

OPINION 8
SHADOW OF TERROR
LOOMS LARGE

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

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

LUCKNOW, MONDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2018; PAGES 16 & 3

the pioneer

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I NEVER HAD
A CAREER:
SHEKHAR
14 VIVACITY

Terror revisits Amritsar

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

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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



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

- ◆ Two youths, aged between 25 and 30, forcibly entered the Nirankari Bhawan and lobbed the grenade amid the crowd when the congregation at Rana Sansi in Amritsar district was on
- ◆ Police have launched a massive search operation and also sealed Punjab's border with Rajasthan

The blast came at a time when police have sounded high alert across Punjab, especially in Amritsar after the terrorist-outfit Ansar Ghazwatul Hind (AGH) chief Zakir Musa was reportedly spotted in the holy city along with a few other men on Friday. Security was beefed up across the State since Thursday after four people snatched an SUV at gunpoint near Madhopur in Pathankot district last week, followed by an intelligence input claiming that a group of six to seven Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists were reportedly in the State, possibly in Ferozepur.

Sunday's blast attack at Nirankaris — considered to be

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

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

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Woman volunteer, eyewitnesses recount blast horror

MHA prepares list of Rohingya sympathisers

Former envoy, top lawyers, Amnesty International, India among those figure

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

neighbouring States.

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

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

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

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Fadnavis Govt OK's quota for Marathas

Accepts Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission suggestions

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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CAPSULE

JAWAN MARTYRED IN NAXAL BLAST; 2 HURT

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

CAMPAIGNING FOR C'GARH PH-II POLLS CONCLUDES

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

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

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

61-YR-OLD INDIAN SHOT DEAD BY TEENAGER IN US

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

14 killed as bus falls into gorge in Uttarkashi



Officials undertake rescue operation, rush injured to hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

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

The District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and other officials reached the site with six ambulances and doctors to undertake the rescue

operation. Fourteen people were reported dead on the spot.

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

Meanwhile, Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, Vidhan Sabha Speaker Premchand Agrawal, BJP State president Ajay Bhatt and Pradesh Congress Committee president Pritam Singh expressed grief over the casualties.

The Chief Minister directed a magisterial inquiry into the Uttarkashi accident. Asking officials concerned to facilitate immediate medical treatment of the injured, the Chief Minister also directed that the seriously injured be airlifted by helicopter to Dehradun. He also told the Uttarkashi District Magistrate to make ex gratia payments to the families of those killed as well as to those injured.

32 held for trying to rig TET

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Teams of Special Task Force and district police across UP nabbed 32 paper solvers, impersonators, copycats in the Teacher Eligibility Test-2018 from different centres on Sunday.

In Moradabad, a team of STF nabbed six paper solvers and recovered six mobile phone sets, three admit cards of the exam, two OMR sheets, two answer sheets, a four-wheeler and over ₹24,000 from them.

Those arrested were identified as Sachin and Jitendra Soni, both of Moradabad, Vipin Kumar of Jalaun, Saurabh Asthana of Kanpur, Mithilesh and Sippu, both of Bihar. They were nabbed from outside VPS Public School in Majhola police station area of Moradabad when they were going to take the exam.

Sachin and Jitendra, who were the masterminds of the racket, said they along with one Ankit of Moradabad, had trapped Vipin, Saurabh, Mithilesh and Sippu for providing them help in the TET.

For offering help to the examinee in the exam, they used to charge ₹50,000 from each candidate and later charge Rs 10 lakh if the examinee cleared the test. As guarantee, they used to keep the original academic documents of the examinees with them.

The arrested paper solvers disclosed that they used to



Examinees coming out after appearing in the TET in Lucknow on Sunday

Pioneer

prepare a PAN card in the name of the examinee seeking their services pasting their own photo on it. While submitting the application form, the candidates were asked to paste a faded photo so that they could appear in the exam in their place.

Another police team nabbed a man selling fake exam papers for one lakh rupee to the gullible examinee in

Bijnor. He was identified as Rakesh Singh of Moradabad.

The police recovered a fake question paper, an Aadhaar card, a print of online application and one lakh rupees from him. He was arrested from Saraswati Durga PG College in Sherkot locality of Bijnor. Rakesh admitted he had sold the paper to some aspirants.

In Orai Kotwali police station area of Jalaun, Vipin

Kumar Vishwakarma of Kanpur was arrested for taking exam in the place of an examinee at Dayanand College.

In Daraganj police station area of Prayagraj, three youths, identified as Shiv Bahadur Singh, Shiv Shanker and Nitish Kumar, were arrested for helping examinees with electronic devices. The tam recovered five electronic devices, Rs 60,000, four mobile sets, seven

batteries and two marksheets from them.

In Ghoomanganj area of Prayagraj, a woman, identified as Sunita Devi, was arrested for taking exam in place of Seema Devi at UD Memorial Inter College while one Pratima Tripathi was arrested for appearing in the test for Fahreen at Yadgare Husian Inter College in Shahganj police station area of Prayagraj.

In Aligarh, incharge of Chacha Computer Centre in Iglas police station area, Ram Prasad Suman, was arrested for preparing a fake document. In Bhadohi, a woman, identified as Suchita Devi, was arrested for using bluetooth.

In Varanasi, Bittu was arrested from Cantonment area on similar charges.

In Ferozabad, two persons, identified as Sanjeet and Manoj, were arrested for violating law while in Bulandshahr, three miscreants were arrested for taking exam in place of other examinees.

One Anirudh Singh was arrested for taking exam in the place of Shiv Kumar at National Inter College, Bharwari under Kokharaj police station area while in Jaunpur, Sachin Kumar was arrested for taking exam in the place of one Ajay Kumar Yadav.

In Sharwasti, Lalita was arrested for taking exam in the place of Sadhna Devi at Janata Inter College under Bhinga police station.

Poor, downtrodden getting their share in UP: Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

"Everyone knows what happened to Sardar Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose. Even leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sharad Pawar and Raj



Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya lights the lamp to inaugurate Loktantra Senani Aabhaara Sammelan in Lucknow on Sunday

Narain were looked down upon by the Congress government. It is only Narendra Modi who broke the barriers of political lines and gave respect which was due to the leaders," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

"The world now knows about Sardar Patel and the Statue of Unity. This is the true respect the BJP government has

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

He said the Congress stooped low when it arrested a leader like Jayprakash Narayan during Emergency. "Then people like you revolted against the

then government and courted arrest. It is history that all jails across the country were full but there was no ebb in your enthusiasm," he said. "Leaders have taken lessons from your sacrifice and have not stepped into the shoes of dictator," he added. BJP MLC Yashwant Singh also addressed the loktantra senanis.

Rajbhar dares BJP to dump SBSP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Supheldeo Bharatiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, an ally of the ruling party in Uttar Pradesh and a Cabinet minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, hit back at the Bharatiya Janata Party state president for calling him a "necessary evil" and dared the BJP to dump his party and sack him from the Council of Ministers.

The outburst of the sulking BJP ally came a day after BJP state president Mahendra Nath Pandey dubbed Rajbhar as a "necessary evil", saying that the comments of the SBSP chief "should not be taken seriously".

"Why are you unnecessarily carrying us? If you have the courage, dump us. The government has no time for welfare activities for backward people," Rajbhar said.

Peeved over non-allotment of official accommodation for his party's office despite BJP president Amit Shah's assurance, Rajbhar said it was clear that the BJP was not keen on carrying us along.

"We were also promised posts of chairman and two vice-chairmen in different corporations equivalent to the rank of minister and minister of state, but this too did not

happen," he rued, and added, "We are being punished for showing the courage to call spade a spade."

Rajbhar, who is known for attacking the BJP quite often despite sharing power with the saffron party in UP, said, "It is clear that they (BJP) are unnecessarily carrying us, if that is the case, let the BJP dump us."

Rajbhar, who is Minister for Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment, said, "The UP Chief Minister in the past few days spoke against us. If this is so, then why are they not removing us?"

"We belong to the vanchit varg (deprived class) of society. Today, a child of an officer or a leader does not want to study in a government primary school. The level of schools which had produced brilliant doctors and scientists around 40-50 years ago, has gone down significantly."

"Now if we speak for basic changes in the education system, then it is said that we have gone mad. When we speak of quota within quota for the deprived class, our demand is mocked at," he lamented.

Taking a jibe at Pandey, the SBSP leader said, "As per the BJP state chief, more than 100 crore Hindus are with him. Despite this, they took out a

motorcycle rally. Time will tell how much support they are actually getting."

On his party's ties with the BJP, Rajbhar said, "A decision in this regard will be taken at an appropriate time. Time will tell whether we are with the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections or not."

The SBSP chief also said, "As of now we are with the BJP, but we will continue to call a spade, a spade. We call a wrong act a wrong act. We are expanding our organisation. Let the elections come."

In the 2017 UP assembly elections, the SBSP had contested eight of the 403 seats and won four. Rajbhar became a Cabinet minister.

Asked about demands being made by various organisations to take the legislative route for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Rajbhar said that the sole aim of such propaganda was polarisation of the voters on communal lines.

Attacking the UP government for renaming Faizabad and Allahabad, Rajbhar had recently said it negated India's "composite culture. The SBSP leader had said that instead of changing names of cities, districts and railway stations, the BJP should start with changing names of its prominent Muslim leaders.

Akhilesh threatens to sever ties with Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday campaigned in Madhya Pradesh.

"I want to tell the Congress that when they will be the weakest, the Samajwadi Party will be their dearest friend. But the Congress leaders don't want 'cycle' to succeed. Hence, we have decided that if you try to stop the cycle, we will take your hands off the cycle and give the control to some other party," Yadav said at a rally at Damoh in Madhya Pradesh.

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

Cycle is the political symbol of Samajwadi Party.

Akhilesh dropped strong hints that his party may not ally with the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, saying this would deal a huge blow to the Rahul Gandhi-led party as they had been rallying for a grand coalition to stop the BJP juggernaut in the country.

Apparently miffed with the Congress for refusing to share seats with SP and BSP in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, Akhilesh had on Saturday attacked the

Congress while campaigning in Chhattisgarh. He had accused the grand old party of scuttling Samajwadi Party's prospects in the poll-bound state.

Hinting that SP might not enter into a tie-up with Congress for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Yadav said, "Humne bhi tar kay liya hai ki cycle ko roko to apka haath handle se hata diya jayega... Control aur kisi ke haath chala jayega (We have decided we will remove your hands from the cycle handle if you try to stop the cycle and the control will go in the hand of someone else)."

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

Yadav's statement came during a rally in Durg in Madhya Pradesh while campaigning for SP and its alliance

Cops asked to step up security of all religious places

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Anand Kumar issued a security alert across Uttar Pradesh on Sunday in the wake of the Amritsar incident in which terrorists attacked a prayer hall of Nirankari sect with hand grenades, killing three persons and injuring 10 others.

In his order, the ADG directed all district police chiefs to step up security around all religious places, shrines, institutes in the state.

He also asked the district police chiefs of west UP to ensure checking at inter-state borders.

The police personnel were also asked to stay prepared for any eventuality.

Following the instructions, security of all religious places, institutions, shrines in Uttar Pradesh was beefed up on Sunday and cops started checking around public places and keeping a tab on suspicious persons.

The attack on Nirankari Bhawan took place amidst an alert that some terrorists had sneaked into Punjab and were possibly "moving towards Delhi".

The alert was sounded by UP police immediately after the Amritsar incident was reported

partner Gondwana Gantantra Party.

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

Akhilesh said that there was no difference in the policies of the BJP and Congress. His anti-Congress statements come barely 20 months after the two parties entered into an alliance for UP assembly elections in March 2017. The SP leadership had then said that the 'cycle' would run even faster with the 'hand' to help in the ride but the alliance failed as the BJP swept the polls.

RSS mobilises people for VHP's dharma sabha in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to garner support for construction of Ram temple, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh took out motorcycle rallies in the state capital and its surrounding areas, asking people to attend the proposed dharma sabha to be held in Ayodhya on November 25.

The motorcycle rallies were taken out from 40 places and later they all joined for a huge rally. Chanting slogans of Jai Sri Ram, the bikers, all wearing saffron bandanna, passed through the main city roads.

Convenor of the Chalo Ayodhya Campaign, Devesh Awasthi, said that the youths participating in the motorcycle rally, urged the people to gather at Ayodhya on November 25 in large numbers so that the government was forced to bring a legislation in favour of construction of Ram temple.

"There were around 40 small rallies which met at a point from where four big rallies were taken out to the four corners of the city. At some places even the common man joined us rally for a short distance," Awasthi said.

He said the rally in south Lucknow started from Alambagh and after passing through Mawaiyya, Charbagh, culminated at Hazratganj.

Addressing the participants of the rally at GPO park in Hazratganj, Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Anurag Srivastava said the Indian courts had no respect for Hindus.

"Judges can hold court at midnight to release terrorists but they have no time to decide the Ram temple case," he said.

In Lucknow west, the rally started from Rajajipuram and after travelling through PMT ground, tempo stand, Campwell road, it culminated at Dubagga.

The rally in Lucknow north started from Ram Ram Bank and culminated at Engineering College ground while in Lucknow east, the rally started from 1090 crossing and culminated at BBD crossing.

Agra citizens launch drive to rid Yamuna of garbage

Agra (PTI): Agra citizens, including young boys and girls, on Sunday launched a massive cleanliness drive to rid the Yamuna of garbage dumped in the river.

Aimed at conserving heritage monuments along the Yamuna besides cleaning the river itself, the drive, named River Connect Campaign, succeeded in fishing out tonnes of garbage, including litter, polythene bags, plastics, immersed idols in the river, construction material, from the river during the day. Besides youngsters, senior citizens too actively participated in the river cleaning drive, working as volunteers of various voluntary organisations.

Talking about the drive, River Connect Campaign member Jugal Kishor Pandit said, "People have been dumping all sorts of domestic waste in the river. Thousands of idols were immersed in it."

"After the water level went down, the garbage dumps have resurfaced and are attracting insects, mosquitoes and even bodies of animals are piling up on the river bed spreading the stink," he added.

A large number of foreign tourists stop at the Etmaddaula view point park, near the tomb of I'timad-ud-Daulah, commissioned by emperor Jahangir's wife Nur Jahan for her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg, to take shots of the monument, said environmentalist Devashish Bhattacharya. "But what they see along with the monuments is a dying river with carcasses, litters and factory waste dumped in it. The government agencies hardly bother to clean up the area. The toxic effluents are corroding the foundations of heritage buildings," he said.



Katiyar advocates legislation for construction of Ram temple

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Advocating a legislation to dissolve the Ram Mandir issue, Bharatiya Janata Party's senior leader Vinay Katiyar said if the government brings a law in this regard, it would expose political parties and leaders who talk about Hindutava but did nothing for it.

"The Narendra Modi government should bring a legislation on construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya because it will show who are in favour of Ram temple and who are against it," Katiyar said in Ayodhya on Sunday.

He said that if it happened it would not be the first time when the legislation route would be taken to construct temple. "There is the precedence, that Somnath temple was constructed after the Indian Parliament passed a law. This was made possible by then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel," he added.

Katiyar said the same procedure could be replicated by



the Modi government for construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya.

He said, "Moreover, it will expose leaders who call themselves Hindus and flaunt their janau or call themselves Shiva bhakts. This legislation will expose whether they are with the Hindu samaj or with others."

Katiyar said that if the legislation failed to get Parliament's nod, the government should not consider it as a failure because the people would know who was with dharma because only develop-

ment with dharma had a meaning.

"Some people argue that instead of mandir the BJP should focus on development. They are partially right. The government should carry forward its agenda of development and also build Ram temple because it is the demand of the people," he said.

Without taking the name of Congress, Katiyar said there were some political parties which sponsored advocates who had delayed the hearing of the Ayodhya case in the Supreme Court. "They have achieved some success as the SC has deferred the hearing to January next year."

Katiyar made it clear that delaying the hearing on the Ayodhya case meant that there would be no verdict before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and this was unfortunate.

"This will only increase resentment among the people and their aspiration for a grand Ram temple will be delayed," the BJP leader said.

QUICK TAKES

HARASSED BY LOAN SHARKS, WOMAN ENDS LIFE

Muzaffarnagar: A 45-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping before a train after she and her sons were harassed by loan sharks, following which a man was arrested, police said on Sunday. According to a police official, Anil Tiwari and Ram Kishan had barged into the woman's house and beat her up and her sons for failing to return a loan ad had also threatened them with dire consequences. The woman allegedly jumped before a moving train on Saturday. While Ram Kishan has been arrested, a hunt is on to nab Anil Tiwari, the official said, adding the body has been sent for post-mortem.

FOUR KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Pilibhit: Four persons were killed when they were run over by a speeding truck after falling from their motorcycles near the Khamria trisection, police said Sunday. The incident took place Saturday when four persons — Premal (30), his cousins Rooplal (34), Ram Niwas (30) and Sanjeev (28) — were returning from Simariya village, they said. As they came near the Khamria trisection, both the motorcycles collided, and the riders fell on the ground, police said. Before they could stand, they were run over by a speeding truck. Rooplal, Ram Niwas and Sanjeev died on the spot, while Premal succumbed at a hospital, they said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, police said, adding that a search has been launched to trace the truck.

MADARSA STUDENT STABBED AFTER ALTERCATION

Muzaffarnagar: A madarsa student was seriously injured after he was stabbed by a fellow student following an altercation between them, a police official said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday evening. The victim was rushed to hospital and was stated to be in a serious condition. One of the accused was taken into police custody and investigation was underway. Meanwhile, the body of a 25-year-old youth was found hanging from the ceiling of his house at Dyanagar locality in Shamli. The deceased's family alleged that he was hanged after being killed by his wife and her paramour.

Hopeful of law on Ram temple, says BJP MP

Ballia (PTI): A BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh said he was hopeful of enactment of a law during the winter session of Parliament for construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

BJP MP from Salempur Lok Sabha constituency Ravindra Kushwaha, while addressing party workers during Kamal Sandesh Bike Rally here said: "The winter session of Parliament which commences on December 11 will witness enactment of a law for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya."

Referring to the Rafale issue, Kushwaha said, "Rahul Gandhi has failed in politics, and is misleading the public. He is raking up the Rafale issue to share information with Pakistan and China."

Meanwhile, BJP MLA from Baira Surenra Singh, said that faith was above Constitution and it was unfortunate that Lord Ram was forced to live in a tent in Ayodhya. He also termed Mughal emperor Babar as a "foreign invader".

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD				
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 18/07				
On behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Material Manager, North Central Railway, Allahabad invites the E-Procurement tenders:				
S. N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Earnest Money & Tender Opening Date
1	19186005A	Safety Shoes as per IS: 15298 (Pt-II) 2011/ISO 20345: 2004 of Reputed Make like Bata, Liberty, Action or its equivalent. Detailed Specification as per attached Annexure-'A' and size of shoes as per attached Annexure-'B'	4504 Pairs	90,000/- 12.12.2018

Note:- 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed on their body. 5. The above tender notice has been uploaded on "<http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>". In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 1183/18(K)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

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Activist narrates RTI saga

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Right to Information activist Aruna Roy told the RTI story at the Lucknow Literature Festival on Sunday engaging the audience in the journey which she said had been a difficult one and had taken new contours. She said that the only thing that she found appropriate in the struggle was "Lago Raho Munna Bhai" because if one stopped, the fight was over.

The Lucknow Literature Fest is being organised by the Lucknow Expressions Society at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan.

She also talked about her recently released book "The RTI Story" which had caught the attention of book lovers for the interesting style in which the details had been put forth. Aruna said that the people had to be told not only about how to ask questions but the manner in which it had to be asked. She said that Act brought the entire nation together and brought another perspective of independence and for a decent democracy that was something which was essential. "Officials do not like to be questioned and they need to be told that we have the right to know where the public money is being spent," she disclosed.

She said that the fight never ended and problems took new forms. "It took us eleven years to get the Right to Information but now new forms of problems are emerging. We are now carrying out the fight for the amendment of rules. There were rules about not giving information if the person seeking the information has died. We said that needs to be changed and the information should be given even after the death of the person."

Roy said that they had to take up new ways of fighting. "We were stopped from staging dharna at Jantar Mantar and were told to stage at the Ramelela Grounds after payment of Rs 50,000 which was impossible for a poor person who was protesting on the roads. For the ordinary man, the dharna sthal is his Parliament where he gets to voice his thoughts and sometimes the ministers also visit him and hence we find the legal way out and get relief," she said. She admitted that when one entered the fight one found skeletons in every closet and hence what they had achieved was just the beginning of the journey. She said that in the fight she discovered that it was



Aruna Roy speaking at the Lucknow Literature Festival on Sunday

Pioneer

a waste to go for a hunger strike. "The authorities are insensitive and the death of a couple of people will not make any difference to them," she said.

MUSEUM OF PARTITION DRAWS A BIG CROWD

The exhibition of artefacts donated by people for the Museum of Partition in Amritsar are attracting a lot of attention of visitors at the Lucknow Literature Festival.

The museum is one of its kind in the world and documenting the stories of partition. Exhibition incharge Priyanka Sheshadri said that families from Lucknow had shared that they also wanted to give things for the museum.

While giving the details of the artefacts which had been showcased at the fest, she said that there was also a poignant story wherein a family in Punjab had gifted them a garment made in the famous phulkari work. "Preetam Kaur was engaged to Bhagnani Singh but during the partition the families separated and met later at a refugee camp and were married in March 1948," she recounted.

"Most of the stories shared emphasised on the pain of decision which the family had to make in terms of the partition. Most had to be given hopes that they would return one day back to their homes. Hence most of them locked their houses for the same. This was a very poignant aspect of the pain of partition which was shared," she said.

Theatre means a lot for Zeshan

Lucknow (PNS): Well-known Bollywood actor and theatre activist Zeshan Ayub set the tone for the discussion on "Sab Sala Filmi Natak Hai" session at the Lucknow Literature Festival which also witnessed the participation of Surabhi Modi from Lucknow University.

Zeshan talked about how doing theatre had changed him from the person that he was in Class XII to what he was today. "After I joined college, I was primarily a patriarchal person who was very judgemental in nature but after doing theatre, it changed me much as a person," he said. The actor said that it was important to understand that art was not something which had a disconnect with people. "It is not something which can be termed as an internal journey," he added.

He admitted that when he joined the theatre, it was much of socio-political theatre that was happening. "The impact of this theatre was great on the younger generation and most of us who joined that felt that all those who were working in the area were liberal in their thought processes and not commercial in nature," he added.

He admitted that the National School of Drama was one of the best platforms for a person in the field of acting where it improved one's skills in acting. "It is wrong to

assume that people step out of NSD with the aspirations of doing films. All my batch-mates are doing theatre except for two of us who are doing films," he added.

Surabhi Modi on her part discussed about her journey of carrying out research on well-known director Vishal Bhardwaj. "I found a lot of interesting aspects of Shakespearean theatre in the work of Vishal and needed to explore it and hence I decided to do my research on the same". She said that she liked the manner in which Vishal had treated women characters in his movies despite the fact that Shakespeare was not known as a feminist.

The other sessions included a session of 'Women Power in Parliament' followed by a question on the voice of media and its importance in the Indian democracy in 'Voice or Noise?'. The festival ended with a note of laughter with the session in 'Muskuraye Aap Lucknow me hai'.

"We have put in our blood and sweat to bring to you from across this beautiful motherland of ours, a blend of music, poetry, stories and culture. With a tinge of nostalgia, this year's literary fest was aimed at making one feel right at home, no matter what the state, the language or the traditions," said organiser Kanak Rekha Chauhan.

Pledge taken to keep city clean

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With a resolve to take city to number one position in the next cleanliness survey, the city enthusiasts, policy-makers and leaders took a pledge to keep the roads, colonies and localities clean.

A large number of people took part in the Swachhata maharally organised by Lucknow Nagar Nigam under Swachh Bharat Mission on Sunday. The march started from 1090 crossing and culminated at Nagar Nigam office in Lalbagh.

Urban Development Minister Suresh Khanna administered an oath to participants to keep the city clean so that it could become number one in the national cleanliness survey of 2019. "It is the responsibility of people to keep their locality clean. They should not litter the roads. They should throw the waste paper or wrappers in dustbins. We do not expect much from you. Just develop a habit not to litter roads and the rest government will do," he said.

The minister also talked about various projects the state government had taken up for the disposal of solid waste. "The government has started a ward contest under which the cleanest ward will be given an award. This will also prompt people to keep the city clean," he said.

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia appealed to people to ensure cleanliness in all parts of the city and extend their full cooperation. A large number of residents, social working groups, school teachers and students campaigned for the cleanliness and residents' cooperation in the maharally.



Urban Development Minister Suresh Khanna, Minister for Law Brijesh Pathak and mayor Sanyukta Bhatia flagging off the rally on Sunday and (left) people participating in it



The rally was flagged off from 1090 crossing. After passing through Gautampalli, Raj Bhawan, Hazratganj crossing, it culminated at Lalbagh. The participants were encouraged by bands playing traditional

tunes. At the concluding place, all participants were administered a pledge to take city on number one position in Swachhata ranking.

In the morning, 1090 crossing saw the presence of

city's political heavy weights, LNN and district administration officials. On the occasion, MP Jagdambika Pal, Urban Development Minister Suresh Khanna, minister Brijesh Pathak, MLA Avinash Trivedi, MLA Neeraj Bora, Principal Secretary, Urban Development Manoj Kumar Singh, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, Urban Development department's advisor, Keshav Verma (retired IAS), Home Minister representative Diwakar Tripathi, Municipal Commissioner Indra Mani Tripathi remained present.

Hardcore criminal held for Madaion robbery

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The daring robbery in which jeweller Anil Soni of Madaion was deprived of ornaments and cash was executed a hardcore criminal who was on the police watch-list.

The stunning facts surfaced after the police arrested Pankaj Verma of Indira Nagar on Sunday. He is a native of Lakhimpur Kheri. The cops also arrested his aide, identified as Brijendra Dwivedi of Vikas Nagar, and recovered two country-made pistols, four live cartridges, Rs 11,000, a motorcycle and a small quantity of the jewellery from the miscreants.

An interrogation revealed that Pankaj was facing trial in the murder of a student leader of Guru Govind Singh Degree College in Lakhimpur Kheri. He was sent

to jail in a loot case by Vikas Nagar police in the past and was released on bail eight months ago. Since his release from jail, he was under police watch as per the existing practice in police. The police keep a watch on those named in such heinous crime and are released after being granted bail.

The police admitted that there was some laxity in keeping a watch on Pankaj's activity. He said he had asked his subordinates to look into the matter. In his confession to the police, Pankaj disclosed that he was tipped off about the cash and jewellery that Soni had with him on the day of the incident and, thereafter, he and Brijendra chalked out a plan to strike him. Soni, who is a resident of Gayatri Nagar in Madaion, had visited the Saraffa market in Chowk around 2 pm on the fateful day as he had to get some ornaments

repaired there. He also had purchased some ornaments for his shop on the day. Around 7.30 pm, when he reached near his house, the miscreants pushed him down and later trained a pistol at him forcing him to give away the bag containing ornaments and cash.

On the day of the incident, the police had denied that the miscreants trained pistol at the victim during the loot.

A jumbo team, consisting of 14 members with an officer of inspector rank, four officers of sub inspector rank, three head constables and five constables, were engaged to crack the robbery case. Sources said the police had no dossiers of criminals active in the trans-Gomti locality. "Prime accused Pankaj had 11 cases in his name and seven of them were registered at different police stations of trans-Gomti locality.

IIM alumnus releases book

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Subhra Halder, who passed out from IIM-Lucknow this year released his book "Reminiscence of Hell: Life at IIM-Lucknow" at the Manifest on Sunday.

He said that the word "Hell" was used in the title because it was a common refrain in the MBA community for the rigorous course offered.

He said that the book was a testimony of every student who passed out from the prestigious institute.

"It covers the journey starting from getting admission to the day of convocation and captures the transformation that takes place in a student. The society or the outside world just knows about the IIM alums from their admission and job offers. The book tries to reveal the undercurrents during the MBA life and beautifully portrays the anxieties, quest, self-doubts, success, solidarity and much more from the eyes of a fictional protagonist," he added.

He said it was a handbook for the IIM aspirants and would give them a sense of purpose and also how the perception of success changed with every passing day at IIM-L.

Subhra Halder is an IIM-L passout of 2018 batch and a budding marketer in career.

He was into writing since his undergrad days.

He has won three national level awards for writing, two from NHRC and one from Indian Student Parliament, Pune. He was felicitated by former CJI KG Balakrishnan.

Design education discussed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The highlight of the third day at the IIM-L's Manifest was the session by D Udaya Kumar who designed the rupee symbol. He talked about the diversity of Indian sub-continent and explained various ideas behind design edge over other integrated scripts. He discussed about the evolution of design education and how society as a group could acknowledge the presence of design education. He stressed on the importance of soft skills in life, and how the talents towards certain disciplines always existed but were somehow left dormant if undiscovered.

Major DP Singh, a Kargil war veteran, illustrated how attitude in life was dependent on his experiences, how he achieved most of the things in his life in spite of the daunting shortcomings he faced. He said that he believed in the theory of karma and happiness which he thought could not be achieved by materialistic pos-



sessions in life.

ITC Call for Arms, a multi-domain management chal-

lenge, saw students from top 20 B-schools being tested on their business acumen along with

pragmatic thinking across multiple domains. SCIFI Fin Pitch, an annual pitching event, was organised at a national level to promote innovations in financial inclusivity and fintech. UPSDM Amlan was a case study-based competition on issues of unemployment, high attrition rates and low wages, challenges in delivering vocational training and roadblocks in collaborating with private players.

UP IT & EL Optimus 2018 sponsored by the Uttar Pradesh IT and Electronics department was a case competition that saw participation from many B-school teams around India. It revolved around finding solutions and innovative ways for socio-economic empowerment of rural residents through the BharatNet optical fiber network. Vibes, a solo dance event, allowed dancers to perform on their desired dance form. Potpourri, an engaging literary competition, required participants to caption pictures and launch a war of words.

Police give Ashiyana victim a raw deal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Women, who are victims of crime cases, are not getting help from the police in Lucknow despite a stern order from the top cop to ensure the same.

A case in point is that of Ashiyana where a victim of fraud and rape case, in which an official of the Intelligence Bureau was named, failed to get help from Ashiyana police.

Piqued by the pathetic affairs, she petitioned her case at the camp office of the SSP and staged a protest on Sunday evening after she failed to get any help from Ashiyana police.

Her case was registered on November 10 and later she made several rounds to the offices of senior officials. She had approached first Ashiyana police for help on October 23 but Ashiyana SHO Akhilesh

Pandey had returned her empty-handed saying the police could not register a case against an IB official on flimsy allegation.

Sharing her ordeal with newsmen, she said that the accused IB official was issuing threat to her to force her to take back the case. She added that the Ashiyana SHO was not interested in helping her for some unknown reason.

"My case was not registered on October 23 when I contacted the police. Later, members of Karni Sena came for my help and the case was registered on November 10. But after registering a case, the police sat over it and did not take any action against the accused," she claimed.

"Taking a strict note to her complaint, the SSP, Lucknow, referred her case to Cantonment CO to probe into the allegations," police spokesman AK Singh said.

He refused to comment when asked if any action would be taken against the Ashiyana SHO for the delaying tactic in the case.

The Kanpur native came in contact with the IB official, identified as Apoorva Dwivedi of Shayam Nagar in Chakeri locality of Kanpur, several months back. Later, both started dating one another. During several meetings, the accused proposed to marry the victim and called her to meet him in Lucknow. On reaching Lucknow, the accused took her to his house in Eldeco Udyan where he forced her to live with him in a live-in relationship.

"I stayed at the house for about one-and-a-half month. Then I asked him to marry me but he reneged on his promise. He later took me Kanpur where he dropped me outside the house and fled," she alleged.



Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India

Samajik Adhikarita Shivir

Distribution of Aids and Assistive Devices to
Divyangjan & Senior Citizens under
ADIP & Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

SALIENT FEATURES

Aids and assistive devices free of cost to be distributed to
1492 Divyangjan and Senior Citizens at Amethi

Chief Guest

Smriti Zubin Irani
Minister of Textiles, Government of India

Presided over by

Vijay Sampla
Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

Guest of Honour

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh

Date: 19th November, 2018 Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Gauriganj, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

MAJOR INITIATIVES

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- ▶▶ 1526 Cochlear Implant surgeries conducted.
- ▶▶ 8157 motorized tricycles distributed.

Organizer:- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur
Partner:- District Administration, Amethi (Uttar Pradesh)

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Traffic jams become a common site in most of the areas in Lucknow. Commuters caught in a massive traffic congestion at Naka on Sunday

Youths kill rival, burn body

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A group of youths allegedly abducted one of their rivals and burnt his body after killing him in Maal on Sunday. This stunning story came to the fore after the police arrested two suspects in the case on the insistence of the family and after a stern instruction from senior police officials. Those detained were identified as Deepu and Anshu and they owned up their crime.

As per their confession, Deepu, along with one of his aides, abducted Bablu when he was attending a religious function at Sarju Prasad's house. They later handed him over to Anshu who took him to his

poultry farm and later shifted him to the forest area in Devkali village under Atrauli police station area of Hardoi and they later killed the victim and burnt the body.

On the disclosure of the accused, the police recovered the semi-burnt body of Bablu from the forest area in Devkali village under Atrauli police station area of Hardoi. The family of Bablu later identified the body. Police launched a manhunt to nab others involved in the crime.

Interestingly, the family of the victim had lodged a case in this connection naming those nabbed on Sunday. They also had lodged a missing complaint on November 16 at the police

station. Bablu went missing after he left his home to attend a religious function at the house of Sarju Prasad on November 16. After he did not return, his parents lodged a missing complaint suspecting the role of Anshu, Indal, Nagendra, Allha, all of the same locality.

Bablu's father Phoolchand had lodged a case against the above named persons on March 7 while apprehending safety of his son and his family members. He had a long standing dispute with the above named persons.

KILLED
A 50-year old woman was killed after she was hit by a

speeding mini truck on Ring Road under Vikasnagar police station on Sunday.

The deceased, identified as Videshwari Devi, had left home to buy medicines from Tedhi Pulia.

Around 11:30 am, when she was crossing a road in front of a marble shop on Ring Road, a speeding mini-truck hit her causing her to suffer injuries and bleed profusely. She was taken to a hospital where she was declared "brought dead".

The errant driver fled the scene after abandoning the vehicle on the spot. The police said the vehicle had been seized and the hunt for the driver was on.

Students appeal for world govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The third day of the 19th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World was inaugurated by the Minister for Law and Justice Brijesh Pathak, who was the chief guest, while Governor-General of Tuvalu HE Sir Lakoba T Italeli presided over the inaugural ceremony. The day began with school prayer by CMS students while CMS students, on behalf of 2.5 million children of the world and generations yet unborn, presented their appeal for the establishment of a world government based on human rights and peace, unity and justice for all. The participating delegates supported the appeal of CMS students in one voice.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the third day, Pathak expressed hope that the conference would be successful in reaching its goal that was the establishment of a world government. He thanked CMS founder manager Jagdish



Gandhi for identifying the need of the hour and organising the conference for the past several years for safeguarding the future of the world's children. Presiding over the ceremony, Governor-General of Tuvalu HE Sir Lakoba T Italeli said that greatest issues were

Minister of Justice, Afghanistan, Abdul Baseer Anwar said that the international law should be so strong that it did not leave scope for any political interference.

Former judge of the Supreme Court of India Justice AP Mishra said CMS was the most sacred place on earth to talk of peace. He added: "If we cannot modify UN character, each of the country's leadership will have to take it upon himself to discuss and come out with a solution to bring peace in the world."

At a press conference held in the afternoon session, convener of the Jagdish Gandhi briefed media persons about the views of the Chief Justices. He said that Chief Justices explained that even though the cultures and traditions of various countries were widely different, still there prevailed an underlying unity as all of us were members of one human family. "Therefore, we need one enforceable international law to hold us together and prevent wars," he observed.

CISH programme on tech licensing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An awareness programme was organised at Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture (CISH) on licensing of technologies. On the occasion, business manager, Agrinnovate India Ltd, Amit Kalkal discussed in detail different aspects of the issue with scientists of the institute and many state and SAU officials. He explained how to move technology from an idea or prototype to a licensed product and technology. He also discussed legal issues for technology commercialisation.

CISH has developed more than 35 technologies, out of this 11 technologies were transferred to different companies and stakeholders. The institute has also signed MoUs with different institutes and companies, namely, ICAR-National Research Centre on Seed Spices (ICAR-NRCS), Ajmer, PI Foundation Trust, New Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, HDN Farmers, New Delhi, Centre of Technology and Entrepreneurship Development (CTED), Amethi, KR Foods Private Limited, Gurgaon, for technology commercialisation and contract research.

Director Shailendra Rajan said that in the present competitive era, technology had emerged as one of the major dynamic forces for business, startups and entre-



preneurs.

"Innovations in technology are essential for modelling the competitive nation and act as a catalyst for knowledge creation, dissemination and economic development. The transfer of technology takes place through prescribed and casual modes. Some of the prescribed modes include trade, licensing, joint ventures, franchising while the casual modes include imitation and technology spillover. Specific

to discuss the technology evaluation and technology transfer to startups and entrepreneurs, an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) technology commercialisation is the process of converting ideas into businesses. For this, certification from authorised agency and certified data of the experiment is essential, without this any technical committee is not able to decide the value of IP of the technology and unable to recommend for commercialisation," he said.

Walk in memory of road mishap victims

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Consumer Guild with support from Consumer VOICE, Delhi, organised a peace walk which originated from Swasthya Bhawan crossing and ended at Shaheed Smarak to mark the World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims and demanded safer roads for all.

More than 200 people participated in the peace walk, including NGOs, lawyers, students, doctors, Nursing Association, bankers, corporate sector representative, Ex-Army Welfare Federation. This year's theme of World Day of Remembrance was 'Roads have stories -- Voice of victims'.

About 1.3 million people die each year on world's roads



and between 20 and 50 million sustain non-fatal injuries. Road traffic crashes are a major cause of deaths among all age groups and the leading cause of death among those aged 15-29

years. As per the annual publication 'Road accidents in India-2017' released by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in total 4,64,910 road accidents took place causing 1,47,913, road traffic deaths and 4,70,975 injuries in 2017. "This means that on a daily basis, 1,273 accidents took place and 405 persons were killed on Indian roads. Road casualties are an epidemic and the governments can no longer afford to ignore. All avenues be it road design, licensing, driving skills, traffic management, vehicle design, policing, enforcement need to be addressed through a strong and comprehensive road safety legislation immediately," said Consumer Guild chairman Abhishek Srivastava. "This

road safety bill promised by the Government is yet to see the light of day. We are requesting the government to pass the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill 2017 in the upcoming winter session of the Parliament. Fast action is required," he said.

Ekta Purohit from the same organisation said: "If this bill is further deferred, we will be putting at risk precious lives of citizens before the next session of Parliament can adopt it. These casualties may include thousands of innocent children and youths in their productive years of life. This is a clear case of carnage on our roads."

The walkathon ended with a two-minute silence in the memory of road accident victims.

GSI exploring gold in UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Geological Survey of India is working on the exploration of gold in the state of UP. ADG, GSI, Somnath Chandel said that 7.29 million tons gold prospects had been explored by the GSI in Gurhar Pahar, 52806 tons in Sonapahari and 0.05 million tons in Guladih which fall in Uttar Pradesh.

He said that the northern region of Geological Survey of India oversaw geological studies in states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh.

Giving the detail of other works which the GSI is carrying, he said: "So far we have

mapped 76,378 sq km of area under specialised themes, geochemical characterisation of the 41,825 sq km of the area has been done and 19,685 sq km of the area has been mapped by geophysical means. Integration of all these maps are underway to locate for new deep-seated concealed mineral deposits and other subsurface features of importance that may be of interest to geosciences fraternity."

He said that they were keenly pursuing to locate deposits of rare earth elements and platinum group of elements which not only had a significant bearing in strategic preparedness but also helped in fields of advance technology.

He said that the Northern Region of GSI has actively col-

laborated with ISRO in national geomorphological and lineament mapping.

"The outcome will be a great aid to town planners and policy-makers for helping them to plan for sustainable urban development. Other than this, we are actively pursuing an interdepartmental study to trace the ancient Saraswati river, which is of great emotional and heritage importance to us," he added.

He said that being nodal agency for landslide studies, their commitment to serve the cause of national development through natural disaster studies had led them to map areas in landslide-prone areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and J&K for suggesting mitigating measures.

Nigerian among two held for duping

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A Nigerian national and a woman from Meghalaya were arrested for duping an Air Force personnel of ₹14 lakh here on Saturday.

The woman had met the Air Force personnel through Facebook and had duped several people by connecting with them on social networking websites.

The police said that the accused were identified as Joseph alias Joy, a resident of Nigeria, and the Dahohing Changson, a resident of Shillong Meghalaya. A passport, three laptops, 10 mobile phones, dollars and a diary

containing contacts of the victims were also recovered from their possession.

Talking to mediapersons,

A PASSPORT, THREE LAPTOPS, 10 MOBILE PHONES, DOLLARS AND A DIARY CONTAINING CONTACTS OF THE VICTIMS WERE ALSO RECOVERED FROM THEIR POSSESSION.

the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Nitin Tiwari, said that Phoolchand Chauhan had lodged a complaint that a woman had befriended him on the Facebook.

He stated that she had

convinced him that she had sent a gift to him from a foreign country and he should deposit ₹14 lakh as Goods and Services Tax in separate bank accounts so that the item could be shipped.

Even after the complainant deposited the amount, Changson continued to demand the money following

which Chauhan lodged an FIR with the Dhoomanganj police in this connection.

The matter was handed over to the Crime Branch and the IT Cell. The police traced the whereabouts of the woman in New Delhi through call details and bank accounts. However, she was not found at the given address.

They were arrested from the Civil Lines locality of the city through electronic surveillance.

The SSP said that Changson used to target people with the help of the Nigerian youth. They had been booked under Section 66 of the IT Act, he added.

Seminar-cum-workshop on tuberculosis held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A renowned chest physician, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, spoke about the diagnosis of pulmonary, extra pulmonary and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis at a seminar-cum-workshop on 'Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis' on Sunday. The seminar, organised by the Allahabad Medical Association (AMA), was chaired by its president, Dr RKS Chauhan.

He said that the symptoms of tuberculosis were cough for more than two weeks, fever, weight loss, night sweats and history of blood in sputum. Sputum smear examination for AFB, Culture and GeneXpert TB/RIF should be advised for pulmonary TB patients along with chest X-ray. For drug sensitive TB patient, treatment should be of a six months' duration in which two months were of intensive phase and the remaining four months

of continuation phase. Treatment should be started as early as possible, he said. The District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr CP Verma, said that sputum examination was available free of cost for all patients in government hospitals.

The seminar-cum-workshop was attended by more than 100 delegates and conducted by the AMA Secretary, Dr Rajesh Maurya, and Scientific Secretary, Dr Ashutosh Gupta.

Sikhs take out shobha yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hundreds of local Sikhs took out a grand shobha yatra on eve of forthcoming 550th Prakashotsav of Guru Nanak Dev which would be fallen this year on November 23. In connection with the same a grand procession of holy Guru Granth Sahib was taken out from Gurdwara Gurubagh under the auspices of Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee (GPC) here on Sunday afternoon.

After passing through

Luxa, Girjaghat crossing, Nai Sarak, Chetganj, Lahurabir, Maldahiya, Lajpat Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Sagra crossing and Rathayatra, the procession returned to Gurubagh Gurdwara in the evening.

The vehicle was decorated and loaded with flowers where the hold Guru Granth Sahib kept.

As per the tradition, the procession as led by Panch Pyare, mounted Sikhs etc. and it was participated by good number of students from Guru

Nanak Khalsa Girls Inter College, (Gurubagh), Guru Nanak English School (Shivpur) and others. The presence of elephants, horses, bands and lights added beauty to the procession and in front women were sweeping the roads to send the message of cleanliness to the people.

They were also washing the road. During the procession, the participants were singing kirtan 'Satguru Nanak Pragatiya, miti dhundh jag chanan hoya...' During the procession, Bhai Narender



Members of the Sikh community performing acrobatics on the occasion of Dev Prakashotsav on Sunday

Cong a private limited company: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Union Minister defends Govt for failing to bring AYUSH under PMJAY

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik on Sunday sought to defend his Government for failing to bring the alternative medicine system in the ambit of the world's largest national medical insurance scheme under the Ayushman Bharat — Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently, saying nitty-gritty were being discussed.

He said, "My Ministry is in touch with the Union Health Ministry and Niti Aayog to ensure that the medical insurance cover is given to the patients seeking alternate medical system AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy). We hope this will happen soon," said the Minister on the sidelines of an event held here to mark the first Naturopathy Day.

Surprisingly, while the Government has been patting its back for promoting holistic alternative healthcare like never before, the PMJAY scheme which was launched with much fanfare by Prime Minister Narendra Modi a few months ago does not provide insurance coverage to the alternative medicine system AYUSH.

Earlier, after inaugurating the first Naturopathy Day Programme, Naik said his Ministry is introducing several schemes to expand the naturopathy treatment which is cost effective and side-effect-free system. Work on building natural clinics is already in progress in Pune, Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, the Minister said as he pointed out that the health challenges including rising non-communicable diseases we are facing today is because we have forgotten our traditional system of medicine. Jaiprakash Aggarwal of International Naturopathy Organisation, which had organised the event in collaboration with the Ministry, explained that all the treatments given under Naturopathy are based on Pancha Mahabhootas theory and elimination of morbid matter is the best remedy in all disease conditions.

The Chairman of the Surya Foundation also favoured taking the system to each and every household. Naturopathy experts such as Dr Yogesh Gupta and Shalu Gupta, both from Delhi-based Ojas Nature Cure and Yoga Centre called for regulation and standardisation of the sector which is gaining popularity not only amongst Indians but foreigners too owing to its several benefits.

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

Cong calls BJP misogynist over Khattar's rape remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP leadership of being "misogynist", the Congress on Sunday demanded an apology from Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for reportedly claiming that most rape cases were "fake" and took place among people who knew each other well.



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

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

"Misogyny has become a buzzword for BJP leadership. Humiliating India's women has become a characteristic style of BJP leaders. The Talibani thought process of the BJP leadership particularly Khattar has been exposed," Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

After courting controversy over his remarks on rape incidents, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday clarified that his statement had been twisted and asserted there should not be any politics on the issue.

"(My) statement has been twisted. I had said which is on record and I will again State it that during investigation in such cases, it was revealed that about 80 per cent of incidents took place between known...But there is a need to bring

Addressing a rally in Kalka town of Panchkula district, Khattar on Friday reportedly said that 80-90 per cent of the rape and molestation incidents took place amongst people who knew each other well. "They roam around together for some time and if one day they get into some quarrel, they file an FIR claiming that they have been raped." In the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Khattar had made another sexist remark asking women to "run around naked if they wanted freedom".

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

Govt wants to capture RBI reserves, alleges PC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

In a series of tweets, the former Finance Minister also claimed that the Government and the RBI were heading towards a "confrontation" in the Monday's board meeting of the bank. "Government is determined to 'capture' RBI in order to gain control over the reserves. The other so-called disagreements are only a smokescreen (sic)," he said on Twitter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik with Prof Amitabh Mattoo during the launch of the book "Empowering Youth of Jammu & Kashmir" at a function in New Delhi on Sunday



Senior TDP leader Syed Yousuf Ali joins Congress in presence of AICC Secretary Md Saleem in Hyderabad on Sunday

Govt to hold integration week from Nov 25

New Delhi: The National Integration Week will be observed across the country beginning November 25 with an aim to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony.

The Government will organise meetings and seminars during the 'Qaumi Ekta Week' (National Integration Week) to emphasise on themes of secularism, anti-communalism and non-violence.

Besides, November 20 will be observed as "Welfare of Minorities Day" when fraternal processions will be taken out in riot-prone towns, according to an official release.

November 21 will be observed as "Linguistic Harmony Day" when special literary functions and 'Kavi Sammelans' will be organised to enable people of each region to appreciate the linguistic heritage of other parts of India. The release said November

22 will be observed as "Weaker Sections Day". Meetings and rallies will be organised to highlight programmes under various Governments which help SCs/STs and weaker sections with particular emphasis on the distribution of surplus land to landless labourers. November 23 will be observed as "Cultural Unity Day" and cultural functions will be organised to present the Indian tradition of unity in diversity and for promoting cultural conservation and integration, it said. November 24 will be observed as "Women's Day" when role of women in Indian society and in development of nation-building will be highlighted. November 25 will be observed as "Conservation Day" when several meetings and functions will be organised to emphasise the growing need for awareness and action to conserve the environment.

Raj: Ex-Cong MLA joins BJP after son denied ticket

Jaipur: Former Congress MLA Mamta Sharma on Sunday joined the ruling BJP in Rajasthan after her son was denied a ticket by the Congress in the upcoming State Assembly polls.

Sharma met Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje here and announced her joining the party. "I had demanded a ticket for my son from the Congress, but he was denied the same despite the fact that he has done so much work for the party. I was hurt at the party's style of functioning and therefore, decided to join the BJP," she told reporters after meeting Raje.

The former Congress MLA said the Chief Minister has promised her a ticket from the Pipalda constituency of Kota.

34 judges appointed to six HCs: Law Min

New Delhi: A total of 34 judges have been appointed to six High Courts in the country, with Allahabad getting 28, according to the Law Ministry.

Despite fresh appointments made on Saturday, the 24 high courts of the country face a combined shortage of over 430 judges. The total approved strength is 1,079.

While 28 judges were appointed to the Allahabad High Court, the Gauhati High Court got two new faces.

Delhi, Meghalaya, Orissa and Madras High Court got one judge each, separate notifications issued by the Ministry said.

Out of the 34 judges appointed, 17 were lawyers and the rest were judicial officers.

The collegium of the Allahabad High Court had recommended 33 names

OUT OF THE 34 JUDGES APPOINTED, 17 WERE LAWYERS AND THE REST WERE JUDICIAL OFFICERS



for judgship.

But the Supreme Court collegium found 17 names fit for the job. Out of these 17, the Government notified the appointment of 15 and returned two to collegium for reconsideration.

'Swachchh Bharat' a benchmark for other countries to follow: WHO

New Delhi: India's 'Swachchh Bharat' campaign is a good example of how countries can make safe sanitation services accessible to all, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Sunday.

Under the 'Swachchh Bharat' programme, household sanitation coverage increased at a rate of 13 per cent annually between 2016 and 2018, WHO said.

Everyone should have access to safe sanitation facilities including hygienic toilets that are connected to quality sewage systems, WHO said, adding that for many people in its South-East Asia region, as across the world, access to these services remains a problem.

WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh said 900 million people region-wide lack basic sanitation and more than 500 million practise open defecation. Singh said in recent years, member States have made significant progress and region-wide urban coverage of basic sanitation is now close to 70 per cent. In a majority of countries, rural coverage

exceeds 50 per cent and the share of the region's population practising open defecation has been reduced from more than 50 per cent to less than 30 per cent, while several member States have achieved more than 90 per cent coverage of basic sanitation services.

These advances are to be commended and they must also be built on, she said, adding that the return on every dollar invested in safe sanitation is estimated to be nearly six times increased productivity and fewer premature deaths.

"All people everywhere should have access to safe sanitation services, including hygienic toilets that are connected to quality sewage systems."

"For many people across the WHO South-East Asia Region, as across the world, access to these services never-theless remains a problem, with 900 million region-wide lacking basic sanitation, and more than 500 million practising open defecation," Singh said.

"This leads to increased human-feces contact and transmission of a range of diseases, from cholera to typhoid and

hepatitis A and E to tapeworm," she said on the eve of World Toilet Day.

WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

As outlined in WHO's recently launched Guidelines on Sanitation and Health, there are several ways member states can sustain their many gains, accelerate progress and make safe sanitation services accessible to all, she said.

"First, health authorities should work across sectors to ensure all communities have access to toilets that adequately contain excreta. Of key importance is targeting communities in hard-to-reach areas, as well as those living informally in cities or urban zones."

"India's Swachchh Bharat campaign is a good example of how this can be done to rapid effect and on a large scale, with household sanitation coverage increasing at a rate of 13 per cent annually between 2016 and 2018," Singh said.

'Joint planning among Army, Navy, IAF key to win any war in shortest possible time'

New Delhi: Chief of Air Staff BS Dhanoa has strongly pitched for institutionalised structure for joint planning among the Indian Air Force, Navy and Army so that the country wins any war in future in the "shortest possible" time.

The IAF chief said all the three services will have to adopt a coherent approach to effectively deal with all possible security threats facing the country, asserting that his force strongly stands for "jointness".

"No single service can win the war solely on its own inherent organic capabilities given the variety of threats which nations are capable of inflicting upon each other," he said.

"Thus, it is imperative that the three services promote joint planning and exploit the strengths of sister services to help win a war in the shortest possible time. India by itself is one theatre," he told PTI in an interview.

There have been deliberations within the government and the three forces on whether India should go for integrated theatre commands where all

the manpower and assets of the three services will be under the command of one officer. The US as well as several western countries follow this model.

There were voices within the defence establishment who were in favour of setting up at least two theatre commands - one in western sector for dealing with Pakistan and other in eastern sector for dealing with any eventuality along the frontier with China.

Official sources said government is already seriously considering setting up of a Defence Cyber Agency, a Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division comprising the assets of the three services.

Giving a serious consideration to joint planning among the three forces, the government, in April formed a Defence Planning Committee (DPC) headed by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to prepare a national security strategy with a focus on ensuring convergence among the Army, the IAF and the Navy.

Mizoram BJP chief alleges CM Thanhawla wanted to join BJP

Congress calls it 'joke'

Aizawl: Amid rising election campaign heat in Mizoram, the State's BJP unit chief J V Hulna has claimed that Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla of Congress wanted to join the saffron party along with some other party MLAs before the poll process started, a claim dismissed by the ruling party leaders as a "joke".

The Mizoram BJP president also claimed that most of the elected Congress MLAs will join his party after the poll results for the State are out on December 11. The elections are scheduled to be held on November 28 for 40 Assembly seats of the State, where the Congress has been in power since 2008.

The BJP has never won an assembly election in this small hill state with a population of just about 10 lakh people, including nearly 7.68 lakh voters, but it is seen by the saffron

party as the "final frontier" in the North-East as it is in power in all other states of the region — either by winning polls or joining ruling alliances.

The BJP president Amit Shah recently declared that Mizoram, a Christian-majority state, will celebrate Christmas this December under the BJP rule.

"Lal Thanhawla himself, before this election, and his followers contacted the central leadership (of BJP) to merge the whole Congress in the state, just like the Arunachal Pradesh. They were in contact with them," Hulna told PTI.

"They did not contact me, they contacted our leaders in Delhi. From them, I learnt that Lal Thanhawla was willing to join BJP," he added.

In September 2016, the Congress lost its government in Arunachal Pradesh when 43 of its MLAs led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu defected wholesale and merged with the People's Party of Arunachal, just two months after it had regained power fol-

lowing the Supreme Court's judgement.

A senior leader of the principal opposition party in Mizoram, Mizo National Front (MNF), also made similar allegations against the chief minister and said that the deal fell through as the Congress leaders' "demands" were rejected by the BJP's central leaders.

Thanhawla, a nine-time MLA, could not be contacted for his reactions despite repeated attempts, but a senior minister of his Cabinet termed the allegations as the "funniest jokes ever known".

On condition of anonymity, an MNF leader, who is also contesting the Mizoram Assembly elections from a constituency in the capital city, claimed that Thanhawla had contacted a senior central leader of the BJP and had sought the Chief Minister's post for his daughter and the Governor's post for himself in return of joining the BJP with party MLAs.

"But these demands were rejected outright," he said.

NRC DISPUTE

Mamata to carry fight to BJP's Assam camp

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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



tority NRC regime.

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

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

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

tioned people in Assam. The Assam unit of the party is planning to hold Mamata Banerjee's rallies at Goalpara, Dhubri, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup (rural), sources said adding the first such rally could be organized at Khanapara in Guwahati. TMC's Assam ambitions is further underscored by its decision to contest the panchayat elections in that State. The party is likely to field candidates from at least 9-10 districts where the Bengalis have sizeable population. "The TMC has good prospects in Assam. We want to go in that State. We have been able to find some base their too. But the gains can further be cemented if our leader Mamata Banerjee addresses a few rallies in that State," an Assam TMC leader has said. Meanwhile, Telugu Desam Party chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is likely to meet his Bengal counterpart on Monday noon, sources said adding he is likely to invite Banerjee to the all-party meeting in Delhi.

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

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

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

3.5L submit proof for inclusion in NRC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CYCLONE GAJA

Toll rises to 45, Opposition alleges poor relief work

IAN S ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

completed fully on Sunday.

Palaniswami said he would visit the affected areas on Monday.

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

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

He said had only the gov-

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

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

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

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

Tourist facilities to boost eco-tourism in VTR: Nitish

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

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

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

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

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

"I hope that the number of

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sushil Modi should speak up on Srijan scam, says Kushwaha

PTI ■ PATNA

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

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

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

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

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

Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party, the fourth partner in the alliance, has said it expects to contest a "respectable



number" of seats in the state.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Kushwaha recently met RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and Sharad Yadav.

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

PTI ■ BEGUSARAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over 30 girls were allegedly raped at the shelter home.

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

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

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

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

IAN S ■ PANAJI

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

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

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

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

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

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

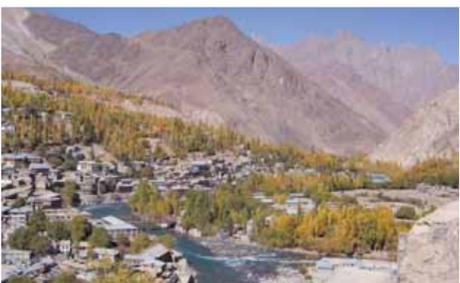
"The Government is functioning in a way no Government ought to function at all. The CM is taking treatment. He does not have the courage to come and face the people. The Opposition has been demanding that they want to meet the CM, but he has not been able to meet them. Therefore, the departments and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

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

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

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

Kargil coldest in J&K at minus 9 degree C



IAN S ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

CRPF jawan killed in terrorist attack in J&K

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

2 terrorists killed in encounter in Shopian

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter in

which two militants were killed, the spokesman said.

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

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

Arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter.

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

SABARIMALA ROW

BJP observes protests, block traffic

PTI ■ SANNIDHANM (KERALA)

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

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

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

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

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

Briefing reporters at Thiruvananthapuram after a meeting with DGP Loknath Behara and M V Jayarajan, the Private Secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he said the devotees would be allowed to perform the "Neyyabhishekam" ritual from 03.15 AM to 12.30 PM daily.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress, which deputed a three-member del-

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

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

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

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

MAHA WINTER SESSION

After quota for Marathas, what about Muslims, Dhangars? asks Oppn

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council Dhananjay Munde of the NCP, who addressed the news conference with Vikhe-Patil, also demanded a compensation of Rs 50,000 per hectare to the drought-affected farmers.

Munde came down heavily on the ruling Shiv Sena for raising the Ram Mandir issue at this stage. "Through an announcement by Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray that he would go to Ayodhya on November 25 to press for the construction of Ram Mandir, the Sena is running away from its responsibility of being the ruling party. What was holding the Shiv Sena from constructing Ram Mandir during the last four years?" Munde asked.

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

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

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

PTI ■ KOZHIKODE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KJ Alphons to visit shrine

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

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

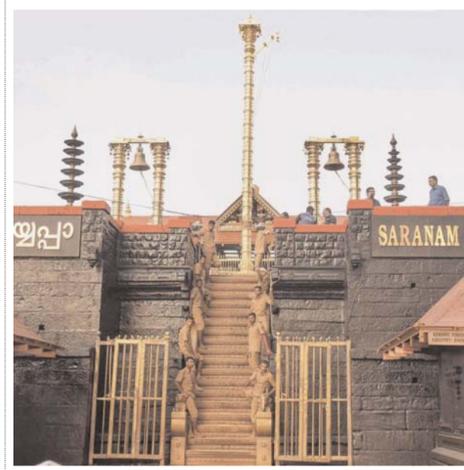
"I had visited the temple town two months back and found out that it was in a pretty bad shape due to the floods. I had suggested that a lot of things had to be done to make

it fit for a smooth pilgrimage," he said.

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

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

IANS



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

Kerala Govt destroying Ayyappa temple's uniqueness: Pillai

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

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

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

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

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

From Page 1

TERROR REVISITS AMRITSAR

"Out of 250 people who were present in the religious congregation, three died, and 15-20 were injured," said the State IG (Border) Surinder Pal Singh Parmar. All victims were sect followers from nearby villages who had gathered for the Sunday weekly religious meeting. SP Harpal Singh said that earlier, religious congregation used to be held at a house in Lopoke village which were stopped by Satkar committee - a radical Sikh organisation.

The State's all top police officials, including the State police chief Suresh Arora along with DGP Law and Order and Intelligence, rushed to the site immediately and camped there

until the area is properly scanned. Dog squads have also been deployed to collect the evidence.

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

Stating that the attack appears to be a "terrorist act", the State DGP Suresh Arora said: "It appears to have a terror angle. Because it is against a group (of people) and it is not against any individual. There is no reason to throw a hand grenade on a group of people, so we will take it as a terrorist act. Till proven otherwise, prima facie we will take it as that."

"There was no issue with this group as such...There was no specific input on Nirankari Bhavan," he said, while adding

that the security across the State has been beefed up, especially around all Nirankari buildings.

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

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

Soon after the attack, Capt Amarinder chaired a high-level meeting to review the law and order situation in the State. Meanwhile, Union Home

Minister Rajnath Singh also spoke to Capt Amarinder assuring "strong action" against those responsible for the grenade attack. Calling the Sunday attack a "reprehensible act of violence", the Union Minister expressed deep anguish over the death of innocents.

MHA PREPARES LIST OF ROHINGYA SYMPATHISERS

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

Sources said that the State Governments have been direct-

ed to keep a close watch on the illegal Rohingya immigrants.

"These illegal Rohingya immigrants are required to be deported back to Myanmar post nationality verification through the Ministry of External Affairs. Due to free floating nature of these illegal immigrants, the process of nationality verification and deportation may be affected. Therefore a vigil on their movement is required", said an official on the condition of anonymity. The Home Ministry has asked all State Governments to identify them strictly as per the Myanmar verification form. The MHA also advised the States to capture Rohingya immigrants' personal particulars in the new bilingual nationality verification form and got signed by such illegal immigrants and their guardians.

Recently, the intelligence

agencies submitted fresh reports to the Home Ministry suggesting there has been mass movement of Rohingya refugees from India's north-eastern States to the south, especially Kerala and Hyderabad. Last month as many as 44 FIRs - 42 in Balapur, 2 in Kanchanbag - related to illegal Indian identity proofs sourced by Rohingya immigrants have been registered by the Telangana Police. The fresh IB report also says that some people from the Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (HUJI), a terror organisation active in Bangladesh and Pakistan, were spotted among the Rohingya refugees. There are about 16,000 UNHCR-certified Rohingya refugees in India. The Government estimate puts the figure of Rohingya refugees living in India beyond 40,000 with maximum concentration in and around Jammu.

PM to inaugurate...

India, Nitin Gadkari, and was opened for the public in April 2016.

The original deadline for this project conceived by former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002 was July 2009 but missed several deadlines due to various reasons including land acquisition hurdles.

Along with the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPW), the KMP expressway is expected to divert more than 50,000 heavy vehicles away from Delhi.

The six-lane expressway will have parking lots, refuelling stations, police stations, a trauma centre, helipad, refreshment centres, and recreational facilities.

The WPE was first proposed in 2003 along with Delhi EPE. It was envisioned as a Build Operate Transfer project to construct a 135.6 km four lane expressway from Kundli Sonipat to Palwal near Faridabad.

The Haryana Government has approved the development of five cities on 50,000 hectare each side of the Western Peripheral Expressway which would cover eight districts - Sonipat, Jhajjar, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, Rohtak, Mewat and Palwal. With the opening of the expressway, traffic congestion would not reduce in northern Haryana and national capital region.

The EPE and WPE combined together effectively form an Outer Ring Road around Delhi with a total length of 270 km, of which about 183 km passes through Haryana and the remaining about 87 km through Uttar Pradesh. It connects four of India's busiest National Highways namely, NH-1 near Kundli (Sonapat), NH-10 near Bahadurgarh, NH-8 at Manesar (Gurgaon) and NH-2 near Palwal (Faridabad).

In 2014, the project was revived. Following that the 53 km stretch between Manesar and Palwal was opened in April 2016. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways of

Whose wings clipped?

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



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

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

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

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

Justice at last

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



The term Year Zero, applied to the takeover of Cambodia in April 1975 by the Khmer Rouge as the followers of the Communist Party of Kampuchea were known, is an analogy to Year One of the French Revolutionary Calendar. During the French Revolution, after the abolition of the monarchy, the National Convention instituted a new calendar and declared the beginning of the Year 1. The Khmer Rouge takeover of Phnom Penh was rapidly followed by a series of loony 'revolutionary de-industrialisation' policies resulting in a

death toll in the millions. On Friday, in 'Year 43', going by their demented, psychotic calendar, the two most senior surviving leaders of Cambodia's brutal Khmer Rouge regime were found guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in a historic ruling by an international tribunal officially called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

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

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

Shadow of terror looms large

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



BALBIR PUNJ

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Congress president —Rahul Gandhi

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



Chinese President —Xi Jinping

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



Actor —Viola Davis

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



Congress leader —Navjot Singh Sidhu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Passenger's safety

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

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

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Sabarimala row refuses to die down

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

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



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

KV Seetharamaiah Hassan

Offensive remark

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

Narendra Modi is the consti-

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

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

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

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

MC Joshi Lucknow

World peace

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

TS Karthik Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Inclusive education for whole of India

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



UMA TULI
SUDHANSH MALHOTRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE BJP AND THE CENTRE ARE USING CBI TO DESTABILISE THE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T GIVE CONSENT TO INVESTIGATE ANY CASE IN THE STATE.
 —ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
N CHANDRABABU



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

Don't undermine national heroes

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



PRASHANT TEWARI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From denial to confession

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

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



open on Monday. Yes, Trudeau said, Canadian intelligence has the recording, and he is well-aware of what is on it. In fact, Canadian intelligence agencies have been working very closely with Turkey on the murder investigation, and Canada is "in discussions with our like-minded allies as to the next steps with regard Saudi Arabia." Why did Trudeau come clean? One popular theory is the nothing-left-to-lose hypothesis. Last August, the tempestuous Crown Prince killed all future trade deals with Canada, pulled thousands of Saudi Arabian foreign

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

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

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

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

security team. No Western leader (except perhaps Donald Trump) will be seen in public with Mohammed bin Salman any more; foreign investment in Saudi Arabia this year is the lowest in several decades, and the price of oil is falling again. So, he has to go if it's still possible for anybody in Saudi Arabia to remove him from power. But that's the big question. The Saudi royal family is no longer a tight and united body that can just decide Mohammed bin Salman has to go and make it stick. It's a sprawling array of people, many of whom scarcely know each other, and without the agreement of King Salman, any smaller group within the family that organised a coup against the Crown Prince, would almost certainly fail. So, he may go on for while despite the disaster of his military intervention in Yemen, his pointless, fruitless blockade of Qatar and even this ugly murder. He wouldn't be the only killer in power. But the bloom is definitely off this particular rose.

(The writer is an independent journalist)



TECH GIANT FAILS TO LOOK INTO DARK CORNERS

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

CAG to report performance audit of GST soon

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

basis. The apex bank said that in April, May and June, it had, on net basis, sold \$2.483 billion, \$5.767 billion and \$6.184 billion of the US currency, respectively.

In September 2017, RBI had net bought \$1.259 billion of dollar, after it purchased \$3.788 billion and \$2.529 billion in the spot market.

RBI maintains that its intervention in the foreign exchange market is to curb volatility in the rupee and not to target a level of the domestic currency.

The central bank has been very active in the past few months in the spot market to save the rupee which got battered against the US dollar.

The domestic currency fell to a historic low of ₹74.1 against the dollar in October.

In FY18, the apex bank had net purchased \$33.689 billion of US dollars from the spot market. It had bought \$52.068 billion from the spot market, while selling \$18.379 billion.

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

In the forward dollar market, the outstanding net forward sales at the end of September was \$1.358 billion, compared with \$1.358 billion in August, according to RBI data.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Off-agenda items can also be raised in the meeting, with the chair's permission.

The RBI's central board currently has 18 members, though the provision is that it can go up to 21.

The members include Governor Urjit Patel and his

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Globally, PCA kicks in only when banks slip on a single parameter of capital ade-

quacy ratio, and the government is in favour of this practice being adopted for the domestic banking sector as well.

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

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

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

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

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

Amid growing tensions with the central bank, the Finance Ministry had sought discussions under the never-used-before Section 7 of the RBI Act which empowers the government to issue directions to the RBI Governor.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



Chauhan told investors in a conference call.

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

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

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

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

Petrol price cut by 20 paise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



and ₹80.10 in Mumbai.

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

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

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

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

by ₹1.50 per litre each and asked state-owned fuel retailers to subsidise prices by another ₹1 a litre by reducing their margins. Many states including Maharashtra matched that with a reduction in local sales tax or VAT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BSNL vows swift action on BharatNet concerns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

portion, to the telecom corporation.

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

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

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

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

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

Vice-President launches Krea University

VIKAS KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday launched Krea University in New Delhi. Based in Sri City (near Chennai), the University offers BA (Hons) & BSc (Hons) degrees in a host of disciplines ranging from economics to computer science.



The University has opened its admissions process for the first cohort of undergraduate students who commence classes in August 2019. The newly inaugurated university is backed by some of the best academics in the world and the top industrialists in India.

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

thought and action. Institutions like the Krea University, with sights set firmly on the achievement of brilliance and distinction at the global platform, will doubtless serve us in good stead in our quest for fast track progress and all round development".

Wishing Krea University all success, I hope that it will inspire many such universities to invigorate our thinking and lay building blocks of a new paradigm that sets us on the path to becoming a world leader in higher learning, the

celebrated 'Vishwaguru' yet again.

Krea University claims to bring a fundamentally different approach to higher education -- Interwoven Learning -- which brings together thought with action, arts with sciences, and the learnings of the past with preparedness for the future. In a world where employees are expected to re-skill themselves six times over the span of their career, Krea aims to produce graduates who remain resilient, agile and impactful.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

applications as well.

Geopolymer concrete, an eco-friendly construction material, is a 100 per cent replacement of cement and has a great potential as a binder as it sets to a material and gains strength more rapidly than Portland cement.

Geopolymer concrete has emerged as an important engineering material in recent times because of its utility in developing ecologically sound and sustainable construction materials.

Concrete demand is expected to grow to 18 billion tonne per year globally by 2050. Portland cement is not only energy intensive but also responsible for large scale emission of CO2, the official added.

During 2017-18, 32.23 million tonne of ash, which is 53.45 per cent of the ash generated, was utilised for various productive purposes by the company.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

fiscal.

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

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

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

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

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

The former Niti Aayog

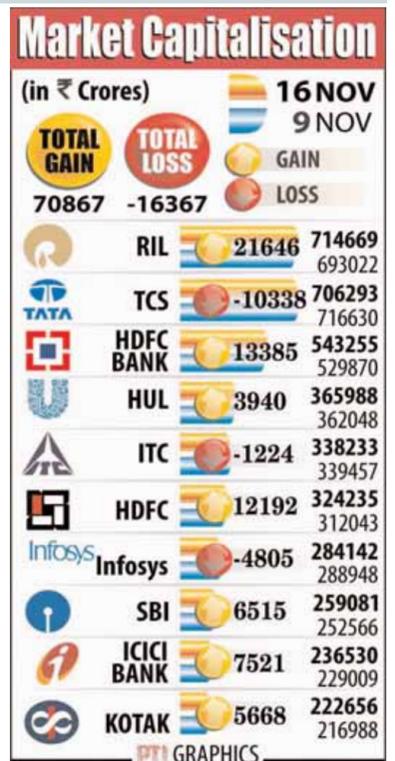
vice chairman also opined that under the previous UPA Government, Congress President Sonia Gandhi effectively led the government and she had no interest in implementing structural reforms.

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

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

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

Scheme	NAV	1Yr %	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	40.18	1.93	Value Fund(G)	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)	9.97	-5.29		
Tata Digital India Fund-Reg(G)	13.97	33.24	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	62.29	1.77	HDFC Equity Fund(G)	622.07	-1.97	Reliance Close Ended Equity Fund-B(G)	22.83	-5.3
ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)	56.7	28.02	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	10.6	1.53	Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)	69.36	-2.03	Aditya Birla SL Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	26.08	-5.34
SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	60.69	26.2	Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	16.38	1.49	L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)	53.36	-2.06	Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)	136.78	-5.42
Aditya Birla SL Digital India Fund(G)	50.17	23.94	Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	47.94	1.33	Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)	11.95	-2.11	UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	59.72	-5.49
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	26.81	22.36	Aditya Birla SL India GenNext Fund(G)	77.45	1.24	SBI Healthcare Opp Fund-Reg(G)	122.02	-2.11	SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)	135.95	-5.55
Franklin India Technology Fund(G)	152.84	19.46	Invesco India Growth Opp Fund(G)	31.9	1.14	Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	202.33	-2.17	Franklin India Prima Fund(G)	897.05	-5.66
Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-A(G)	20.78	18.16	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	84.97	1.05	DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)	21.46	-2.19	Edelweiss Long Term Equity Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(G)	43.39	-5.78
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	14.2	17.51	L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.36	1.04	Franklin India Equity Fund(G)	563.3	-2.29	SBI LT Advantage Fund-IV-Reg(G)	12.19	-5.86
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	28.61	15.67	SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	127.5	0.91	ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G)	40.67	-2.31	Principal Tax Savings Fund	200.26	-5.89
DSP US Flexible Equity Fund-Reg(G)	24.59	14.97	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Pan European Equity Fund-Reg(G)	10.71	0.88	Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	50.7	-2.42	Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	37.8	-5.9
Reliance Pharma Fund(G)	153.16	14.74	HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	461.16	0.88	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	14.96	-2.5	DSP Equity Opportunities Fund-Reg(G)	205.84	-5.92
Kotak US Equity Fund(G)	16.32	12.61	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	26.28	0.77	Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	40.48	-2.5	ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	11.6	-6.15
DHFL Pramerica Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	16.94	12.56	ICICI Pru Value Fund-5(G)	14.93	0.74	Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	55.48	-2.59	Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	36.96	-6.2
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	14.25	10.57	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	141.87	0.67	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund(G)	153.74	-2.6	BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	35.16	-6.32
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	14.41	10.53	ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D)	10.23	0.57	Motilal Oswal Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	16.17	-2.62	Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)	39.49	-6.35
ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	15.01	10.12	Aditya Birla SL Global Commodities Fund(G)	12.32	0.42	DHFL Pramerica Euro Equity Fund(G)	13.17	-2.66	Principal Personal Tax saver Fund	188.23	-6.42
ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	228.48	8.24	Kotak Standard Multicap Fund(G)	32.52	0.33	ICICI Pru Exports & Services Fund(G)	55.45	-2.74	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	92.18	-6.55
Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)	87.1	7.92	ICICI Pru India Recovery Fund-4(G)	16.6	0.3	Tata India Tax Savings Fund-Reg(G)	16.6	-2.92	Principal Emerging Bluechip Fund(G)	99.6	-6.58
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)	313.49	7.91	UTI India LifeStyle Fund-Reg(G)	24.92	0.19	Reliance Capital Builder Fund-II-B(G)	12.35	0.18	ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 Index Fund(G)	24.24	-6.6
Reliance Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)	17.47	7.42	Fund-II-B(G)	92.91	0.12	Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	92.91	0.12	Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)	68.81	-6.7
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	18.8	7.02	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	57.27	0.1	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	57.27	0.1	Reliance Small Cap Fund(G)	39.72	-6.84
Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	26.11	7.01	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	13.06	0.01	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	13.06	0.01	L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	34.39	-6.99
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	15.85	6.94	HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	41.92	-0.02	HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	41.92	-0.02	L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	45.45	-7.09
DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)	16.55	6.7						ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	11.18	-7.14	
Tata India Pharma & Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	8.89	6.23						IDFC Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	35.49	-7.18	
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)	11.33	6.19						Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	14.87	-7.27	
Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	60.21	5.87						IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)	20.64	-7.37	
IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	22	5.85						UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	89.68	-7.46	
HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)	96.75	5.7						Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.15	-7.46	
UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	69.35	5.66						Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	94.62	-7.5	
Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	64.31	5.49						HDFC TaxSaver(G)	495.04	-7.51	
Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	24.01	5.47						DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	50.89	-7.52	
UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)	131.25	5.35						SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G)	33.32	-7.53	
DSP Global Allocation Fund-Reg(G)	12.09	5.32						Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)	126.82	-7.54	
SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	91.5	5.19						Invesco India Multicap Fund(G)	45.44	-7.68	
Canara Rob Bluechip Equity Fund-Reg(G)	23.08	5.1						Reliance Growth Fund(G)	1039.03	-8.08	
Reliance Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)	17.86	4.87						ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund(G)	16.27	-8.13	
ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)	356.52	4.74						Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme(G)	36.06	-8.15	
ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	102.88	4.73						Franklin Build India Fund(G)	38.87	-8.2	
Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	41.42	4.71						IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)	49.89	-8.22	
Reliance Japan Equity Fund(G)	12.55	4.71						UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)	13.28	-8.55	
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund(G)	48.93	4.57						ICICI Pru Value Fund-4(G)	20.47	-8.82	
Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)	84.53	4.49						JM Value Fund(G)	29.55	-8.86	
Aditya Birla SL Index Fund(G)	104.7	4.42						Reliance Focused Equity Fund(G)	43.46	-8.89	
ICICI Pru Business Cycle Fund-2(G)	14.21	4.33						L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	130.81	-8.94	
ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	279.71	4.18						L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)	24.33	-8.94	
Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	17.23	4.17						Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.16	-9	
DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	7.93	4.17						HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund(G)	51.57	-9.07	
DSP World Energy Fund-Reg(G)	13.05	4.08						HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)	73.74	-9.16	
IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	19.68	4.07						ICICI Pru Value Fund-1(D)	10.46	-9.29	
Axis Midcap Fund(G)	33.86	3.83						DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)	32.04	-9.51	
Mirae Asset Great Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	32.73	3.82						Templeton India Value Fund(G)	241.2	-9.79	
Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)	12.55	3.74						Motilal Oswal Midcap 30 Fund-Reg(G)	23.35	-9.83	
Canara Rob Equity Diver Fund-Reg(G)	123.72	3.64						ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)	48.57	-10.11	
UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	193.75	3.6						BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G)	43.77	-10.2	
Sundaram Select Focus(G)	165.22	3.51						UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	98.38	-10.24	
Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	32.51	3.31						DHFL Pramerica Midcap Opp Fund-Reg(G)	17.56	-10.32	
Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)	32.95	3.29						Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	75.87	-4.23	
DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.77	3.22						Canara Rob Emerg Equities Fund-Reg(G)	87.4	-4.24	
Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	25.7	3.13						DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	44.13	-4.29	
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	96.64	2.99						Sundaram Global Advt(G)	15.97	-4.45	
Canara Rob Consumer Trends Fund-Reg(G)	36.15	2.76						Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	127.78	-4.54	
JM Large Cap Fund(G)	64.62	2.58						IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	88.22	-4.62	
Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	23.15	2.55						ICICI Pru Value Fund-2(D)	10.54	-4.69	
Reliance Large Cap Fund(G)	32.87	2.53						JM Core 11 Fund(G)	8.25	-4.7	
SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)	112.33	2.26						Reliance Value Fund(G)	69.54	-4.75	
UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	114.66	2.2						L&T Long Term Advantage Fund-I(G)	48.55	-4.77	
ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	29.17	2.1						Reliance Consumption Fund(G)	61.07	-4.82	
Invesco India Contra Fund(G)	45.27	2.05						Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	109.37	-4.88	
Mirae Asset India Equity Fund-Reg(G)	47.37	2.05						SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	162.17	-4.97	
								DHFL Pramerica Diversified Equity Fund-Reg(G)	12.45	-5.11	
								IDBI India Top 100 Equity Fund(G)	22.29	-5.23	
								Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)	10.51	-5.23	



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

APEC leaders divided after US, China spat

AFP ■ PORT MORESBY

Asia-Pacific leaders failed on Sunday to bridge gaping divisions over trade at a summit dominated by a war of words between the US and China as they vie for regional influence.

For the first time, APEC leaders were unable to agree on a formal written declaration amid sharp differences between the world's top two economies over the rules of global trade.

"You know the two big giants in the room. What can I say?" said host and Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, conceding defeat.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau admitted the failure came down to "different visions on particular elements with regard to trade that prevented full consensus."

Sources said going into the meeting the United States had pressed for the leaders to issue what amounted to a denunciation of the World Trade Organisation and a call for its wholesale reform.

That demand was a step too far for Beijing, which would likely get less preferential treatment under any changes.

O'Neill indicated the WTO had been a sticking point in agreeing a joint communique. "APEC has got no charter over the World Trade Organisation. That is a fact," he said. "Those matters can be raised at the World Trade Organisation."

The spat ramps up the

stakes for a crunch meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping at a G20 summit in Argentina at the end of the month.

O'Neill denied it was a humiliation for his poverty-hit country, which was hosting the annual gathering of the 21 nations for the first time.

As tensions boiled over, police were called when Chinese officials attempted to "barge" into the office of PNG's foreign minister in an eleven-hour bid to influence a summit draft communique, three sources with knowledge of the situation told AFP.

Chinese foreign ministry official Zhang Xiaolong denied the incident, telling reporters: "It's not true. It's simply not true."

Even before the summit started, tensions between the two big hitters came to the fore with Xi and US Vice President Mike Pence crossing swords in competing major policy speeches.

Pence warned smaller countries not to be seduced by China's massive Belt-and-Road infrastructure programme, which sees Beijing offer money to poorer countries for construction and development projects.

The "opaque" loans come with strings attached and build up "staggering debt", Pence charged, mocking the initiative as a "constricting belt" and a "one-way road".

In a speech to business leaders just minutes before

Pence, Xi insisted the initiative was not a "trap" and there was no "hidden agenda" — amid criticism that it amounts to chequebook diplomacy in the region.

Xi also lashed out at "America First" trade protectionism, saying it was a "short-sighted approach" that was "doomed to failure".

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

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

"Business leaders do not want to speak out, but behind the scenes here, they are talking over dinner saying 'how has this happened?'" Denis O'Brien, the billionaire chairman of Digicel told AFP.

"It's a very forced situation, one country is trying to force all the other countries to change tariffs agreed over years", O'Brien said.

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

China slams Pence; says no country in debt trap because of BRI

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Sunday hit back at US Vice President Mike Pence for accusing it of luring developing nations into a debt trap through the loans Beijing offers for infrastructure, asserting that not a single country has been "mired in debt" because of cooperation with it.

Pence in his combative address at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) summit in Papua New Guinea on Saturday said China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was saddling developing countries with loans they cannot afford.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying sharply criticised Pence's remarks. "Not a single developing country has been mired in debt difficulties because of its cooperation with China," she said in a statement.

"On the contrary, their cooperation with China has helped them enhance their capacity for self-driven development and improved their people's livelihood," she said.

"Our advice for the relevant country is that instead of pointing fingers at others, it would be better to match its deeds with its words and truly treat all countries, big or small, as equals," she said.

Touted as Xi's ambitious project, the over USD 900 billion BRI initiative focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe.

Macron, Merkel aim to present united stance in Trump era

AFP ■ BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron were due to meet in Berlin in a show of unity against rising populism in the era of US President Donald Trump.

At their second meeting in a week, the two are expected to once again raise the idea of establishing a European army as a symbol of a united continent, a proposal that has raised Trump's hackles.

Macron's visit comes a week after world leaders met in Paris to commemorate the end of World War I a century ago and marks Germany's Day of Mourning for victims of war and dictatorship.

After a wreath-laying ceremony, Macron was at 12:30 GMT Sunday to address the German parliament — housed in the glass-domed Reichstag still bearing the scars of World War II — in the first speech by a French leader to the assembly in 18 years.

Macron and Merkel, who were to meet for talks from 14:00 GMT, are both committed pro-Europeans who have resisted rising populist, eurosceptic, and anti-immigration forces in Europe, as well as Trump's isolationist "America First" stance.

As the world has remembered World War I, which ended a century ago this month, Macron has repeatedly invoked its horrors to drive home the message that rising



File photo, French President Emmanuel Macron hugs German Chancellor Angela Merkel AP

nationalism is again destabilising the world.

Macron and Merkel have proposed a European army that would operate within NATO — an idea Trump has mocked by tweeting that "it was Germany in World Wars One & Two — How did that work out for France?"

But German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen insisted on Sunday that a joint military force would need not just common equipment and training but also "the political will to resolutely defend European interests when a conflict breaks out".

And France's Minister for European Affairs, Nathalie Loiseau, told the Journal du

Dimanche: "It is not a question of being against the United States but of taking our destiny into our own hands to no longer count on others".

While strong on symbolism, the Franco-German partnership and European reform push have been plagued by policy differences and the domestic troubles of the two leaders.

Since a Franco-German joint cabinet meeting on Europe in June, challenges have piled up with Brexit nearing and a budget conflict escalating between Brussels and Italy.

The Berlin talks also come at a time when both leaders are politically weakened, reducing the traditional driving power at the heart of the bloc.

As Trump gleefully tweeted days ago, Macron's once stellar approval ratings have dropped off into the mid-twenties.

And Merkel, after 13 years in power, has in recent weeks announced the beginning of the end of her reign by declining to stand again as leader of her centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU).

She has vowed to serve out her fourth term, which runs until 2021, but many observers expect Merkel could be brought down earlier by infighting within the CDU or the unhappy three-party coalition she leads.

There is much frustration in Paris about Merkel's perceived foot-dragging on Macron's bold reform plans, especially on forging a euro-zone with a major common budget and finance minister.

The two countries agreed on Friday on the outlines of a proposed budget for the euro area, Macron's flagship project to support investment, but not on the amount, which remains undefined.

Another area of contention is that Germany and France have so far failed to find a united strategy on EU efforts to introduce a digital tax on internet giants such as Google and Facebook.

The joint army plan, too, faces tricky challenges, including post-war Germany's traditional reluctance to send combat troops abroad and the fact that parliament must approve military missions.

'A report' on Khashoggi's murder by Tuesday, says Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he had spoken with the CIA chief on the agency's assessment of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi and that there will be a "very full report" by Tuesday, amid reports that it had held the powerful Saudi crown prince responsible for the murder of the dissident journalist.

The death of 59-year-old Khashoggi, a onetime insider turned critic of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and a resident of the US, has spurred a wave of international anger against Saudi Arabia and its ruler.

In an interaction with reporters in California on Saturday, Trump said that he spoke with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Gina Haspel, who has been studying this case very closely.

"It's a horrible thing that took place, the killing of a journalist... It should never have happened," Trump said.

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

"We'll be having a very full report over the next two days, probably Monday or Tuesday," Trump said. He then said more definitively that there would be "a report on Tuesday."

The report will address what "we think the overall impact was and who caused it, and who did it."

"In the meantime we're doing things to some people that we know for a fact were involved and we're being very tough on a lot of people," he

added. Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 to obtain paperwork for his marriage.

Saudi Arabia had offered a series of contradictory explanations for Khashoggi's death. After repeated denials, Saudi Arabia finally admitted Khashoggi had been murdered at the compound but blamed it on a "rogue" operation.

On Friday, the Washington Post reported that the CIA had assessed with high confidence the Saudi leader's role, based on multiple sources of intelligence.

The CIA found that 15 Saudi agents flew on government planes to Istanbul and carried out the killing at the Saudi consulate, the report said, adding that it could complicate President Trump's efforts to preserve US ties with one of the closest American allies in the region.

"The accepted position is that there is no way this happened without him being aware or involved," a US official familiar with the CIA's conclusions, told the daily. Saudi Arabia has denied any such linkage.

Fatimah Baeshen, a spokeswoman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington, said that the claims in the CIA's "purported assessment are false. We have and continue to hear various theories without seeing the primary basis for these speculations."

According to the report, it is CIA assessment that the crown prince, who is the de facto ruler of the country, would survive the crisis. Officially Saudi Arabia has blamed the brutal murder of Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to rogue elements.

61-yr-old Indian shot dead by teenager in New Jersey

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

Sunil Edla was shot to death by the 16-year-old suspect on Thursday evening outside his apartment in Ventnor city, Atlantic County Prosecutor Damon Tyner said in a statement.

Ventnor City Police Department was informed on the night of November 15 about the shooting. Police located Edla on the sidewalk, with gunshot wounds. Edla had succumbed to his injuries by the

time the police arrived.

Edla's vehicle, a 2002 Subaru Forester, was missing from the scene. The vehicle was subsequently found by Atlantic City police officers in a different area. After the vehicle was located by the officers, the suspect was subsequently tracked down by the assistance of the Atlantic City surveillance center.

Further investigation by the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Ventnor City Police Department and the Atlantic City Police Department led to the identification and arrest of the suspect, a juvenile male, on the morning of November 16.

Preliminary autopsy

showed the cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death homicide.

The suspect was charged via Juvenile Complaint with murder, robbery, carjacking, unlawful possession of a handgun. He is being held at the Harborfields Juvenile Detention Center in Egg Harbor City. "I'm just speechless right now. They could have just taken the car and let him go," Edla's son Morrison Edla said in a report in NBC-Philadelphia.com.

A report in the press of Atlantic City said Edla, a father of two and grandfather, was a 30-year resident of Atlantic County and worked in Atlantic City's hospitality industry. He was planning to travel to India

to visit family.

"He (Edla) was humble. He never argued. I helped him when he came to US in 1987. I was very close to him," his cousin Raj Casula said. "Everyone was calling him and talking to him because he was leaving for India so soon," said Casula. Edla had planned a two-month trip to India to visit his mother for her 95th birthday and celebrate Christmas with family.

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

Taliban hold talks with US envoy in Qatar

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

The two individuals spoke

on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to discuss the sensitive negotiations. US officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The State Department has refused to comment on reported talks with the Taliban.

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

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

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

too short.

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

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

The five are now based in Qatar, and are seen as having enough stature to sell a peace deal to insurgents fighting on the front lines.

President Donald Trump harshly criticised the 2014 prisoner exchange, and in a speech last August pledged to send in additional US forces and redouble efforts to defeat the Taliban.

Imran Khan govt to refer 4 new cases against Sharifs to NAB

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government has decided to send four new cases to Pakistan's top anti-graft agency to investigate into the misuse of authority by the Sharif family in the previous government, according to a media report.

Khan's Adviser Shehzad Akbar and Special Assistant Iftikhar Durrani detailed the alleged misuse of government resources by former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief

Shehbaz Sharif and ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz at a press conference here, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The officials said that the Assets Recovery Unit was referring a case of the new London property belonging to the Sharif family to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for investigation, adding that the government had requested Britain for the ownership documents of the property.

Durrani said that the cases related to the misuse of funds in

erecting a security fence around the Sharif family's Raiwind Palace, plunder of funds allocated for entertainment and gifts, unauthorised use of the prime minister's aircraft by Shehbaz and Maryam.

In the first case, he said that Rs 60 crore was spent to secure the "Raiwind Mahal", which was tantamount to misusing the authority and funds. Another case involves Maryam's use of the prime minister's official plane. Her trips cost the national exchequer Rs 3 crore.

Interpol meets to select new president

Dubai (AP): Police chiefs from around the world gathered in Dubai on Sunday for Interpol's general assembly to select a new president after the agency's former leader was detained in China. Meng Hongwei — who was China's vice minister of public security while also leading Interpol — went missing while on a trip to China in September. It later emerged that the long-time Communist Party insider with decades of experience in China's security apparatus was detained as part of a sweeping purge against allegedly corrupt or disloyal officials under President Xi Jinping's authoritarian administration. Interpol member-states will also be deciding whether to accept Kosovo as a full member, which would allow officials there to file red notices for Serbian officials that Kosovo considers war criminals. The red notices are alerts circulated by Interpol to all member countries that identify a person wanted for arrest by another country. Interpol says there are 57,289 active red notices around the world.

GLOBE TROTTER

POPE DENOUNCES 'DIN OF RICH FEW' ON WORLD DAY OF POOR

Vatican City (AFP): Pope Francis railed against social inequality on Sunday, lamenting "the din of the rich few" drowning out the voice of the needy, as he marked the second "World Day of the Poor". At a mass attended by about 6,000 poor people at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the pope noted that "injustice is the perverse root of poverty". He said, "The cry of the poor daily becomes stronger but heard less, drowned out by the din of the rich few, who grow ever fewer and more rich," he said ahead of a lunch at the Vatican for a group of some 3,000 destitute people. Let us ask for the grace to hear the cry of all those tossed by the waves of life," the pope said. "It is the cry of all those forced to flee their homes and native land for an uncertain future. It is the cry of entire peoples, deprived even of the great natural resources at their disposal... while the wealthy few feast on what, in justice, belongs to all."



Pope Francis uncovers a dish of lasagna during a lunch, at the Vatican on Sunday AP

MISSING ST MARK MOSAIC FINALLY RETURNS TO CYPRUS

The Hague: One of the last missing pieces of Byzantine art stolen from Cyprus in the 1970s was handed back this week by a renowned, and proud Dutch art investigator. Arthur Brand said on Friday he handed back the sixth century depiction of Saint Mark during a private ceremony at the Cypriot embassy in The Hague. For Brand, dubbed the "Indiana Jones of the art world" because of his exploits to recover stolen works, the handover was a high point in his life-long interest in the Byzantine saint — and the result of a nearly two-year chase across Europe. "This is a very special piece that's more than 1,600 years old. It's one of the last and most beautiful examples of art from the early Byzantine era," said the art sleuth.

LOOTERS PLUNDER ALBANIA'S SUNKEN TREASURES

Vlora (Albania): Albania's long underexplored coastal waters have become a hotspot for treasure hunters scooping up ancient pottery, sunken ship parts and other shell-encrusted relics that have lain on the seabed for centuries. The 450-kilometre coastline, which is lapped by the Adriatic and Ionian seas, was off-limits under the



Pope Francis uncovers a dish of lasagna during a lunch, at the Vatican on Sunday AP

communist regime which ruled the Balkan state until 1990, with orders to shoot anyone caught diving without authorisation. But today its waters are open, luring archaeologists but also looters eager to plumb the new territory and sell their finds on the art and metals markets. "Much of this wealth resting at the depth of 20-30 metres is easily accessible without any special equipment and has almost completely disappeared without a trace," said Albanian archaeologist and art historian Neritan Ceka, among those calling for urgent measures to protect the underwater heritage.

IN IRAQ, BLOODY TRIBAL CUSTOM NOW CLASSIFIED AS 'TERRORISM'

Baghdad: A bloody, age-old custom used by Iraq's powerful tribes to mete out justice has come under fire, with authorities classifying it as a "terrorist act" punishable by death. For centuries, Iraqi clans have used their own system to resolve disputes, with tribal dignitaries bringing together opposing sides to mediate in de facto "hearings". If one side failed to attend such a meeting, the rival clan would fire on the absentee's home or that of fellow tribesmen, a practice known as the "degga ashairiya" or "tribal warning". But in an age when Iraq's vast rural areas and built-up cities alike are flooded with weapons outside state control, the "degga" may be deadlier than ever. A recent dispute between two young men in a teashop in the capital's eastern district of Sadr City escalated to near-fatal proportions, leaving a 40-year-old policeman with a broken hip and severely damaged abdomen.



WORKOUT FOR THE BRAIN

Forget gadgets and tech toys and instead opt for Indian board games that exercise the white and grey cells. By ASMITA SARKAR

Indian games have become almost extinct since social media and video games have taken over the attention spans of children. Board games like Snakes and Ladders, strategy games like Chess or even card games like Patience that helped develop a child's brain by testing memory and cognitive skills have become a novelty.

There are several reasons why the board games are making a comeback as opposed to the ones played on a screen. These are believed to be beneficial for the brain. They stimulate the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex, which are responsible for complex thought and memory formation. Board games help the brain retain and build cognitive associations well into old age too. It has been known for preventing cognitive decline, which is associated with dementia and Alzheimer's.

A good place to pick them up is an exhibition called Jack &



Jill, the wonder years festival which has multiple stalls and activities for the little ones. While there is the usual clutter of clothes and the usual toys, there were four stalls that stood apart amidst the din at the National Railway Museum where the exhibition is being held. There were of course the usual families,

WOODEN BOARDS, ANIMAL CHARACTERS AND GLASS PEBBLES WERE THE ESSENCE OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN GAMES

school children and hassled teachers who stood and sat around waiting for their chance to get on the toy trains that take you around the venue for a joy ride. Huge trains and little children waited patiently side by side for the driver to start the ride. Even while the main attraction of the museum are obviously the train models stationed everywhere but there were other treasures to be found too.

At Nazariya a design studio one couldn't help but notice several unique items. A coir tree created by artist Harikrishna Parida from Chandpur, Odisha, diaries with Gond and Patachitra art from Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal respectively. There were the mandatory jewellery and diaries made by masters of handicrafts across India. But what caught our eye were games like the Aadu Puli Aatam which in Tamil means The Lambs and Tigers.

A strategic, two-player (or

two team) leopard hunt game that is played in South India, it is meant for children above eight. One player controls three tigers and the other player up to 15 lambs/goats. The tigers 'hunt' the goats while the goats attempt to block the tigers' movements. The chequered lines across the red and yellow cloth board and the stone pieces made for an interesting way to spend an evening.

Another game called the Pallankuzhi, which apparently Sita used to play, reminded one of an African tribal game called the Mancala. The wooden board with bowls and tiny glass pebbles does not end until one player has no pebbles to continue with. The start-up also brought with them the miniature version of the Chaupad called Ashtachema and there were also small diaries decorated with Kalighat paintings and miniature Phads from Rajasthan. The studio also brought with them rare art forms like the Kaavi, from the Konkan coast which only exists in two temples in Goa currently and Bidri art from Karnataka which is made in the village of Bidar.

But not just old Indian games, more contemporary ones but indigenously developed too could be seen here. Sphero's stall was dotted with robots that stood about 15 cm tall. But don't go on their diminutive size, for they can teach coding and programming.

The pottery and science stalls — each appealing to different faculties of the brain — Murti Arts Academy and Wonderlab, held small workshops because they believe that the only way to teach children and engage them is by showing them how it is done. Children observe and absorb before they get engaged in a creative pursuit.

Multiple children of all sizes, some pulling their pants up during a small dance workshop with a choreographer while proud parents milled around taking pictures could also be seen.

"A great event for the kids, a unique one that lets them enjoy and learn at the same time, as the children today have forgotten what outdoor fun is, the expo will inspire them to have fun and learn away from technology and gadgets," said Ashwani Lohani, chairman and MD Railway Board.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

End conflicts permanently

Imbibing true spiritual knowledge imparted by the Supreme being within oneself can be the answer to all disputes forever.

By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Most of us dread conflicts in our life because it makes us uncomfortable and stressful. As a result, we learn to avoid, suppress or withdraw from conflict or even act as though it doesn't exist. Our present society, though advanced in some respects, is suffering deeply from many serious problems and conflicts that are social, economic, political, religious, cultural, ethnic and more.

In fact, conflicts appear at all levels of our society from the inter personal level to international level and seem to be un-ending. As a result, some people think that these are inescapable and are a part of life. However, there are others who have an undying hope and a high upsurge of enthusiasm in their mind, for they feel that conflicts can definitely be resolved and that these will end one day. They think that fighting and finishing these conflicts is a sport and winning them is equivalent to being successful in life.

In fact, many religions and philosophies declare this as their very aim or goal. But one finds that in spite of all the efforts by such people over long periods of time, the final resolution of conflicts eludes us and the remedies applied are worse than the disease in many cases. There is, therefore, a compelling cause to introspect why, in spite of all the sincerity and the efforts — at least in the earliest phase of every religion, or social service institution, or political or economic school of thought — the conflicts have increased in number, become more aggravated and got badly inter-twined.

A deep analysis of the situation, considered from the point of systems and methods applied, would reveal that some of the factors that have brought forth the present to complex and almost irresolvable state, are: religions, philosophies, social theories, psychological concepts about human nature and more. These have in-built conflicts in their own system or schools of thought and these are not merely of academic interest but are fraught with serious consequences when applied to human conditions. Since, they have failed to resolve conflicts in their own doctrines, findings, beliefs, objectives and theories and practices, how can they resolve conflicts in the outer world?

It is a known fact that all religions, philosophies, social, economic and political theories and psychological systems are based on a particular interpretation or understanding of history. This itself is untenable or erroneous and so these systems cannot trace and understand correctly the historical roots of the problems or conflicts. In that case, how can they eradicate conflicts? If they had understood the genesis and pathology correctly, they should have been able to resolve or reduce conflicts.

Moreover, all problems and conflicts have to be dealt with together and simultaneously, else they will remain because they are so intermingled and interconnected that many will remain if even one of them exists. It is in this context that we should understand the importance of true spiritual knowledge imparted by the Supreme Being. Such an endeavour, under Supreme's direct and indirect guidance alone can and will end all conflicts forever which in turn can and will usher in the proverbial Golden Age.



Similarly all religions philosophies are based on some presumptions which themselves have not been validated by rational or practical proof. These presumptions or presuppositions are themselves in conflict with those of other religions and philosophies. So, instead of solving, they further add to the conflicts.

It needs to be understood that every confrontation can be ended, narrowed or reduced by appealing to a value but if that value is not accepted on good reason and faith by those systems or methodologies, the conflicts cannot be ended. For example, if a system of thought does not invariably adopt non-violence in its methods and instead is based on the belief that violence is justified to end violence and to establish peace, how can it establish an order of non-violence? People expect the state to end many conflicts but if the state is itself an instrument of coercion and violence, then how can it be the means to end them?

Moreover, one important thing is that all conflicts ensue from improper or incorrect relations with one's own self and also with others. They are also due to clash of ego or self-interests. So, if these problems of ego and selfishness are not solved, how can the dispute at other levels and in other forms be resolved? The system and method, applied as solution, should be such as do not give rise to another problem, even if they solve one or some of the problems. Otherwise, it would only mean replacing existing problems with newer ones.

Moreover, all problems and conflicts have to be dealt with together and simultaneously, else they will remain because they are so intermingled and interconnected that many will remain if even one of them exists. It is in this context that we should understand the importance of true spiritual knowledge imparted by the Supreme Being. Such an endeavour, under Supreme's direct and indirect guidance alone can and will end all conflicts forever which in turn can and will usher in the proverbial Golden Age.



Here are simple ways to keep one's data protected from ransomware and phishing.

By SANJIT CHATTERJEE

Be net safe



Phishing attacks, which are the primary delivery mechanisms for malware/ransomware, are on a noticeable rise and do not seem to go away anytime soon. In May 2017, the Wannacry ransomware attack infected more than 2,00,000 computers across 150 countries. Such attacks have spared no one — from hospitals to banks to big enterprises, the world has been hit hard.

With cyber security issues increasing day by day, safety concerns amongst internet users are also soaring. But worry not, we've put together seven simple cyber safety tips that will help you greatly reduce your chances of falling prey to cybercriminals.

DOES THAT EMAIL LOOK ALARMING? READ IT AGAIN

Punctuated with plenty of typos, exclamation marks, highlights and impersonal greetings such as "Dear Client/Customer" are some of the most easily spottable signs of phishing emails. One thing that you should always keep in mind is that no company or bank would ever ask for your personally iden-

tifiable information (PII) via email. This information includes your name, government identification numbers, credentials and other such details.

Targeted phishing, wherein the email sender appears to be a known friend or colleague, are sent by attackers to easily trick their targets. A thumb rule of safety here is to check the sender's email extension. Furthermore, emails that seem to be too good to be true must be deleted immediately.

TREAT FILE ATTACHMENTS WITH SUSPICION

File attachments laden with malware are commonly used in phishing attacks. Cybercriminals often rename Word documents, PDF documents and more. In such a way that they appear legitimate to the victim. Clicking and downloading malicious files can infect your system and compromise your sensitive information such as your internet banking password. It is, therefore, important to stay careful whenever you receive a file, check the sender details and if you find

anything fishy, it is best to delete it.

HAVE A SECURITY PRODUCT AND UPDATE IT REGULARLY

In order to mitigate your exposure to phishing emails, a software with anti-phishing, anti-spam and anti-malware capabilities can prove to be an indispensable tool. Such software can fight against the most complex cyber threats by scanning your system in real-time. Ensure using a reputable internet security software and keep it up-to-date.

TAKE BACK-UP

A ransomware attack locks your data and demand ransom for its release. So what could be the biggest weapon to defeat ransomware? Certainly, an active and reliable data backup strategy! Regular backup provides easy restoration and helps you start from where you left. Ensure that whatever backup medium you use, it is not reachable from the infected machine.

UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE

When it is time to update software on your

computer, you must do it, no matter if it is as frequent as every other day. These updates can significantly reduce the possibility of ransomware attacks. It would be best if you enable automatic software updates on your system.

PAY ATTENTION TO SHORTENED LINKS

Cyber attackers often trick online users to click on shortened links over social media, emails and other websites. A study found that 78 per cent of people were aware of the risks associated with unknown links in emails and yet they click anyway. URL shortening services such as Bitly are used to create these links that look like legitimate ones but divert to malicious websites. It is always a good practice to hover your mouse over the web link in order to see whether it redirects to the correct URL or not.

FREE STUFF COMES AT A COST

Most of the download sites that let you to get stuff for free could cost you the other way around. Free stuff such as music files are often laced with adware, spyware and other types of malware that can cause severe damage to your data and privacy. Prefer opting for reliable sources for downloading content even if it means paying a little.

HOTSPOTS LEAVE YOU VULNERABLE

Whether it's an airport or a restaurant, free WiFi hotspots are convenient, but you can be easily attacked. Since there are several users connected to a WiFi hotspot at once, the chances of losing sensitive information are high.

It is shocking to see that the annual number of ransomware attacks worldwide from the year 2014 to 2017 is 184 million. Clearly with time, cyber-attacks are getting more and more sophisticated which makes cyber awareness vital for online users. Be aware and be safe.

(The author is the founder of a technology company.)

It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it.

—Lou Holtz

WEIGHTLIFTING IS GOOD FOR HEART

A new study suggests that weightlifting, rather than walking and cycling, can better help keep heart diseases.

The study showed that engaging in both static activities such as strength training and dynamic activities like walking and cycling was associated with 30 to 70 per cent lower rates of cardiovascular disease risk factors. But, the associations were strongest for strength training among youth than older adults. "Both strength training and aerobic activity appeared to be heart healthy, even in small amounts, at the population level," said Maia P. Smith, Assistant Professor at St. George's University in Grenada. "However, static activity appeared more beneficial than dynamic," Smith added.

Further, the researchers suggested that clinicians should counsel patients, especially the elderly, to exercise regardless of activity types as patients who did both types of physical activity fared better than patients who simply increased the level of one type of activity.



SLOW READING SPEED LINKED TO DRY EYES

People suffering from chronic dry eye disease are likely to have a slow reading rate, according to researchers.

The chronic dry eye is a common disease in which natural tears fail to adequately lubricate the eyes, thus drastically affecting its functioning. The study found that the condition can slow a person's reading speed by as much as 10 per cent and can make it difficult to read for more than an average of 30 minutes. Those with clinically significant dry eye could read fewer words per minute — 32 words per minute less — than those without the condition, who read at the same rate of 272 words per minute.

"We suspected that people with dry eye were mostly unable to sustain good reading performance because their tears cannot re-lubricate their eye surfaces fast enough," said Esen Akpek, from the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute in US.



ARE AIR PURIFIERS HELPFUL INSIDE YOUR HOME?

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

While most air purifiers are able to remove airborne pollutants like mold spores, pollen, dust, bacteria and pet dander, are they really effective as the Air Quality Index (AQI) nosedives to life-threatening levels? "The air purifiers are effective but only up to a certain extent. A person would eventually have to go outside where they would be exposed to polluted air," said Rajesh Chawla, Senior Consultant, Critical Care, at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in New Delhi.

"Air purifiers are shown to have positive effects on respiratory health as well circulatory health. As there is a saying, something is better than nothing," added Gyanendra Agarwal, Senior Consultant, Department of Pulmonology, Jaypee Hospital, Noida.



HONKING EXPOSURE CAN MAKE YOU OBESE

Are you obese or overweight? Blame long term exposure to blaring horns and other noise from road traffic, said researchers.

The study showed that a 10 decibel (dB) increase in mean noise level was associated with a 17 per cent increase in obesity. "Our analysis shows that people exposed to the highest levels of traffic noise are at greater risk of being obese," said Maria Foraster, lead researcher from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health in Spain. It could be because noise generates stress and affects our sleep. It alters hormone levels and increases blood pressure. Moreover, among other effects, sleep disturbance deregulates glucose metabolism and alters the appetite, the researchers explained in the paper published in the journal Environment International.



GENES DECIDE YOUR CAFFEINE PREFERENCE

Are you a tea or coffee person? The answer may lie in your genetic predisposition towards bitter tastes, say researchers.

Bitterness acts as a natural warning system to protect us from harmful substances. The study, led by researchers from US-based Northwestern University, and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Australia, explored reactions to three bitter substances — caffeine, quinine and propylthiouracil (PROP) — to understand how they affect people's preference for drinking tea, coffee and alcohol.

"You'd expect that people who are particularly sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine would drink less coffee," said Marilyn Cornelis, assistant professor of preventive medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. For alcohol, a higher sensitivity to the bitterness of PROP resulted in lower alcohol consumption, particularly of red wine.



Trend Slazer

'I never had a career'



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

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



—Prajakta Koli

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



'My wife is awesome'

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



THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

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

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

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

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

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



find what I had been dreaming of," said Sadhguru on the first day of festival.

So what is it that he wanted to convey through the story? asked Mohit. "Stop putting logic to everything, it is all about attention," laughed Sadhguru.

He pointed towards today's technology-driven world and how children are

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

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

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

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

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

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

The podium was surrounded by stalls of books by Sadhguru, Rachna Rawat Bisht and other writers who told tales at the three-day festival that ended yesterday.

Wonder girl

Young scientist **GITANJALI RAO** talks about her creation with **ASMITA SARKAR**



She is all of 12 and is known globally as girl wonder for receiving the 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. What catapulted Gitanjali Rao to the high table was her invention, Tethys, a low-cost technology for testing lead in water.

What inspired her to make it? "I was originally inspired by the Flint Water Crisis which I had been introduced through a STEM lab and by watching news. After I learned about Flint, a town in the US, I continued to research and follow it for the next couple of years. When I saw my parents testing for lead in our water, I immediately realised that using test strip would take quite a few tries to get accurate results and I really wanted to do something to change this not only for my parents but for the residents of Flint and places like Flint around the world," she said.

The Indian American girl has created a sensor-based device that is faster than current technologies available in the market and is cheaper.

"After my testing and developing a method for gathering data for analytics, I intend to partner with the US Environmental Protection Agency to

crowd source water quality data. The idea is to not only test local water sources but try to use the data from various sources to produce a heat map that shows the contamination levels in a region in a single view. It can also help in developing in prediction models of the spread in future. Parallely, I intend to create about 30-50 reproducible prototypes which can be used for field-testing starting with Flint," Rao said.

For developing the project, she worked with a mentor, Dr. Shafer, who helped her with her experimentation plans and made sure she wasn't immediately rushing to the next steps. "On the first Skype call, I was a bit nervous to talk to someone so knowledgeable who was an accomplished scientist, but as soon as I started talking to her, she made me very comfortable. I learnt to be diligent and persistent from her. She listened carefully when I narrated my failures to her and provided me with alternate paths to keep moving ahead. She taught me to reach out and ask for help," said the pre-teen. She added that she earlier hesitated in asking questions but having met Dr. Shafer she's learnt to reach out to college professors and high school teachers for either space to perform her tests or ask questions related to her research.

She looks up to her parents, who have encouraged her to pursue her ideas with abandon and provide the necessary resources to make them a reality but on the scientific front she looks up to not younger and newer scientists but Marie Curie. "She didn't just discover two new elements, but also performed life-threatening tests and put others before herself. That is what a true role model means to me," said she.

Her age is no benchmark to judge her intelligence as concerns like the wage gap among men and women already weigh heavily on her mind. For this too, the young problem solver has a solution. "I wrote a sample bill for the Colorado legislature, proposing that the wage gender gap be closed by giving women the opportunity to stand up and discuss their wages without repercussions from an employer. It is important to say what you believe. If your male co-worker, who is doing the same job as you, for the same amount of time, is getting a higher salary, then speaking up and talking about it is important. We normally don't do that or aren't allowed by company policies. I believe that women shouldn't be prevented to talk to their employer about their salary and share it openly with coworkers. This can help us close the wage gap once and for all," said Rao.

She has a wise head resting on her small shoulders as she understands the immediacy of the environmental disaster facing us. She has a message for young girls where she says, "I would like to let them know that each one of us can observe around us and understand the social or environmental problems — and find a way to solve them. Do not be afraid to try as failure is part of the learning process. Solving problems does not always have to be about science. If you are worried about marine pollution, create posters to bring awareness and share it. If you think your community needs more recycling bins, approach lawmakers or other influential people by writing or meeting them. There are many ways to solve problems, and technology is just one aspect," she said.

The young scientist will be in India for the 10th edition of TEDxGateway on December 2 2018 at Dome — NSCI, Worli, Mumbai.

MARY POPPINS IS BACK

The film's sequel will bring back the adventures and tales of the nanny who was loved for her magical skills

Remember the practically-perfect Nanny with unique magical skills who would turn an ordinary task into a fantastic adventure?

Starring Emily Blunt, Disney's *Mary Poppins* (1964) is back as *Mary Poppins Returns*. In this new musical and sequel, Mary Poppins is back to help the next generation of the Banks family find the joy and wonder missing in their lives following a personal loss. The enigmatic nanny is joined by her friend Jack, played by Lin-Manuel Miranda, an optimistic street lamplighter who helps bring light — and life — to the streets of London.

Directed by Rob Marshall, screenplay is by David Magee and the story by Magee & Marshall and John DeLuca, the film is based upon the *Mary Poppins* stories by PL Travers.

"I was incredibly honoured to be approached by Disney about directing a sequel," said Rob. "This is a brand new original film musical from top to bottom, which is very rare, and it is a wonderful opportunity to create something specifically for the screen," he added. The film also stars Ben

Whishaw as Michael Banks, Emily Mortimer as Jane Banks, Julie Walters as the Banks' housekeeper Ellen, Pixie Davies, Nathanael Saleh and introducing Joel Dawson as the Banks' children, with Colin Firth as Fidelity Fiduciary Bank's William Weatherall Wilkins, and Meryl Streep as Mary's eccentric cousin, Topsy. Dick Van Dyke is Mr. Dawes Jr., the retired chairman of the bank now run by Firth's character.

"*Mary Poppins* was the first film I saw as a child and it opened my mind up to movies and to the love of musicals, adventure and fantasy in film," said Rob. "But this film isn't just for children... it's for the child in all of us," he added.

Produced by John DeLuca, Rob Marshall, and Marc Platt, with C a l l u m M c D o u g a l l serving as executive producer, the film is set to release in Indian cinema on January 4, 2019.



WEBBED



RAJMA CHAWAL

Set in the chaotic, vibrant Chandni Chowk, Delhi, the show captures the relationship between a father (Rishi Kapoor) attempting to reconnect with his estranged son (Anirudh Tanwar) through social media assuming the online persona of a young woman. The film is an emotional roller-coaster, interspersing grief and the pressure of family expectations with humour, compassion and love. Starring Amrta Dastur, and Aparshakti Khurana among others, the film is slated to release on Netflix on November 30.

THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES

After accidentally crashing Santa's sleigh, a brother and sister pull an all-nighter to save Christmas with a savvy, straight-talking St. Nick. The show follows Kate (Darby Camp) and Teddy (Judah Lewis), two siblings whose plan is to catch Santa Claus on camera. Their efforts turn into an exciting and unexpected journey that most can only dream about. As their wild night unfolds, the two work together with Santa and his loyal Elves to save Christmas. The film, also starring Kurt Russell, releases on Netflix on November 22.



TECH TALK

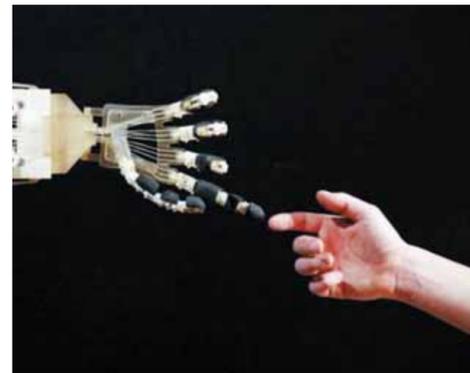
'AI is transforming lives'

Ethical Artificial Intelligence a pressing need, says UN expert

While digital solutions like Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming lives, these also raises concerns, ranging from security to human rights abuses, says an expert.

According to Eleonore Pauwels, Research Fellow on Emerging Cyber technologies at United Nations University (UNU), AI is transforming our lives, from reshaping our intimate and networked interactions to monitoring our bodies, moods and emotions, both in visible and invisible ways. "The all-encompassing capture and optimisation of our personal information — the quirks that help define who we are and trace the shape of our lives — will increasingly be used for various purposes without our direct knowledge or consent," Pauwels was quoted as saying to the UN News.

Thus, how to protect independent human thought in an increasingly algorithm-driven



world goes beyond the philosophical and is now an urgent and pressing dilemma, she stressed. Importantly, the evolution of AI is happening in parallel with technical advances in other fields, such as genomics, epi-

demiology and neuroscience. "That means that not only is your coffee maker sending information to cloud computers, but so are wearable sensors like Fitbits; intelligent implants inside and outside our bodies; brain-computer interfaces, and

even portable DNA sequencers," Pauwels said.

As a result, while the AI revolution presents great promise, on the other hand there is also a great peril, especially when it comes to ownership and control of our most intimate data.

It is because besides analysing our shopping patterns and dating preferences, computer codes can also read our genes, cells and vital signs.

The digital representation of our characteristic data could help create the world's largest precision medicine dataset or it could render everyone more vulnerable to exploitation and intrusions than ever before, Pauwels said.

"These reflections exhibit an entanglement of ethical and policy challenges that needs to be mapped, unveiled, and analysed to nurture an inclusive foresight discussion on the global governance of AI," Pauwels said.—IANS

'Magnificent Mary' punches into quarters

Five-time champion starts her campaign with easy win; Manisha pips World Champion in last 16 clash

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five-time champion M C Mary Kom punched her way into the 48kg quarterfinals while another veteran Sarita Devi made an early exit after losing a hard-fought 60kg bout in the AIBA Women's World Championships here on Sunday.

Chasing a historic sixth Gold and first medal since 2010, the 35-year-old Mary Kom registered a convincing 5-0 win over Aigerim Kessenayeva of Kazakhstan in her opening bout of the tournament.

The 36-year-old Sarita, who won a Gold in the 2006 edition when it was also held in the Capital city, lost to 2016 World Championships Silver medalist Kellie Harrington of Ireland in a split 3-2 verdict.

Sarita, who got a standing count against her opponent in the third round, later said the decision was wrong. She, however, said that she will accept the decision as she does not want another ban.

The Manipuri was handed a one year ban by the world body AIBA for refusing to accept her Bronze medal in protest during the victory ceremony at the 2014 Asian Games.

Besides Mary Kom, three other Indians — Manisha Moun (54kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Kachari Bhagyabati (81kg) — also made it to the quarterfinals

with 5-0, 5-0 and 4-1 wins on points in their respective pre-quarterfinal bouts.

Five Indians took the field on Sunday and only Sarita lost her bout. They are now just one step away from clinching a medal.

Mary Kom began with a watchful approach in the first round but she got to her rhythm with a left-right combination on her opponent in the second round. There were no many clear punches from both sides but the Manipuri, a mother of three, was clearly the better boxer with all the five judges giving their nod.

Four judges gave 30-27 each while one awarded 29-28 in favour of the Indian.

"It was a tough fight and there was a bit of pressure as it was my first bout of the tournament. I have been handling the pressure of expectation from the people of my country for the last 16 years and I am happy to face this pressure," said the Olympic Bronze medalist.

Mary Kom next face Wu Yu of China in the quarterfinal on Tuesday.

"I think she is an intelligent boxer and fast also. I have to think about which technique I have to use," she said.

A win on Tuesday will assure Mary

Women's World C'ship
Live from 1:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1



Kom of at least a Bronze medal which will be her first since 2010.

Sarita and Harrington traded a lot of punches in their lightweight pre-quarterfinal bout which was a fast and intense affair.

The veteran Indian, who also competed in the inaugural World Championships in 2001, expressed surprise when the Irishwoman was declared the winner.

"I am not happy with the decision (of the judges). The decision has gone 'ulta' (opposite), I thought I had the upperhand in all the three rounds. But what do I do, I was banned for one year after the 2014 Asian Games controversy. So, I cannot say anything now," she said after her bout.

"I don't know why these things happen to me only."

About the standing count against her in the third round, she said, "It was not a



standing count. My opponent was a south-paw and her legs got entangled in between mine and I slipped and fell."

The day began on a happy note for India with Manisha sending reigning world champion Dina Zhalaman of Kazakhstan packing with yet another authoritative win in 54kg to place herself just a step away from grabbing a maiden medal.

The 20-year-old Manisha won a 5-0 unanimous verdict against her more expe-

rienced rival in a pre-quarterfinal bout in her maiden World Championships.

This was the second win of the Haryana girl against Zhalaman as she had defeated the Kazakh boxer in the Silesian Women's Boxing championship in Poland earlier this year.

In the quarterfinals, Manisha faces top seed and 2016 World Championships Silver medalist Stoyka Petrova of Bulgaria.

"For me, once I am inside the ring it does not matter whether my opponent is a world champion or a silver medalist. So, my approach will be the same in my next bout also," she said.

"Today, like on my first bout, I played from a distance but I played faster and more aggressive. It was a good bout."

Borghain, an Asian Championships Bronze medalist last year, had a tougher fight against 2014 World Championships Gold medalist Atheyna Bylon of Panama. It was a physical and aggressive fight and both the boxers fell on the floor on more than one occasion.

The 21-year-old Assamese next faces Scott Kaye Frances of Australia in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

For Bhagyabati, it was even tougher against a taller opponent Irina-Nicoletta Schonberger of Germany. But the Indian also turned out winner in her debut World Championships bout.

She now faces Paola Jessica Caicedo of Columbia in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

INDIA LOSE 1-2 TO JORDAN IN FRIENDLY

PTI ■ AMMAN

The Indian football team went down 1-2 to Jordan in an international football friendly, an improved second-half performance failing to salvage a draw for the visitors here.

This was a climbdown for Stephen Constantine's men weeks after holding World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi's higher-ranked China to a goalless stalemate.

The 97th ranked India, though, were without their talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri, who was ruled out of the game due to an injury.

The journey to the Jordan capital from New Delhi was also far from smooth for the Indian players, many of whom were left stranded at Kuwait City airport as flash floods in this part of the world disturbed the flight schedule.

Goalkeeper cum captain Amer Shafi on Saturday put Jordan ahead with a free goal in the 25th minute.

Thanks to the howler from India custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who failed to read the bounce of his counterpart's shot from the other end of the pitch, Jordan led 1-0 at the break.

Ehsan Haddad consolidated Jordan's position and made it 2-0 with his 58th minute



strike.

Coming on as a substitute for Jackie Chand Singh, debutant Nishu Kumar pulled one back for the visitors when he found the net from a close range in the 61st minute. That was only his second touch of the game.

While he goofed up to concede the game's first goal at the King Abdullah International Stadium, Gurpreet also saved a penalty in the 10th minute.

India's number one goalkeeper dived to his right to deny Baniatayeh.

While India upped their game after the break, the first half action was eventful, as it included a missed penalty, one booking and a howler by India captain Sandhu. The game against the 112th ranked Jordan was in preparation for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

It's time to deliver, says Chinglensana

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The preparations are done and it is time to deliver in the tournament that matters the most after a mediocre year, Indian hockey team vice-captain Chinglensana Singh Kangujam said on Sunday ahead of the World Cup.

The mega event begins November 28 and will conclude on December 16 at the city's Kalinga Stadium.

"The past three months in particular has been very challenging for us with the training intensifying as it's important for us to peak at the World Cup. The team is aware that this year could have been much better for us in terms of results but now is the time to do away with the bitterness of the past performances by doing well at the prestigious event," said Chinglensana.

Playing in the midfield alongside skipper Manpreet Singh and youngsters Sumit and Nilakanta Sharma, Chinglensana exuded confidence about his team's prospects.

"Every single player has worked tremendously hard and it is time to convert all that into good results. I



believe the World Cup will be a battle of mental strength as much as it is going to be about fitness and team strategies.

"It is an advantage that almost everyone in the team has the experience of playing top-quality matches in the Kalinga Stadium during the Hockey India League and are aware of the atmosphere the fans create here.

"It's also a plus point to have the Junior World Cup winners who have experienced 20,000 people cheering for them during the 2016 Junior World Cup in Lucknow," added the Manipur-born player.

Chinglensana, who has so far played 199 internationals, is slated to complete a milestone on the opening day of India's campaign against South Africa.

"Yes, if everything goes right, I will be playing my milestone match in front of our home crowd and there is no better feeling than completing 200 matches for India in front of the fantastic Bhubaneswar crowd."

"It is one of my favourite venues in the world. I am looking forward to it and we are all eager to make a positive start," he said.



PV Sindhu plays shot during her clash BWF/File Picture

Sindhu skips Syed Modi to focus on World Tour Final

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champion PV Sindhu has decided to skip the Syed Modi International World Tour Super 300 tournament to focus on next month's BWF World Tour Final in China.

The 23-year-old Indian is placed fifth in the 'Race to Guangzhou' ranking to qualify for the \$ 1,500,000 World Tour Final, which will be held in the Chinese city for the first time from December 12-16.

"Sindhu has written to Badminton Association of India (BAI) asking them to allow her to skip the Syed Modi tournament so that she can concentrate on the World Tour Finals in December," Sindhu's father P V Ramana said.

"She has also informed the organisers and national coach P Gopichand." Srikanth also pulled out from

Portugal qualify for Nations League final

AP ■ MILAN

No Cristiano Ronaldo, no problem. Portugal drew with Italy 0-0 on Saturday to pick up the point they needed to qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals and confirm them as host of the first Final Four in June.

Ronaldo is taking a break from the national team and wasn't present at San Siro, just as he wasn't in Portugal's first two Nations League matches — both of which they won.

Poland has already been assured of finishing last in the group and will be relegated to League B and Italy will finish second.

However, a year after Italian football's darkest moment, there are positive signs for the Azzurri. Italy dominated and had the better of the chances in front of a packed home crowd in Milan.

The Azzurri almost took the lead as early as the fifth minute. Lorenzo Insigne unleashed a scorching shot from distance which Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patrício did well to beat away, and Ciro Immobile fired the rebound over from point-blank range.

Leonardo Bonucci's every touch was booed by the San Siro crowd — made up mainly of AC Milan and Inter Milan fans — and the Juventus defender was jeered loudly after he sent a header narrowly wide of the left post.

There was a lot of good interplay from the hosts with crisp, efficient passing in the best performance seen by an Italy side in a long time.

It was a far cry from Italy's last match at San Siro, when they drew with Sweden 0-0 last November and failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades. The fans are also starting to fall back in love with the Azzurri, with 73,000 spectators at San Siro.

On Sunday, England overcame a goal deficit in last 15 minutes to beat Croatia 2-1 in the last group A4 match to pip 2010 World Champions Spain to advance into next round of UEFA Nations League competition.



Son, Okuhara win Hong Kong title

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Son Wan-ho won his first tournament in two years on Sunday after the 30-year-old snatched the Hong Kong Open from Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, whose teammate Nozomi Okuhara triumphed in the women's finals.

The Korean sixth seed, who stunned Japanese world number one Kento Momota in the semis, yielded 12 points in a row in the first game before finding his form after the first break to win 14-21, 21-17, 21-13 in 89 minutes.

Nishimoto kept up the energy but Son pulled away at 13-12 in the decider after the Japanese player knocked two shots into the net.

Son has now won five of the pair's seven encounters this year for his first tournament victory since his December 2016 homeground win.

"I feel very happy... in the second game I felt my opponent was very tired, so I needed to work then to get through the tough part (of the

match)," he said.

In the women's finals, Okuhara said her victory over a determined Ratchanok Intanon was a massive confidence boost ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

Both players were hungry for the win, drawing level 13 times in the second game before the sixth-ranked Okuhara beat the Thai, a former world champion, 21-19, 24-22 in 64 minutes.

"This match is very important for me," she told reporters.

Okuhara said she would spend the next year working to secure her place at next year's Olympics alongside world number two Akane Yamaguchi, who Intanon beat in three games in the quarter-finals.

"I and Akane will get a gold medal," she said. "Of course."

Sunday was Okuhara's last tournament before next month's World Tour finals in China.

LOCAL EVENTS

KULDEEP LIFTS CHESS TITLE

Kuldeep Shankar defeated Ravi Shankar on tie-breaker to win the 14th Shivani Cup Sunday Open Prizemoney Chess Tournament at Shivani Public School on Sunday. Mayank Pandey settled for third place while Kamlesh and Aman Agarwal finished fourth and fifth respectively.

OTHER RESULTS: (Under-10) 1-Kartikeya Mishra, 2-Sanyam Srivatsava, 3-Meetansh Dixit

(Under-14) 1-Prithvi Singh, 2-Tejasva Singh, 3-Tanishq Gupta (Under-16) 1-T Krishna Tejas

CITY SCHOOL, DPS WIN

The City School beat Delhi Public School by six wickets in the 15th SN Mishra OBF Inter-



College Cricket Tournament at Multi Activity Centre on Sunday. In another match, St Mary's, para pipped APS, LBS Marg by 29 runs.

BRIEF SCORES: DPS: 123 (Ashutosh 30, Ishan 17, Manish 11, Tejas 10; Vaibhav 19/3, Ashish 26/2)

CS: 124 (Gaurav 47, Abhijeet 32; Ashutosh 27/2, Aviral 13/1)

St Mary's: 141 (Anuj 24, Abhishek 23, Abubhav 15, Ashish 14; Rajveer 15/2, Abhay 17/2)

APS: 112 (Rajveer 42, Rohit 17, Mohit 14; Vishal 16/2, Abhishek 17/2, Abubhav 28/2).

Lakshya settles for Bronze in World Jr C'ship

PTI ■ MARKHAM

India's Lakshya Sen settled for a Bronze medal in the World Junior Badminton Championship after suffering a narrow defeat to top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the men's singles semifinals here.

The 17-year-old from Almor, who had clinched the Asian Junior title this year, fought hard before going down 22-20, 16-21, 13-21 to Vitidsarn in a match that went on for an hour and 11 minutes on Saturday.

"I could not get into my usual rhythm, though I managed to win the first game. But he (Kunlavut) was too strong in the second. I could not play to my strong points and my opponent had all answers to my strokes," said the world junior No 3 shuttler.

Lakshya, who was the last Indian hope in the tournament, began well and in what was a touch-and-go opening game, the Indian seized the opportunity past midway and sealed the extended game in his favour.

But the Thai came back strongly in the second game to level 1-1 and keep his chances alive.

The Indian, who lacked conviction after losing the second game, was unable to gather himself in the decider as the Thai ran up a good lead and maintained it throughout to secure a place in the final.

Earlier this year, Lakshya gains wide recognition after winning the Asian Junior Badminton Championship, becoming the first Indian after PV Sindhu to win that prestigious tournament.

Saina Nehwal is the only Indian to have won a Gold in the tournament during the 2008 Pune edition.

Sameer eyes Tour Finals spot

NEW DELHI :Unfazed by the defending champion's tag, shutter Sameer Verma has set his sights on retaining the title at the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300 tournament and earn a shot at next month's BWF World Tour Finals in China.

The 24-year-old from Dhar is currently at the 12th place in the Race to Guangzhou ranking and he will need to get into the top 8 to qualify for the year-ending \$ 1,500,000 tournament.

"I am not thinking about the defending champion tag at all. It brings along a lot of pressure and I am just looking to play the tournament to the best of my ability. Results are not in my hand," Sameer said.

"Of course, I would like to retain the title and if I can do that there is a chance that I will be able to qualify for World Tour Finals. So I am not thinking much about it but it remains the target," he added.

Troubled by a shoulder injury for most part of last year, a fit Sameer played 19 tournaments this season, clinching Swiss Open and Hyderabad Open and presently he looks in good shape.

Sameer had won a bronze at the 2011 World Junior Championship, before injuries hampered his progress in 2012 and 2013.



Sindhu has continued her sensational form this season, claiming Silver medals at major events such as the Commonwealth Games, World Championship and Asian Games.

She also reached the finals of the India Open and Thailand Open, besides producing her best performance at the All England Open Championships with a semifinal finish.

The World Tour Final, which showcases the elite top eight players, will be Sindhu's 18th tournament this year. "It is a prestigious tournament and she will need to be at her peak to win a medal. So at least 20 days of training would be required to be in good shape," said Ramana.

This will be Sindhu's third appearance at the year-ending event. She had qualified in the 2016 edition, losing in the semifinals.

Last year, Sindhu had reached the finals, losing to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi at Dubai.

Shastri defends poor travellers' tag

Indian coach feels it's unfair to target India when most nations fail on away tour

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India are yet to shed their "poor travellers" tag but head coach Ravi Shastri feels that it's unfair to pick on one particular side when most of the nations have fared poorly on away tours.

India have lost two away Test series in 2018, against South Africa (1-2) and England (1-4). This was after both tours were seen as best chance for Virat Kohli's men to set the poor overseas record straight.

Asked how important it is for India to win the series in Australia, Shastri said: "You have got to learn from your mistakes. When you go overseas and when you look at teams that travel around now, there aren't too many sides (that travel well)."

"Australia did for some time in the 90's and during the turn of century. South Africa did it for a while and other than these two, in the last five-six years, you tell me which team has travelled well. Why pick on India?" questioned Shastri.

Questioned whether he or skipper Kohli has spoken to the team as to why they lost in South Africa and England, Shastri said that it was all about "seizing big moments".

"We have spoken about seizing the big moments. If you look at the Test matches, the scoreline really doesn't tell you the real story. There were some real tight Test matches and we lost some big moments badly, which cost us the series at the end of it."

"It could have been an hour in a session over four days whether it was SA or England. Either as a batsman or a bowler and see what happens after that," the coach said in his team's defence.

Shastri refused to believe that Australian team has lost its aura after what all happened during the past few months.



Venue	Season	Winner	Margin
England	2011	England	4-0 (4)
Australia	2011/12	Australia	4-0 (4)
South Africa	2013/14	South Africa	1-0 (2)
New Zealand	2013/14	New Zealand	1-0 (2)
England	2014	England	3-1 (5)
Australia	2014/15	Australia	2-0 (4)
South Africa	2017/18	South Africa	2-1 (3)
England	2018	England	4-1 (5)

"I don't think so. I think once you have a sporting culture in you, you will always have that. I have always believed that no team is weak at home. We might have three or four players not

playing when a team comes to India God forbid but if anyone thinks it's a weak team, you will be surprised. "Similarly, we are taking no prisoners and we want to go out and put our best foot forward, focussing on our game rather than focussing outside," he sounded cautious. He is confident that his pacers will enjoy bowling on Australian pitches. "I think they (pacers) should enjoy bowling on these pitches if it's like the pitches we have seen in the past. It's important to stay fit as a unit." Shastri broadly dropped a hint that injured Hardik Pandya's absence robs them a chance to play an extra bowler. Even former Australian batsman Mike

Hussey recently spoke about how Pandya's absence can hurt India. "One player we will miss is Hardik Pandya, who has had an injury. He gave us that balance as a bowler as well as batsman, which allowed us to play that extra bowler. Even now we have got to think twice. Hopefully, he will get fit soon and if fast bowlers do well, we might not miss him then," the former all-rounder said. Asked if this is the best chance for India's fast bowlers, Shastri said it will depend on if they can maintain "sustained intensity" for a long period of time. "It doesn't matter what line-up they play as long as they are consistent. In the past, we have had one or two

Cummins says he will be surprised if Kohli keeps quiet

MELBOURNE: Refusing to buy Virat Kohli's self-appraisal that he is no longer the one looking for confrontations, pacer Pat Cummins on Sunday said that the Australians will hold their ground in the face of any verbal barrage from the India captain. Prior to departing for Australia, run-machine Kohli insisted he realised he doesn't need to get into confrontations to get a feel of the contest. Cummins doesn't think so. "I think I heard him say in the media the other day he won't, but I'll be surprised if he doesn't," Cummins told Fairfax Media. "He's so competitive, he really thrives on that. "We'll hold our ground, we're going to be competitive and all those things. We wouldn't treat him differently to any others. I think you'll see a lot of passion from both sides but nothing super fiery like we saw against India a couple of years ago," he added. Relations between the two sides hit a low after Australian captain Steve Smith, going against the rule, looked up to his dressing room for assistance for a decision review call during the second Test in Bengaluru last year. Smith later called it his "brain fade" moment. South Africa chose not to engage with Kohli when they met at the start of the year, and the India skipper top-scored in England with three centuries. "It might be something to talk about once we get the Test squad together, and talk about how we want to play and our plans for individual batsmen," Cummins said. PTI



Bowlers disappoint as NZ A score 458/9

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

New Zealand A's last-wicket pair frustrated India A attack with a 83-run stand as the home team kept the first innings lead down to just nine runs after third day's play in the first 'Unofficial Test' on Sunday.

In reply to India A's 467 for eight, New Zealand A declared their first innings at 458 for nine after being reduced to 375 for nine at one stage.

New Zealand A's No 10 batsman Seth Rance (69) and No 11 Blair Tickner (30) played out the next one hour to negate chances of a substantial lead for the visitors.

At stumps, India A reached 35 for no loss in their second innings with the young Prithvi Shaw (33 batting, 26 balls) hitting seven boundaries in the company of veteran Murali Vijay (2 batting, 22 balls). India's overall lead currently is 44 runs.

The Indian bowlers started off well in the third morning as New Zealand A were reduced to 211 for five from 176 for one within the first hour of play.

Tim Seifert (20) edged one to Parthiv Patel off Mohammed Siraj (1/104 in 29 overs). Centurion Hamish Rutherford (114, 181 balls) was cleaned up by Deepak Chahar (2/51 in 12.4 overs), who didn't complete his 13th over.

Left-handed opener Rutherford, who has played 17 Tests for New Zealand, hit 17 boundaries and a six. Chahar also got rid of Rachin Ravindra (0) while Navdeep Saini (2/88 in 25 overs) trapped Glenn Phillips (16) leg-before.

However, the Indian bowlers couldn't press home the initial advantage with the second new ball as Doug Bracewell (48) and Dane Cleaver (53) added 65 runs for the sixth wicket before off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham (3/107 in 42 overs) castled him.

Cleaver and Kyle Jamieson (30) added another 53 to take the team past the 300-run mark. Jamieson and Cleaver were then dismissed in quick succession as New Zealand A were reduced to 346 for eight. Theo van Woerkom (11) added 29 with Rance before the final flourish from the last pair.

SINGLES

MOUDGIL WINS GOLD IN SHOOTING NATIONALS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India's number one women's 50m rifle 3 positions shooter Anjum Moudgil defended her crown in the event at the 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions here on Sunday. Punjab's Anjum shot 458.6 in the finals to finish ahead of seasoned Tejaswini Sawant of Maharashtra, who managed 457.7. Sunidhi Chauhan of Madhya Pradesh won the Bronze medal with a finals score of 443.0. Moudgil, who had won five Gold in the last nationals and recently won a Tokyo 2020 Olympic quota place for her country, had earlier shot 1168 in the qualification to top the field. Tejaswini had finished second in qualification with a score of 1163.

SHARMA WINS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR HONOUR

DUBAI: India's Shubhankar Sharma became the first Indian to emerge as the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year on the European Tour despite a disappointing final round of 80 at the DP World Tour Championships on Sunday. Sharma follows Jon Rahm (2017), Wang Jeunghun (2016), Byeong Hun An (2015) and Brooks Koepka (2014) who have been the four Rookies before him. No Indian has won the Rookie of the Year award in European Tour, though three Indians - Arjun Atwal (1995), Shiv Kapur (2005) and C Muniyappa (2009) emerged as Rookie of the Year on the Asian Tour. Interestingly, the 22-year-old Sharma is the third Asian in last four years to win this European Tour accolade, after Byeong Hun An (2015) and Wang Jeunghun (2016).

ANKITA-KARMAN CLINCH TAIPEI OPEN

PUNE: Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi — India's top two singles players — combined well to win their maiden title on the WTA Tour, grabbing the doubles trophy at the \$ 125,000 Taipei OEC Open, on Sunday. Playing first time together on the Pro circuit, the Indians clinched the title when Russia's Olga Doroshina and Natela Dzalomidze opted out of edge-of-seat contest due to latter's injury. The match was on even keel with both the pairs splitting the first two sets. The Indians had won the first set 6-4 but lost the second 5-7. The super tie breaker was tied 12-12 when Natela fell and suffered a hamstring injury. She struggled to even walk and they were forced to retire.

PANKAJ EXTENDS WORLD TITLE TALLY TO 21

YANGON: Legendary Pankaj Advani on Sunday extended his world title to 21 by winning the long and short formats of the IBSF World Billiards Championship titles for a record fourth time here. While Pankaj has always won the timed version of the long format, the more recent short version eluded him over the years. Pankaj's city mate from Bengaluru, B Bhaskar, a two-time Asian Silver medalist and a Bronze medal winner at the world level, had to settle for Silver. Last year Pankaj did the unthinkable by winning the billiards short format title and then went on to annex the snooker title too. He is the only player in the world to play both billiards and snooker at the world level and win in both with great consistency.

DRIVER FRACTURES SPINE IN MACAU GP CRASH

HONG KONG: A 17-year-old female teenage driver suffered a fractured spine when her car flew off the track in a horrifying crash at the Formula Three Macau Grand Prix on Sunday. Van Amersfoort Racing's Sophia Floersch was conscious and stable after the smash when her car became airborne and hurtled into a marshals and photographers' area. Japanese driver Sho Tsuboi, two photographers and a marshal were also taken to hospital. "All were conscious during transit to the hospital and are now receiving medical treatment. Further updates will be provided as soon as possible," said the Macau Grand Prix Organising Committee in a statement cited by multiple sources, including the South China Morning Post and shared on Twitter by Italy's Prema Powerteam. Agencies

'When you have good team, you have to perform well'

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said that her team is bound to perform well because of the quality in the side which was proved during their thumping 48-run win against Australia in the final group league encounter of the ICC Women's World T20.

India were already in semi-finals after winning their first three matches but didn't let the intensity down against the formidable 'Southern Stars' in an inconsequential last group league encounter.

"When you have a good team, you have to perform well," Harmanpreet said at the end of the match on Saturday.

After a below-par fielding performance against Pakistan, Indian women were excellent against Australia.

"I am very happy with the



Smriti Mandhana plays a shot during his 83 run innings against Aus in T20 clash ICC (performance from the) girls. We worked very hard and today, we fielded well. I am proud of the girls. Hope the sort of partnership I had with Smriti (68 in 7 overs) can keep coming." Opener Smriti Mandhana, who finally converted a start, got

Group B	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	NR	Pts	NRR
India	4	4	0	0	0	8	+1.827
Australia	4	3	1	0	0	6	+1.515
New Zealand	4	2	2	0	0	4	+1.031
Pakistan	4	1	3	0	0	2	-0.987
Ireland	4	0	4	0	0	0	-3.525

83 off 55 balls and thanked Veda Krishnamurthy for insisting on a DRS when she thought the she was gone. "First three matches I got starts but couldn't convert it. So I just wanted to score big today," said Mandhana, adding, "Veda insisted on the review, and thanks to her we got 20-30 runs extra."

Harmanpreet's deputy also echoed her skipper's sentiments that both bowling and fielding were top notch against the Aussies.

"The way we bowled and fielded today was the best of the four games, but batting-wise the performance against New Zealand was better."

Team's youngest member Jemimah Rodrigues said that endeavour will be to keep up the momentum in the upcoming semi-finals on November 23.

"I think it's important not just because it's Australia, but for ourselves and our team, because we've got the momentum," Rodrigues was quoted as saying by ICC website.

"So we need to keep that

momentum, keep doing the things, don't focus mainly on the results. So I think it plays a huge impact on our team and I think we look forward to it, but not get carried away and try to do even better in the semi-finals," Rodrigues said.

Rodrigues said that Harmanpreet's epic 171 dring last year's ODI World Cup also came up for discussion during the team meeting on the eve of the Australia match.

"Yes, (that knock) was definitely discussed (before the match)," revealed Rodrigues. "In our meetings. It's always good to remember the good stuff we've done. And it plays an impact and motivates each other. So we have spoken about that."

India will now face Group A runners up in the second semi-final on Thursday to book berth for Saturday's final.

Eng eye top spot after series win

AFF ■ KANDY

Captain Joe Root set his sights on taking England to the top of the world rankings after his spin trio finished off Sri Lanka in the second Test on Sunday to seal the series with a match to spare.

England needed just 30 minutes on the fifth day to take the final three Sri Lanka wickets. Jack Leach got last man Malinda Pushpakumara caught and bowled to claim his first five-wicket Test haul.

Moeen Ali took four wickets and Adil Rashid one as England's three frontline spinners accounted for the whole innings, as well as 18 of Sri Lanka's 20 wickets in the game overall.

Root's 124 in England's second innings also played a key role in the 57-run victory and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Celebrating England's first away series win since beating South Africa in 2015-16 and his first away triumph as captain, Root sees England — who are currently ranked third in the world — challenging India for the top Test team spot.

"It was a brilliant Test match," said Root, whose team had to twice fight back after their top order batsmen gave away cheap wickets.

"It ebbed and flowed throughout, like against India in the summer, and it's pleasing to see another close game go our way."

"We said we'd come out here and play bold cricket, and be courageous. It's easy to talk a good game but we've backed it up," Root said.

"We have to keep looking to improve. The team has grown in the last 18 months but we are not the fin-



Wkts	Runs	Teams	Venue	Season
38	1031	Eng-SL	Pallekele	2018-19
37	677	Ind-NZ	Nagpur	1969-70
35	552	Ind-Aus	Kolkata	1956-57
35	527	Ind-Pak	Bengaluru	1986-87
34	466	Ind-SA	Mohali	2015-16
34	693	B'desh-Aus	Dhaka	2017-18

ished article. We want to get to number one in the world and that means performing in all conditions around the world."

Sri Lanka needed 301 in their second innings to register an upset win but managed just 243 at the Pallekele ground.

They started the day needing 75 more runs and with three wickets in hand had an outside chance.

After Niroshan Dickwella was caught by Ben Stokes off Moeen Ali for

35 — the first wicket of the morning — Sri Lanka's hopes were all but extinguished.

Moeen then struck No 10 batsman Suranga Lakmal on the pad next ball for a strong lbw appeal which was turned down. He bowled Lakmal his very next delivery.

Pushpakumara lasted only eight balls before chipping the ball back to Leach and the game was over.

Lakmal insisted his side had been "unlucky". But England's triumph followed a crushing 211-run win in the first Test in Galle, and was set up by masterful performances from Leach, Ali and Rashid.

The spinners were dominant for both sides, as Sri Lanka's Dilruwan Perera took seven wickets in the game and Akila Dananjaya — who now goes off for an investigation into his bowling action — eight.

Yasir, Hasan fifiers put Pakistan on course

AP ■ ABU DHABI

Hasan Ali and Yasir Shah took five wickets each against New Zealand on Sunday as Pakistan regained control of the first test on day three.

New Zealand's lower order couldn't capitalize on patient half centuries from B.J. Watling (59) and Henry Nicholls' (55), losing its last six wickets for just 29 runs to get bowled out for 249. It gave New Zealand an overall lead of 175 runs after it conceded a slender 74-run first innings lead.

Pakistan started off its chase aggressively and was 37-0 at stumps with Imam-ul-Haq unbeaten on 25 with four boundaries and Mohammad Hafeez not out on 8.

Watling and Nicholls defied Pakistan for nearly 51 overs and raised a 112-run fifth-wicket stand before Shah (5-110) claimed four wickets in three overs and Hasan (5-45) wrapped up the tail quickly.

Shah triggered the collapse when Nicholls was caught behind before Colin de Grandhomme (3) and Watling were both trapped lbw by the leg-spinner in his next over.

Neil Wagner was undone by Shah's sharp turning delivery that knocked back the left-hander's off stump before Hasan returned and dismissed Ish Sodhi (18) and Trent Boult inside three deliveries to wrap up the innings quickly.

Watling faced 145 balls and Nicholls negotiated 171 deliveries in their skillful display of batting against spinners and fast bowlers. The pair came together after Hasan struck twice before lunch with New Zealand just 34 runs ahead.

They batted resolutely throughout the middle session with Nicholls surviving an lbw appeal on 44 off Shah when Pakistan opted for an ultimately unsuccessful television referral before the left-hander raised



his fifty just before tea.

Watling completed his fifty soon after the interval with a crisp driven boundary to mid-wicket off Hasan before Shah returned and wrecked New Zealand's hopes of building a substantial lead.

Earlier, Hasan's twin blows in five deliveries toppled New Zealand's top order as Pakistan reduced the visitors to 108-4.

Hasan used reverse swing with perfection by nipping Ross Taylor (19) plumb leg before wicket. Four balls later Jael Raval's (46) resistance finally ended when he edged the right-arm fast bowler behind.

Left-handed Raval was aggressive against Shah when New Zealand resumed on 56-1 and quickly wiped off the first innings deficit.

Kane Williamson (37) added 10 to his overnight score of 27 before Shah bowled the New Zealand skipper off a delivery that moved enough and tipped the off stump ball to break the 86-run second wicket stand.

Taylor was also dominant against Shah by smashing three fours in the leg-spinner's one over that included two meticulous cuts and one over mid-wicket.

But Hasan's twin strikes in his fourth over pegged back Kiwi's progress. Nicholls and Watling kept Pakistan at bay until Shah wrecked the lower order after tea.

Pakistan vs New Zealand
Live from 11:30am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK