

OPINION 8
A VESSEL
FOR SUCCESS

WORLD 11
MAY FIGHTS REBELLION
OVER BREXIT DEAL

SPORT 16
INDIAN EVES FACE AUSTRALIA
IN T20 WORLD CUP CLASH

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STREE HAS
A SOCIAL
MESSAGE: RAO
14 VIVACITY

Andhra, Bengal clip CBI wings

'General consent' accorded to Central agency to exercise its authority in States withdrawn

PNS ■ AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

Setting the stage for a bitter confrontation between the Centre and States, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal Governments have withdrawn the "general consent" accorded to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to exercise its authority in the States.

First it was Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu whose Government declared that the CBI cannot conduct raids or investigations in his State without permission. Hours later West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee followed suit.

Backing Andhra Pradesh CM, Mamata said, "What Chandrababu has done is right. The CBI receives instructions from the BJP".

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, Government hereby withdraws the general consent accorded (in GO Ms 109) to all the members of the Delhi Special Police



Establishment to exercise the powers and jurisdiction under the said Act in the State of Andhra Pradesh," the Andhra Government notification said.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister (Home) N China Rajappa justified the State Government's action saying it was taken against the backdrop of certain allegations against the country's premier investigating agency.

"We have trust in the CBI but the recent allegations against its top officials have made us withdraw the general consent. Henceforth, the CBI

has to obtain the State Government's permission for investigating every case," Rajappa told the media.

The general consent was withdrawn on the advice of lawyers and intellectuals, Rajappa claimed.

Even the Government in Karnataka had withdrawn the general consent for the CBI, he pointed out. Rajappa, however, clarified the CBI could take up investigation against Central Government officials without the State's permission. "We will grant necessary permission whenever the CBI makes a



request," he added.

On August 3 this year, the AP Government issued the GO Ms No. 109 according "general consent" to all members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise the powers and jurisdiction in AP against officials of the Central Government, Central Government undertakings and private persons for investigating offences under various laws, including the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Reacting to the decision taken by Andhra and Bengal, the Congress on Friday said it

is a "dangerous trend" that States Governments "no longer have faith" in the CBI.

"Unfortunately in the last four-and-a-half years, they (CBI and other agencies) have been treated like private armies of Amit Shah or Modi and that is why people doubt the ability of the CBI to act independently," Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged.

The Congress leader said the recent goings-on in the CBI are a "very serious matter" and people should not lose faith in such premier agencies.

Ever since he snapped ties with the NDA in March, Chandrababu had been accusing the Centre of misusing the CBI to target political opponents. The recent raids by Income Tax authorities on some business establishments run by those close to the ruling Telugu Desam Party in the State have left Chandrababu red-faced. Subsequently, he announced that his Government would not provide police cover to the IT officials for conducting the raids.

Continued on Page 7

No clean chit to Verma; SC seeks reply in 3 days

CVC files 'mixed' findings against benched CBI boss

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has come out with "mixed" findings while dealing with allegation of corruption against benched CBI Director Alok Verma. Taking note of the CVC report, the Supreme Court has given Verma time till November 19 to respond to certain "very uncomplimentary findings" in the CVC report.

The SC Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said there are some "very complimentary," some "not so complimentary" and some "very uncomplimentary" findings in the "exhaustive" preliminary enquiry report. The Bench included justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph.

The SC also directed that a copy of the CVC report along with annexure be given to Verma in a sealed cover and it "will be open for" him to file his response to it "again in sealed cover" by 1 pm on November 19. The apex court has fixed November 30 as the next date for hearing in the matter.

"CVC has filed an exhaus-

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tive report. The report has been categorised in four parts and is very complimentary on some charges, not so complimentary on some charges and very uncomplimentary on some charges. CVC report says some charges are required to be investigated and they need time," the CJ said and posted the matter for hearing on Tuesday.

Earlier, Verma had approached the apex court challenging the Centre's decision to divest him of his duties and sending him on leave following his feud with his deputy Special Director Rakesh Asthana, who has levelled corruption allegations against him. Asthana was also divested of his duties and sent on leave.

The CVC's enquiry against Verma was conducted under the supervision of former apex court judge Justice AK Patnaik

and the report was filed in the court on November 12 following a directive from the top court.

During the hearing on Friday, the Bench made it clear that the confidentiality of CVC's report was necessary "keeping in mind the need to preserve and maintain the sanctity of the institution of the CBI and public confidence in the said institution".

The Bench had noted that a copy of the report and the annexure be also furnished in a sealed cover to the offices of Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who is representing the CVC.

The court turned down the plea of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Asthana, to also give him a copy of the CVC report.

Continued on Page 7

Gaja tramples 13 to death in TN



A view of the damage caused by cyclone Gaja after it hit Velankanni in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu on Friday

PTI ■ NAGAPATTINAM/CHENNAI

Cyclone Gaja ripped through Nagapattinam early on Friday uprooting trees and snapping power lines leaving a trail of destruction in coastal districts besides claiming 13 lives and flooding standing crops. The cyclonic storm crossed Tamil Nadu's coast between Nagapattinam and near Vedaranyam in the wee hours of Friday, bringing in heavy rain in the coastal regions, according to a weather bulletin.

Winds gusting up to 120 kmph uprooted trees, snapped electric cables and blew off roofing-sheets. According to officials, ten men and three women died and 28 head of cattle perished in cyclone related incidents despite authorities evacuating as many as 81,948 people to 471 relief centres in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Tiruvallur districts. The storm caused heavy damage to the 16th century Shrine Basilica at Velankanni in Nagapattinam district.

Due to gusty winds, the rood cross on top of the church broke and fell, Church authorities said. The church is

built in accordance with Gothic architecture. Authorities said the 75-foot tall stone statue of Jesus erected in front of the Morning Star Church in the town, sustained structural damage. According to church officials, the hands of the statue have suffered damage. The roof of the Museum of Offerings in the town has also been damaged.

Expressing grief over the deaths, Chief Minister K Palaniswami sanctioned a solatium of ₹10 lakh to the kin of those who died and ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh for the injured.

The CM said he has ordered officials to immediately determine the extent of damage to crops, fishing boats, houses, and cattle. "I have ordered relief efforts on a war-footing," he said, adding Ministers are carrying out work in districts assigned to them.

The Centre has assured the Tamil Nadu Government of all assistance to deal with the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm 'Gaja'. Home Minister Rajnath Singh also directed Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba to monitor the situation in Tamil Nadu and provide all help to the State administration.

Continued on Page 7

Sabarimala opens, Trupti packed off to Pune amid protests

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kochi International Airport was literally held to ransom for almost 13 hours on Friday by devotees of Lord Ayyappa who had gathered in large numbers to prevent social activist Trupti Desai, who flew down to Kerala, from entering Sabarimala Temple.

The activist who reached the airport at 4.45 am could not come out of the terminal and was confined to the lounge till 6.50 pm when she told the media that she would return to Pune by a late night flight.

The devotees sat in front of the arrival lounge and sang Ayyappa bhajans non-stop till Trupti announced her decision to return to Pune. "I'll come back soon unannounced and will surely visit Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala. Today no one is willing to help me to proceed to Sabarimala or to check into

a hotel," said Desai, who was accompanied by six of her associates.

Meanwhile, hectic activities are on to resolve the stand-off between the devotees and the Kerala Government as Travancore Devaswom Board decided to approach the Supreme Court with a stay petition. If the stay is granted, the Kerala Government may get some breathing space to implement the September 28 verdict of the SC.

The prelude to the Mandala Puja (the 41-day festival when devotees through the shrine after observing penance) took place on Friday evening at Sabarimala Temple. The evening saw Thanthri (chief priest) Kantararu Rajeevaru and head priest (mel shanthi) AV Unnikrishnan Nampooriri opening the sanctum in the presence of hundreds of devotees and performing the traditional Puja.

Continued on Page 7



Devotees enter the Sabarimala Temple as it opens amid tight security in Sabarimala on Friday



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handles a weapon during his visit to the UP Defence Expo-2018 in Kanpur on Friday. State industrial development minister Satish Mahana and Chief Secretary Anoop C pandey are also seen in the picture

UP govt committed to economic uplift: CM

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing the concluding session of UP-Dexpo 2018 on CSA ground on Friday, said the state government was committed to the economic uplift of UP and thus to bring in economic development and investment the present government had girded up its loins to not only improve the law and order but set up a conducive and safe environment so that investors could invest in the state. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also eager to ensure the eco-

nomical development of UP and thus the state had been chosen for the Defence Corridor. He added that the work in that direction had already taken off and the bhoomi puja would be performed in January 2019. He said every effort would be made to solve and settle issues linked to the prestigious project.

He pointed out with the Defence Corridor in the pipeline the entire world was looking to UP which was about to metamorphose into a developed and progressive state. He said top business houses were eager to invest in the state. He assured investors of security

and safety and added the government was committed to providing a conducive environment to entrepreneurs and safeguard their financial interests. He said Single Window System had been introduced to facilitate the quick establishment of the Defence Corridor. He declared that the corridor would bring in financial progress and there would be great employment opportunities.

He said the UP government had organised a UP Summit in February 2018 in which Rs 468,000 crore was ratified. He said Dexpo-2018

Continued on Page 7

Raja Bhaiya announces contours of new party

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Striking a strident anti-Dalit stance, six-time independent MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya on Friday said he would float a new party opposed to reservation in promotions and the "draconian" provisions of the SC, ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The former minister, who represents Kunda Assembly constituency, said the new party would have 'Jansatta' (people's power) as its prefix.

He said the Election Commission had been approached for the registration of the new party as "Jansatta Party", "Jansatta Loktantra Party" or "Jansatta Dal".

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Raja Bhaiya



UP Independent MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya announces the formation of a new political party at a press conference, in Lucknow on Friday

said he was also opposed to immediate arrest in case of reg-

istration of FIR under the SC, ST Act. "No investigation is required under the SC, ST Act before an arrest is made," he said, adding that should change and the arrest should be made only after investigation.

The MLA from Kunda said there should be no discrimination on basis of caste in the distribution of compensation and ex gratia to the rape victims. He said rape was a heinous crime and the vic-

tim, irrespective of caste and creed, should be compensated by the government. "Reservation in promotion for Dalits is inappropriate. Promotions should be based only on merit and seniority as people join state government services after passing tough competition," Raja Bhaiya said, adding that the wards of IAS and IPS officers should be barred from reservation as even the poor people were denied the Antyodaya ration cards meant for those below poverty line as they moved upwards in the economic ladder.

Continued on Page 7

Goyal faces protests

Lucknow: Union minister Piyush Goyal faced protests by railway employees here on Friday over issues of restoring the old pension scheme and regularisation of the service of the apprentices. The railway minister was here to attend the 70th annual general meeting of the Northern Railway Men's Union.

In his address, Goyal said the government was sensitively considering various demands of the railway employees, like the problems faced in the implementation of the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and regularisation of the apprentices. After his address, many gherao Goyal and raised slogans against him.

Amidst chaos, the security personnel escorted him to his vehicle, after which he left for Delhi.

See Page 7

Jet Airways' takeover talks preliminary, claim Tatas

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tata Sons on Friday confirmed its interest in acquiring the beleaguered Jet Airways but said no concrete "proposal" has been made by the group so far. The Tatas, which already run two carriers—the full-service Vistara in a joint venture with Singapore Airlines (SIA) and AirAsia India in a similar arrangement with Malaysian carrier Air Asia—have widely speculated to be planning to acquire Naresh Goyal-controlled airline with its Singaporean partner. "We would like to clarify that any such discussions (to acquire Jet Airways) have been preliminary," Tata Sons said.

Airlines (SIA) and AirAsia India in a similar arrangement with Malaysian carrier Air Asia—have widely speculated to be planning to acquire Naresh Goyal-controlled airline with its Singaporean partner. "We would like to clarify that any such discussions (to acquire Jet Airways) have been preliminary," Tata Sons said.

CAPSULE

ARTICLE 370: SC TO HEAR PLEA IN APRIL
New Delhi: The SC on Friday said it will hear in April a plea challenging the validity of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gives special status to J&K.

MODI DARES CONG TO MAKE 'OUTSIDER' CHIEF
Ambikapur: PM Narendra Modi on Friday dared the Congress to make someone "from outside the family" as its chief for him to believe the late leader created a true democratic system.

CM: UP govt committed to empowerment of women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government was committed to empowerment of women because the Bharatiya Janata Party believed that a country could progress only if the women were educated and had social security.

"Our government has taken several measures to provide social security to women in the form of 1090 Women Power Line and 181 Women Helpline. Besides, anti-Romeo squad has been set up to instil confidence among women," Yogi said while addressing a function here on Friday. He said women were now holding important posts in the government and private sectors. "Lok Sabha Speaker, Foreign Minister and Defence Minister of India are women. Girls have performed exceedingly well in the field of sport. This is a welcome sign. But much more is needed to be done



and this will be possible only if the women get full support from society," the Chief Minister said, adding that the need of the hour was to bring this positive change in society.

"The governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh are working in tandem to bring a qualitative change in the lives of the fairer sex. The government has launched Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme. Under the Ujjwala Yojana, efforts have been made to safeguard the health of women by introducing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in their lives. The biggest achievement is construction of toilets," the Chief Minister said.

He said the previous governments had damaged the system badly and he was trying to bring it back on rails.

The Chief Minister also talked about the government's scheme to speed up paddy purchase. "This year, the government has announced MSP (minimum support price) of ₹1,770 per quintal for paddy with an additional ₹20 per quintal for cleaning. Similarly, the UP government has announced MSP for maize for the first time. The target is to purchase one lakh metric tonnes of maize," he said.

Yogi to lead BJP bike rally in Varanasi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and party state president Mahendra Nath Pandey, will hit the road on Saturday by taking part in the Kamal Sandesh Bike Rally to make people aware of the achievements of the Central and the UP governments.

The bike rally, being organised in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, will be taken out in all the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state with Yogi leading the campaign in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will join the bike rally at Prayagraj (Allahabad) and Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma in Lucknow. Bharatiya Janata Party state president Mahendra Nath Pandey will lead the rally in his parliamentary constituency Chandauli and BJP general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal in Kannauj, the bastion of Samajwadi Party.

BJP state general secretary and MLA Pankaj Singh, who is son of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, will lead the bike rally in Gorakhpur, the native place of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The party leadership has directed the cadre and leaders to get at least five motorcyclists from each polling booth. All the party leaders, including parliamentarians, legislators and office-bearers, have been directed to ensure full participation in the rally, which will be a show of strength. There are about 1,60,000 polling booths in the 80 parliamentary and 403 assembly constituencies in 75 districts.

The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders will highlight the flagship schemes like crop loan waiver, Ujjwala, Saubhagya, Swachh Bharat Mission and others among the people. "We are expecting participation of one lakh party workers and cadre in this mass mobilisation programme, which aims at creating awareness about the good works being done by the Central and the state governments," senior leader and party state spokesperson Chandra Mohan said here on Friday.

"We are expecting at least 10,000 bikes and over 15,000 partymen in the rally in every parliamentary constituency," he said.

UPSERC nod to UPPCL's smart meter plan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission has approved the proposal of UP Power Corporation Limited to roll out the plan for installation of smart meters. The power regulator, however, has, as per the National Tariff Policy 2016, imposed certain conditions on the power utility in the interest of consumers.

The UPPCL had submitted the roll-out plan for the smart meters to the power regulator on August 6. In the plan, UPPCL submitted that installation of smart meter was an activity under Ujjwal Discoms Assurance Yojana (UDAY) to which the power utility was a signatory.

UPSERC secretary Sanjay Srivastava said here on Friday that on scrutiny of the proposal it was found that with the installation of smart meters, the AT&C losses would reduce and billing efficiency would improve. He said the smart meter also had the facility of remote disconnection of the supply of defaulter consumers having dues.

Most importantly, he said, the consumer would be benefited as the meter reading and billing would be automated and they would not bear the cost of the smart meter.

The power regulator, while approving the roll-out plan, has put some conditions on UPPCL/discoms like — the smart meters should conform to standards set by the Central Electricity Authority, the privacy of personal data of consumer shall be protected and the billing efficiency with smart meter consumers shall be not less than 98% and bill collection efficiency shall not be less than 95 per cent.



Railway Minister Piyush Goyal called on Governor Ram Naik at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow on Friday

Pioneer

UP Congress leaders against grand alliance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Victory or defeat, the outcome of the assembly elections in five states will further create road blocks for the Congress in its efforts for a mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) with other key opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh.

The party's local leaders are already up in arms against any such move, saying the Bahujan Samaj Party has always backstabbed other parties for personal gains while they have already tasted worst-ever defeat by going with the Samajwadi Party in the last assembly elections.

"Majority of the party leaders in Uttar Pradesh have already made it clear to the high command that they wanted to go it alone in the coming parliamentary elections in 2019," said senior Congress leader RP Singh, who till recently was looking after the organisation in Uttar Pradesh Congress.

Reacting to the proposed alliance with the BSP or SP for parliamentary elections after the results of assembly polls in five states, Singh said that they had already made up their mind to fight it alone, or in

alliance with two of three smaller parties, and the results would have no impact.

"Victory or defeat is hardly going to make any impact on the proposed grand alliance as BSP and SP both have already entered into a secret pact with the Bharatiya Janata Party by contesting separately against us," Singh said, adding that the BSP and SP almost had no base in other states but still they fielded their candidates on almost all seats just to cut their vote share and help the BJP candidates.

Another senior leader and general secretary in the UPCC, Siddharthpriya Srivastava, said that the Congress made a big mistake by forging an alliance with the SP in last assembly elections.

"During last assembly elections, we wanted a grand alliance against BJP in Bihar but while Mayawati kept herself away from the beginning, the SP ditched us at the last moment as both SP and BSP were guided by the BJP diktat," Srivastava asserted, claiming that the BJP used both SP and BSP more as a 'vote katwa' party outside Uttar Pradesh, and the same formula had

been again applied by Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and company in the present assembly elections in five states to save the BJP from certain defeat.

Replying on the affect of grand alliance on basis of the results in the on-going assembly polls, Srivastava too supported Singh's view, claiming that the victory would give them further confidence of going it alone than making any truck with the two regional parties from UP, and in case they lost fight, then the big question before them was how to ally with parties who would be mainly responsible for the Congress defeat in the on-going elections.

He also claimed that in MP and Chhattisgarh, Congress tried to have an understanding with BSP and SP but the two outfits once again failed to muster courage to go against BJP so in UP also, both SP and BSP would take directions from the BJP before moving ahead with the mahagathbandhan so it would be better for the Congress to teach both the parties a lesson by distancing them much before the dates for next parliamentary elections are announced.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I, Purnima Sikder W/o Surja Narayan Biswas, R/o Vill Bidya Nandapur, PO Nawpara, Distt. Nadia PS Ranaghat, West Bengal have changed my name from Purnima Sikder to Purnima Biswas vide affidavit dated 14.11.2018 before Lucknow Court.

NOTICE

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main secondary, senior secondary examination of year 2016 and Roll No. 5393562 issued by the Central Board of secondary education has been actually lost. Result-Pass, Name-Diyansh Singh, Address/Tel. Sector 18, 18/316, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-701104/9152

NOTICE

I, Ram Pratap Shahi S/o Mr. N.P. Shahi R/o Fatehpura Bahraich UP my Receipt No. 1219544 Date 21/10/15 Amt. 100000/- Receipt No. 1220303 date 27/10/15 Amt. 400000/- Against Customer ID: GOL/1032 Respectively Issued by Omaxe Ltd. is misplaced somewhere any Person who finds it please return it at Omaxe Ltd. 7, L S C Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019.

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LOK MANYA TILAK INTER COLLEGE
Pachperwa, Distt.-Balrampur

WANTED FOR CLERK

Hon'ble High Court order Date 04.04.2017/5670(M.S./) 2017 and order Director Educaion (Madhymic) Letter-SA-1 / Edu / Vaad / 1191-95 / 2017-18 date 05.06.2017, District Inspector of School Balrampur order date letter Ma/746/2017-18 dated 13.06.2017, a post of Assistant Clerk in Grade-C for direct Recruitment. Applications are invited. Last date for Application is 05.12.2018 Applicant can apply by speed post / Registered or self in our office. Typing test and interview will be held on date 09.12.2018 in school campus from 10.00 A.M. vacant seat is only 1. Neither T.A. & D.A. will be given for interview nor information will be given for interview.

Compulsory Eligibilities.
1. Passed class 12th.
2. C.C.C. Certificate.
3. Identity Card.
4. Domicile Certificate.
5. Self postal address with postal for (Registered Post) and two passport size photo.

MANAGER LOK MANYA TILAK INTER COLLEGE
Pachperwa, Distt.-Balrampur

Ex-MLA manhandles tehsildar, misbehaves with police officer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former MLA from Nanpara in Bahraich, Dileep Verma, whose wife Madhuri Verma is now an MLA from the same constituency on Bharatiya Janata Party ticket, created a ruckus in the district on Friday.

Verma first reportedly manhandled a tehsildar and misbehaved with a deputy superintendent of police-rank officer and then sat on dharna, demanding action against the officers. The tehsil staff also staged a massive protest, demanding arrest of the former MLA.

Reports said that Dileep Verma reached the tehsil on Friday morning and went to sub-divisional magistrate Siddharth Yadav's chamber. On learning that the SDM was on leave, Verma entered the

room of tehsildar Madhusudan Arya. After some argument with the tehsildar, Verma reportedly manhandled him, snatched the gun of the security guard and left the place, hurling abuses at the officer.

Verma later reached Kotwali police station where he misbehaved with circle officer of Nanpara, Vijay Prakash, and also sat on dharna, demanding action against the government officials. He alleged that it was the tehsildar who assaulted and threatened him with dire consequences.

In the meantime, the tehsil staff, after learning about the incident, came on road and staged a demonstration, demanding registration of a case against Verma and his arrest for manhandling two government officers.

Reports said that senior officers reached the spot on learning about the incident and were making efforts to pacify both the sides and make them reach an agreement. Both the sides were staging protests at the time of filing the report.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident reported from Mau, leaders of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) created ruckus and reportedly torched a police outpost when the cops refused to release a motorcycle.

Reports said that sub-inspector Rajan Maurya, posted at Dubari police outpost under Madhuban police station, learnt that some youths were gambling in the area. He rushed to the spot and nabbed the youths and also seized a two-wheeler. The youths were

later released but the cops refused to release the motorcycle.

Subsequently, some senior local leaders belonging to Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), including a close lieutenant of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, called the police officers and requested them to release the motorcycle. When the cops refused to oblige them, PSPPL leaders gheraoed the police station and misbehaved with the sub-inspector. They later attacked the cops and torched the police outpost and escaped. Interestingly, the local officers first tried to hush up the matter but when the sub-inspector raised the issue through media, a case was registered against the accused and efforts were on to nab them.

PSPL committed to plural and secular polity of India: Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Shivpal Singh Yadav, chief of the fledgling Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), lashed out at Samajwadi Party chief and his nephew Akhilesh Yadav, for dubbing his outfit as a B team of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The PSPL is a mainstream political party committed to the plural and secular polity of India and there is no question of any link with the BJP," Shivpal Yadav said in Ferozabad on Friday. "Those who are afraid of our strength are speaking in inopportune language about us as they are aware of their fate in the coming 2019 Lok Sabha polls," Shivpal said without naming his nephew.

"Why is he (Akhilesh) afraid when he is forming a grand alliance for the Lok Sabha polls?" Shivpal asked, adding that he was ready to join the grand alliance but his party should be given the same number of seats as given to SP.



Aditya Yadav giving membership of the party to new members at PSPL office in Lucknow

Pioneer

Shivpal reiterated that he was left with no option but to part company with the SP. "I was repeatedly insulted in the SP and later when I could not tolerate, Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) asked me to float a new political party," he said.

When asked why he was not resigning as SP MLA even after floating a new political out-

fit, Shivpal said "when time comes everything will be done". "We have asked Mulayam Singh Yadav to contest on our party ticket. If he does, then it is good otherwise we will leave the seat from which Netaji will contest and fight the remaining 79 Lok Sabha seats in the state," he said. When pointed out that Raja Bhaiya had also

announced a new political party on Friday, the PSPL founder said that he had not talked to the MLA from Kunda (Raja Bhaiya) yet. On the Ram temple issue, Shivpal Yadav said that all parties should wait for the Supreme Court verdict as this was the best solution of the dispute rather than trying other means.

16 children injured as school van overturns

Lucknow (PNS): As many as 16 children were injured, four of them seriously, when a vehicle carrying them to school overturned near Aaspur crossing in Etah on Friday morning.

The children of DK Public School were travelling in a van when the driver lost control while trying to save a pedestrian, police said. The children, all under the age of 10, were injured. Four of them have been seriously injured and admitted to a hospital.

A youth crossing the road at that time was also injured and admitted to the district hospital, police said.

At least 20 people were injured when a tractor-trolley in which they were travelling overturned on the Delhi-Dehradun national highway in Muzaffarnagar.

The accident took place near Rampur Tiraha on the highway Thursday evening when the people were returning home after attending a post-death ritual. The injured were mostly women, the police said.

Doctor kills self at nursing home

Varanasi (PTI): A 45-year-old gynaecologist, who was jailed for allegedly killing her husband, was found dead at her nursing home in Ordlly Bazar here, police. Shilpi Rajput, a resident of Vindhya vasini colony in Varanasi, left a suicide note, SP (City) Dinesh Singh said. "In preliminary investigation, the matter seemed to be of suicide due to an overdose of drugs, though we are investigating the case from all the angles," he said, adding the body had been sent for post-mortem. She had been jailed for her alleged involvement in her husband DP Singh's killing. He was shot dead in Varanasi in 2007.

North Eastern Railway Notification No. 110/2018

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RAIL PASSENGERS

It is notified for information of general public that additional stoppage of train no. 22921/22922 Gorakhpur-Bandra (T) Antyodaya Express at Anand Nagar station will be provided on experimental basis for 6 months w.e.f. 19.11.2018 as per following timings -

Train No.	Station	Arr.	Dep.
22921 Bandra (T) - Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express	Anand Nagar	15.50	15.52
22922 Gorakhpur - Bandra (T) Antyodaya Express	Anand Nagar	04.09	04.11

CPRO/T-80 Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur

Never travel on roof and foot boards

NORTHERN RAILWAY

No. 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2018-19 Date: 15.11.2018

Corrigendum to Auction Notice of Principal Chief Material Manager /Northern Railway

The Auction programme of this railway for the month of November 2018 has been amended as under:

Extra e-auction on 30.11.2018 will be conducted at Sr.DMM/DLI

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same.

For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

3017/18

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III

A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-48

N.I.T. No. 38/S-III(2018-2019)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost/ Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Replacement of old damaged, rusted 80mm dia G.I./100mm dia C.I. /150mm dia M.S. water line in M-Block and M-Block Market G.K-II by 100mm dia and 150mm dia D.I. water lines for removal of contamination under South-III (AC-50).	3153865/- 63100/-	2018_DJB_161899_4 14.11.2018	29.11.2018 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No J.S.V. 515/2018-19

Sd/- (RAM KISHORE) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) III

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Manfest begins with book launch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

IIM-Lucknow's annual business and cultural fest, Manfest-Varchasva 2018, started on Friday with the inaugural ceremony. A book titled "Duryodhanisation" authored by Nishant Uppal, Students' Affairs chairman of IIM-L, was launched on the occasion.

The fest commenced with the energetic street plays under the canopy of 'Halla Bol'. Other cultural events included "The Joust", a parliamentary debate competition that talked about various social issues that included tax exemption, voting rights of prisoners, "Sur", a solo singing competition and "Imperio", a dance competition.

Management events that took place on Friday were UPSRTC Pitstop, Markmania, Stratatel, Nashify and IT&EL.

UPSRTC Pitstop is an opportunity to provide road safety incorporating strategic decisions and marketing marvels. A market research competition that aimed at understanding customers' buying behaviour was also held. Nashify played with the transforming game theory. A case solving workshop was organised for students which focused on solving real-life hurdles faced by businesses and gave students a comprehensive and holistic understanding of case solving methodology.

Leader Express, a workshop that incorporated talk show by Ankur Warikoo, CEO of Nearbuy, Richa Singh, CEO of Niine and Ashwin Sanghi, CEO of the best Indian authors, provided students across India a unique opportunity to hone their leadership skills, gain a fresh perspective through interaction with leaders and learn from IIM professors.

Ashwin Sanghi, a renowned Indian author, who has authored books like "The Rozabel Line", "Chanakya's Chants", shared with students his life story and motivated the audience to be brave enough to take risks, learn from failures and reach out to new heights.

Following the tradition of 30 years, this edition of IIM-Lucknow's Manfest-Varchasva will continue to urge students through its numerous competitions, interactions and workshops to move forward in the quest for inordinately great opportunities.

Textiles has vast potential: Smriti



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani told budding managers at IIM-L that there was a vast range of opportunities in the area of textiles which they could explore. In a question and answer session for Leaders Express as a part of IIM-L Manifest programme, Smriti was in her elements as she put across her views on a range of questions and doled out management tips for both their personal and professional lives.

Lacing her answers with wit and humour, she handled questions with elan impressing the gathering with her ability to connect with them with natural ease. Talking about the textile industry, she said that India presented an explosion in terms of choices from traditional to technical. "The scope of textiles is vast with the intervention of technology. Jute, which was earlier being used for making bags, is being used for making road. Similarly, we are teaching farmers that the silk worm can be used for various other purposes apart from making silk sarees," she said.

Referring to challenges which they were facing in terms of the textile industry, she said that with the coming up of the artificial intelligence there was a reduction in the cost of labour and

hence the requirement was to have a labour-friendly economy.

She told IIM students that their success depended on what they were looking at whether they were challenges or the final destination.

Later, Smriti Irani visited Awadhi and Film Festival organised by FICCI FLO at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on Friday. She said that the biggest challenge before the Indian woman was language. Speaking on the occasion, she said: "It is important to empower women because when you empower a woman you improve the Human Development Index of the country. Development of the country cannot be measured by the GDP alone and has to be measured in terms of the HDI. An empowered woman invests in health and education and bring success in family and thus the country."

Poor sanitation at RPL miffs CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday made a surprise inspection of the Reserve Police Lines. He was accompanied by DGP OP Singh.

The Chief Minister inspected the premises of the residential colony meant for officers and other ranks, arm and ammunition room, control room, stable, mess and kitchen. The Chief Minister expressed his dissatisfaction with the poor sanitary condition prevailing on the premises and also was deeply concerned about the arms and ammunition room which was in bad shape. He later offered jaggery to horses at the stable.

He questioned the DGP how police personnel coming from other places on official duty were accommodated in such rooms. The DGP told the Chief Minister that a new barrack had been planned within the compound to accommodate 200 personnel at one time.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the proposed site of the new barrack and inquired about its progress with the incharge and issued directives that it be completed at the earliest.

The Chief Minister agreed to the proposal of the DGP to



construct multi-storeyed housing accommodation by demolishing the existing one to accommodate more and more personnel and provide better boarding and lodging facilities for those coming here on emergency duty.

The Chief Minister also visited the mess for newly-recruited women constables and asked whether they were satisfied with the boarding and lodging and the quality of the food available at the mess kitchen. They expressed their satisfaction over the arrangements and other facilities available there.

There was no official programme of the Chief Minister to inspect the Reserve Police Lines. He left the official residence at 8.30 am for Kanpur to address the valedictory func-

tion of Defence Expo-2018. The fleet took a turn to Reserve Police Line located in trans-Gomti area instead of going to Kanpur and reached there at 9 am.

Panic gripped among officials when they came to know that the Chief Minister had reached there and they rushed to show their presence. The first to reach was IG, Lucknow Range, Sujit Pandey and SSP Kalanidhi Naithani. Later, the DGP held a meeting with officials and PWD engineers to discuss the planning and prompt completion of the proposed barrack.

Principal Secretary, Home, Arvind Kumar, additional DGP, Police headquarters and SSP were present at the meeting which concluded at 2.30 pm.

Woman hurt in murder bid

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 30-year old woman sustained serious injuries when her brother-in-law made an attempt to kill her at her house located in Indira Nagar on Friday morning. She was identified as Shaheen Bano, wife of Mohammad Aslam, whose elder brother Mohammad Sadiq was detained later in the evening for interrogation. Both of them live in the same locality.

The police said Sadiq was mentally deranged and attacked her in a fit but failed to produce any certificates issued by doctors proving his mental status. The immediate provocation was that both were engaged in an altercation on some issue at her house in the morning and he attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon. Aslam rushed her to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital with multiple severe injuries. Her condition was stat-

ed to be out of danger and stable. The police were trying to find out whether he was mentally sick or the family members were misguiding the investigating officer.

ARRESTED

The police claimed to have worked out a murder case in which a man had strangled his wife and threw her body in a nearby nullah in Kakori areas. Her body was found on November 11.

The husband was identified as Ashok, a resident of the Kakori and a native of HarDOI. During the interrogation, the husband admitted he had strangled his wife following an extra-marital relation with one of his neighbours. He was convinced about her illicit relations when he saw her in a compromising position in November first week.

Lit fest gets off with talks on partition

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Talks on partition resounded at the sixth edition of Literary Fest which kicked off on Friday at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. The three-day fest is being organised by the Lucknow Expressions Society.

Mallika Ahluwalia, CEO and the curator of the world's first museum on partition at Amritsar, while speaking at the session, said that she got the idea of the museum because of the fact that the generation which had undergone so much of trials and tribulations during this period was passing away.

Mallika said people had also gifted personal objects associated with the partition for this museum. She said that she also had a personal experience associated with the partition because her family, which was settled in Lahore, also experienced the same trauma while migrating to India.

"The museum has been placed in Amritsar because it is essentially dealing with people from Punjab. It has received a great response with 2.5 lakh people who have already visited the museum in the past 14 months. There is also a separate section that deals with the healing part of the journey and

'Bangla a vibrant language'

Lucknow (PNS): The Shonar Bangla session at the Lucknow Literature Fest on Friday at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan witnessed the participation of consultant Anjum Katyal from Kolkata. Talking to "The Pioneer", she said that the social networking had brought about a change in the Bangla language which was not appreciated by purists.

"However, I am happy with this change because a language as it evolves it absorbs several words and which makes it more rich. See how the Shakespearean language has grown to become the language which it is today," she said. Anjum added that the city of Kolkata was steeped in arts. "The youngsters are culturally active and participate in all kinds of plays and cultural activities. There is a lot which has changed in terms of the literature written today. Satyajit Ray had written an account of his times and the youngsters, who are writing today, are penning something which is more edgy and non-sentimental. They are writing on sexuality, morality and politics," she said. She said that Bangla remained a vibrant language even in the current time and book fairs attracted a huge footfall and Bangla Sahitya was immensely popular.

reconciling with the past," she said.

She said that she would love to interact with refugees of Lucknow and record their statements for the museum. "I would like the people of Lucknow to visit the museum," she added. A book penned by



strength to look towards the future and focused on rebuilding their lives and the country they had migrated to. This book captures stories of resilience and sheer grit of people caught in the vortex. It comprises life stories of 21 extraordinary individuals who were deeply affected by the partition, yet went on to achieve greatness in independent India," she said.

Earlier in the day, president of Lucknow Expressions Society Jaideep Narain Mathur declared the fest open and said that the three-day fest would capture the creativity of so many people.

"People have penned verses on Atal and they will recite them. Atal Bihari Vajpayee himself said he could be known as former Prime Minister but not as former poet," said Mathur. He added that the purpose of the fest was to introduce as many genres as possible.

Key organiser Kanak Rekha Chauhan thanked Lucknowites and said: "For the past five years, we at the Lucknow Literature Festival have aimed to bring to you a confluence of love, poetry and music and create a kaleidoscope of culture which believes in the unity of all communities.

Book wrapping present Lucknow released

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

"Lucknow Diaries", the book written by secretary, Fertilisers, Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma was released on the inaugural day of the Lucknow Literature Festival on Friday at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. Sen said that his book was a tale of fiction about contemporary Lucknow.

Talking to 'The Pioneer', the senior bureaucrat, while sharing his views about contemporary Lucknow, said that the city had changed from the time of nawabs and taluq-dars.

"But we find in literature, it is the same old Lucknow though physically, geographically, sociologically, culturally and psychologically it is a vastly changed place. Democracy, electoral politics, rise and decline of various

social classes all have made Lucknow, as well as India, a vastly changed place. My novel tries to capture this contemporary Lucknow," he said.

Regarding his growth as a writer, he said: "I have tried to weave multiple narratives instead of one as is in the case of 'Love side by side'. I think my writing is more mature but ultimately it is for the reader to decide."

On whether being a bureaucrat has helped him or not as a writer, he said that it was both.

"As a bureaucrat, it does provide you with a range of experiences that wouldn't have been there in many, not all, professions but at the same time it does impose some restrictions on me, say choice of subjects. It also makes finding time and mind space so

much more difficult," he added.

Regarding upcoming books, he said: "I am trying to write a novel that is set in the future, say India and the world in 2048 and try to move back and forth in time, to imagine and guess how the world would turn out to be. Let's see. It is at a very formative stage."

When asked whether a book based in Lucknow would interest people from other parts of the country, he said: "The book is physically set in Lucknow but the story could be anywhere in contemporary India. Like Sherlock Holmes stories are very firmly set in London but that doesn't lessen its attraction to people across the world even now. So no I think people from everywhere can relate to the novel and with its characters."

न्यायालय जिला मजिस्ट्रेट/कलेक्टर, लखनऊ
संख्या : 815 /बीक रीडर-2018 दिनांक : 13.11.2018
नोटिस
1. मेड ईश्वरी इण्टरप्रार्डिजेंज द्वारा कुमारी अरघना पाण्डेय, ई/IV-79, सेक्टर-एम0, अलीगंज, लखनऊ।
2. कु0 अरघना पाण्डेय पुत्री श्री वेद प्रकाश पाण्डेय, निवासिनी मकान 44/325, मूलगंज, कानपुर नगर, (उ0पी0)।
3. श्रीमती कुमारी सिंह पत्नी श्री उमाशंकर सिंह, निवासिनी एरवाडवा-721, एरवाडवा030000 ए0टी0एम0, सेक्टर-ई0, एल0डी0ए0 कालोनी, कानपुर रोड, लखनऊ।
4. श्रीमती रंजना शर्मा पत्नी स्व0 प्रमोद कुमार शर्मा, निवासिनी ई/IV-79, सेक्टर-एम0, अलीगंज, लखनऊ।
एलद्वारा आपको नोटिस दी जाती है कि बीक ऑफ बडीवा, लखनऊ के प्राथमिक अधिकारी द्वारा अगोहस्ताहरी के न्यायालय में याचिका प्रस्तुत करते हुए अलगत कराया गया है कि आपके द्वारा उक्त बीक से लिए गए ऋण का भुगतान अभी तक अदा नहीं किया गया है।
अतः आप दिनांक 03.12.2018 को समय 12:00 बजे दिन में अगोहस्ताहरी के न्यायालय में उपस्थित होकर कारण स्पष्ट करें कि क्यों न विलीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 (1) के अन्तर्गत कार्यवाही करते हुए बीक द्वारा प्रस्तुत अभिलेख में कथित संपत्ति को कब्जे में लेकर बीक को ऋण अदायोगी बसूली के संबंध में दे दी जाये। यदि आप उक्त निर्धारित दिनांक व समय पर अगोहस्ताहरी के न्यायालय में उपस्थित नहीं होते हैं तो समझा जायेगा कि आपको कुछ नहीं करना है और तदनुसार नियमानुसार आदेशा पाठित कर दिए जायेंगे।
(सौरभ राज शर्मा)
जिला मजिस्ट्रेट/कलेक्टर लखनऊ।

स्वस्थता की दिशा में अपने बच्चे का सम्पूर्ण टीकाकरण करावाएँ

● स्वसरा
● और रुबैला
● टीकाकरण अभियान

26 नवम्बर, 2018 से प्रारम्भ

MR का टीका

स्वस्थ जीवन का तरीका

9 महीने से 15 साल तक के बच्चों को लगावाएँ

अगर आपके बच्चे को MR/MMR का टीका लग चुका हो, तो भी उसे अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा के लिए MR का टीका जरूर लगावाएँ

अधिक जानकारी के लिए अपने पास के ANM, आशा बहन और आँगनवाड़ी केंद्र से संपर्क करें।

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विफिलसा, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश - टोल फ्री नं: 1800-180-5145 / राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, उत्तर प्रदेश - टोल फ्री नं: 1800-180-1900

Panic in Madaion after fire outbreak



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Panic gripped Madaion area after the outbreak of a fire at a bread-manufacturing unit located on the main market crossing near the country-made liquor shop on Friday morning. Chief fire service officer AB Pandey said the short circuit was the cause of the outbreak. No was injured but intense damage to the property and the entire bakery was reported.

The bakery is known as Gauri Foods and owned by Bhupinder Agrawal. The peo-

ple were surprised to see the thick smoke emanating from the second floor of the building housing the bakery and gradually spread to the third floor. There was panic in the entire area. The locals left their houses and were seen running to seek safer places. The shopkeepers also pulled down their shutter.

The police were informed by some locals and they reached the spot. Six fire engines were pressed into service to control the fire. The estimated loss of the property and other was stated to be several

lakh. Meanwhile, a fire was broke out at a boutique located in Nagina market in Ghazipur area on Friday afternoon. The boutique is being run by Mohammad Nisar, a resident of C block of Indira Nagar and a native of Barabanki district. The chief fire officer said the cause of its outbreak was still not known and investigation was in progress. Three sewing machines and garments worth a few thousand rupees were gutted. No one was reported to be injured.

IWAFFFF makes a deep impact on women, men

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The concluding day of the 'International Women Artisans' Awadh Festival and Film Forum' (IWAFFFF) at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan began with a workshop by the Women & Girls Lead Global organised by Smriti Minocha.

The film 'Girl Connected' a story of five girls of five different countries with one dream was screened. It showed how girls were equally working to help others learn and evolve in the society and became equal bearers of power.

A panel discussion was held on the topic "Creating global opportunities and impetus for women entrepreneurs and artisans". The discussion witnessed the participation of Cabinet minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi, was moderated by Asma Hussain and attended by Jyoti Kapoor Das, Renuka Tandon, Ratna Sinha, Kireet Nadira Hamid, Jamsheer Mistry-ICBC, Nisha Biswas -USIBC and Archana Somani.

Later in the evening, 'Ek Inquilab Aur Aaya', a movie about the women of Farangi Mahal, was shown to the delegates after which Mehru Jaffer explained its essence.

The day finally ended with the screening of the Canadian film "The Sun at Midnight". This three-day-long event had a great impact not only on women but on the men as well.

GPO to remain close

LUCKNOW (PNS): Due to the roll out of the Core System Integration (CSI) at Lucknow GPO all the savings bank and booking-related work will remain closed from November 17 to 19, the Chief Postmaster, Yogendra Maurya, said in a press release.

'Creating a new world order for children's safety is our mission'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Justices, judges, legal luminaries and other eminent personalities from across the globe, who have gathered here to attend the '19th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World' being organised by City Montessori School, opined in unison at a press conference on Friday that the purpose of their being here together was to lay the foundation for a safe and secure future for over 2.4 billion children of the world.

The Prime Ministers, Presidents, Governor-Generals, Speakers of Parliament, Ministers of Justice, Judges of the International Court of Justice, heads of the world-renowned peace

organisations from 19 countries as well as more than 370 Chief Justices, judges and legal luminaries from 71 countries are participating in the conference.

These eminent personalities were of the opinion that rights for the safe and secure future of the world's children was an issue which could only be attained by establishing unity, peace and harmony in the world.

The 19th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World organised from November 16 to 20 has begun on Friday at CMS, Kanpur Road auditorium. Earlier, on Friday morning, the dignitaries from various countries landed at Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport and were accorded a

warm welcome by CMS students and teachers. With showers of rose and marigold petals and the music of the band, the legal stalwarts were greeted in Lucknow and given a rousing reception.

Expressing his deep gratitude towards the dignitaries of various countries, founder director Jagdish Gandhi said that the massive participation by eminent personalities spoke highly of their commitment to the cause of world unity and world peace and clearly pointed out the fact that there was no alternative before the world to save mankind from destruction but to take immediate steps towards creation of a new world order based on unity, peace and justice.

उप प्रो पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. लिखित विस्तार
सूचना कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना खण्ड गोण्डा में दिनांक 15.11.2018 को 12:00 बजे से 15:00 बजे के मध्य यहाँ के पतन हेतु बोली जाने वाली बोली में किसी भी बोलीकर्ता द्वारा भाग न लिये जाने के कारण लिखित विस्तार कर दिनांक 19.11.2018 को धरोहर धनराशि जमा करने एवं दिनांक 20.11.2018 बोली बोलने की लिखित निर्धारित की जाती है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें सहायक रहेंगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना खण्ड, 220 के०वी० उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा। संख्या 1841/वि०पा०ख०/गो०/नीलामी सूचना, दिनांक-15.11.2018, राष्ट्रपति में बिजली बचाव साधारण बल के स्थान पर एल.ई.डी. बल का प्रयोग करें।

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited
Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited
Bhawan, Vidyut Nagar P.O.-DLW Varanasi-221004. Tender Date Extension The tender invited for through e-tender no. EAV-113/18-19 the date of bid opening is hereby further extended and details for the same have been mentioned below :
SI.No. 1. Tender Specification No. EAV-113/18-19, Material Name 11 KV HT XLPE CABLE (3x70 sq. mm.), Date & time for submission of tender documents Date : 27.11.2018, Time : 15:00 PM, Tender opening date & time Date : 28.11.2018, Time : 15:00 PM, Other terms and conditions shall remain same. (S. K. Bharti), Superintending Engineer (MM-I) No. 4648, Date 16.11.18, "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation".

उप प्रो पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. लिखित विस्तार
सूचना कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना खण्ड गोण्डा में दिनांक 15.11.2018 को 12:00 बजे से 15:00 बजे के मध्य यहाँ के पतन हेतु बोली जाने वाली बोली में किसी भी बोलीकर्ता द्वारा भाग न लिये जाने के कारण लिखित विस्तार कर दिनांक 19.11.2018 को धरोहर धनराशि जमा करने एवं दिनांक 20.11.2018 बोली बोलने की लिखित निर्धारित की जाती है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें सहायक रहेंगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना खण्ड, 220 के०वी० उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा। संख्या 1841/वि०पा०ख०/गो०/नीलामी सूचना, दिनांक-15.11.2018, राष्ट्रपति में बिजली बचाव साधारण बल के स्थान पर एल.ई.डी. बल का प्रयोग करें।

PIL CHALLENGING RENAMING OF ALLAHABAD HC allows petitioners to make amendments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court on Friday allowed the petitioners in the public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the renaming of Allahabad as Prayagraj to make amendments in their petition.

The bench, comprising Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice CD Singh, passed the order on a PIL filed by the Allahabad Heritage Society and 12 others. The bench also sought the records of another PIL filed by Hari Shankar Pandey which was pending before its Lucknow bench on the same issue and now the one presided over by Chief Justice will hear that PIL too. The



bench directed the petitioners to file the amended petition along with all necessary documents on or before November

26. The petitioners had challenged the rechristening of Allahabad to Prayagraj where-by an order of the government dated October 18 was questioned. The order was challenged because it was violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

The court fixed November 30 as the next date of hearing in the case. Earlier, the same bench had dismissed another PIL filed by Sunita Sharma challenging the renaming of Allahabad as Prayagraj. However, it had granted liberty to the petitioner of that PIL to file a representation before the state government while raising her grievance.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the inaugural of Uttarakhand Mahotsav on the banks of Gomti river

Pioneer

More good news for Kumbh Mela pilgrims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Railways has more good news for the pilgrims and tourists coming to visit the Kumbh Mela scheduled to be organised in the city of Prayagraj from January 15 next year.

In view of the enormous rush of passengers expected to visit the city of Prayagraj to participate in the Kumbh Mela the Ministry of Railways as a special case has decided to allow 15 days' advance booking of the unreserved railway tickets from 12 stations lying in the Prayagraj region and serving the Kumbh Mela.



GM NCR Rajiv Chaudhry

The stations from which this advance booking of unreserved tickets will be allowed are: Allahabad Junction, Allahabad City, Naini, Subedarganj, Prayag, Prayag Ghat, Daraganj, Phaphamau, Jhansi, Vindhyachal, Allahabad Chheoki and back. The return tickets will be allowed to be booked up to 15 days in advance excluding the date of journey. For example if a passenger at Nagpur wish-

es to purchase a ticket to any station in Allahabad Mela area and back, he/she can purchase it 15 days in advance. No refund will, however, be allowed on such return tickets.

This facility will be extended to the passengers during the mela period only and will be available for tickets purchased on or after January 11, 2019, up to March 6, 2019. The date of journey will be indicated on the ticket.

Speaking about the facility, GM of NCR, Rajiv Chaudhry, said that the Railways was very sensitive to the needs of the pilgrims, tourists and other regular passengers who would be visiting the city of Prayagraj during the Kumbh Mela. "We have made extensive arrangements both in terms of additional infrastructure and special trains for the benefit of pilgrims coming to Prayagraj during the Kumbh Mela and the facility of advance booking of unreserved tickets from 12 stations of Prayagraj region will prove to be a further boon to our esteemed passengers in the Mela period," he added. This move by the railways is a win-win situation for both the passengers and it as on one hand, it will help the passengers in getting tickets to their destinations much in advance of their

dates of journey and on the other hand, it will decongest the booking windows of the railway stations in Prayagraj region during the Mela period, allowing more effective crowd control.

ARRANGEMENTS REVIEWED

Senior police and administrative officials reviewed the arrangements in view of the forthcoming Kumbh 2019 here on Friday. The officials concerned chalked out a plan for ensuring smooth traffic on all routes during the discussion held at Police Lines. The Divisional Commissioner, Ashish Goel, the ADG, SN Sabat, IG Range, Mohit Agarwal, the DM, Kumbh, Vijay Kiran Anand, the DM, Suhas LY, the SSP, Nitin Tiwari, and other senior police officials attended the meeting and reviewed the plans for traffic emergency, route of shuttle buses, CNG/ auto/ e-rickshaw routes and management of roadways and private bus stations.

INTEGRAL VARSITY CONVOCATION Degrees presented to students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The 10th Integral Convocation was organised by the Integral University on Friday. The ceremony began with the University Tarana which set the tone for this 10th convocation.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Aqil Ahmad declared the convocation open to the house full of dignitaries and students. Prof Ahmad highlighted the various achievements of the university in recent years and reinforced the fact that Integral had always strived to be a centre of excellence. "Integral University has advanced a lot in academic research and development activities. It has achieved a vertical growth over a short period of time", the Vice-Chancellor said.

LMRC managing director Kumar Keshav, who talked about the role of ethics in the life of a student, said: "One must always live with utmost integrity." He wished all outgoing students and teachers all success in life and told them to remain confident all the time. He thanked Prof SW Akhtar for his support to the LMRC project.

Secretary, department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and director general and secretary of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Trilochan Mohapatra appreciated how the current and previous Vice-Chancellors and office-bearers leading from the front took the university to new heights. He appreciated the role of the Integral University

in the field of agriculture and science and talked about the importance of agriculture and development of farmers for the growth of this University in particular, and India in general. "Integrated agriculture should be integral to Integral University," he said. He concluded by saying that "the students are like the small seeds of the big banyan tree, i.e., filled up with potential."

The registrar presented the degrees to the recipients. The total number of degrees given were 1973 in which there were 69 PhDs, 489 PGs, 1367 UGs and 48 diplomas in Pharmacy and 45 gold and silver medals which were given to the toppers.

Cabinet minister and guest of honour Mohsin Raza, in his encouraging speech, asked students to bring a good name to the university. "By the combined efforts of engineers, lawyers and doctors present at the Integral University, our nation can truly progress," he said. He talked about religious unity and the importance of peace of mind in education.

The function concluded with a formal inauguration of the Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology by director general and secretary, department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr Mohapatra, in the presence of Chancellor and founder of Integral University SW Akhtar.

People told about causes of diabetes & how to check it

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONEBHADRA

The Hindalco Rural Development Department always remains awake to its social responsibilities. In this sequence the Department organised a diabetes awareness and check-up camp in the auditorium of Aditya Birla Rural Technology Park located in Myorpur on the occasion of World Diabetes Day.

In the camp Dr DP Saxena of the Hindalco Rural Hospital told the people in great detail about the causes of diabetes and its prevention and if they were afflicted with it on what things they should pay attention to keep it under control. He said that this was a very serious disease and was the mother of many ailments.

He said that if one was afflicted with diabetes he or she should get his or her blood sugar examined regularly and pay special attention to the



medicines and food and drinks he or she was taking.

He said that due to it the possibility of one becoming susceptible to serious diseases of the liver and kidney besides heart attack increased.

He said that the regulated lifestyle and regular exercise reduced the possibility of diabetes and if one's mother or father was suffering from it one should be extra careful because it was hereditary. Such people should from the very beginning do regular exercise and see to it that the sugar intake in their diet was minimum to reduce its possibility.

In the camp 62 villagers took part out of which 29 got themselves checked up for diabetes voluntarily. In the camp the officials of the Rural Development Department like Rajesh Singh, Sanjay Runthala, Vikas, Rakesh, and Ajay Yadav remained present.

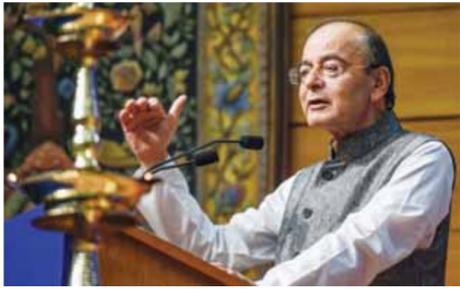
Can't censor media due to tech: Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday said that censorship on media is not possible now because of technology. He said, if the emergency was ever to be re-imposed, it would collapse for the simple reason that one of the strengths of the emergency was Press censorship and technology does not permit a press censorship today.

Addressing National Press Day event in New Delhi on Friday, Jaitley said, the greatest challenge before media is to retain its credibility. Reasserting that nobody can now complain that their free speech is in danger due to multiple forums for readers and viewers, the minister said technology has made that putting pressures on media is next to impossible due to the growth of social media.

Media's credibility will be its own maker and if misused, it can also be its own breaker, he said. At the event, Jaitley gave away the National Awards



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley addresses during the National Press Day celebrations and Confering of National Awards for Excellence in Journalism-2018 in New Delhi on Friday

for Excellence in Journalism, presented by the Press Council of India (PCI). National Press Day which is celebrated on November 16 every year, symbolises free and responsible press in India. The Press Council of India started working as a watchdog on this day.

Veteran journalist and Hindu publishing group chairman N Ram was presented

with the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award for his outstanding contribution to journalism. Awards in other categories were also presented.

In his address, Jaitley said every political viewpoint is able to find space in some section of the media or the other.

"With multiple (media) forums now available, nobody can seriously complain my speech

is in danger. Neither the viewer or the reader, nor the one who wants to convey, you have alternatives available," he said.

He, however, cautioned that the alternatives are sometimes grossly abused, for personalised grounds, collateral purposes, political purposes, or for lobbying.

"I think the worst that can happen to free speech is that if a doubt in the mind of a reader or a viewer is created with regard to the integrity of the news or the opinion that he is seeing," the finance minister.

In his remarks, Jaitley also recalled that in the 1950s an amendment was brought in by the Jawaharlal Nehru Government restricting free speech if it adversely affected the country's relations with a foreign country.

He claimed that it was brought in because Nehru-Liaquat Ali pact became a subject matter of political debate and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee decided to lead a campaign against it. "We have grown out

of that 1950-1952 phase... I don't think that is capable of happening today," he said.

"If the Emergency was ever to be re-imposed, because it is fashionable to say it is another Emergency. If the Emergency was ever to be re-imposed, it would collapse for the simple reason that one of the strengths of the Emergency was press censorship. And technology does not permit press censorship.

"You suddenly get access to information through various instruments that technology has provided," Jaitley said.

The finance minister said he has not been able to understand the criticism of those "who criticise the maximum". "Well your speech can't be in danger if you are criticising seven days a week," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Press Council of India Justice Chandramouli Kumar Prasad said, regulating media is unacceptable and Press Council work relentlessly to uphold the integrity and impartiality of the media.

Teen Murti Estate including JNMF belongs to Govt, Centre tells HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Friday that the land where Teen Murti Estate, which includes Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund (JNMF), is situated, belonged to the Government since the establishment of the national Capital.

The Centre's response came on a petition filed by JNMF seeking to set aside the estate officer's October 15 eviction notice.

The Fund has been located at Teen Murti, once the residence of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, since 1967. JNMF was set up in 1964.

Its offices are not part of the main building but occupy a set of barracks on its eastern side with a separate entry from Teen Murti Marg.

Justice Anu Malhotra list-

The court, which had on November 1 stayed the proceedings before the Directorate of Estates, said status quo be maintained till the next date of hearing

ed the matter for further hearing on December 4 after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for JNMF, said they have received the Government's response on Thursday and sought some time to file the rejoinder.

The court, which had on November 1 stayed the proceedings before the Directorate of Estates, said status quo be maintained till the next date of

hearing. Additional Solicitor General Maninder Acharya and Central Government standing counsel Monika Arora told the court that they have filed a preliminary affidavit along with necessary documents.

The JNMF has denied the claims that it was in illegal possession of the property.

The affidavit, filed by the deputy director of estates at Directorate of Estates, claimed that the JNMF has failed to produce any authority which allows/ permits it to use the demised premises.

"Without prejudice, the contention raised by the petitioner (JNMF) cannot be termed as a bonafide title dispute, as the Central Government is the sole owner of the demised premises and the Teen Murti Estate, in its entirety," it said.

Surat to be 'multi modal transport hub' soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a unique kind of project, the Surat railway station will be developed into a world-class facility 'multi modal transport hub' (MMTH). The Surat multi-modal transport hub will have a swanky railway station, a modular passenger friendly concourse, a bus terminal, wide station lobby, big ticketing hall, retail and offices space in the commercial towers, seamless boarding facilities and connecting bridges among a host of other facilities. In other words, railway station will have an airport like facilities for passengers.

According to officials, the Surat multi-modal transport hub will aim at enabling seamless transit - with simple connectivity between the railway station, bus terminal and other

transport modes in the city. As per plan, the transport hub will also be linked with the city metro rail network, Bus Rapid Transit System as well as suburban network. Interestingly, the Surat city railway station will be the third one in the country to get an international-standard revamp, the first two being Habib Ganj and Gandhi Nagar railway stations.

"A special purpose vehicle (SPV) 'Surat Integrated Transport Development Corporation (SITCO)', has been formed by the Centre (Railways), Surat Municipal Corporation and Road Transport Corporation of the state. The bid opening date has now been extended to December 7, 2018 based on the request of bidders by the Indian Railway Stations

Development Corporation (IRSDC)," officials said.

Sources in the Railways said that the project once completed, will transform the face of Surat. The total land area of the station will be 3,19,700 sqm and the built-up area 57,739 sqm with the size of the concourse at 9,825 sqm. The area under commercial development would be around 5,07,054 sqm. The station would be a multi-modal transport hub with a bus terminal having a built-up area of 40,724 sqm.

"The built up area (BUA) of the proposed commercial development has been increased from 5.06 lakh square meter to 8.40 lakh square meter. The built up area will exclude basements or any upper floors for satisfying the parking/ fire requirements as per local byelaws. The hub will

be built at a cost of around Rs 5,000 crore.

"For the first time in the history of the country the central government, state government and the urban local body are coming together to make a multi-modal transport hub by pooling their lands. It will also have five road under-bridges and a parking space for 900 vehicles. It is expected to cater to around 3,49,684 passengers every day," officials said. The commercial area at ground level increased from 3,54,864 sq.m. to 7,84,596 sq.m. considering the local demand at Surat.

While the Habib Ganj railway station work is expected to be complete by December-end this year, the Gandhi Nagar station will open in time for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2019.

Cong releases first list of 152 candidates for Rajasthan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four days after the BJP released its first list for Rajasthan, Congress late Thursday night gave green signal to its first list of 152 candidates for the December 7 Rajasthan Assembly elections, fielding former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot from Sardarpura and State party president Sachin Pilot from Tonk seat. The Congress list was reportedly delayed over differences on distribution of party tickets.

AICC SECRETARY HARISH CHAUDHARY WILL CONTEST THE POLLS FROM THE BAYTOO SEAT. FORMER BJP MP HARISH MEENA, WHO HAD MOVED TO THE CONGRESS ON WEDNESDAY, HAS BEEN FIELDLED FROM DEOLI UNIARA

Former National Commission for Women chief Girija Vyas will contest from Udaipur, while senior party leader C P Joshi will be party nominee from the Nathdwara assembly seat. Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly, Rameshwar Lal Dudi, is the Congress's candidate from the Nokha assembly seat. AICC Secretary Harish Chaudhary will contest the polls from the Baytoo seat. Former BJP MP Harish Meena, who had moved to the Congress on Wednesday, has been fielded from Deoli Uniara.

The party's central election committee General Secretary Mukul Wasnik released the list after hectic deliberations with senior state leaders and the party leadership. The notification for the polls was issued on Monday



Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore shows a victory sign after BJP senior leader Satish Poonia files his nomination papers for Amer Assembly seat in Jaipur on Friday

Erratic rainfall impacts Rabi crop sowing

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delayed withdrawal of southwest monsoon and erratic rainfalls across the country impacted the sowing of wheat and pulses crops in the ongoing season of rabi crops. According to Ministry of Agriculture's data, area sown to pulses has fallen 18 per cent to 69.95 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing rabi (winter) season over the year-ago period due to less planting in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Sowing of wheat, the main rabi crop, is also lagging behind marginally at Rs 51.63 lakh hectare so far in the rabi season of the 2018-19 crop year compared with 54.28 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. Sowing of rabi crops begins from October and harvesting from March onwards.

In Maharashtra, farmers have planted pulses in only 5.62 lakh hectare so far this season as against 10.61 lakh hectare in the year-ago period

According to the data, farmers in Karnataka have sown pulses in only 7.35 lakh hectare so far this season as against 12.98 lakh hectare in the same period last season. Northern and south interior parts of Karnataka are reeling under severe drought. These areas received deficient rains even during the kharif (summer) season. Sowing of rabi crops begins in November and continues till February.

In Maharashtra too, farmers have planted pulses in only 5.62 lakh hectare so far this season as against 10.61 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. However in Madhya Pradesh, pulses was covered in 29.23 lakh hectare as against 30.9 lakh hectare in the said period. As many as pulses acreage remained lower at 69.95 lakh hectare so far this season as against 85.32 lakh hectare in the same period last season.

In case of wheat, farmers have sown the crop in 51.63 lakh hectare so far this season as against 54.28 lakh hectare in the same period last season. Area coverage remained lower in Punjab at 14.68 lakh hectare as against 17.58 lakh hectare, while in Haryana it stood at 5.54 lakh hectare as against 6.93 lakh hectare in the said period.

Fast entry gates of Ministries open for persons with fake degrees: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi Friday alleged that under the Modi Government "fast entry gates" of Ministries "open for those who possess fake degrees". Rahul also attacked the RSS alleging that its "farjial (fake) strike" continues on educational institutes of the Delhi University.

Taking to Twitter, he launched a tirade against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, "Shri chappan aur unke mantriyon ne chatron ko dikhaaya hai ki BJP mai mantrimandal ka shighra dwar farzi degree dikha kar khulta hai. (Mr 56" and his Ministers have shown students



that under the BJP fast entry gates of Ministries open for those who possess fake degrees."

There was no immediate comment from the Prime Minister's Office or the BJP. "The RSS' has an old tradition of attacking educational institutions and helping those with fake degrees attain power.

"That is why the 'farjial

strikes' of RSS continue on Delhi University," he tweeted in Hindi.

The Congress chief also tweeted a picture of Modi, Union Minister Smriti Irani and ABVP's Delhi University president Ankiv Baisoya, alleging "Fake degree is in BJP's DNA".

Baisoya has stepped down from his post after reports of him possessing a fake degree.

The ABVP said Thursday DUSU president Baisoya has resigned from his post after it asked him to do so, and has also been suspended from the students outfit till an inquiry into allegations that he gained admission to the Delhi University on the basis of a fake degree.

SEVERE MENTAL DISORDERS

WHO issues management guidelines

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

People with severe mental disorders (SMD) of bipolar, moderate to severe depression and other psychotic disorders not only have to battle with their mental conditions but also non-communicable and communicable diseases such as diabetes and tuberculosis cutting their life expectancy by 10-20 years when compared to general population.

Coming to the rescue of this hapless and helpless sector, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued for the first time "Guidelines on management of physical health conditions in adults with severe mental disorders" that aims to help health workers to how to lookout and manage co-morbid physical and mental health conditions among such patients.

The majority of these early deaths are due to physical health conditions like diabetes, tuberculosis and cardiovascular diseases. "As the physical health of people with SMD is commonly overlooked, not only by themselves and people around them, but also by health systems, they suffer from crucial physical health disparities and limited access to health services.

"Many lives can be saved by



ensuring that people with SMD receive treatment," the WHO said in a statement here recently while releasing the guidelines recently for managing physical health conditions of such people.

The recommendations have come at a time when India is witnessing sharp increase in mental health disorders. An estimated 150 million people across India are in need of mental health care interventions, both short and long-term, according to India's latest National Mental Health Survey 2015-16. The survey, which was carried out across 12 states, found that the overall prevalence for current mental health morbidity was 10.6 per cent.

The WHO guidelines include recommendations on healthy lifestyle behaviors such as healthier diet, more physical activity and tobacco cessation, psychosocial sup-

Double whammy for people with severe mental disorders

Overall, people with SMD have 1.53 times greater risk of cardiovascular disease and 1.85 times greater risk of death due to cardiovascular disease. People with SMD, particularly those who have had multiple episodes of illness, also have higher rates of diabetes mellitus, with 1.85 times greater risk than the general population

In India, there are just 0.3 psychiatrists, 0.07 psychologists and 0.07 social workers per 100,000 people in India. The ratio of psychiatrists in developed nations is 6.6 per 100,000 and the average number of mental hospitals globally is 0.04 per 100,000 while it's only 0.004 in India

port and considering possible interactions between different medications prescribed for mental and physical health conditions.

"The majority of deaths amongst people with SMD are attributable to physical health conditions, both non-communicable and communicable," said Graham Thornicroft, Chair of the guideline development group and Professor of Community Psychiatry at King's College London, and colleagues wrote in the WHO executive summary.

"Unfortunately, such people often lack access to health services or receive poor quality care, including promotion

and prevention, screening and treatment. It is crucial to address the disparities in health care access and provision for people with such condition," they said.

In India, poor awareness about the symptoms of mental illness, stigma and the lack of mental health services available has led to treatment gap, with insufficient numbers of trained mental health care professionals. The survey by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) found that, depending on the state, between 70 and 92 per cent of those in need of mental health care failed to receive any treatment.

SC to hear plea challenging validity of Article 370 in April

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said that it will hear in April a plea challenging the validity of Article 370 of the Constitution giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir. The court deferred the hearing after Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre sought adjournment on the ground that the current situation is very sensitive.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah said it will hear the matter in the first week of April 2019 seemed to appreciate the concern raised by the Attorney General who said, "The political situation in the state is such that the matter should not be heard at this time."

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi and advocate Shoeb Alam, appearing for Jammu and Kashmir said that a letter has been circulated seeking adjournment due to the ongoing

nine-phase Panchayat polls in the state.

To this, the bench said that it can tag the matter along with a batch of pending petitions challenging Article 35A of the Constitution, under which special rights and privileges are granted to the "permanent residents" of the state.

The suggestion of the bench was opposed by the counsels for the state saying that the two issues are different entirely and the plea should not be tagged along with Article 35A pending petitions. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing in first week of April, 2019.

On April 3, the apex court had said that Article 370 of the Constitution is not a temporary provision. The court had said that in its earlier verdict of 2017 in the SARFESI case, it has been already held that Article 370 was "not a temporary provision".

"The issue concerned is covered by the judgement of this

court in the 2017 SARFAESI matter, where we have held that despite the headnote of Article 370, it is not a temporary provision," the court had said.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by petitioner Kumari Vijayalakshmi Jha, against the Delhi High Court's April 11, 2017 order dismissing the plea seeking a declaration that Article 370 is temporary in nature.

The petitioner had claimed before the high court that Article 370 was a temporary provision that had lapsed with the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in 1957.

The petition had said that the continuance of the temporary provision of Article 370 even after dissolution of Constituent Assembly of J&K, and that of J&K Constitution which has never got the assent of the President of India or Parliament or the government of India, "amounts to fraud on the basic structure of our Constitution".

Ugratara temple idol, valuables looted

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The centuries-old idol of Goddess Tara has gone missing along with other valuables from the famous Shakti shrine Ugratara Temple in Jorpukhuri area here, police said on Friday.

The idol, made of 'astadhata' (eight metals), was found missing when the priest opened the temple door on Friday morning. Other valuables including cash from the donation box was also looted, they said.

The temple authorities informed the Latasil police station, which is located barely 200 metres away from the temple.

According to the CCTV footage of the temple, four persons were seen looting and vandalising the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and taking away the idol.

A massive search operation has been launched to nab the

ACCORDING TO THE CCTV FOOTAGE OF THE TEMPLE, FOUR PERSONS WERE SEEN LOOTING AND VANDALISING THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE TEMPLE AND TAKING AWAY THE IDOL

culprits and investigations have already begun, police said.

The Secretary of the Temple Committee, Kailash Sarmah, said that the idol was in his family for centuries and the authorities must take urgent measures to ensure that it was recovered at the earliest.

He said the idol dated back to 1044 AD and the temple is revered as one of the 51 'Shaktipeeths' in the country.

The present temple was built in 1725 AD during the rule of Ahom King Siva Singh.

Mizoram Govt allocates ₹52.75 cr for poll expenses

PTI ■ AIZAWL

The Mizoram Government has allocated 52.75 crore towards expenses of the November 28 state legislative assembly polls, finance department officials said Friday.

The officials said the finance department has released ₹32.5 crore to the state election department. Of the ₹52.75 crore election budget, ₹37.75 crore will be disbursed to eight district election offices, while ₹4 crore will go to the State election directorate.

The officials said ₹11 crore was the total estimate for expenses to be incurred on deployment of 40 companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), which was regarded as on the higher side.

Mamata blames BJP for destroying institutions

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Continuing her tirade against the BJP-led NDA Government for "taking India towards a political chaos," Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said the saffron Government had ensured that the key institutions of the country were destroyed.

In an apparent bid to catch the bull by its horn the Chief Minister also announced counter-Yatras in the wake of BJP's much publicised Rath Yatras beginning next month. The TMC Yatras will follow the route of the BJP Yatras, she said.

The Narendra Modi Government was tearing down the major institutions like Reserve Bank of India and Central Bureau of Investigation Banerjee said promising to do everything to protect these organizations.

"They (Modi Government) are destroying all the key institutions of the country," Banerjee who had earlier been critical of changing the Planning Commission into Niti Ayog said adding how the Centre was "trying to change the way the RBI and the CBI function."

The ruling outfit (read BJP) that was making "building states' poll agenda will itself become a statue after the coming Lok Sabha elections," Banerjee told a party meeting in Kolkata.

Dropping hints that the Trinamool Congress was planning to take central stage in Delhi post 2019 general elections, Banerjee said the way the BJP was trying to divide the



country and implementing regimes like the National Register for Citizens would force her party to "play a bigger role in the coming days." "We will not tolerate division in the society and persecution of innocent people in the name of NRC," Banerjee said giving a call for "BJP Hatao Desh Bachao (save India by driving away the BJP)".

The Chief Minister who had called a mega rally in January to be held at the historic Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata where she had invited all the anti-BJP parties said "all parties barring a few have confirmed their desire to attend the rally," adding the same will act as the final nail in the BJP's coffin.

Attacking the saffron outfit for reintroducing the age-old tactic of Rath Yatras to polarize the Hindu vote, Banerjee said, "the BJP is organizing the Rath Yatra to divide the people but we will organize similar Yatras which will be called 'Ekta Yatra (Unity Rally)'" on the same route that their Yatra follows.

The Trinamool Congress' Yatra "is aimed at uniting and not dividing the communi-

ties," Banerjee said. Incidentally the CPI(M) which was locked in a battle with the BJP for the second place in the State has also announced rallies following the same path that the BJP's Yatra is like to take.

The BJP is scheduled to take out three Yatras in December. While the first Yatra will start from Ganga Sagar (the southernmost tip of Bengal), the second one will commence from Tarapeeth in Birbhum district. The third Yatra will start from the northernmost district of the State Coochbehar bordering Assam. The BJP's chariots will converge at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on January 23 the birth day of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the party sources said.

Enroute the Yatras will cover several thousand kilometers, during which 60 mass meetings will be held.

Top BJP leaders including party president Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Sarwananda Sonowal and his UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath will address the BJP rallies sources said.

"The Yatras will be taken out against Trinamool Congress' reign of terror, its appeasement policy and its aiding the continuing infiltration through Bangladesh border," BJP State Rahul Sinha said.

However TMC MP and Chief Minister's nephew said the Rath Yatra would in fact be a "luxury tour of the State in air-conditioned vehicles by the BJP leaders."

Ex-Guj CM Vaghela to work against BJP in Lok Sabha polls



PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Demanding to hold the upcoming Lok Sabha polls using ballot papers instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), former Gujarat Chief Minister Shankersinh Vaghela said that he would try his best to ensure BJP's defeat in the 2019 general elections.

"There is need to use ballot papers till the doubts on EVMs in the minds of voters would vanish. A mechanism has to be developed to spread awareness on EVMs and VVPT among the voters across the country," said Vaghela in an interaction with media persons.

On Friday the former Union Minister popularly known as 'Bapu' in political and social circles had organised media get together lunch at his palatial residence on the outskirts of Gandhinagar to mark beginning of Vikram Samvat 2075 (Gujarati New Year).

Vaghela had resigned from Congress in 2017 ahead of assembly polls along with his MLA son Mahendra, relative Balwantsinh Rajput and other

11 MLAs belonging to his camp. In the subsequent development, his son and Rajput joined BJP. However, Mahendra resigned from the saffron brigade in October this year.

Coming down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the strong Kshatriya leader said that Modi failed to keep promises he had given to people ahead of 2014 Lok Sabha polls. He went on to say that Indian voters have decided to defeat NDA.

"I have started efforts to unit anti-BJP political outfits. For the purpose I am visiting across the nation and already visited nine states. My aim would be to create a national level political front to counter BJP," said the veteran politician claiming that even if anti-BJP political party would fight with each other at local level, they would get around 300 seats and form UPA type government at the centre. He gave examples of West Bengal where Mamata Banerjee's political outfit would fight against communist party at local level but BJP wouldn't get anything there.

Shirdi temple head booked for molestation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shirdi police have booked Rajendra Jagtap, head of the Saibaba Temple run by Shirdi Saibaba Sansthan Trust (SSST) for allegedly molesting a woman devotee from Rahata taluka in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar.

Acting on a complaint by a victim woman, the Shirdi police registered an offence against Jagtap under sections 354 (molestation), 323 (Voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation).

Following the victim woman's complaint, Jagtap has absconded from the pilgrim town of Shirdi. "We are looking for Jagtap. He has been missing since yesterday. We hope to find him soon," Investigation Officer attached to the Shirdi town police station B F Maghade said.

The victim woman, who incidentally is a taluka Congress office bearer, said in her complaint that she along with her women friends had gone to Saibaba temple for darshan on Thursday night.

"At that time, Saibaba palanquin procession was on. At around 8.30 pm, the temple official (Jagtap) came close to me and my other friends. He touched and my friends misbehaved with us and threw me out of the temple premises. He threatened me not to be seen on the temple premises once again in future," the complainant said.

The victim woman, in her complaint, also claimed that this was not the first time that Jagtap was misbehaving with women inside the temple.

Goyal faces protests by rail employees

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal faced the ire of railway employees here on Friday over after he refused to accept the demands for restoration of old pension scheme and regularisation of the services of apprentices.

The railway employees raised slogans against the minister and tried to stop his fleet. Goyal's office, however, denied that any such protest took place.

Goyal was the chief guest at a function organised by Northern Railway Men's Union (NRMU) on its 70th anniversary at Railway Stadium here on Friday.

The problem started when Goyal refused to accept the demands raised by general secretary of All-India National Federation of Railway Employees Shiv Gopal Mishra, who demanded restoration of the national pension scheme, regularisation of the services of apprentices and government job for the dependents of railway employees who died during their service.

The Railway Minister, during his address, categorically refused to accept the demands of the employees' union. He said that railway employees' associations sometimes raised demands

which were not acceptable.

The situation went out of hand when Goyal said that Mishra had even incited apprentices against the railway administration and this was not good. "People who have done apprenticeship do not automatically qualify for job in Railways. There is a binding by the court. The court ruling says that equal opportunity should be given to all. Earlier, some people were given jobs but they were asked to leave even after putting in 10 years' of service in the railways," he added.

"We cannot jump the gun and give jobs to apprentices. During training, it was made clear that those who complete the course would not automatically qualify for job. But some leaders have tried to mislead the apprentices," the Railway Minister said.

He said this year the Indian Railway will give 1.25 lakh jobs and it had reserved some percentage of seats for those who had completed apprenticeship from Indian Railway. But they would have to appear in tests, he added.

Hearing this, the employees started raising slogans against the minister, forcing Goyal to cut short his speech. Later, the security personnel escorted him to his vehicle, after which he left for Delhi.

Gaja tramples 13 to death in TN

From Page 1

"Spoke to CM Shri K Palaniswami regarding the situation in the cyclone affected areas of Tamil Nadu. Assured all possible assistance from the Centre in mitigating the situation arising due to cyclone. Asked the HS to monitor the situation & provide all help to the State admin (sic)," Singh tweeted.

Besides loss of lives, 1,471 huts were partially damaged and 216 fully destroyed. A total of 4,987 trees got uprooted in these districts.

Farmers' leader PR Pandian told PTI lakhs of coconut trees, plantain and acres of paddy crop have been seriously affected due to the gusty winds. He demanded adequate compensation for the farmers. State owned Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation's field assets, including 13,025 electricity poles, 13 local distribution transformers, and 1,000 cables were damaged in rain-related incidents.

The heavy rain in districts, including Tiruvarur and Thanjavur, and widespread rain in other parts, has come as a boon to the State which was staring at a rainfall deficit during the monsoon season which commenced on October 1. "Now the deficit stands at 23 per cent. The rainfall ranged between the lowest of 1 cm in several towns to the highest of 17 cm in Tiruvarur district followed by 16 cm in Thanjavur," a Met official said.

According to weather office sources, 6 cm rain was reported in Nagapattinam district which bore the brunt of the storm, while

Cuddalore district reported rainfall between 9 cm and 12 cm.

"The system has now become a depression and has entered land area of neighbouring Kerala through Dindigul and Theni districts," the sources said.

The CM said 216 medical camps have been organised to check spread of epidemics in storm-hit regions. As many as 7,000 electricity poles had been dispatched to vulnerable districts in advance for replacement, he said, adding steps have been taken on a war-footing to restore power supply.

Adequate precautionary measures were taken by authorities to tackle the situation, he said. Power supply has been suspended since Thursday evening in Nagapattinam district. Traffic remains disrupted in most parts of Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts.

A holiday has been declared for educational institutions in regions, including Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts. Revenue Minister RB Udaya Kumar told reporters that the Government has tackled the cyclone situation successfully.

"This was a challenging task...We are confident that we have faced it safely 100 per cent," he said, adding all post-cyclone tasks like cleaning up storm affected areas has begun.

In a rare gesture, DMK president and Opposition leader MK Stalin lauded the State Disaster Management Authority for its efforts to tackle the severe cyclonic storm.

Upset Mungantiwar unwilling to hold alliance talks with Uddhav

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar has said he is upset at Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's criticism of him on tigris Avni's killing, and therefore is not willing to participate in alliance talks with the latter.

Mungantiwar, the state's Forest minister, has been at the centre of attacks from politicians like Thackeray and Union minister Maneka Gandhi as well as animal rights groups for the killing of tigris Avni, allegedly a man-eater, on November 2 in Yavatmal.

Speaking to select media-persons recently, Mungantiwar claimed when he called up Thackeray to convey his disappointment over the latter's remarks, the Sena chief told him that Union minister Maneka Gandhi had asked him to do so.

"I told Uddhav ji I was deeply hurt by his remarks over

the Anvi episode. I did not expect this from him, especially when I considered him a good friend. During the course of the conversation, he told me Maneka ji had called him and a s k e d him to oppose the killing of the tigris," Mungantiwar, who also holds charge of the state Finance portfolio, said.

Mungantiwar further said he was in favour of an alliance with the Sena at a time when nobody else in the party was willing to do so, as they (party colleagues) were irked with the Sena's constant criticism of the BJP and the state government.

"Despite this, he indulged in cheap criticism of the episode. I am no more willing to hold alliance talks with him now," Mungantiwar, who has been instrumental in trying to get the Sena on board for the forthcoming elections, said.

Speaking about the anguish

the Anvi episode had caused him, Mungantiwar said, "I am not active on social media platforms. However, when my daughter showed me the messages posted on Twitter and Facebook, I was deeply upset. People used abusive language against me. I felt upset when I saw my family in distress reading such messages."

When approached for a response, Maneka Gandhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, refused to comment.

Thackeray has been vocal in his criticism of the killing of Avni and had termed the state's government's decision to set up a committee to probe the killing as a "farce".

Thackeray had also said if Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis backed Mungantiwar saying he could not be held responsible for the killing, why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi take credit for the surgical strike, when the PM had not himself conducted it.

Sabarimala...

From Page 1

Later, the new head priest VN Vasudevan Nampoodiri assumed the charges from Unnikrishnan Nampoodiri. The new head priest was administered the sacred hymn by the Thanthri of the temple.

The temple was closed after the evening Puja and will be reopened on Saturday early morning at 3.30 by the new head priest. Vasudevan Nampoodiri began his strict and strenuous regimen for the next one year on Friday evening. He has to stay in the temple premises for the next one year and is not allowed to go out anywhere from the shrine in the deep forests.

Nampoodiri's day begins at 3 am everyday and concludes by 11 pm with the night Puja.

Devotees in large numbers have reached the foothills of Sabarimala by Friday evening. A heavy posse of policemen and women cops have been deployed in and around the shrine. The Kerala Government has taken all precautions to maintain the law and order in the shrine, which witnessed unprecedented protests by devotees as a follow-up to the September 28 SC verdict.

Meanwhile, the TDB disclosed by Friday evening that it would move a stay petition in the SC on Monday asking for time to implement the September 28 verdict of the Constitution Bench that allowed entry of women into the temple.

Andhra, Bengal...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, CBI spokesperson in Delhi, said they have not yet received any such orders and will respond legally to it.

Opposition parties in AP decried the move and asserted the State Government did not have the authority to bar the CBI. The principal opposition YSR Congress alleged the controversial decision was taken only because the Chief Minister was scared of the CBI.

"Chandrababu should explain why he is blocking the CBI from the state," YSRC Political Affairs Committee member Ambati Rambabu said. The ban order was issued at a time when the YSRC requested President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh for a "third party investigation" into the attack on Leader of Opposition Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, he said.

Former Congress MP Undavalli Arun Kumar, a trained lawyer, likened the State

Government order, barring the CBI, to a "tissue paper" and said it would damage AP's image. "The State Government order is not valid. The CBI can take up probe on the directions of the court. Only in matters related to the State does the agency require the Government's permission," he said. CPI State Secretary K Ramakrishna also questioned the State Government's authority in prohibiting the functioning of CBI. BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao also alleged the Chandrababu Government's decision was a "clear malafide exercise of power" to ensure that its "corruption" was not exposed. It showed that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which was in power in the State and had formed an alliance with parties like the Congress to take on the BJP, had many skeletons in its cupboards, he alleged.

"A nervous and completely rattled Naidu is trying to save his Government," Rao told reporters in Delhi.

No clean chit...

From Page 1

"At this stage, we are not inclined to call upon either the Union of India or any other party to submit any response/reply to the said report of the CVC and the only response the court is permitting is that of the petitioner — Alok Kumar Verma..."

Rohatgi said Asthana has been facing a criminal case for complaining against Verma and demanded the report, saying it was Asthana who had filed a complaint against the CBI Director to the Cabinet Secretary, which was subsequently sent to the CVC.

ity of the nation. Why should this report be kept in a sealed cover?" Rohatgi said.

To this, the Bench initially questioned Asthana's move to lodge a complaint with the Cabinet Secretary saying, "Under what authority in law you had filed a complaint to the Cabinet Secretary?"

When Rohatgi said, "That (complaint) I can file", the Bench observed, "Anybody can file a complaint". Senior advocate Fali S Nariman, appearing for Verma, told the court that the CBI Director would file his response to CVC report as soon as possible by November 19 as "the earlier it (issue) is resolved, the better it is".

To this, the Bench told Nariman, "Once we will have

your (Verma) response, we will take a decision".

The Bench told senior lawyer Dushyant Dave, appearing for NGO Common Cause which has filed a separate plea seeking a probe by a special investigation team against CBI officers, that the NGO has not filed a list of policy decisions taken by acting CBI director M Nageswara Rao.

Dave had earlier claimed that despite court's order that Rao would not take policy decisions, the acting CBI Director has taken several such decisions. "We will presume that he (Rao) has not taken any major policy decision because you have not given us list of decisions taken by him," the Bench told Dave, adding that Rao has already filed

in the court a list of decisions taken by him from October 23 till October 26.

When Dave said he would file the list of decisions taken by Rao, the court observed that "it will be open for any party to supplement the said list" and the issue would be considered on the next date of hearing.

The Bench also dealt with the application filed by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and CBI DSP AK Bassi, who has been transferred to Port Blair and said that they would also be considered on November 20. On November 4, Kharge had moved the top court contending that divesting Verma of his statutory powers and functions is "completely illegal and arbitrary".

DIP holds seminar on journalism

New Delhi: For the first time, Directorate of Information and Publicity (DIP) organised a seminar on the theme of Journalism Ethics and Challenges in Digital Era to observe National Press Day at Media Hut on Friday. Several media persons and officials attended the event. Dr Jayadev Sarangi, Secretary (PR) welcoming the participants said, "Social media has lent pace to dissemination of the news and views and also made the space more participative and competitive. I hope that this media will be utilised more responsibly and not for propaganda."



Government of India
Ministry of Textiles

O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
West Block 7, RK Puram. New Delhi-110066

Applications are invited from Awarded Handicrafts Artisans having Pehchan Identity Card for participation in Master Creations 2018 w.e.f. 01-15 December, 2018 at Dilli Haat, INA and International Surajkund Crafts Mela 2019 w.e.f. 01-17 February, 2019 at Surajkund, Faridabad for the year 2018-19.

For the selection of awardees for participation in the above said event, the priority will be as follows:

1. Shilp Guru
2. The National Awardees/N.M.C. those who have not participated in the Master Creations 2017 and International Surajkund Crafts Mela 2018.
3. If the quota fixed for each HSC not covered under 1 or 2, then the same may be filled from State Awardees (not state merit certificate holders) who have not participated in Master Creations 2017 and International Surajkund Crafts Mela 2018.

All the interested awarded handicrafts artisans may submit their willingness to the concerned field Office, before 20.11.2018 from where their Pehchan I. Card has been issued. They may send their willingness directly to Headquarters office but that may be considered only in case of any vacancy left from any region. Artisan with old or duplicate I Card will not be allowed. For more information, visit www.handicrafts.nic.in.

Sr. Assistant Director (MSS)
Phone : 011-26178675
davp 41103/11/0016/1819
Email : mkt-dhc-textiles@gov.in

Fight for survival

Unused to being hemmed in from all sides, the tiger is hitting out with aggression when prodded by human intervention



Yes, the cubs of Avni, the tigress who was hunted in Maharashtra in a state-sanctioned kill, are alive and well. They are being kept in captivity and awaiting rehabilitation in a forest area conducive to their growth. But relocating or translocating them poses an even bigger challenge following recent reports of a tiger kill from Odisha's Satkosia tiger reserve. The National Tiger Control Authority (NTCA), in an attempt to improve tiger density here, had assiduously worked on developing a prey base for years and translocated a male and female

from Kanha and Bandhavgarh respectively, the first inter-state transfer experiment. But the male has died, having fallen to poachers' traps and the female is currently being kept in captivity, fearing attacks by aggressive villagers who have already proclaimed her a man-eater. The Avni killing was just the tip of the new dynamic of the man-animal conflict, one where man is challenging prevailing conservation efforts and legitimising his claim of ownership of the forests, reducing the arc of the wild habitat and throwing it into disarray. The male fell to poachers' traps in the core area, which is anyway constricted, just about capable of sustaining no more than five tigers. Any addition and they could stray into buffer zones. Wildlifers say that Satkosia has 102 villages in both core and buffer zones with 50,000 cattle entering the park every day. They may have begun as encroachers but are now an encashable demographic of settlers. Without making them a stakeholder in conservation efforts of the tiger, keeping them invested as park patrollers and monitors, generating a subsidiary tiger economy that ensures them revenue, incentivising forest produce and enhancing the tiger gene pool that can promote "sighting tourism," the tiger will continue to be their enemy. Though tiger density has increased through sustained efforts from 1972 — and there are still viable tracts of pristine forests that can be turned into reserves by relocating animals from overpopulated stretches — fact is forests are a state subject and an inter-state agreement on shared corridors needs to be ironed out and coordinated if translocation is to succeed. Meanwhile relocation needs are mounting as are funding operations. The entire process cannot be fast-tracked but needs to be graded and spaced out to ensure tigers' acceptance of a new territory as their own household. Apart from peripheral villagers, a new tiger also has to deal with resident cats or in the total absence of its kind, reconcile to being a lone ranger and sync up with other relocated companions.

The tiger is a roamer and can cover long ranges for survival but natural transit corridors connecting forests are vanishing fast due to human encroachment and development. Unused to being hemmed in from all sides, the tiger is hiding out for survival and hitting out with desperate aggression when prodded by human intervention. This is the reason why we are hearing about tigers charging at vehicles and intruders in areas where they have never displayed such behaviour for decades. This mutative behaviour needs to be addressed immediately. And if three tiger cubs straying into rail tracks in Maharashtra were mowed down by a running train in the wee hours, it only shows how wayward they have been forced to become. Agreed that it may not be possible to realign existing roads and rail tracks that cut through forests, but care must be taken to ensure that newer transport corridors skirt the periphery of parks and reserves. Also bypasses, whether as an over or under passes can be created around existing railway tracks to let the animals pass through. World over, park managers have noted that over time, the wild animals re-programme themselves to use these passes, thus preventing accidents and adjusting their migratory routes. One must see the larger picture of evolution. The tiger sits on top of the food chain in the forest and by saving it and giving it a home, we are protecting all sub-species and curating a biosphere that even includes grasslands and rivers.

Decline and fall

The resignation of Ankiv Baisoya as Delhi University's Student Union President highlights the mess student politics in India is in



Many of India's top politicians have emerged from the ranks of student politics. Arun Jaitley and Lalu Prasad Yadav were famously involved in anti-Emergency politics in Delhi and Patna Universities respectively, for example. But as Indian politics has moved down the path of nepotism and extreme positions, only those who have a shrill voice stand out nowadays. At the same time, what is possibly worse is that student politicians are entering the fray only to further their own political careers in the 'senior' league later rather than look after the concerns and problems of students they are ostensibly elected to represent. The problem has been particularly exacerbated in Delhi University where students union leaders rarely belong to campus colleges and are in the main postgraduate students in obscure departments. More often than not, they have not obtained their under-graduate degree from Delhi University, most likely because they were not good enough to get in. Some would obviously do anything to get admission in Delhi University, to pursue politics rather than academics, naturally, and faking a degree is just the tip of the iceberg. It is unlikely that Ankiv Baisoya was the first or will be the last student to forge a marksheet but this was a huge failure both for the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Delhi University. Both should have vetted the candidate's credentials far more carefully than they did. Either that, or they were complicit in the fraud perpetuated.

Given the sheer size of Delhi University, even if one excludes the thousands of students who take correspondence courses, it might be a better idea to divide the students union into two separate entities — one for north campus colleges and for all the others under the south campus umbrella. At the same time, Delhi University as well as other universities must follow the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations to the letter albeit funding limits should be adjusted to account for contemporary times what with social media and online campaigns ruling the roost. In recent students union elections, much like in legislative elections, Whatsapp messages, Facebook and Twitter have become campaign tools but fly under the radar of university authorities. Student politics is important although much like the real thing it has become twisted and a tool for enrichment and a forum for virulence, even violence. Student leaders themselves should realise that the vast majority of the student body in most universities is disillusioned with student politics and many want to do away with the headache of student body elections altogether. This is not a good sign for democracy.

A vessel for success

Given the aim of big data is to find connections and patterns in the vast amount of information collected and then relate it to human behaviour, insights gleaned can lead to innovative ideas



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Knowledge is power and in this age of information technology, big data has become the real power. But how the power of big data is harnessed is crucial. Since the aim of big data is to find connections and patterns in the vast amount of information collected and then relate it to human behaviour, or understanding of complex systems, processes or institutions, insights thus gleaned can lead to innovative ideas and solutions.

One such interesting innovation has been developed in Guizhou, a mountainous province in the southwest of China. Here, big data analytics have been applied in the judiciary to create a 'smart court'. The Judicial Big Data Application Platform provides judges with case assistance, trial assistance and case analysis and has improved the efficiency of the judiciary. The 'judicial intelligent robot', helps to process and analyse the history of case data of courts at all levels and establishes a large database to provide 'intelligent' assistance to the judges. At present, the Guizhou High Court is using this system to make better-informed decisions, say local officials.

But what makes this innovation really novel is its judicial big data public consultation system. Here, the litigants can fill in the details of their case and the system analyses data of similar cases and judgments to guide them even before they come to the courts about their chances of winning or losing their case. This kind of system could be extremely useful for India where about 3.3 crore cases are pending in various courts in the country. According to a Law Ministry data, of all the pending cases, 60 per cent are more than two years old, while 40 per cent are more than five years old. In the Supreme Court, more than 30 per cent of pending cases are more than five years old. This is because the judiciary faces a shortage of over 6,000 judges, including over 5,000 in the lower courts. No wonder there are 2,76,74,499 cases awaiting appeal in the district and subordinate courts. On an average, there are 19 judges per 10 lakh people. A scientific collection of data across all courts and its intelligent use can bring down pendency and deliver speedy justice. At least then, justice delayed will not be justice denied.

Big data has also been leveraged by Guizhou to achieve remarkable economic growth. Once considered industrially backward and poor because of its hilly topography, Guizhou has used big data technology to leapfrog from the fringes to register the third-fastest economic growth among China's 31 provinces in 2016. The number of big data related companies in Guizhou increased from less than 1,000 in 2013 to over 8,900 in 2017 and big data investment into Guizhou was approximately 35.28 billion yuan (\$5.5 billion) this year. Its swanky high rise buildings and high tech infrastructure are a testimony to its upward mobility. In fact, Guizhou's capital city, Guiyang was ranked as the best



performing city in 2016 by the Milken Institute, a not for profit think tank which analysed Guiyang's growth in jobs, wages, gross domestic product, and foreign direct investment.

Guizhou embarked upon its technology overdrive after the Chinese President Xi Jinping underlined big data technology as a priority in 2014. Guizhou has now the second highest data centres in China with over 70,000 servers. At the centre of this boom is the Guian, a newly developed 1,795 square kilometres suburb. Guian, which is just a hour's drive from Guiyang, houses over 200 influential national and international companies. A slew of incentives, including rent-free office space, tax benefits, state support, lower costs and its natural temperate cool weather, have encouraged Apple, Microsoft, Huawei, Hyundai Motor, Tencent, Qualcomm, Dell, IBM and Alibaba to set up data centres here.

India's presence here is in the form of a training academy as a part of a strategic partnership between NIIT and the Guizhou provincial Government to train students, professionals and government employees in big data. Further, NASSCOM has established an IT corridor to facilitate Indian software companies set up office in Guizhou. Zeta-V Technology Solutions, an Indian start-up, has been funded by Guiyang Municipal Government to develop a Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) to connect Indian and Chinese companies.

In addition to creating employment opportunities, big data is contributing to Guizhou's economic growth by increasing

“
THE JUDICIAL BIG DATA APPLICATION PLATFORM PROVIDES JUDGES WITH CASE ANALYSIS AND TRIAL ASSISTANCE. IT HAS IMPROVED THE EFFICIENCY OF THE JUDICIARY
 ”

incomes and alleviation of poverty. State officials say that 6.7 million rural people have been lifted out of poverty over the past five years and the growth rate of disposable household income in the province is the highest in China. This, they say, has been possible by accumulating real time information on the poor population and using it to make targeted interventions. So by using big data, they track populations who are poor, their geographical locations, and their immediate and necessary needs to be able to provide the right support. One such way has been to create e-commerce platforms and use the data to help connect people from different provinces to sell their farm produce or handicrafts online and increase their incomes.

In Guizhou's Anshun city, the Pingba District People's Government and Guizhou E-Commerce Cloud, (the government's commerce department initiative), launched the "E-

commerce Poverty Alleviation District Managers in Action" campaign to help farmers sell their rice to bigger markets outside the district. Big data was used to analyse consumer needs, forecast sales, manage the inventory and, help improve production efficiency. However, it was not just the excellent quality of the various varieties of Pingba rice that boosted sales.

Endorsement of its quality by the local government added extra value leading to the sale of more than 150,000 kilograms online in a period of three months. It is being sold to over 100 cities located in 20 provinces and has boosted the incomes of 191 poor households. Official records state that Guizhou currently has 6,949 e-commerce service stations reaching out to 80 per cent of its towns and villages. In 2017, e-commerce platforms helped rural Guizhou secure sales of agricultural produce to the tune of 15.3 billion yuan (\$2.2 billion).

India too, has recently launched an online platform for its farmers. The National Agriculture Market (eNAM), is a single-window service that integrates agriculture markets or mandis online so that farmers and traders can view all agriculture produce market related information (buying and selling) and services. Farmers can bid for the best price across markets in 21 mandis in eight States. But poor internet connectivity and availability and a lack of understanding of digital media may throw a spanner in the works for rural farmers.

Ensuring connectivity was also a challenge for Guizhou where 92.5 per cent of its land is covered in hills. The

Government's active push to ensure infrastructure has given almost 96 per cent of its villages access to fiber-optic broadband and 4G. Over 200 e-commerce training sessions by Guizhou E-Commerce Cloud, which reached out to over 100,000 people throughout the province, raised awareness of the power of this platform.

Additionally, the Guiyang Big Data Application Demonstration Centre has been instituted to further understanding of big data usages. Also helping to show the practical use of big data is Duocaiobao, a cloud based mobile application developed by Guizhou Colorful Treasure, a web portal of the Guizhou government service network. The app is based on the needs of the people as analysed by big data gathered by the network. Downloaded by 1.33 million people, this app is a handy one stop platform that integrates more than 100 Government services including real estate registrations, social security applications, seeking appointments for marriage registration, birth registration certificate, driving license applications etc. At the same time, it also allows citizens to make payments for water, gas and electricity bills.

One of its most useful features, which should be adapted in India, is for the senior citizens. They no longer need to physically present themselves to get their pension or social security. All s/he needs to do now is use the app to send his/her photograph to the relevant government department and the pension will be transferred to his/her account.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

SOUNDBITE

UN has become guardian of the status quo due to its inaction in the face of global challenges.



India's Permanent Representative to the UN — Syed Akbaruddin

South China Sea does not belong to any one nation. US will continue to sail and fly wherever international law allows



US Vice President — Mike Pence

Most of the time, critics are right about an artist's work because they point out things that s/he is unaware of.



Actor — Amitabh Bachchan

We will constitute an inquiry team to look into the pervasive nature of sexual harassment in AIR stations across India.



NCW chairperson — Rekha Sharma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

True champion

Sir — Though India's ace cueist, Pankaj Advani, in his 33years of age, won his third straight IBSF billiards crown in the 150-up format (defeated Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar), taking his overall tally of world titles to a staggering 20, the media mostly remained silent. Why not? Like country's politics, sports and games coverage also depends upon peoples pulse. As a brilliant sportsman, Pankaj rightly said: "This win is extremely special for me. It's a perfect 20 and I'm glad that I'm still hungry for more. It's pleasing to be able to play at a quality level over the years and looking to take this tally beyond a "score." It is an inspiration to every sport enthusiast out there.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
 Charidabad

I-T collections up

Sir — Delhi saw an all-time 45 per cent high growth in collection of Income Tax leaving Mumbai far behind with a growth rate of just 4.6 per cent. The Income Tax Department should now concentrate on other parts of the country other than Mumbai and Delhi, where income tax collection is less than it should be. Senior officers in different Income Tax circles should be motivated through incentives and proper training so that tax collection witnesses an increased growth rate in every city.

Madhu Agrawal
 Delhi

No short-term solutions to fight pollution

This refers to the editorial, "Gaping hole" (November 16). Indeed it tells us the clear picture of our attitude when we are happy to live in very poor air quality. Bringing back odd-even scheme, banning crackers, banning non-CNG vehicles in NCR are short-term solutions and will not help us in the long run. It's sad that we look at this issue as a seasonal one rather than realising that we face this all year around. The Union Government should bring States like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on the table to discuss this critical issue.

One critical area which really needs a relook is pollution test of the vehicles. To be honest, all certificates issued by the pollution testing outlets are just formalities, as even polluting vehicles are issued certificates as a routine exercise. That practice has to end — random check and audit of these units are non-negotiable. Last but not the least, despite Metro



being the backbone of the National Capital, we still need to go a long way to opt for an eco-friendly mass public transport. Honestly, mere micro-climate management won't take us far enough. It needs to be something beyond that — a more comprehensive action plan.

Yvonne Fernando
 Chennai

Save the rhino

Sir — Recently, China revoked the ban on the use of parts of Rhinoceros and tigers for medicinal purposes. Their horns are used for water purifying purpose and as an aphrodisiac in some parts. Yemen makes daggers out of rhino horns. Rhino poaching has escalated in recent years

with few tribes hunting them down. Interestingly, many former poachers have been roped in as Rhino conservationists in Manas. With their deep insights on the methods used for poaching, they are doing a great job in Rhino conservation. There has been a lot of celebrity endorsement in the conservation of rhinoceros. Indian cricketer, Rohit Sharma, the brand ambassador

for World Wild Life Fund-India Rhino conservation, has expressed his confidence in going all the way to protect the Rhinos. It's time we give something to the Nature instead of just taking from it.

Ganapathi Bhat
 Akola

Grim picture

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Gaping hole" (November 16). Delhi has become storehouse of dreadful gases. The National Capital must improve its public transport system so that people can switch from their private vehicles to public buses.

The ultra-rich class must make economic use of their cars. The other Indian cities must start working on the pollution right from the outset. Delhi's problem can be summarised by this saying, "man now be silent otherwise nature will silence you permanently."

Gourang Narayani
 Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Politics of appeasement

State institutions may believe that a policy of appeasement avoids conflict but in reality it offers nothing more than a brief respite



NADEEM PARACHA

In a recent statement, Shireen Mazari, the Minister of Human Rights, equated her Government's 'agreement' with the agitating leaders of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) to former British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain's "policy of appeasement" towards Nazi Germany. According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, the word 'appease' originated in the 14th century CE and means 'to pacify'. However, the word's political context is entirely a 20th-century construct. According to Frank McDonough's *Neville Chamberlain, Appeasement and the British Road to War*, the word 'appeasement' (in its political context) was first used by Chamberlain's critics to censure his 'peace deal' with German leader, Adolf Hitler. In his 1983 essay for the *Journal of Contemporary History*, Prof Anthony Adamthwaite wrote that the British Government's soft stance towards the increasingly belligerent Nazi regime was explained as a way to avoid another war in Europe. This was the reason given by the British regime even when news about Nazi atrocities against opponents and its expansionist ambitions began to come out of Germany. The perception that Germany had been handed a humiliating deal in 1919 Treaty of Versailles was also used by the British Government to draw support for Chamberlain's policy. Adamthwaite wrote that Chamberlain's Government imposed strict media restrictions to curb newspapers from reporting criticism against Chamberlain's policies, and even news about Nazi expansionism was largely repressed.

In 1938, on his return from Germany, Chamberlain triumphantly waved a piece of paper — "the Munich Agreement" — claiming that this agreement will herald "peace in our time." To critics, this was an act of surrender by an imperial power in front an aggressive fascist foe. On the other end, Hitler saw the agreement as Britain's inability to halt Nazi Germany's territorial ambitions. Hitler thus hastened his plans to invade various European nations and eventually triggered the Second World War in which millions of lives were lost. Adamthwaite wrote that even though Chamberlain's critics had warned that his "policy of appeasement" would only embolden Hitler, he dismissed them as being "pro-war".

In his book, *Strategy and Diplomacy 1870-1945*, British historian, Paul Kennedy, offered a more sympathetic view of Chamberlain's policy. He wrote that there were limited choices at the time for Britain and one of them was appeasement. Britain's economy had suffered during the global economic depression of the 1930s. Despite being an imperial power, the British state and Government(s) were feeling vulnerable. Yet, when in 1940 Winston Churchill was elected Prime Minister, he immediately undid Chamberlain's policies. With some fiery rhetoric and carefully constructed alliances with the opposition Labour Party, the US and the Soviet Union, he managed to militarily hold back the Nazi war machine. Nazi Germany fell in 1945. After the war, appeasement as a policy became anathema to Western states. Its opponents suggested that whereas the idea of holding negotiations is agreeable, appeasement should be divorced from it because it immediately hands over the advantage to the other party.

This sentiment was found not only among the Western post-war leadership. For example, Pakistan's founder, M A Jinnah was conscious of not giving too much leverage to India's religious parties — even those who backed his call for a separate Muslim-majority state. To Jinnah, Islam was something dynamic, democratic and 'modern'. The founders of Pakistan had their own idea of Islam that was rooted in the scholarly works of 'Muslim Modernists'. There was no room in it to appease the idea of an Islamic state held by radical religionists. Even five years after Jinnah's demise, the state of Pakistan unblinkingly crushed the first anti-Ahmediyya movement, headed by religious groups in 1953.

The Ayub Khan regime, too, refused to exhibit any such leniency. Ayub refused to budge when religious parties protested against his Government's take-over of mosques, shrines and seminaries and the introduction of new family laws. The Islamic outfits decried these as being "un-Islamic." Ayub held his ground. The state, till then, was confident and clear about what the founders had stood for. But things in this context began to change after the 1971 East Pakistan debacle. In 1974, while facing a 1953-like situation, ZA Bhutto regime decided to agree to the demands of the agitators. Bhutto believed the state of Pakistan was not strong enough to withstand the consequences of the kind of operation undertaken in 1953. But even though his 'capitulation' in 1974 did manage to avoid what he feared, it turned out to be a short-term respite. Just three years later in 1977, his Government was being attacked by the same forces he had appeased. He tried to appease them again but fell in a reactionary military coup.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT WAS DUE TO THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE CREATED BY NEHRU THAT EVEN A CHAI WALA COULD BECOME INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER.

—CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR



I DARE THE CONGRESS TO MAKE SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE FAMILY ITS CHIEF FOR ME TO BELIEVE NEHRU HAD CREATED A TRUE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

MP poll: Opening for Congress

After an extensive tour of the State, the writers found that neither Narendra Modi nor Rahul Gandhi is likely to play more than a marginal role in influencing the outcome of the Madhya Pradesh election



PARAKALA PRABHAKAR KOTA UMA DEVI

The door is ajar in Madhya Pradesh — for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to exit and the Congress to enter the corridors of power in Bhopal. That is the impression we gathered after travelling about 2,500 kilometres, touching interior areas of all the regions, starting clockwise, from Malwa — both north and south, Madhya Bharath-Bhopal, Chambal-Gwalior, Bundelkhand, Bagelkhand and Mahakoshal between last week of October and the first week of November.

We met farmers, farm labour, young people from both urban and rural areas, government employees, traders, female farm workers as well as home makers, professionals such as doctors and lawyers, small businessmen, advocates, and students in campuses. In the process, inescapably, we also met persons who are affiliated to major political parties. We have chosen not to meet political leaders or opinion makers. We spoke to all these segments in all the regions of the State at length.

The method was not about administering of a questionnaire to generate quantitative data and arrive at percentages of vote share and number or seats of each party. It was about gathering of qualitative data in contradistinction to quantitative data. The method adopted was to conduct a series of rather long conversations with individuals and small groups (not exceeding six members) to understand their socio-economic condition in order to grasp what issues were salient for them and how their life experiences in grappling with those issues was likely to influence their voting choices.

It was to sniff the air, so to speak, and see which way the wind was blowing. The overwhelming sense that our team gathered was that not a single person among those we met was indifferent to the upcoming election. They're fully aware of the power they wield with their participation in it. Polling in this election, therefore, is likely to be on the higher side.

Acute farm distress is evident from the conversations in the countryside. 'Bhavantar', a State Government's scheme to give price support to farmers is unlikely to yield any substantial dividends to the ruling party. Deep resentment against price rise across the State is palpable. Anger against demonetisation is likely to wound the ruling establishment in the forthcoming Assembly elections. Lack of employment opportunities has alienated the youth in both rural and urban areas.

In Malwa especially, the upper castes are decidedly opting to desert the BJP because of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's 2016 'mai ka lal' remark on the SC/ST reservations issue. Many rural women said they would wait for their menfolk and other family members to tell them whom to vote. Or perhaps they did not want to reveal their minds to the strangers from Hyderabad.

Significantly, Hindu-Muslim issues, Ram Mandir, the so-called Rafale and Vyapam scams did not find any resonance with the voters. Professionals did mention about the Narendra Modi Government's attempts to weaken the constitutional institutions.

Words like 'badlaav' and 'parivartan' are spo-

STATE CONGRESS IS ORGANISATIONALLY AN ENFEEBLED ENTITY AS THE PARTY HAS BEEN OUT OF OFFICE FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS. IT IS A DIVIDED HOUSE, UNABLE TO STITCH TOGETHER A NARRATIVE FOR THE STATE OR CONSTITUENCY, REGION SPECIFIC VARIANTS OF THE CAMPAIGN THEME. THE BJP IS AHEAD ON THIS SCORE



ken in high decibels across the State, more prominently in the countryside. People who claimed to have voted for the BJP last time said they wanted to shift to the Congress this time. However, Shivraj Singh Chouhan remains popular. Those who want to vote against the BJP, too, acknowledged his good work. He comes across as a much popular leader and more influential with the voter than Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Madhya Pradesh. However, the possibility of "Shivraj fatigue" neutralising the impact of his popularity and letting farm distress, price rise, unemployment and demonetisation effects to hurt the ruling party cannot be ruled out.

There is still a significant chunk of undecided voters in the State. A good number of them are likely to go along with the tide that becomes evident nearer the polling day. The majority of the BJP voters said they would vote in its favour to reward Chief Minister Chouhan's work and not because of the Prime Minister. Those who preferred the Congress were unconcerned about the Chief Ministerial face of the party. They are prepared to take anyone who the Congress decides as the Chief Minister after the elections.

Karyakartas of the saffron party, who participated in the conversations are assertive about the BJP's winning chances. The Congress workers, on the other hand, are meek and lack confidence about their party's victory. It is the common unattached public who are more emphatic about the Congress' chances of forming the Government.

Those who wanted the BJP to win, do not think that an anti-incumbency could cut so deep as to unseat the party. But they're prepared to accept that the party will return with much reduced strength in the 230-strong House, and the party's candidates will win with reduced majorities in the constituencies. Even strong BJP supporters are not prepared to think that it will be an easy ride this time for the party. Political headwinds are strongly sensed by the BJP sympathisers and its cadre.

The Congress argument, if it has one, is not yet part of the political conversation among voters. Chouhan is at an advantage on this score as his work is known and talked about. Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, as a campaigner, is yet to make an impression in the State.

State Congress is organisationally an enfeeble entity as the party has been out of office for three consecu-

tive terms. It is a divided house, unable to stitch together a narrative for the State or constituency, region specific variants of the campaign theme. The BJP is ahead on this score.

The large number of conversations we had across the State in essence revealed that the Madhya Pradesh election is not a wrestling contest between an incumbent BJP and a challenger Congress.

It is a spectacle of the two contenders with strong political headwinds in the form of anti-incumbency, farm distress, price rise, ill-effects of demonetisation, erosion of upper caste support, unemployment and consequent youth apathy, and, "Shivraj fatigue."

Neither Prime Minister Modi nor Congress president Rahul Gandhi are likely to play more than a marginal role in influencing the outcome of the Madhya Pradesh poll. The Congress, our conversations across the State reveal, stands to benefit from the failure of the BJP to contend with the headwinds. And the headwinds are strong at the moment in the State.

(The authors are Managing Director and Executive Director respectively of RightFOLIO, a Hyderabad based Research and Policy Consultancy)

The Great Game continues...

Though Arihant has happened at the right time, future projections of defence acquisitions and indigenous production need to be scaled up. Our maritime strength is meagre as compared to the Chinese fleet



KK PAUL

Even after over a century and a half, Rudyard Kipling's Great Game continues to be played, only the turf and the players have changed. The target, that is access to and consolidation in Indian Ocean remains the same, of course with different nuances.

In this context, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Maldives to participate in the inauguration of the new presidency is most welcome and a step in the right direction. But coming after over three years of the earlier cancelled visit of 2015, a lot of ground will now have to be covered and without any further time to lose. After all, today, the Indian Ocean is no longer India's ocean.

It is worth recalling that after becoming the number one trading partner of Africa, in its policy statement, China in 2015 had emphasised that it would seize the strategic initiative to effectively secure its overseas interests. Following this, we have seen heavy investments being made by China in our neighbourhood for the development of the Maritime Silk Route along with CPEC.

Simultaneously, development of the ports by China at Djibouti, Gwadar and Hambantota virtually completes a secure triangle around the Arabian Sea and a strategic positioning on the access routes to Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Also, plans of the Chinese to develop Ihavandhoo as a deep sea port on an atoll in the Northern Maldives have since come to light. This location would virtually stand guard on the seven degree channel, the main navigational route from China and South East Asia for Europe and Gulf and carrying about \$18 trillion in the terms of annual trade.



On top of this, very recently an agreement has been signed with Myanmar for construction of a multi-billion dollar port at Kyaukpyu, in the Rakhine state not far from Bangladesh. This Kyaukpyu special economic zone will be ultimately linked by

rail/road to Kunming and provide access to the Bay of Bengal on the same pattern as Gwadar does to the Arabian Sea.

However, the Chinese plan of developing Sonadia into a port was cancelled by Bangladesh in 2017. But now they are showing

their keenness on Payra port. This port in Bangladesh along with Kyaukpyu in Myanmar would be important locations on the proposed Maritime Silk Route. In the given scenario, the great game as of now, seems to be going the Chinese way, as they can claim legitimate access to the Bay of Bengal as also to the Arabian Sea on either of our flanks. All these developments have serious implications for diplomacy in the neighbourhood as well as our navy.

Though Arihant has happened at the right time, future projections of defence acquisitions and indigenous production need to be scaled up. Our maritime strength is meagre as compared to the Chinese fleet. It is a historical fact borne out of the World War II and our own 1971 (INS Khukri was sunk by submarine PNS Hangool) that far more damage to enemy shipping is caused by submarines than any other vessel.

As such a fresh look in our priorities and strategy would be in order. For instance, Japan has estab-

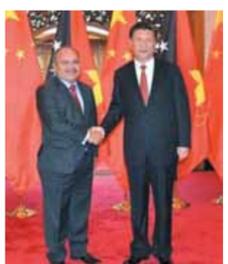
lished a maritime cordon against submarines and deploys almost 200, P-3 Orion and S-2 aircraft patrols for detection of submarines.

Satellite technology is being used these days to track enemy shipping and even the deeply submerged nuclear submarines. It is often said that there is now hardly any place left to hide the naval assets particularly the carriers.

In the given circumstances, it is high time that considering our expertise in space missions, we develop our own satellite based naval surveillance systems and are able to detect the threats well in advance for putting effective counter measures in place.

In the long run, it has to be left to our diplomats and the political executive supported by armed forces to create a strong and favourable geopolitical environment in our neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region.

(The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Uttarakhand Governor)



NEW TREND IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It's not a bad thing if the South Pacific becomes a place where China, Australia and the US seek ways to reduce their strategic doubts about one another. Most importantly, China reaches out to the South Pacific with kindness in pursuit of common interests.

(Global Times editorial)

Myntra, Jabong to merge

Ananth Narayanan stays CEO

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Online fashion retailer Myntra on Friday said it would completely integrate its sister company Jabong, which would continue to operate as a separate brand.

Myntra chief executive officer Ananth Narayanan would lead the Myntra-Jabong team, the company said in a release, dismissing speculations about his exit.

Flipkart had acquired online fashion portal Myntra in 2014 and Myntra had acquired Jabong in 2016.

The company said since Myntra's purchase of Jabong, the two brands had been steadily integrating key business functions and streamlining processes. "As the next step in this process, Myntra and Jabong will now fully integrate all the remaining functions including

technology, marketing, category, revenue, finance and creative teams," it added.

The company said Myntra's independence as a business would be preserved and the team would continue to operate independently. "The closer integration of Myntra and Jabong is a necessary step in our continuing development. By better aligning our resources with our long-term plans, we can put the best structure in place to serve our sellers and brand partners and ultimately benefit our customers," it added.

The development comes just days after the resignation by Flipkart group chief executive officer and co-founder Binny Bansal following a probe into an alleged "serious personal misconduct". Bansal, however, has denied the allegations.

There were also some reports that Narayanan is likely to step down after being asked to report to Flipkart chief executive officer Kalyan Krishnamurthy. Clearing the air over recent

reports, Narayanan told PTI: "I continue to be here and I continue to lead the business".

Narayanan had joined Myntra as the chief executive in 2015, succeeding Myntra co-founder Mukesh Bansal.

Narayanan asserted that while there would be "some redundancies" as a result of the integration of the back-end functions of Myntra and Jabong like technology, marketing, finance and creative, but "it's less than 10 per cent of the overall Myntra and Jabong headcount".

Narayanan, however, declined to quantify the number of people impacted as a result of the integration process or the total headcount.

"The integration process is still on. Our employees are valuable but... reason we are doing it is eventually, this is the best business process to have in the market and serve the customers," he said.

US retail giant Walmart had in August bought 77 per cent stake in Flipkart for USD 16 billion.

All telcos, except Jio, fail Trai's call drop test on select highway, rail routes

New Delhi (PTI): All telecom operators, except Reliance Jio, failed to meet call drop benchmark in drive test conducted by sector regulator Trai on different highway and rail routes, says a report. According to a Trai report published on Thursday, while network performance of telcos differed on highways, none of them, except RJio, could meet call drop benchmark on the three rail routes covered under the test. "Only RJio is meeting quality of service benchmark of drop call rate...", the report said.

According to the quality of service rules, not more than 2 per cent of total calls in a telecom circle on a network should automatically get disconnected. The highways between Asansol to Gaya, Digha to Asansol, Gaya to Danapur, Bengaluru to Murdeshwar, Raipur to Jagdalpur, Dehradun to Nainital, Mount Abu to Jaipur and Sri Nagar to Leh were covered in the test. Railway routes between Allahabad to Gorakhpur, Delhi to Mumbai and Jabalpur to Singrauli were covered.

Either 3G or 2G network of Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and state-run BSNL failed to meet call drop benchmark on four highway routes and all the three rail routes.

Trai also named Tata Teleservices Ltd (TTL) network for not complying with service quality norms on select highways. The report found that TTL, which is in the process of merging mobile business with Airtel, failed to even complete call connection as per benchmark between Bengaluru to Murdeshwar, Dehradun to Nainital and Gaya to Danapur and on the three rail routes. Airtel could not meet call connection rate or call setup success rate (CSSR) on Gaya to Danapur highway and the three rail routes.

Vodafone Idea network could not meet CSSR rate on Raipur to Jagdalpur highway and all the three rail routes. Some of these tests were conducted before completion of their merger.

Mercedes-Benz launches new CLS starting ₹84.7 lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz on Friday launched new CLS model with a starting price of ₹84.7 lakh (ex-showroom, all India).

The third generation CLS is powered by a new two-litre BS VI compliant diesel engine with power of 180 kw, the company said in a statement.

"With the launch of the new CLS 300 d, Mercedes-Benz continues its offensive with its 12th product launched in 2018," Mercedes-Benz India vice-president (sales and marketing) Michael Jopp said.

"We have an exciting line-up for 2019 as well and our product innovations will continue in the coming months," he further said. Jopp said the company is confident that the third gener-



ation CLS would offer "superior luxury and comfort" to its customers and will continue to delight them.

The new CLS has luxury features like Burmester surround sound system, which includes 13 high-performance

speakers precisely tailored to the vehicle interiors providing an acoustic experience, the company added.

The vehicle is also equipped with smartphone integration, which supports android auto and Apple CarPlay, it added.

Govt to unveil new industrial policy soon: DIPP Secy

New Delhi (PTI): The government will soon unveil a new industrial policy which may include a dedicated chapter on the importance of design, a top official said on Friday.

Highlighting the significance of design and innova-

tion in India's economic progress, Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Ramesh Abhishek also extended his "full support" to the setting up of a National Design Centre as early as pos-

sible. "We are also bringing out a new industrial policy soon and we are proposing to include a substantial chapter and paragraphs on the importance of design, and how it should be taken forward," he

said at a CII event here. DIPP, in August last year, floated a draft industrial policy with the aim to create jobs for the next two decades, promote foreign technology transfer and attract USD 100 billion foreign direct invest-

ment (FDI) annually. The proposed policy will completely revamp the Industrial Policy of 1991. Among other things, the policy would endeavour to reduce regulations and bring new industries in focus.

M&M to hike Marazzo price by up to ₹40,000 from Jan

New Delhi (PTI): Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday said it would increase price of its newly-launched multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) Marazzo by ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 from January 1, 2019.

The Marazzo was launched in September with introductory prices starting at ₹9.99 lakh and going up to ₹13.90 lakh, depending on variants. "As mentioned at the launch, the price of Marazzo was an introductory one. Effective January 1, 2019, we will be taking a price hike on the Marazzo, after a reasonable period of four months from its launch," Mahindra and Mahindra chief of sales and marketing (Automotive division) Veejay Ram Nakra said in a statement.

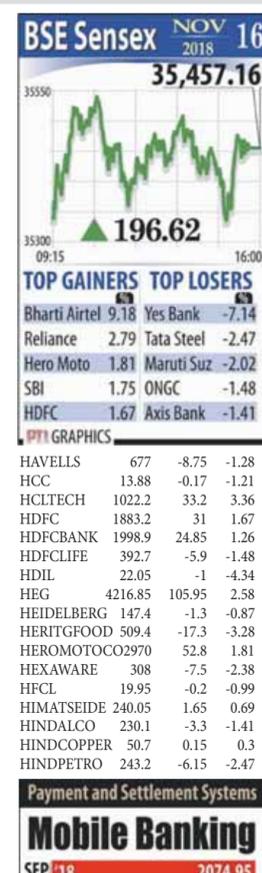
NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10644.00	10695.15	10631.15	10682.20	65.50
BHARTIARTL	302.90	336.80	302.00	332.10	27.70
EICHERMOT	24120.00	24830.00	23925.10	24796.10	850.75
HCLTECH	997.00	1037.80	993.75	1022.00	33.25
BAFINANCE	2342.00	2417.20	2340.00	2413.00	71.70
RELIANCE	1097.95	1129.95	1097.10	1125.00	28.15
GRASIM	816.00	837.70	810.00	829.00	20.30
CIPLA	521.70	534.00	521.10	531.15	12.00
SBIN	285.90	291.80	282.60	291.55	6.15
BAJAJFINSV	5640.00	5730.00	5612.70	5710.00	112.90
TECHM	714.70	732.30	711.00	727.95	13.05
HDFC	1861.00	1892.90	1850.00	1884.05	30.45
INFRATEL	257.80	262.25	256.00	259.40	4.00
ULTRACEMCO	3952.00	3980.00	3911.05	3970.00	57.05
HDFCBANK	1981.00	2013.00	1980.00	2002.80	27.65
HEROMOTOCO	2930.00	2970.00	2925.25	2954.00	31.85
UPL	762.00	774.65	757.85	771.45	7.80
BAJAJ-AUTO	2680.00	2705.90	2673.15	2694.95	26.10
SUNPHARMA	518.40	525.55	514.40	520.05	4.95
ITC	275.80	278.30	275.25	277.00	2.50
TCS	1889.00	1899.80	1870.25	1889.00	16.15
KOTAKBANK	1172.00	1173.00	1152.75	1172.00	9.75
WIPRO	323.50	330.40	323.50	325.60	2.45
ZEE	44.00	45.10	43.50	44.00	2.80
DREDDY	2465.00	2496.80	2442.05	2472.90	11.10
ASIANPAINT	1320.00	1329.80	1313.20	1323.90	5.60
ADANIAPORTS	346.00	351.40	342.00	347.20	1.00
M&M	767.65	776.50	759.75	768.20	1.70
COALINDIA	264.00	265.80	261.30	263.50	0.35
LI	1402.75	1414.00	1391.50	1400.00	1.50
POWERGRID	187.00	190.00	186.20	187.30	0.20
TATAMOTORS	180.90	181.85	177.85	180.25	0.45
NTPC	153.20	155.50	153.00	153.60	-0.20
IRCTC	921.00	928.70	912.70	919.00	-1.80
VEDL	208.00	209.00	205.50	206.80	-0.75
INFY	659.90	662.00	644.20	652.00	-4.40
BPCL	319.60	325.25	315.90	319.50	-2.35
HINDUNILVR	1704.90	1718.00	1683.30	1693.00	-13.05
ICICIBANK	370.10	373.30	365.55	366.95	-3.05
INDUSINDBK	1519.00	1526.00	1486.75	1498.35	-13.80
AXISBANK	626.60	636.70	616.55	617.55	-8.55
GAIL	349.00	350.00	342.75	342.70	-4.85
ONGC	158.00	158.00	152.80	156.00	-2.85
MARUTI	7500.00	7544.05	7302.55	7340.00	-138.30
HINDALCO	232.60	235.45	228.50	229.00	-4.60
IOC	144.60	145.70	141.25	143.25	-3.40
TATASTEEL	590.00	591.00	569.55	574.60	-14.75
HINDPETRO	246.30	251.65	239.10	242.60	-6.50
JSWSTEEL	344.10	344.25	332.00	335.90	-9.10
IBULSHGN	808.40	816.70	755.10	765.00	-39.85
YESBANK	201.75	201.75	187.80	192.50	-13.35

BSE 500

Script	Traded	Last Price	Abs Change	% Change
3MINDIA	20623	-62.45	-0.3	
8KMILES	117.35	5.55	4.96	
AARTIIND	1436.1	-1.25	-0.09	
ABB	1321	28.65	2.22	
ABBOTINDIA	7575	-53.3	-0.7	
ABCAPITAL	113.35	3.2	2.91	
ABFRL	191	1.75	0.92	
ACC	1502.4	-8.65	-0.57	
ADANIAPORTS	346.65	1.35	0.39	
ADANIPOWER	47.4	-1.25	-2.57	
ADANITRANS	214.6	5.2	2.48	
ADVENZYMES	190.6	4.1	2.2	
AEGISLOT	216.75	-5.2	-2.34	
AIANG	1682.95	18.65	1.12	
AJANTHAPHARM	1119.65	36.35	3.36	
AKZOINDIA	1580.15	7.8	0.5	
ALBK	43.25	1	2.37	
ALKEM	1940	-1.95	-0.1	
ALLCARGO	107.9	1.85	1.74	
AMARAJABAT	734.55	-4.35	-0.59	
AMBUJACEM	216.2	-0.9	-0.41	
ANDHRABANK	28.7	0.45	1.59	
ANAPINDS	611.5	-13.3	-2.13	
APLAPOLLO	1288	17.65	1.39	
APLTD	565	-13.8	-2.38	
APOLLOHOSP	1233.95	-31.7	-2.5	
APOLLOTYRE	226.6	-3.2	-1.39	
ARVIND	319	8.55	2.75	
ASAHINDIA	274.8	-2.65	-0.96	
ASHOKA	125.55	0.25	0.2	
ASHOKLEY	105.7	-0.65	-0.61	
ASIANPAINT	1327	14.75	1.12	
ASTRAL	1044	-1.65	-0.16	
ATUL	3540	4.4	1.26	
AUBANK	596.7	12.05	2.06	
AUROPHARMA	780.25	0.05	0.01	
AVANTI	372.5	5.25	1.43	
AXISBANK	616.8	-8.85	-1.41	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2694.95	23.65	0.89	
BAJAJCORP	357.9	1.05	0.29	
BAJAJELEC	502.25	9.45	1.92	
BAJAJFINSV	5684.4	87	1.55	
BAJAJHLONG	3120	158.15	5.34	
BAJFINANCE	2397.15	57.75	2.47	
BALKRISIND	953.15	-10.9	-1.13	
BALMLAWRIE	196.05	-2.1	-1.06	
BALRAMCHIN	109.45	-3.3	-2.93	
BANDHANBANK	476.05	16.05	3.49	
BANKBARODA	115.15	2.15	1.9	
BANKINDIA	88.15	3.85	4.57	
BASF	1525.05	-34.5	-2.21	
BATAINDIA	1004	3.9	0.39	
BAYERCROP	4050	48.25	1.21	
BBTC	1357.15	0.75	0.06	
BEL	93.1	-3.45	-3.57	
BEML	700.4	-24.35	-3.36	
BERGPAINT	317.05	-1.8	-0.56	
BHARATFIN	926.15	-13.55	-1.44	
BHARATFORG	592.4	3.05	0.52	
BHARTIARTL	333.6	29.8	9.81	
BHEL	66.65	-0.15	-0.22	
BIOCON	624.35	-1.95	-0.31	
BIRLACORPN	640	-19.1	-2.9	
BLISSGVS	169.25	0.2	0.12	
BLUEDART	3140	77.3	2.52	
BLUESTARCO	617.5	2.55	0.41	
BOMDYEING	116	-4.1	-3.41	
BOSCHLTD	18790.1	-471.35	-2.47	
BPCL	322.5	1.2	0.35	
BRITANNIA	5945.5	130.8	2.25	
CADILAH	355.5	-4.25	-1.18	
CANBK	263.2	7.45	2.91	
CANFINHOME	265.6	-11.95	-4.31	
CAPP	493.2	-4.7	-0.94	
CAPPL	425.05	-7.3	-1.69	
CARBORUNIV	357.9	4.25	1.2	
CARERATING	1005	-5.55	-0.55	
CAROLIND	150.95	1.1	0.73	
CCL	269.05	-4.2	-1.54	
CEATLTD	1256.25	0.15	0.01	
CENTRALBK	31.1	0.45	1.47	
CENTRUM	42.5	0.55	1.31	
CENTURYPLY	165.75	-1	-0.6	
CENTURYTEX	901.2	-3.55	-0.39	
CERA	2455.8	27.6	1.14	
CGPOWER	36	0.95	2.71	
CHAMBLFERT	44.35	1.8	4.26	
CHENNIPETRO	266.85	-5.15	-1.89	
CHOLAFIN	1253.4	-41.15	-3.18	
CIPLA	530.9	11.9	2.29	

Mobile Banking



May soldiers on amid ongoing Brexit rebellion

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday soldiered on with a rare move of directly addressing the public's questions over their Brexit concerns amid an ongoing rebellion within her own Conservative Party over a controversial European Union (EU) withdrawal agreement. A day after she was hit by a number of ministerial resignations, including Brexit secretary Dominic Raab who stepped down over "fatal flaws" in the divorce deal with the EU, there are reports that his potential replacement may also be pondering stepping down from the Cabinet.

Michael Gove, who is the current environment secretary, was reportedly asked to step in as the new Secretary of State for Exiting the EU but he has been reluctant. "I haven't appointed a new Dexeu (Department for Exiting the European Union) secretary yet and I will be making appointments to the government in due course," May said during her phone-in with London's LBC radio, when asked about the issue. Confronted by some angry callers over allowing the UK to be locked into following EU laws with this agreement, she said, "We are not being locked in, we are taking control of our laws, our borders, leaving the single market and we are ending free



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves Downing Street in London on Friday. AP

movement. These are the things the British people were most concerned about. That is what the people voted for and that is what I am delivering".

"I am doing my job. I am bringing back what I believe to be the best deal for Britain and MPs will then do their job, thinking about the impact of that on their constituents," she added. The 62-year-old premier remains defiant despite the prospect of a no-confidence vote after Jacob Rees-Mogg, a leading Tory Brexiteer, piled on the pressure by submitting a

letter of no-confidence to the chair of the Conservative's influential 1922 Committee on Thursday.

His decision is expected to have led to other Brexiteers to submit similar letters to Graham Brady, the Chair of the committee of backbench Tory MPs. This could mean that a no-confidence vote in May's leadership could be held within days, with party rules dictating that it must be held "as soon as possible" if 15 per cent of the parliamentary party - meaning 48 MPs - submit letters. According to

some reports, such a vote could be held as soon as Monday if the 48-MP mark is crossed on Friday.

At a press conference in Downing Street on Thursday evening, May was asked if she was ready to fight any confidence vote, and she replied, "Am I going to see this through? Yes".

"I believe with every fibre of my being that the course I have set out is the right one for our country and all our people," she said. Meanwhile, the EU has already indicated that it was not willing to re-negotiate another deal and is keen to press ahead with getting the remaining 27 member-states to sign off on the current plan. The biggest sticking point in the over 500-page draft remains over what is termed as a Northern Ireland backstop, which leaves the EU with the option of keeping the whole of the UK within a common Customs Union if a future trading relationship fails to be thrashed out during the transition period, set to run until December 2021.

The current draft is a provisional agreement until both sides can agree on a final pact for their future trading relationship and sets out commitments over citizens' rights after Brexit, the proposed 21-month transition period, and a 39 billion-pound so-called "divorce bill" that the UK

would pay as a price to exit the economic bloc. European Council president Donald Tusk has confirmed November 25 as the date of an emergency summit where the remaining EU members are set to formally approve this deal.

The British premier then faces the tougher prospect of getting British MPs to approve this in Parliament, with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which props up her minority Tory government, threatening to vote down the deal. "Leadership is about taking the right decisions, not the easy ones," May told reporters when asked about this conundrum. Britain had voted in favour of Brexit in a referendum in June 2016, which led to the triggering of Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty to set the clock on the country's formal exit from the 28-member bloc by March 29, 2019.

The controversial withdrawal agreement is the result of months of negotiations on both sides and is crucial for the exit process to be completed within the set time-frame. However, if an orderly exit arrangement cannot be finalised, Britain faces the prospect of crashing out of the EU without any deal, which would open up a whole new set of complications.

'PM Modi-Xi summit in Wuhan removed many misconceptions between India, China'

PTI ■ BEIJING

The Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping has removed several "misconceptions" between the two countries which would enable them to work together on many issues like globalisation, India's envoy here has said. In Wuhan, Modi and Xi spoke to each other for almost 10 hours, which is characterised as a strategic communication by both sides, Ambassador Gautam Bambawale said.

"Both leaders were very keen to have this kind of (informal) meeting. The reason why we did an informal summit was that we wanted the two leaders to talk to each other for the maximum amount of time," he said on the April 27-28 summit. "We removed several misconceptions may have about each other. I think a lot of things bring India and China can do together. There are only few things where we differ with each other," Bambawale told the state-run China Global Television Network on Thursday.

He said both the countries are beneficiaries of multilateralism and India is a votary for globalisation like China. The two countries agree that they are developing countries who are focused on improving the living standards of about 2.4 billion people. "India and China have similar view points on global issues. We both want

to have an open system where multilateral system works," he said, adding that both the countries can work on many issues like globalisation.

He said the issue that divides the two countries is the unresolved boundary question. "But even as we work for the resolution of the boundary problem between us, we have agreed that we will maintain peace and tranquillity at our borders and for the last 30 years we have succeeded in that," he said. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488 km long Line of Actual Control (LAC). While China claims Arunachal Pradesh as Southern Tibet, India asserts that the dispute covered Aksai Chin area which was occupied by China during the 1962 war.

Bambawale is retiring later this month and will be succeeded by India's current Ambassador to Myanmar, Vikram Misri. To a question about Japan and China deciding to undertake a joint project in third countries, Bambawale said New Delhi and Beijing are also trying out such a cooperation and pointed to the recent decision to jointly train Afghan diplomats. "At the Wuhan summit, Xi and Modi have agreed that India and China will do a joint project in Afghanistan. Here is yet another example of two Asian countries working together to help another Asian country. So, I think the future is bright as far as this aspect is concerned," he said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and Papua New Guinea's Governor General Bob Dadae pose for photos before a meeting at Parliament Haus in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on Friday. AP

Lankan Parl disrupted again, adjourned till Monday

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Rival Sri Lankan lawmakers threw chilli powder and furniture at each other and disrupted the proceedings of Parliament for a second day Friday, forcing Speaker Karu Jayasuriya to summon police inside the House and adjourn the session until Monday. The brawl occurred a day after the Speaker announced there is no prime minister or government following a no-confidence motion against disputed prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Friday's proceedings were to repeat the floor test which was disrupted on Thursday. President Maithripala Sirisena, who installed Rajapaksa as prime minister last month in a controversial move, had agreed for a floor test with the leaders of ousted prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's coalition during crisis talks last night.

The MPs supporting Rajapaksa took over the seat of the Speaker, delaying the proceedings, officials said. They shouted slogans against Jayasuriya broke furniture. Some Rajapaksa loyalists were also seen throwing chilli powder at rival legislators and police, Colombo Gazette reported. The Speaker summoned police inside Parliament chamber after 45 minutes of disruption. One of the rioting MPs Arundika Fernando occupied the seat of



Lawmakers supporting disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa hold placards and shout slogans against Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, as they occupy the speaker's seat inside parliament in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Friday. AP

the Speaker with more MPs surrounding it. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, a senior parliamentarian, was injured in the melee.

The rioting United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) members demanded the arrest of two legislators of the Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP). They charged that two UNP legislators, Palitha Thewarapperuma and Ranjan Ramanayake were carrying knives during the brawl which took place yesterday. Yesterday, UPFA MP

Dilum Amunugama was injured in clashes inside the chamber. Police Friday protected Jayasuriya from the rioting MPs as he called the Tamil National Alliance lawmaker MA Sumanthiran to propose the suspension of the standing orders. Jayasuriya on the basis of a voice vote announced that the motion against Rajapaksa was defeated as physical voting could not take place due to the brawl.

The rioting MPs threw books at the police. Jayasuriya immediately suspended the

sittings until November 19 and left the House surrounded by police. President Sirisena said that he would not prorogue the Parliament under any circumstances.

"I urge all parliamentarians to uphold principles of democracy parliamentary traditions at all times. I will not prorogue Parliament under any circumstances," the president tweeted.

The trouble erupted in Parliament on Thursday when the Speaker agreed to a request from ousted premier

Wickremesinghe's UNP that a vote be taken on a statement made by Rajapaksa demanding fresh polls.

Jayasuriya allowed Rajapaksa to make a statement as a lawmaker after stating that he does not recognise the claim of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) leader who lost a no-confidence motion on Wednesday.

Rajapaksa's side has disputed the no-trust motion, saying proper procedure was not followed and accused Jayasuriya of bias towards his own party. Parliament on Wednesday passed the no-confidence motion against Rajapaksa after the Supreme Court overturned the presidential decree to dissolve the House and hold snap polls on January 5.

Amid raucous scenes, Parliament on Wednesday met for the first time since October 26, when Sirisena sacked premier Wickremesinghe, installed Rajapaksa in his place and suspended the House, plunging the island nation into an unprecedented Constitutional crisis. The vote of no confidence against Rajapaksa has further complicated the political crisis. It is not yet clear whether Rajapaksa will resign or whether the ousted Wickremesinghe, who has the support of 122 lawmakers in the 225-member House, will return to power.

Rape case thong triggers consent protests in Ireland

Dublin (AFP): Protests have flared across Ireland this week triggering a viral campaign online after a defence lawyer showed a 17-year-old girl's thong or G-string in court as alleged proof of her consent in a rape case. The outrage has included a female lawmaker brandishing underwear in parliament and women posting pictures of their thongs online with the hashtag #ThisIsNotConsent.

"It might seem embarrassing to show a pair of thongs in this incongruous setting," said member of parliament Ruth Coppinger — pulling the underwear from her sleeve against the objections of the speaker on Tuesday. "But the reason I'm doing it — how do you think a rape victim or a woman feels at the incongruous setting of her underwear being shown in a court?" She was referring to a rape case in the republic's southern city of Cork, where a girl's underwear was shown to jurors. The 27-year-old defendant was acquitted, Irish media reported. "A barrister actually told a jury to 'look at the way she was dressed; that she was 'open to meeting someone' because she was wearing a thong with a laced front", Coppinger added.

"Women in this country are getting a little bit weary at the routine victim-blaming going on in Irish courts."

Assange charged in US: WikiLeaks

Washington: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been charged in the United States, the organisation said, in a development that could have implications for Robert Mueller's probe into alleged Russian meddling in the US presidential election. Prosecutors inadvertently disclosed the existence of a sealed indictment in a court filing in an unrelated case, WikiLeaks said Thursday.



The exact nature of the charges against Assange was not immediately known. "SCOOP: US Department of Justice 'accidentally' reveals existence of sealed charges (or a draft for them) against WikiLeaks' publisher Julian Assange in apparent cut-and-paste error in an unrelated case also at the Eastern District of Virginia," Wikileaks wrote on Twitter. The still-unsealed charges against Assange were revealed by Assistant US Attorney Kellen Dwyer as he made a filing in the unrelated

Washington. But the charging of Assange in the US could have implications for special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into whether Donald Trump's election campaign team colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential vote, and whether Trump tried to obstruct the probe into that.

In July, Mueller charged 12 Russian spies with conspiring to hack Democratic National Committee computers, stealing data from the organisation and publishing those files in an effort to sway the election. One of the indictments referred to WikiLeaks, described as "Organisation 1", as the platform the Russians used to release the stolen emails. US media were alerted late Thursday to the inadvertent disclosure, thanks to a tweet from Seamus Hughes, deputy director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

Toll of missing in Calif wildfire climbs, Trump set to visit

Paradise (US) (AFP): The number of people missing in one of California's deadliest wildfires soared to more than 600 on Thursday as the remains of seven additional victims were found by rescuers. The seven additional victims brings to 63 the number of people who have died in the Camp Fire. Authorities said the list of missing people had jumped from 300 to 631 during the day as investigators went back and reviewed emergency calls made when the so-called Camp Fire in northern California erupted on November 8.

"I want you to understand that the chaos we were dealing with was extraordinary" when the fire broke out, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told journalists, in explaining the staggering new toll of missing. At least three other people have died in southern California in another blaze dubbed the Woolsey Fire,

which engulfed parts of Malibu, destroying the homes of several celebrities. President Donald Trump is set to visit the western state on Saturday to meet with victims of the wildfires, believed to be the deadliest and most destructive in the state's history.

Many of the victims and the hundreds missing in the Camp Fire were elderly people who lived in the Butte County town of Paradise, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

It is believed they were unable to flee the fast-moving blaze or were trapped in their cars as they attempted to escape the inferno. Honea said the number of those missing was likely to fluctuate as people call in to report loved ones unaccounted for or found alive.

"If you look at that list and see your name, or the name of a friend or loved one, please call to let us know," he said.

GLOBE TROTTING

Zayn Malik says he has stopped identifying as a Muslim

London: Pop star Zayn Malik has revealed he no longer considers himself a Muslim because he does not "believe any of it". In an interview with British Vogue, the former One Direction star said while he has a spiritual belief, he does not subscribe to the tenets of Islam. "I don't believe you need to eat a certain meat that's been prayed over a certain way, I don't believe you need to read a prayer in a certain language five times a day, I don't believe any of it. "I just believe if you're a good person, everything is going to go right for you," Zayn said. The singer is the son of British-Pakistani father Yaser, and mother Trisha, who converted to Islam. Zayn said his personal rejection of religion was not a major issue in his house, and that he still finds beauty in world faiths. "I've never spoken publicly about what my religious beliefs are. I'm not professed to be a Muslim. I believe whatever people's religious beliefs are is between them and whoever or whatever they're practising. For me, I have a spiritual belief of there is a god. Do I believe there's a hell? No," he added.



Hugh Grant to join Nicole Kidman in HBO Series 'The Undoing'

Los Angeles: Actor Hugh Grant is set to star opposite Nicole Kidman in the upcoming HBO limited series "The Undoing". The six-episode series is based on Jean Hanff Korelitz's book "You Should Have Known", reported Variety. The story revolves around Grace Sachs (Kidman), who is living the only life she ever wanted for herself. She's a successful therapist, has a devoted husband, Jonathan (Grant), and young son who attends an elite private school in New York City. Overnight a chasm opens in her life: a violent death, a missing husband, and, in the place of a man Grace thought she knew, only a chain of terrible revelations. Left behind in the wake of a spreading and very public disaster, and horrified by the ways in which she has failed to heed her own advice, Grace must dismantle one life and create another for her child and herself. Grant's character of Jonathan is described as an acclaimed pediatric oncologist, devoted husband to Grace and doting father, whose past undergoes scrutiny when he suddenly disappears, leading to a chain of terrible revelations.



People sensitive to caffeine's bitterness drink more coffee: Study

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

People who are more sensitive to coffee's bitter taste actually drink more of the brew, a study suggests. The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, found that the sensitivity is caused by a genetic variant.



"You'd expect that people who are particularly sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine would drink less coffee," said Marilyn Cornelis, assistant professor at Northwestern University in the US. "The opposite results of our study

by caffeine," Cornelis said. "People who have a heightened ability to taste coffee's bitterness — and particularly the distinct bitter flavour of caffeine — learn to associate good things with it," she said. In the study population, people who were more sensitive to caffeine and were drinking a lot of coffee consumed low amounts of tea.

The study also found people sensitive to the bitter flavours of quinine and PROP, a synthetic taste related to the compounds in cru-

ciferous vegetables, avoided coffee.

For alcohol, a higher sensitivity to the bitterness of PROP resulted in lower alcohol consumption, particularly of red wine. "The findings suggest our perception of bitter tastes, informed by our genetics, contributes to the preference for coffee, tea and alcohol," Cornelis said.

Scientists applied Mendelian randomisation, a technique commonly used in disease epidemiology, to test the causal relationship between bitter taste and bev-

erage consumption in more than 400,000 men and women in the UK. The genetic variants linked to caffeine, quinine and PROP perception were previously identified through genome-wide analysis of solution taste-ratings collected from Australian twins.

These genetic variants were then tested for associations with self-reported consumption of coffee, tea and alcohol in the current study. "Taste has been studied for a long time, but we don't know the full mechanics of it," Cornelis said.

'India and China should boost military exchanges'

PTI ■ BEIJING

India and China should boost military exchanges and improve mutual trust and properly manage and control any "disparities", Chinese State Councillor and Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe has said.

Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra, who headed the Indian delegation at the ninth India-China Annual Defence and Security Dialogue here on November 13, called on Wei on Thursday.

At the dialogue, held over a year after the 73-day Doklam military standoff in the Sikkim sector, top defence officials of India and China agreed on the importance of maintaining peace in the border areas while implementing the consensus reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping at the Wuhan summit in April. While meeting with Mitra, Wei said China and India see far more common interests than divergences between each other, stressing that the two countries should boost military exchanges, improve mutual trust in the security field and properly manage and control any "disparities", state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday. Mitra said India's relationship with China



File Photo: Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with China's defence minister, General Wei Fenghe, during a meeting in New Delhi on August 21, 2018.

is one of its most important bilateral relationships, the report said.

He hoped they will further develop relations between the two countries and two militaries. At the dialogue, both sides agreed on enhancing defence exchanges and interactions at different levels between the two militaries, an Indian Embassy press release said here on Thursday.

The dialogue was held between the defence delegations headed by Mitra and Lt General Shao Yuanming, Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Central

Military Commission. At the talks, Mitra was accompanied by senior officials of the ministry of defence and the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

The defence dialogue was held ahead of the 21st round of border talks between the Special Representatives of the two countries in the Chinese city of Dujiangyan on November 23-24. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives for the border talks.

North Korea deports American citizen ... even as it boasts of new weapon

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Friday said it will deport an American citizen it detained for illegal entrance, an apparent concession to the United States that came even as it announced the test of a newly developed but unspecified "ultramodern" weapon that will be seen as a pressuring tactic by Washington. The two whiplash announcements, which seemed aimed at both appeasing and annoying Washington, suggest North Korea wants to keep alive dialogue with the United States even as it struggles to express its frustration at stalled nuclear diplomacy. North Korea in the past has held arrested American citizens for an extended period before high-profile US figures travelled to Pyongyang to secure their freedom.

Last year, American university student Otto Warmbier died days after he was released in a coma from North Korea after 17 months in captivity.

On Friday, the Korean Central News Agency said American national Bruce Byron Lowrance was detained on Oct 16 for illegally entering the country from China.

It said he told investigators that he was under the "manipulation" of the US Central Intelligence Agency. It was not clear if the



In this March 12, 2014, file photo, a North Korean soldier, center top, looks at the southern side as three South Korean soldiers guard at the border village of Panmunjom, which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, South Korea. North Korea said on Friday.

North's spelling of the man's name was correct, and past reports from Pyongyang have contained incorrect spellings.

A short KCNA dispatch said North Korea decided to deport him but did not say why and when.

The North's decision matches its general push for engagement and diplomacy with the United States this year after a string of weapons tests in 2017, and a furious US response, had some fearing war on the Korean Peninsula. In May, North Korea released three American detainees in a

goodwill gesture weeks ahead of leader Kim Jong Un's June 12 summit with President Donald Trump in Singapore.

The three Americans returned home on a flight with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Weeks after the summit, North Korea returned the remains of dozens of presumed US soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. The United States, South Korea and others have previously accused North Korea of using foreign detainees to wrest diplomatic concessions. Some foreigners have said after their release that

their declarations of guilt had been coerced while in North Korean custody.

Warmbier and other previous American detainees in the North were imprisoned over a variety of alleged crimes, including subversion, anti-state activities and spying. Earlier Friday, KCNA said Kim observed the successful test of an unspecified "newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon," though it didn't describe what the weapon was. It didn't appear to be a test of a nuclear device or a long-range missile with the potential to tar-

get the United States. A string of such tests last year pushed always uncomfortable ties on the peninsula to unusually high tension before the North turned to engagement and diplomacy.

Still, any mention of weapons testing could influence the direction of stalled diplomatic efforts spearheaded by Washington and aimed at ridding the North of its nuclear weapons. Experts say the weapon test was likely an expression of anger by North Korea at US-led international sanctions and ongoing small-scale military drills between South Korea and the United States.

It's the first publicly known field inspection of a weapons test by Kim since he observed the testing of the Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile in November of last year, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry. "It's North Korea-style coercive diplomacy. North Korea is saying 'If you don't listen to us, you will face political burdens,'" said analyst Shin Beomchul of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Earlier this month, North Korea's Foreign Ministry warned it could bring back its policy of bolstering its nuclear arsenal if it doesn't receive sanctions relief. Shin said the weapon North Korea tested could be a missile, artillery, an anti-air gun, a drone or other high-tech conventional weapons systems.

Khmer Rouge leaders found guilty of genocide in landmark ruling

AFP ■ PHNOM PENH

Two top leaders of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime were found guilty of genocide on Friday, in a landmark ruling almost 40 years after the fall of a brutal regime that presided over the deaths of a quarter of the population. The Khmer Rouge's former head of state Khieu Samphan, 87, and "Brother Number 2" Nuon Chea, 92, are the two most senior living members of the ultra-Maoist group that seized control of Cambodia from 1975-1979.

The reign of terror led by "Brother Number 1" Pol Pot left some two million Cambodians dead from overwork, starvation and mass executions but Friday's ruling was the first to acknowledge a genocide. The defendants were previously handed life sentences in 2014 over the violent and forced evacuation of Phnom Penh in April 1975. But the judgement at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) also found Nuon Chea guilty of genocide against the ethnic Vietnamese and Cham Muslim minority group, among a litany of other crimes.

"The chamber finds that Nuon Chea exercised ultimate decision-making power with Pol Pot and... therefore finds Nuon Chea is responsible as a superior for all the crimes," presiding judge Nil Nonn said. "This includes the crime of genocide by killing members of Cham ethnic and religious group." Khieu Samphan was also found guilty of genocide against ethnic Vietnamese, though not against the Cham, he added.

Both parties were sentenced to "life in prison", merging the two sentences into a



In this photo released by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Khieu Samphan, left, former Khmer Rouge head of state, stands at the dock in a courtroom during a hearing at the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Friday.

single term, Nil Nonn said. Hundreds of people, including dozens of Cham Muslims and Buddhist monks, were bussed to the tribunal located in the outskirts of Phnom Penh to attend the hearing. The events covered by the verdict span the four years of the Pol Pot regime and include extensive crimes against humanity. "The verdict is essentially the Nuremberg judgement for the ECCC and thus carries very significant weight for Cambodia, international criminal justice, and the annals of history," said David Scheffer, who served as the UN secretary general's special expert on the Khmer Rouge trials from 2012 until last month.

The revolutionaries who tried to recreate Buddhist-majority Cambodia in line with their vision of an agrarian Marxist utopia attempted to abolish class and religious distinctions by force. The verdict read out by Nil Nonn presented a society where minorities

were targeted and killed, Buddhist monks forcibly defrocked and groups of people executed, while men and women were coerced into marriages and forced to have sex to produce children for the regime. The atrocities fell under the additional list of charges, which the two men were found guilty of as well.

Los Sat, a 72-year-old Cham Muslim man who attended the verdict hearing with his wife, said he had lost "too many" family members under the regime. "I am really satisfied with the sentences," he said, beaming as he left the court. "They brought suffering to my relatives." Youk Chhang, head of the Documentation Center of Cambodia — a research organisation that provided the court with evidence — said the verdict will "affirm the collective humanity of the victims and give recognition to the horrible suffering".

"It can provide a sense of closure to a horrible chapter in

Cambodian history," he said. The hybrid court, which uses a mix of Cambodian and international law, was created with UN backing in 2006 to try senior Khmer Rouge leaders. Only three people have been convicted by the court, costing more than USD 300 million. Former Khmer Rouge foreign minister Ieng Sary and his wife died without facing justice, while Pol Pot passed away in 1998. The number of allegations against Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan was so vast the court split the trials into a series of smaller hearings in 2011. Many believe Friday's decision will be the last for the tribunal, which has been marred by allegations of political interference. Prime Minister Hun Sen — himself a former Khmer Rouge cadre — has repeatedly warned he would not allow more investigations to proceed, citing vague threats to stability. Clair Duffy, a senior teaching fellow at Australia's Bond University who monitored the tribunal for years, said the court's "excessively high" bill compared to other tribunals was due to "persistent political barriers to justice erected by the Hun Sen government".

The court has launched investigations into four more Khmer Rouge cadres, though one was dismissed in February 2017, highlighting the difficulties of bringing lower level members of the brutal regime to justice.

Craig Etcheson, who previously served as an investigator in the tribunal, said that despite the "expensive, slow, complex" process of the tribunal, the ECCC has provided some form of symbolic justice to the victims. "It is not enough, perhaps, but some justice is better than no justice," he said.

'UN member states guardians of status quo, need for rejuvenating, revitalising UNGA'

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN member states have become "guardians of the status quo" due to their inaction and inertia in the face of stark global challenges like terrorism and climate change, India has said, calling on the international community to catalyse its efforts to rejuvenate the world body as it is set to complete 75 years of existence.

Participating in the UN General Assembly debate on 'Revitalisation of the Work of the General Assembly', India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said that despite being faced with such challenges, UN member states have tended to "muddle along, holding meetings, taking some minor stabs at enhancing international cooperation at the margins, becoming guardians of the status quo. "Today, there is

a proliferation of new transnational threats such as terrorism requiring comprehensive cooperation, accelerating technological change requiring broad norm setting, and worsening environmental degradation requiring immediate climate action. Our challenges have become stark," Akbaruddin said here Thursday.

"Our inertia is considerable, even when it is clear that collective action is required. We steer clear from action, pleading consensus is required for change," he said. Akbaruddin called for nations to acknowledge that their collective record as the General Assembly is mixed. "Just as generals too often refigure their last war, we diplomats are struggling to overcome our legacy issues, even as the variety and intricacy of new demands for international cooperation has

expanded," he said.

Given that the world is awash with new challenges, Akbaruddin said the 75th anniversary of the UN, to be marked in less than two years, is an appropriate opportunity for all nations to catalyse their efforts to rejuvenate and revitalise. The agenda for such revitalisation needs to be broad and inclusive, as well as transformative and imbued with the objective of breathing new life. "...To effectively make a difference, we need to undertake a new journey. A journey which needs to begin soon. The General Assembly, with its universal membership, can be a precious asset in this effort for change," he said. Noting that the principal purpose of the General Assembly is not to usurp the role of sovereign states, Akbaruddin said other global institution can match its repre-

sentative character and the credibility that it derives from such representativeness.

"Decision-making in the General Assembly is not a threat to sovereignty.

It is an expression of sovereign equality and opportunity for all to influence global problem-solving," he said. Emphasizing that proliferating global problems demand new narratives, the Indian envoy said if the General Assembly is not delivering all that is wanted, the solution is not to give up on it. "Rather, we must make it deliver results for today," he said. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, Akbaruddin said people reap what they sow, Akbaruddin said the revitalization agenda is a challenge for diplomacy but it is a challenge worth taking up, "if we want to maximise the prospects for a peaceful & prosperous 21st century".

Japan PM Abe lays wreath in Australian city bombed in WWII

Sydney (AP): Shinzo Abe became the first prime minister of Japan to visit Darwin since the northern Australian city was bombed by Japanese forces in World War II, as he and his Australian counterpart spoke Friday of strengthening defence and other ties between their countries.

Abe's one-night stay was described by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison as a deeply symbolic one. It was also another chance for Japan and Australia to present a united front as regional partners in the Asia-Pacific amid ongoing concerns of spreading Chinese influence, including the country's building of islands in the disputed South China Sea. "Australia and Japan also stand



united on the importance of resolving disputes in the South China Sea, peacefully and in accordance with international law, and we are strongly opposed to any actions that could increase tensions within the region," Morrison said, reading from a prepared statement after meeting Abe. He added that a

"stable and secure regional maritime ... order is central to both Australia and Japan's visions for the region, and is underpinned by respect for international law."

Morrison also said he looked forward to increased cooperation with Japan to support regional maritime safety and security.

The leaders said they hope to conclude early next year an agreement on increased defence links, including more joint military exercises. Abe said Japan and Australia would promote cooperation to strengthen the rule of law at sea. They also agreed to promote cooperation in providing building assistance for maritime security-related projects in Southeast Asian and Pacific island nations.

Satyarthi calls on Pope; seeks support for law against child abuse

Vatican City (PTI): Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on Friday called on Pope Francis and sought his support for a new legally binding international law against growing digital and online forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse cases. The extraterritorial jurisdiction for the proposed law is absolutely essential as online crimes transcend across borders, Satyarthi said during his meeting with the head of the Catholic church here. The Nobel laureate is meeting all stakeholders irrespective of caste, creed, religion, ethnicity, political affinity and nationality to garner support for the movement.

Satyarthi, who has been demanding for a new convention, has written to all the heads of states. This request has also been submitted to the UN Secretary General and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, an intergovernmental economic organisation with 36 member countries. The meeting between Satyarthi and the Pope took place in the backdrop of him summoning the Presidents of Catholic Bishops worldwide to the Vatican in February 2019 to discuss ways to protect children and prevent sexual abuse by priests. The Pope's response was that the meeting would definitely be a "practical meeting and come out with practical solutions", Satyarthi quoted the Pope as saying. Satyarthi also sought the support of the Pope for his ongoing global efforts to end child trafficking, slavery and all forms of violence against children to ensure peace, freedom, safety, health and education for them.



Marvin Ochoa, center, of Honduras, waits in line for a meal behind his wife Diana Marylin Ochoa after they arrived with a Central America migrant caravan to Tijuana, Mexico on Thursday. Members of the migrant caravan started to meet some local resistance as they continued to arrive by the hundreds in the Mexican border city of Tijuana, where a group of residents clashed with migrants camped out by the U.S. border fence.

FB says it's better at detecting rule violations

New York (AP): Facebook said it's making progress on detecting hate speech, graphic violence and other violations of its rules, even before users see and report them. Facebook said that during the April-to-September period, it doubled the amount of hate speech it detected proactively, compared with the previous six months.

The findings were spelled out Thursday in Facebook's second semiannual report on enforcing community standards. The reports come as Facebook grapples with challenge after challenge, ranging from fake news to Facebook's role in elections interference, hate speech and incitement to violence in the US, Myanmar, India and elsewhere. The company also said it disabled more than 1.5 billion fake accounts in the latest six-month period, compared with 1.3 billion during the previous six months.

Facebook said most of the fake accounts it found were financially motivated, rather than aimed at misinformation. The company has nearly 2.3 billion users.

Facebook's report comes a day after The New York Times published an extensive report on how Facebook deals with crisis after crisis over the past two years. The Times described Facebook's strategy as "delay, deny and deflect." Facebook said Thursday it has cut ties with a Washington public relations firm, Definers, which the Times said Facebook hired to discredit opponents. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said

during a call with reporters that he learned about the company's relationship with Definers only when he read the Times report.

On community guidelines, Facebook also released metrics on issues such as child nudity and sexual exploitation, terrorist propaganda, bullying and spam. While it is disclosing how many violations it is catching, the company said it can't always reliably measure how prevalent these things are on Facebook overall. For instance, while Facebook took action on 2 million instances of bullying in the July-September period, this does not mean there were only 2 million instances of bullying during this time. Clifford Lampe, a

professor of information at the University of Michigan, said it's difficult for people to agree on what constitutes bullying or hate speech — so that makes it difficult, if not impossible, to teach artificial intelligence systems how to detect them. Overall, though, Lampe said Facebook is making progress on rooting out hate, fake accounts and other objectionable content, but added that it could be doing more. "Some of this is tempered by (the fact that) they are a publicly traded company," he said.

"Their primary mission isn't to be good for society. It's to make money. There are business concerns." Facebook also plans to set up an independent body by next year for people to appeal decisions to remove — or leave up — posts that may violate its rules. Appeals are currently handled internally.

ENCOUNTER 60 MINUTES

As Boundless as India

GAURAV BHATIA, managing director Sotheby, walks SAIMI SATTAR through the organisation's inaugural auction of some artworks including a Tyeb Mehta and Amrita Shergill that are up for public viewing for the first time

The translucent paper still covers the huge 149.5 x 105 cm piece which rests against the wall as it is yet to be hung up. People hover around as "the pièce de résistance" as Gaurav Bhatia, managing director, India, Sotheby's describes Tyeb Mehta's *Durga Mahisasura Mardini* (1993), is to be unveiled. He emphasises, "You are officially the first Indian journalist to see this."

He then embarks on the story behind the painting. "A Muslim, the cosmopolitan ethos of Bombay (now Mumbai), where he settled down, really appealed to the artist who was born in Kapadwanj, a small town in Gujarat. But his faith was rudely shaken when during the 1992-93 post Babri Masjid demolition riots, he received threats on account of his religion. He left for Santiniketan to escape this madness. In the heat of the moment, when all this political upheaval was happening, he was asked to make a painting and he created a strong political statement with this," says Gaurav gesturing towards the painting. It reveals a blue backdrop and there are just three more colours — saffron, white and green — and when the idea hits you in all its force, it makes for a goosebumps moment. "It is interesting to note that Tyeb, a Muslim, painted a Hindu Goddess for the first time and that too in colours of the Indian flag to reiterate what the country was about," emphasises Gaurav. The work is painted with an economy of lines and is deeply symbolic as Goddess Durga represents enlightenment and hope over darkness and ignorance.

"It is a positive painting where a large part is painted blue like the Ashoka chakra but the colour also stands for hope and renewal. It is definitely more relevant today," says Gaurav, who has his roots in Lucknow and takes pride in the Ganga Jamuni *tehzeeb* with its intermingling of cultures, religion, food and language.

He goes on to recount how he chanced upon this piece that has not been displayed by any gallery in India till date. "I had gone to my father's friend's place for a drink along with my wife in December 2016. He has an impressive art collection, most of which is displayed on the ground floor of his house. As we took the stairs for the first floor, I saw this painting on a wall. When I was leaving, he told me that if I ever wanted anything, all I had to do was ask. My prompt reply was, 'The Tyeb Mehta'. It's another story that my wife chided me later for saying so. But within two days he called up and agreed to sell it. It was timely as we had just started putting Boundless:India, Sotheby's inaugural auction in the country," he says. The painting is a part of the display at the Bikaner House and will feature in the auction which will take place at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai on November 29. He says, "The artworks



are a visual commentary on South Asia that narrate the story of the richness and sophistication of art and design from the Indian Subcontinent. The 50 artworks including paintings, sculpture, photography and design are made in and inspired by the Indian subcontinent. Interestingly, except for two, none of the works have ever been displayed to the public."

Gaurav says that there is a reason Sotheby, a brand which was established in 1742, decided to set up office in India two years back. "We have the first records in 1930s of an Indian transacting with Sotheby's when the Maharaja of Darbhanga bought Marie Antoinette's jewels in London. So Indians have been doing business with Sotheby's for almost a hundred years. What further prompted the move was in the last five years we recorded that South Asians, which is largely Indians, had done transactions worth over \$250 million across all categories including Impressionist art, Western art, jewellery watches and cars with us," he says.

He also points out that while the artworks that Indians gravitated towards were mostly from the home

country a few clients have even started buying Monets and Picassos. "Maybe not in terms of volume but in value, these are big. The numbers picking these works are small due to a mix of prohibitive pricing as well as taste," he adds.

But coming back to the auction, he says, "The ethos of the sale is India's boundless treasures. We curated this over two years so we literally had the cream of the crop. We selected 50 works which are super clean and each piece represents a visual vocabulary as well as the sophistication and elegance of India." So, there are works by artist based in the country and even those outside it. He flips through the catalogue and points to an image *Blue City, Jodhpur* by Steve McCurry which was clicked in 2010. The intensity of the colour reminds one of his other iconic work *Afghan Girl* which featured Sharbat Gula. The other one called *Taj Mahal and Train, Agra, 1983* too is up at the auction. The list of famous international artists don't end there. There is also Henri Cartier Bresson's stunning black and white image, *Srinagar, Kashmir 1948*. But perhaps it is the Brazilian Sebastiao Salgado's

Churchgate Station, Western Railroad Line, Bombay, India 1955 which best showcases an outsider's view of India with its crowd, din and flurry of movement.

Gaurav recounts interesting tales behind some of the art. An early work of Amrita Shergill *Girl in Blue* where she painted her cousin Babeet Kaur in 1934 is mounted on one wall. "Amrita's mother said it wasn't good. Babeet's mother too didn't like it as she thought her daughter had been painted a bit too dark. Amrita kept it away and displayed the painting at her first show at Falletti's Hotel in Lahore. It was bought by Charles Fabri, a historian with whom Shergill is rumored to have had an affair and was in his family for the last 80 years. This work is important because just after this she painted her very famous, *Three Girls*. Stylistically the movement and fluidity in both the works is same," he says.

But interestingly, the story does not end there. When Sotheby's acquired the painting six months ago, it was published in an English newspaper. What happened after that is what history is made of. "Sotheby's got a call from a lady saying that the

girl in the painting was her mother-in-law who was 94 years old and lived in Delhi," says Gaurav. Needless to say Babeet Kaur attended the preview at Bikaner House yesterday.

There is also Francis Newton Souza's *Untitled (St Paul's Cathedral)* 1961, a piece in blue, white and black that makes use of his slashing technique to perfection. "When you look at the painting, it is beautiful but a closer look reveals a lot of violence. The artist grew up in Goa with strict Catholic parents and he almost started rebelling against the church as they put too much emphasis on religion," explains Gaurav.

Moving from the master, in the contemporary oeuvre, Gaurav gestures at a work by Arpita Singh who is considered one of the most important female artists of India. "This extraordinary work, *Men Sitting, Men Standing* is a political statement on the political chair revolving only among them," he says.

One cannot miss out on another contemporary artist Bharti Kher and Priti Paul's *Belladonna*, an installation which features a dressing table with lipsticks, shoes and a sari — all made in steel. "This too is a political statement about women's perception of themselves in the society. Is it just make up, hair, shoes and sari or her outward appearance that make for a woman's identity or is there more to her?" explains Gaurav.

The exhibition also has a lot of sculptures as this was an important art form even before the written word existed in India. "A terracotta head done by G Ravinder Reddy is important because he usually makes these in metallic gold. It is the first time that he worked in this medium."

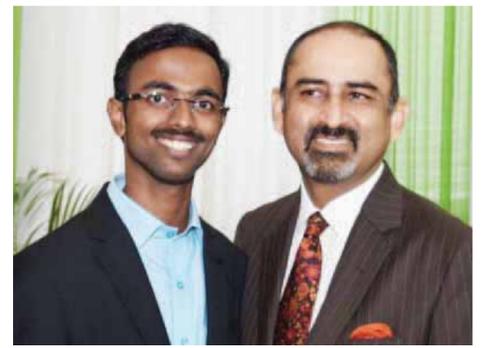
Another striking sculpture is Prodhos Das Gupta's *Egg Bird* (1975). "It's sophisticated and refined where the bird is protecting her egg and nurturing it like a mother," says Gaurav who earlier worked with LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

But what really caught the attention was an interesting series of 20 photographs by Nandini Valli Muthiah which show Vishnu on earth for a day. So he can be seen riding a Cadillac to a wedding, visiting a house where he is treated as a god, going to a bar and finally reaching his hotel room where he can be seen disillusioned with what is going on on earth.

There are works by other artists like Bhupen Karkar's water colours, Gulam Rasool Santosh's take on Tantra, Krishna Reddy's print called *Whirlpool*, the Aligarh artist Zareena Hashmi's works which question the idea of home and displacement, A Bala's glamorous thumb print as well as a series of photographs by Madan Mahatta. The immersive walk certainly encompasses what can be called some of the best representation of art that looks at India.

The show is on till 1 pm on November 17.

GALLERIA 10 MINUTES



A new life

SANJAY KANDASAMY had a liver transplant when he was 18-months-old. Today, he is a healthy medical student who also aims to donate organs one day

Now 21, Sanjay Kandasamy was just 18 months old when his father had to donate a part of his liver to him in November 1998.

In doing so, Sanjay and his doctors created history in the annals of Indian medicine as the country's first successful liver transplant surgery, Indraprastha Apollo hospitals said in statement.

Not only has Sanjay done exceedingly well, without having any other complications since the transplant, he is now training to be a doctor himself. Since it has been more than 20 years that the transplant took place, he explained how the difficulty level of such surgeries have changed.

He said, "At that time, my father donated his organ otherwise it wouldn't have been that easy." Being a medical student himself, he added, "Today, the situation has changed due to a better availability of resources, technology, doctors and even donors, which have risen in numbers. The information has spread much more easily today."

On the 20th anniversary of the operation that changed the face of medical sciences in India, the hospital showcased the evolution that liver transplants have gone through over the last two decades.

Dr. Preetha Reddy, vice chairperson of the Apollo Hospitals Group, said liver disease is a major cause for concern in the country with as many as two lakh people dying from it every year. While around 1,800 liver transplants are done annually, as many as 20,000 people need a liver transplant at any given point.

"The fact is around 10 lakh people are diagnosed with liver disease every year, making it the 10th most-common cause of death in India as per the WHO. While India has come a long way since the first operation, there is still a huge

gap to be filled," Dr Reddy said. Ace Indian cricketer, Gautam Gambhir, a long-time proponent of organ donation was also present on the occasion.

"Every three minutes a person gets added to the list who needs a transplant. Today, over two lakh Indians are on the list while less than 10 per cent get a transplant. We have to work as a nation to increase our organ donation rate. I have pledged my organs in 2011 and encourage the youth to raise awareness on organ donation and become donors themselves. This needs to become a national movement," he said.

Apollo Hospitals' Group medical director and senior pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr Anupam Sibal, said that over the last 20 years the Apollo Institutes of Transplant has performed more than 3,200 liver transplants in patients from over 50 countries of which 302 have been children.

"While there is still lack in infrastructure for life-saving organ donations and transplants, the numbers in the country are showing some improvement in the country. Out of 301 hospitals equipped to handle the process, 250 have registered with National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), showing that in order to conduct an organ transplant, there exists one fully equipped hospital for around 43 lakh people," Dr Sibal said.

Sanjay, who is currently pursuing his medical studies at the SriLakshmi Narayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Pondicherry, has been on immuno suppressant medication for 15 to 16 years. He aspires to be a blood donor himself. However, his suppressants medication wouldn't allow him to donate. "I want to be a donor, but unfortunately I can't donate," said Sanjay. (With inputs from agency)

TALKING POINT 10 MINUTES

The dwindling numbers

Wildlife filmmaker JONATHAN KEELING tells ASMITA SARKAR about his adventures and the impact of documentaries

In the tussle between man and the wild, animals have drawn the short straw. With land encroachments in every part of the world, wildlife population is estimated to decline by two-third till 2020. We have already lost 60 per cent of the wildlife, according to a report.

People are aware of climate change, of plastics' harmful effects but not enough about wildlife loss, according to Jonathan Keeling, consulting executive producer of BBC's *Planet Earth II*. His work has taken him to each of the seven continents and his next, *Seven Worlds* will show the challenges that wildlife is facing. Most of his shows are on view on Sony BBC Earth in India.

The show is partially shot in Mumbai, which is a city of 20 million people and also has the densest population of leopards anywhere in the world. "It is a unique situation. No jungle, no other place but Mumbai has the most concentrated number of leopards," said he.

To shoot the sequence, they used cameras that didn't need

lights at night. Technology has advanced enough that miniature cameras, that can be mounted on animals, drones and buggies are used. The storytelling technique has also changed so that it's emotional and dramatic, with a protagonist and an antagonist, which is what is pulling younger crowds, he believes.

"Last year, when *Blue Planet II* released, it had the highest viewing numbers in the UK and soon banning plastics was on the agenda for the parliament and companies. People on the streets were talking about how plastic was damaging the marine life," he said, adding that the younger generation is now interested in watching documentaries as much as sports events or pop reality shows, which he also enjoys watching.

During his travels, he's closely observed how human encroachment is affecting animals and their behaviour. So, while conservation has become a hot topic in this space so is showing the new species and old with their behaviour.

"How a monkey would behave with you depends on if it's being fed," jokes Jonathan. "Some run and hide, some are more relaxed with people. If you



go to a temple, there are monkeys but they have seen humans for hundreds of years and their behaviour is calm. There are places where animals encountered people but are much more shy. In Papua New Guinea, my team looked for a new species in a volcanic crater in a jun-

gle, which hasn't been explored in 60,000 years. Local people haven't gone there since it is a sacred place. I picked a Tree Kangaroo off a branch and held it and it was just relaxed. We picked up a Cuscus, looked at it and put it back. It wasn't bothered. We also found the world's biggest rodent, the Bosavi rat, which was the highlight for me. And, it was super relaxed. It is a complex relationship," he said.

As more urban centres come up and humans move into animal landscape and dominate that with buildings and roads, it's hugely transformed which is true for large parts of Europe and Asia. In such situations, wildlife corridors are important which make space for animals is important. "Forty years ago we made the first global wildlife documentary called *Life on Earth*. Since that time we lost somewhere close to 2/3 of the population of big animals. We are the first generation that has been able to observe the impact through satellites and also on the ground. Previous generations weren't aware but now we are. It's time to do something," he said.

They have also been able to reach a Chinese audience now which translates to around 250 million people and the global scope, age group and sheer numbers have a really big impact.

While politicians debate globally if climate change is real or not and it's impacts — the North and South Pole are melting. And Jonathan wonders if the penguin population can adapt quickly enough for it to survive through this man made crisis.

THE CELLAR 15 MINUTES

CHILLED NOT STIRRED

ELENA BORTOLETTO of Donnafugata talks about new markets in Asia. By A SARKAR

One of the primary cultures that Indian students and young professionals who live abroad bring back with them is their love of fine wine. While everyone loves food made by their mother, quality wines and spirits they have had are sought out on their return to India as well. And in the third largest liquor market of the world, where every year almost 20 million people enter legal drinking age, it is the young that a Sicilian wine brand is vying for.

It is my dream that we serve Sicilian wine with Indian food. It is a misconception that Italian wine can only be paired with food from the region," says Elena Bortoletto, export manager, Donnafugata.

It doesn't hurt that the 1983 origin company comes with an interesting history that involves runaway queens. The name Donnafugata translates to fugitive woman or the woman who fled. The town has a castle with the same name. And one of the legends say that it refers to Queen Blanche of Navarre, widow of King Martin I of Aragon. The labels on the bottles are a work of art by the famed Stefano Vitale, who had designed the cover for Paolo Coelho's *The Alchemist*.

It seems just like the drink, families that run wineries also get finer with each generation. The fifth-generation run family business has fresh and fruit wines that are accessible but premium and make for easy drinking. The bottles, which come with instructions, tell



clearly that the white wine goes better with fruits and cheese while the red is meant for meat. The Anthilia made with peach and pear scents, is crisp and soft on the palate and is better served with fish or vegetables while the Sedara has a balance of red fruits and spicy flavours.

To ensure the wine quality, they harvest grapes by handpicking them for their Chardonnay, for which the fruits ripen the earliest. At their vineyard in the town of Ragusa they are harvested by night, when the temperatures are as low as 18-20 degree Celsius instead of the peak of 45 degree Celsius in the day. No chemical fertiliser or pesticides go into the grapes. Their focus has been on sustainability as well since harvesting at night saves electricity needed to cool down the fruit if it is picked during the day.

Bortoletto adds that the market in Asia is opening to wine while it was earlier dominated by spirits.

China has wine bars in Shanghai and Beijing and with the opening of Wine & Spirit Education Trust, awareness has been percolating into the urban people. She also added that tourism to Italy has been the key to a growth in their market.

While an entry level wine is placed around ₹700-1500, the Donnafugata is priced more than ₹3300, which is definitely not an accessible mark for the upward moving Indian. It has already made inroads into key metros in the country and has been placed at well-known places like the Indian Accent. But they agree that to reach a new market of amateur wine drinkers, dinners and workshops that lets one experience the wine and how it should be had is the key.

However, they are in no hurry to see results since the normal turnaround time to see profits is five years. During that time, they hope to triple their sales.

SHORT CIRCUITS



AMITABH BACHCHAN

Every time my father wrote a poem, we were the first he would introduce it to. He'd ask us to read it in the same graph and tone with which he had written and I felt that it was extremely important and has affected my work as a professional actor. Writers are the most important ingredient in filmmaking.



RAJKUMMAR RAO

Stree is a very unique movie and is backed with a strong social message. The film garnered immense love as it delivers shocks and laughs equally. Horror-comic genre is not very common in Indian cinema and it feels amazing to be a part. During the film shoot, I learned sewing, stitching and a new accent. The experience was enthralling.



VARUN SHARMA

Due to harsh winter in Chandigarh, it is very difficult for us to survive; forget about animals. The temperature falls to around eight degrees which makes pets really uncomfortable. So, I thought to do something for them and got some sweaters. I hope it helps them survive winters.



NICK KNOWLES

If I date somebody, I'm not going to take them to London. I'm not going to go to one of the 25 places where there are photographers outside. I can quite happily go Lewes in Sussex or Wrexham, or anywhere where there aren't paps going around. It will be very private.

KATHERINE WATERSTON

The most important and disturbing issue that the film *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* explores is the dangers of charismatic, manipulative leadership that aims to divide people. I figured that this particular period of the film ties very neatly with the events of those years in Europe leading to World War II.



SUBCULTURE 30 MINUTES



MEALS ON WHEELS

As the mercury dips, the capital is warming up to food festivals and Horn OK Please has some Indo-western fusions like *Chinese choley* and *Idli Italiano chaat* on its platter. By AYUSHI SHARMA

The word festival brings cheer and when you add food to it, you get the undivided attention of all gourmets. And a food truck festival in the capital is trying to do just that.

Skewers of meat and paneer being barbecued on hot coals while customers line up with a chill beer or mocktail is a normal scene at this three-day annual market. The Jawahar Lal Nehru stadium has been transformed into small kiosks that smell of food and baked goods.

We started our food journey at Horn Ok Please with sushis and dimsums, which tried to stay authentic to its Japanese origins, while an Italian food truck served pastas and pizzas nearby and given Delhi's love for food from this Mediterranean country, a long line of waiting people was certainly not a surprise.

The culture of food trucks is a norm in the US where young professionals step out of their offices to grab a bite for lunch and is catching up in India and has added colour and variety to the Indian food scene.

A food truck, Wheelys, offered coffee on wheels with a twist where one got a chance to brew their own coffee. You could choose a flavour and add your favourite topping like crushed oreo, vanilla scoop, or whipped cream. Owner Abhay Singh Luthra said that they have over seven core combination of coffee and toppings on offer.

"In my experience, when it comes to food festivals, the audience usually tries to explore disparate cuisine and delicacies and that is why I think keeping your menu completely Indian does not work because it is easily available everywhere. It's very difficult to judge the demands of the public which is why we keep trying out new things," said Pulek Agrawal, who runs Flip, which specialises in a variety of cuisine. "I pre-

fer using the ingredients, spices and even breads that are made inhouse," he said.

The concept of bringing food from different parts of the country under one roof is not something unheard of. But the dishes laid out by vendors from more than 150 eateries across the city can't go unnoticed. And the festival scored not just

'THE AUDIENCE USUALLY TRIES TO EXPLORE DISPARATE CUISINE AND DELICACIES AND THAT IS WHY A COMPLETELY INDIAN MENU DOES NOT WORK BECAUSE IT IS EASILY AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE'

on account of its rich traditional and contemporary flavours, but also due to the pricing where some of them were priced as low as ₹40 per plate.



And then there were those who were there for a cause. The Keshav Suri Foundation which aims to work towards the upliftment of the marginalised LGBTQ+ community, had painted their food truck in the rainbow colours. This caught the attention of the visitors and was a huge hit.

"This time we have Mexican dishes like, *Crunchy fried avocado taco*, *Mexican sliders*, *Mexican chicken rice with brownie*. I think food festivals are a good way of promoting and marketing your new ventures. We have also set up a pop up of Kitty Su, our nightclub, in addition to the food truck this time," said Prerna Thakur, assistant manager, marketing and communication of The Lalit

group. This also a great trial space for fusion food. The brave can venture into uncharted territory like *Chinese choley* or a fusion like *Idli Italiano chaat* that caught our eye but we shied away from this unexpected combination. However, you can try these at your own peril.

A drawback of festivals is that it offers only the tried and tested brands. A food blogger Anamika Karmakar said, "If I'm attending a food fest, my focus is on trying and exploring things that are new and not available in the market. Why would I be heading for something which I can get easily in the market. Obviously, I would be looking for dis-

parate delicacies which I haven't tasted before. Like I would be really interested to try something which is from Kolkata or from some other state, which I cannot get in Delhi. I think these food festivals need to change their concept in terms of getting cuisines across the globe and if not from across the globe then atleast from various states of all the countries."

Apart from the cons, the festival is a really great way to enjoy a warm Sunday afternoon and an even better way to spend your Saturday evening grabbing few beers and plenty of scrumptious grub while hanging out with friends.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 20 MINUTES

Behind the lens

Actors SHWETA TRIPATHI and ALI FAZAL get candid about their roles in *Mirzapur* which shows the story of India's youth. By CHAHAK MITTAL

Sailing on a giant cruise ship with arms open in the air, the breeze passing through the hair, running around in an open field or just dreaming about a prince on a white horse... all these have been a part of the fantastical world that the Hindi film industry has given to many young women. Actor Shweta Tripathi, who has become one of the prominent names in the industry, had also dreamt of running around in an open field wearing a yellow suit while its dupatta flew in the air. She said, "I didn't know about anything like Indie cinema, parallel cinema, or even the content of the films. I just knew that I wanted to be an actress and be on the stage, or in front of the camera."

The actress, who made her acting debut with TV show, *Kya Mast Hai Life*, shared that she has come a long way since her role of Zenia Khan, a geek but full-of-life and ever-excited college student, to today's Golu Gupta in *Mirzapur*.

"It was a very hyper active kind of a role where I would crib about food or other petty little things. If I look at that, I would say that I have come a really long way," she says.

It was all because of working under various directors that she understood the subtlety of roles and acting. "I realised that there was a lot more to acting and cinema than just being romantic or happy or running around with excitement. I explored the other side of being an actress."

Films like *Masaan*, *Haraamkhor*, *Trishna* star Shweta in some unconventional roles compared to the ideal of of someone glamorous, who is supposed to support an actor's heroic image. Her roles rather take centre stage with a fierce approach. How?

She says that it works both ways. "It's not like you choose scripts rather sometimes they choose you. I had also auditioned for *Fukrey* once, but didn't quite like the role. Not like I didn't want to do any commercial films but somehow all the scripts that I was getting, I didn't want to do those."

And then, "*Haraamkhor*, *Masaan*, and *Mirzapur* really excited me. And that's how I chose them." If the scripts "excite" her, she would definitely take it up.

Actor Ali Fazal's story is also quite similar. He talks about his role, Guddu Pandit, the kid who has grown up watching his lower middle class family and aspired to be like them. "The family has always wanted their kid to be a 'hero'. Even his aspirations' length is as short as transitioning from having a bicycle to having a Luna (scooty)," he says. If there is a problem with the cycle and he finds a jeep nearby, he would be excited to see that and only think of having it and "looking like a hero" when his hair would flow in the open jeep.

"*Hum banayenge Mirzapur ko Amrika* (We'll transform Mirzapur into America)," says Guddu Pandit aka Ali Fazal of *Mirzapur*. That is how Ali's role adds various shades of red to the show's palette, where even though it is the 21st century "his aspirations are full of innocence and non-materialistic."

Shweta finds his role "endearing" as even though "he appears to be the Hulk or Thor, he is very simple in his own world." She says, "If you look at *Fukrey's* chocolate boy and 3 *Idiots's* sweet Joy to today's



For Tripathi, learning and understanding the subtleties of acting happened on the job when she worked with different directors

Guddu Pandit, it is a treat."

Among the huge star cast of the show is Pankaj Tripathi, Sheeba Chaddha, Rasika Dugal, Vikrant Massey, Divyendu Sharma, and Shriya Pilgaonkar. Ali was the last one to enter the stage. And, this last minute entry has a unique run-and-return story that Ali tells us.

"I had put my feet in the West, and then I was back here when I got *Mirzapur*. I was stuck when I read the script. But that wasn't the part offered to me and I made an excuse to escape from it. But after a few days, the role of Guddu Pandit came to me and I immediately agreed," laughs Ali.

He believes that the heart does stick to something and there are certain roles that "don't leave you" until you make them happen.

While the actor had also prepared for a role in his forthcoming, *Milan Talkies*, he says, "I did eat a lot. It took a lot of patience as I had to shed around 10 kg weight for the role."

While Shweta's role of Golu, a young nerd, is a very tender and mild one. Ali describes it as "A Tom Hanks film — slow yet beautiful." They both agree that there is a Golu in every girl as "she is the one living in this world of misogyny just like we have been since ages, but there's more to her today, much more fierce and ahead of time," says Ali.

Her apparent masturbation scene in the show has become the talk of the town and she feels that it is not anything that is "unusual" or even "bold," rather something that is real and "was hidden for a long time. Now through such scenes, the quietness around it will seem unusual. It should be normal. It's not just a scene, rather a reality. Men do it, women do it as well."

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

EVENT 10 MINUTES

In pursuit of knowledge

Six different books aimed at giving one a deeper insight into disparate subjects were released recently

From Gandhi's friendship to critical theories on postcolonial Indian literature, the night was a rewarding one for readers and academicians.

The Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla, organised, The Fifth Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Padma Shri professor Ramesh Chandra Shah, a noted poet, novelist and critic on the rehabilitation of sacred.

Six books were launched during the lecture. In *Gandhi's Ark* authored by Shashi Joshi, the focus was on Gandhi's relationship with his Christian friends with whom he discussed religion and spirituality. The central theme of the book reveals his affinity to Catholic Christianity and openness to all the religious ideas, beliefs and practices while another

book, *Postcolonial Indian Literature Toward a Critical Framework* by Satish C. Aikant takes a comprehensive view of Indian literatures from a postcolonial perspective.

Mahesh Champaklal's *Bhasa's Ramayan Plays From Page to Stage*, meanwhile involved the analysis of the epic ascribed to Bhasa namely, *Abhisheka Natakam* and *Pratima Natakam* both in terms of language in theatre. It tries to establish the inter-relation between both, the dramatic text composed by the playwright and the performance text designed by the director for the production of the play. How the dramatic text is transformed into the performance text forms the subject of the book thus establishing the relation between text and performance.

Dancing in the Sky of



Consciousness authored by Aleksandra Wentla is an interdisciplinary work to look at various dimensions of aesthetics of power in medieval Cidambaram temple and beyond. It weaves its discourse around the figure of dancing Siva, to whom the temple was dedicated. Incidentally, the god is one of the most powerful icons in the history of world religions. The book tries to combine the fields of philosophy, history, aesthetics, performing arts, architecture, ritual and textual studies.

The last two books included *Urban Spaces in Modern India* edited by Partho Dutta and Narayani Gupta and *Modernity and Changing*

Social Fabric of Punjab and Haryana which is edited by Yogesh Snehi and Lallan S Baghel.

In his lecture, professor Shah spoke about, "The Indian tradition of Advaita Vedanta emphasises on *Jivanmukti*, the idea that *moksha* (freedom, liberation) is achievable in this life in contrast to Indian philosophies that emphasises on *moksha* after death."

Ven. Geshe Dorji Damdul who's a Buddhist scholar, was the moderator of the lecture and he summed it up when he said, "We have to admit that modern science has changed the world but to get the inner freedom and peace of mind

we have to maintain a fine balance between modern science and philosophy. This balance helps us in setting our minds free from the materialistic world. The philosophy of west and India tried to seek and explore the ultimate reality and same was also searched through the rule and principals of Physics. Knowing the complete truth is very important, for instance, one could have tremendous craving for cheese cake, but when you'll see cheese from a microscope and you'll see the bacteria in the cake your craving for the cake will go away. This is the result knowing the ultimate truth."

Federer cruises past Anderson

Second seed Roger thrashes Anderson in last group match to seal last four clash against Alex Zverev; Djokovic will face Anderson in other semifinal today



extra pressure. "As long as I think Novak is in the draw anyhow, he's playing so good again, it's never going to be easy."

The first set was a topsy-turvy affair, with both players quickly into their groove on serve before a succession of breaks.

- Service breaks - Federer, buoyed by his customary vocal support, broke to lead 4-3, only to lose his momentum immediately as Anderson levelled.

The Swiss broke the South African in the next game, sealing the break with a crisp backhand volley at the net but was immediately in trouble at 0-40 on his own serve before winning five successive points to take the set.

The second set went with serve until the seventh game, when Federer produced an immaculate sliced backhand that landed on the line to earn a break.

R Federer vs A Zverev
Live from 7:30pm IST
SONY TEN NETWORK



Now playing with freedom, the 37-year-old broke again to seal the victory and guarantee that he tops the group.

Alexander Zverev set up a last-four clash against Roger Federer in the ATP Finals after seeing off John Isner 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 on Friday while Novak Djokovic will take on Kevin Anderson.

Zverev played American giant John Isner at London's O2 Arena knowing a win by any scoreline would take him through to the semi-finals of the season-ending tournament.

The turning point in the round-robin match came at the end of the 12th game, when the 21-year-old German saved a set point on his own serve with an ace, going on to force a tie-break.

The players swapped mini breaks but the giant Isner then filtered again on his own serve to hand the set to Zverev -- meaning he no longer had any chance to qualify for the last four.

In the second set a single break of serve in the eighth game proved decisive as Zverev served out the match. "I am unbelievably happy to be through to the semi-finals," he told Sky Sports.

"John is such a tough opponent. The last two matches for him against (Marin) Cilic and me could have gone either way. The first set was unbelievably tight. I am just happy to be through. I will prepare myself the best for tomorrow."



Kidambi Srikanth prepares to return a shot against his opponent BWF/ File Picture

Srikanth, Sameer lose in quarterfinals

PTI ■ KOWLOON

Indian challenge ended at the Hong Kong Open World Tour Super 500 tournament after Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma lost their respective men's singles quarterfinal matches here on Friday.

Fourth seed Srikanth suffered a 17-21 13-21 loss to eighth seed Kenta Nishimoto for his first loss to the Japanese in four meetings. The Indian had beaten Nishimoto thrice before this match.

Later, world no 18 Sameer also failed to tame local hope Lee Cheuk Yiu, who came through the qualifiers to seal his maiden semi-final spot with a 21-15 19-21 21-11 win in a match that lasted an hour and 13 minutes here.

Srikanth couldn't threaten Nishimoto, who lead 12-7 at one stage in the opening game. The Indian did claw back and even had a slender 14-13 lead but the Japanese soon left him behind with four straight points before pocketing the opening game.

The Indian looked clueless in the second game as he struggled right from the start even as Nishimoto surged to 6-2 and then reeled off seven straight points to grab a massive 13-3 advantage, a deficit which the Indian couldn't erase to bow out of the contest.

Later in the day, Sameer, who had reached the finals of the Hong Kong Open in 2016, couldn't find a way to outwit an athletic Lee Cheuk Yiu, who was rewarded for his control and precision.

Sameer had beaten Lee at the New Zealand Open earlier this year but that didn't matter as Lee opened up a 4-0 lead in the opening game and consolidated it to 12-3 at one stage.

Sameer managed to claw back to 15-16 but the Hong Kong player reeled off the required five points to take the opening game. The Indian lagged again in the second game, before he managed to erase a 5-8 deficit and take a 14-11 lead.

In the third game, the duo split the initial 10 points before Lee eked out a five-point advantage, reaching 11-6 at the break. After changing the sides, Sameer couldn't break the run of points, going wide and long. The local qualifier looked more aggressive and seized the opportunities to continue his domination.

Lee eventually sealed his place in the semifinals when Sameer's return hit the net.

LAKSHYA ENTERS Q/F OF WORLD JR C'SHIP

MARKHAM: Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships after defeating Chinese Taipei's Chen Shiau Cheng in a men's singles event here.

The 17-year-old from Almora, who had clinched the Asian Junior Championships title in July this year, saw off ninth seed Chen 15-21 21-17 21-14 in a match that lasted a little under an hour on Thursday.

Fourth seeded Lakshya will take on Malaysia's Aidil Sholeh ALI Sadikin next for a place in the semi-final, which will assure him of a medal in the tournament.

Lakshya, who received a bye in the opening round, beat Mexico's Armando Gaitan and Italian Giovanni Toti in the earlier rounds in straight games.

Men's doubles pair of Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala and Srikrishna Sai Kumar Podile also entered the quarters with a 21-11 21-17 win over Indonesian combination of Dwiki Rafian Restu and Bernadus Bagas Kusuma Wardana. The Indian duo will face 10th seeded Korean pair of Tae Yang Shin and Chan Wang next.

Other Indians in fray, Priyanshu Rajawat, Alap Mishra and Kiran George lost in the third round of men's singles, while Malvika Bansod and Gayatri Gopichand were ousted in the opening and second rounds of the women's singles competition respectively.

Eighth seed Purva Barve, who received a bye in the first round, lost in the third round. PTI

Myneni to meet Prajnes in Bengaluru final

BENGALURU: Saketh Myneni will square off with compatriot Prajesh Gunneswaran in an all-India summit clash at the Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger tournament on Saturday.

In Friday's first semi-final, Myneni beat Kazakhstan's Aleksandr Nedovyesov 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a thrilling three-setter to make it to the title round of \$ 150,000 event.

In the second semi-final, Gunneswaran breezed past Canadian Brayden Schnur 6-4, 6-1.

World no 213 Myneni made an easy third set decider after racing to a 5-0 lead in the decider. He committed far too many unforced errors,



helping Aleksandr win four games on the trot before closing the match in the 10th game. Having lost the first set, Myneni was down 1-3 in the second set but held his serve and broke Aleksandr in sixth game to make it 3-3.

In the ninth game, Myneni brought about a couple of first winners on his serves, racing past his rival 5-4.

Serving at 0-15, Aleksandr was stunned by a forehand winner by Myneni, who broke his opponent to win the set and restored parity before winning the decider. PTI

to the semi-finals for the 15th time in 16 attempts at the season-ending finale and means he will likely avoid a meeting in the last four against in-form Novak Djokovic.

"I'm happy that this is another week like this," said Federer. "Didn't look like it maybe 72 hours

ago. But I was able to come back and play good tennis."

"Personally I'm still not thinking of the number 100. I won't let that get in my head, make me go crazy because it should be something I'm excited about and not something I should feel

AFP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer gained sweet revenge over Kevin Anderson at the ATP Finals on Thursday but is putting thoughts of his 100th title to the back of his mind after both players reached the last four.

The Swiss broke the giant South African's serve four times in a comprehensive 6-4, 6-3 victory at London's O2 Arena even though Anderson had not faced a single break point in his two earlier round-robin victories.

Second seed Federer suffered a painful loss at the hands of Anderson in the Wimbledon quarter-finals this year after leading by two sets, his only defeat against him in five meetings before Thursday's clash.

The six-time champion started the week with an uncharacteristically ragged display in a straight-sets defeat by Kei Nishikori but has beaten Dominic Thiem and Anderson in straight sets and is looking more like his old self as the tournament progresses.

The victory over fourth-seed Anderson in the Lleyton Hewitt Group takes Federer through

SARITA, MANISHA GIVE INDIA FLYING START

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran L Sarita Devi and rookie Manisha Mouna gave India a flying start in the women's World Boxing Championships with dominating victories in their respective bouts here on Friday.

While Manisha punched above her weight to outclass veteran American Christina Cruz in an unanimous verdict in 554kg, 2006 edition Gold medalist Sarita (60kg) had to work harder to emerge 4-0 winner on points against Diana Sandra Brugger of Switzerland in their opening bouts at the K D Jadhav Stadium here.

Both Sarita and Manisha advanced to the prequarterfinals where they will face Kellie Herrington of Ireland and Dina Zholaman of Kazakhstan respectively on Sunday.

Harrington had won a Silver in 64kg in the 2016 World Championships but she has gone one weight category down in this tournament.



Rookie boxer Manisha Moun (blue) wins against the Christina Cruz in Women's 54kg last-16 PTI

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

She beat Troy Garton of New Zealand on Friday. Zholaman is the defending world champion but Manisha has beaten her in the Silesian Women's Boxing championship in Poland earlier this year.

The 20-year-old Manisha from Haryana, who was making her debut in the World Championships, was in complete control during the first round bout against the American who is almost twice her age.

The 36-year-old Cruz from New York was the last edition's Bronze medalist besides winning the same colour of medal in 2012 also.

Manisha, who had won a Gold in the India Open and a Silver in the Poland event this year, was the clear

winner as she dominated all the three rounds. The five judges gave her a unanimous decision (29-28, 30-27, 30-26, 30-26, 29-28).

The 36-year-old Sarita faced a tough fight from her experienced Swiss opponent, who also has been in the international circuit for more than a decade, before winning 4-0 (28-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28, 29-28).

The Manipuri boxer, who has been competing in the World Championships since the first edition in 2001, was clearly the better boxer as all the five judges gave points in her favour.

In other bouts of the day, 2016 World Championship and Rio Olympics Bronze medalist Mira Potkonen of Finland beat Commonwealth Games Gold winner Anja Stridsman of Australia in 60kg.

Another Rio Bronze winner in 60kg, Anastasia Beliakov moved to the pre-quarters with a unanimous verdict win over Elisa Williams.

CHHETRI-LESS INDIA FACE JORDAN

PTI ■ AMMAN

India, despite missing their talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri, will fancy their chances when they take on hosts Jordan in an international football friendly here on Saturday.

The match at the Jordan capital is in preparation for the AFC Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in January-February next year.

India are ranked 97th while Jordan are placed 112th in the FIFA rankings.

Even though they will be without Chhetri, the country's all-time leading scorer, Stephen Constantine's men will take confidence from their goalless stalemate in their previous friendly against higher-ranked China, managed by World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi.

Chhetri's absence has been dubbed a "big blow" by coach Constantine, under whom India enjoyed a dream 14-match unbeaten run till it was broken by Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek.

With only about two months to go for the Asian Cup, the upcoming friendly provides Constantine the last opportunities to analyse his squad and ready his backup plans.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu will lead the backline which will have Pritam Kotal, Sandesh Jhingana, Narayan Das and

probably Subhasish Bose.

India's defence impressed against Lippi's China but Constantine will be banking on his midfield and attack to have an influence in the match against a Jordan side whose form has been patchy.

Jordan, who are ranked 15 spots below India in the rankings, last won a match in May when they defeated Cyprus 3-0. In their last four games, they have had two draws and two defeats, capping with a 1-2 loss to Croatia in October.

For India, mid-fielder Jackichand Singh and left back Nishu Kumar were on Thursday included in the 22-member squad for the away international FIFA fixture.

The likes of Udanta Singh, Pronay Halder, Halicharan Narzary and Anirudh Thapa are likely to control possession in the midfield against a Jordan side that will look to hit on the counter in the absence of a few attacking players.

In the absence of Chhetri, experienced men like Jeje Lalpekhlua and Balwant Singh will need to take up the mantle up front. While the former has struggled in front of goal, the latter's form is encouraging.

Ahead of the match Constantine said, "We want to do well in the AFC Asian Cup and the clash against Jordan will aid us. Jordan are a good side and they have a number of good players in their ranks."



Indian players jog during training session ahead of AFC tune up clash against Jordan Indian Football Team

LOCAL EVENTS

ROWING

The trials to select the Uttar Pradesh team, for the 37th National Rowing Championship, will be held at Police Boat Club in Prayagraj on Sunday. Interested may contact Sudhir Sharma on 9839279037.

KIDS MARATHON

Little Millennium is organising the 4th Kids Marathon at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on November 18. Kids aged between 2-10 years may take part in the event, which is being organised to support the cause against child abuse and promote healthy development of children.

ATHLETICS MEET

LPS Gomti Nagar bagged 202 points to win the Lucknow Public School Inter-Branch Athletics Meet at LPS Vrindavan on Friday. LPS, Virnadvan-II and LPS Sitapur finished second and third respectively. Hritik Goswami was adjudged best athlete while Kajal Kumar won the best athlete prize in girls' category. SAI executive director RACHANA Govil gave away the prizes.

Indian Green lift U-19 Challenger Trophy

LUCKNOW (PNS): India Green defeated India Blue by six wickets to lift the Under-19 Challenger Trophy at Atal Bihari Bajpai Ekana International Stadium on Friday.

Electing to bat, India Blue got off to a decent start with openers Qamaran Iqbal and Swastik Samal added 65 runs in 9.4 overs before Swastik was sent back by K Nithish Kumar Reddy. Then skipper Pradosh Ranjan Paul came to the crease and they both added 27 runs as Qamaran (63) was removed by Athrava Vinod Ankoekar.

After that no big partnerships happened for the Blue team as they kept losing wicket at the regular intervals and ultimately bundled out for 206 runs in 47.3 overs.

In reply, India Green achieved the target in 43.4 overs for the loss of four wickets with the help of the fine knocks by Arya Sethi (73) and Nehal Wadhwa (51).



BRIEF SCORES:
INDIA BLUE: 206 (Qamaran Iqbal 63, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 63, Dhruv Chand 12, Akash Raj 13; Anirudh 38/2, Nithish Reddy 25/3, Atharva 32/2, Ra

Choudhary 34/2)
INDIA GREEN: 209 (Arya Sethi 73, AS Ahuja 26, Nehal Wadhwa 51, Rishabh Chouhan 20; AS Sandhu 39/3, Pradosh 32/1)

England beat USA on Rooney farewell

AFP ■ LONDON

Wayne Rooney believes the future is bright for England as a youthful Three Lions eased past the United States 3-0 at Wembley on his international swansong.

Jesse Lingard, Trent Alexander-Arnold and debutant Callum Wilson grabbed the goals in a dominant England display despite Gareth Southgate fielding a very inexperienced side on Thursday.

Should England avenge their heart-breaking World Cup semi-final defeat by Croatia on Sunday at Wembley, Southgate's men can build on the progress made by surpassing expectations in Russia this summer by qualifying for the semi-finals of the inaugural Nations League. "It's my opinion that England are in very safe hands from what I've seen this week," said Rooney.

"The way they are being coached is



Wayne Rooney battles for ball during his farewell match against United States AP

brilliant, it's a great group of young players who have a bright future.

"They will go close to being the next team to bring a trophy back for England."

The decision to honour Rooney with a first cap for two years divided opinion.

However, the biggest cheer of the night was reserved for the introduction of England's greatest ever goalscorer just before the hour mark on his 120th international appearance.

"It will live with me for a long time," added Rooney.

"It is something which created debate because it was the first time something like this happened, but it is the right thing to do for the players if you achieve and leave your mark on the England team."

England's former captain was also honoured before kick-off with a guard of honour and the presentation of a plaque bearing a golden Three Lions badge by current skipper Harry Kane.

"I asked Harry Kane to present me with the award because I believe he will beat my goalscoring record and I look forward to presenting him with the trophy,"

added Rooney.

Kane didn't get the chance to add to his 19 international goals as Southgate prioritised keeping most of his key players fresh for Croatia's visit on Sunday.

England quickly put the game to bed with two goals in as many minutes midway through the first half as firstly Lingard received Dele Alli's pass before curling high into the far corner.

Sancho has quickly made a name for himself at Borussia Dortmund and the 18-year-old built on his fine Bundesliga form by teeing up Alexander-Arnold to drill his first international goal into the far corner.

Wilson did get his goal to cap a dream debut for the Bournemouth striker, who has battled through the lower leagues and two cruciate ligament injuries in both knees to make it to the international stage.

Wilson got ahead of his marker to turn Fabian Delph's cross in at the near post 13 minutes from time.

'Hardik's absence will hurt India'

Veteran Aussie Mike Hussey feels Pandya's game was best suited for Australian conditions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mike Hussey, who has a fair idea about the current crop of India players, feels that all-rounder Hardik Pandya's absence will "hurt" the visitors in the upcoming Test series against Australia starting from December 6 in Adelaide.

Pandya is undergoing rehabilitation after suffering a lower-back injury during the Asia Cup in Dubai last September. "I think Hardik is a wonderful talent and I am sure his game style would have been suited to the Australian conditions. Add to that, the balance he offers the team with his all-round abilities, yes I think his absence will hurt India," Hussey said.

India have a good chance of doing well against a depleted Australia but 'Mr Cricket' is confident that the home team's seasoned bowling attack will test some of the younger batsmen in the visiting team.

India are being dubbed as favourites in many quarters primarily due to the absence of Smith and Warner.

But India could face a different challenge with the likes of Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant and Hanuma Vihari set to face Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon for the first time.

"I do think India have a good chance as they have an excellent team with some very good fast bowlers. However, I think Australia's bowling attack is world class and will challenge the Indian team, particularly the younger players in Australian conditions. Australia always play well at home and hence will be very hard to beat."

Virat Kohli remains the biggest threat to Australia having scored four hundreds during the 2014-15 series and Hussey reckoned that the home team bowlers need to be patient against the Indian skipper.

"The Australians will prepare well against Kohli, but it comes down to execution. In my view the Aussies need to



Hardik Pandya returns to pavilion after clinching his maiden 5-wicket haul against England AP/File Photo

HARDIK PANDYA STATISTICS							
BATTING CAREER SUMMARY							
	M	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100/50	4/6
Test	11	532	108	31.29	73.89	1/4	68/12
ODI	42	670	83	29.13	114.53	0/4	42/31
T20I	35	271	33	16.94	153.11	0/0	15/17
BOWLING CAREER SUMMARY							
	M	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Average	Econ	5W
Test	11	17	5/28	6/50	31.06	3.38	1
ODI	42	40	3/31	3/31	40.95	5.56	0
T20I	35	33	4/38	4/38	23.97	8.0	0

be incredibly patient and disciplined for long periods of time against a world class player like Kohli," said the 43-year-old, who has played 79 Tests and 185 ODIs for

Australia. India's 1-4 series defeat against England will have no bearing on the Australia series as the scoreline is not an

TEAM INDIA DEPARTS FOR AUSTRALIA

MUMBAI: Eyeing a maiden Test series win Down Under, the Indian cricket team left for Australia on Friday for a gruelling tour, which will see them play four matches in whites, three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals.

Various members of the team took to Twitter to share their feelings ahead of their departure with chinaman Kuldeep Yadav terming it an "exciting challenge". "Exciting challenges ahead. Off to Australia with the boys #TeamIndia," tweeted Kuldeep, who posted a picture with his teammates comprising young wicketkeeper and batsman Rishabh Pant, Rohit Sharma and others. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah tweeted his picture and wrote, "Off we go! #Australia #Travelbound". "Taking off to head down under," wrote Krunal Pandya on the micro blogging site as he posted snaps with team mates. At the pre-departure press conference on Thursday, Kohli emphasised on the need for the batsman to step up. Experts and former players are seeing this tour as India's best bet to defeat Australia in Tests as the hosts will be without Steve Smith and David Warner. PTI



TOUR SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Venue
Nov 21	1st T20I	The Gabba, Brisbane
Nov 23	2nd T20I	MCG, Melbourne
Nov 25	3rd T20I	SCG, Sydney
Dec 06-10	1st Test	Adelaide Oval, Adelaide
Dec 14-18	2nd Test	Perth Stadium, Perth
Dec 26-30	3rd Test	MCG, Melbourne
Jan 03-07	4th Test	SCG Sydney
Jan 12	1st ODI	SCG, Sydney
Jan 15	2nd ODI	Adelaide Oval, Adelaide
Jan 18	3rd ODI	MCG, Melbourne

accurate representation of how well India competed, said the former left-hander.

"It's a completely new series in completely different conditions. I think India played some brilliant cricket in England but unfortunately, the results didn't go their way," opined Hussey.

Unlike some of the experts who are still not convinced about Tim Paine's leadership skills, the current Test captain has Hussey's vote of approval.

"I wouldn't underestimate Tim Paine, he is an excellent competitor and will be

up for the fight against India. Yes, he has the mental strength to lead this Australian side," he asserted.

The Indian bowling attack has been top notch in all away series but Hussey wants the Australian batsmen to look at the upcoming series as an opportunity to cement their place in the side.

"The batting will be tested against an excellent Indian attack but there are some great opportunities for Australian batters to cement a place in the team with some big runs. So motivation will be high."

Shaw shines while Vijay, Rahane fail against NZ 'A'

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Senior pros Murali Vijay and Ajinkya Rahane were dismissed cheaply but young guns Prithvi Shaw and Hanuma Vihari warmed up nicely for the Australia Test series with half-centuries for India 'A' against New Zealand 'A' in the first unofficial Test.

At stumps on the opening day, India A scored 340 for five with Australia bound opener Shaw (62, 88 balls), middle-order batsman Hanuma Vihari (86, 150 balls) and comeback man Parthiv Patel (79 batting, 111 balls) utilised the opportunity to the fullest.

However opener Vijay (28, 64 balls) and Test vice-captain Rahane (12, 19 balls) found their defences breached by Blair Ticker and Doug Bracewell respectively.

In-form Vihari, who made his Test debut against England with a half-century, was dismissed in the last ball of the day.

Vihari hit eight boundaries during his stay in the middle, while Patel has so far found the fence 10 times.

Also scoring a half-century was Mayank Agarwal (65), who came in at No 3.

After the visitors opted to bat first, India A were given a fine start by Shaw and his senior partner Vijay.

The Mumbaikar then added exactly 50 runs for the second wicket with Agarwal, before he was dismissed by slow-left-arm spinner Theo van Woerkom.

Vihari joined Agarwal in the middle and added 73 runs for the third wicket till the Karnataka player was bowled by medium pacer Blair Ticker.

Shaw struck six boundaries and a six in his 88-ball stay, while Agarwal hit 10 fours and two sixes.

Skipper Rahane did not last long but the duo of Vihari and Patel put together a stand of 138 runs for the sixth wicket to consolidate India A's position at the Bay Oval.

Ticker was the most successful bowler for the hosts, finishing the day with 2/48 in 15 overs.



SINGLES

SHUBHANKAR CARDS 67 TO REMAIN TIED 20TH

DUBAI: A limping Shubhankar Sharma shrugged off a heel injury to card an impressive five-under 67 to remain tied 20th at the end of the second day in the DP World Tour Championships (telecast live on DSport) here on Friday. Sharma, who rose to as high as tied-fifth at one stage, dropped a double bogey on Par-5 14th, but recovered with birdies on 15th and 18th as he was seven shots behind England's Matt Wallace (65). Meanwhile, Wallace, with whom Shubhankar Sharma, played in the lead group of the Hero Indian Open, which the Englishman won, was in the pole position at 11-under after a sizzling seven-under.

GUKESH, SAVITHA WIN GOLD IN CADETS

NEW DELHI: International Master Gukesh D and Savitha Shri B won Gold medals in U-12 Open and girls category respectively at the World Cadets Chess Championship in Spain. The Championship, which ended at Galicia on Thursday, was held for the age groups U-8, U-10 and U-12, girls and Open. Gukesh with 10 wins and a loss comfortably won the title by a huge margin of 1.5 points. Savitha of Tamil Nadu effortlessly won the Gold in U-12 girls category with 8 wins and 2 draws. Apart from this, India stood second with two Gold medals for best performance, while China with two Golds and a Bronze and USA with a Gold, a Silver and two Bronze medals took the 1st and 3rd place respectively.

CHENNAI CITY FC BEAT AIZAWL 2-1

AIZAWL: Chennai City FC rode on twin strikes from Sandro Rodriguez to pip Aizawl FC 2-1 thereby maintaining their pole position in the I-League football tournament on Friday. Liberian striker Ansumanah Kromah's 72nd minute goal for the hosts was not good enough to prevent a second consecutive loss. The southerners now have 13 points from five games, seven points clear of second placed East Bengal and third placed Churchill Brothers. Aizawl, who won the I-League two seasons back, find themselves at the bottom of the table with three losses and two draws from their five games so far.

BAYERN YOUTH CUP TO BEGIN FROM NOV 24

NEW DELHI: The sixth edition of the FC Bayern Youth Cup, an under-16 seven-a-side inter-school football tournament, is set to kickstart from November 24 across six cities in India. The FC Bayern Youth Cup — a joint initiative by adidas and German giants FC Bayern — will see participation of over 2,000 kids from schools across India. The city legs of the tournament spanning over a period of 14 weeks, will be played in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai and Srinagar. The final will take place in February next year in Delhi. The winning team will represent 'Team India' in the FC Bayern Youth Cup World Finals and get to train under the professionals in Munich in May next year.

ARMAAN SLAMS 300 IN CK NAYUDU TROPHY

MUMBAI: Young batsman Armaan Jaffer on Friday slammed an unbeaten triple hundred for Mumbai in their U-23 Col CK Nayudu Trophy match against Saurashtra here. 20-year-old Armaan, who has played three first-class matches, slammed unbeaten 300 off 367-balls, striking 26 boundaries and 10 sixes. Courtesy Armaan's knock, Mumbai declared their first innings at a mammoth 610/5 after bundling out Saurashtra for 175 in their first innings. In the second outing Saurashtra are 157/4 at stumps on the penultimate day of the four-day match. Saurashtra trail by 278 runs. The knock came at the right-time for Armaan as he had recently made a comeback after suffering from a knee injury which had kept him out for an year. Armaan's uncle Wasim Jaffer is a former India player. Armaan was part of India's Under-19 team at the 2016 World Cup. He was also a part of Kings XI Punjab squad. Agencias

Already in semis, India face Aussies in World T20

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

India vs Australia
Live from 8:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

India will face their biggest challenge so far in the ICC Women's World T20 when they lock horns with a gifted Australian team in an inconsequential game here on Saturday.

Considered title contenders, both India and Australia stormed into the semifinals of the showpiece with a game to spare.

Assured of a place in the last-four stage, the result of Saturday's match may not be of much significance, but India are aware that beating a superior side will help them take the confidence into the knockouts.

The two fancied teams wasted no time in switching into top gear in the Caribbean, having convincingly won all their three matches so far, and another victory in the next round robin game would certainly be a huge morale booster.

While India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur provided the best possible start to the tournament with her blazing century against New Zealand, the seasoned Mithali Raj showed there is no substitute for experience with two fine half-centuries, the knocks coming in times when the team needed them the most.

While Harmanpreet's scintillating innings, which contained as many as eight sixes, will be remembered for years, Mithali got into the act in the much-awaited match against arch-rivals Pakistan and calmly saw the team through.

A downpour in the morning made the conditions difficult for batting against Ireland, but opener Mithali battled her way to her 17th T20I half-century helping her side put up a challenging total,



Australian batswoman attempts to play a shot against India BCCI Women/File Picture

anchoring the innings till the 19th over.

The spinners then rattled the Irish batswomen and ensured an easy win for India.

India cruised into the semi-

finals with a 52-run defeat of Ireland at the Providence Stadium. The result meant that Group B's top-two spots were decided, with Australia being the other semifinalist. It also meant New Zealand and Pakistan

HEAD TO HEAD				
Matches	Ind	Aus	Tied	N/R
14	3	11	0	0
MOST T20I RUNS FOR INDIA				
Player	Runs	Average		
Mithali Raj	2,232	37.20		
Harmanpreet Kaur	1,820	29.35		
Smriti Mandhana	896	20.83		
Poonam Raut	719	27.65		
Veda Krishnamurthy	657	19.32		

moment is opening batter and wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy.

Her form with the bat recently has been very impressive and she has scored more runs than any of her teammates. Since the beginning of October, Alyssa has scored six half centuries in eight innings.

SQUADS

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Mithali Raj, Jemimah Rodrigues, Veda Krishnamurthy, Deepti Sharma, Taniya Bhatia, Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Anuja Patil, Ekta Bisht, Dayalan Hemalatha, Mansi Joshi, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy

Australia: Meg Lanning (captain), Rachael Haynes, Nicole Bolton, Ashleigh Gardner, Alyssa Healy, Delissa Kimmince, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Elyse Villani, Tayla Vlaeminck, Georgia Wareham, Nicola Carey.

Root's ton puts Eng on top

AFF ■ KANDY

Captain Joe Root smashed 124 and newcomer Ben Foakes again hit valuable tail end runs to put England in command of the second Test against Sri Lanka on Friday.

England reached 324 for nine — a second innings lead of 278 — when bad light stopped play for the day at Kandy. Foakes was batting on 51 alongside James Anderson on four.

Spinner Akila Dananjaya, whose action is under investigation by the International Cricket Council, claimed six wickets on the turning pitch.

He trapped Root lbw and then bowled Sam Curran for nought with his next ball. Adil Rashid thwarted the hat-trick but soon fell to Dananjaya's guile for two.

It was his third five wicket haul in just his fifth Test for Dananjaya, who must rush off to Australia after the game for an ICC examination of his bowling.

He, however, could not stop Root and Foakes swinging the game.

Root reached his 15th Test ton soon after tea, making the sweep and reverse sweep valuable weapons, as he hit 10 fours and two sixes in his 146-ball knock.

Root said he enjoyed making the runs despite the pressure.

"That's what it should be. You shouldn't feel pressure like the pressure is too much for you, you should enjoy the occasion and make the most of the opportunity in front of you," he said after the day's play.

Root made an 82-run seventh wicket stand with Foakes, who reached his fifty with a six off Dilruwan Perera. The hit turned out to be the last ball of the day with dark clouds gathering and thunder heard in the distance. As he did in his sparkling century



Joe Root celebrates after completing his ton AP

on his Test debut in the opening game of the series, Foakes mixed caution and aggression to push up the England score.

Earlier, left-hander Rory Burns registered his maiden Test half-century in just his second match. He was trapped lbw off Malinda Pushpakumara for 59.

Perera wasted little time in sending nightwatchman Jack Leach back to the pavilion for one in the second over of the day.

Burns then put together 73 runs for the second wicket with Keaton Jennings, who made 26, to steady the innings and help England overcome their 46-run deficit.

Pak reign supreme on 12-wicket day

AFF ■ ABU DHABI

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah led a double-barrelled attack of spin and pace to leave Pakistan sitting comfortably on the opening day of the first Test against New Zealand on Friday.

Yasir led the varied attack with 3/54 as New Zealand, who won the toss and batted on a grass-less Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch, were bowled out for a below-par 153 in 66.3 overs at the stroke of tea.

The day saw 12 wickets fall as Pakistan closed at 59/2, having lost both their openers Imam-ul-Haq (six) and Mohammad Hafeez (20) before Haris Sohail (22 not out) and Azhar Ali (10 not out) stopped the rot.

Pakistan need 94 more to take a lead and enforce a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Imam was first to go as he edged Colin de Grandhomme's delivery to the slip while Hafeez miscued a pull straight to short



Yasir Shah celebrates after dismissing Kiwi batsman in first innings AFP

mid-wicket — both caught by Kane Williamson.

New Zealand skipper Williamson, declared fit after missing last Sunday's third one-day international due to a groin injury, top-scored with 63 before falling softly to medium pacer Hasan Ali, who finished with 2-38.

Williamson's 112-ball knock had five boundaries and he added 72 for the fourth wicket with Henry Nicholls who made 28 with four boundaries.

In the same over Hasan trapped De Grandhomme for a first-ball duck before Sohail dismissed Ish Sodhi (four) and

Pakistan vs New Zealand
Live from 11:30am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

BJ Watling (four) — both were trapped leg-before.

Mohammad Abbas, who has figures of 2-13, had removed Nicholls, caught behind by Sarfraz soon after lunch.

Pakistan dominated the first session as New Zealand were 81-3 at lunch, with leg-spinner Yasir Shah taking the first of his two wickets in his opening overs.

Yasir had derailed New Zealand's progress in the first session with the wickets of opener Tom Latham (13) and Ross Taylor (two) in his first spell.

New Zealand handed Test debut to 30-year-old left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, leaving out experienced pacer Tim Southee. The second Test is in Dubai (November 24-28) and third in Abu Dhabi (Dec 3-7).

Du Plessis to retire after T20 World Cup

AFF ■ BRISBANE

South African captain Faf du Plessis said on Friday the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia in two years' time will be his last.

The 34-year-old, who has led his country in two World T20 campaigns, in 2014 and 2016, is keen to play a third but will then step aside.

"The T20 World Cup in

T20 STATISTICS						
M	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100/50	4/6
41	1237	119	35.34	134.02	1/7	114/40

2020 is something I'm really looking forward to. I think right now that will probably be the last tournament for me," he said in Brisbane ahead of a one-off T20 against Australia on Saturday.

Du Plessis, who is skipper

across all three formats, made his T20 debut in 2012 and has played 41 times, scoring 1,237 runs at an average of 35.34.

The 2020 World Cup takes place between October 18 and November 15 across eight Australian cities.