. While there is the usual clutter of clothes and the usual toys, there were four stalls that stood apart amidst the din at the National Railway Museum where the exhibition is being held. There were of course the usual families,

WOODEN BOARDS, ANIMAL CHARACTERS AND GLASS PEBBLES WERE THE ESSENCE OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN GAMES

school children and hassled teachers who stood and sat around waiting for their chance to get on the toy trains that take you around the venue for a joy ride. Huge trains and little children waited patiently side by side for the driver to start the ride. Even while the main attraction of the museum are obviously the train models stationed everywhere but there were other treasures to be found too.

At Nazariya a design studio one couldn't help but notice several unique items. A coir tree created by artist HariKrishna Parida from Chandpur, Odisha, diaries with Gond and Patachitra art from Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal respectively. There were the mandatory jewellery and diaries made by masters of hand-crafts across India. But what caught our eye were games like the Aadu Puli Aatam which in Tamil means The Lambs and Tigers.

A strategic, two-player (or

computer, you must do it, no matter if it is as frequent as every other day. These updates can significantly reduce the possibility of ransomware attacks. It would be best if you enable automatic software updates on your system.

PAY ATTENTION TO SHORTENED LINKS

Cyber attackers often trick online users to click on shortened links over social media, emails and other websites. A study found that 78 per cent of people were aware of the risks associated with unknown links in emails and yet they click anyway. URL shortening services such as Bitly are used to create these links that look like legitimate ones but divert to malicious websites. It is always a good practice to hover your mouse over the web link in order to see whether it redirects to the correct URL or not.

FREE STUFF COMES AT A COST

Most of the download sites that let you get stuff for free could cost you the other way around. Free stuff such as music files are often laced with adware, spyware and other types of malware that can cause severe damage to your data and privacy. Prefer opting for reliable sources for downloading content even if it means paying a little.

HOTSPOTS LEAVE YOU VULNERABLE

Whether it's an airport or a restaurant, free WiFi hotspots are convenient, but you can be easily attacked. Since there are several users connected to a WiFi hotspot at once, the chances of losing sensitive information are high.

It is shocking to see that the annual number of ransomware attacks worldwide from the year 2014 to 2017 is 184 million. Clearly with time, cyber-attacks are getting more and more sophisticated which makes cyber awareness vital for online users. Be aware and be safe.

(The author is the founder of a technology company.)

End conflicts permanently

Imbibing true spiritual knowledge imparted by the Supreme being within oneself can be the answer to all disputes forever.

By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Most of us dread conflicts in our life because it makes us uncomfortable and stressful. As a result, we learn to avoid, suppress or withdraw from conflict or even act as though it doesn't exist. Our present society, though advanced in some respects, is suffering deeply from many serious problems and conflicts that are social, economic, political, religious, cultural, ethnic and more.

In fact, conflicts appear at all levels of our society from the inter personal level to international level and seem to be un-ending. As a result, some people think that these are inescapable and are a part of life. However, there are others who have an undying hope and a high upsurge of enthusiasm in their mind, for they feel that conflicts can definitely be resolved and that these will end one day. They think that fighting and finishing these conflicts is a sport and winning them is equivalent to being successful in life.

In fact, many religions and philosophies declare this as their very aim or goal. But one finds that in spite of all the efforts by such people over long periods of time, the final resolution of conflicts eludes us and the remedies applied are worse than the disease in many cases. There is, therefore, a compelling cause to introspect why, in spite of all the sincerity and the efforts — at least in the earliest phase of every religion, or social service institution, or political or economic school of thought — the conflicts have increased in number, become more aggravated and got badly inter-twined.

A deep analysis of the situation, considered from the point of systems and methods applied, would reveal that some of the factors that have brought forth the present to complex and almost irresolvable state, are: religions, philosophies, social theories, psychological concepts about human nature and more. These have in-built conflicts in their own system or schools of thought and these are not merely of academic interest but are fraught with serious consequences when applied to human conditions. Since, they have failed to resolve conflicts in their own doctrines, findings, beliefs, objectives and theories and practices, how can they resolve conflicts in the outer world?

It is a known fact that all religions, philosophies, social, economic and political theories and psychological systems are based on a particular interpretation or understanding of history. This itself is untenable or erroneous and so these systems cannot trace and understand correctly the historical roots of the problems or conflicts. In that case, how can they eradicate conflicts? If they had understood the genesis and pathology correctly, they should have been able to resolve or reduce conflicts.



Similarly all religions philosophies are based on some presumptions which themselves have not been validated by rational or practical proof. These presumptions or presuppositions are themselves in conflict with those of other religions and philosophies. So, instead of solving, they further add to the conflicts.

It needs to be understood that every confrontation can be ended, narrowed or reduced by appealing to a value but if that value is not accepted on good reason and faith by those systems or methodologies, the conflicts cannot be ended. For example, if a system of thought does not invariably adopt non-violence in its methods and instead is based on the belief that violence is justified to end violence and to establish peace, how can it establish an order of non-violence? People expect the state to end many conflicts but if the state is itself an instrument of coercion and violence, then how can it be the means to end them?

Moreover, one important thing is that all conflicts ensue from improper or incorrect relations with one's own self and also with others. They are also due to clash of ego or self-interests. So, if these problems of ego and selfishness are not solved, how can the dispute at other levels and in other forms be resolved? The system and method, applied as solution, should be such as do not give rise to another problem, even if they solve one or some of the problems. Otherwise, it would only mean replacing existing problems with newer ones.

Moreover, all problems and conflicts have to be dealt with together and simultaneously, else they will remain because they are so intermingled and interconnected that many will remain if even one of them exists. It is in this context that we should understand the importance of true spiritual knowledge imparted by the Supreme Being. Such an endeavour, under Supreme's direct and indirect guidance alone can and will end all conflicts forever which in turn can and will usher in the proverbial Golden Age.



Here are simple ways to keep one's data protected from ransomware and phishing.

By SANJIT CHATTERJEE

Be net safe



Phishing attacks, which are the primary delivery mechanisms for malware/ransomware, are on a noticeable rise and do not seem to go away anytime soon. In May 2017, the Wannacry ransomware attack infected more than 2,00,000 computers across 150 countries. Such attacks have spared no one — from hospitals to banks to big enterprises, the world has been hit hard.

With cyber security issues increasing day by day, safety concerns amongst internet users are also soaring. But worry not, we've put together seven simple cyber safety tips that will help you greatly reduce your chances of falling prey to cybercriminals.

DOES THAT EMAIL LOOK ALARMING? READ IT AGAIN

Punctuated with plenty of typos, exclamations, highlights and impersonal greetings such as "Dear Client/Customer" are some of the most easily spottable signs of phishing emails. One thing that you should always keep in mind is that no company or bank would ever ask for your personally iden-

tifiable information (PII) via email. This information includes your name, government identification numbers, credentials and other such details.

Targeted phishing, wherein the email sender appears to be a known friend or colleague, are sent by attackers to easily trick their targets. A thumb rule of safety here is to check the sender's email extension. Furthermore, emails that seem to be too good to be true must be deleted immediately.

TREAT FILE ATTACHMENTS WITH SUSPICION

File attachments laden with malware are commonly used in phishing attacks. Cybercriminals often rename Word documents, PDF documents and more, in such a way that they appear legitimate to the victim. Clicking and downloading malicious files can infect your system and compromise your sensitive information such as your internet banking password. It is, therefore, important to stay careful whenever you receive a file, check the sender details and if you find

anything fishy, it is best to delete it.

HAVE A SECURITY PRODUCT AND UPDATE IT REGULARLY

In order to mitigate your exposure to phishing emails, a software with anti-phishing, anti-spam and anti-malware capabilities can prove to be an indispensable tool. Such software can fight against the most complex cyber threats by scanning your system in real-time. Ensure using a reputable internet security software and keep it up-to-date.

TAKE BACK-UP

A ransomware attack locks your data and demand ransom for its release. So what could be the biggest weapon to defeat ransomware? Certainly, an active and reliable data backup strategy! Regular backup provides easy restoration and helps you start from where you left. Ensure that whatsoever backup medium you use, it is not reachable from the infected machine.

UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE

When it is time to update software on your

It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it.

—Lou Holtz

WEIGHTLIFTING IS GOOD FOR HEART

New study suggests that weightlifting, rather than walking and cycling, can better help keep heart diseases.

The study showed that engaging in both static activities such as strength training and dynamic activities like walking and cycling was associated with 30 to 70 per cent lower rates of cardiovascular disease risk factors. But, the associations were strongest for strength training among youth than older adults. "Both strength training and aerobic activity appeared to be heart healthy, even in small amounts, at the population level," said Maia P. Smith, Assistant Professor at St. George's University in Grenada. "However, static activity appeared more beneficial than dynamic," Smith added.

Further, the researchers suggested that clinicians should counsel patients, especially the elderly, to exercise regardless of activity types as patients who did both types of physical activity fared better than patients who simply increased the level of one type of activity.



SLOW READING SPEED LINKED TO DRY EYES

People suffering from chronic dry eye disease are likely to have a slow reading rate, according to researchers.

The chronic dry eye is a common disease in which natural tears fail to adequately lubricate the eyes, thus drastically affecting its functioning. The study found that the condition can slow a person's reading speed by as much as 10 per cent and can make it difficult to read for more than an average of 30 minutes. Those with clinically significant dry eye could read fewer words per minute — 32 words per minute less — than those without the condition, who read at the same rate of 272 words per minute.

"We suspected that people with dry eye were mostly unable to sustain good reading performance because their tears cannot re-lubricate their eye surfaces fast enough," said Esen Akpek, from the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute in US.



ARE AIR PURIFIERS HELPFUL INSIDE YOUR HOME?

Installing air purifiers in your homes may, help to some extent, combat the impact of deadly air on your respiratory and circulatory systems, 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 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.



HONKING EXPOSURE CAN MAKE YOU OBESE

Are you obese or overweight? Blame long term exposure to blaring horns and other noise from road traffic, said researchers.

The study showed that a 10 decibel (dB) increase in mean noise level was associated with a 17 per cent increase in obesity. "Our analysis shows that people exposed to the highest levels of traffic noise are at greater risk of being obese," said Maria Foraster, lead researcher from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health in Spain. It could be because noise generates stress and affects our sleep. It alters hormone levels and increases blood pressure. Moreover, among other effects, sleep disturbance deregulates glucose metabolism and alters the appetite, the researchers explained in the paper published in the journal Environment International.



GENES DECIDE YOUR CAFFEINE PREFERENCE

Are you a tea or coffee person? The answer may lie in your genetic predisposition towards bitter tastes, say researchers.

Bitterness acts as a natural warning system to protect us from harmful substances. The study, led by researchers from US-based Northwestern University, and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Australia, explored reactions to three bitter substances — caffeine, quinine and propylthiouracil (PROP) — to understand how they affect people's preference for drinking tea, coffee and alcohol. "You'd expect that people who are particularly sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine would drink less coffee," said Marilyn Cornelis, assistant professor of preventive medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. For alcohol, a higher sensitivity to the bitterness of PROP resulted in lower alcohol consumption, particularly of red wine.



'Magnificent Mary' punches into quarters

Five-time champion starts her campaign with easy win; Manisha pips World Champion in last 16 clash

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five-time champion M C Mary Kom punched her way into the 48kg quarterfinals while another veteran Sarita Devi made an early exit after losing a hard-fought 60kg bout in the AIBA Women's World Championships here on Sunday.

Chasing a historic sixth Gold and first medal since 2010, the 35-year-old Mary Kom registered a convincing 5-0 win over Aigerim Kessenayeva of Kazakhstan in her opening bout of the tournament.

The 36-year-old Sarita, who won a Gold in the 2006 edition when it was also held in the Capital city, lost to 2016 World Championships Silver medalist Kellie Harrington of Ireland in a split 3-2 verdict.

Sarita, who got a standing count against her opponent in the third round, later said the decision was wrong. She, however, said that she will accept the decision as she does not want another ban.

The Manipuri was handed a one year ban by the world body AIBA for refusing to accept her Bronze medal in protest during the victory ceremony at the 2014 Asian Games.

Besides Mary Kom, three other Indians — Manisha Moun (54kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Kachari Bhagyabati (81kg) — also made it to the quarterfinals

with 5-0, 5-0 and 4-1 wins on points in their respective pre-quarterfinal bouts.

Five Indians took the field on Sunday and only Sarita lost her bout. They are now just one step away from clinching a medal.

Mary Kom began with a watchful approach in the first round but she got to her rhythm with a left-right combination on her opponent in the second round. There were no many clear punches from both sides but the Manipuri, a mother of three, was clearly the better boxer with all the five judges giving their nod.

Four judges gave 30-27 each while one awarded 29-28 in favour of the Indian.

"It was a tough fight and there was a bit of pressure as it was my first bout of the tournament. I have been handling the pressure of expectation from the people of my country for the last 16 years and I am happy to face this pressure," said the Olympic Bronze medalist.

Mary Kom next face Wu Yu of China in the quarterfinal on Tuesday.

"I think she is an intelligent boxer and fast also. I have to think about which technique I have to use," she said.

A win on Tuesday will assure Mary

Women's World C'ship
Live from 1:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1



Kom of at least a Bronze medal which will be her first since 2010.

Sarita and Harrington traded a lot of punches in their lightweight pre-quarterfinal bout which was a fast and intense affair.

The veteran Indian, who also competed in the inaugural World Championships in 2001, expressed surprise when the Irishwoman was declared the winner.

"I am not happy with the decision (of the judges). The decision has gone 'ulta' (opposite), I thought I had the upperhand in all the three rounds. But what do I do, I was banned for one year after the 2014 Asian Games controversy. So, I cannot say anything now," she said after her bout.

"I don't know why these things happen to me only."

About the standing count against her in the third round, she said, "It was not a



standing count. My opponent was a south-paw and her legs got entangled in between mine and I slipped and fell."

The day began on a happy note for India with Manisha sending reigning world champion Dina Zhalaman of Kazakhstan packing with yet another authoritative win in 54kg to place herself just a step away from grabbing a maiden medal.

The 20-year-old Manisha won a 5-0 unanimous verdict against her more expe-

rienced rival in a pre-quarterfinal bout in her maiden World Championships.

This was the second win of the Haryana girl against Zhalaman as she had defeated the Kazakh boxer in the Silesian Women's Boxing championship in Poland earlier this year.

In the quarterfinals, Manisha faces top seed and 2016 World Championships Silver medalist Stoyka Petrova of Bulgaria.

"For me, once I am inside the ring it does not matter whether my opponent is a world champion or a silver medalist. So, my approach will be the same in my next bout also," she said.

"Today, like on my first bout, I played from a distance but I played faster and more aggressive. It was a good bout."

Borgohain, an Asian Championships Bronze medalist last year, had a tougher fight against 2014 World Championships Gold medalist Atheyna Bylon of Panama. It was a physical and aggressive fight and both the boxers fell on the floor on more than one occasion.

The 21-year-old Assamese next faces Scott Kaye Frances of Australia in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

For Bhagyabati, it was even tougher against a taller opponent Irina-Nicoletta Schonberger of Germany. But the Indian also turned out winner in her debut World Championships bout.

She now faces Paola Jessica Caicedo of Columbia in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

INDIA LOSE 1-2 TO JORDAN IN FRIENDLY

PTI ■ AMMAN

The Indian football team went down 1-2 to Jordan in an international football friendly, an improved second-half performance failing to salvage a draw for the visitors here.

This was a climbdown for Stephen Constantine's men weeks after holding World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi's higher-ranked China to a goalless stalemate.

The 97th ranked India, though, were without their talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri, who was ruled out of the game due to an injury.

The journey to the Jordan capital from New Delhi was also far from smooth for the Indian players, many of whom were left stranded at Kuwait City airport as flash floods in this part of the world disturbed the flight schedule.

Goalkeeper cum captain Amer Shafi on Saturday put Jordan ahead with a free goal in the 25th minute.

Thanks to the howler from India custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who failed to read the bounce of his counterpart's shot from the other end of the pitch, Jordan led 1-0 at the break.

Ehsan Haddad consolidated Jordan's position and made it 2-0 with his 58th minute



strike.

Coming on as a substitute for Jackie Chand Singh, debutant Nishu Kumar pulled one back for the visitors when he found the net from a close range in the 61st minute. That was only his second touch of the game.

While he goofed up to concede the game's first goal at the King Abdullah International Stadium, Gurpreet also saved a penalty in the 10th minute.

India's number one goalkeeper dived to his right to deny Baniatyeh.

While India upped their game after the break, the first half action was eventful, as it included a missed penalty, one booking and a howler by India captain Sandhu. The game against the 112th ranked Jordan was in preparation for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

It's time to deliver, says Chinglensana

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The preparations are done and it is time to deliver in the tournament that matters the most after a mediocre year, Indian hockey team vice-captain Chinglensana Singh Kangujam said on Sunday ahead of the World Cup.

The mega event begins November 28 and will conclude on December 16 at the city's Kalinga Stadium.

"The past three months in particular has been very challenging for us with the training intensifying as it's important for us to peak at the World Cup. The team is aware that this year could have been much better for us in terms of results but now is the time to do away with the bitterness of the past performances by doing well at the prestigious event," said Chinglensana.

Playing in the midfield alongside skipper Manpreet Singh and youngsters Sumit and Nilakanta Sharma, Chinglensana exuded confidence about his team's prospects.

"Every single player has worked tremendously hard and it is time to convert all that into good results. I



believe the World Cup will be a battle of mental strength as much as it is going to be about fitness and team strategies.

"It is an advantage that almost everyone in the team has the experience of playing top-quality matches in the Kalinga Stadium during the Hockey India League and are aware of the atmosphere the fans create here.

"It's also a plus point to have the Junior World Cup winners who have experienced 20,000 people cheering for them during the 2016 Junior World Cup in Lucknow," added the Manipur-born player.

Chinglensana, who has so far played 199 internationals, is slated to complete a milestone on the opening day of India's campaign against South Africa.

"Yes, if everything goes right, I will be playing my milestone match in front of our home crowd and there is no better feeling than completing 200 matches for India in front of the fantastic Bhubaneswar crowd."

"It is one of my favourite venues in the world. I am looking forward to it and we are all eager to make a positive start," he said.



PV Sindhu plays shot during her clash BWF/File Picture

Sindhu skips Syed Modi to focus on World Tour Final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champion P V Sindhu has decided to skip the Syed Modi International World Tour Super 300 tournament to focus on next month's BWF World Tour Final in China.

The 23-year-old Indian is placed fifth in the 'Race to Guangzhou' ranking to qualify for the \$ 1,500,000 World Tour Final, which will be held in the Chinese city for the first time from December 12-16.

"Sindhu has written to Badminton Association of India (BAI) asking them to allow her to skip the Syed Modi tournament so that she can concentrate on the World Tour Finals in December," Sindhu's father P V Ramana said.

"She has also informed the organisers and national coach P Gopichand."

Portugal qualify for Nations League final

AP ■ MILAN

No Cristiano Ronaldo, no problem. Portugal drew with Italy 0-0 on Saturday to pick up the point they needed to qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals and confirm them as host of the first Final Four in June.

Ronaldo is taking a break from the national team and wasn't present at San Siro, just as he wasn't in Portugal's first two Nations League matches — both of which they won.

Poland has already been assured of finishing last in the group and will be relegated to League B and Italy will finish second.

However, a year after Italian football's darkest moment, there are positive signs for the Azzurri. Italy dominated and had the better of the chances in front of a packed home crowd in Milan.

The Azzurri almost took the lead as early as the fifth minute. Lorenzo Insigne unleashed a scorcher from distance which Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patrício did well to beat away, and Ciro Immobile fired the rebound over from point-blank range.

Leonardo Bonucci's every touch was booed by the San Siro crowd — made up mainly of AC Milan and Inter Milan fans — and the Juventus defender was jeered loudly after he sent a header narrowly wide of the left post.

There was a lot of good interplay from the hosts with crisp, efficient passing in the best performance seen by an Italy side in a long time.

It was a far cry from Italy's last match at San Siro, when they drew with Sweden 0-0 last November and failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades. The fans are also starting to fall back in love with the Azzurri, with 73,000 spectators at San Siro.

On Sunday, England overcame a goal deficit in last 15 minutes to beat Croatia 2-1 in the last group A4 match to pip 2010 World Champions Spain to advance into next round of UEFA Nations League competition.



Son, Okuhara win Hong Kong title

AFF ■ HONG KONG

Son Wan-ho won his first tournament in two years on Sunday after the 30-year-old snatched the Hong Kong Open from Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, whose teammate Nozomi Okuhara triumphed in the women's finals.

The Korean sixth seed, who stunned Japanese world number one Kento Momota in the semis, yielded 12 points in a row in the first game before finding his form after the first break to win 14-21, 21-17, 21-13 in 89 minutes.

Nishimoto kept up the energy but Son pulled away at 13-12 in the decider after the Japanese player knocked two shots into the net.

Son has now won five of the pair's seven encounters this year for his first tournament victory since his December 2016 homeground win.

"I feel very happy... in the second game I felt my opponent was very tired, so I needed to work then to get through the tough part (of the match)," he said.

In the women's finals, Okuhara said her victory over a determined Ratchanok Intanon was a massive confidence boost ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

Both players were hungry for the win, drawing level 13 times in the second game before the sixth-ranked Okuhara beat the Thai, a former world champion, 21-19, 24-22 in 64 minutes.

"This match is very important for me," she told reporters.

Okuhara said she would spend the next year working to secure her place at next year's Olympics alongside world number two Akane Yamaguchi, who Intanon beat in three games in the quarter-finals.

"I and Akane will get a gold medal," she said.

"Of course."

Sunday was Okuhara's last tournament before next month's World Tour finals in



China.

Intanon had won four of their previous five match-ups and the respect between the players was palpable, with Okuhara sharing a long embrace in her opponent's court at the end of play.

"I feel like my performance at the moment is quite good," Intanon said.

"It was a tough game for me. It's not easy to beat her but I tried my best."

"She is a strong woman, she always plays long rallies and I tried to hold her and fight to the end."

In the women's doubles, top-ranked Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota beat Korean challengers Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan 21-18, 21-17.

Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino won 21-18, 21-14 in 46 minutes over their second-ranked Chinese opponents in the mixed doubles finals.

Lakshya settles for Bronze in World Jr C'ship

PTI ■ MARKHAM

India's Lakshya Sen settled for a Bronze medal in the World Junior Badminton Championship after suffering a narrow defeat to top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the men's singles semifinals here.

The 17-year-old from Almora, who had clinched the Asian Junior title this year, fought hard before going down 22-20, 16-21, 13-21 to Vitidsarn in a match that went on for an hour and 11 minutes on Saturday.

"I could not get into my usual rhythm, though I managed to win the first game. But he (Kunlavut) was too strong in the second. I could not play to my strong points and my opponent had all answers to my strokes," said the world junior No 3 shuttler.

Lakshya, who was the last Indian hope in the tournament, began well and in what was a touch-and-go opening game, the Indian seized the opportunity past midway and sealed the extended game in his favour.

But the Thai came back strongly in the second game to level 1-1 and keep his chances alive.

The Indian, who lacked conviction after losing the second game, was unable to gather himself in the decider as the Thai ran up a good lead and maintained it throughout to secure a place in the final.

Earlier this year, Lakshya gains wide recognition after winning the Asian Junior Badminton Championship, becoming the first Indian after PV Sindhu to win that prestigious tournament.

Saina Nehwal is the only Indian to have won a Gold in the tournament during the 2008 Pune edition.

Sameer eyes Tour Finals spot

NEW DELHI :Unfazed by the defending champion's tag, shuttler Sameer Verma has set his sights on retaining the title at the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300 tournament and earn a shot at next month's BWF World Tour Finals in China.

The 24-year-old from Dhar is currently at the 12th place in the Race to Guangzhou ranking and he will need to get into the top 8 to qualify for the year-ending \$ 1,500,000 tournament.

"I am not thinking about the defending champion tag at all. It brings along a lot of pressure and I am just looking to play the tournament to the best of my ability. Results are not in my hand," Sameer said.

"Of course, I would like to retain the title and if I can do that there is a chance that I will be able to qualify for World Tour Finals. So I am not thinking much about it but it remains the target," he added.

Troubled by a shoulder injury for most part of last year, a fit Sameer played 19 tournaments this season, clinching Swiss Open and Hyderabad Open and presently he looks in good shape.

Sameer had won a bronze at the 2011 World Junior Championship, before injuries hampered his progress in 2012 and 2013.

Olympic Silver medalist Sindhu has continued her sensational form this season, claiming Silver medals at major events such as the Commonwealth Games, World Championship and Asian Games.

She also reached the finals of the India Open and Thailand Open, besides producing her best performance at the All England Open Championships with a semifinal finish.

The World Tour Final, which showcases the elite top eight players, will be Sindhu's 18th tournament this year.

"It is a prestigious tournament and she will need to be at her peak to win a medal. So at least 20 days of training would be required to be in good shape," said Ramana.

This will be Sindhu's third appearance at the year-ending event. She had qualified in the 2016 edition, losing in the semifinals.

Last year, Sindhu had reached the finals, losing to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi at Dubai.



PTI

Shastri defends poor travellers tag

Indian coach feels it's unfair to target India when most nations fail on away tour

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India are yet to shed their "poor travellers" tag but head coach Ravi Shastri feels that it's unfair to pick on one particular side when most of the nations have fared poorly on away tours.

India have lost two away Test series in 2018, against South Africa (1-2) and England (1-4). This was after both tours were seen as best chance for Virat Kohli's men to set the poor overseas record straight.

Asked how important it is for India to win the series in Australia, Shastri said: "You have got to learn from your mistakes. When you go overseas and when you look at teams that travel around now, there aren't too many sides (that travel well).

"Australia did for some time in the 90's and during the turn of century. South Africa did it for a while and other than these two, in the last five-six years, you tell me which team has travelled well. Why pick on India?" questioned Shastri.

Questioned whether he or skipper Kohli has spoken to the team as to why they lost in South Africa and England, Shastri said that it was all about "seizing big moments".

"We have spoken about seizing the big moments. If you look at the Test matches, the scoreline really doesn't tell you the real story. There were some real tight Test matches and we lost some big moments badly, which cost us the series at the end of it.

"It could have been an hour in a session over four days whether it was SA or England. Either as a batsman or a bowler and see what happens after that," the coach said in his team's defence.

Shastri refused to believe that Australian team has lost its aura after what all happened during the past few months.



INDIA AGAINST FAB FOUR IN OVERSEAS TOUR

Venue	Season	Winner	Margin
England	2011	England	4-0 (4)
Australia	2011/12	Australia	4-0 (4)
South Africa	2013/14	South Africa	1-0 (2)
New Zealand	2013/14	New Zealand	1-0 (2)
England	2014	England	3-1 (5)
Australia	2014/15	Australia	2-0 (4)
South Africa	2017/18	South Africa	2-1 (3)
England	2018	England	4-1 (5)

"I don't think so. I think once you have a sporting culture in you, you will always have that. I have always believed that no team is weak at home. We might have three or four players not

playing when a team comes to India God forbid but if anyone thinks it's a weak team, you will be surprised.

"Similarly, we are taking no prisoners and we want to go out and put our best foot forward, focussing on our game rather than focussing outside," he sounded cautious.

He is confident that his pacers will enjoy bowling on Australian pitches.

"I think they (pacers) should enjoy bowling on these pitches if it's like the pitches we have seen in the past. It's important to stay fit as a unit."

Shastri broadly dropped a hint that injured Hardik Pandya's absence robs them a chance to play an extra bowler. Even former Australian batsman Mike

Hussey recently spoke about how Pandya's absence can hurt India.

"One player we will miss is Hardik Pandya, who has had an injury. He gave us that balance as a bowler as well as batsman, which allowed us to play that extra bowler. Even now we have got to think twice. Hopefully, he will get fit soon and if fast bowlers do well, we might not miss him then," the former all-rounder said.

Asked if this is the best chance for India's fast bowlers, Shastri said it will depend on if they can maintain "sustained intensity" for a long period of time.

"It doesn't matter what line-up they play as long as they are consistent. In the past, we have had one or two

Cummins says he will be surprised if Kohli keeps quiet

MELBOURNE: Refusing to buy Virat Kohli's self-appraisal that he is no longer the one looking for confrontations, pacer Pat Cummins on Sunday said that the Australians will hold their ground in the face of any verbal barrage from the India captain. Prior to departing for Australia, run-machine Kohli insisted he realised he doesn't need to get into confrontations to get a feel of the contest. Cummins doesn't think so.

"I think I heard him say in the media the other day he won't, but I'll be surprised if he doesn't," Cummins told Fairfax Media.

"He's so competitive, he really thrives on that.

"We'll hold our ground, we're going to be competitive and all those things. We wouldn't treat him differently to any others. I think you'll see a lot of passion from both sides but nothing super fiery like we saw against India a couple of years ago," he added.

Relations between the two sides hit a low after Australian captain Steve Smith, going against the rule, looked up to his dressing room for assistance for a decision review call during the second Test in Bengaluru last year. Smith latter called it his "brain fade" moment. South Africa chose not to engage with Kohli when they met at the start of the year, and the India skipper top-scored in England with three centuries.

"It might be something to talk about once we get the Test squad together, and talk about how we want to play and our plans for individual batsmen," Cummins said. PTI

bowlers doing well in spells, but bowling as a unit for three, four or five hours with sustained intensity, if that comes into play, no matter which batting line-up you are playing against, you will be tested," he added.



Bowlers disappoint as NZ A score 458/9

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

New Zealand A's last-wicket pair frustrated India A attack with a 83-run stand as the home team kept the first innings lead down to just nine runs after third day's play in the first 'Unofficial Test' on Sunday.

In reply to India A's 467 for eight, New Zealand A declared their first innings at 458 for nine after being reduced to 375 for nine at one stage.

New Zealand A's No 10 batsman Seth Rance (69) and No 11 Blair Tickner (30) played out the next one hour to negate chances of a substantial lead for the visitors.

At stumps, India A reached 35 for no loss in their second innings with the young Prithvi Shaw (33 batting, 26 balls) hitting seven boundaries in the company of veteran Murali Vijay (2 batting, 22 balls). India's overall lead currently is 44 runs.

The Indian bowlers started off well in the third morning as New Zealand A were reduced to 211 for five from 176 for one within the first hour of play.

Tim Seifert (20) edged one to Parthiv Patel off Mohammed Siraj (1/104 in 29 overs). Centurion Hamish Rutherford (114, 181 balls) was cleaned up by Deepak Chahar (2/51 in 12.4 overs), who didn't complete his 13th over.

Left-handed opener Rutherford, who has played 17 Tests for New Zealand, hit 17 boundaries and a six. Chahar also got rid of Rachin Ravindra (0) while Navdeep Saini (2/88 in 25 overs) trapped Glenn Phillips (16) leg-before.

However, the Indian bowlers couldn't press home the initial advantage with the second new ball as Doug Bracewell (48) and Dane Cleaver (53) added 65 runs for the sixth wicket before off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham (3/107 in 42 overs) castled him.

Cleaver and Kyle Jamieson (30) added another 53 to take the team past the 300-run mark. Jamieson and Cleaver were then dismissed in quick succession as New Zealand A were reduced to 346 for eight. Theo van Woerkom (11) added 29 with Rance before the final flourish from the last pair.

SINGLES

MOUDGIL WINS GOLD IN SHOOTING NATIONALS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India's number one women's 50m rifle 3 positions shooter Anjum Moudgil defended her crown in the event at the 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions here on Sunday. Punjab's Anjum shot 458.6 in the finals to finish ahead of seasoned Tejaswini Sawant of Maharashtra, who managed 457.7. Sunidhi Chauhan of Madhya Pradesh won the Bronze medal with a finals score of 443.0. Moudgil, who had won five Gold in the last nationals and recently won a Tokyo 2020 Olympic quota place for her country, had earlier shot 1168 in the qualification to top the field. Tejaswini had finished second in qualification with a score of 1163.

SHARMA WINS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR HONOUR

DUBAI: India's Shubhankar Sharma became the first Indian to emerge as the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year on the European Tour despite a disappointing final round of 80 at the DP World Tour Championships on Sunday. Sharma follows Jon Rahm (2017), Wang Jeunghun (2016), Byeong Hun An (2015) and Brooks Koepka (2014) who have been the four Rookies before him. No Indian has won the Rookie of the Year award in European Tour, though three Indians - Arjun Atwal (1995), Shiv Kapur (2005) and C Muniyappa (2009) emerged as Rookie of the Year on the Asian Tour. Interestingly, the 22-year-old Sharma is the third Asian in last four years to win this European Tour accolade, after Byeong Hun An (2015) and Wang Jeunghun (2016).

ANKITA-KARMAN CLINCH TAIPEI OPEN

PUNE: Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi — India's top two singles players — combined well to win their maiden title on the WTA Tour, grabbing the doubles trophy at the \$ 125,000 Taipei OEC Open, on Sunday. Playing first time together on the Pro circuit, the Indians clinched the title when Russia's Olga Doroshina and Natela Dzalalidze opted out of edge-of-seat contest due to latter's injury. The match was on even keel with both the pairs splitting the first two sets. The Indians had won the first set 6-4 but lost the second 5-7. The super tie breaker was tied 12-12 when Natela fell and suffered a hamstring injury. She struggled to even walk and they were forced to retire.

EXTENDS WORLD TITLE TALLY TO 21

YANGON: Legendary Pankaj Advani on Sunday extended his world title to 21 by winning the long and short formats of the IBSF World Billiards Championship titles for a record fourth time here. While Pankaj has always won the timed version of the long format, the more recent short version eluded him over the years. Pankaj's city mate from Bengaluru, B Bhaskar, a two-time Asian Silver medalist and a Bronze medal winner at the world level, had to settle for Silver. Last year Pankaj did the unthinkable by winning the billiards short format title and then went on to annex the snooker title too. He is the only player in the world to play both billiards and snooker at the world level and win in both with great consistency.

DRIVER FRACTURES SPINE IN MACAU GP CRASH

HONG KONG: A 17-year-old female teenage driver suffered a fractured spine when her car flew off the track in a horrifying crash at the Formula Three Macau Grand Prix on Sunday. Van Amersfoort Racing's Sophia Floersch was conscious and stable after the smash when her car became airborne and hurtled into a marshals and photographers' area. Japanese driver Sho Tsuboi, two photographers and a marshal were also taken to hospital. "All were conscious during transit to the hospital and are now receiving medical treatment. Further updates will be provided as soon as possible," said the Macau Grand Prix Organising Committee in a statement cited by multiple sources including the South China Morning Post and shared on Twitter by Italy's Prema Powerteam. Agencies

'When you have good team, you have to perform well'

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said that her team is bound to perform well because of the quality in the side which was proved during their thumping 48-run win against Australia in the final group league encounter of the ICC Women's World T20.

India were already in semi-finals after winning their first three matches but didn't let the intensity down against the formidable 'Southern Stars' in an inconsequential last group league encounter.

"When you have a good team, you have to perform well," Harmanpreet said at the end of the match on Saturday.

After a below-par fielding performance against Pakistan, Indian women were excellent against Australia.

"I am very happy with the



Smriti Mandhana plays a shot during his 83 run innings against Aus in T20 clash ICC

(performance from the) girls. We worked very hard and today, we fielded well. I am proud of the girls. Hope the sort of part-

nership I had with Smriti (68 in 7 overs) can keep coming."

Opener Smriti Mandhana, who finally converted a start, got

Group B	POINTS TABLE						
	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	NR	Pts	NRR
India	4	4	0	0	0	8	+1.827
Australia	4	3	1	0	0	6	+1.515
New Zealand	4	2	2	0	0	4	+1.031
Pakistan	4	1	3	0	0	2	-0.987
Ireland	4	0	4	0	0	0	-3.525

83 off 55 balls and thanked Veda Krishnamurthy for insisting on a DRS when she thought the she was gone.

"First three matches I got starts but couldn't convert it. So I just wanted to score big today," said Mandhana, adding, "Veda insisted on the review, and thanks to her we got 20-30 runs extra."

Harmanpreet's deputy also echoed her skipper's sentiments that both bowling and fielding were top notch against the Aussies.

"The way we bowled and fielded today was the best of the four games, but batting-wise the performance against New Zealand was better."

Team's youngest member Jemimah Rodrigues said that endeavour will be to keep up the momentum in the upcoming semi-finals on November 23.

"I think it's important not just because it's Australia, but for ourselves and our team, because we've got the momentum," Rodrigues was quoted as saying by ICC website.

"So we need to keep that

momentum, keep doing the things, don't focus mainly on the results. So I think it plays a huge impact on our team and I think we look forward to it, but not get carried away and try to do even better in the semi-finals," Rodrigues said.

Rodrigues said that Harmanpreet's epic 171 dring last year's ODI World Cup also came up for discussion during the team meeting on the eve of the Australia match.

"Yes, (that knock) was definitely discussed (before the match)," revealed Rodrigues. "In our meetings. It's always good to remember the good stuff we've done. And it plays an impact and motivates each other. So we have spoken about that."

India will now face Group A runners up in the second semi-final on Thursday to book berth for Saturday's final.

Eng eye top spot after series win

AFP ■ KANDY

Captain Joe Root set his sights on taking England to the top of the world rankings after his spin trio finished off Sri Lanka in the second Test on Sunday to seal the series with a match to spare.

England needed just 30 minutes on the fifth day to take the final three Sri Lanka wickets. Jack Leach got last man Malinda Pushpakumara caught and bowled to claim his first five-wicket Test haul.

Moeen Ali took four wickets and Adil Rashid one as England's three frontline spinners accounted for the whole innings, as well as 18 of Sri Lanka's 20 wickets in the game overall.

Root's 124 in England's second innings also played a key role in the 57-run victory and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Celebrating England's first away series win since beating South Africa in 2015-16 and his first away triumph as captain, Root sees England — who are currently ranked third in the world — challenging India for the top Test team spot.

"It was a brilliant Test match," said Root, whose team had to twice fight back after their top order batsmen gave away cheap wickets.

"It ebbed and flowed throughout, like against India in the summer, and it's pleasing to see another close game go our way.

"We said we'd come out here and play bold cricket, and be courageous. It's easy to talk a good game but we've backed it up," Root said.

"We have to keep looking to improve. The team has grown in the last 18 months but we are not the fin-



MOST WICKETS IN A TEST BY SPINNERS				
Wkts	Runs	Teams	Venue	Season
38	1031	Eng-SL	Pallekele	2018-19
37	677	Ind-NZ	Nagpur	1969-70
35	552	Ind-Aus	Kolkata	1956-57
35	527	Ind-Pak	Bengaluru	1986-87
34	466	Ind-SA	Mohali	2015-16
34	693	B'desh-Aus	Dhaka	2017-18

Faisal Features

ished article. We want to get to number one in the world and that means performing in all conditions around the world.

Sri Lanka needed 301 in their second innings to register an upset win but managed just 243 at the Pallekele ground.

They started the day needing 75 more runs and with three wickets in hand had an outside chance.

After Niroshan Dickwella was caught by Ben Stokes off Moeen Ali for

and the game was over.

Lakmal insisted his side had been "unlucky". But England's triumph followed a crushing 211-run win in the first Test in Galle, and was set up by masterful performances from Leach, Ali and Rashid.

The spinners were dominant for both sides, as Sri Lanka's Dilruwan Perera took seven wickets in the game and Akila Dananjaya — who now goes off for an investigation into his bowling action — eight.

Yasir, Hasan fifiers put Pakistan on course

AP ■ ABU DHABI

Hasan Ali and Yasir Shah took five wickets each against New Zealand on Sunday as Pakistan regained control of the first test on day three.

New Zealand's lower order couldn't capitalize on patient half centuries from B.J. Watling (59) and Henry Nicholls' (55), losing its last six wickets for just 29 runs to get bowled out for 249. It gave New Zealand an overall lead of 175 runs after it conceded a slender 74-run first innings lead.

Pakistan started off its chase aggressively and was 37-0 at stumps with Imam-ul-Haq unbeaten on 25 with four boundaries and Mohammad Hafeez not out on 8.

Watling and Nicholls defied Pakistan for nearly 51 overs and raised a 112-run fifth-wicket stand before Shah (5-110) claimed four wickets in three overs and Hasan (5-45) wrapped up the tail quickly.

Shah triggered the collapse when Nicholls was caught behind before Colin de Grandhomme (3) and Watling were both trapped lbw by the leg-spinner in his next over.

Neil Wagner was undone by Shah's sharp turning delivery that knocked back the left-hander's off stump before Hasan returned and dismissed Ish Sodhi (18) and Trent Boult inside three deliveries to wrap up the innings quickly.

Watling faced 145 balls and Nicholls negotiated 171 deliveries in their skillful display of batting against spinners and fast bowlers. The pair came together after Hasan struck twice before lunch with New Zealand just 34 runs ahead.

They batted resolutely throughout the middle session with Nicholls surviving an lbw appeal on 44 off Shah when Pakistan opted for an ultimately unsuccessfully television referral before the left-hander raised



his fifty just before tea.

Watling completed his fifty soon after the interval with a crisp driven boundary to mid-wicket off Hasan before Shah returned and wrecked New Zealand's hopes of building a substantial lead.

Earlier, Hasan's twin blows in five deliveries topped New Zealand's top order as Pakistan reduced the visitors to 108-4.

Hasan used reverse swing with perfection by nipping Ross Taylor (19) plumb leg before wicket. Four balls later Jeet Raval's (46) resistance finally ended when he edged the right-arm fast bowler behind.

Left-handed Raval was aggressive against Shah when New Zealand resumed on 56-1 and quickly wiped off the first innings deficit.

Kane Williamson (37) added 10 to his overnight score of 27 before Shah bowled the New Zealand skipper off a delivery that moved enough and tipped the off stump bail to break the 86-run second wicket stand.

Taylor was also dominant against Shah by smashing three fours in the leg-spinner's one over that included two meticulous cuts and one over mid-wicket.

But Hasan's twin strikes in his fourth over pegged back Kiwi's progress. Nicholls and Watling kept Pakistan at bay until Shah wrecked the lower order after tea.

Pakistan vs New Zealand
Live from 11:30am IST
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