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BIDS TO REVIVE MILITANCY

WORLD 7
WILL HELP PAK IN
FINANCIAL CRISIS: CHINA

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USUAL SUSPECTS

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Our 'little tradition' too needs judicial sympathy

The suggestion that the higher judiciary is unresponsive to public sentiment has often been heard. A study of the Parliamentary debates in 1951 on the First Amendment to the Constitution that, among other things, insulated the zamindari abolition legislations from judicial scrutiny, would indicate that this sentiment is also very Nehruvian. It was also heard during the high noon of Indira Gandhi's socialist phase when there was a demand for a 'committed judiciary' to complement a 'committed bureaucracy' and 'progressive' politics. The belief that the judiciary in India has transformed itself into a self-perpetuating, unelected oligarchy may have a contextual basis. However, like most political formulations that arise from the heat of the moment, it is often overstated. There may well be a handful of conservative judges who sincerely believe that the separation of powers is sacrosanct and that it is the business of the judiciary to interpret the law, probe and adjudicate the unforeseen grey areas between different laws and leave law-making to the legislature. They would hold that Article 21 of the Constitution guaranteeing citizens the right to life and personal liberty cannot be extended by judges to include the rights to healthcare, clean air, privacy and, in line with the American Declaration of Independence, the "pursuit of happiness", at least not without the endorsement of the legislature. Alas, in this age of hyper-activism, such a judicial philosophy is likely to be dismissed as being fuddy-duddy.

The larger question of the relationship between the judiciary and public opinion has no clear-cut answers. There have been moments when judges have been accused of playing to the galleries and pandering to the anti-corruption lynch mob. Moreover, many of the Court's interventionist guidelines came at a time when a politically unsure executive found itself vacating its governance responsibilities. There was a definite political context to India's history of judicial activism. It will be interesting to

Relationship between the judiciary and public opinion is more complicated. By applying a uniform constitutional criterion on all religious customs, judges may have viewed the Hindu way of life through Semitic prism with troubling consequences. Ayyappa cult may not be a separate religious denomination but it has to be given autonomous space

track the judiciary's approach if, say, India has a prolonged period of stable, majority governments capable of passing laws through both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The first four years of the Modi Government has been a grey area. The National Democratic Alliance Government enjoys a comfortable majority in the Lok Sabha but has struggled with Bills in the Rajya Sabha. It is on the issue of social policy that the relationship between the judiciary and public

opinion is more complicated. In the recent past, the courts have made important interventions to decriminalise homosexuality, remove adultery as a criminal offence, ban unilateral triple talaq divorces among Muslims and permit women's access to shrines such as Haji Ali in Mumbai and Sabarimala in Kerala. Apart from Sabarimala, these judgments have not been greeted with significant opposition in the court of public opinion, although there have been murmurings that changes to the Indian Penal Code should have been left to Parliament to work out.

The Sabarimala judgment belongs in a different league altogether. Apart from the 1986 Shah Bano judgment — recognising the principle of alimony to divorced Muslim women — that provoked a fierce reaction in Muslim society and compelled the Rajiv Gandhi Government to pass remedial legislation, there has been no other judgment that has triggered such a backlash. The unhindered right of all women of all ages to worship at the Sabarimala temple — thereby removing a ban on all women of child-bearing age — has led to mass protests all over Kerala and unease among Hindus all over the country. The protests, that included a very large number of women devotees, were significant enough to force the Communist-led State Government of Kerala to call off attempts to allow some women — who turned out to be activists, rather than devotees — to enter the temple under police protection.

Whether the unique traditions of the Sabarimala temple — other Ayyappa temples allow women access — should be protected or subsumed by the larger principle of gender equality is worthy of serious debate. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has suggested that whereas institutions such as marriage, divorce, adoption and inheritance must be governed in line with Article 14, the rites of worship and certain customs deserve protection under Article 25. He suggested that it is for the courts to evolve a harmonious relationship that gets rid of harmful and obnoxious customs without affecting the body of faith. In the Sabarimala case two factors are consequential. First, women devotees of Lord Ayyappa seem to feel that faith demand they wait until they have crossed the age of 50 before entering the temple. Belief in Lord Ayyappa also involves a belief in his sacred celibacy. In the Sabarimala controversy, gender justice through Article 14 has been contested by women themselves.

Secondly, the Hindu way of life involves a chaotic blend of the 'great' and 'little' traditions that are not prone to codification. There are unique beliefs and customs that may strike modernists as bizarre but are nevertheless real and, more important, a part of local societies. Some of these have undergone modifications keeping in mind both convenience and evolving sensibilities but others have remained unchanged over the centuries. By applying a uniform constitutional criterion on all religious customs, the judges may have viewed the Hindu way of life through a Semitic prism with troubling consequences. The Ayyappa cult may not be a separate religious denomination but it has to be given autonomous space. It is the fight for that space that has propelled a mass upsurge of Hindus in southern India. It is ironic that the modernists and non-believers were in the forefront of charging the Ayodhya movement of attempting to create a 'Semitic Hinduism' and riding roughshod over 'little' traditions. Today, the boot is on the other foot.

Kharge moves SC over Alok Verma

Adds twist to CBI saga, says CVC or Govt can't curtail CBI chief's tenure, sending him on forced leave illegal, arbitrary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Union Government's decision to send CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma on forced leave and called it "completely illegal and arbitrary". This has brought new twist to the already controversial case of CBI versus CBI over the past few days.

Kharge, who is also a member of the three-member statutory committee that selects the CBI Director, questioned the Government's decision to send Verma "on leave". In his intervention application, Kharge sought quashing of the October 23 order of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and that of the Centre's Department of Personnel and Training divesting the CBI Director on the ground that the same were passed in derogation



of powers conferred upon the Statutory Committee under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act.

Kharge said neither the Central Vigilance Commission nor the Government can curtail Verma's tenure. Along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Kharge is the third member in the selection committee of CBI Director. "The transfer of an incumbent Director, CBI in an extraordi-



nary situation, including the need for him to take up a more important assignment, should have the approval of the Selection Committee..." the petition said. "The applicant being a member of the Statutory Committee was not consulted nor was he a part of any meeting or privy to any decision to divest Verma of his powers as Director, CBI", Kharge's petition added.

The petition reads, "It is also not in public domain that any such meeting of the statutory committee was convened. In his application, Kharge has said that even though he is a member of the committee, he was neither "consulted nor was I a part of any meeting or privy to any decision to divest Verma of his powers as Director, CBI".

"It is also not in public

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□ The decision to divest Alok Kumar Verma of his powers was taken by the political executive in complete contravention of the provisions of the DSPE Act, CVC Act and the directions of this Hon'ble Court in Vineet Narain's case, it adds

domain that any such meeting of the Statutory Committee was convened," the petition reads. It further said, "It is therefore clear that the decision to divest Verma, IPS, of his powers as Director, CBI was taken by the political executive in complete contravention of the provisions of the DSPE (Delhi Special Police Establishment) Act, CVC (Central Vigilance Commission) Act and the directions of this Court in Vineet Narain's case."

Asserting that the law provides for a two-year term, Kharge's intervention application in Verma's petition has termed the Government's move as "arbitrary and illegal". Kharge alleged that Verma's ouster be "set aside to maintain the institutional sanctity and integrity of the CBI".

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3K sants gather in Delhi to raise pitch for Mandir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite the Supreme Court's decision to adjourn the hearing of the Ram Mandir issue till

January 2019, Ram Vilas Vedanti, president of Ram Janamabhoomi Nyas on Saturday said the construction of Ram temple will begin in December without an Ordinance and on the basis of the mutual agreement between Hindus and Muslims.

Vedanti also said if legislation supporting the construction of the Ram temple is passed, it would lead to unstoppable communal violence. "We do not want violence. We want peace," the senior VHP leader said.

Making this assertion here during 'Dharmadesh', the two-day meeting of Hindu seers and

Ram Janamabhoomi Nyas president says construction of temple to begin in Dec on basis of mutual consensus

saints at New Delhi's Talkatora Stadium, Vedanti also said the temple will be constructed in Ayodhya and a masjid will be constructed in Lucknow before 2019 elections.

As many as 3,000 Hindu saints from all the 125 communities of the Hindu religion have come together in Delhi to discuss the crucial issue of building Ram temple in Ayodhya.

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Sadhus attend the Dharmadesh, a two-day meeting organised for national integration, at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

CVC seeks files on allegations against Asthana from CBI

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) that is vetting the allegations of alleged misconduct levelled by CBI Director Alok Verma against his deputy Rakesh Asthana has called for the relevant files from the investigating agency, top CBI sources said on Saturday.

Through a "secret note" on October 21, 2017 to the CVC, Verma had claimed that Asthana's role was being probed in at least half a dozen cases.

However, despite a lapse of over a year, the CBI did not furnish an action taken report to the CVC with regard to the probes against Asthana. The CBI did not submit a report even after the agency registered a case of alleged bribery against Asthana, sources said.

"The CVC has called for the relevant files related to the allegations against Asthana and the agency is in the process of sending the files sought by the Commission," an official said, adding, clarity on the issue will come once the CVC examines the files related to the allegations against Asthana.

In response to the secret

note, the CVC had through a letter to Verma on November 9 last year, sought a report on his note and sent several reminders conveying to the CBI Director that the Commission wants the report 'immediately' and if the enquiries have not reached finality, an interim report bringing out the investigations carries out against Asthana along with the outcome of the probes be submitted to the Commission by October 3, 2018.

The CVC again sent a letter on October 15 to Verma reminding him to send a report on the note by October 22 but it was not submitted till October 23, the day the CVC divested both Verma and Asthana of any supervisory role in the CBI.

Despite registration of an alleged bribery case on October 15 against Asthana, Deputy SP Devender Kumar and two alleged middlemen, the CBI did not send any report to the CVC despite the Commission sending repeated reminders on the progress of investigations against Asthana as flagged by Verma in his secret note to the CVC.

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Youth held for making threat calls to blow up US airport

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sleuths of the Anti-Terrorists Squad of Uttar Pradesh have arrested a 12th standard student from Orai town in Jalaun district of Bundelkhand region for making threat calls to blow up the Miami airport in the USA last month.

On getting information from the FBI, routed through the NIA, the UP police arrested the youth, who is just over 18 years. Director General of Police OP Singh told media on Saturday that the youth had accepted his crime and admitted that he had made five calls to Miami International Airport, threatening to blow it up.

"The boy, during investigation, disclosed that during his call to the Miami airport, he had informed them that he had an AK-47 assault rifle and an explosive belt. The calls were made between October 2 and October 30," the DGP said.

He said the boy, who is very intelligent, sharp and has good knowledge of computers, told the police that the reason for making the threat calls was that someone had duped him of his Bitcoins and even after several complaints the FBI had not taken any action.

"The boy said that he took \$1,000

from his father, who runs a NGO, and invested it in Bitcoins five months back. He immediately got a big profit and on a word from an agent he invested \$3,000 again but it was siphoned off. He complained to the FBI but no action was taken which irked him and he started making the threatening calls to the Miami international airport to blow it up," the DGP said.

"We have arrested the boy and have seized his computer and mobile phone while further interrogation is underway," the DGP said, adding that the boy also prepared fake Aadhaar card and e-mail ID which proves his good knowledge in computers.

Meanwhile, the DGP said that such incidents should be a warning for parents about their children's activities.

"There is an urgent need for making students aware of cyber misuse and this should be included in school curriculum. Besides, parents should also monitor the activities of their children and avoid giving them huge amount of money," the DGP suggested.

Singh said that very soon he would convene a meeting of school principals and discuss with them ways to prevent such incidents.

Kashmiri youth studying in Noida joins terror group?

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Kashmiri youth studying in a university in the National capital region of Ghaziabad is suspected to have joined the terrorist group, Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK).

The Kashmiri youth, identified as Ehatsham Bilal Sofi, a first year student of Business Management at Sharda University in Noida, went missing a few days back and everyone thought he had gone to his native place Pulwama in Kashmir.

But when his photo came in social media showing Ehatsham posing with an AK-47 and ISJK flag in the background, the security personnel in UP and Kashmir went into tizzy. The youth also released a video in which he is heard saying that he has joined the ISJK.

But the Uttar Pradesh police did not confirm whether the youth had joined the ISJK outfit or not.

Director General of Police OP Singh said on Saturday that they had information about the photos of the youth, around 19 years old, that was circulated on social media but were investigating the matter along with the Jammu and Kashmir police. He said the youth, Ehatsham, had a fight with some Afghanistan students last Saturday in the

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Restrict phone use at night to avoid snipers: Army to jawans

RAHUL DATTA MOHIT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

The Army has issued strict instructions to its troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir and vital installations, including their camps, from using mobile phones as their faces are lit up during night presenting an easy target to snipers to shoot them. The direction came after a soldier on sentry duty of 42 Rashtriya Rifles in Tral last week was killed reportedly after he used his mobile phone at night. One other soldier was wounded in the sniper attack.

Moreover, the Pakistan Army and ISI backed militants have launched "two-front" attempts to smuggle in weapons in huge quantities besides ultras through the LoC and International Border. The two-pronged strategy has seen



militants trying to smuggle in weapons from North Kashmir across from across the LoC and through Jammu and Punjab from across the International Border.

As regards the instructions about mobile phones, officials in security establishment said

here on Saturday the sentries are generally posted in a shift of two to three hours to keep them fresh and alert. The Army has earlier too issued instructions as part of standard operating procedure asking the soldiers to refrain from using their phones. In the latest incident, the

militants had sneaked within a range of 200 metres or so and when the soldier responded to the mobile phone call thereby lighting up his face he was shot, sources said. The militants had used telescope fitted rifle for the attack, they added.

Alarmed over this critical

lapse, the Army reiterated its instructions about the use of mobile phones, said officials, adding the terrorists are desperate to attack army camps in the coming days. At least 14 such attacks on Army camps have taken place this year so far. However, only two such attacks claimed casualties. These included six soldiers killed when the militants stormed an Army installation in Sunjwan near Jammu earlier this year and one soldier killed in the sniper attack on the Rashtriya Rifles camp last week.

While Army Chief General Bipin Rawat earlier this week said the Army is verifying

reports about two sniper groups of three to four trained militants each of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) infiltrating into the Kashmir Valley in September, security forces are not taking any chances and have launched a hunt for these two groups. They reportedly carried out three attacks on security forces camps, including the Rashtriya Rifles incident within a spate of five to six days last week.

The security establishment, moreover, is concerned over militant handlers sitting across the border in Pakistan waging a "two-front" war against the Indian security agencies in Jammu & Kashmir. Elaborating upon this aspect, officials said the Pakistan Army and ISI are pushing in heavily armed militants from across the LoC in North Kashmir and the International Border from Jammu region.

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Yogi govt plans a grand Diwali celebration in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government has drawn plans for a grand celebration of Diwali in the temple town of Ayodhya.

This will be the second year in row that the Chief Minister will celebrate Diwali in Ayodhya and lead the lighting of over three lakh 'diyas' (earthen lamps) on the banks of river Saryu.

The highlight of the programmes slated for the occasion will be the laying of foundation stone of the pedestal on which grand statues of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman will be installed in the holy city.

The celebrations will commence from Sunday and end on November 6 with an effort being made to create a world record by lighting three lakh 'diyas' on the banks of river Saryu.

The government also plans to construct a museum near the statue. It will have an art gallery and an auditorium. The museum and the art gallery will depict the life of Lord Ram, while the auditorium will host Ramilias.

Apart from this, several other events have been planned to be organised in Ayodhya from November 4 to 6. Ramila troupes from across the country have been invited to perform in the city.

The 'Ram-Sita' duo, who will emerge winners on these two days will perform in a grand Ramila scheduled to be staged on November 6, when the Diwali celebration take place in Ayodhya.



A sadhus counts beads near a temple in Ayodhya, Saturday

PTI

Water and laser shows will also be organised during the events, and flowers will be showered by helicopters during the celebrations.

Besides UP Governor Ram Naik and Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon, ministers in the Yogi Adityanath Council of Ministers will attend the celebrations in the temple town.

South Korean first lady Kim Jung-Sook will be the chief guest at the high-octane Deepotsava in Ayodhya. Governors of several states from across the country will attend the event.

President of Bharatiya Janata Party's Uttar Pradesh unit, Mahendra Nath Pandey, said the Chief Minister was expected to make some major announcement in Ayodhya during the Diwali celebrations. "Diwali aane dijiye,

khushkhabari ki pratiksha kijiye... Mukhya Mantri ki haathon wo yojana saamne aayegi to uchit hoga (Let Diwali come, wait for the good news. It would be appropriate if the scheme is announced by the Chief Minister himself)," Pandey said.

With the proposed statue of Lord Ram at Ayodhya, the BJP it seems, is building up the rhythm which will eventually lead to the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The National Democratic Alliance government and the BJP are already under pressure from the RSS to bring an ordinance for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya. The RSS on Friday had said that Hindus were feeling "insulted" by the Supreme Court's declaration that the Ayodhya issue was not a priority and insisted that an

ordinance be brought if all options run out.

After a three-day RSS conclave in Maharashtra, the organisation's general secretary, Bhaiyyaji Joshi, had said that the organisation "will not hesitate to launch an agitation for Ram temple, if needed, but since the matter is in the Supreme Court, there are restrictions."

Religious groups and sadhus are also building pressure for construction of Ram temple, either through a legislation by Parliament or by bringing an ordinance and it seems the BJP government is left with little options. On October 29, the Supreme Court had put off the hearing on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case to the first week of January 2019 before an appropriate bench, which would decide the schedule of hearing.

Two women injured in acid attack

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two women suffered burn injuries when unidentified miscreants riding a motorcycle threw acid on them in Siddharthnagar district.

According to police, the women, aged 20 and 19, of Biskohar Tola, were attacked when they were returning home around 9 pm on Friday.

Both suffered burn injuries on their face and upper part of their bodies and were rushed to a hospital from where they were referred to Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences in the state capital.

Another woman, who had rushed to help the victims on hearing their screams, also suffered burns when she came in contact with the two women. She was also admitted to hospital.

The police registered a case against two unidentified miscreants but no one had been arrested. Police said raids were being conducted in the area to nab the culprit.

Meanwhile, the police arrested a notorious criminal who was absconding since 2012 in a murder case in Malpura village of Muzaffarnagar district.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar, the criminal, Sonu, was arrested during an encounter on Friday.

The criminal, who was involved in the murder of two 'sadhus' in an ashram in 2012, was carrying a cash reward of ₹15,000 on his arrest, the police said.

Not in race for PM's post, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday reiterated that he had no ambition to become the prime minister of the country after the Lok Sabha election in 2019.

The SP chief maintained that he never aspired to lead the country and his sole ambition was to work for the development of Uttar Pradesh.

Akhilesh Yadav was the chief minister of UP for five years, from 2012 to March 2017.

The repeated assertion of the SP president of not being in the race for the prime minister's office is seen as a move to keep Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati in good humour.

Former chief minister of Haryana and Jat leader Om Prakash Chautala and others have proposed the name of Mayawati to lead the opposition's grand alliance.

The prime-ministerial ambitions of Mayawati are well known and she had made a pitch for the top post during the 2009 Lok Sabha election. Moreover, the Samajwadi Party is desperate for alliance with the BSP for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, even at the cost of being a junior partner and BSP getting the lion's share of over 40 Lok Sabha seats in UP and the rest going to other parties.

UP has 80 Lok Sabha seats. Akhilesh's statement assumes more significance and relevance amidst heightened efforts by opposition leaders for



a grand alliance, with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu meeting Rahul Gandhi, the president of his arch rival Congress, and joining hands with the grand old party.

Addressing the office-bearers, district presidents, general secretaries and vice-presidents of his party, Akhilesh Yadav said the 2019 Lok Sabha election was going to be a do or die battle for the opposition and the future of democracy would rest on its outcome.

He said an emergency-like situation was prevailing in the country and the Bharatiya Janata Party, by trampling constitutional institutions, was attempting to deprive the bahujan samaj comprising over 80 per cent of the country's population, of their due share in the power structure and national cake.

"The results of the 2019 Lok Sabha election would be decisive for the future of democracy in the country as the BJP is aggressively pursu-

ing divisive politics and is undermining important institutions and constitutional bodies and damaging the secular fabric of the nation," the SP president said.

"RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), the ideological mentor of the BJP, is spreading communal hatred in the name of Ram temple in Ayodhya, in its attempt to polarise the electorate on communal lines ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election," Akhilesh said.

He asked the party leaders to be vigilant, never lower the guard and beware of falling in the traps to be laid by the BJP in coming days.

Akhilesh said the BJP had launched a vicious campaign to malign the SP as they were masters in spreading falsehood and creating false political narrative.

Terming the BJP as the rabidly caste-based party, the SP chief said it was spreading communal hatred for its narrow political ends.

Ram temple in Ayodhya will be a matter of pleasure: Rajnath

PNS ■ VARANASI

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said if a grand temple was built at birthplace of Lord Rama, it would be matter of great pleasure. While having an informal chat with mediapersons outside Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Gyanwapi premises) after having *darshan* and paying obeisance to the deity, Singh chose to refrain from commenting on the present dispute.

Responding to a query about serious allegations leveled by Congress chief Rahul Gandhi against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Rafale deal, Singh said there was no truth to the charges and all were baseless. Earlier, Singh visited Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Kal Bhairav Temple and Sankat Mochan Temple and paid obeisance to the deities.

Singh had reached the city late Friday afternoon and inaugurated the support and outreach programme of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) at Pt Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul, popularly



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh talking to mediapersons after paying obeisance to the deity at Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi on Saturday

Pioneer

known as Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC), at Bada Lalpur. He also held a meeting with senior BJP leaders and dis-

cussed the political situation in the parliamentary constitution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

RLD condemns lathicharge on youths demanding jobs

Lucknow (PNS): The Rashtriya Lok Dal has condemned the lathicharge on youths protesting in front of Vidhan Bhawan to press for their demand for jobs.

RLD state president Masood Ahmad said the Bharatiya Janata Party government wanted to suppress every voice of dissent and for this, it did not hesitate in ordering police to cane charge or open fire on those protesting for jobs or against government's misrule.

"It is matter of shame for the Bharatiya Janata Party government that the Allahabad High Court had to order a CBI probe into assistant teachers' recruitment. It is a big scam that took place in the rule of BJP which always boasted of having a clean image and waging a crusade against corruption," Ahmad said.

The RLD state chief said the protesters were beaten so badly that many of them sustained head injuries and fractures.

"Is it a crime to protest against a government and demand solution to the problems," he said.

The RLD state chief said the BJP government did not file a review petition in the Supreme Court to resolve the problems of shiksha mitras and this showed its insensitivity towards the unemployed.

"On the other hand, the names of examinees were changed on the answer sheets in the assistant teachers' recruitment exam as the BJP government wanted to oblige Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Hindu Yuva Vahini workers by giving them jobs in state government schools," the RLD state chief alleged.

Police seize illegally stored firecrackers worth ₹10 L

Lucknow (PNS): The police seized illegally stored firecrackers worth ₹10 lakh during raids in Shamli district and arrested a man in this connection.

According to sub-divisional magistrate Amitpal Sharma, a team led by circle officer Rajesh Tiwari raided a shop and seized the crackers stored illegally. The shop owner, Vipin Kumar,

was arrested.

Meanwhile, four persons arrested for a theft in a temple in Thana Bhawan town of Shamli district a month ago were booked under Gangsters Act.

The district authorities booked Mehtab, Shahrukh, Usman and Ashu under the Gangsters Act on Friday, the police added.



NOTICE

It is to declare that I have changed my name from Sumaiya to Sumaiya Qureshi. Now known is Sumaiya Qureshi D/o Mohammad Usman, R/o 168/6, Nazirabad Lucknow.

NOTICE

This is to notify that Kuman Aarti Singhal D/o Ram Krishan Singhal, R/o 5/2, Paper Mill Colony, Nishatganj, Mahanagar, Lucknow and Aarti Agarwal D/o Sri Ram Krishan Agarwal are the name of one and same person.

NOTICE

I Rakesh Kumar S/o Late Balak Ram, 22/480 Prakashlok Indiranagar, Lucknow Informed Khasra No-27 Rakba 0.136 Village Darapur Lucknow Faizabad Main Road Original Registry has loss. That anyone use illegal.

Preparations on for Kumbh Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj is a once in a lifetime experience. It is the largest religious gathering of humans anywhere on earth. Thousands of devotees take a dip in the holy confluence of rivers to emerge purer and cleansed so that they can attain moksha (salvation). A workshop 'Chalo Kumbh chale is mahapary ka hissa bane' was organised on Saturday jointly by the 'Mela Pradhikaran' and an organisation named '32'.

The main objective of the workshop was to make 'Kumbh-2019' a very different and grand from the previous ones. Main stress will be given to cleanliness. Students of Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir (MPVM) participated enthusiastically. A beautiful video related to the entire information about Kumbh and its traditions were shown and students were urged to take pride in being Prayagvaasis. The students were asked to keep their city clean as many tourists will be coming to



witness the magnificent event. This was showcased by the eye-opening street play by members of Mela Praadhikaran 'Kumbh ko swachh banana hai' which dealt with a proper use of dustbins, toilets and the disposal of waste.

The students were provided with paper, pen and envelopes and they were asked to write a letter to their friends or relatives, inviting them and making them aware about the preparations being made

for this magnificent Kumbh Mela to be held in January 2019. The biggest excitement for the students could be seen when they posted their letters in the letter box which was placed in the hall and then taken away by a postman who entered the hall on a cycle.

High resolution cameras will be installed at 19 traffic crossings in the city besides the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Police Lines by

November 15. Divisional Commissioner Ashish Goel said that once the plan got ready, the ICCC would act as the nerve centre for not only the district police but also Kumbh Mela police to maintain law and order. The CCTV cameras are to be installed at 140 spots in the city for ensuring adequate monitoring of not only traffic but management of routine civic affairs.

Goyal, along with IG Zone, Mohit Agarwal, Kumbh Mela officer Vijay Kiran Anand, additional municipal commissioner Ritu Suhas and others conducted on-the-spot inspection of different traffic intersections and public sports where development work was being carried out and assessed the quality of work. Goel also reviewed the upcoming ICCC at Police Lines, Nagar Nigam and Kumbh Mela offices. He asked senior police officials for exploring possibilities to get the UP 100 vehicles monitored through the Prayagraj ICCC control room.

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ई-मेल nniko@up.nic.in Fax- 0522-2622440

ई-निविदा सूची-468/मु.अ/18 दिनांक - 2.11.18

नगर निगम, लखनऊ की ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अंतर्गत अति अल्प-कालीन निविदा सूचना 16.11.18 को जिल्दिका पद्धति पर दिनांक 16.11.18 के अग्राहक 15.00 बजे तक ई-निविदाई ई-निविदा पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी तकनीकी ई-निविदा मात्र को वृद्धिनाक सांचकाल 16.00 बजे खोला जायेगा। अपलोड की गयी निविदा का पोर्टल से गिट करारकर मूल जमानत धरनागि के साथ दिनांक 16.11.18 को अपोहलनागि के कार्यालय कक्ष में रखे निविदा बाध्य में धारणा होगा। किसी भी ई-निविदा को स्वीकार एवं अव्यक्ति करने का अधिकार समक्ष अधिकारी में निहित होगा। अन्य समस्त नियम/शर्तें तथा निविदा प्रपत्र पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं।

क्र.सं.	वाहन/उपकरण का विवरण	जमानत धरनागि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	जी.एस.टी. 12%	कुल निविदा मूल्य
1	सिस् मोटरी होकर के अलर्नल पार्ड-सूट) के अलर्नल मर्ववा वाहू पॉपिंग स्टेशन के संचालक व अनुक्षण का कार्य	5000.00	10000.00	120	11120.00

निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क NEFT/RTGS के माध्यम से नगर निगम के एनिसिस बैंक इंदिरा नगर लखनऊ के खाता संख्या 913020000308994 आईएफएससी कोड UTIB00000355 में अलनलान जमा किया जायेगा।

मुख्य अधिकारी लखनऊ नगर निगम

नगर निगम से संबंधित शिकायतों हेतु www.innpgs.in अथवा दूरभाष सं. 0522 2307770 / 2307782 / 2307783 पर संपर्क करें।

Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE, LUCKNOW
1st floor, Union Bank Bhawan, Near Mantri Awas, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti nagar, Lucknow - 226010 Ph.: 0522-2306893-94 F-2306884

Possession Notice

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act 2002 read with rule 9 of the said rules.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the of Union Bank of India for an amount of dues outstanding together with interest thereon with costs and charges.

Sl. no.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of demand Notice/ possession /amount Due
Branch: Durgaganj, Phone No. - 0522-2898231			
1.	Borrower:- Sh. Lal Bahadur S/o Late Sh. Parmeshwar, R/o Village Saitha, Post Kakori, Lucknow Guarantor:- Sh. Pappu Yadav S/o Shri Sunder Lal, R/o Vill. Saitha, Post- Kakori, Lucknow	Plot at in Khasra No. 597 having area 1352 sq ft. at vill. Maura, Kakori, Lucknow owned by Sh. Lal bahadur	23.07.2012/ 02.11.2018/ Rs. 2,86,133.00 + intt. from 01.07.2012 & others expenses

Date -03.11.2018, Place - Lucknow Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

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

Alambagh almost as polluted as Charbagh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) report on post-monsoon ambient air quality shows that pollution level in Alambagh has gone almost as high as that in Charbagh. The average PM2.5 levels at Alambagh are 108.1µg per cubic metre, which is slightly less than that in Charbagh (116.8µg per cubic metre). The PM10 levels at Alambagh are 224.8µg per cubic metre, which is more than that in Charbagh (219.1µg per cubic metre).

Head of IITR Environment Division SC Burman, while talking to *The Pioneer*, said the main cause of pollution was increased traffic congestion in Alambagh, especially near the crossings and

bus station. He said that it could be hard to envisage the magnitude of ambient air pollution in an otherwise 'clean-looking' area. "This is so because in the generation of advanced technology, the human race has reached the crossroads between 'visible & less harmful pollutants' and 'practically invisible but grave-ly harmful pollutants'. It is primarily a result of such concerns that ambient air quality monitoring programmes have picked up pace around the world and in India. The quality of ambient air is a complex entity defined not only by principal pollutants like particulate matter. The pollutants released from the source are referred to as primary pollutants but various processes in the atmosphere including micrometeorology affect the



THE AVERAGE PM2.5 LEVELS AT ALAMBAGH ARE 108.1µg PER CUBIC METRE, WHICH IS SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THAT IN CHARBAGH (116.8µg PER CUBIC METRE)

combination of various primary pollutants to sculpt a variety of secondary pollutants. Secondary pollutants are a bigger threat since neither are their precise origins known nor is their exact composition decipherable," he explained.

He said that the composition and concentration of air pollutants was important criteria which are variable with time and space.

"In ambient air there are several compounds, and it is difficult to study for a single compound and its effects. There may be cumulative and chronic exposure for longer period with low concentrations of multiple compounds. Therefore, the adverse effects not only depend on certain pollutants and their levels but the time of exposure too. The multiple compounds in the air

at below recommended level may synergistically affect human health negatively. Meteorological factors like wind speed/direction, solar radiation, temperature, relative humidity, etc play an important role for the formation of secondary compound and the scientific study also need to focus in this line," he said.

"Our post monsoon monitoring survey may be of help to focus on the pollution level in Lucknow city. In-depth study is needed in coordination with different areas of scientific experts because reducing air pollutants and its effects is not a simple undertaking. It is important to install heavy dust removal system at major traffic point which may be operated during peak hours," he added.

4 punters nabbed in raid at hotel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With the city gearing up to host the T20 cricket match at Ekana International Stadium, the betters are also set to make the most of this opportunity. The Special Task Force (STF) sleuths on Friday night raided a hotel in Kaiserbagh and nabbed four punters.

Those arrested were identified as Farish Ansari of Kaiserbagh, Mohammed Salman of Aminabad, Ganesh Prasad and Vivek Khanna, both of Chowk. The team recovered eight mobile sets, six ATM cards, a laptop, a four-wheeler, an LED TV, a register to keep record of those betting and more than Rs 36,000 in cash from them.

Giving details, the police said a team of STF was tipped off about the gang which had assembled at Kohinoor Palace in Kaiserbagh for betting. The police informer told the team that the miscreants were preparing to bet for the T-20 cricket match between India and West Indies to be played at

Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on November 6. The informer also said that the punters were betting for the ongoing T-20 cricket match being played between Pakistan and New Zealand outside India on Friday.

The miscreants owned up their crime and disclosed that they used to bet for cricket matches and were also planning to bet for the match to be played at Ekana Stadium on November 6. As per their confession, the miscreants lure cricket lovers by offering them to put money on betting in a match. The 'betting rules' are set for bowling, batting, runs in each over, run(s) on each ball and other events related to the cricket match. The customers are asked to put money for a team which has two rates, one is maximum and other is minimum rate. If the said team wins the match, a customer will get maximum benefit and he suffers minimum loss in case the team loses the match. A case was registered against the accused persons.

Fire breaks out in drug store



Medicines gutted in the fire incident on Saturday

Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A fire broke out in a drug store in Thakurganj enveloping the area in a cloud of smoke on Saturday morning. No casualty was reported in the mishap while the losses were being estimated.

As per reports, drug store owner Neeraj Srivastava of Balaganj informed the police about the fire at his establishment around 9 am on Saturday. On the information, two fire tenders and a team of local police reached the scene. After hectic efforts, the firemen succeeded in containing fire flames.

The police spokesman said the Fire department was finding out the reason due to which the fire broke out. "The store owner told the police that the mishap occurred due to short circuit. It being morning, a few labourers were at the store. They spotted fumes ema-

nating from the drug store and informed the owner who later informed the police," the spokesman said.

As the police and Fire department teams took time to respond to the distress call, the fire took a serious turn and flames started leaping high. "We saw a dense cloud of smoke over the drug store. By the time the fire teams reached the scene, the smoky cloud covered the entire area and spread over several metres. The smoke kept hanging over us even after the fire was doused."

After the news of fire mishap spread, the local police along with firemen reached the place. The cops summoned fire teams from Chowk, Aminabad and other fire stations of the city to start the rescue operation. For firemen, it was a difficult task to handle the situation and they started the operation after wearing masks.

Gardener hacked over old enmity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A gardener was hacked to death and his body was dumped into a mango grove in Malihabad sometime on Friday night. The police said that the gardener was done in over an old enmity. The accused, however, are yet to be arrested.

As per reports, Sunnawar of Mujasa village worked at the nursery owned by Hafiz Zubair of the same village. Around 7.30 pm, a group of youths reached the nursery and persuaded Sunnawar to go along with them. Sunnawar was later reported missing and his family members started search for him but in vain.

On Saturday morning, some residents spotted the body of a man lying in the mango grove owned by Ajay Pathak of Mujasa village of Malihabad and informed other villagers. Later, the body was



The body had deep cut wounds on the head, face, and throat and blood had spilled all around the place from where it was recovered

identified to be of Sunnawar. The body had deep cut wounds on the head, face, and throat and blood had spilled all around the place from where it was recovered. The villagers later informed the police and a team reached the place for investigation.

It was only then the police came to know of the grisly murder of the youth who went missing on Friday night. The family of the victim alleged that they had sought police help after Sunnawar did not return

home and they did not find him at his work place where he was working for the last 12 years.

During investigation, the police had a talk with the victim's family members who said that they suspected Guddu and his brother Noor Alam of Sahalmu village of Malihabad for their involvement in the murder. Guddu happened to be the victim's brother-in-law and both were on loggerheads for a long time. On the revelation, the police registered a case of

murder and started the hunt for Guddu and his brother.

Malihabad SHO Mukul Prakash Verma said Sunnawar's father told police that some villagers saw Guddu and his brother Noor Alam going to the nursery and persuading Sunnawar to go along with them. "Since both Guddu and Sunnawar had an enmity, it is but natural that Guddu was the prime suspect in the murder," the SHO explained. The SHO, however, was speechless when asked why Sunnawar did not suspect Guddu's mens rea and agreed to go along with the latter. The police spokesman said the body was sent for autopsy and the police were investigating the case. "The teams are raiding hideouts of Guddu and his brother. They are yet to be arrested. The sequence of incidents will be clear after the accused persons were interrogated," he said.

Recovery of bike belies Gudamba police claim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Stunning facts surfaced in the mysterious disappearance of Vikram Rawat who went missing on August 15 from his house in Gudamba and is yet to be recovered. Rawat was working with a Hazratganj-based company installing CCTV cameras and went missing after he left his house for work on the fateful day. The police had registered a case on August 18 after SSP Kalanidhi Naithani gave a dressing down to then SHO DK Sahi and asked him to expedite the case. The police contested the family claim that the abductors had demanded Rs 2 crore as ransom from Rawat's family but under pressure to perform, they arrested two miscreants belonging to Barabanki. But the cops failed to recover Rawat and also failed in recovering his motorcycle.

On Saturday, the Chinhat police recovered two unidentified bikes from Indira Canal on Friday.



During investigation, it surfaced that one of the bikes belonged to Rawat who is still untraceable. With the lie nailed, the Gudamba police dishied out another story about Rawat's disappearance. Sub-inspector Arjun Dwivedi said Rawat was in love with a girl and he had left the house on August 15 after threatening he would end his life. "The recovery of the bike from the Indira Canal has deepened the apprehension that Rawat ended his life. We are looking for unclaimed bodies having features as that of Rawat," the S-I said. The police bowled over when asked why they arrested two suspects of Barabanki in Rawat's abduction case.

FORM NO. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Areas of Jurisdiction - Part of Uttar Pradesh)
SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY AND APPEARANCE THROUGH PUBLICATION

O.A. No. 509/2018 Date: 08.10.2018
(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.)

O.A. No. 509/2018

CORPORATION BANKApplicant
Versus
M/S ADARSH ENTERPRISES & OTHERSDefendant

To,
1. M/s Adarsh Enterprises situated at Premises No. 180, Faizullahganj, Gazipur Balram, Lucknow through its proprietor Shri Ramesh Singh - the defendant No. 2.
2. Ramesh Singh S/o Late Rati Pal Singh R/o Premises No. 180, Faizullahganj, Gazipur Balram, Lucknow.
3. Shri Brij Raj Singh S/o Shri Lallu Singh R/o Premises No. 538K/1589, Shivlok, Triveni Nagar-II, Lucknow.

DEFENDANT

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply/evidence in Paper Book form in two sets alongwith 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 **28.11.2018 at 10:30 A.M.**, failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
LUCKNOW

SEAL

LMRC MD expresses satisfaction over pace of construction work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Managing director of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation Kumar Keshav inspected the airport station on Saturday to assess its progress. He expressed satisfaction on the pace of construction work.

"We are almost through with the construction work of the station and only track-laying work for 200 metres is left to be done on both sides. The progress of work is matching that at other stations of the corridor," he said.

Keshav said they were hoping to complete the civil construction work by the end of November and the track work by December 15 after which signalling and overhead equip-

ment work would be done. Keshav said that in the civil construction work, they had almost completed the entire via duct. "There are certain areas where construction needs to be carried out, including Badshahnagar crossing where girders are being installed, and entry/exit points at some of the stations. There is also a scissors crossover which has to be completed at the airport station," he pointed out. The North-South is expected to be dedicated to the public next year for the entire stretch from Munshipulia to the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport. "Our thrust at the moment is on the completion of civil construction and track work," the LMRC director said.



Ahead of Diwali, schoolchildren wearing masks of animals protesting against gambling and firecrackers in Lucknow on Saturday

Pioneer

S-I accused of misbehaviour by BKU leader

Lucknow (PNS): A local leader of Bharatiya Kisan Union accused a sub-inspector of misbehaving with him and later staged protest at the Madaon police station while demanding to remove the errant cop from his post on Saturday evening. The complainant identified as Imran Khan of Allunagar Digariya locality was standing near Bhithauli tri section while his SUV was parked at one side of the road. "The sub inspector Aslam approached to me and asked me to shift the SUV as a fleet escorting the DGP was to pass via the road. I followed his instruction and later reached to the police outpost to meet him. I failed to understand what irked the S-I that he started abusing me and pushed me out of the police outpost," Imran alleged. Imran's supporters felt offended at SI's behavior and they demanded an explanation but it failed to cut the ice. Later Imran along with his supporters reached the Madaon police station where he staged a protest. He ended the protest after giving a complaint against the SI while demanding to remove the officer. "The complaint letter is addressed to Circle Officer. The officials assured me of action against the SI and pleaded for time. If no action was initiated, I will gherao the SSP Camp Office in Hazratganj," the BKU leader warned.

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DETAILED REVIEW

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Anita Bhatnagar Jain had a detailed review of the ongoing construction of 26 state model degree colleges, 84 degree colleges and

North Central Railway, Allahabad

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 18-06 Dated 26.10.2018

On behalf President of India, Sr. Divisional Material Manager, North Central Railway, Allahabad invites the E-Procurement tenders: **S.N. 1**

Tender No. 19185995**Description-** GPS (GEO Positioning system) based footplate inspection device Make-Votive or equivalent as per RDSO Specification No. TM/SM 326 Dt. **03.07.12. Qty- 10 Nos. EMD:- ₹ 22,450/- Tender Opening Date:** 29-11-2018. **Note-** (1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed on their body. (5) Allocation for "Cost of Drawing " is Z-650 and for "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" is Deposit Misc. Stores-00844517. The above tender notice have been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in> in case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. **1149/18 Ad**

24x7 Passenger Helpline No :- 138

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

Tender Notice Sealed

Tenders for executing the following works in two parts (as detailed in tender specifications) are hereby invited from experienced contractors and will be opened on the same dates mentioned below at 15.30 hrs. publicly in the office of the under signed. The tender documents can be had up to previous working day of the opening day on payment of Rs. 236.00 and Rs. 118.00 including GST (NON REFUNDABLE) in cash or demand draft. If tender document is required by post, Rs. 30.00 will be charged extra. Part-I of the tender will contain an earnest money in shape of CDR/DR/BD/RT/GS duly pledged in favour of the undersigned in official capacity and part-II will contain rates, terms and conditions and other relevant details. Without earnest money tender will not be accepted. **E-Tender No. 15/ESDS/2018-19 To be opened on dt 06.12.2018, Tender cost Rs. 118.00, Earnest Money Rs. 1000.00** 1. Work for cleaning of 400KV Divisional open store 'A', Sultanpur under Electy. 400 KV Substation Division, Sultanpur. **E-Tender No. 16/ESDS/2018-19 To be opened on dt 06.12.2018, Tender cost Rs. 236.00, Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00** Work for repairing & rewinding of 3 Phase 105HP/78KV 415Volt 2875rpm induction Motor (Siemens make) of main water fire pump set (Electrically driven) of Emulsifier System at Electricity 400KV S/S Sultanpur under Electricity 400KV Substation Division, Sultanpur. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER** Electy. 400KV Substation Division Sultanpur. No. 1560. Date 02.11.2018. **"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"**

Obra Thermal Power Station, Sonbhadra, U.P. E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

TENDER No. 07/ SE-OCCCC-II/OCCCD-IV/2018-19 Online term e-Bids are invited for the work of 'Work of construction of One Nos Toilet and Shed for employees posted in operation of 11-KV switch gear to CW Pump House located in BTPS, Obra' E-tender has been uploaded on the e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Last date of submission of tender will be up to **12/11/2018** at 18:00 Hrs and technical bid (Part-I) will be opened on **14/11/2018** at 16:00 Hrs or later. Estimated Cost of work is **Rs.1,55,167.68** only. Period of completion of work is 01 months. The E.M.D and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 3,200 and Rs.5,90.00 (including 18% GST) respectively which shall be paid in favour of Dy. CAO, CTPS, Obra through RTGS/NEFT. Last date of submission of UTR Slip of payment of Tender Fee & Earnest Money in original in this office is **13/11/2018** up to 14.00 Hrs. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Superintending Engineer, OCCCC-II, Obra reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves update. **SE, OCCCC-II No. 282** Date 31.10.2018 **SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION**

CITYBRIEFS



Pre-Diwali celebrations at Techno Group of Institutions

works undertaken in 16 universities. The agencies concerned were directed to ensure that construction in 26 new degree colleges was completed by December 31 so that session can be started there. Work targets of November 30, December 15 and December 31 were given by Jain. The director of Higher Education was asked to ensure simultaneous posting of teachers. Laying emphasis on submission of utilisation certificates and getting the Central share released, a target of Rs 100 crore submission of utilisation certificates by November 30 was fixed by Jain. The meeting was also attended by all special secretaries and RUSA director.

STREET PLAYS

A series of street plays were held by 'We Youngsters' foundation in Gomti Nagar on Saturday. Under the theme of 'Azadi maange zimmedari', 12 colleges and various NGOs took part in the street plays. Techno Group of Institute, University of Lucknow, Amity University, BBDNITM, Modern Girls' College of Professional Studies, Jagriti Sanskriti Evam Shaikshik Sansthan, Aryakul Group of

Colleges and Lucknow Public College of Professional Studies among others were a part of the performing teams for the pre-round competition. A total of 10 selected teams will be performing in next series of the event to be held on November

25-29 on different roads of Lucknow.

DIWALI

Techno Group of Institutions had pre-Diwali celebrations on Saturday and the students lit candles and



A street play being staged at Gomti Nagar

enjoyed themselves on the dance floor. The aim was to make the day memorable for unity of technoites. The function was also organised to explain to the students the importance and value of Diwali. The students decorated the college with lights, charts and rangolis.

LAND FREED

A Lucknow Development Authority team, led by joint secretary Mahendra Mishra, got a LDA in Aishbagh freed on Saturday. The land was encroached for 50 years. The was encroached by Paramjeet Singh, who had set up a plywood factory there. Mishra said the encroachers offered some resistance but the encroached land was freed. Others present during the drive were Bazaarkhala CO and ACM-7 along with police personnel. The decision in favour of LDA was made by the Supreme Court after Paramjeet Singh lost his case in May 2017.

INSPECTION

Transport Commissioner P Guruprasad carried out a surprise inspection at the RTO office in Transportnagar on Saturday and caught four touts who were handed over to the Sarojininar police. Guruprasad also found the RTO enforcement and administration officials missing from the office. A senior official from the department said the touts were present near the counters where their presence is prohibited.

NAUSHAD SAMMAN

'Naushad Samman' will be conferred on santoor player Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma and singer Rekha Bharadwaj at Awadh Festival, organised by Hunar Crafts Association, on Sunday. Key organiser Zafar Nabi said the award carries Rs 1 lakh in cash, a memento and certificate. Previously, this award was presented to music directors Khayyam, Anand (of Kalyanji-Anandji fame); sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan; and actress Hema Malini. The award is presented in the memory of music director Naushad Ali, who belonged to Lucknow.



Students taking part in Annual Sports Day and PT display at Loreto Convent Intermediate College on Saturday

Pioneer

A learning experience for surgeons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

About 125 odd laparoscopic surgeons of the state had a learning experience of live bariatric surgery at a workshop held at Ajanta Hospital in Alambagh on Saturday.

Dr Mahendra Narwaria, pioneer of bariatric surgery from Ahmedabad and Lucknow-based renowned bariatric surgeon Dr Rahul Singh operated four patients with morbid obesity at the workshop. The surgeons interacted with the media and explained how bariatric surgery controls diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol, along with excess weight of the patients. 'They added that earlier people were sceptical to undergo bariatric surgery but now with increasing awareness and better results, they have started trusting bariatric surgery for their medical issues.

On the occasion, Dr Rahul Singh said that many patients who were operated at Ajanta Hospital had recommended the surgery to other obese



patients. The doctors who attended the workshop had an interactive learning experience of all major types of surgeries as well as revisional bariatric surgery that were demonstrated at the hospital.

A live transmission of the workshop was broadcast for doctors who could not physically attend the workshop.

Managing director of Ajanta Hospital, Dr Anil Khanna, said that 73 bariatric surgeries had been successful-

ly performed at Ajanta Hospital in the past three years. He added that cashless facility for bariatric surgery had been extended to patients from Central government (CGHS), ECHS, ESIC, various Central government corporations.

Dr Khanna said with availability of recommended standard of care of bariatric patients in Lucknow, people need not move to metros for this procedure which was convenient and economical too.

Lit fest to celebrate 100 yrs of Razia Sajjad Zaheer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Literature Festival will celebrate 100 years of writer Razia Sajjad Zaheer, who is the mother of famous playwright and theatre activist Nadira Babbar and daughter of Progressive Writers' Association founder Syed Sajjad Zaheer.

The sixth edition of the festival, organised by Lucknow Expression Society, will kick off at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on November 16. Founder-director of the festival Kanak Rekha Chauhan said a play titled 'Maa Ke Haath' would be staged by Nadira Babbar and it would be dedicated to her mother.

"There will also be a session on the author. A unique aspect will be that for the first time, Razia's two daughters (Nadira and Noor Zaheer) will be coming on the same stage together," Chauhan said.

She pointed out that Razia had an extraordinary life. "She lived in the outhouse of the palatial house of her in-laws on Wazir Hasan road in Lucknow since her in-laws blamed her for her influence on her husband, who was for most part of his life in jail. The credit for bringing up her daughters single-handedly goes to

the woman who gave two hoots to the traditional trappings of a women. Her husband had told her on the first day of her marriage that she was not required to wear burqa," Chauhan said. She added that there had been many books written on Razia's life. Incidentally, the theme of the festival this year is 'Beyond the Borders', which includes reference to the regional, religious, caste and creed borders and highlights one India as 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam'.

The focus will be on three regional languages — Bangla, Punjabi and Dakhani Urdu. The sessions will be titled 'Punjab, Punjabi and Punjabiya', 'Shonar Bangla' and 'Dakhani Rooh'.

Chauhan said that Punjabi literature had been selected because it had a lot of folk nuances. Punjabi poet Surjit Patar will recite his poetry in one of the sessions and actor Kanwaljeet will also talk about the language. There will also be a session on humour. "It is primarily to explore whether the Indians have a sense of humour because we have forgotten to laugh at ourselves," Chauhan said, adding that the cultural evenings would be replete with several programmes. There is no entry fee for the festival.

SCHOOLSCAN



FELICITATED

The meritorious students of City Montessori School and their parents & teachers were felicitated at a function organised at Gomti Nagar (Campus II) auditorium on Saturday. The chief guest on the occasion was director of Basic Education (UP) Sarvendra Vikram Bahadur Singh, who inaugurated the function. The students who secured top positions in the inter-campus merit list of second comparative

examinations of CMS for ISC (class XII) were awarded. The first position holder of ISC 2nd comparative examinations was Dhruv Kushwaha who secured 92.36% marks in aggregate. He was honoured while his mother was weighed in fruits and flowers and father given a shawl of honour. The meritorious students who secured top 10 positions in the inter-campus merit list and top position holders at campus level, were also acknowledged.



'COFAS-2018' CONCLUDES

The four-day international computer olympiad, 'Cofas-2018', organised by City Montessori School (Rajendra Nagar Campus III), concluded at Kanpur Road auditorium on Saturday. The participating students and prize-winners in various

competitions from Jordan, Nepal and various states of India were honoured with shields, medals and certificates. The overall championship was bagged by Sunbeam English School (Varanasi) while the runner-up trophy went to St Peter's College (Agra).

SILVER JUBILEE FUNCTION

Canossa School, Faridi Nagar, celebrated its silver jubilee function on Saturday. 'Dare to Soar' was the theme which was depicted by a bouquet of cultural programmes. The event began with the guard of honour to provincial superior Zinia D'Souza, followed by the lighting of lamp by guest of honour Gerald J Mathias (Bishop of Lucknow). The programme began with a prayer



dance presented by class IX students. The idea of the uplift of Kashmiri women was depicted by class I students while classes II&III students presented a beautiful dance-drama.

Experts discuss food safety

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Is the food you eat safe and does that give you the calories you require? Is packaged food nutritious as it claims to be? These were some of the topics deliberated upon on the second day of International Toxicology Conclave at IITR.

Speaking at a session on food and consumer safety, IITR director Alok Dhawan said several institutions under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) umbrella had been working towards it. Several kits and instruments have been developed for food-testing to detect adulterants, contaminants, poor quality, spoilage etc. Presentations were also made on the role of food substances as therapeutic agents and improved food packaging methods to preserve the shelf life of packaged food. A panel discussion listed action points to address the issues of risk assessment, safety testing, improved food packaging methods and preparation of enriched, fortified foods to address the widespread undernutrition and malnutrition in the country.



Curatins came down on

the conclave with the valedictory function chaired by director of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Rae Bareli) SJS Flora. Awards were given away to the participants who made the best posters which were displayed during the conclave.

Gangster Act slapped on many criminals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Police imposed the Gangster Act on former MP Atique Ahmed's younger brother Khalid Azeem alias Ashraf and 13 others. Ashraf has been absconding since Dhoomanganj police investigated his involvement in a double murder at Mariyadhi. The other accused were earlier arrested and were lodged at different jails.

SSP Nitin Tiwari said that besides Ashraf, the Gangster Act had been imposed on Mariyadhi village head Abid Pradhan, Farhan, Akbar, Abubakar, Majid, Javed, Aizaz, Akhtar, Sheru, Munna, Pappu, Faisal, Asif and Zulfikar alias Tota. The accused are dreaded criminals and have been involved in different crimes in the area including extortion, land grabbing fraud, murder, loot and kidnapping. The accused operated as an organised gang under their leader

Abid Pradhan and were co-accused with former MP Atique Ahmed in different crimes. No one in the area dared to speak against them. To ensure strict action against them, the DM approved their gang chart and the Gangster Act was imposed on them. "Sustained efforts will now be made to trace and arrest Ashraf," the SSP added. Dhoomanganj inspector Sandeep Mishra said all the accused accept Faisal had been sent to jail. Faisal was granted bail in a murder case. Abid Pradhan sister's Alkama and driver Surjit were gunned down in August 2015. Abid and his family lodged an FIR against Kamnu, Jabir and others in connections with the double murders. However, later investigations revealed that Abid and other accused gunned down Alkama and Surjit and framed come and other due to old rivalry.

Stress on need to exterminate corruption

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

A seminar on "Eradicate corruption—Build a new India" was organised at North Central Railway (NCR) headquarters as part of Vigilance Awareness Week-2018. Justice (Retd) Sabhajeet Yadav was the chief guest while Additional General Manager (AGM), North Central Railway, Arun Malik presided over the seminar. The 17th edition of the vigilance bulletin 'Jagriti' was released on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice (Retd) Sabhajeet Yadav said that the sense of financial insecurity was the main cause of corruption. "If basic requirements such as food, clothes, shelter, quality healthcare and education facilities are affordable and available to all, then we can hope to eradicate corruption," he added.

PUNJAB & ASSAM

Army chief sees external bids to revive militancy

New Delhi: Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on Saturday expressed concern over attempts to "revive insurgency" in Punjab and Assam through "external linkages" and warned if early action is not taken it will be too late.

Asserting that insurgency cannot be dealt with military force, he favoured adopting an approach in which all agencies, the Government, civil administration, Military and police work in an "integrated manner."

Airing these views here in a seminar on 'Changing Contours of Internal Security in India: Trends and Responses,' he said attempts are being made through "external linkages" to "revive insurgency" in Punjab and Assam through "external abetment."

"Punjab has been peaceful but because of these external linkages, attempts again are being made to revive insurgency in the State," he said, adding, "we have to be very careful." "Let us not think that



Punjab (situation) is over. We cannot close our eyes to what is happening in Punjab. And, if we do not take early action now, it will be too late," he said. Punjab saw one of the worst phases of insurgencies in the 1980s.

Former Uttar Pradesh police chief Prakash Singh also highlighted the issue and referred to a pro-Khalistan rally organised recently in the UK aiming for a 'Referendum 2020'. Hundreds of people had turned out at Trafalgar Square in London on August 12 in support of a pro-Khalistan rally as well as to counter the event with an Independence Day celebrations.

Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) had said its rally was intended to raise awareness for a non-binding referendum in 2020, calling for Punjab to be grant-

ed independence. The "We Stand With India" and "Love My India" events were organised by Indian diaspora groups as a reaction to the pro-Khalistan "London Declaration for a Referendum 2020".

Touching upon the issue of internal security, the Army Chief said threat to internal security is one of the biggest problems in the country, but question is "why we have not been able to find a solution, because it has external linkages."

Asserting that insurgency cannot be dealt with Military force, he pitched for adopting an approach in which all agencies, the Government, civil administration, military and police work in an "integrated manner."

The resolution of Naga insurgency can be forerunner to the Manipur insurgency situation. There are some linkages between the two. But, if that resolution does not satisfy Manipuris then the insurgency in that State will take a different turn, Rawat said. **PNS**

ASTHANA BRIBERY CASE

Middleman Prasad's bail plea dismissed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday dismissed the bail plea of alleged middleman Manoj Prasad arrested in connection with the alleged bribery case against CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

Special CBI judge Santosh Snehi Mann denied bail to Prasad contending it was not a fit stage to grant him relief.

The CBI had opposed the application saying that the accused was an influential person and if released on bail, he may tamper with the ongoing probe and flee from justice.

In his bail application, Manoj Prasad had averred that he was not required for the custodial interrogation and no purpose will be served by keeping him in further custody.

Manoj Prasad who was arrested on October 17 is at present undergoing judicial custody.

The court had on October 31 granted bail to co-accused and CBI DSP Devender Kumar after the agency did not oppose

his bail plea.

The CBI had registered an FIR against Asthana, Kumar and two private persons on a written complaint of Hyderabad-based businessman Sathish Sana on October 15.

Besides Asthana, Manoj Prasad and Devender Kumar, another alleged middleman Somesh Prasad has also been named as an accused in the case.

The FIR had alleged that Devender Kumar, being the Investigating Officer (IO) in the case against meat exporter Moin Qureshi, was repeatedly calling the complainant to the CBI office to harass him and compel him to pay a bribe of ₹5 crore for getting a clean chit in the case.

The complaint had also alleged that a part of the bribe was paid by Sana. Earlier, through a complaint to the Cabinet Secretary on August 24, Asthana had alleged that Sana who is an accused in the Moin Qureshi case had allegedly paid a bribe of ₹2 crore to get relief in the case.

EC orders removal of Mizoram's Principal Secy of Home Dept

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) ordered immediate removal of a Principal Secretary (Home) Lalnunmawia Chuaungo accused of meddling in revision of electoral rolls in poll-bound Mizoram. Chuaungo, a 1987-batch Gujarat-cadre IAS officer, has been serving in Mizoram on an inter-cadre deputation from Gujarat.

The decision came in the wake of a complaint filed by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Mizoram, S B Shashank who accused Chuaungo of "direct interference" by the State Government in preparation for the November 28 Assembly polls.

"The Election Commission is satisfied that the continuance of Lalnunmawia Chuaungo as Principal Secretary (Home) in State Government of Mizoram will have adverse impact on conduct of smooth, free and fair election process in Mizoram," the EC order States. The order of the EC

signed by Secretary SB Joshi also stated that the poll panel in Delhi also approved the name of Lalrinliana Fazai, a 1997 batch AGMUT cadre officer to be the new Secretary (home). The election commission decision sparked off protests from political and civil society Mizo groups.

On October 29, Shashank had written to EC complaining about interference by Chuaungo in revision of electoral rolls of Bru refugees from Mizoram residing in Tripura and had asked for his removal from the present post. The CEO has cited interference of the department of home affairs in the electoral revision process by asking the District Election Officers not to consider the identification slips for any purpose other than repatriation of refugees. The Mizoram Government, Shashank is learnt to have said, did not seem keen to have any new Bru voters enrolled.

The EC also directed that he should be relieved of his current responsibilities with immediate effect and not be assigned any work related to the state till the

elections are over. In its Friday order, the EC observed that a series of incidents had happened in Mizoram causing concern about completion of summary revision of electoral rolls and successful conduct of free and fair polls.

It mentioned of how enrolment forms of Bru voters were stolen in August 23 and how the Mizoram government directed that identity slips issued to Bru families (which were being used to identify eligible voters) were declared not to be used for enrolment.

The EC noted how Chuaungo gave "evasive replies" on why the direction regarding identity slips was issued. It also mentioned how the IAS officer questioned deployment of central armed police force for the polls.

"Provisions would be made during future elections to the Lok Sabha and the legislative assembly of Mizoram for exercise of franchise within Mizoram by Bru (Reang) voters living in Tripura enrolled in voter lists in Mizoram," the EC order had stated.

ANOTHER CBI VS CBI CASE

DSP Mishra levels serious allegations against 3 IPS officers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another case of CBI vs CBI, an agency DSP NP Mishra has levelled serious allegations against three IPS officers Sharad Aggarwal, Abhishek Dular and Ramgopal Garg for corruption and manipulation of evidence in journalist Umesh Rajput murder case of Chhattisgarh.

"The officers of the CBI namely Sharad Aggarwal, the then DIG, now JD, Abhishek Dular, the then SP, KS Negi, DSP/IO of the case and AK

Singh, Sr. PP have changed the statement so as to save high profile criminal Manoj Aggarwal and others, who is the main culprit in Umesh Rajput murder case and Sushil Pathak murder case," Mishra alleged in his complaint.

Umesh Rajput was murdered only because he was blackmailing Manoj Aggarwal as this blackmailing by Umesh Rajput not only endangered the life and status of Manoj Aggarwal but also that of all the doctors of Chhattisgarh Medical College, Bilaspur and Dr BR Ambedkar Medical

'The aforesaid officers of the CBI in order to save the real accused/culprit concocted /created false evidence in the case and filed a false chargesheet in the court. He also alleged that the statements recorded by him have not been filed with the chargesheet of the case,' he alleged

College and "henchmen" police officers of Manoj Aggarwal, who were helping

Manoj Aggarwal by issuing/accepting false and fabricated certificates in the name of Manoj Aggarwal," Mishra alleged in his complaint to CBI Director Alok Verma.

"The aforesaid officers of the CBI in order to save the real accused/culprit concocted /created false evidence in the case and filed a false chargesheet in the court. He also alleged that the statements recorded by him have not been filed with the chargesheet of the case," he further alleged.

"Copies of actual state-

ments are with me in my computer and I can handover the same if required," Mishra claimed.

The letter sent "through proper channel" also sought from CBI Director Alok Verma.

When contacted CBI Spokesperson Abhishek Dayal said, "He (Mishra) keeps filing complaints against other officers and enquiries are conducted. I do not know how the CBI carries on with the investigations with such officers."



Lanterns are displayed on a street for sale in Mumbai on Saturday

AP

Stalin, Dhinakaran alliance likely ahead of TN's by-poll

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

For the first time in recent history, Tamil Nadu will see the spectacle of strange political permutation and combination which was once unthinkable. The DMK, the main opposition party, struggling to regain power which it lost in 2011 is likely to forge strategic and tacit understanding with the TTV Dhinakaran-led Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) to fight the upcoming by-elections from 20 assembly constituencies in the State.

The by-polls were necessitated because of the disqualification of the 18 legislators belonging to the AIADMK and owing allegiance to Dhinakaran and his aunt V K Sasikala (the former aide to former Chief Minister late J Jyalalithaa serving jail term in Bangalore in connection with the disproportionate asset case verdict) and the demise of two serving legislators.

The DMK had a tacit understanding with Dhinakaran in the by-poll held from RK Nagar in December 2017. Though there was no



formal announcement about this alliance, the DMK fielded a political novice Marudhu Ganesh to facilitate the victory of Dhinakaran who fought as an independent in the hustings against the AIADMK's official candidate. While Dhinakaran romped home, the DMK candidate forfeited his security deposit, something which was unheard of in the RK Nagar where the party's candidate Shimla Muthuchozhan had given a scare to the then chief minister Jayalalithaa in the 2016 assembly election.

While Muthuchozhan had polled more than 57,000 votes against Jayalalithaa's 97,218 votes, Ganesh could poll hardly 24,000 votes in the 2017 by-poll. While the Tamil media celebrated the failure of BJP to score the votes polled by NOTA, the fall in the DMK



votes went unnoticed. It was known to all that there was a secret deal between the DMK and Dhinakaran. "Yes, we have every reason to doubt that there was a tacit understanding between the DMK and Dhinakaran. The DMK is yet to explain why Muthuchozhan was overlooked during the by-poll," V Mythreyan, MP, AIADMK, had told *The Pioneer*.

Though M K Stalin, president, DMK, issues daily statements condemning the AIADMK and Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy, it is interesting to note that neither he nor any other leaders in the DMK have attacked Dhinakaran, Sasikala or other members of the Mannargudi clan.

The AIADMK has to win at least 18 of the 20 seats going to the by-polls to continue in

office. This is because of the precarious position of the AIADMK in the assembly where it is surviving only because of a fragile majority. In the Tamil Nadu House which has an effective strength of 234, the ruling dispensation should have at least 118 seats to sustain the government. But the AIADMK has hardly 115 members as on Saturday and there are reports that four to five members may jump fence to Dhinakaran camp anytime from now.

The DMK, which commands the support of 97 members, too have to win all the 20 seats to dream of toppling the Palaniswamy Government. The next option available to the Dravidian major is to enter into a strategic or tactical alliance with Dhinakaran's AMMK and facilitate the defeat of all the AIADMK candidates by transferring votes.

This is the most likely scenario since both Stalin and Dhinakaran want the Palaniswamy Government to go. Since the alliance between the AMMK and the DMK is likely to cause the ire of the AIADMK voters, for the time being Stalin and Dhinakaran may keep the deal a low key affair.

Forced by parents to marry Aishwarya, says Tej Pratap

FAIZAN ■ AHMAD PATNA

No positive result seems to have emerged after an adamant son met his ailing father in prison hospital in Ranchi on Saturday.

Tej Pratap Yadav, who has filed petition for divorce from his wife of less than six months Aishwarya Rai in the court, heard his father Lalu Prasad patiently but insisted that he was not ready any more to spend a "suffocating life with her." The hearing of the case is slated on November 29 and he said he would reveal everything only in the court. "I don't want to be tied to any bandhan (bonding)," he reportedly told his father.

Prior to reaching Ranchi and meeting RJD supremo, Tej told media people in Gaya that his decision was final and there was no question of withdrawing his petition. He said he was reluctant to marry her but was forced by parents who made him a "pawn."

"Ghut ghut kar jeene ka koi fayda nahi. Main Krishna hoon par Aishwarya meri Radha nahi hai," (no use of living in suffocation. I am like Krishna but she is not my Radha), said Tej and added that there was no coordination between them as she belonged

'Ghut ghut kar jeene ka koi fayda nahi. Main Krishna hoon par Aishwarya meri Radha nahi hai,' (no use of living in suffocation. I am like Krishna but she is not my Radha), said Tej and added that there was no coordination between them as she belonged to high society

to high society.

Som reliable sources disclosed that Tej was under great influence of a Baba in Vrindavan (Mathura) and it is suspected that the Baba told him that he was like Krishna but Aishwarya was not his Radha so better they should separate. Tej last met that Baba only three days back in Vrindavan. Baba's influence on Tej is more than his parents have on him. That could be a reason that he was accusing his parents, Lalu and Rabri Devi, for coercing him to marry Aishwarya, daughter of RJD leader and MLA Chandrika Rai.

The attitude of Tej has shocked the families of Lalu-Rabri and Chandrika Rai beyond words. Rai with daughter Aishwarya rushed

to the house of Rabri Devi on Friday late evening but all attempts to reach Tej failed as he had left by car for Ranchi and refused to take any call. However, he made a night halt at Gaya and resumed his journey Saturday morning.

Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who was not keeping well and had postponed his yatra two days back attended a party meeting on Saturday in a bid to show that party was not perturbed over the family feud.

When newsmen asked about the incident, a tense looking Tejashwi shot back, "No need to take interest in family matter. This is our problem and leave it on us. You people better look at the problems of Bihar and India and the youths and their unemployment." Prodded further the former Deputy CM said tersely, "If you start discussing family problems in public no family will escape whether it is of the PM (Narendra Modi) or the CM (Nitish Kumar)."

In related development two of the friends of Tej were called at Rabri Devi's house and were beaten by Chandrika and also by Rabri who hit one of them, a lawyer, with a remote. They were let go with warning not to say anything outside.

Mentally disabled man shot by security forces in Shopian

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

A "mentally disabled" man was shot dead by the security forces on Saturday morning at a village in south Kashmir's Shopian district, police said.

According to a police official, "At around 3 am a mentally unstable man was trying to walk into the army camp of 34 RR located at Pahnoo village of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

The slain man was identified as Rayees Ahmad Wani, resident of Begam Kulgam. Meanwhile, a sit-in protest was held by the family members and relatives of slain man along with his body at Batapora Chowk

"Some warning shots were fired by a sentry in air but the man did not stop, he then directly fired some shots upon him, which killed him on the spot, he added.

The slain man was identified as Rayees Ahmad Wani, resident of Begam Kulgam.

Meanwhile, a sit-in protest was held by the family members and relatives of slain man along with his body at Batapora Chowk.

They were demanding for justice of the slain man and the arrest of erring army personnel. According to a family member Rayees Ahmad was missing since Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a lady in Khanyar locality of old Srinagar made fervent appeal to her son to shun militancy and return home, a day after his impersonated photograph posing as IS terrorist went viral on social media.

Ehtiham, a B.tech student went missing on last Sunday from his hostel at Sharda University in Greater Noida, nearly after a month, when he was assaulted during a group clash at the university between Indian and Afghani students.

A gun-wielding picture of Ehtesham along with a claiming audio message surfaced on social media.

Kashmir gets season's first snowfall

- ❑ The early snowfall caught the Governor's administration unaware and unprepared
- ❑ Orchardists in south Kashmir region and saffron growers in Pampore apprehend huge economic losses

KHURSHIED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Normal life came to a grinding halt in Kashmir following the season's first blanket snowfall that triggered road blockades and power outages forcing people to resort to traditional methods to fight the bone-chilling cold wave.

The early snowfall caught the Governor's administration unaware and unprepared while the orchardists in south Kashmir region and saffron growers in Pampore in the



A man rides a bicycle during season's first snowfall in Srinagar on Saturday PTI

outskirts of Srinagar apprehend huge economic losses. The rare November snowfall has occurred three times in past 18 years, a MET official said. The weather is likely to improve from Monday.

He said Srinagar registered a minimum temperature of minus 1 degree Celsius, down from the previous night.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, recorded 11 degree Celsius, compared to 16 degree Celsius on Friday.

The strategic 434-km Srinagar-Leh highway remained closed due to the heavy snowfall for the third consecutive day as 3 feet thick layer of snow has accumulated across Zoji La pass. The Srinagar-Jammu

National Highway was also closed for vehicular traffic even as the authorities tried hard to keep it through for the passage of Durbur Move employees. The government offices are re-opening in winter capital Jammu on Monday, 10 days after they were closed in Srinagar on October 26.

The freaky weather has caused anguish among thousands of students writing their examinations for tenth and twelfth classes.

Orchardists from southern and northern parts of Kashmir said that the sudden change in weather pattern has potential to harm them economically. "The full apple crop has not been harvested. Some fruit is still on trees and the plucked harvest is in the process of grading and packaging," Murtaza Ahmad, an orchardist said.

The summer capital Srinagar witnessed a cold wave for last three days as the upper reaches witnessed early snowfall.



A Shikarawalla rows his boat across Dal Lake during the season's first snowfall, in Srinagar on Saturday PTI

TAMIL NADU BYPOLLS

DMK-AMMK alliance likely

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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Dhinakaran in the bypoll held from RK Nagar in December 2017. Though there was no formal announcement about this alliance, the DMK fielded a political novice Marudhu Ganesh to facilitate the victory of Dhinakaran who fought as an independent in the hustings against the AIADMK's official candidate. While Dhinakaran romped home, the DMK candidate forfeited his security deposit, something which was unheard of in the RK Nagar where the party's candidate Shimla Muthuchozhan had given a scare to the then chief minister Jayalithaa in the 2016 assembly election.

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ly 24,000 votes in the 2017 by-poll. While the Tamil media celebrated the failure of BJP to score the votes polled by NOTA, the fall in the DMK votes went unnoticed. It was known to all that there was a secret deal between the DMK and Dhinakaran. "Yes, we have every reason to doubt that there was a tacit understanding between the DMK and Dhinakaran. The DMK is yet to explain why Muthuchozhan was overlooked during the by-poll," V Mythreyan, MP, AIADMK, had told *The Pioneer*.

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Upset with docs' handwriting, court seeks printed reports

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Fed up of summoning doctors to decipher medico legal reports, the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has ordered that computer printed reports be provided along with the original handwritten reports. Making the observation on Friday, a division bench of justice Ajai Lamba and justice DK Singh said the unreadable hand written reports, produced before the courts in every other case, act as a hindrance in effective adjudication.

However, the printed report will have to be signed by the author as true copy of the original or by some other authorised signatory, after its comparison with the original, the court said. It would also form part of police report at the time of conclusion of the investigation, the court added.

Despite imposing costs to be recovered from the salary of a number of doctors, they have not been recording medico legal reports/injury reports and post-mortem reports in readable and clear handwriting, the bench said. Hence in every

other case the court has to summon the doctor for reading out the medico legal reports for the benefit of effective adjudication, it added.

"Summoning a doctor simply for reading the report authored by him for bad handwriting does not make administrative sense," the court said while disposing of a writ petition challenging a First Information Report. "We hereby take judicial notice of the fact that a doctor in a government medical facility is required to examine a large number of patients in a day."

"If for every hearing in revision jurisdiction, bail jurisdiction before the Court of Magistrate, Court of Sessions or the High Court or in appellate jurisdiction, government medical practitioner is required to appear, the work of the doctor in the hospital shall suffer and a large number of patients would be deprived of the services of such medical specialist," the court said. Reiterating that the relevance of medico legal reports in cases of injury, homicide or suicide is enormous, the bench said, "The medical

reports, however, are written in such shabby handwriting that they are not readable and decipherable by advocates or judges."

The bench had earlier directed the medical department that the doctors must prepare legible medical reports with clear depictions and on HC's directions the DG (Medical and Health Services) had also issued a circular on November 8, 2012 but to no avail. In recent days, the bench summoned many doctors for reading the illegible reports and later imposed cost upon them also so that the doctors should mend their ways but the situation did not improve.

Hearing the petition moved by one Arjun Singh, the court had to yet again summon a doctor from Amethi Community Health Centre (CHC) for reading the injury report. Coaxed with the exercise to summon the doctor, the bench directed the concerned state authorities to avail computers and printers for preparing typed copy of every original report. The bench has also summoned the compliance report.

Kejriwal launches volunteers mobile medical service

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday formally launched the volunteers mobile medical service by flagging off a mobile medical van at his residence. The mobile medical van will be a key component of this initiative and will be integrated with medical camps that will target communities within 10-15 km radius of Alshifa Multispecialty Hospital, Okhla.

"The van is equipped with all facilities to provide diagnostic, laboratory, medical check-ups, consultation, and first aid treatment. The mobile clinic will also be fully staffed by a doctor, nurse and medical technologist to offer healthcare services," an official statement said. "This initiative will help in early detection of lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension while also educating the public about the importance of hygiene in general with a special focus on mothers and kids," it added.

Shiv Sena targets forest dept for killing tigress

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the man-eater tigress Avni was shot dead in the forests of Yavatmal district in eastern Maharashtra, the ruling Shiv Sena — whose registered party symbol is a tiger — on Saturday lodged a strong protest against the manner in which the wild cat was eliminated by a State forest department-hired sharpshooter.

In statement put out through his official twitter handle, Shiv Sena's youth wing president Aditya Thackeray posed a series of questions to Maharashtra Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and demanded to know as to why the forest department had not focussed on capturing the tigress and re-locating it, instead of killing it.

"So what exactly is the difference between poachers/trophy hunters and the Government officials who shot down and killed Tigress Avni? Just that the Government officials and the forest ministry is supposed to protect animals and forests from these poachers, not get inspired by them," Aditya said. Aditya said that human-animal conflict existed world over but it was the duty of "this very Ministry" to resolve such conflicts without hurting humans or wild life.

"I want the minister to ask his officials handling this issue, and then answer the people directly on: if they could get a shot, so perfect to murder Avni, why couldn't this expert blood thirsty hunter dart the tigress and tranquillise her?," he wanted to know from the state Government.

Breathing in Delhi equal to smoking 20 cigarettes a day, say doctors



New Delhi (PNS): Delhiites are perhaps facing their worse days in terms of breathing fresh air. As the pollution levels go severe, doctors in the national Capital on Saturday said the effects of pollution in Delhi are equivalent to consuming 15 to 20 cigarettes a day. "Each winter, Delhi's air pollution rises to critical levels. We have to act immediately to control this menace otherwise the health consequences will be disastrous. We are already seeing an increasing number of patients in our hospital continuously complain about cough, irritation in throat and nose," said Dr SP Byotra, Vice-Chairman, Board of Management, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. According to Dr Arvind Kumar, Founder Trustee, Lung Care Foundation and Chairman of Centre for Chest Surgery, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the situation in Delhi has gone bad as now even the teenagers are coming with black lungs. "I've seen a change in the colour of lungs over the past 30 years that I've been operating. Earlier, I used to see black deposits only in smokers and others would have pink lungs. But, nowadays, I only see black lungs. Even teenagers have black spots on their lungs," he said. Amidst this, to show people how bad air turns lungs black, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital along with Jhatkaa, a Bangalore-based organisation and Lung Care Foundation Delhi unveiled a set of humungous lungs at the hospital as a part of their 'Help Delhi Breathe'.

CM's kin says MP needs Kamal Nath not Chouhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's brother-in-law Sanjay Singh Masani joined the Congress on Saturday, saying the State needs the party chief Kamal Nath not Chouhan as the CM. Masani is the brother of Chouhan's wife Sadhna Singh.

He joined the Congress in the presence of its Madhya Pradesh unit president Kamal Nath and another senior State leader Jyotiraditya Scindia and said the State needs a leader like Nath not Chouhan.

"Madhya Pradesh does not need Shivraj but Nath. We all know how Chhindwara has been developed and is identified with Kamal Nath. The state also needs to be identified with him," Masani said. Kamal Nath represents Chhindwara in the Lok Sabha. While he lashed out at the BJP for ignoring "kaamdars" (those who toil) at the cost of "naamdars" (big names), he said he should not be projected as a family member of Chouhan but only



Sanjay Singh, brother-in-law of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, addresses the Press along with senior Congress leader Kamal Nath after joining the Congress party, at AICC in New Delhi on Saturday

as his relative. "My name is Sanjay Singh Masani. My family lineage and 'gotra' are different," he said. Kamal Nath told reporters that all sections of society are affected by Chouhan's misrule, and the decision of Masani to join the Congress is a reflection of people's wish to chart a new course of development in the State, he said. Masani

has been on the receiving end of Congress criticism on various issues, including corruption. He is known to enjoy good ties with Bollywood celebrities and has been instrumental in bringing several filmmakers to shoot their movies in MP. He has also acted in several such films. The BJP has been in power in the State since 2003.

Twin British era cannons found in Maha Raj Bhavan

Guv directs officials to restore cannons, place them in front of Raj Bhavan's banquet hall

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two identical 22-tonne British era cannons were found lying an abandoned condition in Raj Bhavan here, were lifted using a crane on Saturday. Maharashtra Governor CH. Vidyasagar Rao, who witnessed the cannon lifting operation and ordered the conservation and restoration of the cannons, asked the officials to place the cannons in front of 'Jal Vihar' (Banquet Hall) in the Raj Bhavan complex.

Considering the historical significance of the cannons, the Governor has asked the Raj Bhavan officials to seek the assistance of Indian Navy to obtain the technical details of the cannons and also to

find out the archival records, if any. The two identical cannons separated from one another by 25 meters were found covered under mud at the foothills of Raj Bhavan, apparently for many decades.

The cannons were noticed by staff members of Raj Bhavan during a tree plantation activity a few months ago. Each of the cannons weighs 22 tonnes, measures 4.7 meters in length and has a diameter of 1.15 meters. The two cannons were lifted using a crane over a height of more than 50 meters and placed temporarily on the front lawns of Raj Bhavan. It may be recalled that in 2016, a 13-room and 15000 sq. feet long British era underground bunker was found below the lawns of Raj Bhavan. The bunker is being restored under the guidance of an expert architect firm. The Governor has asked for creation of a museum inside the bunker after which it will be opened for the general public.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender Notice No.: CM-4/Kumbh Mela/Materials/2018 **Dated:** 00.10.2018
E-TENDER NOTICE
Following open tenders in sealed covers on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Allahabad on behalf of President of India.
Tender No.: 312018. **Details of work including place:** Supply of Bed, Mattress, Blanket, Bedsheet & Pillow with cover at Naiin, Allahabad & Subedarganj. **Approximate cost in Rs.:** ₹1207124.61. **Cost of Tender Form in Rs.:** ₹2000.00. **Office address from where the tender form can be purchased and dropped:** E-Tender forms shall be available on www.irps.gov.in upto 13.00 hrs. on 20.11.2018. **Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.:** ₹24200.00. **Period of Contract:** During Kumbh Mela - 2019. **Date & Time for dropping and opening of tender:** From the date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 20.11.2018 upto 13 hrs. and opening at 15 hrs. on 20.11.2018. **Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen:** E-tender forms shall be available on www.irps.gov.in in 30 days prior to date of opening of the tender i.e. 20.11.2018 upto 13.00 hrs. The Tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in.
North central railways railway northcentral@CPRONCR 1153/18 (A)

KANPUR NAGAR NIGAM
Motijheel, Kanpur
Phone : 2551416, 2531215 Fax-2531662
Email-Kanpur_nagar.nigam@yahoo.co.in
Website : <http://kmc.up.nic.in>

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना
विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु आवश्यक मानव संसाधन उपलब्ध कराये जाने हेतु निविदा
नगर निगम कानपुर के विभिन्न विभागों में आवश्यकता के अनुसार शासनादेश सं०-3988/१.1.2010 203सा/ 2010 दिनांक 07 दिसम्बर 2010 के अन्तर्गत मानव संसाधन (कम्प्यूटर आपरेटर/ कम्प्यूटर एकाउटेण्ट, शिक्षक/ शिक्षिकाएँ (एल०टी० ग्रेड/ प्रवक्ता), केयर टेकर मजदूर, नाली मजदूर, सफाई मजदूर जल्लाद, इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियर, रिपोर्टर, डाटा एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर, नेटवर्क सपोर्ट इंजीनियर, वेब डेवलपर, जी०आई०एस० विशेषज्ञ, जी०आई०एस०, सहायक, जनगणना विशेषज्ञ एवं पोकलेन/ बुलडोजर मशीन आपरेटर), कार्य सविदा (वर्क कान्ट्रैक्ट) के आधार पर आउटसोर्सिंग के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराये जाने हैं। उक्त कार्य के लिये ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से दो भागों में पुनः (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा अपर नगर आयुक्त "प्रथम" के कार्यालय कक्ष में निम्न तिथियों में समिति के समक्ष एवं निविदादाताओं की उपस्थिति में खोली जायेगी जिसका विवरण निम्नवत है :-

आन लाईन निविदा प्रारम्भ की तिथि व समय	5.11.2018 पूर्वान्ह 10:00 बजे से
आन लाईन निविदा डालने के अन्तिम तिथि व समय	15.11.2018 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक
आन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि व समय	15.11.2018 सायं 4:00 बजे तक

निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण एवं शर्तें कानपुर नगर निगम की ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा डाली जा सकती है। निविदा के साथ निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु० 1,000(एक हजार) मात्र+18 प्रतिशत जी०एस०टी० सहित तथा निविदा की कुल निर्धारित जमानती धनराशि रु०-25,00,000(पच्चीस लाख रुपये) आर०टी०जी०एस० के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन भुगतान करना अनिवार्य होगा। तकनीकी रूप से सफल निविदादाता के अतिरिक्त अन्य सभी जमानती धनराशि की यथा शीघ्र सम्बन्धित के खाते में वापस कर दी जायेगी। नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम, कानपुर को किसी भी निविदा को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत अथवा समस्त निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा।

(अतुल कृष्ण सिंह)
प्रभारी अधिकारी 'कार्मिक'

(अमृत लाल बिन्द)
अपर नगर आयुक्त

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RESTRICT PHONE...

Coupled with infiltration bids, the handlers are pushing in weapons especially AK-47s through smugglers from International Border through Punjab and Jammu and special weapons including MI-4 rifles for precision shooting akin to sniper firing from LOC, they said. It is also suspected that the current batch of 'sharp shooters' or 'snipers' active in the Kashmir Valley, infiltrated through the International border in Jammu and reached Kashmir via road link. From Jammu these 'snipers' were ferried to Kashmir valley via 'mobile bunkers'.

These mobile bunkers are generally created inside trucks ferrying construction material to Kashmir valley via 300 km long Jammu Srinagar National Highway. To facilitate easy transport of these specially trained infiltrators a large army of silent over ground workers (OGW) are also active in the State. Every OGW module is assigned a particular task to ensure hassle free travel of these high profile infiltrators. The most crucial module in the long chain is deployed close to the International Border to escort these infiltrators to their safe hideout before embarking on a final journey. The entire security grid in the region was alarmed in the second week of September 2018 following arrest of Mohammad Iqbal of Pakharpora, Budgam and Riaz Ahmad of Hajin, Pulwama. The duo were picked up by the State police from an encounter site near Jhajjar Kotli on September 12, 2018.

During their interrogation truck driver and his accomplice had revealed that they had been helping infiltrators to reach Kashmir Valley via Jammu after picking them from

near the International Border. According to them at least four to five batches of infiltrators were ferried in trucks to Kashmir Valley via the same route. Even the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is carrying out the probe in the case, had recently visited forward border areas across Hiranagar sector and searched houses of some of the local villagers to track down the possible route of infiltration used by the heavily armed infiltrators. Meanwhile, Border Security Forces (BSF) authorities of Jammu frontier have denied reports of successful infiltration in the region but NIA authorities insist three terrorists killed near Jhajjar Kotli encounter had infiltrated through the International border in Hiranagar sector. This year nearly 200 terrorists were killed so far either while trying to infiltrate or in encounters in the hinterland.

KHARGE MOVES...

Also, the action by the CVC and the Department of Personnel and Training against Verma is a direct and concerted attempt to impede the independent functioning of the CBI, added Kharge. "The October 23 orders were passed in violation of powers conferred upon the Statutory Committee under Section 4A and 4B of the DSPE Act which provides that Director of CBI shall be appointed on the recommendations of the statutory committee and transferred also only with its consent," Kharge said. Kharge's petition comes amid Congress allegations that Verma was "removed" from the post as he wanted to investigate the Rafale fighter jet deal. Party chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that French firm

Dassault Aviation paid Rs 284 crore as "first instalment of kickbacks" to Anil Ambani's company. It is to be noted that the Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice on October 26, had ordered the CVC to complete its investigation into the bribery and misconduct allegations against Verma in two weeks. The Bench appointed former Supreme Court judge AK Patnaik to supervise the probe. Among other observations made by the Bench include - restraining Joint Director M Nageshwar Rao from taking any policy decisions till the probe against Verma is underway. Rao himself is under the scanner for several allegations of irregularities and corruption.

CVC SEEKS...

The note was sent to the CVC just ahead of a CVC meeting last year for consideration of elevation of then Additional Director Rakesh Asthana as Special Director in the CBI. The CVC had through a unanimous decision elevated Asthana as the Special Director of the CBI. Subsequently, the Supreme Court had rejected a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging CVC's decision to elevate Asthana as the number 2 in the CBI. In response to the CVC's repeated reminders for submitting the files related to allegations leveled by Asthana against Verma, the CBI through a letter on September 18 this year told the CVC that the concern on the integrity of the officer turned out to be true. The CBI also said in the letter that it has found evidence of criminal misconduct in at least half a dozen cases and that Asthana is aware of possession of evidence of his criminal misconduct by the Bureau. However, the CBI did not fur-

nish the report to the CVC. CBI spokesperson Abhishek Dayal remained incommunicado despite repeated attempts when approached for comments.

3K SANTOS...

The "Dharmadesh" organised by the Akhil Bhartiya Sant Samiti (ABSS), is taking place to decide their strategy on the construction of the Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya. In this regard, the Samiti is expected to pass a resolution on Sunday and condole the killing of Kar Sevaks in Ayodhya in police firing on October 30, 1990, and November 2, 1990. Scores of seers representing 127 Hindu organisations, Shankaracharyas and top Hindu saints, including the firebrand Sathiv Rithambara took part in Saturday's 'Dharmadesh' meeting. Earlier, Rithambara had sparked off controversies while protesting during the 1992 mass movement over Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri masjid issue. Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Sathivi Prachi, who attended the meet, also said the temple will be constructed in Ayodhya and the foundation will be laid on December 6, 2018. She added that they do not need anyone for setting up the temple. Yoga Guru Ram Dev on Saturday said if Ram temple will not be constructed at the Ram temple site then where will it be constructed? He expressed hope by claiming that towards the end of the year, people of the country will surely witness the joy of the positive verdict for the Ram Mandir issue. Briefing the media, Akhil Bhartiya Sant Samiti general secretary Swami Jitendra Saraswati said, "The Supreme Court upsets the saints, after this no one can

predict what decision they take; but one is for sure, some big decision will for sure be taken."

KASHMIRI YOUTH...

hostel and thereafter he was found missing. The DGP said that he was not certifying that the youth had turned terrorist yet. "We have got the CCTV footage of Srinagar airport where he reached from New Delhi on Sunday but thereafter he went missing," Singh said, while disclosing that the youth had informed his parents that he was in the hostel when in reality he was in Srinagar. "The security personnel had found his mobile phone working till Sunday after he boarded a flight to Srinagar from Delhi. The family of Ehatsham also lodged an FIR with Knowledge Park police in Noida," another police officer said. The security agencies in UP and Kashmir are investigating the matter. "We are in touch with Jammu and Kashmir police. We are tracking the footprints of the boy from Greater Noida to Kashmir," I-G, ATS, Asim Arun said. The family of Ahtesham on Saturday appealed to militants to have "mercy on us" and let him return home. Ahtesham's father Bilal Ahmad Sofi made the appeal in a video message that is being shared widely on social media. Bilal said his son was the "only male heir of an extended family" and asked the militant to allow him return home. "Your paradise is your parents, you are the only hope of 12 family members. Did you forget that this house has seen four deaths in the last two years," said Bilal in the fervent appeal with tears streaming down his face. The mother of the teenager also pleaded and begged her only son to return home as he kept inconsolably next to her husband.

Will help Pak in financial crisis: China

IAN S ■ BEIJING

China on Saturday assured Pakistan of its full support to “tide over” the financial crisis, clearly signalling Beijing’s readiness to give fresh loans to its all-weather ally which is in deep economic distress.

During the on-going China visit by Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan, Beijing also told Islamabad to “push forward” the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the heart of the Chinese Belt and Road project the feasibility of which Pakistan has begun to doubt over debt concerns.

India is opposed to the \$60 billion CPEC whose planned route is through the disputed Kashmir held by Pakistan.

“The Chinese govern-

ment will provide necessary support and assistance to Pakistan in tiding over the current economic difficulties,” China’s Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xunyou said.

The minister gave no specific information about China’s financial assistance, saying the details were being discussed.

He was talking to reporters after Khan and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang held talks at the Great Hall and supervised the signing of 16 bilateral deals.

Khan, who met Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday, is understood to have sought financial help for Pakistan which is in dire straits due to the ballooning foreign debt.

“The relationship between the two countries has deepened since then

because the CPEC in 2013 was just an idea. Now it is on the ground. And it has caught the imagination of the people of Pakistan,” Khan said while meeting Li.

“We feel that this is a great opportunity for our country to progress, to attract investment, it gives us an opportunity to raise our standard of living, growth rate. You will see the difference because a lot has happened since 2013. One of the things, of course, is my party has come to power.”

Pakistan which has already secured a \$6 billion loan from Saudi Arabia thinks the amount is not enough to clear the financial mess and has also sought a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF wants Pakistan to disclose all the

financial details of the Chinese-funded CPEC for providing the bailout package.

The Chinese are wary of Islamabad going to the IMF, dominated by its rival the US which opposes the Belt and Road project.

Experts say that the Chinese have pushed Pakistan into heavy debt through the CPEC, a charge denied by Beijing.

Some ministers in Khan’s new government have expressed concerns over the Chinese investments in Pakistan, with one slashing the budget of a rail project by \$2 billion.

However, Khan has pledged to work to implement the CPEC and has assured Pakistan’s full support for it. “The vision of Xi Jinping for jointly building

the Belt and Road initiative is being turned into a reality. Against such a backdrop, the CPEC also has new opportunities and need to be further pushed forward,” said the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister.

“The two sides will firmly move forward the CPEC while ensuring the smooth operation of completing projects and advancing the ongoing projects.” “The two sides will gradually bring the dimension of industrial cooperation to the CPEC and extend it to other parts of Pakistan,” he said.

Kong said the project will also focus on the social sector. “The two sides have agreed to establish a foreign-ministerial dialogue mechanism to make overall planning and coordinate in various fields,” he added.

Asia Bibi’s lawyer leaves Pak citing threats to life

IAN S ■ ISLAMABAD

The lawyer of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who was acquitted of blasphemy charges after eight years on death row, left the country on Saturday, saying his life was under threat.

Following the Supreme Court’s decision last week, religious parties staged protests in major cities across the country and incited violence against lawyer Saif-ul-Mulook as well as the judges. Mulook claimed he was facing threats from sections of lawyers and it was difficult for him to practise in the prevailing situation, the Express Tribune reported.

The apex court on October 31 ordered Bibi’s immediate release stating that blasphemy charges could not be proven



against her. She was accused by two women of insulting Prophet Muhammad in 2009 and a court sentenced her to death in 2010.

The protests were called off after radical Islamist group Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and the Government reached an agreement, with the Government promising to immediately initiate a legal process to place Bibi’s name on the Exit Control List.

As party of its deal with the TLP, the Government said it would not oppose petitions filed against the top court’s verdict. According to the agreement, all protesters arrested since Bibi’s acquittal will be released and any violence towards them will be investigated.

Campaigners blasted the deal as akin to signing her “death warrant”.

Talking to the Express Tribune, Malook said that he would return to Pakistan to represent Asia at hearing of the review petition if the Army provided him security.

“My family is also facing immense security threat and the federal Government should provide security to them,” he said.

Pak summons Indian diplomat to condemn ‘unprovoked firing’

Islamabad: Pakistan on Saturday summoned India’s Deputy High Commissioner JP Singh and condemned the “unprovoked firing” on the Line of Control by Indian troops that killed a woman. Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal summoned Singh and “condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations” by the Indian forces, the Foreign Office said.

Faisal said that the firing killed a 22-year old woman,

Munazza Bibi, in Bhimbar Sector on Friday.

“The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws,” Faisal said.

He claimed that the Indian forces along the Line of Control and the Working boundary are continuously targeting civilian populated areas with heavy weapons and carried out more

Shooting at Florida yoga studio kills 3



A person is transported from scene of a shooting on Friday in Tallahassee. AP

AFP ■ TALLAHASSEE

A gunman killed two people and wounded five others at a yoga studio in Florida’s capital before killing himself Friday evening, officials said.

Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo told reporters Friday night that the man shot six people and pistol-whipped another after walking into the studio, which is part of a small Tallahassee shopping center. The suspect then fatally shot himself, DeLeo said.

Early Saturday morning, the Tallahassee Police Department identified the shooter as Scott Paul Beierle, 40. The department identified the two people who were killed as Dr Nancy Van Vessem, 61, and Maura Binkley, 21. Van Vessem was an

internist who served as chief medical director for Capital Health Plan, the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper reported. Capital Health Plan issued a statement praising Van Vessem, the Democrat reported. “As CHP’s longtime chief medical director, Nancy has been a guiding, visionary force in our daily work to serve the wellness and health care needs of thousands of families in this community. Her dedication, caring, leadership, humanity, and experience made her one of the most respected, inspiring, and accomplished medical professionals in the state and country. Our hearts are filled with sorrow and prayers for her family. We all have been so blessed to have Nancy in our lives,” the company said.

Indian-American charged with H-1B visa, mail fraud

IAN S ■ WASHINGTON

An Indian-origin man has been charged in the US with H-1B visa and mail fraud, officials said. Kishore Kumar Kavuru, 46, was arrested on Friday and was presented before US Magistrate Judge Susan van Keulen, the US Department of Justice said in a press release. He was charged with 10 counts of visa fraud and 10 counts of mail fraud in connection with a scheme to maintain a pool of foreign workers for the clients of Kavuru’s con-

sulting companies.

If convicted, Kavuru faces the sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count of visa fraud. The defendant also faces up to 20 years in jail and \$250,000 for each count of mail fraud, federal prosecutors said. According to the indictment, Kavuru, a resident of Sunnyvale, California, held himself out as a staffing specialist for technology firms based in Santa Clara County and elsewhere seeking to fill temporary positions with for-

eign workers.

Since at least as early as 2007, Kavuru was the owner and Chief Executive Officer of four consulting companies — Scopus Consulting Group, Inc.; ITECH Analyst Corp; Infinity Methods Corp; and Orian Engineers Incorporated.

The indictment described how Kavuru used the consulting companies to process and submit fraudulent applications for foreign workers to obtain permission to work in the US under the H-1B visa programme.

US Prez confident of fair trade deal with China

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump has exuded confidence of having a fair trade deal with China, warning further tariffs might follow if it did not materialise. Trump is scheduled to meet the Chinese President Xi Jinping in Argentina on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit on November 30 and December 1. “We’ve had very good discussions with China. We’re getting much closer to doing something. They very much want to make a deal. As you know, their economy went way down since we’ve been doing this skirmish,” Trump told reporters at the White

House on Friday, a day after he spoke over phone with Xi. “I think we’ll make a deal with China. And I think it’ll be a very fair deal for everybody, but it will a good deal for the United States,” he said. The president added that he would have a dinner with Xi at the G20 summit, wherein they would be discussing the issue. Trump sounded very optimistic about reaching a trade deal with China, or else, he warned, he was ready to impose a trade tariff of 25 per cent on another USD 267 billion worth of Chinese products. “They’ve been hit very hard. Their economy

has been very, very bad.”

Meanwhile in an interview, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said China was the most important long-term strategic challenge for the US. “We’ve talked about trade. We need that to be fair and reciprocal with them. But just this week, we indicted 10 Chinese for stealing intellectual property.

It’s been going on in previous administrations for decades. This is really important to American business and protecting the human capital, the talented work of American people, and national security,” he said.

Diver dies in search for Indonesia jet crash dead

Jakarta: An Indonesian diver died while recovering body parts from the ill-fated Lion Air plane which crashed into the sea killing 189 people, an official said Saturday. Syachrul Anto, 48, who died on Friday, was part of the team searching for body parts and debris from the jet in the Java Sea.

“He was a volunteer with the Search and Rescue Agency,” Isswanto, commander of the Indonesian navy’s search and rescue division, told AFP. It is believed he died from decompression. “He was found by the SAR team, fainted. He was treated by our doctors, after he regained consciousness, we sent him to the chamber for decompression.

“We have all the equipment, however God’s will says differently,” national search and rescue agency head Muhammad Syaugi said at a press conference. Anto had previously served in Palu

which suffered an earthquake and tsunami in September and was also involved in recovering the bodies and debris from an Air Asia plane crash nearly four years ago. The Lion Air plane which crashed Monday was en route from Jakarta to Pangkal Pinang city on Sumatra island.

It plunged into the water just minutes after takeoff, killing everyone on board.

At least 73 bags containing body parts have been retrieved from the waters so far but only four victims have been identified. Officials on Thursday retrieved the flight data recorder but are still searching for the second black box, the cockpit voice recorder, which could answer the question as to why the brand new Boeing-737 MAX 8 crashed.

“We have heard a weak ‘ping’ ... the divers are still searching for it,” Syaugi said.

US Prez: Illegal immigration costs taxpayers \$100 bn

Washington (PTI): Illegal immigration costs American taxpayers USD 100 billion a year, President Donald Trump has said as he slammed the opposition Democratic party for advocating an open border policy facilitating an easy entry of illegal immigrants into the US. His comments came amid a row over a caravan of an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 people mostly from three Latin American countries – El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala – who are currently at the southern US border along Mexico with the intention to enter America.

Trump said that soldiers deployed to stop the illegal immigrants from entering the US would not open fire, but would arrest them if they threw stones at the troops. “Illegal immigration costs American taxpayers more than USD 100 billion every single year, more than three times the entire state budget of Indiana. We need to use our precious resources to help our fellow Americans who respect our laws, not illegal caravans who break into our borders and break our laws,” Trump said at an election rally in Indiana.

Democrat immigration policies not only drain US treasury, but they threaten communities, he alleged. Nearly 100 per cent of heroin in the US enters through the southern border, along with roughly 90 per cent of the cocaine, the majority of meth and a substantial portion of the ultra-lethal fentanyl, killing youths all over the country, the President claimed.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Important Notice for the Rail Passengers												Notification No.97/2018
It is notified for information of general public that following trains will be diverted via Kanpur Central-Manak Nagar-Aishbagh-Badshahnagar-Malhaur-Barabanki instead of Kanpur Central-Manak Nagar-Lucknow (NR)-Malhaur-Barabanki stoppages at Aishbagh and Badshahnagar will be provided in lieu of Lucknow (NR) on diverted route.												
(1) UP Direction												
S. No.	Train No.	Present time					Revised time					JCO
		Barabanki	Malhaur	Lucknow (NR)	Manak Nagar	Kanpur Central	Barabanki	Malhaur	Badshahnagar	Aishbagh	Manak Nagar	Kanpur Central
1	11016	2328/2330	2357	0020/0035	0055	0215/0225	2328/2330	2357	0015/0018	0040/0050	0105	0220/0225
2	15707	1653/1655	1715	1740/1755	1815	1950/2000	1653/1655	1715	1730/1733	1810/1820	1835	1950/2000
3	12565	2010	2035	2100/2110	2128	2248/2258	2000	2025	2037/2040	2105/2115	2130	2248/2258
4	12553	2108/2110	2130	2155/2205	2220	2340/2350	2108/2110	2130	2146/2149	2208/2218	2233	2340/2350
DOWN Direction												
S. No.	Train No.	Present time					Revised time					JCO
		Kanpur Central	Manak Nagar	Lucknow (NR)	Malhaur	Barabanki	Kanpur Central	Manak Nagar	Aishbagh	Badshahnagar	Malhaur	Barabanki
1	11015	0010/0020	0125	0145/0155	0215	0238/0240	0010/2330	2357	0015/0018	0040/0050	0105	0220/0225
2	12554	0220/0225	0332	0355/0410	0433	0455/0457	0220/0225	0332	0347/0357	0414/0417	0433	0455/0457
3	12566	2015/2020	2125	2150/2205	2220	2248	2015/2020	2133	2148/2158	2215/2218	2231	2255
4	15708	2250/2300	0007	0025/0040	0105	0135/0137	2250/2300	0007	0022/0032	0049/0052	0110	0135/0137
(2) UP Direction												
S. No.	Train No.	Existing time					Revised time					JCO
		Barabanki	Gomtinagar	Badshahnagar	Malhaur	Alamnagar	Barabanki	Lucknow (NR)	Alamnagar			
1	13019 Bagh Express	2213/2215	2248/2250	2304/2307	0015/0040	Pass 0105	2257/2259	0020/0035	Pass 0105			13-11-2018
DOWN Direction												
S. No.	Train No.	Existing time					Revised time					JCO
		Alamnagar	Lucknow (NER)	Badshahnagar	Gomtinagar	Barabanki	Alamnagar	Lucknow (NR)	Barabanki			
1	13020 Bagh Express	Pass 0530	0555/0620	0702/0705	0716/0718	0752/0754	Pass 0530	0555/0605	0748/0750			13-11-2018
(3) Terminal Change of Mail/Express from Lucknow (NR) to Lucknow Jn.												
UP Direction		Existing terminal/time			Revised terminal/time			JCO				
Train No.		Lucknow (NR)	Alamnagar		Lucknow (NER)	Alamnagar						
12229 Lucknow Mail		2210	Pass 2225		2210	Pass 2225			15-11-2018 to 30-11-2018			
Change of Departure					2200			Pass 2225				
Down Direction		Existing terminal/time			Revised terminal/time			JCO				
Train No.		Alamnagar	Lucknow (NR)		Alamnagar	Lucknow (NER)						
12230 Lucknow Mail		0626/0627	0650		0626/0627	0700			15-11-2018			
(4) Terminal Change of MEMU from Lucknow (NR) to Lucknow Jn.												
Train No.		Existing terminal/time		Revised terminal/time		JCO						
		Kanpur Central	Lucknow (NR)	Kanpur Central	Lucknow (NER)							
64212		1405	1545	1405	1550	13-11-2018						
64202		0455-0500	0700	0455-0500	0710	13-11-2018						
64214		1816-1818	1955	1815-1817	1955	13-11-2018						
64204		0730	0915	0730	0915	13-11-2018						
Train No.		Existing terminal/time		Revised terminal/time		JCO						
		Lucknow (NR)	Kanpur Central	Lucknow (NER)	Kanpur Central							
64211		1600	1740	1600	1740	13-11-2018						
64203		0720	0900	0720	0900	13-11-2018						
64213		2020	2205	2020	2205	13-11-2018						
64205		0935	1115	0935	1115	13-11-2018						
CPRO/T-67												
Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur												
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955												
Do not cross unmanned level crossing with loud music on a vehicle.												

SHOW TIME

Go for the visuals



THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS
***ing: Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy, Eugenio Derbez, Matthew Macfadyen, Richard E Grant, Misty Copeland, Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman**
Rated: 6/10

There would be very few who would not have heard of the Nutcracker — a two-act ballet originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with a score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Many would have even seen the 1993 movie or some of the animated version made over the years.

Now in 2018, Walt Disney comes out with The Nutcracker and the Four Realms. Is this a good thing? Well, in some ways definitely as it is a delightful reimagining of the popular ballet.

The film follows the life of Clara played by Mackenzie Foy wants is a key — a one-of-a-kind key that will unlock a box that holds a priceless gift from her late mother. The golden thread, presented to her at godfather Drosselmeyer, played by Morgan Freeman annual holiday party. She then disappears into a strange and mysterious parallel world.In this world Clara encounters a soldier named Phillip (Jayden Fowora-Knight), a gang of mice and the regents who preside over three Realms: Land of Snowflakes, Land of Flowers and Land of Sweets. Clara and Phillip must brave the Fourth Realm, home to the tyrant Mother Ginger (Helen Mirren), to retrieve Clara's key and hopefully return to her world.

What is good here is that this parallel world is full of wonder and the set designs are beautiful and brilliantly done. There is the CGI. With the latest technology, Disney has gone all the way when it comes to great effect that will leave the kids in awe. With great visuals, directors Lasse Hallström and Joe Johnston have brought this story alive in new, fresh and exciting ways.

TELLYTALE



DIWALI SPECIAL WITH BAPPI LAHIRI
The top eight contestants of Sony Entertainment Television's *Indian Idol 10* are all set you to take you on a festive spree with Diwali Special episode where Javed Ali will take the judge's chair and singing legend Bappi Lahiri and yog guru Ramdev Baba dignified the stage with his presence. The episode will feature contestants singing some amazing songs of Bappi Lahiri will take everyone on a roller coaster ride on his pop-music. Enhancing the festive mode watch out for the amazing performances, Bappi Lahiri's melodious medley's, Ramdev Baba giving Maniesh Paul a yoga challenge, Salman Ali's soulful performance, Maniesh Paul's craziness along with Neha Kakkar, Vishal Dadlani and Javed Ali on judges chair.

Keep watching Indian Idol 10 this Saturday and Sunday, 8PM only on Sony Entertainment Television!

A DHAMAKEDAAR ENTRY IN BIGG BOSS
The festive spirit has kicked in and like every year, Bigg Boss wants the contestants to celebrate these auspicious days with enthusiasm. With various surprises planned to brighten up and cheer the contestants as they remain locked in, this Diwali they're in for a treat!

Known for her strength and Winner of Bigg Boss season 11, Shilpa Shinde along with mastermind and audience's favorite, Vikas Gupta will make a grand entry in the Bigg Boss house to surprise the contestants. As Diwali is just around the corner, Vikas and Shilpa will enter as special guests and will be living with the contestants to celebrate the festival of lights. The duo will also engage them in fun tasks during their stay.

Dividing the contestants in two groups— one captained by Shilpa and the other by Vikas, they will need to lure contestants into choosing to join their

team. Tempting them, convincing them, making sure their offers are better than the other, contestants will have to decide whose team is worthy of joining.

Known to always change frowns into smiles, sadness into laughter, Bigg Boss has a grand mela also planned for these lucky contestants. They will be surprised as they will be royally treated with master chefs cooking up delicacies for them, magicians stunning them with various acts and dancers setting in the mood for celebration.

Commenting on her entry into the house that gave her a lot of memories, Shilpa Shinde said: "Bigg Boss is home for me. This show has given me so much and I love coming back here. This house takes me back to when I was a housemate and the walk down memory lane is always special. I am excited to meet the contestants once again but this time to enjoy and celebrate diwali. I hope all of us have a lot of fun together with various activities that have been planned and I do hope we can make it special for them."

Adding further, Vikas Gupta exclaimed, "I have already entered the house earlier and met the contestants. But this time I am eager, because I will get to interact with all of them and spend some quality time with them. Also, the activities planned will be extremely entertaining for the contestants and the viewers as its a Diwali special and it's a grand mela which they will be surprised with. We hope to spruce up the entertainment quotient in the house."

Tune in to Bigg Boss 12 everyday at 9pm on Colors.

DIWALI WITH YOUNG CANCER PATIENTS
Dharmesh Yelande, the most loved judge on StarPlus' dance reality show *Dance +4*, yet again won millions of hearts with his sweet gesture this diwali. He along with the contestants surprised the young children at a NGO — Accesslife Association Foundation which is a home to young cancer patients.

Dharmesh's visit brought a smile to the faces of the children. Not just that, he bought a lot of presents/ gifts and played with them. His visit would be incomplete without him shaking a leg on his favourite dance numbers with the children.

"Spending time with these kids made me feel at home. Seeing them smile, laugh and play was the biggest Diwali gift. To be happy regardless of the circumstances was a teaching I'll take back from them and would love it if they come on the show and be a part of it for a day. This is the best thing I did this diwali and would love to come back here soon," Dharmesh says.

PlanYour Week



Waffle Fest 2.0,
WHERE: The Plaza, Select Citywalk, Saket, New Delhi
WHEN: Till November 4, 2018

This Diwali, Select Citywalk invites you to the most exciting carnival for all the waffle lovers - Waffle Fest 2.0. From 20 plus waffle stations to over 40 plus varieties of waffles to live band performance and digital fireworks, the Waffle Fest 2.0 will surely make you fall in love with waffles all over again.



Diwali at Khandani Rajdhani
WHEN: November 5 to 9, 2018
VENUE: All Khandani Rajdhani outlets

The rotational menu at Khandani Rajdhani's Diwali celebrations has been carefully curated by its expert chefs who bring together the most favourite seasonal delicacies from India's heartland. Be ready to gorge on the crunchy Methi Puri, crisp Chakli, melt-in-mouth delicious Mohanthal Ladoo, perfectly done Kaju Katli, unmatched Kesar Shrikhand and Akhrot Halwa. This is in addition to Khandani Rajdhani's year-round signature dishes.

Kala Drishti's Diwali mela
WHEN: Till November 5, 2018
VENUE: Cross River Mall, Shadara, New Delhi
TIME: 1 pm to 8 pm

Kala Drishti, a Delhi-based NGO creating a platform for upcoming artists and help in their upliftment, is organising a Diwali exhibition that will have a wide array of colorful *diyas*, candles, poti bags, table mats and many other handicrafts for your home, apparels and accessories. The artists at Kala Drishti are known for their eco-friendly and creative artefacts and handmade décor items. So, this Diwali get your hands on some of the best handicrafts from this exhibition.

Great Noida Fest
WHERE: Gaur city stadium Gaur chowk, Greater Noida
WHEN: November 3 & 4, 2018
TIME: 12 noon onwards

With the onset of festival season, Investors Clinic in association with Gaurs Group is all set to host the gala musical fiesta- The Great Noida Fest. Popular singers of the North like Parmish Verma, Punjabi actor, singer and director; Mannat Noor, Sukhe amongst others will raise the temperature with their peppy beats. The peppy music numbers will be followed by an array of lip-smacking food.

Diwali craft mela & Deep Utsav
WHERE & WHEN: Dilli Haat Janakpuri on November 4 and Dilli Haat INA till November 7, 2018
TIME: 11 am to 10 pm

Delhi Tourism adds to the festive cheer with a special Diwali Crafts Mela being organized at Dilli Haat Janakpuri and Deep Utsav at Dilli Haat INA. Alongside the ornate handicrafts that the Dilli Haats are renowned for, the festival will offer various products for Diwali including *diyas*, handcrafted lamps, candles, traditional decorative items and the like. Encapsulating the essence of the much-loved festival of lights, Dilli Haat Janakpuri and Dilli Haat INA will also bring forth food stalls, shopping street, cultural performances, and special swings and camel rides.



Gazi is one rare soul: Aamir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tonight's *KBC Karamveer* episode is going to be an episode giving out a strong message about hard work, grit and patience. This season, Sony Entertainment Television's *Kaun Banega Crorepati 10* has seen some very strong individuals who have single handedly taken up a cause to help the common man and with a 'Never Give Up' attitude, have crossed the storm and come out victorious.

The viewers will see Karamveer Gazi Jalaluddin who runs two schools by only charging ₹5 a month on the show tonight along with Bollywood's perfectionist superstar Aamir Khan who claimed that he would move mountains to help people like Gazi.

Gazi, who proudly supports child education blessed the set. Being a poor and unprivileged person, he found out various ways of getting others educated by learning and driving a taxi in Kolkata.

Interestingly he has helped others



learn riding a taxi on the condition that they spare ₹5 from their income and should help at least two people by donating ₹5 for his cause. He also comes up with various ways of marketing his cause and some of them have been very unique.

Gazi promotes his cause by pasting banners and posters on his own taxi. Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan were highly impressed with his marketing skills.

Khan while talking about Gazi on *Kaun Banega Crorepati 10* says, "When I heard Gazi's story, it touched my heart and I thought that I should come support him. On this Karamveer special episode, I want to also help the good deed he (Gazi) is working on and everyone who are watching this show should come ahead and help him. He is one rare soul, who helps hundreds of people when he in fact has nothing to spend."

Watch *Kaun Banega Crorepati 10*, every Monday to Friday, 9 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television!

ECO-FRIENDLY DIWALI

Where some TV actors like to celebrate Diwali with orphan children, friends and family, others enjoy it on set with extended family but in an eco-friendly way. SUNDAY PIONEER reports



'CELEBRATE WITH ORPHANS'

Diwali to me means going on a shopping spree, performing Laxmi puja, preparing sweets and spending time with my loved ones. Every Diwali, I decorate my house with diyas and rangolis. The season is about festive celebrations and spending time with family and friends.

This year, I plan to visit an orphanage and spend some time with the kids there, feed them with sweets and chocolates. Spread love and happiness this Diwali and here's wishing you a happy Diwali

—Aditi Sharma, who plays Meera in Kaleerein



'DIWALI WITH MY EXTENDED FAMILY'

Owing to my busy schedule, I will not be able to visit my family in Delhi, so I am going to celebrate it on the sets of *Kundali Bhagya* with my extended family. I have many memories of Diwali as our entire family would get together, my Grandfather would bless us with *shagun* and while grandmother would make us delicious halwa. For me, Diwali is all about togetherness, positivity and happiness. I frequently visit schools in villages and meet kids suffering from cancer at Tata Memorial hospital to celebrate the festival with them. This year, I am going to visit an orphanage and spend time with the children there. Lastly, I urge all not to burn crackers and pollute the environment

— Manit Joura who plays Rishabh in Kundali Bhagya

SHARE HAPPINESS WITH OTHERS



Diwali being a festival of new beginnings and positive energy brings with it warmth of togetherness and happiness. It is this very thought that has always built a desire within me to make another person's Diwali special for them.

While I do make it a point to spend some extra time with my family and friends, in some small ways, either by visiting an NGO with Diwali gifts or donating food, I ensure that another person also gets to celebrate their Diwali. I have always believed in celebrating a quiet and peaceful Diwali and hence feel that fire crackers must be kept to bare minimum use. I feel a complete ban on crackers might deprive the citizens of their celebrations, but it's time the latter realise the harmful effects of its usage and accordingly curb their actions

— Guru Randhawa, judge on Love Me India

'BURST BALLOONS, NOT CRACKERS'



Last year, I celebrated Diwali on the sets of *Siddhivinayak*. I bought chocolates and small gifts for my entire unit and I will probably do the same this year too. Crackers are my only biggest disappointment of this festivity. I've seen children light crackers on the tails of street dogs which is so disturbing. Animals, new born babies, and sick people suffer the most due to the increased noise and pollution. We could use balloon crackers which is actually a concept where a string of balloons are put into a machine to burst and the sound of it is exactly like crackers but without any pollution and the level of sound is much lower.

— Farnaz Shetty, who plays Siddhi in Siddhivinayak

New show on SAB

Sony SAB keepings its promise of spreading happiness, will soon be launching a new show *Mangalam Dangalam-Kabhi Pyaar Kabhi Vaar*. Produced by Ashvini Yardi of Viniyard Films, the show is a hilarious take on the quintessential *dangal* between a father-in-law and his son-in-law. The show will premiere from November 13, Monday to Friday at 7:30 pm.

Due to strong emotional bond, it's never easy for a father to give his daughter away in marriage. But love charts its course and the time comes for the girl to leave her father's comfortable nest to be with the man of her dreams. This show revolves around the bond between a prospective groom — Arjun, and his prospective father-in-law, Sanjeev Saklecha. While Arjun is willing to stop at nothing to convince Sanjeev that he is the best man for his daughter. Sanjeev is of the firm opinion that his princess deserves better than the best.

Neeraj Vyas, Business Head, Sony SAB, PAL, Hindi Movies and Music said: "The happiness of our viewers is of paramount importance to us. As part of our brand promise, 'Haste Raho India', the upcoming weekday fiction offering 'Mangalam Dangalam' lends a unique perspective to a relationship between a father and his prospective son-in-law. This is a show that viewers will surely relate to since it has an exceptional cast and delivers the right medley of humor and love straight to the television sets."

Ashvini Yardi, Founder, Viniyard Films said: "Getting their daughters married is a worry that all Indian fathers have since their birth, the viewers will now meet Saklecha, an overtly possessive father who believes that no man is good for his daughter Rumi."



'I will work even at 52'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sayantani Ghosh, who has been a part of the Indian television industry for more than a decade, is at present, working on her latest show StarPlus' *Karn Sangini*. She is happy where she is and hasn't yet planned a Bollywood foray. "I belong to the TV industry. It is my identity. I did not join TV just to become one or two-show heroine. I can see myself working for small screen even at the age of 52, the actress says.

Ghosh has recently worked for a Bengali web-series and is waiting for the right project before she starts her stint in Bollywood. "Right now, I have not decided to make a foray into Bollywood. It happens organically and if it happens, of course I would love to do Hindi films. But right now my focus is on television and I want to give my 100 per cent to the current project."

Sayantani has undergone a lot of training for her role as Kunti, which is set on the backdrop of Mahabharat but is a fictional take. Talking about the show, she adds, "It is unlike most other mythological serials. In 'KarnSangini', there is a blend of fiction and true events. So, we went through a lot of training and had to attend workshops. I had to work on my language as in the show, viewers will get to see us speaking in *shuddh* Hindi."

Watch Ghosh essay Kunti in *Karn Sangini* Mon-Fri at 7 pm only on StarPlus.



CELEBRATE THE TRADITIONAL WAY
Diwali is one of our biggest festivals and is celebrated with lots of sweets and lights. I have many memories from my childhood, especially the one where we used to do the Diwali cleaning at home. The most important and

'POCKET FULL OF POKER CHIPS'

I've never burst a cracker even when I was a kid. My mother, who was an artist, used to ask us to get your rooms in place, decorate them and keep your wardrobes clean. There was something new or different that used to happen in decoration. We used to do a lot of best out of waste by making pouches out of old sarees, applique work bed covers out of old jari sarees and much more. But we don't get that kind of time anymore now. We just go to the market and buy something. Meet old and new friends and playing cards on Diwali is fun, but of course not with crazy money but with plastic poker chips. My idea of celebrating Diwali is by decorating and redoing your house, meeting old friends and gorging on Indian delicacies.

— Actor Saumya Tandon

NO NOISE, PLAY MUSIC

Every year, I decorate my home with Especial LED lights and rangolis along with organic flowers and scented candles. I have a pug Simba who feels very troubled due to the noise of crackers and air pollution. For Simba we have to shut all the windows of the house and put some music on so he doesn't get scared of the sound from the outside. A lot of people should think about this and try and celebrate eco-friendly Diwali. This festival is much more fun without bursting crackers too. It's all about celebrating together with families. Eating homemade food and sweets. It is also better on the pocket and pollution will decrease to some extent.

— Actor Shetali Jariwala

1ST DIWALI POST WEDDING

Every year, I wait for this festival of lights and this year, it is even more special for me since it's my first Diwali after my wedding. I have planned to cook some Diwali delicacies myself for our family. I am looking forward to decorating our house with beautiful twinkly lights and making a rangoli. I was never a fan of crackers, so my idea of Diwali is just family get-togethers and good food and all in all a merry time with the close ones.

— Rubina Dilaik, who plays Khushi in Shakti. Astiwa Ke Ehsaas Ki



A farmer burning the crop stubble after harvesting paddy on the outskirts of Amritsar
— AP

A BURNING ISSUE

Eyes burning, feeling tired and chest wheezing? It's that time of the year again where vehicular pollution, construction dust and stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana cause Delhi-NCR to choke. A report by SAPNA SINGH

*Air Quality Index, November 3, 2018, at Anand Vihar: 199
At Sri Aurobindo Marg: 192*

Delhi is the most polluted city on Earth, says the World Health Organisation (WHO). Therefore, when the Capital recorded its worst air quality of this season — October 28, 2018, it should not have come as a surprise. The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) in the city stood at 381, as per data by the Central Pollution Control Board. Twelve monitoring stations located in various parts of Delhi recorded severe air quality while 20 recorded very poor air quality.

The dip in air quality is due local factors like construction dust and vehicular pollution as well as regional factors like crop stubble burning from Punjab and Haryana.

Truth is, the killing pollution levels can be curbed with systematic planning. But who cares? Not the Government definitely and not the citizens either. The crop stubbles in the air can be buried with technology, the vehicular pollution can be easily curbed, the constant — and sometimes money-spinning — construction can be halved and still the infrastructure can be built. But, these are just dreams.

According to data released by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, levels of Suspended Particulate Matter PM_{2.5} increased by 62.7 per cent on November 2, 2016. On November 4, 2016, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research, a unit of the

Ministry of Earth Sciences, said that the average concentration of PM₁₀ was 566 µgm³ while PM_{2.5} was 449 µgm³. The normal PM₁₀ is 100, while the safe limit for PM_{2.5} is 60.

For those who don't know what smog is, it is a term derived from merging of two words — smoke and fog. It consists of a mixture of air pollutants like fine particles, toxic gases, water vapour and ground level ozone. The main sources of these are pollutants released directly into the air by diesel-run vehicles, industrial gases and heating/burning due to human activities.

And it is not as if there is a lack of monitoring agencies. There are several — From the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to Central Pollution Control Board to the Ministry of Earth Sciences to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) to the US Embassy's air quality index to Delhi Government's Delhi Pollution Control Committee. These agencies collect round the clock data to calculate average AQI and warn authorities and people about the adverse impact of inhaling the noxious gases particularly in the winters in India — October-January.

The smog and haze hanging over the city have given several wakeup calls to both Centre and the State but the right approach to combat capital's air pollution is still at large. In the meantime, the citizens will suffer.

Recent studies have indicated that exposure to particulate air pollution also may be associated with acute heart attack. This may be due in part, to a sympathetic stress response, as detected by changes in heart rate variability, the production of cytokines, and an increased vulnerability to plaque rupture. Some responsible pollutants include carbon monox-

ide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and small particulate matter (less than 10 microns and less than 2.5 microns).

Speaking about this Dr KK Aggarwal, president, Heart Care Foundation of India, said: "Delhi has been experiencing high air pollution levels since the past few days. The air quality is particularly poor in the early morning when pollution is extremely high. This is also the time when many people venture out to exercise or drop their children to school. It is imperative to use a mask and also make people aware of the harmful effects of air pollution."

This is the fourth year in a row that air pollution in Delhi has become severe and Environment Pollution Control Agency (EPCA), a Supreme Court monitoring body has ordered not to ply private vehicle on Delhi roads taking punitive steps to tackle air pollution problem.

According to Gurfan Beige, director, SAFAR, the PM_{2.5} is dangerous, "The concentration of this harmful particulate matter is in micrograms per cubic meter and can be reached in lungs easily."

This year, when the worst is yet to come, the levels of Particulate Matter (PM)₁₀ has been recorded 1,078 µgm⁻³ in Dwarka. However, the AQI has crossed 400 and is approaching second phase after crossing values 500 on National Ambient Air Quality Index.

According to the US Embassy's measurements, last year, air in New Delhi reached PM_{2.5} concentrations of more than 1,200 micrograms per cubic meter, which means that values were recorded 48 times the guidelines values established by the WHO. Now, as per the collective data of the US Embassy, Delhi was short of the record last year, as Shenyang, China recorded the worst levels as PM_{2.5} topped 1,400.

Three major factors choke Delhi. First is the aerosol formation. A 2012 IIT, Delhi, study on aerosol formation stated that the entire Indo-Gangetic belt is prone to high levels of oxides of nitrogen and sulphur which increase levels of Particulate Matter in the air.

Second is the coal menace. Eastern Uttar Pradesh has close to seven coal-fired thermal power plants. Studies by Urban Emissions, an organisation that deals with analy-



- Walk or cycle for short distance commutes or to the neighborhood market. Plan and combine all your errands in one area or close by areas for one trip. Limit driving and make use of carpool.
- Use public transport as much as possible for longer distances. If you have to use your vehicle keep it well maintained for efficient functioning with regular servicing to reduce harmful exhaust emissions and get pollution check done as required. Follow speed limits.
- Avoid buying diesel vehicle.
- Avoid burning candles, dhooop or incense sticks at home or workplace.
- Plant more trees. Limit the areas of bare soil by growing grass to reduce the amount of dust. Sprinkle water on exposed soil or construction sites regularly to reduce the generation of dust. Wet mop the floors at home or workplace.
- Choose a place with least pollution levels when there is a choice

sis of air pollution has identified that the changing wind patterns in the IGP, especially during the winters, tend to carry the emissions from the power plants to several hundreds of km depending on the speed of the wind. Delhi, though located at a distance, continues to be influenced by the long-range transportation of pollutants from coal.

Third, Uttar Pradesh is home to more than 200 million people. The State is also known for its highly-concentrated industrial landscape. Key industrial hotspots start with Ghaziabad bordering Delhi and stretch up to the district of Sonbadhra bordering Madhya Pradesh which produces close to 10 per cent of India's coal-fired electricity.

Then there are other winter-specific activities like burning of crop stubble in Punjab and Haryana upstream of Delhi, and burning of fire crackers on Diwali. All these add to the deadly cocktail alongside the very unique meteorological conditions that do not allow dispersal of air as winter sets in. A combination of all these, makes for a ticking dynamite-like situation in Delhi and other cities located in the northern belt.

What is more alarming than the fact that the authorities are not taking concentrated steps toward tackling the issue is that the smog is here to stay even if drastic steps are taken. And it is not just going to be a winter phenomenon.

When was the last time one saw a clear sky in Delhi in summers. There is always a haze. People are aware of the reasons for the problem. It is not just about crackers on Diwali. It is an amalgamation of several things like the farmers burning the crops in Punjab and Haryana to vehicular pollution and our increased dependency on the use of diesel. Everyone is asking the Government to take action, but what about citizens taking responsibility?

Why is it that the farmers are not being tackled? They continue to do what they want to with impunity because they are part of the vote bank. But they too are being affected. No immunity should be given to anyone, whether farmers, fishermen or even corporates or people belonging to any caste, creed and religion. We should all be responsible for the environment since our actions impact it.

Environmentalists tell you that pollutants know no boundaries. SAFAR's recent analysis on biomass burning proves this statement. Much of pollution is coming from the farms situated in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh and the reason is with the rice harvest over, farmers prefer to burn crop residue in order to prepare agriculture land for next crop.

According to collected pollution database from SAFAR stubble burning contributes between 12-38 per cent to the overall pollution in the Capital. Environmentalist, Gopal Krishna tells you that the problem of air pollution is a unique one. "Delhi's smog is that the smoke from outside city is mixing with the pollution inside of the city. It is a rural and urban mixture — from construction, emission of harmful noxious gases and wood people use to cook and keep warm intensifies during winter months."

The problem in tackling the situation lies in the fact that there is absence of a single point authority to drive decision making. The Central Pollution Control Board is responsible for air pollution, but it is only a regulatory body. Second, intervention is a challenge because maintaining air quality is not a component of major programmes like smart city and Swachh Bharat, and often not even a part of mainstream policy making.

Third is the task of generating public awareness. Since pollutants are not visible, people are not conscious about it as, say, water. Also, the community is not open about the relation of air to health. Air is still not a national issue. It is limited to a few cities like Delhi so people resort to solutions like 'leaving Delhi'. Fourth, is the absence of data, inadequate capacity to regulate thousands of sources of pollution and a lack of human and technological infrastructure for monitoring and control. Hence, there is need for strategy and direct technology interventions.

Technologies to reduce pollution at its source are many. Applying these requires the Government to implement policies that support such technology. Examples of technologies to reduce air pollution also include use of lead-free gasoline, which allows the use of catalytic converters on vehicles' exhaust systems. For trucks, buses and an increasing number of smaller vehicles that use diesel fuel, improving

the quality of the diesel is another way to reduce air pollution at the source. More fuel-efficient vehicles like hybrid gas-electric vehicles, electric vehicles are another way forward. Policies that reduce motorised transport can also reduce air pollution in urban areas.

A research conducted by the Department of Environment Science, Delhi University, taking into account the APTI value of 20 plant species recommended that Azadirachta Indica (Neem), Ricinus Communis (Castor Bean), Prosopis Juliflora (Kabuli Kikar, Vilayati Babul), Dalbergia Sisoo (Sheesham) and Delonix Regia (Gulmohar) are the tolerant species and can be used for green belt planning. "As tolerant species can play a vital role in absorption and detoxification of toxic air pollutants, our research work with students has computed APTI at different land use sites, for instance — traffic intersection, riverine, institutional and vegetated," Dr Chirashree Ghosh, Senior Assistant Professor, Delhi University tells you.

Delhi has 20.8 per cent of tree cover area. Among the categories of tree C3 and C4 are considered good for cleaning the air. "Like human beings, plants also have a defence immune mechanism which helps to protect the plant and increases the pollution tolerance power and plant life," Ghosh says and elaborates that the life of plant faces threat because of two types of pollution; dust pollution and gases (vehicular emission) pollution. "C4 plants are more efficient in photosynthesis and have a strong defence mechanism," he says.

Only awareness and sensitivity will help citizens breathe easy.



A cyclist rides through the heavy haze at Rajpath in New Delhi
— PTI

No alternative but to burning residue, say Haryana farmers

Shekhar Singh ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air has yet again turned poisonous and, once again, Haryana and Punjab farmers are being blamed for that as they are burning stubble. Few bother to ask why these farmers dispose of their crop residue in such a manner, at the risk to their own health. The answer: Most do not have an alternative and there is need to clear the stubble in a short span of about a fortnight or so before they can sow the next crop.

This correspondent travelled to Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal and Kurukshetra and spoke to various farmers in the area who blamed the Government for not providing any solution to the issue. Though the State Governments of Haryana and Punjab have launched schemes and have assisted farmers in adopting the "in-situ" management of

crop residue like the Custom Hiring Centers (CHC) but reality is that most of the farmers were unaware about the CHC and have no clue about where the nearest CHC is located and how to get the equipments related to Straw Management System (SMS) from there.

In Karnal, Sewa Singh Arya, national vice-president of one faction of Bharatiya Kisan Union, said the paddy had retained moisture due to recent rains and harvesting has been delayed. "Farmers will be forced to burn the paddy residue to clear the land for wheat. The majority of poor farmers are not in a position to get machinery to rid of the stubble even at subsidised rates," said Arya.

"Also availability of happy seeder and other machines for stubble management with farmers and Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) established in the State are inadequate to manage nearly 70 lakh MT of stubble produced this



Sewa Singh Arya, national vice-president of one faction of Bharatiya Kisan Union with Tek Chand Dhaliya, a farmer
— Photo Shekhar Singh/The Pioneer

season," Arya explains.

According to an official in Haryana Government's Agriculture Department, CHCs aim at ensuring proper management of crop residue and to prevent farmers from burning it. All machines and tools related to agriculture are claimed to be made available in these centers and farmers can take agricultural machines or equipments on rent at nominal rates for farming works.

Ramesh Bhattan, another farmer in Phurlak near Ghararunda, said that he sowed paddy on 32 acres and it would be ready for harvest in a few days. "The village has paddy on nearly 2,200 acres, but has only one happy seeder with a farmer and it can manage 6-7 acres in a day. The machine of ₹1.50 lakh costs ₹75,000 after subsidy. But it will be used only for six hours in the whole year. How can a farmer invest so much on a machine

which is to be used for six hours a year?," he asks.

However, the Government has assured that they were providing subsidies, but farmers allege that announcements remain only on paper. "There are no straw reapers even in nearby villages. We can't wait as fields need to be prepared for the next crop cycle. Those who have these machines are busy in cutting their fields," Gurdev Singh, a farmer at Dugari village in Ladwa near Kurukshetra, says.

"I have three acres of land. I can't afford to buy or hire the machine. The department is advertising their CHCs but so far I haven't seen any. I had contacted a nearby farmer who had bought the machine on subsidy but he refused to lend me as he is busy in cutting his crop. What option do I have but to burn it," Sanjeev Mehla, a farmer at Gudha village, says.

INDIA FACE T20 TEST, WI SEEK REDEMPTION

After wrapping up ODI series, India face world champion Windies in shortest format

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The 'end of Dhoni era' notion has been dismissed unequivocally but then India, for the first time, will still be without the figure with a monumental body of work when they face West Indies in the opening T20 International on Sunday.

Less than a week after two-time World Cup-winning skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was left out of India's T20I squad, captain Virat Kohli has said he remains an integral part of India's plans.

Chief selector MSK Prasad also said that it was not the end of the road for Dhoni in T20Is.

With Kohli rested for the three matches, Rohit Sharma will lead the side against the reigning T20 champions.

Under Jason Holder, West Indies were mauled 0-2 in the Test series in six days' of action. In the following five-match ODI series, they posed some challenge before being thrashed 1-3 with a nine-wicket loss in Thiruvananthapuram in the final one-dayer.

But it will not be an easy task for India against the Carlos Brathwaite-led team as the two-month long series begin its final leg, giving the visitors a chance to regain some pride.

Brathwaite will be back at the same venue where he hit four consecutive sixes off Ben Stokes to break the hearts of English fans by winning their second World Twenty20 title in 2016.

The Windies, who missed the big names in the Test and ODI series, will be bolstered by the arrival of star players Darren Bravo, Kieron Pollard and Andre Russell, who will be back at his IPL home venue.

The stats also favour the World T20 holders who have a five-two record from eight exchanges from 2009-17.

India failed to overcome Brathwaite's men in their last four encounters and the Windies ended the home team's campaign in the 2016 T20I World Cup, defeating them in the semi-finals in Mumbai.



India's last win against West Indies came way back on March 23, 2014 in the World T20 in Bangladesh, and Sharma will have his task cut out in his quest to start well at his happy hunting ground.



Indian players train during the practice session in Kolkata ahead of first T20 clash of three match series; (left) Indian T20 skipper for Windies series Rohit Sharma plays a shot during final ODI at Trivandrum

ANDRE RUSSELL OUT OF T20I SERIES

KOLKATA: Andre Russell will miss Windies' T20I series against India due to injury. Russell, who was initially part of the 15-man squad announced to take on India, was yet to join the squad on the eve of the first game. While the Carlos Brathwaite-led side practised at the Eden Gardens on Saturday (November 3), Russell wasn't with the team during their sessions. Cricket Windies released a statement later with the Chairman of Selectors, Courtney Browne saying that Russell was 'injured at this time.'

Russell had turned out for Nangarhar

Leopards in the Afghanistan Premier League game on October 9, a day before Windies announced the limited-overs squad for the India tour. While he was named in the T20I squad, he was left out from the ODI team with Cricket West Indies citing an injury as the reason for his exclusion.

Windies are already without several front-line players like Chris Gayle, Evin Lewis, Sunil Narine and Samuel Badree due to various reasons. Recently, Ashley Nurse was also ruled out of the T20Is as a result of a shoulder injury.

PERFORMANCE IN T20 INTERNATIONALS						
Team (Rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (2)	104	65	36	1	2	63.94
West Indies (8)	101	47	47	3	4	50.00
India vs West Indies	4	1	2	-	1	37.50
INDIA-WINDIES T-20I MATCHES						
Date	Venue	Result				
09-05-2010	Bridgetown	West Indies won by 14 runs				
23-03-2014	Dhaka	India won by 7 wickets				
27-08-2016	Lauderhill	West Indies won by 1 run				
28-08-2016	Lauderhill	No result				

Faisel Features

The 31-year-old has a world record score of 264 in ODIs at the Eden Gardens in 2014, besides winning two IPL titles, in 2013 and 2015. He would look to carry his fine form from the ODI series, in which he finished behind Kohli, with 389 runs, at a staggering average of 129.66.

Captaincy seems to bring out the best in Sharma who notched up 317 runs (average 105.66) in five innings in their title-winning campaign at the Asia Cup.

The Windies, on the other hand, will look forward to their youngster Shimron Hetmyer, who scored 259 runs in the ODI series, including a century in Guwahati.

Kohli's absence would mean KL Rahul will come into the picture while Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant are expected to add firepower in the middle order alongside Krunal Pandya.

Pant is expected to fulfil the wicket-keeping responsibilities while Karthik could take on one of the positions in the outfield.

The Indian seam attack will be led by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, which now includes additional variation in the form of left-arm quick Khaleel Ahmed.

In the spin department, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav will look to build on their chemistry. India have also named uncapped Krunal Pandya in the final 12.

The Eden centre strip promises to be full of runs, and batsmen from both sides will look to make merry.

SQUADS

India (XII): Rohit Sharma (Capt), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Dinesh Karthik, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Krunal Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, K Khaleel Ahmed.

West Indies: Carlos Brathwaite (Capt), Fabian Allen, Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer, Keemo Paul, Kieron Pollard, Denesh Ramdin (wk), Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Oshane Thomas, Khary Pierre, Obed McCoy, Rovman Powell, Nicholas Pooran.

'Dhoni's absence is opportunity for Pant'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India captain Rohit Sharma is confident that young Rishabh Pant will use the upcoming T20 series against West Indies as an "opportunity to express himself" in the absence of the talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Dhoni, whose batting form has been on the wane, is not a part of the shortest format presenting Pant with a golden chance to consolidate his place in limited overs cricket. Not to forget that senior pro Dinesh Karthik also get a fresh lease of life despite a career plagued by inconsistent form.

"Dhoni has been such a massive player for us, over the years. His experience in the middle will be missed but again Rishabh (Pant) and Dinesh (Karthik) have great opportunity to come and perform and show what they are capable of as well. It gives them an opportunity to express themselves," Rohit told mediapersons on the eve of the game.

Even though India will be playing the T20 format, Rohit termed the three-match series as an extension of the ongoing World Cup preparation. "We cannot go into the World Cup with limited resources. We need to have options. This gives you a great platform to try and test all these guys," Rohit said, laying emphasis on the bench strength.

"It's very important because the amount of cricket we play, at the same time we got to see what our bench strength is. The players we are talking of are possible replacements to come and fill in. We have to see the guys who are knocking the door and what they bring to the table."

"Not just the 15 players we got to see what is outside the 15 players we have. There are a lot of new faces in the team," he said. India have named uncapped left-arm spin duo of Krunal Pandya and Shabbaz Nadeem, who returned with a world record List A figures of 8/10 for Jharkhand in the recently concluded Vijay Hazare.

RISHABH PANT T20 STATISTICS							
	M	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100/50	4/6
T20I	4	73	38	24.33	105.8	0/0	5/2
IPL	38	1248	128	35.66	162.71	1/8	115/67

SINGLES

WILLIAMS, MASAKADZA RULE EVEN DAY 1

SYLHET: Sean Williams and skipper Hamilton Masakadza slammed a fifty each as Zimbabwe made 236-5 on the opening day of the first Test against Bangladesh in Sylhet on Saturday. Williams topscored with 88 off 179 balls after Masakadza hit 52 in his 105 ball knock to lay the initial foundation for Zimbabwe at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, which was hosting its maiden Test. Bangladesh made some regular breakthroughs, mostly by their spinners, but lacked the penetrating power to completely unsettle the visiting side playing their first Test in 2018.

MUMBAI GAIN BIG FIRST INNINGS LEAD

NEW DELHI: Young pacer Tushar Deshpande recorded his career-best figures of 6 for 70 to help Mumbai earn a sizeable first innings lead against Railways on the third day of their Ranji Trophy group A encounter here on Saturday. Deshpande's second five-wicket haul in first-class cricket saw Mumbai dismiss Railways for 307 in their first innings thereby taking a 104-run lead. At stumps, Mumbai were 57 for 2, consolidating their overall lead to 161 going into the final day of the opening round clash.

SQUAD ANNOUNCED FOR OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

NEW DELHI: The Indian senior national women's team will travel to Myanmar for the first round of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics qualifying tournament later this month, the squad for which was announced on Saturday. Coach Maymol Rocky named the final squad of players that will make the trip to Yangon. Over the last two weeks, the players were camped in Mumbai as they prepared for the task ahead. A total of 10 teams will move forward to the second round and if the Indian team is to progress, it will be a remarkable achievement for the women's team, which has never crossed the first hurdle at Olympic level in the past.

NAPOLI BACK TO SECOND IN SERIE A

MILAN: Dries Mertens scored a hat-trick as Napoli warmed up for next week's crucial Champions League game against Paris Saint-Germain with a 5-1 thrashing of Empoli to go back to second place in Serie A and put the pressure on champions Juventus. Napoli, with 25 points from 11 games, move three points behind champions Juventus. Lorenzo Insigne opened the scoring for the hosts after nine minutes with Belgian Mertens also scoring in the first half. Mertens added two more after the break in the 64th minute and in stoppage time with Poland's Arkadiusz Milik also getting on the scoresheet in the last minute.

DAVID EARNS POINT FOR AIZAWL IN I LEAGUE

KOLKATA: David Lalrinmuana's brilliant strike deep into the second-half stoppage time helped Aizawl FC hold Mohun Bagan to a 2-2 draw in an I-League match here on Saturday. Playing at home for the first time this season, Mohun Bagan looked all set for their first win of the season with their star striker Sony Norde giving them a 2-1 lead in the 69th minute after starting from the bench. But there was heartbreak in store with the 25-year-old former Mohun Bagan Academy graduate turning into home team's nemesis. Lalrinmuana curled in from 32 yards out in the 90+3rd minute into the top corner beyond the reach of goalkeeper Sankar Roy to help Aizawl return with a point.

SEHWAG, KINGS XI PUNJAB PART WAYS

NEW DELHI: Virender Sehwag on Saturday announced that he will not be part of the Kings XI Punjab dressing room next IPL after mentoring the team in the previous three seasons. "All good things must come to an end and I've had a wonderful time at Kings 11 (sic) Punjab, for 2 seasons as a player and 3 as a mentor. My association with Kings 11 (sic) comes to an end and I am thankful for the time I have had here and wish the team all the very best for the times ahead," tweeted Sehwag. The former India opener had become KXIP's mentor in 2016 after being a player for two seasons.

Agencies

Rayudu retires from first-class cricket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's ODI specialist Ambati Rayudu Saturday announced his retirement from first-class cricket to focus on one dayers and T20s.

The 33-year-old Rayudu is one of the key members of the Indian ODI side but has never played Test cricket.

"This is to inform that Ambati Rayudu, Hyderabad captain and member of the India ODI team, has decided to retire from longer version of the game including Ranji Trophy (multi day) to focus on limited overs cricket and T20 cricket," Hyderabad Cricket Association said in a press release.

"He will continue to play international and domestic matches of shorter version. He has thanked BCCI, Hyderabad, Andhra, Baroda and Vidharbha Cricket Association," the release further stated. Rayudu, who recently made a comeback in the Indian team by virtue of a successful IPL for Chennai Super Kings, is being seen as India's number four batsman going into the ODI World Cup in England.

He recently had a productive ODI series against West Indies, scoring 217 runs with a hundred and half-century, prompting both skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri to single him out for special



praise.

There is a possibility that Rayudu, who will next play for India in January and February in eight ODI matches against Australia and New Zealand, wanted to conserve his energies as he doesn't want to fail another fitness test.

Earlier this year, Rayudu had failed to make the ODI tour of England despite being selected after he failed to clear the mandatory Yo Yo test. It was then widely believed that due to the exhaustion of IPL, where he scored 600 plus runs for CSK, the Hyderabad batsman couldn't clear the 16.1 mark.

According to sources in the know of things, Rayudu probably

didn't want to exhaust himself by playing gruelling Ranji Trophy as it might affect his Yo Yo test performance before the tour of Australia.

With virtually no chance of donning the India whites, Rayudu called time on his 17-year-long first-class career in which he scored 6151 runs from 97 games. This included 16 hundreds at a healthy average of 45.56 and highest score of 210.

It was only natural that Rayudu, who has scored 1447 runs in 45 ODIs at an impressive average of 51.67, decided to concentrate on the format which has paid dividends for him. Also the fact that he is an IPL regular made his choice easier.

Australia face SA in 1st ODI

AFF ■ PERTH

Australia coach Justin Langer vowed on Saturday to put a smile back into cricket as South African skipper Faf du Plessis said he expects the sledging to be toned down in their one-day series.

The two sides meet in Perth on Sunday for the first time since the Test series in South Africa this year boiled over with Australian players attempting to alter the ball with sandpaper.

Langer, Lehmann's replacement, has pledged to change the win-at-all-costs culture and said he hoped the first game of the summer at home would be a step in winning back fans.

"It's sad, isn't it. Everyone seems to be at each other. There's lots of criticism," he said of the atmosphere surrounding Australian cricket.

"What we can do is we can prepare well, we can play good cricket, and be entertaining and put on a good show so Australians can start smiling a bit.

"One thing sport can do and the Australian cricket can do is put smiles on faces rather than everyone throwing stones at each other."

Australia have lost 16 of their past 18 one-day internationals and are desperate to get off on the right foot in Perth, with two more one-dayers and a Twenty20 against the Proteas to follow.

Du Plessis said he expected less verbal ban-



Du Plessis, Aaron Finch pose with the trophy

ICC

ter on Sunday than in the past. "An Australia-South Africa series is always going to be competitive but I do suspect this series will be a little bit more toned down, especially from the Australian side," he said on Saturday.

Despite Australia being without Smith and Warner and their poor one-day form, Du Plessis said his team won't be taking the home side lightly.

"Whenever you get a chance to play against Australia it feels like you're playing against a very good cricket team," he said.

"When you look at what they've got in their squad at the moment on paper there are some fantastic names there with the ball and with the bat."

Marijne, John did not treat me well: Sardar on retirement

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former India hockey captain Sardar Singh on Saturday claimed that former coach Sjoerd Marijne and current high performance director David John forced him to make a shock retirement in September.

The veteran singled out an incident which took place last year during India's triumphant campaign in the Asia Cup in Dhaka, where he was called to John's room in the presence of Marijne.

"I was called to his (David John's) room just before the match against Pakistan in Asia Cup. The coach (Marijne) was also there. He (John) said I committed mistakes and I was playing a lot of individual game. Just before an important match I was called to tell this. You could imagine how I was feeling, he could have told me later," the star mid-fielder claimed.

After the Asian Games, Sardar was not named among the probabilities for the Asian Champions Trophy in Oman, forcing him to think about his



future.

"I was dropped from important tournaments, the World Hockey League and Commonwealth Games. I thought I will be brought back, I was sent with a junior team in Malaysia. I slowly began questioning myself what is going on. After Asian Games, I was thinking of continuing till the 2020 Olympics. I was very fit, one of the fittest in the team. But then I decided to quit (after being dropped again)," he said.

Sardar also said that he was not told the reasons each time he was left out.

SARDAR'S STATISTICS			
Years	Team	Apps	(Goals)
2006-2018	India	314	(16)

"There was a lot of change of players. It is all right if you change 2-3 players but you are making so many changes before important tournaments. Moreover, you have to tell the reasons to the players. Sadly, it was not done."

He mentioned an instance in national camp in Bengaluru where the team list was pasted on the rooms' walls.

"The news of the team selection was told at the breakfast. We were told that the team list was pasted in front of rooms and those who are in should proceed to the field and those who are not will be told the reasons later. My name was not there, I did not go for team practice."

He said he hopes to keep himself fit to continue playing in European clubs for the next two years and ruled out coaching in the foreseeable future.

Rashford’s late winner caps Utd fightback

Martial’s equaliser, Marcus injury time goal help Manchester United beat Bournemouth 2-1

AFP ■ BOURNEMOUTH

Marcus Rashford's dramatic late winner capped Manchester United's fightback as they maintained their recent revival with a 2-1 win against Bournemouth on Saturday.

Rashford's close-range finish came after Anthony Martial's effort had cancelled out Callum Wilson's early opener for Bournemouth at Dean Court.

It was United's third victory in their last four Premier League games, extending an upturn in form that was started by the home victory over Newcastle United when Jose Mourinho's side recovered from a two-goal deficit.

The result will strengthen Mourinho's belief his side are on the up, although the United manager could easily have been contemplating a defeat had the home side made more of a succession of early chances.



Mourinho had expressed his confidence before this game that United's position in the Premier League table would look very different heading into the second half of the season.

"I think by the end of December, which is the end of the first half of the Premier League, I think we are not going to be in the position we are now. We are going to be in a better position," he said.

If the Portuguese's prediction is to come true, United must shake off the inconsistency that has so far undermined their efforts this season.

This was a start, particularly as Bournemouth had begun the season so impressively.

Mourinho will know, however, there must be much more to come if they are to revive their challenge for a top four place. Romelu Lukaku was a surprising absentee, with Mourinho revealing before the game the forward had not trav-

elled to the south coast after picking up an injury the day before.

SUSTAINED PRESSURE

Sanchez got the nod ahead of Rashford, a starter against Everton, but the Chile international had little chance to shine during the opening stages when Bournemouth could have sealed the points.

The visitors struggled to cope with Bournemouth's pacy front players and Eddie Howe's side exploited the lack of organisation in the United backline, forcing the lead in the 11th minute after a period of sustained pressure.

Wilson was denied by David De Gea and Junior Stanislas's shot deflected wide before United finally cracked after failing to deal with the resulting corner.

Luke Shaw headed clear but Mourinho's side were guilty of failing to put pressure on the

ball, allowing Stanislas to drill in a low cross that was turned home by an unmarked Wilson. United finally clicked in the 35th minute when Sanchez showed his worth.

The former Arsenal forward won the ball in midfield, with the help of his arm, according to the Bournemouth players, and played it wide to Ashley Young before advancing into the box to collect the return and set up Martial for the 35th minute equaliser. Mourinho's side were fortunate to be level at half-time but after the restart, they improved the longer the game went on and should have claimed a decisive second goal after Young struck the bar with a free-kick.

The ball fell to Rashford whose close range shot was blocked by Nathan Ake.

However, Rashford made amends in the final seconds when he turned in Paul Pogba's cross from close-range.

Mourinho hopes Martial will sign new Man Utd deal

Manchester (AFP): Jose Mourinho is keen for Anthony Martial to commit his long-term future to Manchester United by signing a new contract, with the French forward emerging as one of the key players at Old Trafford. Martial has been one of the most impressive performers in a disappointing season for the club, with five goals from five Premier League starts, and four in his past three appearances. He has a contract until the end of the season, on terms that give the club an option to extend it for a further year, with discussions under way to agree a deal beyond that.

The 22-year-old's future at

Old Trafford looked uncertain during the summer, with his agent Philippe Lamboley indicating in June that the forward wanted to leave the club, having missed out on a place in France's World Cup squad. Mourinho, at the time, was apparently willing to consider a sale, although executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward made clear he wanted to keep him.

Martial's recent form, including two goals against Chelsea in a 2-2 Premier League draw at Stamford Bridge, has impressed his manager, who feels now that the forward is worth a new contract, despite urging him to be more consistent. "Obviously, I hope they will agree," Mourinho said.

Chelsea's Loftus-Cheek left behind and to ponder his future

London (AFP): Chelsea's unbeaten start to the season under Maurizio Sarri has surpassed all expectations, but the visit of Crystal Palace on Sunday is a reminder of how again one of the club's brightest prospects has fallen out of favour.

Ruben Loftus-Cheek made four appearances in England's run to the World Cup semi-finals in the summer on the back of a loan spell at Selhurst Park last season that offered him the competitive Premier League minutes he needed to convince Gareth Southgate he was worth taking to Russia.

However, the 22-year-old is yet to start a league game this season and didn't even make Southgate's squad for last month's Nations League clashes as England took an impressive four points from trips to Croatia and Spain.

Southgate has repeatedly expressed his concern at the lack of opportunities handed to young English players. The summer signings of Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic forced Loftus-Cheek further down the pecking order in an over-subscribed Chelsea midfield. However, Loftus-Cheek has also been overtaken by another English international in Ross Barkley. The former Everton midfielder admitted his frustration at watching from afar.

Bolt not giving up hope on football career

Melbourne: Superstar sprinter Usain Bolt is adamant he can become a professional footballer despite his trial with an Australian club ending, insisting Saturday: "I still have it".

The eight-time Olympic champion's "indefinite" try-out period with the A-League's Central Coast Mariners collapsed on Friday after contract talks failed. The club reportedly offered him only a fraction of the AUD 3 million (USD 2.1 million) his managers were seeking, and the outside sponsors needed to make the deal viable could not be found.

"It's sad that it didn't work out," the Jamaican 100m and 200m world record holder told Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper at the Derby Day horse races in Melbourne, where he arrived in a suit, sunglasses and with a gold-handled cane.

"But we parted on good terms, and that's a good thing. I had a great experience with them. The guys were great — we just couldn't work out things with the contract, but hopefully I get another chance with another team."

Bolt, who retired from athletics last year, has long dreamed of becoming a soccer player and had been training with the Mariners since August.

AFP

Bernardo Silva ready to shine for City

Manchester (AFP): Kevin De Bruyne's wretched luck with injury has given Bernardo Silva the chance to continue his superb start to the season in Sunday's Premier League visit of Southampton to the Etihad. Playmaker De Bruyne injured ligaments in his left knee during Thursday's League Cup win against Fulham — just his second start of the season — sidelining him for five to six weeks.

And that has all but assured Bernardo Silva's spot in the City first team for as many as the next seven games as he continues to shine in De Bruyne's absence. The Portuguese's form will soften the blow of having to do without De Bruyne next week's Manchester derby for coach Pep Guardiola, who said that he will not rush the Belgian back into action when he does recover.

"It's not about the derby, that's three points, like Southampton. The Manchester derby will not be a final, it's another game," said Guardiola on Friday. "When you come back you cannot expect him to be the player we know he is in one day. He needs time to settle, take the pace, the rhythm, everything."

AFP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe and Neymar scored late goals to give Paris Saint-Germain a 2-1 win over nearest challengers Lille as the French champions extended to 12 games their perfect start to the season at the end of a troubled day for the club.

However Mbappe restored smiles at the Parc des Princes with a magnificent strike from just outside the box 20 minutes from time after getting the break of the ball, and Neymar then gave PSG a two-goal buffer before Nicolas Pepe pulled one back for the away side from the penalty spot.

PSG extend their lead at the top of Ligue 1 to 11 points after a 12th straight league win that means they have now beaten Tottenham Hotspur's old record for consecutive

wins at the start of a season.

Spurs emerged victorious from their opening 11 matches in their double-winning 1960-61 season, a performance that had stood since as a record in Europe's so-called big five leagues -- Spain, England, Italy, Germany and France.

The result is a boost for PSG ahead of their crucial Champions League trip to Italy to face Napoli next Tuesday, when a defeat could leave Thomas Tuchel's side on the brink of an early exit, unthinkable for a team with their ambitions.

"We deserved the result and the win record. Ligue 1 is not that easy. It is down to our hard work. We give everything on the field," skipper Thiago Silva told Canal Plus.

Mbappe was back in the PSG starting line-up after being left on the bench against Marseille last



weekend for arriving late for the pre-game team talk, only to come on and score the opener in a 2-0 win.

With Edinson Cavani not involved as he struggles to shake off a thigh injury, Mbappe and Neymar

were the biggest threats to Lille throughout, after arriving at the stadium disguised as characters from the Netflix show Money Heist.

Neymar almost scored direct from a corner five minutes before

half-time, with Lille goalkeeper Mike Maignan doing well to get his body in the way of the ball and divert it onto the frame of the goal.

Mbappe had a shot deflected just wide as PSG stepped up the pressure after the break, and it was the 19-year-old who broke the deadlock in the 70th minute, beating Maignan after Neymar's pass was kindly deflected into his path by Jose Fonte. That was his 11th goal in eight Ligue 1 games since winning the World Cup with France, and Neymar then got his ninth in the league this season to seal the win.

The Brazilian played a one-two with Mbappe before firing home from 18 yards with six minutes left, before Lille reduced the arrears in stoppage time, Pepe emphatically converting a penalty awarded for a Thilo Kehrer handball. Montpellier can leapfrog Lille and go second if they beat Marseille on Sunday.

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

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NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018 / KARTIKA 4, 1940

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 25th October, 2018

S.O. 5423(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for Rehabilitation and upgradation of National Highway No. 96/330 in the stretch of land from Km. 100.800 to Km. 135.230 in the district of Allahabad, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land;

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, the Special Land Aquisition Officer(J.O.), Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections;

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land for widening/four laning etc. from Km. 100+800 to Km. 135.230 of Faizabad-Allahabad Road (N.H. -96/330) in district of ALLAHABAD in the state of UTTAR PRADESH.

State: UTTAR PRADESHDistrict: ALLAHABAD

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Soraon					
Village: Abdalpur					
1	1441K 1441KH 1441G	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.1138(Hectare)	0.1138
Village: Mau Aima					
1	451	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0033(Hectare)	0.0033
2	469	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.02(Hectare)	0.02
3	472	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0323(Hectare)	0.0323
4	475	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0304(Hectare)	0.0304
5	476	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.01(Hectare)	0.01
6	477 MI	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.145(Hectare)	0.145

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Village: Mohammadpur Sarai Ali					
1	893	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0507(Hectare)	0.0507
Village: Ramnagar Umri (nizampur)					
1	705	Government(Charagah)	Charagah	0.0409(Hectare)	0.0409
2	707	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0138(Hectare)	0.0138
3	726	Private(Non Agriculture Land)	Non Agriculture Land	0.207(Hectare)	0.207
Village: Ramnagar Gansiari					
1	1024 / 2183	Government(Naveen Paratee)	Naveen Paratee	0.0032(Hectare)	0.0032
2	1025	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0022(Hectare)	0.0022
3	1035	Government(Road)	Road	0.001(Hectare)	0.001
4	1037	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0142(Hectare)	0.0142
5	1038	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0044(Hectare)	0.0044
6	1039	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.015(Hectare)	0.015
7	1040	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0017(Hectare)	0.0017
8	1041	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0037(Hectare)	0.0037
9	1042	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.024(Hectare)	0.024
10	1043	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0921(Hectare)	0.0921
11	1044	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0065(Hectare)	0.0065
12	1044 / 2216	Government(Usar)	Usar	0.07(Hectare)	0.07
13	1045	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.012(Hectare)	0.012
14	1519	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0974(Hectare)	0.0974
15	1520	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0791(Hectare)	0.0791
16	1644	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0015(Hectare)	0.0015
17	1645	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0171(Hectare)	0.0171
18	1655	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.1208(Hectare)	0.1208
19	1656	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.06(Hectare)	0.06
20	1658k 1658kh	Common(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0897(Hectare)	0.0897
21	1783	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0304(Hectare)	0.0304
22	1784	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.098(Hectare)	0.098
23	1785	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0083(Hectare)	0.0083
24	1786	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0013(Hectare)	0.0013
25	1788	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.001(Hectare)	0.001
26	1790	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.001(Hectare)	0.001
27	1794	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.001(Hectare)	0.001
28	1795	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0081(Hectare)	0.0081
29	1797	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0023(Hectare)	0.0023
Village: Sarai Alauddin Urf Jogapur					
1	20	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0048(Hectare)	0.0048
2	21	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0237(Hectare)	0.0237
3	22	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0188(Hectare)	0.0188
4	23	Government(Road)	Road	0.0046(Hectare)	0.0046
5	24	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0019(Hectare)	0.0019
Village: Sarai Baju					
1	217	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0277(Hectare)	0.0277
2	218	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0186(Hectare)	0.0186
3	219	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.033(Hectare)	0.033
4	220	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0275(Hectare)	0.0275
5	221	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0478(Hectare)	0.0478
6	230	Government(Road)	Road	0.0052(Hectare)	0.0052
7	231	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0375(Hectare)	0.0375
8	233	Private(Agriculture Land)	Agriculture Land	0.0487(Hectare)	0.0487
			Total	1.8340	1.8340

[F. No. NH-12014/16/2016/UP/NH-2(Pl.)/3A3]
RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy

LIGHT UP

From beautifully crafted silver coins, to thalis and idols of Lakshmi-Ganesh, to bespoke diyas and lamps and luxury hampers, celebrate this Diwali in style with some unique gifting options and lavish hampers, says SUNDAY PIONEER



Vastu tips for the puja

Astrologer and vastu expert JAI MADAAN shares a few good luck tips this Diwali

Diwali celebrations may vary in different communities, but its significance and spiritual meaning is generally 'the awareness of the inner light'. The festival symbolises the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness.

No matter how you keep your house for the rest of the year, on Diwali, correct vastu of your home becomes extremely important. Here are a few tips one can follow:

■ This Diwali, address the following directions to achieve positivity and specific results:

North: A water feature will help you start new projects.

South: Hang rock mountain pictures that inspire you to achieve more.

North-East: A bowl of fresh water on top of a 500 rupee note for your business's prosperity.

West: A clay pot with yellow flowers will increase savings.

North-West: Place a piggy bank to enhance your energy to work and make money.

South-West: To improve cash flow and speed up recovery, hang a crystal ball.

South-West: Keep your bank/investment papers in this sector facing towards

North-East: Put a picture of rising Sun to achieve name and fame.

South-East: Put nine stick bamboo plants to grow wealth.

■ **Cleaning:** Cleaning home and the surroundings like such as balconies, porch, staircase and basement is very important. Remove all the spider webs and clutter to make a room for positive energies to come.

■ **Best corner for worshipping:** The north-east corner of the house is the most accurate and ideal corner for worshipping. If not this then you can also move to the eastern corner of your house. The worship place should not have black colour around it and do not wear black or dark coloured clothes. The northern corner of your house is related to wealth and Lakshmi *puja* should be done in that direction.

■ **Placing idols:** The idol of Lord Ganesh should be placed on the left side of Goddess Lakshmi, while Goddess Saraswati should be placed on the right side. The idols should be in the sitting position.

■ **Front door of the house:** According to Vastu Shastra, your front door is connected to new opportunities and the gate should be kept open on that day so that the opportunities can come in. Avoid cluster-

ing behind the main door.

■ **Spray salt & water:** Spray a mixture of salt and water in all the corner of your home, especially during Diwali. It is believed that salt absorbs the negativity and purifies the atmosphere. After spraying, wash your hand well with soap.

■ **Light guggaldhoop:** During Diwali, light guggaldhoop in all the corner of your home. This dhoop strengthens all the Vastu Purusha and brings down the stress level by escalating peace in the family.

■ **Mango leaves and marigold flowers** are considered auspicious and bring good luck in the lives of family members. Hang

Toran or door hanging made from marigold flower and mango leaves at the main entrance door to attract blessings of God.

■ **Small footprints** in the front door are drawn from mix of rice flour and vermilion in the direction of going in the house and not coming out. This symbolises the goddess' entry into your home.

■ Use **diyas (earthen pots) and candles** in your Diwali décor. You can use pure *ghee* or linseed and mustard oils for lighting up the *diyas*. They have beneficial health effects and kills harmful germs and insects. Always place *diyas* in multiples of four on the parapet and the boundary walls as each one of them represents Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Ganesh, Lord Kubera and Lord Indra.

■ Make **Swastik & Om symbols** on the North/East walls to bring prosperity and good luck. Don't make it in the rangoli on the floor.

■ Place *diyas* to lighten every dark corner. Places such as bathroom, kitchen, staircase and other dark corners of your home should be lightened to attract positive energies.

■ According to Vastu, it is a good idea to include gold and utensils too. Apart from **jewelry, gold and silver coins** are accepted gifts for promoting prosperity. It is also suggested that the coins which are used during the *puja* should be later stored in red pouches with golden strings, as they are believed to be symbols of blessings from Goddesses Lakshmi and bearers of good luck throughout the year.

■ Make **rangoli** near the entrance of the house and in front of the *puja* room for creating a positive environment. Preferably, use the traditional materials like sand or rice powder mixed with food colours for creating rangoli.

■ Diwali is the ideal time to **chalk out your financial goals** for the year, or review them if required. Vastu suggests that you write down your wealth aspirations.

SHOP FROM THE BEST

Pooja Thali

No less than a work of art, Arttd'inox's stainless steel puja thali sets are beautifully crafted with intricate artwork that will call out the devout in you. Priced at ₹2,180 for small etching puja thali and ₹2,965 for large thali, these thalis will complement and add charm to your home decor and is also a great gift to give to your loved ones.



Coin it

Gem Selections, India's leading Gemstones brand, has launched #ChangeTheTradition campaign which aims at changing the Diwali tradition of gifting high calorie sweets and chocolates to family and friends into something more meaningful



by gifting authentic silver coins. Gem Selections has launched hallmarked silver coins gifts this Diwali. Customers can also save money by being a part of the #ChangeTheTradition campaign and avail Gem Selections gift vouchers that are available on [Khannagems.com](#). The cost of silver coin for 10gm is ₹550, for 20gm is ₹1,100, for 50gm is ₹2,750 and for 100gm is ₹5,500.

Pinch of salt



The magnificent collection of candle stands by Frazer and Haws is crafted in silver are available in various styles which will help you to light up your home, gives a great ambience to you and your guests coming home this Season. Priced at ₹5,000 onwards.

Diyas



The auspicious time

This Diwali, make your loved one feel special by gifting them a handcrafted bespoke watch with Ganesha figurine from Jaipur Watch Company. The watch has ETA automatic movement, the Lord Ganesha minuscule statue in 22K gold and the circumference of the dial is embedded with 1.6-carat diamonds.

Its Ganesha White Gold watch is made with 18 carats white gold, with a special embossed white gold dial depicting



ing Lord Ganesha Figurine. Runs on Swiss Eta 2824 automatic movement, encrusted with 1.4 Carat Diamonds. It also has sapphire crystal and handmade leather strap of 42 mm size. Priced at ₹1.5 lakh, the JWC watches are available for sale at stores in Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Mohali.

Pamper with a hamper

Gift your loved ones luxury hampers with a perfect assortment of flavours, culture and gourmet. Create a luxurious, personalised hamper with your favourite gourmet, homemade delicacies, goodies and essentials for Diwali. Pullman Hotel at Aerocity, New Delhi, offers a wide range of hampers starting from ₹1500 plus taxes at its Cafe Pluck.

The hi-end hamper that costs ₹10,500 plus taxes includes tea deli By Pullman, connoisseur's box of six teas, homemade chocolates, flavoured chocolates, flavoured honey, assorted nuts,



Glenfidich 12 YO, door hanging and scented candles. The hampers range from Pullman Classic Hamper to Happiness Overloaded and Pullman Box of Joy among others. Further, these can even be customised for a personal touch.

Foodhall, the premium food and lifestyle superstore, offers an exciting range of customised hampers starting from ₹1800 onwards. Its hi-end hamper —Hall Of Fame is an assortment will guarantee a unique dining experience.

It includes pink peppercorn & chives, cream cheese, sicilian sweet olives, red ginger & saffron candle, trio of citrus jam, truffle cheese, castello camembert, truffle mustard, fresh mixed berries, lindt swiss thins and chandon rose sparkling wine. Priced at ₹11,000.

Idols

The Anyque is a go-to store at Select Citywalk, Saket for premium brands like Exclusively Yours,

Arttd'inox, Beliram's, IK Silver, Cavalry Lane, Elvy, Mudita Mull and many more. The store has come up with a new series of Lakshmi - amesh idols made of silver. This one-stop shop



has uniquely curated handpicked product offerings ranging from silver, silver plated products to ceramic, bone china, metal and much more. Priced at ₹42,800.

CELEB TALK

FOLLOW OLD TRADITION

The best way to celebrate Diwali is with family and close friends. I was never fond of crackers. As a kid also, I use to burst them more as a formality and under moral pressure because all my cousins and friends use to do it. But I stopped bursting crackers long time ago. Now, I feel we should just not burst any crackers to prevent environment from pollution. There are so many rituals and activities that we do traditionally during Diwali and this, we should celebrate in that particular manner and pass on the rich legacy to the next generation. Like spending time with family and friends, make rangoli, sharing sweets and much more. The city looks so vibrant and positive and I think we should try and maintain it that way.

— Actor Shreyas Talpade



'CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY'

Diwali is a festival that signifies the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and hope over despair. However, in the recent years, extravagant celebrations have not only put a great strain on the environment, but have also put people's health at risk. It's time we celebrated Diwali responsibly and with minimal environmental consequence. Take the community children for a walk in the neighbourhood and collect dry leaves, grass and twigs. Celebrate the festival of lights by lighting a bonfire on the terrace or in an open space and serve homemade sweets and *sharbat*.

You could also opt for eco-friendly crackers that are made from recycled paper. The noise produced by these crackers is also within the decibel limits. Substitute candles and electric *diyas* with the good old oil *diyas* that are biodegradable, cost effective, traditional and very beautiful.

— Actor Aamna



REVISIT RAMAYAN

A beautiful way to celebrate Diwali is to get together and read verses from the Ramayan on the return of Rama from Ayodhya which is primarily why Diwali is celebrated in most parts of India. Helping in making *shakkarparas*, *chakli*, *chewda*, *laddoos* and other sweet and savory items. Drawing beautiful *rangolis* and spending time with family or playing board games at home.

— Singer Shalmali Kholgade



'SPREAD LIGHT'

My idea of Diwali has never been about bursting crackers. When we were kids, we were encouraged to celebrate Diwali as a true Festival of Lights with *diyas*, flowers and other things. I love the idea of floating candles & using lights that use minimal electricity to keep the home bright. I was also born on Diwali, so it has always been a special occasion in my family and friends. We celebrate Diwali by eating lip-smacking food, playing cards & dressing traditional attire.

— Actor Dipannita Sharma



COOK UP THE DELICACIES

KHAJOOR NI PATTICE

Ingredients:

- For the covering
- Boiled aloo 500 gm
- Ara lot 20 gm
- Green chilli 20 gm
- Salt to taste

For the stuffing

- Khajoor chopped 100 gm
- Kaju chopped 20 gm
- Kismis chopped 10 gm
- Pomegranate fresh seeds 10 gm
- Elaichi powder ½ teaspoon



- Ghee 10 gm
- Mawa (Khoya) 20 gm

Method:

- Heat oil in a kadai. Add all the ingredients of the stuffing and cook on slow flame. Set aside and let the mixture cool.
- Mash the alu and make a flattened ball. In this add the mawa and khajoor mixture. Make pattice. Set aside.
- Heat sufficient oil in a kadai.
- Dip the stuffed pattice in the deep-fry in hot oil till golden brown.
- Drain on absorbent paper.
- Serve hot with green mint chutney.

KESARI SHRIKHAND

Prep Time : 8-10 hour

Cook time :5 minutes

Serves: 4

Ingredients

- Saffron (kesar) large pinch
- Yogurt 1 kg
- Sugar substitute sucralose 1/3 cup
- Warm milk 2 tablespoons
- Nutmeg powder a pinch
- Green cardamom powder 1/4 teaspoon
- Almonds blanched, peeled and sliced 5-6
- Pistachios blanched, peeled & sliced 8-10



Method

- Tie the yogurt in a piece of muslin and hang it overnight over a bowl, in a refrigerator, to drain.
- Transfer the drained yogurt into a bowl. Add the sugar substitute and mix well.
- Soak the saffron in warm milk, cool and add to the yogurt mixture. Mix well.
- Add the nutmeg powder and cardamom powder; mix well and chill in the refrigerator.
- Serve chilled, decorated with almonds & pistachios

— Recipes by Khandani Rajdhani

the pioneer agenda

The questions I'm asking myself are, 'What makes me happy? Where do I want to be? What will make me happy at 50, 60, and 70?'
—Courteney Cox



Bhopal's French connect

Indira Iyengar traces her French roots back to Akbar's court, where Jean Philippe de Bourbon, fleeing from his motherland, found refuge



Goodbye, Jack Sparrow?

After playing Captain Jack Sparrow in five *Pirates of the Caribbean* films over 15 years, actor Johnny Depp will not appear in any further films



Loyalty as a virtue

It is not necessary that loyalty as a value may be at odds with loyalty as a virtue. There's a subtle difference that needs to be understood



Indira Gandhi flanked by Aziz Ahmed (left) and Haksar, New Delhi, August 1973, after signing of agreement between India and Pakistan

(Pic: Simon & Schuster India)

THE IRON LADY'S ALTER EGO

Jairam Ramesh's *Intertwined Lives: PN Haksar and Indira Gandhi* — the biography of Haksar, one of the best known civil servants and Indira's right-hand man — offers an insight into the past of both the person and the country he served. An edited excerpt:

Indira Gandhi was preparing for her upcoming election campaign when she received this note from PN Haksar five days into the New Year, on January 5, 1971: "The PM may kindly see the report placed below prepared by the Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW). I have long been feeling a sense of uneasiness about the intentions of Pakistan in future. The recent political developments in Pakistan have added to my anxieties. With the overwhelming victory of East Pakistan wing [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman], the solution of internal problems of Pakistan have become infinitely more difficult. Consequently, the temptation to seek solution to these problems by external adventures has become very great. I think that the time has come when our Armed Forces need to make a very realistic assessment both of Pakistan's capability and our response. I have a feeling that there are many weak spots in our defence capabilities. These need to be remedied without loss of time. I know how busy the PM is. And yet, I venture to suggest that the PM should call in all the three Chiefs of Staff, Defence Secretary, and the Defence Minister and share with them her anxieties and ask them to urgently prepare their own assessment and make recommendations of what the requirements of each of the Services are so that we can feel a sense of security. I suggest that such a meeting should be held quietly and without any publicity..."

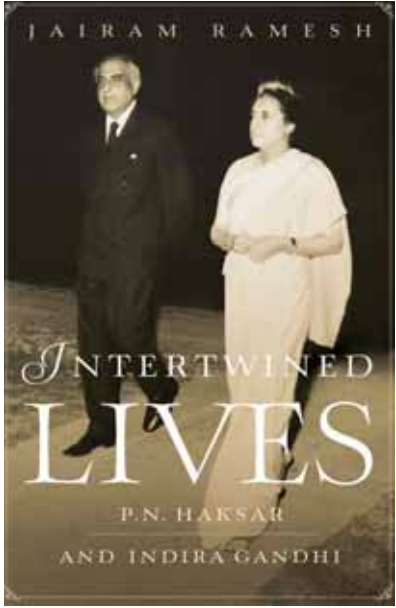
Just as Haksar was worrying about Pakistan based on his meetings with Kao, Ritwick Ghatak cropped up again. The eccentric Bengali filmmaker had made a film on Lenin but it had run into controversy. On January 6, 1971, a day after sharing his worries about Pakistan with the Prime Minister, he told her: "In matters of this sort, one is apt to be carried away by somewhat exaggerated notions that our society, such as it is, would be seriously deflected from its course of evolution by a film on the life of Lenin as produced by Ritwick Ghatak. Generations of people all over the world have seen far more inflammatory films by Eisenstein, Pudovkin, Rossellini and others. These films, at any rate, were shown on a mass scale.

"And nothing very much really happened. Even if the film is certified as it is, hardly any cinema would show it on a commercial basis. I myself saw the film and I cannot say with any sense of realism that Ritwick Ghatak's film on Lenin will bring the revolution even fraction of a second earlier. However, I am rather more oppressed by the poverty of Ghatak, who has staked up a little money with the help of some hapless financier and they are both desperately trying to sell this film to the Soviet Union. It would be great fun exporting Indian Lenin to the Soviet Union! I hope the Soviet soci-

ety survives the depredations. It is really quite comic that so many hours of official time should have been wasted in considering the solemn question whether the film should or should not be released. I feel that we can well afford to let the film go giving it 'A' certificate."

After dictating the note, Haksar realised that he may have been carried away by his liberalism and suggested to the Prime Minister that she may agree to having the film certified 'for adults only' subject to deletion 'only of that portion of the commentary on land grab sequence'. The Prime Minister agreed! Thereafter, the Prime Minister plunged into her campaign in right earnest. Haksar was fully involved in the campaign at every step — writing substantial parts of the manifesto, suggesting possible candidates and getting feedback from his band of political and non-political friends in different States. People approached him with suggestions which he duly passed on to Indira Gandhi, and some even met him to offer themselves as candidates. One such person was a distinguished Army man, who had done India proud in the 1965 war with Pakistan. Haksar informed Indira Gandhi on January 16, 1971: "General Harbaksh Singh called on me today at 12.30 pm. He said that he had been approached by the Akali Party to stand from the Sangrur parliamentary constituency. He said that he belongs to this area. He further said that there are hundreds of thousands of people, especially amongst ex-servicemen, who are just fed up with the low level of Akali politics. He will have nothing to do with them. In fact, Punjab needs to be rescued from the Jathedars. They have no morals, no scruples and no ideology of any sort. He would, therefore, be glad to place his services at the disposal of the Prime Minister and would like to give a fight... Generally speaking, I take a dim view of soldiers, sailors and airmen entering politics. I must say that I was agreeably impressed by the earnestness and sincerity of General Harbaksh Singh. Maybe, he is an exception."

The next day, Indira Gandhi asked Haksar to speak to the president of the Congress Party in Punjab, Giani Zail Singh, about the General but it is obvious that his candidature went nowhere. On January 30, 1971, Haksar reported to the Prime Minister: "General Harbaksh Singh telephoned me this morning to say how depressed he felt the way the Congress party was dealing with him. He said that the PM can make enquiry from any independent sources to discover what wide support he enjoys in Sangrur parliamentary constituency. He said he is anxious to give a fight to the Akalis. He added that he had heard that he was accused of flirting with the Akalis. This, according to him, was a strange allegation when one knows that Giani Zail Singh



“ON JANUARY 5, 1971, HAKSAR WROTE TO INDIRA: “THE PM MAY KINDLY SEE THE REPORT PREPARED BY R&AW. I HAVE LONG BEEN FEELING A SENSE OF UNEASINESS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF PAKISTAN... THE RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN HAVE ADDED TO MY ANXIETIES... THE TEMPTATION TO SEEK SOLUTION TO THESE PROBLEMS BY EXTERNAL ADVENTURES HAS BECOME VERY GREAT

and Sardar Swaran Singh were themselves carrying on with the Akalis... and now Sardar Swaran Singh tells him that he cannot get Sangrur because the need for adjustments with the CPI has arisen. The General said that he had nothing against the CPI, but there is no chance for that party to win from Sangrur... I cannot say that General Harbaksh Singh is being unreasonable. In fact, the method of handling some of these people could certainly be greatly improved."

As it turned out, the General did not contest. Surjit Singh Barnala of the Akali Dal won this seat and many years later would become the Chief Minister of Punjab and later the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

That Haksar was intimately associated with the distribution of the Congress tickets for the 1971 elections is evidenced by a note that he would send on February 4, 1971, to the Prime Minister when it had almost been decided to leave the New Delhi seat to the CPI in preference to Mukul Banerjee, an active Congresswoman:

As per the PM's directions, I dutifully saw Mukul [Banerjee] and Bavani [her husband] and when I finished hearing what they had to say, I did not have the heart to suggest to Mukul that she might accept an assignment. Such an offer would have been, rightly, construed as adding insult to injury. They remain and will remain, loyal, devoted workers, but obviously the PM has to find a solution to their problem. To put it simply, their problem is that they have neither a position in the party organisation nor a position in public life. They have no money and live under conditions of destitution.

"A political party or leader which fails to look after such people will have to do a lot of accounting. In many matters, I exercise self-restraint but the way things are happening, it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to bottle myself up. It is a particularly bad day for me. I have had the misfortune to hear another story from Goa... If the PM has got the impression that a crook and criminal like Bandodkar should be encouraged and Sequeira and Kakodkar sacrificed, I feel that there is hardly any point in carrying on.

"Even ordinary courtesies and decencies are not being shown. Kakodkar was called to Delhi and he is being made to cool his heels here. One does not do such things even to one's enemies, let alone to one's friends. And I feel that having allowed certified enemies to enter the gate, the time has come to cry a halt." Mukul Banerjee finally did get the Congress ticket for New Delhi and won handsomely. But from this note, it is clear that Haksar was getting increasingly frustrated and was even thinking of quitting as we shall see very soon.

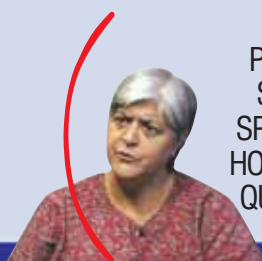
On January 18, 1971, Haksar sent Indira Gandhi a note whose significance

would be revealed much later. He wrote: "I have received a programme drawn up for the PM to tour her own constituency on February 1, 1971. I find that helicopter is being used twice. The PM has to consider this carefully. Also whether this was done in 1967. Use of helicopter, which West Bengal is advising in the interest of security, is one thing. Its use in going to inaccessible places is also understandable. Whether similar justification exists for its use by the PM in her own constituency, requires, I submit, careful consideration."

Some months later, after the election results were declared and she had won handsomely in a landslide, her opponent Raj Narain would petition the Allahabad High Court that Indira Gandhi was guilty of a series of electoral malpractices, including the use of Government helicopters for her campaign. I will be discussing that case a little later. Suffice it to say for the moment that she was held 'not guilty' by the judge of the charge of misusing helicopters because she had confined it to specific areas on security considerations as advised by Haksar. As it is, she would be held guilty on two counts. There may well have been a third court had she not heeded Haksar's advice on the use of helicopters in her own constituency of Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh.

The election campaign was in full swing and Indira Gandhi had returned to New Delhi to take part in the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 1971. Just the previous day, Haksar delivered a bombshell of sorts to her: "I was born on September 4, 1913. I, therefore, reach the age of superannuation on September 4, 1971. Under Fundamental Rule 86, it is provided that leave at the credit of a Government servant in his leave account shall lapse on the date of compulsory retirement provided that if in sufficient time before that date he has formally applied for leave due as preparatory to retirement and been refused it, or ascertain in writing from the sanctioning authority that such leave, if applied for, would not be granted — in either case, the ground for refusal being the requirements of public service, then the Government servant may be granted, after the date of retirement, the amount of leave so refused subject to a maximum of six months.

"My leave account standing as on December 31, 1970, shows that I have the following amount of leave due to me: (i) Earned leave — 180 days (ii) Half pay leave — 440 days "In accordance with the provisions of Fundamental Rule 86, I, therefore, apply for leave preparatory to retirement for the entire amount of leave due to me with effect from February 1, 1971."



PN HAKSAR'S DAUGHTER NANDITA SAYS THOUGH THE FAMILY HAD A SPECIAL PLACE FOR NEHRU IN THEIR HOME, HER FATHER ALLOWED HER TO QUESTION THE FIRST PM'S POLICIES

SOCIAL MEDIA LAW: KNOWING THE RIGHTS OF PRIVACY

The idea that one needs privacy on social media platforms has come to being after that privacy has been violated. Clearly, there's an urgent need for awareness about the laws governing the virtual space, write SUMIT BATRA and NARESH ARORA

Information and communication technology has changed rapidly in the past two decades. With the emergence of social media, the world is changing at an unbelievable speed. However, there's a flip side to this, too. Constant violation of regulations related to social networking has resulted in civil and criminal cases that need urgent attention. With repeated cases of fake news and trolling, the laws governing social media need to be understood.

Social media in India is regulated by the Information Technology Act, enacted in 2000. This was put in place in order to regulate the problems that stemmed out of usage of Information Technology. Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India, 1950 guarantees "Right to freedom of speech and expression". This is a fundamental right guaranteed to all citizens of India. However, it must be kept in mind that freedom of expression does not give 'complete' freedom to anybody. This does not ensure that they can write or say anything they wish to. The context or the intent behind any news or information being circulated through social media/networking channels must be regulated and evaluated. The authenticity must be verified as it can have a vast impact on the population which receives such information. While the law in this particular field is still at nascent



stage, it is evolving with time.

Recently, the Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 which led to arrests

of many people for posting allegedly objectionable content on the Internet. The Court also rejected the Centre's plea that it was committed to free speech and would

ensure the provision was administered in a reasonable manner. While the need of the hour might be to have effective and robust mechanism to govern the content

over social media and networking sites, the Government must not forget that they cannot curb the constitutional and fundamental rights and prevent people from expressing their views over the issues concerning the country, including expressing their appreciation or displeasure on the functioning of the Government. The content writer and forwarder must act as a responsible citizen and ensure that such transmission of content does not lead to loss of life, reputation or dignity of any citizen. The Government must not forget that acts like Information Technology Act, 2000, were enacted to safeguard the citizens. That in no way should act as a deterrent or a tool in the hands of the Government to keep the citizens from exercising their constitutional rights.

Advocate Sumit Batra says, "Though no law can ever completely insulate the users of social media and networking from the issues or problems cropping out of technological advances, some basic guiding principles can take care of a lot many issues. While it is permissible to create, transmit and circulate news or information in social media, the big question that often arises has to do with a personal sense of discretion — something might be offensive for me but not offensive for others."

Trolling has become a part of internet culture and has started affecting many peo-

ple's personal lives. The virtual and the real have been coloured as one. One has to be constantly careful to prevent such untoward situations from taking a toll on their personal life. For instance: If you are travelling alone, avoid posting the details on social media portals. Considering the nature and rate of criminal actions these days, one also needs to be cautious while posting the pictures of children on such portals.

Naresh Arora, Social Media expert and Director at DesignBoxed, says, "As a society, we often fail to value privacy. It is starkly reflected in the absence of privacy policies. The discourse on privacy policies has been brought forward in the public domain only when privacy has been breached. It made us realise that we had privacy on social media to begin with! This also brings forth the glaringly obvious idea that we do not really know how to utilise social media and its channels. On social media platforms, regulations to protect the personal information of users should be absolute. In a country like India, a major thrust on the awareness regarding the privacy policy becomes the onus of the Government, which should ensure through an effective law structure that the consumers of social media platforms understand their rights and duties."

Batra is an advocate; Arora is a social media expert and director at DesignBoxed

FROM PAGE 1

The Iron Lady's alter ego



Haksar was clearly telling the Prime Minister that he wanted to leave. She sat on Haksar's note and a few days later, on February 2, 1971, sent him an extraordinary note of her own: "You know that I am neither morbid nor superstitious but I do think that one should be prepared. The thought of something happening to me has haunted me — not so much now, as during the last tour — and I am genuinely worried about the children. I have nothing to leave them except very few shares, which I am told are hardly worth anything. There is some little jewellery, which I had divided into two parts for the two prospective daughters-in-law. Then there are some household goods, carpets, pictures, etc. It is for the boys to decide. I personally would like everything to be as evenly divided as possible, except that Rajiv has a job but Sanjay doesn't and is also involved in an expensive venture. He is so much like I was at his age — rough edges and all — that my heart aches for the suffering he may have to bear. The problem is where they will live and how... I can only hope and trust for the best. But I should like the boys and some to feel that they are not quite alone, that they do have someone to lean on."

This was a most unusual Indira Gandhi — emotional and baring her soul out to her aide. Was she telling him that she still needed him and that he should not press his resignation?

Excerpted with permission from Jairam Ramesh's *Intertwined Lives: P.N. Haksar and Indira Gandhi* published by Simon & Schuster, ₹799



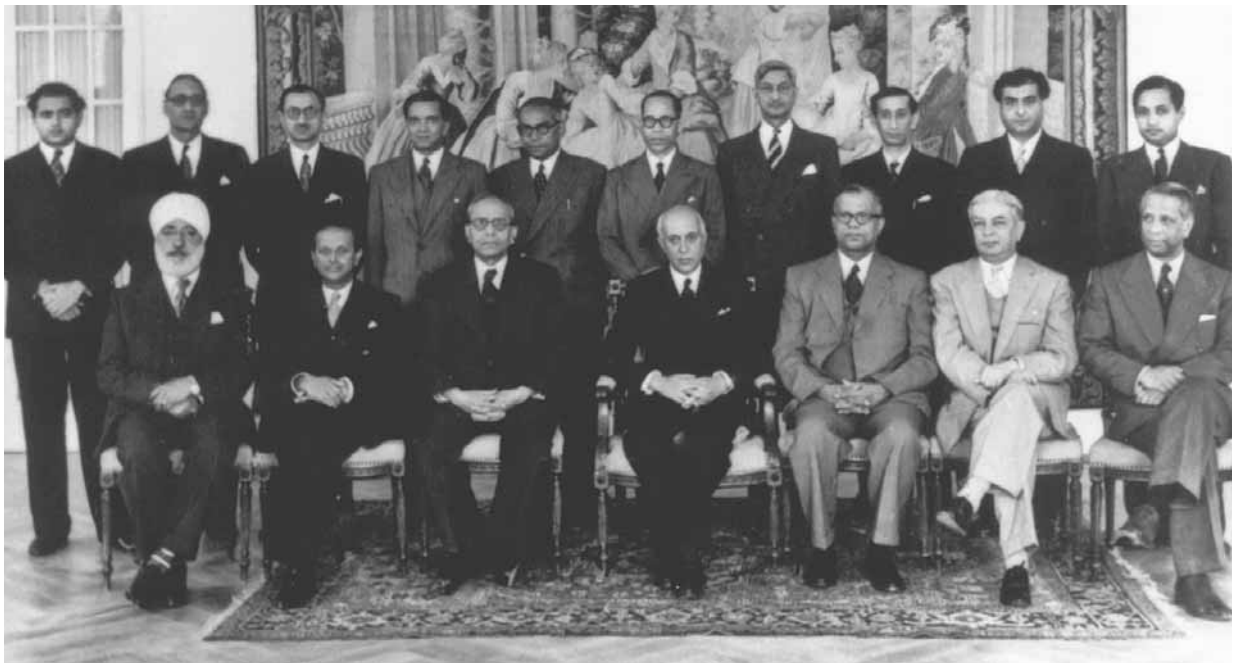
Haksar (seated right) with his parents and siblings



Haksar alongside Indira Gandhi, 13 days after his family had been harassed and humiliated, New Delhi, July 1975



Homi Bhabha with Haksar and his wife, in Vienna, 1964



Nehru at the Conference of Indian Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Western Europe and North America, Switzerland, 1953. Haksar standing second from right



Haksar with Raja Ramanna (with tie) at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, 1967



Indira and Bhutto after signing the Simla Agreement, July 1972. Haksar is behind Indira



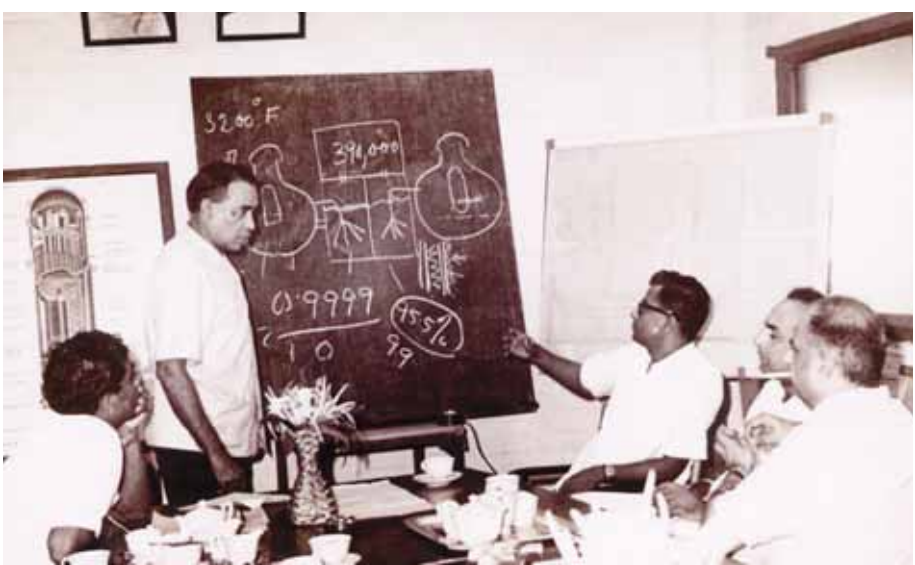
Nehru and Indira Gandhi, the President of Nigeria and his wife, along with Haksar, in Lagos, 1962



Haksar and his wife with Nehru on the eve of departure to Nigeria, March 1960



Indira Gandhi as photographed by Haksar

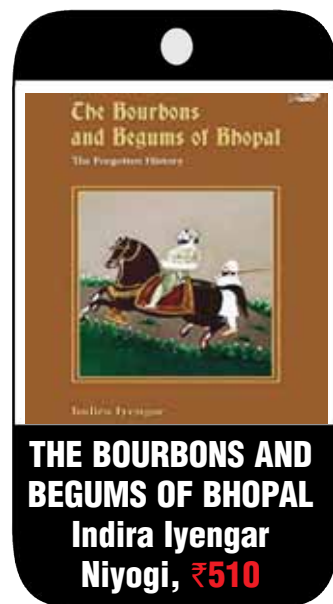


Haksar with engineers involved in putting up India's first atomic power plant, Tarapur, October 1967

BHOPAL'S FRENCH CONNECTION

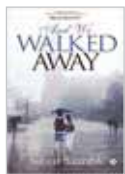


A fitting tribute to the author's mother, this book will inspire readers to pick up the threads and investigate Bhopal's very own French affair, writes KALYANEE RAJAN



Most of the rare photographs dating back to the 18th century from the author's private collection passed on over generations are also treasure troves brought out in the public domain for the first time. Several handwritten letters and documents recording land deeds and bequests reproduced in the appendices are simply invaluable.

NEW ARRIVALS



Assimilating an alien culture

This book is a promising attempt at translating the works of Walt Whitman into Maithili and making his potent ideas available to a larger community of readers, says SACHIDA NAND JHA



Indian sage Aurobindo considered him the most remarkable poet after Valmiki and Homer. Whitman had another admirer in Swami Vivekananda who found his collection of poems "Leaves of Grass" spiritually satisfying and termed Whitman a spiritual genius capable of uplifting the consciousness of his readers to the transcendental level of blissful experiences. Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore went on to say that Whitman had been a champion of mystic

As far as Maithili literary universe is concerned, not only the majority of common readers but also some of the writers had not much information about what the poetry of Whitman has to offer till Jha discovered him. Once discovered, he could not part ways with the visionary poet who cast a spell over him. Indeed Whitman shook and moved his inner core to the extent that he kept reading, rereading and passionately reciting the poetry of Whitman whenever and wherever he got any opportunity to do so. His persistent efforts to imbibe and internalise Whitman continued for years before he began to translate some of his poems into Hindi during the period of 1977-80. He showed his translations to his literary friends, acquaintances and his favorite teachers. Despite all their encouraging words about his translations, he did not feel confident about the quality of his

It is his passionate desire to absorb and assimilate the essence of Whitman's cultural thought to the best of his receptive capabilities that governed his translation works. And he fairly succeeded in his efforts to obtain Whitman, as he attempted, in his mother tongue, Maithili. It is noteworthy that his translation has indisputably raised the bar for the activities of literary translations in Maithili. In fact, this poet-translator has set a precedent which holds the promise to become the benchmark for future translations of Whitman's poetry into Maithili in particular.

Long shadow of India-China war of 1962

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since the Chinese aggression. The Wuhan Summit in 2018 is an ample symbol of intent by both China and India. In the age of new diplomacy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a searing attempt to pave the way for normalisation of relations with Beijing despite the past



MANAN DWIVEDI

It was the treacherously tumultuous period between October 20 and November 21, 1962, when the “Han” invaded India with the first incursion being at NEFA fealty — India’s North Eastern Frontier Agency — which witnessed the massacre of the Rajput battalion who were caught surreptitiously unaware in the dreary heights in 1962. The war which was more than a border skirmish was initiated with India defending with about 10,000-20,000 soldiers which were pitted against the 80,000 odd soldiers of the People’s Republic of China. The war ended when the Chinese declared a ceasefire on November 21, 1962. Some Cinematic portrayals, such as the flick Haqeeqat, beautifully portrayed the unmatched valour and singularly aesthetic spirit of sacrifice which the Indian forces displayed in the freezing heights of NEFA despite limitations imposed by a want of war fighting equipment and a lack of an appropriate infrastructure.

New Delhi was caught napping as in the few roundtables between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Commissar Mao, the rant of Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai befooled the Indian Government and the nation was not prepared for a warring victory over the multitudes which were let loose on India in deluges after deluges. The shadow of the war still lurks behind India’s foreign policy and the Chinese hegemonising and containment strategies which are the final outpouring of all Chinese ministrations. It is these antecedents which prevent the normalisation of relations between New Delhi and the Han, and a veil of ubiquitous uncertainty and an anachronous trust deficit is in place as the mortal issues of territorial claims by the Chinese still mar the dialogues and Tibet remains a sticking point between New Delhi and Beijing. The facts and the depictions by Western chroniclers such as Edgar Snow pinpoint towards the power centric and sturdy ministrations of the Han nation, both in dealing with its internal turbulence and in its transactions with India. The rowdy and the fighting



spirit is depicted in, *Red Star Over China*, which forms a substantial premise upon which the entire edifice of China is premised upon. The Chinese stratagem has always been the formulaic inaction of lying low and hibernating only to emerge as the powerful aggressor after gaining girth.

It’s no tale that the Indian reaction to the Chinese invasion was knee jerk and the record was straightened out with the partial victory over Pakistan and the Nathula skirmish in 1967 as poignantly portrayed in the recent Cinematic creation, titled as Paltan. Provocations by the Chinese to

arouse and inflame the Indian contingent at Nathula in 1967 remains a practice in the expanse of uninhabited frontiers. As *India Today* reports, “Around 3,250 Indian soldiers were killed. India lost about 43,000 square kilometres of land, captured by China in Aksai Chin. It is of the size of Switzerland. The 55th anniversary of the India-China war has a shadow of Doklam stand-off hovering over it. The anniversary is also significant in the view of the CPC Congress, where President Xi Jinping has emerged as the most powerful leader of the country in its history.” Thus, the singular-

ly trenchant trend in China happens to be that of centralisation of power and the beginning of a new personality cult akin to what Mao Tse Tung developed around himself. The Long March and the other revolutionary systemic changes of the sixties and seventies in China are a matter of retrospect and till now the Chinese economic unison with the rest of the international system is partially well managed and orchestrated sufficiently, if not to perfection.

There is a Prisoner’s Dilemma and Chicken hunt game revolving around the India-China border dispute. Both the

sides are fundamentally distrustful of each other. The Chinese jingoistic veneer was at a full-mast-display at the time of the Doklam stand-off. *Global Times* wrote, “We firmly believe that the face-off in the Donglang area will end up with the Indian troops in retreat. The Indian military can choose to return to its territory with dignity or be kicked out of the area by Chinese soldiers.” Even in the JP Dutta’s war movie classic, *Paltan*, the heated verbal exchange between Indian commander Arjun Rampal and the Chinese Commissar makes for an interesting watch and analysis. When the Chinese Commandant at Nathula declares and threatens that the Indian contingent will suffer. Arjun Rampal stoutly counters by contending, “Do whatever you can, we are ready to suffer anything.” These instances might flare up the relationship’s chasms further, but for the nation, themes of moral uprightness and fealty to the nation along with the grandiloquent spirit of sacrifice are there to be given unmatched importance in the Indian military myth and lore. It is here that the sinews of the nation attains its synergy to defend its borders and sustain self pride which might seem anachronistic to a certain section living in the world of a conjoined geo-economics with the United States its President Trump straining at their leashes to isolate and counter the Chinese trade juggernaut all across the global polity ranging from Africa, Latin America to the neighbouring Indo-Pacific. Unfortunately, it was India which played a prominent role with others to mainstream the Chinese in search of durable and credible peace at the border. In the light of the 1962 border clash, Arun Jaitley contended that India in 2017 is different than what it was in 1962 referring to its improved and enhanced military strength in the contemporary context.

China’s two territorial claims are the rattling elements for New Delhi. One being the claim over Aksai Chin in the north-eastern section of the Ladakh region in Jammu & Kashmir. The other claim is

premised upon the demand of the territory of Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese claim that in the Tri-party talks at the Simla convention in 1913-1914, the Tibetan side was taken to a separate room and the Chinese delegation was not adequately shown the documents, as also refereed in the Neville Maxwell’s, India’s China War. Sir Henry MacMohan detailed the Macmohan line between British India and Tibet which is based upon the highest watershed principle which the Han deny and do not accept as the correct demarcation of the boundary. These rationales exist as the “historic reasons” why the Chinese Maps portray a different scale of demarcation vis-a-vis the border. The original Chinese claim crosses these arid and mountainous regions, the way to the plains of Assam. Chou En-Lai had proposed that both the nations withdraw their forces for about twenty kilometres beyond the Macmohan line, which was a policy course rejected by India. The area of this disputed region is three times the terrain of Taiwan, six times the size of Beijing and ten times the size of Malvinas.

A lot of water has flown down the bridge since the mayhem of 1962. The Wuhan Summit in 2018 was an ample symbol of intent by both China and India. Xi Jinping’s outreach to the Japanese leader and PM Modi can be perceived as a striving to cement a Sino-centric world order to replace the US-led global order, sans the American grand strategy. The Wuhan dialogue need not be belittled as an attempt in optics and verbiage but it needs to be comprehended by observers as an informal summit with an eye to create the correct pitch for the both the nations to bat on to some concrete themes such as border solutions. In the age of New Diplomacy, Modi has made a searing attempt to pave the way for a steady and normalisation of relations with Beijing despite the past.

(The writer teaches International Relations at Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi)

PERSPECTIVE

‘Trump moment’ in Brazil: Bolsonaro’s election

As a large number of voters wanted to get rid of corruption, rising crime and an economic slump caused by Centrist and Leftist politicians, they elected Jair Bolsonaro to cure their country of the illness. However, the moot question is whether Bolsonaro’s radicalism will gel with the hopes of the masses



MAKHAN SAINIA

Jair Bolsonaro’s election to the office of the President of Brazil signals the coming of the “Trump moment” to the Latin American nation. Bolsonaro, the right-wing conservative presidential candidate, won 55.2 per cent of the vote against the Left-wing Workers’ Party candidate Fernando Haddad, who got only 44.8 per cent, despite the backing of former President Lula.

Bolsonaro displays an unusual trend in Brazilian politics. His rise is compared with the coming to power of Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines, Viktor Orban in Hungary, and Donald Trump in the US. All these leaders have promised to fight the establishment and settle for a new order of sort in their respective countries. Born to parents of Italian descent, Bolsonaro served in the Brazilian Army from 1971 to 1988 and was first elected as a City Councillor for Rio de Janerio to represent the Christian Democratic Party. In 1990, for the first time, he was elected to the federal assembly from the same party. By the end of July this year, the far-right Social Liberal Party declared him as the presidential candidate. From then, his very short journey to “The Planalto” (The Palacio do Planalto in Spanish language) has just begun. He is finally taking over as the President of Brazil in January 2019.

Bolsonaro has been making headlines by espousing populist and nationalist rhetoric from the very beginning of his campaign. He is a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, abortion and migration. He has courted major controversies by releasing one of the ugliest statements particularly against women, gays, black community, foreigners and indigenous peoples. His derogatory remarks have no end. For example, once he suggested that all social schemes for escaped slaves are mere wastage as “they do nothing. I don’t think they even serve for reproduction”.

What has led to Bolsonaro’s rise? This former Army captain’s journey to the centre of Brasilia did not start in a day or two. He has spent nearly three decades in the Brazilian Parliament, but couldn’t be considered as one of prominent statesmen of the country. This makes his journey to the top post of the country interesting. To explain the mysterious rise, we need to go back to the ignominious reign of two former presidents, Rouseff and Temer (the incumbent). Today, Brazil is gripped by a

spate of corruption scandals involving top political leaders, including the outgoing President Michel Temer. The roots of these scandals started in 2014. The most controversial of these scandals is the Operacao Lava Jato (Operation Car Wash) which came up during the reign of former President Dilma Rouseff. The investigation revealed that the top executives at the state oil company, known as “Petrobras”, had accepted bribes from a number of construction firms to award them contracts at inflated prices. What was surprising was that as the tentacles of the Operation Car Wash fanned out, other scandals involving politicians, business executives and government officials started coming to light.

The largest South American nation has been witnessing a spate of political crises after the very end of the glorious Lula regime in 2010. Though Lula had carefully installed his protégé Dilma Rouseff as the first woman President of the country in 2011, her rule was marred by the much talked about Lava Jato scandal. And this has landed her, along with her mentor Lula, in jail. When Temer took over after Rouseff’s suspension from office in 2016, he miserably failed to restore the faith of the populace in the fragile democratic system of Brazil. The worst came to Lula’s Workers’ Party when it was alleged that money from the Lava Jato scandal was funneled to pay off politicians and buy votes and help in election campaigns to bring back Rouseff to power. The data revealed by the Public Prosecutor’s office in October shows that Lava Jato had resulted into more than 200 convictions for crimes, including corruption, misuse of the global financial infrastructure, drug trafficking and money laundering. Along with giant corporate houses, a number of foreign political dignitaries were implicated, including two former Presidents — Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru, and the current Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro.

Another scam came to light in March 2017 through an investigation called ‘Operacao Carne Fraca (Operation Weak Flesh)’. It was the result of the Operation Lava Jato only. This Operation Weak Flesh pursued mounting allegations that some employees of the JBS and BRF, the world’s largest beef and poultry exporters, continuously bribed food inspectors to approve the sale of spoiled products. Once



the scam was public, the European Union, China, the US, Egypt, Japan and Mexico suspended their meat imports from Brazil with immediate effect. What has heralded more chaos to the political atmosphere of Brazil was subsequent scandals that rocked the country such as: Operacao Panatenaico, which exposed alleged bribes paid by construction companies in return for contracts to build stadiums for World Cup Brasilia in 2014; Oeracao Green Field, an investigation into the alleged fraud at the pension funds of state-run companies and finally, Operacao Zelotes, that is investigating kickbacks allegedly paid by corporate, including JBS and Ford’s Brazilian subsidiary to tax officials to reduce their liabilities. Thus as the economic crisis deepened, political leadership gradually failed to restore the confidence of the public on the public institutions.

These scandals have led to extreme

level of complications to revive the ailing economy amid its biggest downturn in more than a century. Meanwhile, the largest of the corporate houses of the country have faced major setbacks and people have started losing their trust in them. And the fallout of all these scandals reverberated through the just concluded presidential election in Brazil.

Bolsonaro’s sudden rise within a year was supported by these complicated elements both in the political and economic scenes. People came out to streets across Brazil and demanded strict action on the high-profile public personalities. In a nutshell, what commoners longed for was radical political transformation and a leadership that can prevent mega corruption scandals and crime in Brazil.

And, this has made Bolsonaro’s long and arduous road to presidency rather too short. He and his party fully exploited the

raging public anger against the establishment. While drawing attention from populace, he unleashed a purely populist campaign unlike all his opponents. He even showered praise on his country’s military dictatorship that existed between 1964 and 1985, advocated death penalty, etc. Besides, he has praised the long ruled late Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, expressed support for tortures and wanted political opponents to be shot in his country. When it comes to foreign policy, he is planning to improve relations with America. On the economic front, he is continuously arguing for a market friendly and fully privatised economic system. At best, his entire political style can rightly be called as truly provocative and extremely polarising. Despite his aggressive and ultra-nationalist style, many in Brazil wanted an iron fist to fix the system.

On record, the country has registered

a record number of 64,000 murders last year. People are hopeless about the law and order. That is why it was possible for Bolsonaro to crush presidential candidates with temperate views and impressive track records. Looking at the final runoff election result, it can be easily concluded what common Brazilians rebelled against — corruption, crime and financial crisis of the nation — than what they voted for in this presidential election.

What has surprised the world is that the business leaders of Brazil have finally decided to back Bolsonaro. They have done so for the very simple reason that their free market capitalism can no longer suffer under an extremely confused and corrupted regime of Temer. And, finally the corporates have decided to back a fascist like Bolsonaro than risking Haddad’s moderate Left-wing.

However, Bolsonaro’s coming to power is sending missed signals to the international community, and the Brazilians. His will be another illiberal regime at the backyard of America. His policies if not crafted properly will not be able to revive the falling economy of the biggest country of South America. Now, Brazilians see a civil-military coalition government at the centre under Bolsonaro. He has already indicated that he will appoint personnel from the Army as ministers of his Government. When he formally takes over, he would face very little resistance from fellow Congressman on the issues such as flexibility on gun control and lowering the age of criminal responsibility. But he may soon face popular protests both from within and outside the Congress on matters like reducing pension spending and privatising the state owned enterprises. Though he is trying hard to paint himself as the “Tropical Trump”, for all his outrageous and hateful speeches, he has already earned the label of the “most misogynistic, hateful elected official in the democratic world”. It is better if he can bring back Brazil to normalcy by cracking down on corruption and crime. Else, the country will further slip into a permanent mess. And, the same voters who elected him to the hot seat may turn violent and demand his ouster sooner or later. Thus, he should tread cautiously.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF
RAHUL GANDHI, THE CONGRESS
HAS BEEN REDUCED TO HURLING
ABUSES AND THE WORST
FORM OF CIVIL DISCOURSE
— RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

How Sikkim became a part of India

GBS Sidhu gives an insider's view of the chain of events that led to the merger of Sikkim with India in 1975, and outlines the interplay of personalities involved, such as Indira Gandhi, Chogyal, Kazi, and the intelligence agencies

The merger of Sikkim with India in May 1975 was a historic event in more than one way.

Firstly, it undid the wrong done by India to the people of Sikkim by denying them the right to accede to, and finally merge with, the Union of India through the signing of the Instrument of Accession, as was the case with the rest of the 565 Indian princely States, which like Sikkim, were also members of the Chamber of Princes and the Constituent Assembly of India, before the country attained Independence on August 15, 1947.

Secondly, to protect its strategic interests in this vulnerable and heavily defended sector along the Sino-Indian border, India no longer had to depend upon the whims and fancies, and the growing unpredictability, of the Chogyal who had long cherished the ambition to secure an independent status for Sikkim like that of neighbouring Bhutan. Imagine the implications of a dissatisfied, sulking or even a revolting Chogyal in the background of a Doklam-like face-off between China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Indian Army, with the Communist Party of China's People's Daily publication, *Global Times*, threatening to incite revolt in Sikkim against India.

Thirdly, through it, India's international borders achieved a finality, which will continue to remain the same unless minor adjustments, if any, are made based on mutual agreements with some of our neighbouring countries with whom we have festering territorial disputes. Though seven more States have been added to the list of member States comprising the Republic of India since 1975 (taking the total from 22 to 29), these were carved out through internal realignments of existing boundaries.

R&AW's operation relating to the merger of Sikkim continued to remain shrouded in mystery since it was first conceived by legendary spy and R&AW's founder head Rameshwarnath Kao sometime towards the end of December 1972. It was approved by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and launched in early February 1973. It was a unique operation, unlike any other of this magnitude and significance. Within the department, knowledge of its existence was confined to three people: Kao in New Delhi; PN Banerjee, joint director and regional head of R&AW's office in Calcutta; and the OSD

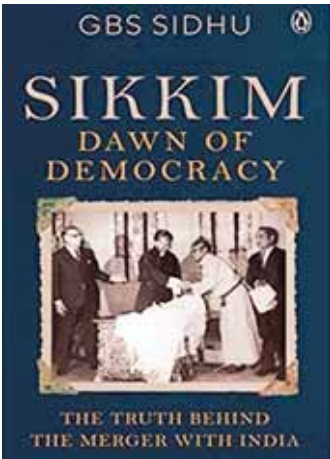


(P) Gangtok, who was head of the R&AW's set-up in Sikkim.

In Sikkim, initially, only Kazi, president of the Sikkim National Congress (SNC); and SK Rai, general secretary of the KC Pradhan-led Janata Congress, were taken into confidence about the scope of this operation. They were clearly told that the GoI had finally decided to lift its protective hand from the head of the Chogyal. Unlike in the past, when Tashi Tshering's (president of the Sikkim State Congress) 'no tax', 'no rent' campaign launched in 1949 was sabotaged by India, it would no longer stand in the way of the pro-democratic and pro-reform demands of the parties that had been fighting for political, administrative and other reforms since India's Independence. However, Kazi was the only one who was told that India would accept the demand

for the merger of Sikkim in case he was able to build overwhelming support in its favour, both amongst the general public and in the yet-to-be-elected Assembly. Kazi, to his credit, did not share this information with anyone else till the last moment.

When I started writing this book, some of my friends advised me against mentioning the role of the R&AW in the merger of Sikkim. I did not know how such a book could be written or what useful purpose it would serve. Appreciating their suggestion made in good faith, I told them that it was Kao himself who had asked me to write this book in 1988. Had there been any chance of me disclosing any information that could go against the interests of national security, an extremely security-conscious person like Kao would not have



asked me to write about the R&AW's role in Sikkim's merger in the first instance. Actually, there are situations where withholding such information from the public domain any longer

becomes counterproductive and allows certain parties or individuals to push forward their predetermined conclusions in the hope that such facts as could counter their hypothesis would continue to remain buried under the thick cover of secrecy.

It was over 43 years ago that Sikkim merged with India. It is high time that the truth behind the merger be brought out. That would help remove the cobwebs of doubt, or even confusion, created in the minds of the people by some others to make them believe that there was no popular demand for Sikkim's merger and that the State was 'annexed' against the popular will of the majority of Sikkimese people, which was not the case.

The truth must be revealed, if nothing else, at least to redeem Kazi, who devoted his lifetime to

free Sikkim from the Chogyal's yoke, but was unfortunately accused of selling his 'country' to India. The worst part of all this was that while Kazi was being accused in the immediate aftermath of the merger, of selling his country to India, no Indian agency or person in authority could — or they chose not to — do anything to neutralise such false and motivated propaganda. Instead, they continued to remain mute witnesses to Kazi's agony.

I joined the R&AW in February 1972. After completing my training, I was posted as JAD (Joint Assistant Director, a post equivalent to that of an under-secretary) in charge of two of the personnel branches. I finally landed in Gangtok to take charge as the OSD (P) Gangtok on August 27, 1973.

Insofar as operational work was concerned, before the merger-related spl ops were launched, the R&AW's main role in Sikkim was to collect Tibet and China-related intelligence. This had to be shared by the OSD (P) with the Chogyal, Palden Thondup Namgyal, through personal meetings at regular intervals. However, given the new requirements of planning and implementing the spl ops, my predecessor, AS Sayali had, in early February 1973, constituted a three-member team comprising himself, Senior Field Officer (SFO-equivalent in rank to a deputy superintendent of police) Padam Bahadur Pradhan (a Nepalese) and Deputy Field Officer (DFO-equivalent to a sub-inspector) Myngma Tshering (a Bhutia) for the job.

By the time I took over as OSD (P), the developments that followed the anti-Chogyal and pro-democracy demonstrations in April 1973 — in Sikkim in general and in Gangtok in particular — had already forced the Chogyal to sign the May 8, 1973, tripartite agreement with the then Foreign Secretary Kewal Singh and the leaders of the major political parties. This agreement had significantly curtailed the powers of the Chogyal and laid the grounds for holding fresh elections in April 1974 under the aegis of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The April 1974 elections resulted in a landslide victory for Kazi's Sikkim Congress (31 seats out of 32). Based on this, the next phase of the spl ops had to be planned and executed. While we awaited directions from New Delhi, we had to ensure that the Sikkim Congress Legislature Party remained a single solid block behind Kazi, and that he was able to withstand or block any Chogyal-inspired move to create dissension within its ranks.

In that context, while the magnitude of the Sikkim Congress's victory reduced the probability of any serious dissidence within the party, we had to be careful about the moves of some of the senior leaders of this party, such as the mercurial KC Pradhan and the shifty BB Gurung. Also, the Sikkim Congress's newly developed proximity (encouraged by the R&AW) with the Lepcha group led by Rinzing Lepcha had to be nurtured and strengthened.

Excerpted with permission from GBS Sidhu's *Sikkim: Dawn of Democracy* published by Penguin Viking, ₹599

Donald Trump has revealed he wants to remove the right for children of illegal immigrants born in America to automatically get US citizenship, triggering a heated debate about the legality of such a move. The US President said he would sign an executive order ending so-called birthright citizenship, which was enshrined in an amendment to the US Constitution 150 years ago.

Trump revealed he was planning the move during an interview with the political website, *Axios*, though the exact wording of such an order and when it would be implemented remains unclear. "It was always told to me that you needed a Constitutional Amendment," said Trump, who proposed the move in August 2015 during his presidential campaign. "Guess what? You don't."

Pushed on whether that was correct, Trump added: "You can definitely do it with an Act of Congress. But now they're saying I can do it just with an executive order." He added: "We're the only country in the world where a person comes in, has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States with all of those benefits. It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous. And it has to end."

Actually, around 30 countries grant automatic citizenship. The plan has emerged just a week before the US midterm elections and adds to a growing list of claims and policy moves Trump has made over illegal immigration. He has already sent 5,200 soldiers to the southern border to counter a migrant caravan

Trump pushes for ending birthright citizenship

Close to the midterm elections, President Trump has announced his plan of using an executive order to deny automatic citizenship to babies born to illegal immigrants, says BEN RILEY-SMITH

approaching through Mexico. A second caravan of more than 1,000 migrants is now in Mexico after forcing its way across the river from Guatemala.

The attempt to push the issue up the agenda comes with the US President needing his supporters to turn out on November 6 to protect Republican majorities in the House of Representatives and Senate. Trump's claim that such a fundamental change in America's citizenship laws could be solved by an executive order — a decision made unilaterally by the President — provoked a fierce debate.

Paul Ryan, the most senior Republican in the House of Representatives, directly contradicted Trump, saying: "You cannot end birthright citizenship with an executive order." The debate focused around how the exact wording of the 14th Amendment, which outlined the rule and was adopted in 1868, should be understood in the context of 21st Century mass migration.

The 14th Amendment reads: "All persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject



to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Those on Trump's side of the argument believe that the words

"subject to the jurisdiction thereof" refer to people who have full political allegiance to America, which would exclude illegal migrants. However, many consti-

tutional lawyers reject such an interpretation. Were Trump to implement the policy, it would likely be challenged and ultimately decided in the Supreme Court.

'We're the only country in the world where a person comes in, has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States with all of those benefits. It's ridiculous. And it has to end' — Donald Trump

The number of US births to illegal migrant parents was below 1,00,000 a year before 1990, but rose to a peak of 3,70,000 in 2007, according to the Pew Research Center. It then began to fall after the global financial recession, reaching 2,75,000 in 2014. That year, such births made up around seven per cent of the four million total births in America.

Removing birthright citizenship has been an issue pushed by parts of the Republican Party for decades. Legislation proposing

such a change has been tabled in every Congress since 1991. A Bill currently in the House of Representatives backing the change has 50 co-sponsors.

Lindsay Graham, a Republican Senator, said he would propose a Bill making the change in the Senate. Graham, an ally of Trump, tweeted a series of comments detailing his plans on the issue. His first tweet said, "The Supreme Court has never ruled on the issue of whether birthright citizenship applies to children born of illegal immigrants in the United States."

In another tweet that followed, he said, "This is a case of 'first impression' and I support President @realDonaldTrump's efforts to have the court review this matter."

With his third tweet on the topic, he managed to get 11,000 'likes' and 34,000 retweets. It said, "I will be introducing legislation to deal with the issue of birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants — in a prospective manner — as I have always contended it has become a magnet for illegal immigration in modern times."

The Daily Telegraph



MEET QUEEN SONJA, THE ARTIST

Queen Sonja is an accomplished artist, who once sat for Andy Warhol. CLAIRE WRATHALL went to Oslo for an audience with a queen who was once ostracised for being a commoner

Short of a toad that turns into a prince, the life of Queen Sonja of Norway has the hallmarks of a fairy tale. Born in 1937, Sonja Haraldsen grew up in the Oslo suburb of Vinderen, in effect an only child. Her two much older siblings left for Sweden in 1940 at the start of the German occupation, and another brother had died. So her parents kept her close and, hoping she would work in and eventually take over her father's dress-making and ladieswear shop in central Oslo, sent her at 16 to learn tailoring at Oslo Vocational School and thence to Lausanne for two years — "I chose Switzerland so I could go skiing, but then I got hooked on learning French," she tells me — to study accounting and fashion design at the École Professionnelle des Jeunes Filles.

Back in Oslo, she was 21 when she met Crown Prince Harald at a party thrown by a mutual friend, a classmate of the heir apparent. The Prince was poised to leave the Norwegian Military Academy and invited her to his graduation ball. It would be glib to say the rest was history. The Royal House of Norway was having none of it. No European heir or crowned head had married a commoner: The Prince's mother had been born Princess Märtha of Sweden, his grandmother was the British King Edward VII's youngest daughter, Princess Maud of Wales. It was only after nine long years that the

palace relented and their engagement was announced. Within six months, in August 1968, they were married. Their son, Crown Prince Haakon, was born five years later, and two years after, they had a daughter, Princess Märtha Louise. But since the accession of King Harald V to the throne in January 1991, the nation has taken Queen Sonja to its heart. Each year on May 17, Norway's National Day, the Palace Park, one of Oslo's main public spaces, is thronged with flag-waving citizens come to watch the royal family wave from the palace balcony.

Last summer, Queen Sonja's childhood home, a white clapboard house with a red-tile roof, built in 1935 in the Funk (for functionalist) style, became a museum, after its exterior was carefully dismantled and moved from its original site to Maihaugen, near Lillehammer, where it was restored. It is, nevertheless, a far cry from where she resides today. Elegantly dressed in trousers and a long cardigan, she greets me with a warm smile and a handshake in what my instructions refer to as Her Majesty's Audience Chamber, but which the liveried footman who has shown me upstairs to the piano nobile of the palace, calls the Queen's study.

It is a splendid room: Crimson damask on the walls, furniture heavy with ormolu. The reason for my audience is her print award, the world's largest international prize for print-making. Established by the HM Queen

'I WAS 10 OR 12 WHEN I GOT MY FIRST CAMERA,' SHE SAYS, ADDING THAT SHE HAS BEEN TAKING PICTURES EVER SINCE. IT WASN'T TILL 2006, HOWEVER, WHILE VISITING SPITSBERGEN IN ARCTIC NORWAY, THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD PHOTOGRAPHY'S TRUE POTENTIAL AS A MEDIUM

Sonja Art Foundation in 2011, this year's winner will be announced at an award ceremony at London's Royal Academy of Arts on November 8. Art is a subject close to her heart, not just as a patron and collector, but as an artist and printmaker. As a child it never occurred to her to want to be an artist, but, "I was 10 or 12 when I got my first camera", she tells me, and she has been taking pictures ever since. It wasn't till 2006, however, while visiting Spitsbergen in Arctic Norway, that she understood photography's true potential as a medium. She had descended, on foot, deep into a meltwater tunnel. "It was completely dark," she recalls. Her torch wasn't working, so she had to rely on the light from her camera. "And suddenly through the screen I saw these lines and colours, beautiful things we simply couldn't see with our eyes." These extraordinary images inspired her to start making abstract art shortly before she turned 70, specifically prints, which she learnt to make on a visit to Atelej Larsen, an eminent studio in Helsingborg, Sweden, with two celebrated Norwegian artists, the late Kjell Nupen and the great landscape painter Ørnulf Opdahl. Here she experimented with monotypes (a single print taken from a painted design), learning to manipulate colours — her work is all about colour — with multiple layers of ink and sometimes subsequent applications of watercolour.

The Daily Telegraph

ODDLY ENOUGH

'CORPSE FLOWER' THAT SMELLS LIKE DIAPERS TO BLOOM SOON

Just in time for Halloween, a rare 'corpse flower' that gets its nickname from its putrid smell is expected to bloom next week at Dartmouth College's greenhouse. Named Morphy, the titan arum is native to Sumatra's equatorial rainforests and has a long, pointy stalk with a skirt-like covering and tiny yellow flowers at its base. It blooms just for several days. When it does, it has an odor described as rotting flesh, a decaying animal or even soiled baby diapers.

The plant is decorated with bats, spiders and an arm reaching out of the soil, holding a sign that says, "Help me!" It's been growing several inches a day. By Friday morning, it reached 1.82 m. Visitors can go to the greenhouse or see the plant on Dartmouth's webcam. The 15-year-old lime green and burgundy plant last

bloomed in 2016, and before that, in 2011. Last time, it reached a height of 1.98 m. "The older a corpse plant gets, the more likely it's going to flower more often," greenhouse manager Kim DeLong said. Morphy's getting bigger, too. DeLong said after the last bloom, the plant grew a large leaf that reached 3 m, nearly touching the greenhouse ceiling. The leaf stayed open for 13 months and was busy photosynthesizing and storing up energy.

Once the leaf died in June, greenhouse staff repotted Morphy's swollen underground tuber, which weighed 36 to 41 kg. In 2016, it was only about 14.6 kg.

AUTHORITIES NAB NEW JERSEY SERIAL DIAPER DUMPER

Authorities say they've captured a man suspected of dumping his grandson's soiled diapers along several New Jersey roadways over the past year. Franklin Township police say an officer acting on a hunch spotted 68-year-old William Friedman leaving a load of diapers in

the area of Routes 47 and 40 around 3.15 am Sunday. He was taken into custody after a traffic stop. Friedman allegedly told police the diapers came from his grandson, adding that leaving them around town without getting caught "almost became a game." Authorities say a motorcyclist crashed in June after running over a diaper Friedman had allegedly dropped. The former suffered injuries and his bike was totaled. Friedman has been charged with interference with transportation. He faces up to \$1,000 in fines.

SOAP BELIEVED TO BE COCAINE LANDS DEALERS BEHIND BARS

A sarcastic sign in the window of a Connecticut restaurant asking people not to let their dogs pee on the eatery's outside flower pot has earned the owner a \$250 fine. Duc Nguyen, owner of Duc's Place in New Haven, said that he was disgusted with people allowing their dogs to urinate on his pot. He thought a humorous sign was a good way of discouraging dog walkers from letting pets relieve



(UPI)

themselves there. It read: "Attn: dog owners. This is a pay-per-pee flower pot. (Pay inside or leave your address and we'll kindly return the favor.)" Honda Smith, the city's public space enforcement officer, said Nguyen broke two city ordinances for being a public nuisance and issued the fine. Nguyen says he plans to appeal.

(AP)

CAT WAKES UP SLEEPING OWNER TO ESCAPE FROM FIRE ON FARM

Police in New Zealand said a man was able to escape from a fire thanks to his cat jumping on him and waking him up. Fire and Emergency NZ said a crew from the Gisborne Station was dispatched along with Tolaga Bay volunteer firefighters Tuesday night when a fire was reported on a Whangara farm.

"When we arrived the building was fully involved in fire," Gisborne Station Officer Chris Grimson told the Gisborne Herald. "Our main priority was to stop the fire spreading to the nearby hillside and the trees and other vegetation on it." Firefighter said no one was injured in the fire as the structure's only human

CULTURE LANE

Depp leaves *Pirates of the Caribbean*

Johnny Depp will not appear in any further *Pirates of the Caribbean* films, according to reports. Original screenwriter Stuart Beattie nodded when it was suggested that Depp's time as the star of the series was over. "I think he's had a great run," he said. "Obviously, he's made that character his own, and it's become the thing that he's most famous for now. And kids all over the world love him as that character, so I think it's been great for him. It's been great for us, so I'm just very, very happy about it."

Depp, 55, has played the louche Captain Jack Sparrow in five films over 15 years in the Disney franchise, most recently in 2017's *Dead Men Tell No Tales*. Recently, it was reported that Disney was considering rebooting the series by drafting in *Deadpool* writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick. The previous films — inspired by a fair-ground ride — have in total made more than \$3bn, but there have, broadly speaking, been diminishing returns with each episode.

Depp will next be seen in *Harry Potter* prequel *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. The actor has



experienced a backlash amid claims of domestic violence from ex-wife Amber Heard, as well as counterclaims of financial blackmail.

The actor's finances have also come under scrutiny after a lawsuit filed in May by former bodyguards attacked Depp's record on wages and working conditions. In July, he was sued by a crew member allegedly punched by the actor on the set of a film about the murder of Notorious BIG. A month later, the film's planned release was shelved.

Cox to take over BBC Radio 2 show

Sara Cox will take over BBC Radio 2's *Drivetime* show from Simon Mayo and Jo Whiley after the pair's departure was announced last week. Mayo has presented *Drivetime* for eight years but said he would be leaving to focus on writing after only a few months co-presenting with Whiley in what proved to be a divisive change of format. Whiley will remain with the station but move to a 7 pm-9 pm slot from January. Cox became favourite to take over as presenter and has now been confirmed in the role. Cox, who said she was "proud" to take on the 5pm-7pm slot, had previously been heavily tipped to take over presenting duties on *Chris Evans's Breakfast Show*, but lost out to Zoë Ball.

Cox said of being handed the time slot: "I've been proud to be part of the Radio 2 family for a few years now and the opportunity to present such a big show as *Drivetime* — playing fantastic music and hopefully making people smile as they cook tea or head home after a day's graft — is the icing on what is already a very brilliant cake. "I'm beyond chuffed to be given



this role and to directly quote my mum on hearing the good news, it is indeed 'fandabbyruddydozy.'" The BBC has not yet announced when Cox will begin presenting *Drivetime*.

Cox has experience on the station, most recently as a stand-in presenter on the *Breakfast Show*. She joined the BBC in 1999 and worked on Radio 1's *Breakfast Show*. There was consternation from some audience members when the *Drivetime* show was reformatted.

Yayoi Kusama on 'Chinese fakes'



Celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama is considering legal action against the organisers of several exhibitions in China made up entirely of fake works credited to her. Counterfeit works by Kusama and her fellow contemporary Japanese artist Takashi Murakami have been shown in at least six Chinese cities since the spring, according to the artists' lawyers. Most of the exhibitions were free of charge but a joint Kusama-Murakami event in Changsha, Hunan province, charged a US\$10 admission fee, Japanese media said. Earlier this month,

organisers shut down an exhibition in Shanghai after receiving a written warning from Kusama's legal team, but the show in Changsha is still open to the public. Kusama's lawyers are trying to identify the organisers of the other fraudulent exhibitions and could pursue both civil and criminal action for copyright infringement and violations of Chinese laws, Japan's public broadcaster NHK said. Murakami's lawyer, Hiroshi Kamiyama, told the Nikkei Asian Review he was considering taking similar action, describing the fake exhibitions as "extremely malicious".

occupant was saved by his cat. "There was a couple living there and the man was asleep when the fire broke out. His partner was away in town," Grimson said. "He was awakened by their cat when the animal jumped on him." "He got up to find smoke in the dining and kitchen area, and got out of the building through a bedroom window," he said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Pennsylvania's McKeesport Fire Department said a couple were able to escape a fire in their home in March of this year when their cat ran into their bedroom in a panic and alerted them to smoke and flames inside the house.

WANTED: SCHWIMMER LOOKALIKE SHOPLIFTER

British police are hunting a shoplifter who bears a striking resemblance to Ross Geller, the character played by David Schwimmer on the TV show *Friends*.

Facebook users noticed the

similarity when police posted surveillance-camera footage of a man carrying a carton of cans from a restaurant in Blackpool, northwest England. The actor responded with a Twitter video that showed him scuttling furtively through a convenience store clutching a carton of beer. Schwimmer wrote: "Officers, I swear it wasn't me. As you can see, I was in New York." He wished police well with the investigation.


Lancashire Police later confirmed that "David Schwimmer was in America on this date."

Britain's *Daily Star* newspaper ran a story about Schwimmer's lookalike under the headline "Til Beer There for You," a play on lyrics from the *Friends* theme.



(AP)

BRIEFLY
speaking




MEDITATION
CAN HELP BOOST EQ

Finding it hard to cope with work-related stress? A silent form of meditation at your workplace can lead to significant improvement in emotional intelligence as well as perceived stress, according to a study. The study found that those who meditated more regularly scored higher on total emotional quotient and had lower perceived stress, also known as psychological stress — the most common occupational health problem affecting workers worldwide. They also showed improvement in intrapersonal awareness and reality testing. This indicates that emotional intelligence has a moderating effect on psychological well-being and mental health, the researchers said. “With a growing body of research on the value of emotional intelligence and the harmful effects of psychological stress, organisations are looking to give their employees tools for reducing stress and developing self-awareness and empathy,” said Laurent Valosek, Executive Director, Center for Wellness and Achievement in Education.

TALL PEOPLE
AT GREATER CANCER RISK

While for most cancers, risk increases dramatically with age, a recent study has found that the height of a person could also make them more prone to cancer. The University of California study examines data from four large-scale surveillance projects on 23 cancer categories. Each of these cancer studies established that tall individuals are at an increased risk of cancer, with overall risk increasing by about 10 per cent per 10 centimeter (4 inch) increase in height. Other researchers have proposed that that factors acting early in life — nutrition, health, social conditions — independently influence height and cancer risk. But Nunney, a professor of biology, challenges this hypothesis. “I tested the alternative hypothesis that height increases cell number and that more cells directly increase cancer risk,” he said.

GUT MICROBIOTA
PRODUCTS AND DIABETES



For the skeptics, even modern science has proof that the soul is immortal. Meditation can help us experience this truth and guide us through the door that leads to worlds of eternal bliss, light, and love, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

Our soul is immortal

The soul is immortal; it knows no death. Yet many people fear death because they are not aware of their immortal nature. By connecting with our soul, we will have answers to what awaits us beyond death. All religions in the world recognise the immortality of the soul. The description in the scriptures of the soul's journey after life differ from religion to religion, but one common thread runs throughout them: The soul survives the death of the physical body. But can modern science confirm this?

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES
A medical doctor, Dr. Raymond Moody, Jr, discovered that those patients who had clinically died but were brought back to life through the wonders of modern medicine had similar experiences. Many of them reported finding themselves looking down at their body from a vantage point in the room such as the ceiling. They were able to watch the medical practitioners trying to bring them back to life, and they could hear conversations in the room. Some found themselves floating through the walls to the waiting room where they could see and hear their relatives, and later, after the patient was revived, relatives and friends confirmed the accuracy of the overheard conversations. The subjects then found themselves being sucked through a dark tunnel, at the end of which was a bright light. Although the light was extremely bright, brighter than any they had ever seen on earth, it was not scorching; rather, it was a warm light, which they described as being filled with love. Many of them were met by a being of Light who enveloped them with a love greater than they ever felt on Earth. Following this, many went through a life review in which everything they had done in their life flashed before them. They could see not only the event, but could also experience what they and the other people involved thought and felt. Thus, if they did something hurtful, they could feel the pain they caused the other person. If they did



something loving, they could feel the happiness of the other person. As a result of this life review, most people underwent a transformation. They realised that when they crossed the borders to the afterlife, it did not matter how much money they earned, how much property they had owned, what position of power they had held, or whether they were famous or not. What mattered was how loving they were to others.

In many cases, they began to devote themselves to being a more loving. They also spoke of being given a choice of whether they wanted to remain in the life beyond or return. Many of them experienced so much bliss in the beyond that they did not want to return. But ultimately, they were told that their life on earth was not over and they would have to return. At that point, they found themselves being sucked back into their body. At that moment, any medical efforts to revive them bore fruit, and their heartbeat and breathing suddenly resumed.

Over eight million people reported having a near-death experience, according to a 1982 Gallup poll. The startling number has caused many doctors and scientists to take notice. Do near-death experiences prove the existence of the soul? They are proof to the people who have had them.

THE SOUL'S IMMORTALITY
There is striking similarity among the accounts of the journey of the soul as related by enlightened ones from different world religions. The

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common thread among them is the belief that the soul lives after the demise of the physical body, undergoes a judgment in which its good and bad deeds are either rewarded or punished, is placed in heaven or hell according to its deeds, and ultimately reaches a stage of union with the Lord or the Source. There is also a similarity between these and the accounts of people who have had a near-death experiences. Their descriptions correspond with the scriptures that describe the initial moments when one's soul departs from the body. The near-death experiences take us as far as the threshold of the inner realms. But since the narrators did not die, their journey ended there.

Although the accounts of saints and those alive today who have had near-death experiences may give us hope and inspiration, they alone cannot provide proof to our selves. They merely present second-hand knowledge. Real proof comes when we experience our soul's immortality for ourselves.

We need not experience the trauma of a near-death experience in order to find out what lies beyond; we can experience the soul's immortal nature when we go within. We can learn how to do this by examining how the saints and mystics from all different religions conducted their inner journey. We can learn the technique of meditation they used and begin to practice it ourselves. Through meditation, a whole new world opens up for us.

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HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Loyalty as a virtue



Loyalty has been considered as a noble value since ages. But defining loyalty is not easy and understanding its true nature is even more difficult. Dictionaries leave much to be desired when consulted for a meaning of the concept. Loyalty is suggested as anything ranging from devotion to faithfulness to even blind trust towards persons, regions, religions, etc. Some philosophers believe that it is strictly interpersonal and only human beings can be the object of loyalty. Law and political science consider it as fidelity of an individual to a nation, king or kingdom. But these definitions hardly do anything to clear the haze that surrounds the concept of loyalty. And there is another question — can there be dual loyalty? Difficult to resolve as this dilemma is usually a classical case of an approach-approach conflict. But more than finding out the basic nature of loyalty what we need to discuss is the critical issue of loyalty as a value vs loyalty as a virtue. Often, people consider these as synonymous. But we need to go deep into the concepts of a value and a virtue. While value is a cause one strives for, something close to one's heart, virtues are innate moral qualities within people that support individual moral excellence. Thus values can be the goal but virtues are the means to attain the goal. Thus, though not always, there can be a conflict between a value and a virtue. A value is an individually, culturally or organisationally accepted norm. But it is not necessary that it may always be a virtue. Examples ranging from Ku Klux Klan to the modern day Islamic State are ample indications to suggest that a value cannot always be a virtue. *Ramayana* throws a beautiful illustration about this through the dialogue between Ravana's brothers Kumbhakaran and Vibhishan. While the essence of Kumbhakaran's argument to dissuade Vibhishan from joining Rama is based on loyalty as a value, Vibhishan's stand contradicts this establishing primacy of virtue based on righteousness that can override loyalty. So, loyalty can be a value if it is blended with the right cause but it cannot always be a virtue. In the Mahabharata war this has been emphasised time and again. While value has more of emotional content, virtue is largely ethical in nature. Though Vibhishan is looked down upon and his unfaithfulness to his brother has brought a kind of eternal stigma to the name as used in Hindi idioms and phrases, the fact is that he was more an embodiment of virtue rather than treachery and deceit. Judgment and context then are the essence of this debate between loyalty as a value versus loyalty as a virtue. Human beings are supposed to be thinking beings whose judgments need to be based on righteous decisions and judicious observation of a situation. It is not necessary that loyalty as a value may be at odds with loyalty as a virtue, but there is a subtle difference that needs to be understood. If loyalty is backed with right cause it is a virtue to be cherished, but if it is loyalty for the sake of loyalty without any consideration for the right and the wrong it becomes a vice. Both means and ends are important and rationality lies in exercising the right choice between where to be loyal and when to defy. The moral judgment of course is based on a very highly developed sense of maturity.

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Can we? Yes. But it is not very easy. Let me explain what I mean by leaving it to God. We all know our limitations. For example: There is a nice couple who have two children. This family is highly spiritual. They pay a lot of attention to the upbringing of their children. Still, thoughts do come about their future. Because of their spiritual background, they leave the matter to God. Isn't God the most capable of being omnipotent?

This sounds very exciting to folks who worry endlessly and suffer greatly. Logically, it makes a lot of sense because we are limited to doing our duties only. What more can we do except worry about the results or leave it to God. Leaving it to God makes a lot of sense for us small souls. However, there are three difficult steps to get there.

The first step is to develop faith in God. This is very different from casually mentioning God in our conversations. It is extremely difficult but not impossible. Personally, I had

LEAVE IT TO GOD

The biggest leap of faith that human beings need to master is to stop trying to control the results of their actions and truly submit to the wisdom of God and the cosmos, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

great difficulty in gaining faith in God even though I was exposed to God since childhood due to the spiritual/religious leaning of my family. I knew in my heart about the various benefits God can bestow. Therefore, I began doing what a logical person would do. I began collecting all the evidence which could convince me about the existence of God. Many facts emerged but strong faith was not so forthcoming. But it became better over the years. So far, I have managed thirty-one factors which strongly point towards the existence of God. I must admit that God helped me in this endeavour because good faithful beings are assets to His creation. If someone tries to get close to



God; He does likewise. And unlike us, He is not limited.

The next step, which of course must run concurrently, is to become deserving of God's intervention in our affairs. Knowing God is fine but He must have compelling reasons to help. I began by looking at my behaviour. How I spoke to others; how I looked at them; did I care to listen to them; etc? Was I inclined to cooperate with them? God will not do something special for one who goes against what pleases Him the most. Was I prepared to make sacrifices for others — an essential quality for gaining favours from God?

How was I doing on the lust front? Is the world meant for my enjoyment or do others

deserve my respect for their contribution to the society? Was I being greedy, ie trying to grab what did not rightfully belong to me? Was anger a part of my personality or was it just to be used when absolutely essential? Was I jealous just because someone else was better than me in some respect? Was I being dutiful? And lastly, was I following *dharma*, which is most dear to God? Slowly, the feeling of being good came over me. I was ready to gain special favours from God.

The third step was the most crucial because it went against how I instinctively feel. What is basic to us? That we are the best persons to safeguard our interests. Whom will we trust the

most? Ourselves only. Then, where is the question of leaving it to God? Does such an act not go against our ego? That someone can help us better than ourselves even though that person is God? Faith helped and I began to place more trust in God than in myself. Slowly, many benefits began to materialise.

I realised that I was helpless in any case having done my duties. This kind of mindset began to reduce my propensity to worry. I began to feel more relaxed, somewhat peaceful. I was beginning to see prospects of better results because God was getting involved. God was not a silent spectator either; He was encouraging me in many subtle ways. He appeared to be quite active in my life, no longer a silent spectator. This made me more God conscious. I became more serious about connecting with God. I realised that it was in sync with the cosmic design.

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