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VIJAY HAZARE FINAL

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN

*Late City Vol. 28 Issue 291
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



METOO IS NOT
A BATTLEFIELD:
CHITRANGDA
13 VIVACITY

DUSSEHRA TURNS TRAGIC

Amritsar revellers mowed down on tracks by speeding trains while watching Ravana dahan; death toll may rise to 60 plus



Relatives mourn at the site of train accident at Joda Phatak in Amritsar on Friday

PNS ■ AMRITSAR/CHANDIGARH

The occasion of Ravana dahan to mark the end of Durga Puja festivities turned out to be a heart-rending event in Amritsar when a speeding train mowed down around 61 revellers who were gathered on the tracks to watch the ten-headed Ravana effigy go in flames across the railway crossing on Friday. As the effigy was lit and the fireworks went off, a section of the crowd started retreating towards the tracks where a large number of people were already standing to watch the event, officials said. However, two trains arrived from the opposite direction at the same time giving little opportunity to

people to escape, they said, adding that at least 300 people were near the tracks. Eyewitnesses told *The Pioneer* that due to sound of firecrackers people could not hear the sound of the approaching trains. "No one heard the trains coming and it was running at quite a speed," said Sukhjinder Singh an eyewitness. "I have lost my minor child. I want him back," an inconsolable mother could be heard. The train was coming from Jalandhar to Amritsar when the incident occurred in the evening at Joda Phatak. "There are more than 60 casualties. We are evacuating people, injured are being taken to the hospital," said SS Shrivastava,

Commissioner of Police, Amritsar, moments after the tragedy. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Amritsar I, Rajesh Sharma said 61 bodies have been found and at least 72 injured have been admitted to a Government hospital. Officials said the toll may be higher. Wails and cries of people

filled the air as friends and relatives frantically looked for their near and dear ones. Severed bodies, including of many children, were still lying on the accident site hours after the incident with angry people not allowing authorities to remove them.

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Detailed reports on P4



My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and I pray that the injured recover quickly. Have asked officials to provide immediate assistance that is required
NARENDRA MODI

Train accident in Punjab is shocking. My condolences to the families of those who have died. I pray that the injured make a speedy recovery
RAHUL GANDHI

Rushing to Amritsar to personally supervise relief & rescue in tragic rail accident. My Govt will give ₹5 lakh to kin of each deceased & free treatment to injured in Govt & pvt hospitals. District authorities have been mobilised on war footing
AMARINDER SINGH

Shocked to hear about the tragedy on rail tracks in Amritsar, Punjab. Understand Indian Railways and local authorities are taking steps to help affected people
RAM NATH KOVIND

I pray for the injured to recover quickly. Railways is conducting immediate relief and rescue operations
PIYUSH GOYAL

PM approves financial relief of ₹2 lakh to kin of dead
Punjab Government declares one-day mourning
Railways issues helpline numbers — 01832223171 and 01832564485. Telephone numbers at Manawala station are 0183-2440024, 0183-2402927 and Ferozpur's helpline number is 01632-1072

Protesters foil women bid to enter Sabarimala

Priest threatens to close temple if any woman of barred age group enters premises

PNS ■ SABARIMALA
/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Two women, including a TV journalist in her late 20s, nearly made it inside the Sabarimala temple on Friday under heavy police security, but they had to retreat amid massive protests by Ayyappa devotees and the head priest's threat to close the temple if any woman of the barred age group of 10-50 years entered the premises of the sanctum sanctorum.

One of the two women wore police uniform and helmet in an apparent bid to misguide the protesters. The attempt by the women to go to the temple followed a recent Supreme Court ruling allowing anybody to enter the temple negating the tradition barring women of menstrual age group from entering the premises of the celibate Lord Ayyappa. The police bundobust was a sequel to the apex court order to provide protection to such women wanting to go up on the pilgrimage.



Journalist Kavitha Jakkal escorted by police to Sabarimala Temple on Friday

A third woman of 46 years, who trekked through the forests up to Pamba, five km down the temple, also retreated following intense protests. As the woman journalist and the other woman reached the hilltop, a massive gathering of devotees blocked them at Valiya Nadappandal, the queue complex located a few metres down the holy 'pathinettampadi' (the 18

TDB to file review plea in top court

Nilakkal: Amid the huge protest after the Sabarimala verdict, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) on Friday decided to file an appeal against the apex court's order of allowing women of every age to enter the historical shrine. The Board also said it is ready for any sort of compromise to end this extreme scenario. "We have decided to appeal against the Supreme Court verdict that allowed women of all age groups to enter the Sabarimala Temple," TDB president A Padmakumar informed the media.

Agencies



Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases the arrow to symbolically set on fire the Ravana effigy at Luv Kush Ramliila Committee at Red Fort ground in New Delhi on Friday. President Ram Nath Kovind is also seen

As air quality worsens, Delhiites advised to stay indoors

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality in the national Capital on Friday has recorded "very poor" as National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) marked the index "red". The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), in its advisory cautioned people to avoid all physical activities outdoor and

move activities indoors. Also, asthma suffering people have been suggested to keep relief medicine handy. "Stop outdoor activity at early morning and after sunset times. Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion," quoted SAFAR health advisory. The values of both the pollutants — Particulate Matter (PM) 10 and PM 2.5 were recorded at 8 pm 270 and 125 respectively in Micro Cubic Per Gram (µgm-3). Also, SAFAR has forecast air quality "very poor" till

Stocks drop more than 1.3% on liquidity, margins concerns

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Led by carnage in stocks of housing finance sectors and major sell-off in shares of market leader Reliance Industries as well as heavy correction in IT and banking sectors, the BSE sensex shed 464 points or 1.33 per cent to close at 34,315.63 points. Friday's market movement is worrisome because stocks saw a free fall despite strengthening of Indian Rupees.

CAPSULE

2 TERRORISTS KILLED IN J&K SHOOTOUT

Srinagar: Two unidentified terrorists were killed on Friday in a shootout with security forces in Jammu & Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. Security forces signalled a sports utility vehicle (SUV) to stop at Kraalhaar in Baramulla but the terrorists travelling in it opened fire at them, a police spokesman said. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to track down the terrorists, the police official said.

₹10 CR SEIZED FROM CAR IN POLL-BOUND T

Hyderabad: In a major haul, police in Telangana on Friday seized ₹10 crore cash from a car. The cash was seized during checking of vehicles by the police in Adilabad district of Telangana, which is going to polls on December 7.

300 FLEE TRIPURA AFTER CLASH OVER MOLESTATION

Agartala: Around 300 people of 61 families have fled and at least one house was torched in a clash between two communities in West Tripura district over alleged molestation of a tribal girl, police said Friday. The four alleged molesters were arrested, they said. According to the police, the girl, along with her boyfriend, had come to Ranirbazar area Thursday from a nearby locality to see Durga idols there and four youths allegedly molested her and snatched her mobile phone.

Halted by Titli, N-E monsoon to hit southern India soon

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The northeast monsoon is likely to arrive in the southern peninsula — coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and south interior Karnataka — within the next 24 to 48 hours. While it brings heavy rainfall in these regions, its deficiency may lead to drought or drought-like conditions in the southern parts of the country. According to officials, the weather conditions are favourable for the arrival of northeast monsoon and withdrawal of southwest monsoon. The arrival of northeast monsoon was halted by Cyclone Titli in the Bay of Bengal. The northeast monsoon that spans

from October to December mainly affects the five regions in the southern peninsula. Officials said unlike southwest monsoon, there is no official onset date for northeast monsoon, which sets in one over the region, while the former sets in place by place. According to private weather forecaster Skymet, the withdrawal of southwest monsoon 2018 commenced very late on September 28. "In fact, southwest monsoon started retreating at a rapid pace and at that point it seemed that this would be the quickest withdrawal of monsoon in the last few years," the Skymet said. The Skymet said monsoon had withdrawn from entire northwest, east and central



India within a week. Not only this, conditions were looking favourable for the early onset of northeast monsoon during the second week of October itself. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has expressed hope of normal northeast monsoon, this year. The IMD has cited neutral El Nino conditions in the Pacific and the neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), both of which have a bearing on rainfall in the Indian subcontinent, as supporting evidence for the outlook.

ED files money laundering cases of AI deals during UPA regime

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has slapped money laundering charges in several cases of irregularities in connection with the decision related to Air India during the UPA regime. The move comes in the wake of CBI FIRs against Air India and other Government officials of that period. The controversial decisions include aircraft purchases by Air India and its merger with Indian Airlines. The CBI FIRs detailed the "illegalities and violations" and loss to the exchequer due to the controversial decisions taken by



the Finance Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry during the regime of P Chidambaram and Praful Patel. Two cases are related to the controversial merger of Air India and Indian Airlines and alleged irregularities in the purchase and leasing of aircraft by the two State-run carriers under the UPA Government which caused "huge" losses to the exchequer, according to the CBI.

Earlier, the CAG had detailed the loss to exchequer due to the big purchase of flights for Air India and some of which were sold to private airlines at cheap rates. The other two cases relate to surrender of profitable routes and timings of Air India to favour national and international private players which allegedly caused a "huge" loss to the State-run carrier and alleged wrongdoing in the purchase of software for the airline. It is expected that the ED will soon issue summons to a few officials and others involved, asking them to appear before it.

Continued on Page 4

8 cops injured in attack after idol immersion

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Eight policemen, including Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and Station House Officer (SHO) were left injured after a group of miscreants — who accompanied a Durga Puja procession — allegedly attacked when police stopped them while they were trying to exit from the entry gate after the immersion of the idol.

The incident took place around 6 pm at Yamuna Ghat in Mayur Vihar and the accused were allegedly under the influence of alcohol.

According to Joint Commissioner of Police, Eastern Range Ravinder Yadav, DCP east district Pankaj Singh along with ACP and SHO of Mayur Vihar were on duty at Yamuna Ghat for arrangements regarding Durga Puja Visarjan.

“Due to past experience regarding the traffic congestion, separate entry and exit were set up at the site this time. A group from Shrinivas Puri from the south east district, after doing Visarjan, tried to exit from the entry side which resulted in blockade of entry point. Even the people standing in queue had opposed these but they didn't stop,” said Yadav.

“When police personnel at barricades tried to tell them to follow the correct route they suddenly turned violent and started pelting stones on the police personnel. The miscre-



Eight policemen, including DCP, ACP and SHO were left injured after a group of miscreants attacked when police stopped them while they were trying to exit from the entry gate after the immersion of the idol

The incident took place around 6 pm at Yamuna Ghat in Mayur Vihar and the accused were allegedly under the influence of alcohol

Police have detained 11 people in connection with the case and the injured police personnel are receiving medical treatment

ants also damaged police vehicle. The DCP was also hit on his face by a lathi,” Joint CP said.

Police have detained 11 people in connection with the case and the injured police personnel are receiving medical treatment. “The situation is under control now. We have detained 11 people. It seems the youth were under influence of liquor. Eight police personnel including the DCP are receiving medical treatment at Max hospital in Patparganj. Appropriate legal action will be taken by the police against the accused,” the DCP added.

Coconut water seller shot at as he tried to catch hold of snatchers

New Delhi: Two unidentified bike-borne snatchers shot at 15-year-old boy, who sells coconut water for his livelihood, when he allegedly tried to catch hold of them after they fell from their bike while they were attempting to snatch gold chain from a customer at his stall. The incident took place at Ram Bagh near Shalimar Bagh in national Capital on Friday morning.

“The snatchers could not succeed in snatching the gold chain from Praveen Kumar Jain a resident of B-Block in Ram Bagh who drinking coconut water at the stall following which the snatchers fell down from the bike. Rohit had tried to catch hold on the snatchers following which one of the snatcher shot at him on his left shoulder and fled away from the spot,” said Aslam Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North-west district.

“A Police Control Room (PCR) call was received at around 8.30 am regarding the incident. A had rushed to the spot and Rohit was rushed to the nearby hospital. Rohit is of danger now,” said the DCP.

“We have registered a case. The CCTV footage from the area is being scanned to ascertain the identity of the snatchers and details of the black TVS apache bike used in the crime. Further investigation is going on,” the DCP added.

Just a day before businessman, Shiv Kumar, was returning home at 10.30pm when two men on a bike intercepted him and shot in the thigh. The snatchers escaped with his bag containing cash and other documents near Geeta Colony fly-over in east Delhi. The victim underwent a surgery and is reportedly out of danger. SR

Gun-toting Pandey in custody till Oct 22

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after former BSP MP's son surrendered in Delhi's Patiala House Court and was sent to one-day police custody, court refused to extend police remand on Friday and send accused Ashish Pandey to judicial custody till October 22.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sumit Anand rejected Delhi Police's plea seeking Pandey's custody for two more days after he was produced in the court on Friday following his one day custodial interrogation.

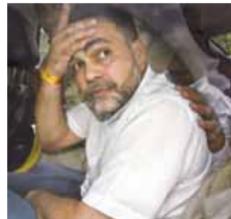
Court also rejected Pandey's bail plea. Pandey, son of Rakesh Pandey, who was seen in a video in Delhi's Hyatt hotel, threatening a couple

with a gun in his hand had surrendered at Patiala House Court on Thursday and was sent to one-day police custody.

Dismissing the bail plea, the court said the “arrogance” and “high-headedness” of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader's son can be clearly made out from the contents of the first information report.

“The weapon used in the incident has been recovered and seized. The vehicle used has also been seized by the police in Lucknow. The identities of the three women have been ascertained and their role is being verified,” said the Delhi Police in a statement.

According to sources in the Delhi Police, on Thursday the



gun and vehicle of Pandey were seized by police from his family home in Lucknow. “Over 50 people, including Pandey's father, uncle and 12 employees of Hyatt Regency, were interrogated by police and all offices and homes of family members and friends in Lucknow and eastern Uttar Pradesh have been searched,” the

source said.

“The three women, who were with Pandey seen in the video, allegedly egging him to threaten the woman and her male friend during a fight at the hotel, have been identified but it is not clear whether they have left the country. The team investigating the case is in touch with the Foreigner Regional Registration Offices (FRRO) to find out their whereabouts,” said the source.

Prior to surrendering in the court on Thursday, Pandey had released a video on social sites in which he claimed that CCTV footage of the events that took place inside the hotel should be examined. He claimed that he was threatened but does not

mention any name. He proceeds to say that statements from the security personnel as well as the staff of the hotel should be taken to find out what actually happened.

“I admit that I did take the gun while getting down from the car for my safety. I didn't brandish it. It was hanging behind me all the time. There have been allegations that I had threatened that girl. I didn't even address that girl, she pushed me and made obscene hand gestures. I will share the details with the cops in my statement. I have faith in the judiciary and so I have decided to surrender. There is no history of any police case against me,” said Pandey in the video.

43-yr-old dies, kin file complaint against hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In yet another case of alleged medical negligence, a 43-year-old man died in the Artemis Hospital at Sector-51 in the city on Thursday night. The family of the deceased alleged that he died due to the hospital's negligence.

Naveen (43) a resident of Gurugram was admitted due to high sugar in the Artemis hospital on September 29. The victim's condition worsened suddenly on Thursday evening and later on the night he was declared dead by the hospital authority. The victim's family filed a negligence complaint against the hospital management at Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Gurugram. The matter was also reported to sector-50 police station.

Family alleged that six days ago the victim fell from his bed

and suffered six stitches on his head. This caused heavy blood loss and was a gross negligence on part of hospital management.

“We had taken him to the hospital due to sugar related problems. As the hospital was a very prominent one, we hoped that our patient will get a better medical facility here. But six days ago he fell from his bed and no medical attendant or doctor bothered about his deteriorating condition. Due to this incident, our patient lost his memory and was unable to identify his family members,” said a relative of the victim.

The family further alleged that the victim died due to gross negligence by the hospital management and the doctor who was treating him. The victim's relatives also alleged that the hospital staff also tampered the CCTV footage and medical record of the deceased.

38-yr-old woman held for Mianwali murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Special Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested a 38 year-old woman, Gauri, involved in the brutal murder of a girl in Outer District's Mianwali on May this year. The 15-year-old victim was brought to Delhi as a domestic help but when she demanded for salary she was allegedly chopped by Manjeet, along with Gauri and one more associate.

The decapitated head and legs of the victim were found in a drain, while her torso and her chopped-off arms were found in a bag.

“Information was received at Mianwali Nagar police station on May 4 that a decapitated head and chopped off limbs of a child was found in a drain at Jwalapuri, Delhi. Local police rushed to the spot and recovered

a decapitated head of a female, and a half-chopped leg, in the drain,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav stated.

“During the search operation to recover the remaining parts of the body of the deceased girl the torso and the chopped-off arms of the female in a black-and-red coloured bag was found. A case was registered in Mianwali Nagar police station,” he added.

According to police, during investigation, accused Manjit was arrested by local police and his associates Shalu and Gauri were absconding. The Delhi Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik declared a cash reward of Rs 50,000 (on each) for their arrest. The court of Vishal Tis Hazari, Delhi, declared Gauri and Shalu as proclaimed offenders.

2 Chinese women held at IGI airport for smuggling Shahtoosh shawls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two Chinese nationals were apprehended by Customs Officials at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport for illegally smuggling 15 “Shahtoosh” shawls with market value estimated to be worth ₹45 lakh.

Shahtoosh is a specific kind of shawl, which is woven with the down hair of the Tibetan antelope, by craftsmen and women of Kashmir.

The Shahtoosh shawl is now a banned item with possession and sale being illegal in most countries for the Chiru is an endangered species under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

According to Joint Commissioner of Customs, Anubha Sinha, the women aged 41 and 39 years were stopped by customs official for baggage check while they were about to board flight from Terminal-3 to Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

“During their baggage check 15 Shahtoosh shawls were recovered,” said Sinha. “Their action is also punishable under Section 135 of the Customs Act, were inter alia in contravention of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992; and the Convention on International Trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna,” said Sinha.



Six-member Chinese delegation met Delhi Government officials to share best practices and enhance cooperation between Beijing and Delhi in the field of publicity work

CR Park immerses Durga idol in its own pit

SUGANDHA ■ NEW DELHI

While Yamuna becomes the immersion place for idols of Durga at the end of week-long Durga Puja festival, Chittaranjan Park (CR Park) B Block has its own pit where the idol was immersed on Friday like every year. Amid this, the samiti may have a permanent immersion pit soon.

Arun Baidya, Organising Secretary of CR Park B Block, Durga Puja Samiti said, “For four years, we have been immersing the idols like this only. This is the fourth year. This year, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has offered us help to improve the area and build a permanent pit.”

According to the secretary, the way was chosen for two main reasons, firstly to reduce the pollution in Yamuna and secondly to hassle of aged devotees.



“Earlier we used to immerse the idol in Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj only but every year we would see the river getting polluted, so we came up with this idea. So, one it reduces

pollution, two it saves time and three for old or aged devotees, it is easier to come here than going to Kalindi Kunj,” he said.

As per the residents of CR Park, they find it easier to cel-

ebate it this way.

“This is a good thing of aged people who can't go to Yamuna but still want to participate. I have been celebrating the festival since 20 years. Earlier we used to go to Yamuna only. But what we see here is that they put water in the pit and immerse the idol. Then they cover the pit and it slowly gets absorbed in the water,” said Mahua Ghosh, a resident of CR Park.

Interestingly, the pit is a used for immersion once in a year and rest of the year becomes either a rain harvesting pit or manure pit, Baidya said. “We start preparing the pit for immersion since the morning of this day every year. Rest of the year, we either store rain water here or we make compost in the pit,” he said.

The idol was immersed in the same pit on Friday after various traditional and cultural programmes.



Devotees immerse Durga idol in Yamuna, in Delhi on Friday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



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New bus shelter designs next week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Four consultants will give presentation on bus shelter design in next week. The Delhi Transport Department on Friday shortlisted the designers will assist Government to design 1,400 bus queue shelters to be developed across the city. Incidentally, the consultants have been shortlisted through a design competition announced by the department which was open for all.

made before the five-member jury comprising two Government members and three experts next week. After final selection, the process for financial bid and contract will start," said a senior transport department official.

There are over 4,600 notified bus stops, out of which 1,861 are new stainless steel shelters developed through public-private partnership.

"The aim of the competition was to come up with the best design that not only brings

The consultants have been shortlisted through a design competition announced by the department which was open for all

There are over 4,600 notified bus stops, out of which 1,861 are new stainless steel shelters developed through public-private partnership

Competition was held last month based on guidelines of panel formed after problems faced by people due to lack of proper bus stands

The transport department in the past made four failed attempts to invite companies through tenders for setting up 1,397 bus stops but no bidder came forward due to their reluctance to work in outlying parts of the city where many places do not have them

down construction and maintenance cost as compared to the existing stainless steel bus stops but also is aesthetically appealing," the official said.

The competition was held last month, based on the guidelines of a committee formed by

the Government after the problems faced by people due to lack of proper bus stands in the city were raised in Delhi Assembly.

The transport department in the past made four failed attempts to invite companies through tenders for setting up 1,397 bus stops but no bidder came forward due to their reluctance to work in outlying parts of the city where many places do not have them.

The transport department has plans to come up with max-

imum of the proposed 1,400 bus stops in outer and rural parts of Delhi, the official said.

The new bus stands are also planned to be equipped with interactive information system and displays to help the commuters, the official added.

Around 1,600 of the existing 1861 stainless steel were built at the time of 2010 Commonwealth Games in the city.

The ruling AAP had promised to construct 1,200 stainless steel bus queue shelters after coming to power in 2015.

PM, President attend Dussehra celebrations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday participated in the Dussehra celebrations at the Parade ground and fired arrows to set the effigies of Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna ablaze.

The burning of the giant effigies, signifying the triumph of good over evil, was organised by the Luv Kush Ramleela Committee.

PM, President applied 'Tilak' on the forehead of participants playing the role of Ram, Sita and Lakshman at the stage amid chants of Jai Shree Ram by the audience.

Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari too attended the celebrations.

Kovind said the festival

gives inspiration to lead a honest life. "I want to congratulate the people of the country on the occasion of Vijayadashmi that marks the victory of good over evil. The festival encourages good practices in our lives," he said.

"One should take care that the celebrations do not cause pollution and inconvenience to others," he said.

Kovind also said that we have a responsibility to protect the environment for future generations.

He advocated cleaner environment and women empowerment in his speech.

Police made elaborate arrangements for the event which also led to disruption of traffic at various places.

Long queues were seen at the Red Fort Metro station after the event.



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress president Rahul Gandhi and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Friday participated in the Dussehra celebrations and fired arrows to set the effigies of Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna ablaze at the Red Fort ground here by the Shri Nav Dharmik Leela Committee. Police made elaborate arrangements for the event and slight disruption of traffic was observed

Capital to become gas chamber soon: Kejriwal

Blames Centre, Punjab, Haryana for doing nothing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the city would soon turn into a "gas chamber" as the Central, Punjab and Haryana Governments were doing "absolutely nothing" for the farmers burning paddy straw. The national Capital's air quality has deteriorated over the last week. Stubble burning in neighbouring States is one of the major reasons behind increasing air pollution levels in Delhi.

"V sad that Central, Punjab and Haryana Govts did absolutely nothing for the farmers. As a result, the farmers will suffer on one hand and Delhi will become a gas chamber soon (sic)," Kejriwal tweeted.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday appealed to the Centre and the Governments of Haryana and Punjab to initiate measures in the wake of the deteriorating air quality in north India, including Delhi.

"The Centre should inter-

vene. Farmers have not been given subsidy. This is the failure on the part of the central and the state governments. As December and January is nearing, the entire north India, including Delhi, is close to becoming a gas chamber," Sisodia had said.

He also said the AAP Government had made several efforts which improved Delhi's air quality and had requested the Centre, as well as the Governments of Punjab and Haryana, to take measures in this regard, but the air quality has deteriorated despite assurances.



Civic bodies step up measures to control pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned over alarming pollution level in the city, all three municipal corporations have stepped up measures to control dust pollution by deploying more tankers for water sprinkling. All the officials of the regarding zones have also been instructed to keep conducting a check on violations related to construction and demolitions, a senior corporation official informed.

A senior EDMC official said it deployed 245 tankers in the last one week as part of emergency measures to combat dust pollution. "All these tankers sprinkled water on various roads to settle down dust. More than 240 roads have been covered and the process will be continuing," he said.

The east corporation also issued challans in areas of sanitation, garbage burning solid waste management and building construction. A total of

33425 challans have been issued till date this year in all these areas, he said. The North Corporation has also 1188 challans in the last two months and collected Rs 29, 34, 900 as fine. Further, Rajesh Lawadia himself sprinkled water in roads in Karol Bagh area.

Meanwhile, as part of measures to control pollution, the building department of municipal corporations has increased the frequency of mechanised cleaning of roads.

EDMC to launch door-to-door drive for plastic ban

New Delhi: With aim to create awareness about plastic-borne pollution, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) in association with Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) will launch door-to-door campaign in its areas. The eight days campaign will be launched on October 22.

A senior EDMC official said under this campaign, the civic body would create awareness among people about the adverse effects of plastic. Additionally, important information would be sprayed about importance of segregation, collection, storage, processing and disposing of plastic waste, he said.

Alka Sharma, Additional Commissioner of EDMC said that the corporation is constantly trying to create awareness in its localities. She said that the corporation is doing everything for the collection of waste, segregation and disposal (disposable) for disposal.

SR



TRAFFIC ADVISORY

AIRTEL DELHI HALF MARATHON

21-10-2018 (SUNDAY) 5 AM to 9 AM



Start: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium → India Gate → Janpath → **Finish:** Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium





DELHI HALF MARATHON ROUTE — — — — —

ROAD AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC — — — — —

TRAFFIC DIVERSION POINTS (AS & WHEN REQUIRED) — ★ —

HALF MARATHON CATEGORIES & TIME

Sl No	Type of Run	Total Distance	Starting Time	Sl No	Type of Run	Total Distance	Starting Time
1.	Half Marathon	21.097 kms	0500 hrs	4.	Half Marathon – Elite Athlete	21.097 kms	0720 hrs
2.	Open (A/B/C/D/E)	10 kms	0500 hrs		Women (Indian + International)		
3.	Half Marathon – Elite Athlete Men (Indian + International)	21.097 kms	0710 hrs	5.	Champions with Disability	4 Kms	0740 hrs
				6.	Senior Citizen Run	4 kms	0800 hrs
				7.	Great Delhi Run	5 kms	0910 hrs

TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS

- Madarsa T Point:** No traffic will be allowed on Lodhi Road. All traffic will be diverted towards Aurobindo Marg.
- Max Mueller – Rajesh Pilot Marg:** No traffic will be allowed towards Lodhi Road.
- Maharishi Raman Marg-Subramaniam Bharti Marg:** No traffic will be allowed towards Lodhi Road form Khan Market Light Point.
- Arch Bishop Marg- Subramaniam Bharti Marg:** No traffic will be allowed towards Lodhi Road.
- R/A Lodhi Garden – Amrita Shergill Marg:** No traffic on Amrita Shergill Marg towards Lodhi Road.
- Barapulla-4th Avenue Road:** No traffic will be allowed towards Lodhi Road.
- Meharchand Market:** No traffic towards Bhisma Pitamah Marg.
- R/A Neela Gumbad:** No traffic on Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg
- Ashram Chowk:** No bus towards Nizamuddin. These buses shall be diverted towards Sarai Kale Khan
- Andrews Ganj Chowk:** No traffic towards Nehru Stadium via B.P. Marg. These buses shall be diverted towards AIIMS.
- Moolchand Chowk:** No bus towards Nehru Stadium via Lala Lajpat Rai Marg. These buses shall be diverted towards Ashram Chowk-Sarai Kale Khan.
- 'Q' Point:** No traffic towards Shahjahan Road and C-Hexagon.
- R/A Moti Lal Nehru Place:** No traffic on MLN Marg towards Q Point, No traffic on Akbar road towards C-Hexagon
- Maulana Azad – Janpath Crossing:** Traffic coming on Janpath from MLN Palace to be diverted towards Sunehri Masjid. Traffic coming from Sunehri Masjid on Maulana Azad Road to be diverted on Janpath towards MLNP.
- C-Hexagon- Rajpath:** No traffic towards Rajpath.
- Rafi Marg – Rajpath Crossing:** No traffic on Rajpath towards India Gate.
- R/A Man Singh Road:** No traffic towards C-Hexagon.
- Subramaniam Bharti Marg – Humayun Road:** No traffic towards SBM. Marg – Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg crossing and Zoo.
- Mathura Road- Subramaniam Bharti Marg:** No traffic on Subramaniam Bharti Marg.
- Mathura Road – Shershah Road:** No Traffic on Shershah Road Towards C-Hexagon – Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg.
- Mathura Road – Purana Qila Road:** No traffic towards C-Hexagon.
- R/A Jaswant Singh:** No traffic towards Rajpath No traffic on Dr. Rajendra Prasad road towards Janpath – Dr. R.P. Road crossing.
- R/A Krishi Bhawan:** No traffic on Rafi Marg and Red Cross Road.
- R/A Buta Singh:** No traffic on Ashoka Road towards Patel chowk.
- Janpath – Tolstoy Marg:** No traffic towards Jantar Mantar.
- K.G. Marg – Ferozshah Marg:** No traffic on Ferozshah Road towards Windsor Place.
- R/A Mandi House:** No bus on Ferozshah road. These buses shall be diverted on Barakhamba Road. No traffic on Copernicus Marg.
- Aurobindo Marg-Brigadier Hoshiyar Singh Marg:** Buses coming from AIIMS Chowk shall be diverted towards Brigadier Hoshiyar Singh Marg.

ENTRY TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM

Entry for all to the stadium is through Gate Nos. 5, 8 & 14 only. All invitees, participants and spectators intending to go to Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium shall reach before 4.30 am. Restrictions on general traffic shall be imposed after 5.00 am and will stay in force till 11.00 am (approx.).

RESTRICTIONS ON ROADS

Bhisma Pitamah Marg, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg, Lodhi Road, Red Cross Road, Mathura Road, Parliament Street, Subramaniam Bharti Marg, Ashoka Road, Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, C-Hexagon India Gate, Janpath, Rajpath, Windsor Place, Tolstoy Marg between Sansad Marg and Janpath, Jai Singh Road, Raisina Road, Shahjahan Road, Man Singh Road, Imtiaz Khan Marg, Akbar Road between Man Singh Road and C-Hexagon, Pandara Road towards C-Hexagon

PARKING PLAN

The participants can park their vehicles at the following parking places as per the Parking Labels/Categorisation :- (i) Barapullah Parking, (ii) Sunehri Pullah Parking, (iii) Dayal Singh College Parking, (iv) Near India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, (v) Inside Scope Complex, (vi) Inside Gate No.5, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium (VIP Parking)

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

All emergency vehicles including vehicles of Delhi Police, Ambulances, Fire Brigade and other Emergency Service Vehicles are allowed to cross the route of marathon during emergency situations, when proceeding on emergency duties to save precious lives of people.

VEHICLE NO ENTRY

Traffic will not be permitted on route of the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon from 5.00 A.M to 9.00 A.M. Similarly traffic will also not be permitted towards the route from any internal/colonies roads. However cross traffic may be permitted whenever there is a sufficient gap between the Runners / Athletes at any particular intersection.

AMRITSAR TRAIN ACCIDENT

Punjab CM orders probe, declares 1-day mourning

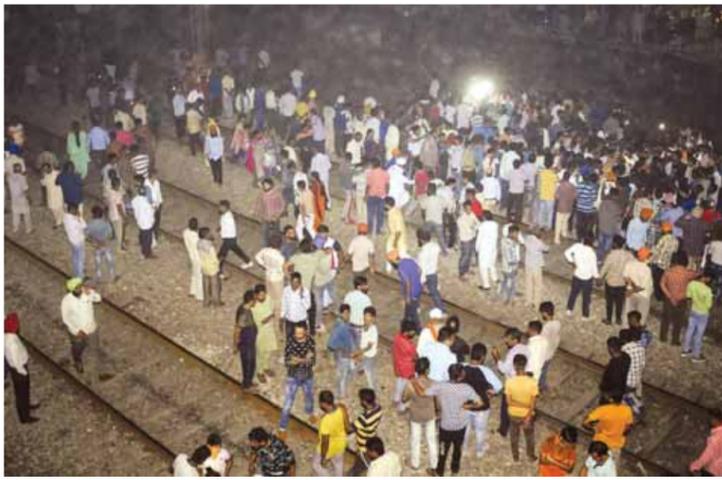
Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday ordered an enquiry into the tragic Amritsar train accident in which at least 61 people were killed and 72 injured and declared one-day mourning in the State on Saturday.

The Chief Minister, who was scheduled to leave for Israel this evening, has postponed his trip and will fly to Amritsar in the morning to personally supervise relief operations and meet families of the victims of the incident, which occurred during Dussehra festivities, an official statement said.

"The State will remain in mourning tomorrow in view of #Amritsar train mishap. All offices & educational institutions will remain closed," the Chief Minister tweeted.

"Have set up Crisis Management Group under @BrahmMohindra to monitor relief & rehabilitation efforts in #Amritsar. Won't spare any efforts on part of Govt to tackle the crisis," he said in another tweet.

According to Raveen Thukral, media advisor to the



People gather near the site of a train accident at Joda Phatak in Amritsar on Friday

PTI

Chief Minister, initial reports suggest the incident occurred during a stampede, as people rushed towards the tracks when crackers went off during 'Ravana dahan'.

Reports suggest that the train ploughed through the

crowd on the tracks, leading to the tragedy. So far, 40 people have been confirmed dead and many injured. However, the death toll could rise as relief operations are underway, he said.

Additional police force has

been rushed to the spot to control the situation in the wake of the incident.

Acting on the Chief Minister's directives, Rehabilitation Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria and Health Minister Brahm

Mohindra have already rushed to Amritsar to supervise rescue and relief operations.

Punjab's Home Secretary, Health Secretary and DGP (Law & Order) have also left for Amritsar.

Singh has issued orders to mobilize all necessary administrative and police personnel on a war footing to help the district administration tackle the situation.

The Chief Minister has also directed the chief secretary to deploy administrative officials to ensure that the injured people are hospitalised immediately.

All private hospitals have been asked to remain open to provide urgent free treatment and care to the injured.

The Chief Minister said a thorough probe will be conducted into the incident. Why an effigy was allowed to be burnt close to the railway tracks will also be investigated.

Expressing condolences to the families of the deceased, the Chief Minister has announced immediate ex-gratia compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed.

Modi OK's financial relief of ₹2L to kin of dead

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday approved a financial relief of ₹2 lakh for the family of each deceased in the Amritsar train accident and ₹50,000 for the injured, a spokesperson said.

At least 61 people were killed and 72 injured on Friday evening after a crowd of Dussehra revellers, who had spilled onto railway tracks while watching burning of a Ravana effigy, was run over by a train in Amritsar.

The train was coming from Jalandhar. The incident happened at Joda Phatak where at least 300 people were watching 'Ravana dahan' at a ground near the railway tracks.

"Extremely saddened by the train accident in Amritsar. The tragedy is heart-wrenching," Modi tweeted earlier this evening.

Footage shows people taking selfies from tracks during tragedy, criticised

Amritsar: As scores of Dussehra revellers watching the burning of Ravana effigy were mowed down by a passing train near here, the disturbing video footage of the accident showed many across the railway tracks filming the celebrations on their mobile phones when the tragedy struck.

At least 61 people died and many more injured in the accident between Manawala and Ferozpur stations near Amritsar, when the train ran through the crowd that had assembled across the tracks to watch the Dussehra event.

Punjab minister Navjot Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu, who was the chief guest at the programme, later said nobody knew how the accident happened as people were enjoying and also taking selfies standing on the tracks. PTI

Train services on Jalandhar-Amritsar route suspended, say officials

New Delhi: All services on Jalandhar-Amritsar route remained suspended three hours after Dussehra revellers standing across railway tracks were mowed down by a train near Amritsar on Friday evening, a railway official said.

While some trains are being diverted, many are stationed near Jalandhar, he said.

MoS Railways Manoj Sinha told reporters in New Delhi that medical teams are rushing to the spot. "I am also leaving for the site of the accident. As per initial information, people present near the railway track couldn't hear the sound of the approaching train due to bursting of crackers," he told before leaving for Amritsar.

Railways has issued helpline numbers — 0183-2223171, 0183-2564485 — for the kin of those injured and dead in the accident. PTI

Controversial pontiff Paripoornand joins BJP, likely to contest polls

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Swami Paripoornand, a controversial pontiff, on Friday joined the BJP. Interestingly, many compare him to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his saffron robes.

Paripoornand, head of Sree Peetham of Kakinada was formally welcomed by BJP president Amit Shah by putting the BJP bandana around his shoulders. The ceremony was held at the BJP's head office in New Delhi. Paripoornand held several rounds of talks with Amit Shah and discussed the political situation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He also met the BJP general secretary and RSS pracharak Ram Madhav earlier in the day.

Paripoornand had hit the headlines a few months ago when he was barred by Hyderabad police from entering the city on charges of making inflammatory speeches. He had tried to take out a protest march in the city against alleged objectionable remarks of a Telugu film critic against Hindu religious figures Rama and Sita.

However the ban was revoked by the Hyderabad HC and he returned to the city in a big procession. According to the sources BJP was planning to field him in one of the assembly constituencies in Hyderabad as he had a large number of followers in the city. Party was likely to use his services in the election campaign in other parts of Telangana as well as AP.

Letters show activists' links with top Maoists, prosecution tells court

Pune: Letters, seized during the searches, show that the Left-wing activists arrested in the Elgar Parishad case had connections with some top Maoist leaders, the prosecution told a court here on Friday.

District Judge K D Vadane is currently hearing bail applications of activists Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira and Sudha Bharadwaj, arrested in June and August this year.

Pune police has evidence of their involvement in a larger conspiracy to undermine the sovereignty of India, public prosecutor Ujjwala Pawar said, opposing the bail pleas.

"The seized letters reveal a conspiracy of the banned CPI (Maoist) to abet frequent protests by instigating Dalit sentiments in various parts of the country," she said.

The Maoists and their sympathisers thought that these protests will 'gradually break down the law and order and it will have political ramifications,' she added.

Pawar also read out some letters allegedly referring to top Maoist leaders who carry rewards on their heads.

"One of the letters mentions 'comrade G', who has been identified as comrade Ganapathy, who is the general secretary of CPI (Maoist) and carries a bounty of ₹1 crore on his head. Another letter has a mention of 'comrade M', who is comrade Dipak alias Milind Teltumbade (and) who carries a reward of ₹40 lakh on his head," the prosecutor said.

Police found Teltumbade's photo on activist Rona Wilson's laptop, she said. Wilson was among the activists arrested in June.

One of the letters from "comrade Prakash" to Gadling stated that the activist had been given the critical responsibility of recruiting young cadres to strengthen the bases where Maoists have suffered major setbacks, Pawar said.

Gadling was also asked to procure explosives from a mining contractor in

Bijapur, she said.

Another letter said arrested activist Sudhir Dhawale was working with Maoist cadres Deepu and Mangalu to prepare for Elgar Parishad two months in advance, the prosecutor claimed.

The sender of this letter instructed the accused to exploit the death of a youth in the violence at Bhima Koregaon on January 1 this year and instigate people against the government, Pawar said.

Pawar also countered the defence's claim that the Indian Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) is a reputed lawyers' body working for the marginalised people and not a Maoist front, as alleged by police.

Gadling, a lawyer himself, is IAPL's office-bearer.

Citing a seized letter, Pawar said that some underground Maoists attended a conference organised by the IAPL on the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on June 24, 2017. PTI

Mastermind of plot to kill Badal sent to 5-day police remand

PTI ■ PATIALA

The alleged mastermind behind the conspiracy to kill former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal was on Friday sent to five-day police remand by a court here.

Jarman Singh was arrested on Bikaner in Rajasthan in a joint operation of Punjab and Rajasthan Police on Thursday.

The accused was brought to Patiala and produced before a court here on Friday which sent him to police remand, a police official said.

Jarman Singh was nabbed

from a Gurdwara in Bikaner's Kolayat after Punjab Police shared intelligence inputs with the Anti-Terrorism Squad of Rajasthan Police.

Earlier, three men who claimed to be linked to militant group Khalistan Liberation Front were arrested for allegedly looting two rifles and ammunition from a police check post in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district on October 2.

The trio — Amrat Singh, Gurjan and Karan Singh later revealed that they were planning to attack the former Chief Minister during one of his political rallies.

ED files money...

From Page 1

The CBI had registered cases against unidentified officials of Air India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and others on charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption. While registering the cases, the CBI had last year said that these instances "relate to decisions taken by the ministry during the UPA tenure which caused losses of tens of thousands of crore of rupees to the exchequer."

The allegations relate to the purchase of 111 aircraft, costing about Rs 70,000 crore, for the national airlines to benefit foreign aircraft manufacturers. "Such a purchase caused an alleged financial loss to the already stressed national carriers," the CBI had alleged. The CAG had in 2011 questioned the rationale behind the Government's decision to order 111 airplanes from Airbus and Boeing for AI and Indian Airlines for about Rs 70,000 crore in 2006.

Calling the decision a "recipe for disaster", the Government auditor had said it should have raised "alarm" in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Public Investment Board and the Planning Commission.

The other case pertains to leasing of a large number of aircraft without due consideration, proper route study and marketing or price strategy, the CBI had said. "It was also alleged that the aircraft were leased even while aircraft acquisition programme was going on," it said. Another case involves allegations of surrender of profitable routes and timings of Air India to favour national and international private players which allegedly caused a "huge" loss to the State-run carrier.

The last CBI case was filed against unknown officials of Air India, German firm SAP AG and global computer major IBM in connection with alleged irregularities in the procurement of software worth ₹225 crore by the national carrier in 2011. This case was filed by the CBI on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) which found prima facie procedural irregularities took place in the procurement of the software.

Halted by Titli, N-E monsoon to hit...

From Page 1

"While large parts of India depend on summer rain, the northeast monsoon is still crucial for several southern States which receive about 30 per cent of their annual rainfall during this season, with the exception of Tamil Nadu, which receives nearly half its rains during these months," IMD officials said.

However, onset of northeast monsoon is never attempted before the withdrawal of southwest monsoon from the entire country. Normally, the season sets in around October 20, with an error margin of +/- 5 days.

While Kerala and South Interior Karnataka record around 20 per cent of its annual rainfall during the season, rest of the sub-divisions witness around 50 per cent of its annual rainfall, with parts of coastal Tamil Nadu even recording 70 per cent of rainfall. As the season advances the rainfall is mainly in the coastal districts with the interior districts getting less rain.

Rainfall pattern would also undergo some changes as the rainfall that usually occurs during afternoon and late evening, would now be witnessed during night and early morning hours. However, if there is any system, we can expect rain all along the day.

This year, the country received 91 per cent of Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall, which falls under the "below normal" category. The east and northeast India, including Bihar, West Bengal and Northeastern States witnessed maximum rainfall deficiency. On the other hand, Kerala witnessed unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding.

DUSSEHRA...

From Page 1

"Several times we have been requesting the authorities and local leaders telling them to take up the issue with railway authorities to slow down the trains near this Phatak during Dussehra, but no one has listened," a local said.

Angry people shouted slogans against local MLA Navjot Kaur Sidhu, who was present as Chief Guest during the event.

She later said she rushed to the hospital immediately after the incident. The MLA later told reporters that after she left the spot she got a call about the accident. "I am camping at hospitals to supervise rescue and. I will camp here the entire night to see that affected people get some succour."

Navjot, also a former MLA, wondered how train could move at a speed and there was no mechanism to warn railway authorities about the gathering. Eyewitnesses said there were no barricades near the railway tracks and the people were forced to see the

Dussehra ceremony by standing on tracks. The effigy of Ravana was being burnt around 200 feet away from the railway track.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh rushed to Amritsar to personally supervise relief and rescue efforts. He has asked all Government and private hospitals to stay open. "My Government will give ₹5 lakh to kin of each deceased and free treatment to injured in Government and private hospitals. District authorities have been mobilised on war footing," he tweeted.

The CM, who was scheduled to leave for Israel this evening,

has postponed his trip and will fly to Amritsar in the morning to personally supervise relief operations and meet families of the victims of the incident, which occurred during Dussehra festivities, an official statement said.

The CM also announced free treatment to all injured in the accident. But what people in the city are questioning is the approach of the Railway

authorities and how could they allow the train when they knew that a crowd had gathered to watch the Dussehra festivities. "The train was moving at a fast pace...How the train driver could not see such a large number of people on the railway tracks," said a retired Railway official on the condition of anonymity.

"This is inexplicable...I cannot even comprehend how could this happen in a railway system which is supposed to be so modern," he added. Former Deputy Chief Minister and Shromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal tweeted, "Extremely sad to hear the unfortunate death of innocent devotees watching Dussehra at Joda Gate in Amritsar by a speeding train. Local organisers and police must answer how the celebrations were allowed to be held near the railway track."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the incident and said he had asked officials to provide immediate assistance. "Extremely saddened by the train accident in Amritsar. The tragedy is heart-wrenching. My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and I pray that the injured recover quickly. Have asked officials to provide immediate assistance that is required," he tweeted.

Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha, Railway Board chairman Ashwani Lohani and Northern Railway general manager Vishwesh Chaurse are rushing to the spot, officials said. "Shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic train incident that occurred in Amritsar. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. I pray for the injured to recover quickly. Railways is conducting immediate relief and rescue operations," Goyal tweeted from the US, where he had gone to attend an event.

"Very very sad to learn about the unfortunate rail incident in Amritsar during Dussehra festivities. I have no words to describe my shock and agony. My heart goes out to the family members of the victims. Pray that the injured persons recover very quickly," TMC chief Mamata Banerjee tweeted.

Protesters foil women bid to enter...

From Page 1

Though the women had earlier insisted they would reach the shrine, police convinced them about the gravity of the situation and conveyed the stand taken by the head priest.

Had they reached the shrine, they would have been the first women from the menstruating age group to visit Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala after the apex court order permitting women of all age groups to enter the shrine. Inspector General S Sreejith, who led the police team escorting the women, later told reporters the women expressed their willingness to go back.

"The tantris has informed me that he will close the temple and go if the women entered the shrine complex. It was con-

veyed to the women and they expressed their willingness to go back. We will give them protection in the same manner to climb down the hills," he said.

Devotees received his announcement with thunderous chanting of "Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa".

Besides the devotees, a group of "parikarmies" - temple employees assisting priests in puja - also had squatted along the holy steps, preventing the women from climbing to the shrine complex.

As the situation appeared to be going out of control with the protesters squatting on the way, Sreejith told them the police were only implementing the orders and that there was no intention to hurt their sentiments.

State Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran, who

was in Thiruvananthapuram, also said the Government was not ready to use force and hurt the sentiments of the devotees.

"The Government has the duty and responsibility to implement the Supreme Court order and give protection to the devotees but not for the activists," Surendran said.

With the protests at Sabarimala intensifying, State police chief Loknath Behera called on Governor P Sathasivam and updated him about the situation. "This follows the Honourable Governor seeking information about the law and order situation in Sabarimala and adjoining areas in the wake of the protests against the possible entry of women into the temple," a Raj Bhavan release said.

Opposition Congress and BJP flayed the Left Front

Government for allegedly extending support to bring 'activists' to temple, hurting the sentiments of the genuine devotees.

Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala alleged that the "BJP-RSS combine" was trying to inflame communal passion over the matter.

Kerala has been witnessing massive protests by Lord Ayyappa devotees opposing the entry of girls and women of menstrual age into the Sabarimala temple since the Government decided to implement the apex court order.

The devotees had intensified the agitation at the shrine complex and nearby areas including the base camps of Nilackal and Pamba since the shrine was opened for the five-day monthly puja on October 17.

As air quality worsens, Delhiites...

From Page 1

However, the other Air Quality Index - Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPPC) and US embassy marked values high for RK Puram, Anand Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, India Gate area.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the air quality had deteriorated to the very poor category, alarming authorities who were planning to roll out more stringent measures to combat pollution.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor" and 401 and 500 "severe".

A senior official said the reason for improvement of air quality was the rainfall

Thursday which lashed parts of the national Capital, cleansing the air of the pollutants.

The PM10 level (presence of particles in the air with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres) in Delhi stood at 253 and the PM 2.5 level was recorded at 110 in day time (around 4 pm).

On Thursday, the PM2.5 (presence of particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) touched a new high at 158. The PM2.5, also called "fine particulates," can be a matter of more serious health concern than PM10.

A Central Pollution Control Board official said a number of factors were responsible for the deteriorating air quality, including vehicular pollution and con-

struction activities. The estimated total emission of PM2.5 for Delhi-NCR domain is calculated to be around 107.786 Gg/yr in 2018.

Transport sector and industrial sector are playing major role in PM2.5 emission by contributing around 42.230 Gg/yr and 24.10 Gg/yr respectively to the total emission.

Windblown dust is contributing around 19.50 Gg/yr followed by residential sector 6.2 Gg/yr and thermal power plants (3.34 Gg/yr). High emission of PM2.5 in the range of 10-50 tonne/yr is found over eastern, central, some part of southeastern part of Delhi-NCR, which includes major dense roads network and industrial and residential zones.

Emission of the order of 200-1000 tonne/yr is found over industrial zone next to major roads. Large point sources like thermal power stations and WSM plants are some of other highly emitted zone. Western and northern region of Delhi shows comparatively lower value of PM2.5 emission in the range of 0.6-8.0 ton/yr due to large agricultural lands, less number of industries followed by low population density leading to minimum emission. The residential emission has reduced drastically due to penetration of LPG connection in slums (95 per cent) and household. The MSW related pollution is emerging as new challenge to tackle air quality issue in Delhi.

FALAH-E-INSANIYAT TERROR FUNDING CASE Got money from Pak: Prime accused to NIA

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The prime accused in the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) terror funding accused Salman had confessed to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) that he has received funds from Pakistani operatives during the last five years.

Salman is one of the main accused in the terror funding case and is presently in NIA custody.

"Salman has admitted that he was receiving funds from a Pakistani national based in Dubai. During the last five years he received funds to the tune of ₹1 crore as per his confessions so far," a senior NIA official said.

NIA suspects he is one of the handlers of FIF, a social welfare arm of Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba as it was in direct touch with the deputy chief of FIF.

Salman still maintains that



he was not aware that there were terror links to the money he was receiving for the last five years.

During interrogation, Salman has admitted that he was receiving funds for the last five years and utilising the money in his home district Palwal in Haryana for community services like marriage, building houses, building and running the local mosque in his home district and funding family members of terrorists whom they considered as martyrs.

Arrested accused Salman is from Uttwar, Mewat region of

Haryana. His father shifted to Nizamuddin area of the national capital before his birth. He married a local Mewati lady and has five children.

He started a tour and taxi service besides a dairy products business in Delhi but incurred losses.

He had visited Saudi Arabia for Umrah. He also visited Dubai few years back where he met few Pakistani nationals and thereafter he started getting funds through Hawala.

He claimed that he has spent all the funds on religious activities in Uttwar and in local areas but kept no records.

Rajnath rings in Dussehra with BSF jawans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BIKANER

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday celebrated Dussehra with BSF jawans and performed 'shastra puja' in the forward post in Bikaner along the highly sensitive Indo-Pak border. This was for the first time that a senior Union Minister conducted the 'shastra puja' or worship of weapons on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami along India's border with Pakistan.

Singh arrived at the frontier headquarters of the Border Security Force (BSF) at Bikaner on Thursday evening to celebrate the Dussehra festival with the jawans, an official said. Singh's deputy Hansraj Ahir did the shastra puja at the BSF camp in Humhama in Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the BSF personnel, the Home Minister praised the multi-dimensional role of the BSF in guarding the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders, maintaining law and order in internal disturbances and tackling the Left Wing Extremism. Referring to the regular firing from across the border in Jammu & Kashmir,



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addresses BSF jawans at a border outpost in Bikaner on Friday

PTI

Singh said Pakistan, despite being a neighbour, never exercised "good neighbourly behavior" and instead sponsoring terrorism.

"There is proper coordination among our Army, police and paramilitary forces to fight against them," Singh said. The Home Minister said that recently launched 'smart fence' pilot project, which entails deploying laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug vulnerable gaps along borders, will help the border guarding forces in maintaining peace in forward

areas. The project was launched along Indo-Pak border in Jammu & Kashmir while it will be implemented along the Indo-Bangla border in Dhubri, Assam, next month, Singh said. During the two-day visit, the Home Minister interacted with the family members of the BSF personnel and attended a feast with the jawans, another official said. Singh also visited the family of a BSF jawan, who is currently posted in Jammu & Kashmir, and enquired about their wellbeing. Later, Singh reviewed the

situation on the border and assessed the progress in various infrastructure projects. The 3,323-km-long Indo-Pak border is considered to be highly sensitive. Even though the border in Rajasthan is peaceful, the border guarding forces of the two countries often engaged in massive firing in Jammu & Kashmir, leading to loss of human lives and properties.

Last year, the Home Minister had celebrated Dussehra at ITBP's Joshimath Unit in Uttarakhand along the Sino-Indian border.

PM Modi seeks technocrats' views on how tech sectors can help make 'new India'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sought the views of IT professionals on how the technology and electronic manufacturing sectors can help in making a 'new India'.

"Dear professionals associated with the IT sector, technocrats and tech-lovers, I have a request...Have a look at this Open Forum on the 'Narendra Modi Mobile App' and share your views," he tweeted and gave a link which takes people to the Narendra Modi app.

It says, on October 24, the Prime Minister will address a huge "townhall" with people associated with IT and electronic manufacturing sector.

Professionals, experts and technocrats from all over India will take part in the event, it says. They will discuss with him, ways through which the vibrant IT and electronic manufacturing sector can undertake initiatives and volunteer to contribute in building a "new India".

Swamy urges CBI to widen probe against AirAsia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BIP leader Subramanian Swamy has urged CBI to widen the ongoing probe in the "illegal" allotment of flying licenses to AirAsia. In a detailed complaint of more than 200 pages to CBI Director Alok Verma, Swamy said that the AirAsia deal during UPA regime violated aspects of national security rules, foreign investment regulations and civil aviation norms. In his complaint Swamy produced many internal emails exposing the lobbying by Finance and Civil Aviation officials by AirAsia officers and Tata Group officers, who are already facing CBI probe.

CBI in May last week registered FIR against AirAsia Chief Tony Fernandes, 'Tata Trusts' Managing Trustee R Venkataraman and others. CBI's FIR had alleged that Venkataraman was lobbying the Government to secure mandatory approvals, some of them through "non-transparent means", including the then Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance, No Objection Certificate and the attempt for removal or modification of 5/20 rule. AirAsia officials Bo Lingam, Rajinder Dubey, Sunil Kapur and lobbyist Deepak Talwar were also named by CBI in the FIR.

In his complaint Swamy pointed out that both AirAsia



and Tata Group officials violated many rules including national security related norms in connivance with former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and former Civil Aviation Minister Ajit Singh. Swamy said that "the hasty grant of approval of FDI in a company yet to be incorporated" and which was not engaged in operating scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services was contrary to the FDI policy permitting FDI only in existing airlines.

"In this matter, it is important to note that a particular Director (Mr. Ramadorai) of AirAsia India Ltd had not received requisite security clearance from Home Ministry," said Swamy urging CBI to widen the probes on the entire frauds and violations committed by AirAsia and Tata Group top officials in connivance with former Finance and Civil Aviation Ministers.

To overcome contaminated water, CSIR-IITR comes out with 'Oneer'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when infection through drinking water is becoming a matter of health concern, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow, has come out with a safe and affordable water purification system "Oneer" that can be best utilised in homes and small establishments as well as in rural areas.

Recently, the technology of Drinking Water Disinfection System "Oneer" was transferred to New Delhi-based private firm Bluebird Water Purifiers in the presence of Union Minister of Science & Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan and Director General, CSIR, Dr Shekhar C Mande.

Dr Harsh Vardhan said that Oneer developed by CSIR-IITR will provide safe and

clean drinking water at a cost of just 2 Paise / Ltr. The Community level model is of 450 LPH capacity. It can be scaled up from 5,000 to 1 lakh L/day; and is maintenance and membrane free.

"The technology will be helpful for rural people since it can be solar-powered. This development is in line with the 'Make in India' Mission," he said.

The technology can eliminate all disease causing pathogens such as virus, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and cyst.

It provides safe drinking water to domestic and communities as per national and international standards prescribed for potable water. The smaller unit is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors, and small establishments, said a CSIR official. It is an electronic device that runs

on solar energy and provides clean water for less than two paise per litre. Unlike Ultra Violet (UV) water purifiers that kill microorganisms from clear water, Oneer can also treat brackish or turbid water with microorganisms.

Dr Mande said that Oneer-a safe drinking water device is especially for rural areas.

He said that currently, a large proportion of India's rural community is consuming water that does not meet the WHO drinking water quality standards. According to the World Health Organization, "access to safe drinking-water is essential to health, a basic human right and a component of effective policy for health protection". The device will go a long way in meeting the requirements of potable water in rural and urban areas, Dr Mande added.



Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satya Pal Singh during the meeting of Education Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States

Pioneer photo

Landslide creates artificial lake in Tibet, Arunachal on flood alert

Itanagar/New Delhi: Districts along the Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh have been put on high alert for possible flash floods after China informed India about a landslide blocking a river in Tibet leading to formation of an artificial lake, officials said on Friday.

A senior official of the Union Water Resources Ministry said the flood water is likely to reach Arunachal

Pradesh by Friday night. Chinese Embassy spokesperson Counselor Ji Rong said that his country has activated the 'Emergency Information Sharing Mechanism' with India following the landslide on Wednesday morning near Jiala Village in Milin County in the lower ranges of Yaluzangbu river in Tibet.

The Indian official said, "They (China) first informed us

on Wednesday about the landslide and creation of an artificial lake. Water is over-topping (breaching). It will reach Arunachal Pradesh and cross the high flood level by Friday night."

The reason cited behind the landslide was "natural causes". The official added that districts along Siang have been put on high alert.

The water will cross "high flood mark" and the situation

is being monitored at the highest level, the official added. "The data is being shared on hourly basis," the official said.

Yaluzangbu river is called Siang when it enters Arunachal Pradesh and Brahmaputra in Assam.

Ji said the Hydrological Bureau of Tibet Autonomous Region has begun to share with the Indian side hydrological information every hour, such as

the water level and flow rate at the Nuxia hydrological station and the temporary hydrological station downstream of the barrier lake.

The Chinese side will closely monitor situation of the barrier lake, and continue to notify the Indian side the follow-up developments through bilaterally agreed channels timely, he said.

The Chinese side has been keeping close communication

with the Indian side on Yaluzangbu River hydrological information, reflecting another positive gesture of implementing the Wuhan consensus between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ji said. In April this year, President Xi and Prime Minister Modi reached important consensus on promoting China-India all-round cooperation during the informal summit in Wuhan. **PTI**



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe with Congress president Rahul Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at a meeting in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

WCD Ministry set to organise women organic farmers festival

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Women and Child Development Ministry is organising a festival next week to promote women organic farmers and entrepreneurs.

Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi said over 500 women entrepreneurs would be coming together from across the country with their organic products such as cereals, rice, pulses, skin-care products, fabric and jewellery.

"The move aims to empower women to boost organic culture and promote women organic farmers and entrepreneurs," she told reporters.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction for me that the ministry's efforts ultimately boost these illustrious rural women's local communities and economy by creating jobs and keeping farmers thriving in addition to spreading awareness about the benefits of organic products," said Gandhi.

PM greets Lotay Tshering for winning Bhutan elections

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Lotay Tshering, president of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa for his party winning the Bhutan elections and reiterated India's commitment to work with the new Government for socio-economic transformation in that country. Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa party won 30 of 47 national assembly seats in the third general election in Bhutan.

The PM also congratulated Tshering for his own election to the National Assembly, a state-

ment from the Prime Minister's Office said.

During his telephonic conversation, Prime Minister Modi welcomed the successful conduct of general elections, which is an important milestone for consolidation of democracy in Bhutan.

Modi conveyed that India attaches the highest priority to further strengthening unique ties of friendship and cooperation with Bhutan, which is based on shared interests and values, utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding. **PTI**

Piyush Goyal to receive Carnot prize



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs Piyush Goyal will on Friday receive the prestigious Carnot prize for his contribution towards sustainable energy solutions, an official statement said.

The former Power Minister will be awarded by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, a statement from the Rail Ministry said.

The Carnot Prize is the Kleinman Center's annual recognition of distinguished contributions to energy policy through scholarship or practice. The award in the energy sector is named after French physicist Nicolas Sadi Carnot who recognised that the power of the steam engine would "produce a great revolution" in human development. The 2018 Carnot Prize is a recognition of India's efforts under PM Modi, as the nation charts the path towards eliminating energy poverty with sustainable energy solutions, the statement said.

'Worshippers of the Buddha' won't be returned: Culture Ministry to AP

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Culture Ministry has turned down the Andhra Pradesh Government's request for returning a famous 3rd Century stone panel titled 'Worshippers of the Buddha' which was stolen from its museum way back in 2005 and is presently kept in the National Museum in Delhi. The Centre has argued that the decorative artefact is safer in the National Museum than at the Andhra Pradesh's Chandavaram site museum which is more prone to thefts in view of poor security.

It has also argued that the artefact is getting increased appreciation at the National



Museum which has high foot-falls daily.

The Ministry has, nevertheless, asked the Chandrababu Naidu Government to give details of the security measures it has at the ground-level at the small under-resourced

Chandavaram site museum to ensure its safety and that it is not stolen again.

The ancient Indian limestone decorative panel that depicts two pairs of figures flanking an aniconic representation of the Buddha was

returned to India in 2016 by the National Gallery of Australia. The NGA had purchased the panel in 2005 for \$595,000 from New York art dealer and artifact trafficker Subhash Kapoor who is now in a Chennai jail.

In fact, the return of the antiquity was made after art historian Robert Arlt provided documentary evidence that 'Worshippers of the Buddha' was excavated from the stupa near the Buddhist site of Chandavaram in the 1970s, stolen from the site museum in 2001 and, by implication, illegally exported from India, according to a paper published in a Journal for Art Market Studies.

The Culture Ministry's apprehension about the safety of the Buddha panel is not without reason. In 2000 and 2001, a total nine artifacts were stolen from the Chandavaram museum under the Department of Andhra Pradesh Department of Archeology and Museum. Four antiquities have been recovered till date.

Ironically, Andhra Pradesh is considered to be the hotspot of artifact thefts. According to reports, between 2012 and 2014, more than 250 people were arrested under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Nearly two-thirds of these arrests were made in Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana) and neighbouring

Karnataka.

The last theft reported from the Southern State was in November 2017, when a stone sculpture of Nandi dated 11th-12th century was allegedly stolen from Sri Anadavalli Ammavaru Temple at Gudimallam in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district. Earlier in 2008, two Nizam-era swords and other antique articles stolen from the State Museum at Nampally were recovered by the Cyberabad police. Two flower pots and decorative pieces of an ancient clock burgled from the museum are yet to be recovered.

Now, facing flak for failing to provide adequate security at

its museums, the Andhra Pradesh Department of Archaeology and Museums is in the process of creating a digital repository of museums in the State with the twin objective of leveraging technology for taking the heritage of AP closer to people and for effective management of the museums.

In the first phase, all the collections, including artifacts, antiquities and manuscripts, at six museums in Vijayawada, Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, Kakinada and Rajamahendravaram will be digitised in three-dimensional format and made available online, said AP Government officials.

NATION CELEBRATES DUSSEHRA

Mysuru Dasara elephant march enthrals lakhs



A caparisoned Arjuna brought back scenes of a bygone era in Mysuru on Friday as he ambled along the 5 km Dasara procession route starting from Mysuru Palace carrying golden howdah and idol of goddess Chamundeshwari on his back PTI

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The Navaratri festival in the Southern city of Mysuru concluded on Friday with the world famous Jumbo Savari witnessed by lakhs of people. The celebration of victory over evil draws devotees from around the world to this place. Mysuru Dasara, now the nada habba (state festival), represents various streams of cultural heritage. The Vijayadashami festivity which marks the jumbo savari (elephant march) also showcased Karnataka's cultural heritage resplendent with folk art forms, as 'Arjuna' led other richly embellished elephants through the more than 5-km route from Mysuru Palace to Bannimantapa. The majestic pachyderm Arjuna carrying the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari, placed in a 750-kg golden howdah, found its way from the annual Mysore palace to the cheers of lakhs. The "Jumbo savari", observed in the royal style since the days of the erstwhile Mysuru Maharajas, began with Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy along with his

wife Anita showering petals on Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of the historical city. Armed contingents, including the mounted police, are part of the procession that conjures up images of a bygone era when the maharajas used to celebrate Dasara and cap it with the victory procession. Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wodeyar, the scion of the erstwhile Mysuru Royal family, also offered puja to the Goddess. Pramoda Devi Wodeyar is the widow of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar, the last descendant of the Wodeyar dynasty. Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wodeyar had died of cardiac arrest on December 10, 2013. This will be followed by the torchlight parade at the Bannimantap Grounds, which includes equestrian events besides a display of synchronised exercise and motorcycling by police personnel. The torchlight parade will officially bring down the curtains on the 10-day festival, popularly termed the 'Naada Habba', which is also a celebration of the State's and the country's diverse culture.

The Dasara festivities began with the Vijayanagara Kings as early as the 15th Century. The festival played a historical role in the 14th-century at Vijayanagara empire where it was called Mahanavami and the festivities are shown in the relief artwork of the outer wall of the Hazara Rama temple at Hampi, the world heritage site. After the fall of the Vijayanagar to Deccan Sultanates, these celebrations came to an end under Muslim rulers. The Wodeyars of Mysuru formed a kingdom in Southern parts of the Vijayanagara Empire and continued the Mahanavami (Dasara) festival celebration, a tradition started initially by Raja Wodeyar I (1578-1617 CE) in the year 1610 at Srirangapatna near Mysuru. Mysuru is a great tourist destination attracts thousands to the ten day festivities in Navaratri. The city is also known as cultural capital of Karnataka has many tourist destinations around the city which include Chamundi hills, Krishnaraja Sagara Dam, century old zoo garden, Srirangapatana and other places.

Festival celebrated with traditional fervour in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Colourful effigies of Ravana along with the demon king's son Meghnad and brother Kumbhakaran were set on fire across Rajasthan on Friday as the people celebrated the symbolic triumph of good over evil on the occasion of Dussehra. Also known as Vijay Dashmi, the festival marked the culmination of navratri during which, Ramlila was enacted to depict the life of Lord Ram in different parts of the city. The effigies of different sizes were set ablaze amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' as the spectacular fireworks lit up the sky.

The effigies of different sizes were set ablaze amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' as the spectacular fireworks lit up the sky

Dussehra fairs were organised at several places in the city including Adarsh nagar, Mansarover, Vidhyadhar Nagar, Malvia Nagar among others. Dressed in their festive best, people visited the fairs in large numbers. The Rastriya Swamsevak Sangh (RSS) also conducted 'Shastra Puja' and took out a march at seven places in the city.

Devotees bid adieu to goddess Durga, her children

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Devotees across West Bengal on Friday bade teary farewell to goddess Durga on 'Bijoya Dahamsi' as she went back to her abode in Kailash after her five-day-long annual sojourn along with her four children to her maternal home. Following the Dashami rituals, clay idols of Devi Durga and her children were taken from beautifully decorated pandals and households for immersion in rivers and other waterbodies. Women pay their obeisance to the goddess with betel leaves, betel nuts, turmeric and bael leaves, known as 'Debi Baran' and urge her to come back again next year. In the metropolis, idols were taken in processions

that included bands, colourfully decorated tableaux and people dancing to the beats of dhak, the traditional drum associated with Durga Puja, to the banks of river Hooghly for immersion. The immersions will continue till well after midnight with most of the idols being taken to Babughat area on the bank of the Hooghly. Similar rituals are witnessed all over West Bengal with idols being taken for immersion to river banks or other large waterbodies. On the banks of river Ichhamati on the Indo-Bangladesh border at Taki in North 24 Parganas district, the idols are brought on boats from both sides of the border and are immersed in the river. The sight of the cultural-similar people on both

sides of the border together going through the rituals of immersion of the idols with equal fervour is a visual delight and is witnessed by thousands of tourists coming from various places. People of all hues and age forgot their worries and monotonous daily chores as they participated in the almost week-long extravaganza, which is described as the largest community festival in the world by the West Bengal Tourism. Part of the Durga Puja festivities are good food, merriment, night-long pandal hopping and an escape from the daily routine, which will all be missed along with the going back of Devi Durga with her four children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartikeya and Ganesh, till the next year's 'Sharad Utsav'.



A crowd gathers to watch the burning of an effigy of demon king Ravana, marking the end of Dussehra festival in Allahabad on Friday AP

Muslims shower flowers on RSS procession in Ajmer

FIANS ■ JAIPUR

A rare display of harmony was seen in Ajmer on Friday when Muslims showered flowers to welcome an RSS procession taken out on Dussehra. The procession started from Government Moiniya Islamiya High secondary School and was attended by many people. State Education Minister Vasudev Devnani and Ajmer Mayor Dharmendra Gehlot along with several BJP leaders participated in the programme. The procession was given a warm welcome by members of BJP Minority Cell under the

'When the procession reached Ajmer Dargarh, the workers of the minority cell showered flowers on them,' said Rajendra Kumar Lalwani, senior RSS worker

leadership of district president Shafeeq Khan. "When the procession reached Ajmer Dargarh, the workers of the minority cell showered flowers on them," said Rajendra Kumar Lalwani, senior RSS worker. After passing through the main areas of the city, the procession concluded at Moiniya Islamiya School.



A devotee blows a conch during immersion of Goddess Durga's idol on the last day of the Navratri festival in Bengaluru on Friday PTI

Vijayadasami celebrated across Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: People across Kerala celebrated Vijayadasami on Friday with thousands of children, aged two to three, being initiated into the world of learning and writing. Vijayadasmi, dedicated to goddess Saraswati, the deity of learning, marks the end of the annual nine-day-long Navaratri festival. Children, along with their parents, gathered in large numbers at temples of Saraswati, schools and cultural centres where arrangements were made for the 'ezhuthiniruthu' (initiation ceremony). Vijayadasami is observed as the day of 'Vidyarambham' the beginning of learning. PTI



Hindu married women dance during 'Sindur Khela' (applying vermilion) on the occasion of 'Bijoya Dashami' at a Durga Puja pandal in Bolpur in Birbhum district of West Bengal on Friday PTI

Assam Guv greets people on occasion

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi on Friday greeted the people of the state on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami and Dussehra. "I extend my warm wishes to the people of Assam on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami and Dussehra which reinforce the eternal message of victory of good over evil," the Governor said in a message. The occasion of Bijoya Dashami and Dussehra "consign our vices, promote our virtues and strengthen the bond of universal brotherhood, friendship and camaraderie among all fellow being in our society".

2 members of Mysuru royal family die on final day of festivities

PTI ■ MYSURU

The Mysuru royal family suffered a double blow on Friday marring Dasara festivities when Putta Chikkammanni (98), mother of Rajamata Pramoda Devi, and Vishalakshi Devi, sister of late Maharaja Srikantadatta Wadiyar, died in hospital. The royal family has announced postponing rituals associated with the Dasara festival to October 22, Raja Chandra, brother-in-law of the late Maharaja, said. He said Pramoda Devi's mother died in the morning while sister-in-law Princess Vishalakshi Devi, youngest daughter of late Maharaja of Mysuru Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, died in the evening. He said Chikkammanni died in a private hospital here due to age related complications. Raja Chandra said being in

He said Pramoda Devi's mother died in the morning while sister-in-law Princess Vishalakshi Devi, youngest daughter of late Maharaja of Mysuru Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, died in the evening

a state of impurity following the death, the royal family, including the titular Maharaja Yaduveer Krishnadatta Wadiyar, could not take part in rituals like special prayers to weapons, welcoming the entry of elephant carrying howdah and Uttara Pooja. By evening, Vishalakshi Devi died in a private hospital in Bengaluru, he said, adding, she was 55. The deaths cast a shadow on the 10-day long Mysuru Dasara festivities which came to an end Friday.

Counting of votes of J&K local elections today

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The stage is set for the final leg of urban local body elections in Jammu & Kashmir as the counting of votes for the 52 civic bodies, polling for which was held in four phases earlier this month, will be done on Saturday. "All the arrangements for counting of votes have been put in place at respective district headquarters. The counting of votes will begin at 9 am tomorrow (Saturday)," an official of the election department said. The fate of over 3,000 candidates will be decided by the end of the day. The elections are a direct contest between the BJP and the Congress. A large number of independents are also in the fray. The National Conference and the PDP did not participate in the polls. The urban local bodies of the polls in Jammu & Kashmir were held after a gap of 13

WHILE MODERATE TO HEAVY POLLING WAS WITNESSED IN JAMMU AND LADAKH REGIONS, THE KASHMIR VALLEY SAW AN ABYSMALLY LOW VOTER TURN OUT

years, with the last elections being conducted in 2005. The polling was held amid tight security arrangements in four phases starting October 8 and ending on October 16. While moderate to heavy polling was witnessed in Jammu and Ladakh regions, the Kashmir valley saw an abysmally low voter turnout. Nearly 17 lakh voters were eligible to vote for 79 urban local bodies of the state but polling was held only for 52. No voting was

held in 27 civic bodies in the Valley either because there was no candidate or only one candidate had filed nominations for a particular ward. Of the 598 wards in Kashmir, 231 candidates were elected unopposed, while there were no candidates on 181 wards. The overall voting percentage for these polls in the state stood at 35.1 per cent. In the valley, there were no signs of any electioneering in the run up to the polls as militant outfits had threatened to target those taking part in the elections in any form, while separatist groups like the Hurriyat Conference had called for a boycott. The election authorities kept secret the identity of the contesting candidates in view of the security threat to them, prompting political parties, which were against conduct of polls in the present circumstances, to question the genuineness of the process.

Goa Congress dissolves Shiroda, Mandrem block committees

Panaji: Congress dissolved block committees of Shiroda and Mandrem assembly constituencies in Goa Friday, after the MLAs from the two seats quit the party to join the BJP.

State Congress spokesperson Amarnath Panjikar said in on Friday said that Mandrem and Shiroda block Congress committees have been dissolved with immediate effect

Subhash Shirodkar who represented Shiroda assembly constituency in South Goa and Dayanand Sopte who represented Mandrem in North Goa resigned as members of the state Assembly on October 16. Both joined the BJP the same day. State Congress spokesperson Amarnath Panjikar said in a statement Friday that Mandrem and Shiroda block Congress committees have been dissolved with immediate effect. PTI

Goa Minister rules out change in Parrikar's leadership

FIANS ■ PANAJI

In yet another flip flop over the issue of leadership change in Goa, Power Minister Nilesh Cabral on Friday ruled out any alternative to ailing Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. The Minister also said that his cabinet colleague and Agriculture Minister Vijai Sardesai's discussion with BJP President Amit Shah on Thursday about finding alternatives to Parrikar was only borne out of "personal interest". "It is a statement from his (Sardesai) personal interest. I am speaking for the BJP party and BJP party has a leader... We have a leader in Parrikar and he will always be our leader," Cabral told the media at the state Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters. On Thursday, after a meeting with Amit Shah, Sardesai had said that they had discussed leadership alternatives to Parrikar, who

has been ailing for more than eight months now. "BJP leadership is seriously looking at the leadership issues and I have explained to him (Shah) the aspirations of the Goan people... There are some names that are being discussed," Sardesai had said. Cabral said it was wrong to suggest that Parrikar, who is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer and has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and Delhi, was not active vis a vis his duties as a Chief Minister. The Minister, however, conceded that Parrikar was now inaccessible to the people of Goa, on account of his illness. "Accessibility to the people is not there, which you also know very well. When I am not well, accessibility is (also) a problem," Cabral said, adding that the issue of accessibility can be resolved by keeping in touch with people online.

STATUE OF UNITY

CM flags off Ekta Yatra prior to inauguration

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani flagged off 'Ekta Yatra' from Bardoli in south Gujarat to create awareness about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution in integrating 562 Princely States under the fold of Union of India at the time of Independence amidst chanting of slogans of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India; Great India).

This is in the run-up to unveiling the Statue of Unity by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on October 31. The Ekta Yatra is scheduled to cover 10,000 villages of the state to cover all sections of the populace irrespective of their caste, creed or community group, while 60 Ekta Rath (chariots) will tour 5,000 villages in phase one.

The Statue of Unity has been built near Kevadia downstream the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) dam on the Narmada, touted to be the world's highest statue. Bardoli was the place from where Sardar Patel had launched Satyagraha (civil disobedience)



BARDOLI WAS THE PLACE FROM WHERE SARDAR PATEL HAD LAUNCHED SATYAGRAHA (CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE) IN 1928 AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO INCREASE TAX BY 30 PER CENT

in 1928 against the British Government's decision to increase tax by 30 per cent.

Speaking on the occasion CM Rupani said the Ekta Yatra has been taken up 'in the larger interest of the nation'. It was Sardar Patel who had counselled and persuaded the princes to join India at the time of partition, he said adding that had there been no Sardar Patel, India's map would have looked different, forcing Indians to seek visa for visiting Junagadh and Hyderabad. Sardar Patel had many more singular contributions, including refurbishing the Somnath Temple, rising above the politics of appeasement for cultural integration, he added.

"It is the Government's duty to convey the great leaders' contributions to the people. Sardar Patel's messages would reach every home during Ekta Yatra. The previous governments' attempt to praise only one family-dynasty and delete chapters on national leaders like Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Dr Ambedkar and Veer Savarkar from history," he said.

Meanwhile, CM Rupani and his deputy Nitin Patel reviewed the preparedness of the grand inauguration ceremony of Statue of Unity - the tallest statue of the world.

He also met key persons in completing the statue project in time.



Hindu priests and temple staff sit on a protest against a ruling from India's top court to let women of menstruating age enter Sabarimala temple in Kerala, on Friday

UPA used housing scheme to promote one family: Modi

'UPA built 25 lakh houses in 4 years, we constructed 1.25 cr during the same period'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the previous UPA Government for exploiting its flagship housing scheme to "promote" one particular family and "create" vote banks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that his Government had built as many as 1.25 crore houses for the poor and needy during the last four years, as against a mere 25 lakh houses constructed by the Manmohan Singh dispensation during an earlier four years.

Speaking at a public meeting after participating in the centenary celebrations of Shri Saibaba Samadhi at Shirdi and handing over keys of houses to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), Modi indirectly targeted Gandhi-Nehru family by charging that the previous Government had exploited its flagship housing scheme to promote "one particular family" and derived political mileage out of them.

Maintaining that his Government was committed to giving one house to each of homeless families in the country by 2022 when India celebrates its 75 years of independence, the Prime Minister said that his Government had already traversed half the distance in its ambitious mission.

"During the last four years, we have made a serious attempt to shift poor and middle class family from shanties and rented houses to their own houses. The previous Government had made this kind of an effort in the previous years as well. But, the intention of the previous Government was not to empower poor people through new houses, but it was to promote one particular family and to create vote banks in the process," Modi said.

"The previous UPA government did not think in terms of building a good house that has toilet, electric, water and gas connections. When there is no political axe to grind behind any Government scheme



aimed at benefiting the poor and needy people, then you get inspired and the implementation of such schemes gathers momentum," the Prime Minister said.

Comparing the number of houses built under the PMAY-G during the current Government during the last four years and the number of houses constructed by the UPA Government during the previous corresponding period, Modi said: "The previous Government had constructed mere 25 lakh houses (under Indira Awas Yojana) across the country during four years. However, after the BJP-led Government came to power at the Centre, we built as many as 1.25 crore houses during the last four years. This means, the previous Government would have taken as many as 20 years to build that many houses we constructed during the last four years."

Modi said that while the previous Government would take 18 months to build a house, while the NDA Government was doing it in less than 12 months.

The Prime Minister said that apart from reducing the time taken for constructing a house, the Government had increased the size of the house as well as the monetary assistance from ₹70,000 to ₹1.20 lakh (for each house). "The beneficiaries are chosen in a scientific and transparent manner. The subsidy is directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiaries. In addition, we have taken care to ensure that the house is a long-lasting structure with all basic infrastructure facilities," he said.

"People and resources are the same. But, our government's intentions are clean. We are for the welfare of the people. That's the results are also faster," he said.

Dwelling upon the Centre's newly launched 'Ayushman Bharat' healthcare scheme (also known as Pradhan Mantri Jan

Arogya Yojana), the Prime Minister said that as many one lakh people had already benefited from the scheme within a month of its launch. "The average claim made by each beneficiary was Rs 20,000. Under Ayushman Bharat, 50 crore poor people would get free medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh per year for serious ailments," Modi said.

Referring to reports that Maharashtra had received deficient rainfall this year, the Prime Minister said that the Centre would provide assistance to the state through the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme.

Averting that the Centre was committed to encouraging tourism in Maharashtra, the Prime Minister said: "In Maharashtra, there are many places associated with faith like Shirdi. There are places of tourist attraction like Ajanta-Ellora where visitors come all through the year. I am told that there are now direct flights to Shirdi. The frequency of flights to Shirdi will be increased so that Saibaba devotees from all over the world can come there all through the year."

Earlier in the day, Modi offered prayers at the Saibaba temple and took part in an event marking conclusion of the year-long Saibaba Mahasamadhi centenary programme organised by the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust. According to devotees, Sai Baba took Mahasamadhi or left the mortal form on the day of Dussehra or Vijayadashami.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister released a silver coin to commemorate Saibaba Mahasamadhi centenary year celebrations.

Modi distributed keys to a few of the 2.5 lakh families beneficiaries under the ambitious PMAY-G. After handing over the keys in person to a few of the families, the Prime Minister interacted with several beneficiary families via video-conferencing across different districts in the State.

He also performed the bhoomi puja for various development projects worth ₹485.54 crore. These included a 10 MW solar power system, a new Rs 11.41 crore 'darshan' queue shelter and the 166.39 crore Sai Knowledge Centre.

Chavan nails PM's claim, says UPA built 25L houses a year

Quotes CAG figures, says UPA built 2.24 cr houses from 2004 to 2013
PM Modi has not fulfilled promise made under PMAY



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Seeking to nail a "lie" spoken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at Shirdi in Maharashtra, former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan on Friday said that under the "Indira Awas Yojana", the previous UPA Government had constructed 25 lakh houses every year as against Modi's claim of 25 lakh houses in four years.

Contesting the "false" figures quoted by the Prime Minister during his speech made after handing over keys to a few of the beneficiary families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), Chavan castigated the Prime Minister for "spreading lies" in the temple town of Shirdi about the houses for the poor and needy constructed by the previous UPA Government.

"The people of India are getting habituated to the lies spread by the Prime Minister. But, he has hurt the sentiments of Sai Baba devotees like me by lying at Shirdi.... The Prime Minister has misled the people of the country by making a false claim that the UPA Government built only 25 lakh houses during four years, as against 1.25 crore houses constructed by the NDA Government in that corresponding period of four years," Chavan said in a statement issued here.

"Under the Indira Awas Yojana, between 2004 and 2013, during UPA Government, 2 crore 24 lakh 37 thousand houses were constructed.

QUOTING THE STATISTICS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE CAG REPORT OF 2014, CHAVAN SAID THAT THE UPA GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTED 1 CRORE 28 LAKH 92 THOUSAND HOUSES DURING 2008-2013

Therefore, during the UPA Government's tenure, almost 25 lakh houses were completed every year. However, the statistics released by the current Government prove that the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have not been fulfilled," Chavan said.

Quoting the statistics made available in the CAG report of 2014, Chavan said that the UPA Government constructed 1 crore 28 lakh 92 thousand houses during 2008-2013.

"The Rajiv Awas Yojana, launched during the UPA Government in 2013, saw the construction of 1.17 lakh houses in one year. Prime Minister Modi has changed the name of this scheme to Sardar Patel National Urban Housing Mission, with the promise of constructing 2 crore houses by 2022. However, till July 10, 2017, a mere 1.33 lakh houses had been constructed," senior Congress leader said. "Despite being in a holy place like Shirdi, Modi refused to stop misleading the people of the nation. I pray to Sai Baba to give the Prime Minister the wisdom to speak the truth," Chavan said.

Six terrorists killed in last 24 hours in Kashmir

PNS ■ JAMMU

With the elimination of six more terrorists in the last 24 hours in different incidents across Kashmir valley the security have come closer to breaching the previous year tally of 213 - highest after 2010 when 270 terrorists were killed in the joint operations.

According to official sources since January 1, 2018 till date a total number of 193 terrorists have been neutralised by the joint teams of security forces in the State.

Ahead of the peak winter season the security forces are expected to neutralise more terrorists in the coming days as several of them hiding in upper reaches of North Kashmir areas are expected to shift to safer hideouts.

To trap them during transit several joint teams of security forces have been closely tracking movement of small groups of foreign terrorists before neutralising them.

Out of an estimated num-

ber of around 300 active terrorists across Kashmir valley more than 100 foreign terrorists are hiding in different hideouts across frontier districts of North Kashmir.

According to Ministry of Defence spokesman, the security forces foiled an infiltration bid by killing three terrorists in upper reaches of forests of Baniyar in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday.

A search party patrolling in the forward areas had first intercepted a group of terrorists in the thickly forested area of Baniyar.

The terrorists after intercepted by the Army opened fire triggering a gunfight which culminated in the killing of three terrorists. The operation is still underway in the forward area and army had rushed additional reinforcements in the area to plug the possible infiltration routes.

On Friday morning two more terrorists were killed in a brief shootout with the jawans

According to Ministry of Defence spokesman, the security forces foiled an infiltration bid by killing three terrorists in upper reaches of forests of Baniyar in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday

of the State and paramilitary forces in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh told reporters, "When jaws of the state police noticed some suspicious movement near security check point along the highway a Sports Utility vehicle was signalled to stop at Kralhaar.

Singh said, "instead of stopping the vehicle one of the terrorists opened fire on police/CRPF personnel from his pistol while another tried to escape. He said both of them were neutralised by the brave jaws in retaliatory fire. Police also recovered 1 AK rifle, 2 Chinese pistols and

other arms and ammunition from the vehicle. The two terrorists were later identified as Pakistan based cadre of Jaish-e-Mohammad who were operating under the code names of Faizan and Wahab in the area.

Meanwhile, in another brief encounter a newly-recruited terrorist was killed in a shootout at a village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district late Thursday night. Police said that a joint team of Army's 50 RR and SOG personnel had set up a Nakka at Dougam Kakapora following inputs about the presence of terrorists at 11:30 pm.

The gunfight broke out after the security forces challenged the movement of the militants. One terrorist was killed in a brief shoot out. He was identified as Showkat Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Padgampora, Awantipora. Bhat had joined militancy on October 2 and was associated with Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen.

Gangraped Class 9 student attempts suicide

IANs ■ PATNA

A gangraped Class 9 student was seriously injured on Friday after she leapt from a building and landed on high voltage wire in Bihar's Lakhisarai district, triggering mob violence, police said.

The victim was battling for life after jumping from the roof of a three-storey building in Chitranganj where she was raped after being intoxicated, Lakhisarai Superintendent of Police Kartikey Sharma said.

According to Sharma, the girl along with one of her friends had gone 'pandal' hopping on Durga Navami on Thursday. It was unclear how she reached the third floor of the building, Sharma said.

The police suspect that she must have jumped from the building after gaining consciousness. She was recovered in a half naked condition.

She was possibly forced to consume liquor before being

HER GIRLFRIEND, THE OWNER OF THE BUILDING AND ANOTHER SUSPECT HAVE BEEN DETAINED, THE POLICE OFFICER SAID

raped, Sharma added. The police are waiting to register her statement as she remains unconscious.

Her girlfriend, the owner of the building and another suspect have been detained, the police officer said.

Police have recovered some of the victim's clothes, liquor bottles and glasses from the building roof.

The incident triggered violent protests in the area. Hundreds of people blocked roads and ransacked public property demanding immediate police action. Additional security forces have been deployed in the area.

VHP demands renaming of Faizabad to Sri Ayodhya

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The VHP Friday hailed the Uttar Pradesh Government's decision to adopt a proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj and demanded that the name of Faizabad be changed to "Sri Ayodhya".

VHP spokesman Sharad Sharma said the renaming of Allahabad aimed to free the mindset of slavery and added all sections of people had hailed this step of the State Government.

"The Uttar Pradesh Government is taking steps in the interest of the people and their sentiments and its decision to change the name of Allahabad is praiseworthy... Now they need to change the name of Faizabad to Sri Ayodhya," Sharma said.

He said there were still a number of streets, buildings and districts which reminded them of the days of slavery.

"We have got freedom from the British rule but their symbols still hurt the self respect of every Hindustani," he said.

The present Government needed to understand their feelings and free the coming generations from these symbols of slavery, he claimed.

Senior Minister Siddhant Singh had said the move would help highlight Indian culture at international level

Sharma said the Adityantha Yogi-led Government could make an announcement about it on Diwali and please the seers of the temple town of Ayodhya.

Earlier this week, the state Cabinet approved a proposal to rename the historic city of Allahabad as Prayagraj.

Senior Minister Siddhant Singh had said the move would help highlight Indian culture at international level.

BJP spokesperson Manish Shukla had praised the Government for rectifying a historical mistake but Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav had criticised the move.

Congress spokesman Omkar Singh had opposed the move, claiming the name change would affect the history in which Allahabad had played a significant role in the Independence struggle and later.



RSS workers take part in a foot-march (path sanchalan) on the occasion of Vijay Dashmi in Beawar, Rajasthan on Friday

Moderate temblor jolts Kashmir

IANs ■ SRINAGAR

An earthquake of moderate intensity jolted Jammu & Kashmir on Friday.

Sonam Lotus, Director of the MET Department, said the quake measured 5.2 on the Richter scale and occurred at 6.55 p.m.

"The coordinates of the quake were latitude 38.4 degrees north and longitude 73.8 degrees east. The epicentre was in Tajikistan-Xinjiang region," Lotus said.

No loss of life or damage to property was reported in Kashmir, which is located in a seismologically vulnerable zone.

In October 2005, an earthquake measuring 7.6 degrees on the Richter scale killed over 80,000 people in divided Kashmir.

Bomb explosion before Biren Singh's visit to Kangpokpi

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Unidentified miscreants triggered a powerful blast at a market place in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, a few hours before Chief Minister N Biren Singh's scheduled visit there, police said on Friday.

The blast took place near the post office at Kangpokpi Bazaar, under the jurisdiction of Kangpokpi police station, shortly after Thursday midnight, the police said.

The blast occurred at around 1.10 am and there was no report of any casualty, a senior police officer told PTI, adding, only two cars were damaged in the incident.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh was supposed to visit a place near Kangpokpi

Bazar on Friday to lay the foundation stone for construction of a women's market, and a transit accommodation for doctors and teachers, officials said.

The chief minister's programme was scheduled to start from 10 am Friday and it was not postponed due to the blast, they said.

Located around 45 km away from the state capital Imphal, the site of the blast is hardly one km away from where chief minister N Biren Singh and Social Welfare Minister Nemcha attended the programme on Friday, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the state police have stepped up security to ensure that such violent activities do not happen in future, the police officer said.

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Purchase Officer

Temple talk

The signs have been there for a while now — the BJP will not go into the 2019 Lok Sabha poll sans the Ram Mandir issue.

It has never been a secret in the mainstream Indian centre right — for lack of a better, equally-intelligible-to-all term — that though Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma, his governance record in Gujarat and the fantastic campaign his team put together for the 2014 General Election ensured a shift of a sizeable chunk of non-core BJP voters to the party, the ideological issues that have been articulated by the BJP through support for demands such as that of a Ram Temple to be built in Ayodhya were never put on the back-burner unlike under the AB Vajpayee-led first BJP/NDA Government.

Laws against terrorism, for example, are not effective per se since they do not rely on the judgement of humans based on reasonable evidentiary support but on social conditioning the accused have been subject to



The international community has always faced a quagmire in its desperate attempt to give a definition to terrorism. After all, one man's freedom fighter is a terrorist for the other. The issue in defining it is the danger it entails of becoming so narrow that it does not incorporate all forms of terrorism.

ence, radical freedom fighters were seen as terrorists by the colonial Government whereas in modern-day India, Kashmiri separatists are seen as heroes by some and terrorists by others. The need for a definition of terrorism stands as a major criticism of the existing tactics the states use to wage fight against terrorism since all existing laws would not be jurisprudentially justified without understanding and truly defining what they want to fight or prevent.



notions of human autonomy and free will. Last, even preventive detention faces the problem of not being specifically defined as it always revolves around systems of pre-charge detention, pre-trial detention, administrative detention, immigration detention and national security detention.

subsequent cases challenging the validity of the provisions of the same have added new contours of development to the laws. In today's time, National Security Act of 1980 (NSA) and the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA) are the main preventive detention legislations.

not likely to commit the offence while on bail". POTA was, thus, repealed in 2004. But after the Mumbai bombings, the presence of POTA was introduced in the UAPA (Amended) wherein it was stated that any officer 'knowing of a design' or 'having reason to believe' that a person might commit an act will have the power to arrest the person.

the Court can, only on a bare pursuit of the police diary, deny bail to an accused. Furthermore, the Government is also empowered to label any organisation as a terrorist organisation by a notification in the Official Gazette.

In this context, the largely drawing room conversations in metros around how the Ram Temple issue will be subject to the law of diminishing political returns does not perhaps take into account which way popular Hindu sentiment if aroused will go in the event of proactive measure from the Government on the lines urged by the RSS chief.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT. The Government must pass a law to authorise the building of a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya rather than test the patience of society. —RSS chief MOHAN BHAGWAT. To make such utterances at a time when the Supreme Court is about to hear the matter smacks of a mischievous political design. —BJD national vice president SIVANAND TIWARY

Out of the big tent

Over the years, most big tent parties in Pakistan have begun to shrink in their appeal, alienating voters and leading to political cynicism and apathy



Analysts often casually describe the ideological orientation of mainstream political parties. For example, in the US, the Democratic Party is seen to be a party of liberals and Left-liberals whereas the Republican Party is understood to attract votes from fiscal and social conservatives.

Germany's two established mainstream parties — the centre-right, Christian Democratic Union and the centre-left German Social Democratic Party — have been big tent parties and so have UK's Conservative Party and the Labour Party.

Fight for the Baloch cause

Until now, India has responded to Pakistani claims of human rights violations in Kashmir under the right of reply at UNHRC. It is now time that human rights violations on the Baloch minority in Pakistan are raised by us independently

On October 12, 2018, the 73rd UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected 18 new Council members that will serve for a period of three years, starting January 1, 2019. India got re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which comprises of 47 elected member states.

at UNHRC, by mentioning that the Pakistani claims on Kashmir are baseless. This has been seen in the famous issue of the photo of a Palestinian girl being passed as a Kashmiri at UN by Pakistan's representative.



(FBM), who also served as Pakistan's Minister of State for Defence in the 1950s, said, "For the last 15 years in an unending and relentless military operation (since Musharrf killed Nawab Akbar Bugti, former Governor of Balochistan Province in Pakistan), thousands of people have been victims of enforced disappearances, numerous villages have been burned down and numerous people have been 'killed and dumped' on the roads, in open fields and in deserted, desolate areas.

50 WORDEDIT VIP brat begs

The law finally caught up with VIP brat Ashish Pandey and it showed just what an entitled bully he is. After his gun-waving, threatening behaviour at a South Delhi five-star hotel was captured on a mobile camera, Pandey started sending social media messages to his friends and acquaintances begging them not to let the clip go 'viral' by sharing it.

Truly rural

India's villagers are smarter than its city slickers when it comes to fake news

How many times have we lost track of our destination among the wooded mountains where the GPS has played truant? And how many times have locals come to the rescue? Technology doesn't always work and if the survey by the Digital Empowerment Foundation is anything to go by, then WhatsApp users in rural India do not blindly trust messages they receive, simply because they share trust with what they can see and feel and not what is fed to them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIIGHT ZIKA Sir — This refers to the 50-word edit. "Zika attack" (October 19). The outbreak of Zika has been causing consternation in the mind of people living in the vicinity of affected places. Aedes aegypti mosquito is said to be the carrier of Zika virus.

Planet Earth: A need to make it the best it can be

This refers to the article, "The global warming goal and India" (October 19) by RK Pachauri. The world is now talking about the climate change report released recently by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

SABARIMALA STAND-OFF

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Faith and law" (October 19). That women aged between 10 and 50 did not turn up at Sabarimala is not something for the protesters to gloat over.

SHUN VIOLENCE

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Faith and law" (October 19). Events in Kerala are disturbing. If tradition, faith and belief are the basis for retaining religious customs and practices, several obsolete and inhuman practices would still be prevalent.

It has, in fact, become the direct tool of communication with a huge voter base. Data shows that the share of active WhatsApp users in rural India has doubled since 2017, according to a survey done by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

But as Ayub's League became identified more with authoritarianism and the economy, the party managed to defeat the increasingly conservative Republican Party by broadening the party's appeal to attract votes not only from liberals but also from 'Southern conservatives', labour unions, African-Americans and farmers.

By RK Pachauri. The world is now talking about the climate change report released recently by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report warned of far-reaching consequences, like deluge, drought, wildfire and scarcity of food, to name a few.

most leaving behind the basic rudiments related to the Nature, like planting trees and keeping the environment clean. It is against these ongoing developments, countries all over the world should come together and forge strong plans, keeping the IPCC report in mind.

Water, a natural gift to humanity, flows through myriad natural veins, such as rivers, to provide and other creatures on earth. However, access to it is marred by natural barriers, lack of supply infrastructure and geopolitics of basin countries.

What it will take to save the Himalayas

Multi-faceted challenges that a fast unfolding water crisis poses to the Himalayan region require an integrated water management policy

Deteriorating water situation in the Himalayan region calls for urgent actions on the part of countries situated in the region to manage the Himalayan ecosystem and its water bodies in an integrated and sustainable manner.

An estimated 50,000 glaciers in the Himalayas are both a boon and bane for mountainous countries like Bhutan and Nepal. These glaciers are a major source of irrigation in summer months. They support farm practices and livelihood of a large population.

Water, a natural gift to humanity, flows through myriad natural veins, such as rivers, to provide and other creatures on earth. However, access to it is marred by natural barriers, lack of supply infrastructure and geopolitics of basin countries.

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(The writer is a freelance commentator)



As the apex body for the \$154 billion Indian IT BPM industry, we have strived to ensure the continued growth of the sector, facilitate partnerships, and fuel expansions

Kamal Agarwala, SME Council Chair, NASSCOM

BUZZ FROM GOVT

Moderation in inflation in the last two months has lowered the projected inflation trajectory. I vote for keeping the policy repo rate unchanged. Recognising that inflation risks have been persistent, and to reaffirm the commitment to securing the mandated 4 per cent inflation target on a durable basis, it is opposite to change the stance of monetary policy from neutral to calibrated tightening

Urjit R Patel, Governor, RBI



₹ rebounds 29 paise to 73.32 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee recovered early losses and finally settled 29 paise higher at 73.32 against the US dollar on Friday, amid a weakening greenback.

Traders said the selling of the US currency by exporters and foreign fund inflows were the other factors that provided support to the home unit.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (Forex), the rupee opened lower at 73.62, but soon recovered the lost ground and jumped 31 paise to touch a high of 73.31 on increased selling of the American currency by exporters and banks.

The domestic unit settled the day up by 29 paise at 73.32 against the US dollar. The rupee had settled 13 paise lower at 73.61 against the US dollar Wednesday. Forex market remained shut on Thursday on account of "Dussehra".

Meanwhile, market benchmark BSE Sensex plunged by 464 points or 1.33 per cent to close at 34,315.63 points due to losses in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC and Infosys.

"Despite the fall (in equity benchmark), rupee gained some weight supported by stability in oil prices," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services Ltd.

Forex reserves decline by \$5.14 bn as ₹ continues to fall

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The continuing fall of the rupee has had its impact on foreign exchange reserves, which plunged by \$5.143 billion to \$394.465 billion during the week to October 12 on account of decline in foreign currency assets, according to the RBI data released on Friday.

This is one of the steepest falls that forex kitty has seen in recent decades.

In the previous week, the reserves had declined by \$915.8 million to \$399.609 billion.

As the rupee has been plummeting, the RBI has sold over \$40 billion of its reserves to prop it up since the beginning of the current fiscal.

The rupee had lost more than 16 per cent since January and plunged to 74.43 last week to the dollar, making it the worst emerging market currency. Friday the rupee closed at 73.32 to the greenback.

In the reporting week, foreign currency assets, a major component of overall reserves, plunged by a whopping \$5.232 billion to \$369.999 billion, as per the RBI data.

Expressed in US dollar, foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of the non-US currencies such as the euro, the pound and the yen held in the reserves.

Forex reserves had touched a record high of \$426.028 billion in the week to April 13, 2018. Since then the forex kitty has been on slide and is now down by over \$31 billion.

Gold reserves rose by \$71.4 million to \$20,522 billion in the reporting week, the data showed. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was up by \$6.4 million to \$1.472 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF also rose by \$10.7 million to \$2.471 billion, the apex bank said.

IL&FS Investment Manager's non-executive director resigns from board

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IL&FS Investment Managers Ltd on Friday said non-executive director Vibhav Kapoor on its board has resigned.

"We hereby inform that Vibhav Kapoor, non-executive director of the company, has resigned as a member of the board of directors," it said in a regulatory filing.

The company did not give the reason for his resignation.

This is in continuation to a spate of resignations of the board of directors from IL&FS and its group firms ever since the loan defaults started arising nearly a month ago.

Independent directors of IL&FS Financial Services - Renu Challu, Surinder Singh Kohli, Shubhalakshmi Panse and Uday Ved have earlier stepped down.

On October 3, IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company had announced the resignation of its Managing Director Murli Dhar Khattar.

The IL&FS group is facing serious liquidity crisis and has defaulted on interest payment on various debt repayments since August 27. It has over ₹91,000 crore in debt at the consolidated level.

There are concerns that default by a large NBFC like

IL&FS will create liquidity crunch in the financial markets.

The country's largest lender SBI as well as insurance behemoth LIC, who are key shareholders in IL&FS, have come to the rescue of the debt-ridden IL&FS group to avoid the contagion effect that may arise if the group collapses.

SBI (with 6.42 per cent stake) earlier this month said that it will buy good assets worth ₹45,000 crore from IL&FS, while LIC (the largest shareholder at 25.34 per cent) is expected to up its stake further in the company.

Among other shareholders of the IL&FS are Orix Corporation of Japan at 23.54 per cent, The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority 12.56 per cent, HDFC 9.02 per cent, and Central Bank of India 7.67 per cent. The RBI also had to intervene in the matter and has announced measures to boost capital flow to the NBFC sector.

The regulator came up with further boost for the sector and allowed banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit to them as on October 19, which can be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements.

Why no insurance cover allowed to those having congenital anomalies? HC to RDAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) to "explain the reasonableness" of not granting insurance cover to people suffering from congenital anomalies.

"What is the objection to giving insurance cover to them (people suffering from congenital anomalies)," a bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao asked the IRDAI and sought its response before the next date of hearing on December 17.

"Give the justification for such exclusion," the court said to the insurance regulator.

The bench also issued notices to the General Insurance Council and the Life Insurance Council, which represent the entities that carry on the business of general and life insurance respectively, and sought their stand on the issue before the next date.

The court was hearing a PIL seeking directions to the Centre, the IRDAI and insurance companies to remove congenital anomalies, like



external or internal abnormality in the womb, from the list of general exclusions in the health or life insurance policies.

The petition, by Nipun Malhotra, has challenged the "arbitrary" and "illegal" mechanisms adopted by the IRDAI in denying the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) to seek insurance cover for themselves on the ground that their conditions are categorised under the scope of "congenital anomalies", as defined under a July 29, 2016 circular by the regulator.

Congenital anomalies are also known as birth defects and could be caused by single gene defects, chromosomal disorders, multifactorial inheritance, environmental teratogens and micronutrient deficiencies.

Malhotra, a disability rights activist who suffers from locomotor disability from birth, has sought a direction to the IRDAI to remove the phrase 'congenital anomalies' from the standardised definition of the 2016 circulars. He has also sought direction to take a look at the exclusionary clauses in insurance contracts and ensure that insurance companies do not reject claims on the basis of exclusions related to congenital anomalies. In his petition filed through advocate Jai Dehadrai, he has said the effect of the circular and regulations was that PwDs found it next to impossible to seek insurance cover, when undergoing any health related complications.

To curb rising onion price, Nafed told to boost supply in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To check rising onion prices, the Centre on Friday directed co-operative Nafed to boost supply in the national capital from the buffer stock and also asked Mother Dairy to reduce the rates by ₹2 per kg on the kitchen staple in all its Safal outlets.

A decision in this regard, was taken in a high-level meeting chaired by Consumer Secretary Avinash K Srivastava, called to review the price and supply situation of onion with concerned stakeholders.

Currently, retail onion prices in the national capital are ruling in the range of ₹30-40 per kg on tight supplies, as per the trade data.

"Arrivals of kharif crop is expected to increase significantly within a week. This would improve availability in consuming areas, thereby, helping moderate prices," the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, it was decided in the meeting that onion supplies in Delhi from the buffer stock under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) should

be increased by 2-3 times from the current level so as to tide over any constraint in the interim supply of onions in the market, it said.

The implementing agency Nafed, has been directed to increase the quantity supplied from the PSF stock, it added.

A buffer stock of onion has been created by the Centre using the PSF to offload it in the market in times of tight supply and contain price rise.

That apart, the Mother Dairy has been asked to reduce the prices of onion by ₹2 per kg on all variants.

"Mother Dairy agreed to reduce the rates from ₹25.90 to ₹23.90 for the loose variant and from ₹27.90 to ₹25.90 for the packed variant at all its stores in Delhi," the Government added.

Mother Dairy's subsidiary Safal has 400 outlets in Delhi-NCR.

With regard to kharif onion output, the government said the Horticulture Commissioner has indicated that the area sown to the kharif onion is higher than the year-ago.

RBI announces more steps to increase credit flow to NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday announced more measures to increase liquidity flows to the non-banking financial companies. The RBI permitted banks to use Government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit to them as on October 19, to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements.

The move will help provide liquidity to housing finance companies (HFCs) and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) which have come under pressure following series of default by IL&FS group companies.

"... Banks will be permitted to also reckon Government securities held by them up to an amount equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs and HFCs, over



and above the amount of credit to NBFCs and HFCs outstanding on their books as on October 19, 2018, as Level 1 HQLA under FALLCR within the mandatory SLR requirement," RBI said in a notification.

This will be in addition to the existing FALLCR of 13 per cent of total deposits, and limited to 0.5 per cent of the bank's total deposits. Liquidity coverage ratio refers to highly liquid assets that financial institutions need to hold in order to meet short-term obligations.

The additional window will be available up to December 31, 2018, the notification said.

Besides, it said, the single borrower exposure limit for NBFCs which do not finance infrastructure stands increased from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of capital funds, up to December 31, 2018.

The RBI has been taking series of steps to infuse liquidity in the system. It has also been undertaking open market operation at regular intervals to add liquidity.

Yes Bank shares slump 6% as RBI refuses more time to Rana Kapoor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Yes Bank fell by 6 per cent on Friday after the Reserve Bank refused to grant more time to its long serving CEO and MD Rana Kapoor and asked the private sector lender to appoint his successor latest by February 1, 2019.

The scrip dropped 6.06 per cent to settle at ₹217.70 on the BSE. During the day, it slumped 8 per cent to Rs 213.10.

The stock was the worst hit among the 30-Sensex blue chips.

On the NSE, shares of the company tanked 5.41 per cent to close at ₹219.35.

In terms of equity volume, 41.17 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 5 crore shares changed hands on the NSE during the day.



Shares of Yes Bank had

faced huge selling pressure Wednesday also, plunging nearly 7 per cent.

Stock markets were closed Thursday for Dussehra.

"The Reserve Bank of India has reaffirmed that a successor to Rana Kapoor, MD & CEO, YES Bank should be appointed by February 1, 2019," the lender had said in a stock exchange filing.

The RBI had earlier curtailed the three-year term that the board had sought for Kapoor, also one of the promoters of the bank, to January 31, 2019, and asked the bank to find a replacement.

Govt to allow data services in flights within national boundaries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom department is considering to allow only data services initially in flights and water vessels within Indian territorial boundaries, an official source said.

Under the proposed in-flight connectivity guidelines, both voice and data services would be provided to passengers on flights and maritime transport within the national boundaries.

"DoT will initially seek application for data services under IFC (in-flight connectivity) guidelines. There are some issues around gateway for voice so that will not start immediately," a Department of Telecom official said.

In-flight connectivity service is available in most of the developed markets.

While mobile phone use will still be restricted during takeoff and landing, the Telecom Commission has approved lifting the ban on the use of mobile phones and internet services at cruising altitudes.

NASSCOM inks MoU to expand Indian SMEs

PTI ■ DUBAI

IT industry body NASSCOM has signed an MoU with a leading technology community in Dubai to help small and medium-sized Indian enterprises expand their operations in the Middle East and North Africa region.

The MoU between the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and the Dubai Internet City (DIC) is first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Under the agreement, the DIC will provide NASSCOM's, small and medium-sized enterprises(SME) members opportunity to develop their operations by offering support and a platform to expand in the MENA region.

The MoU was signed by Ammar al-Malik, Managing Director of DIC and Dubai Outsourcing City (DOC) and Kamal Agarwala, SME Council Chair, NASSCOM.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, THE DIC WILL PROVIDE NASSCOM'S, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES(SME) MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR OPERATIONS BY OFFERING SUPPORT AND A PLATFORM TO EXPAND IN THE MENA REGION

The DIC is mandated to provide Indian tech startups and SMEs an opportunity to establish themselves in Dubai and get access to the largest technology community, providing them with a gateway and necessary support to grow in the UAE and the wider region.

"The Middle East offers tremendous growth opportunities for innovative tech firms, with huge untapped potential," said al-Malik, Managing Director of DIC and DOC.

The \$8 billion UAE tech industry is growing rapidly and DIC, as the leading tech-

nology business community in the region, serves as a natural launch pad for Indian technology businesses looking to expand their operations across the region, he said.

Dubai has welcomed an increasing number of Indian businesses over the past few months in a bid to strengthen bilateral trade between the UAE and India, on track to hit \$100 billion by 2020.

This includes a landmark new decision between the UAE and India to allow businesses to transact directly in their national currencies.

Additionally, Indian tourist numbers to the city grew by 15 per cent last year, crossing the two million mark, the first for any country in a single year.

According to NASSCOM, there have been great efforts for the continued growth of the sector.

"As the apex body for the \$154 billion Indian IT BPM industry, we have strived to ensure the continued growth of the sector, facilitate partnerships, and fuel expansions," said Kamal Agarwala, SME Council Chair, NASSCOM.

Dubai Internet City is already home to leading technology Indian companies, and we firmly believe that this MoU will serve as a major catalyst for Indian businesses to expand into the region, said Agarwala.

DIC is home to leading Indian multinationals, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, and the HCL Technologies.

The integrated community hosts a large number of Indian professionals within its 24,000-strong workforce, which includes diverse workers from over 150 nationalities.

State subsidies to improve mills' liquidity & clear cane dues: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State Governments' announcement of cash subsidy is likely to improve the liquidity of mills, helping them in making cane payments to farmers, a report has said.

Recently, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Haryana's state advisory policy (SAP) had announced a cash subsidy of close to ₹10,000 crore as on mid-September 2018, Icrs said in a report which added that this move is likely to result in some improvement in the mills' liquidity and support them in making cane payments to the farmers.

"The cash subsidy of ₹4.50 per quintal by the UP Government is likely to improve the contribution margin from sugar by ₹400450 per tonne. Further, the soft loans of ₹4000-crore are at low interest rates of 5 per cent, which

Govt likely to appoint new CEA in next 1-2 months

THE GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 30 INVITED APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to appoint a new chief economic advisor (CEA) in the next one or two months, sources said.

A search committee appointed by the Finance Ministry is expected to finalise the list of suitable candidates soon and appointment is likely in 1-2 months, they said further.

The Government on June 30 invited applications for the

appointment of CEA on deputation basis after Arvind Subramanian quit the office ahead of completion of his term.

The Finance Ministry has appointed a search committee headed by former Reserve Bank of India governor Bimal Jalan to shortlist candidates for the post. Other members of the panel are economic affairs secretary and department of personnel training secretary.

Subramanian was appointed as CEA on October 16, 2014, for a 3-year term and was given an extension last year. His official contract was till May 2019. Subramanian is currently a visiting lecturer of public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Sensex slips 637 pts as selling pressure mounts

PTI N MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 637 points and the broader Nifty slipped below the 10,300-mark in late afternoon trade on Friday following heavy selling in blue chip Reliance Industries as well as financial stocks.

The 30-share Sensex, opened Friday distinctly weak at 34,563.29 and continued to slide to touch a low of 34,140.32 points (intra-day). The index was trading down 636.83 points, or 1.82 per cent at 34,142.75 at 1400 hrs.

The gauge had lost 382.90 points Wednesday.

The 50-share NSE Nifty plunged 196.40 points, or 1.88 per cent, to 10,256.65.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries dropped 5 per cent to ₹1,091.50 despite better-than-expected earnings posted by the company on Wednesday. RIL reported its highest ever quarterly net profit of ₹9,516 crore, a 17.4 per cent rise year-on-year, for the July-September period.

Traders said Reliance Industries' pre-tax earnings from the business declined for the second quarter in a row and this triggered the heavy selling in the counter.

The operator of world's largest oil refining complex however saw pre-tax earnings



from the business decline for the second quarter in a row. It fell 19.6 per cent to ₹5,322 crore as margins dipped. In the first quarter the pre-tax earnings had fallen 16.8 per cent.

It earned \$9.5 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel as compared to a gross refining margin of \$12 per barrel. The GRM was also lower than \$10.5 per barrel earning in first quarter.

Other big losers were Yes Bank, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Coal India and L&T, falling by up to 5.91 per cent.

Sentiments took a hit largely on sell-off in NBFCs, led by Indiabulls Housing and Dewan Housing Finance, which dropped over 15 per cent on prevailing liquidity concerns,

dragging down the key indices down.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank Friday announced more steps to increase liquidity flows to the non-banking financial companies.

The RBI permitted banks to use government securities equal to their incremental outstanding credit to NBFCs, over and above their outstanding credit to them as on October 19, to be used to meet liquidity coverage ratio requirements.

The move will help provide liquidity to housing finance companies (HFCs) and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) which have come under pressure following series of default by IL&FS group companies.

To meet FY19 disinvestment target, FinMin banks on CPSE acquisitions, buybacks

CPSES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BUY BACK SHARES

PTI NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is banking on merger and acquisitions among CPSEs and share buybacks by state-run companies to meet the ₹80,000-crore disinvestment target for the current fiscal.

The Government has raised more than ₹9,600 crore through IPOs of three CPSEs and a tranche of Bharat-22 ETF in the first six months of the fiscal so far.

A Finance Ministry official said there are liquidity constraints in the market for the past 3-4 months and such conditions would persist till there are uncertainties in global markets and crude prices remain volatile.

"We will meet the disinvestment target. We are looking at acquisition of some state-run companies with similarly placed CPSEs, like PFC and REC," the official said.

To kickstart the merger and acquisition process, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) will soon invite bids from merchant bankers and legal firms to handle consolidation, starting with two such

deals. The Government is looking to sell its 65.61 per cent stake in state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), which could fetch about ₹14,000 crore the exchequer.

Besides, the Finance Ministry has also shortlisted about a dozen Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), including Coal India, NTPC, Nalco and NMDC, for a possible buyback of shares in the ongoing financial year. The list also include BHEL, NHPC, NBCC, SJVN, KIOCL and Hindustan Aeronautics.

These CPSEs have been asked to buy back shares following the capital restructuring guidelines set out by DIPAM on May 27, 2016.

The guidelines mandate that CPSEs having net worth of at least ₹2,000 crore and cash and bank balance of above ₹1,000 crore have to mandatorily go in for share buyback.

The boards of three CPSEs — NALCO, NLC and Cochin Shipyard — have already approved share buybacks together worth ₹2,000 crore.

"There will be about a dozen companies which will buy back shares. In view of the current market condition, we are not looking at any more IPOs and OFS at the moment," the official said.

Govt imposes anti-dumping duty on certain steel products from China

PTI NEW DELHI

India has imposed anti-dumping duties of up to \$185.51 per tonne for five years on certain varieties of Chinese steel to guard domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country.

The revenue department imposed the duty based on recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), according to a government notification.

JSW Steel Ltd, Sunflag Iron & Steel Co, Usha Martin, Gerdau Steel India, Vardhman Special Steels and Jayaswal Neco Industries Ltd had jointly filed an application before DGTR for initiation of investigations and levying of anti-dumping duties on some steel products.

In its anti-dumping investigation, the DGTR stated that dumped imports of 'straight length bars and rods of alloy steel' from China have increased in absolute terms during the period of probe (2016-17).

While recommending the anti-dumping duty, DGTR said the goods have been exported to India from the China below normal value and the domestic industry has suffered material injury on account of the imports.

The duty has been imposed in the range of \$44.89 to 185.51



per tonne on import of 'Alloy bars and rods in straight length, whether or not hot rolled, hot drawn, cold drawn, cold extruded, peeled bar, surface machined, polished, bright bar, forged'.

"The anti-dumping duty... Shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be paid in Indian currency," the notification said.

The product finds end use application across various segments and sectors including forging, automobiles, auto components, crank shaft, springs, gears, fasteners, cement plants, power plants, turbines, ship-building, and railways, among others.

Imports of straight length bars and rods of alloy steel from China have increased to 1,80,959 tonnes in 2016-17

from 56,690 tonnes in 2013-14. India's total imports rose to 2,56,004 tonnes in 2016-17 from 1,32,933 tonnes in 2013-14.

The demand of this steel in India too increased to 16,69,653 tonnes in 2016-17 from 15,14,795 tonnes in 2013-14.

Domestic steel manufacturers always flag concerns over the imports from the neighbouring country, with which India has a huge trade deficit.

The trade gap with China has increased to \$63.12 billion in 2017-18 from \$51.11 billion in the previous financial year.

In general, the purpose of anti-dumping duty is to eliminate injury caused to the domestic industry by the unfair trade practices of dumping so as to re-establish a situation of open and fair competition in the Indian market, which is in interest of the country.

Sebi: Borrowing, lending of shares while in possession of UPSI to attract insider trading norms



PTI NEW DELHI

Borrowing or lending of securities by an insider while in possession of price sensitive information about such stocks will attract the provisions of insider trading regulation, according to the markets regulator Sebi.

The clarification has been given as part of an informal guidance sought by brokerage firm HDFC Securities with respect to whether transactions of lending and borrowing of securities done under the SLB mechanism attract the provisions of the PIT (prohibition of insider trading) regulations.

Securities lending and borrowing (SLB) allows short sellers to borrow securities for making deliveries.

As per the regulator, it is a mechanism for lending and borrowing of equity shares in the form of contracts, which are

traded on the automated screen based order-matching platform. The price of such contracts is lending fee, which may derive its value from the underlying securities.

"Borrowing or lending of securities by an insider while in possession of UPSI (unpublished price sensitive information) with respect to underlying securities shall result in insider trading in terms of the PIT regulations provided that the insider may prove his innocence by demonstrating the facts," Sebi said in the three-page interpretive letter.

The letter, issued on October 5, was made public today by the watchdog.

Noting that this position is based on the information furnished, Sebi said, "different facts or conditions might lead to a different result." "This letter does not express a decision of the board on the question referred," the regulator added.

Mahindra Marazzo bookings cross 10,000 mark



PTI NEW DELHI

Utility vehicles major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Friday said it has received over 10,000 bookings for its multi-purpose vehicle Marazzo in just over a month of its launch.

The company had launched the model on September 3 with price starting at ₹9.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

"We are delighted with the number of bookings received for Marazzo within just 1 month. This reaffirms the immense popularity Marazzo has garnered in such short time," M&M Chief of Sales and Marketing, Automotive sector, Veejay Nakra said in a statement.

The Marazzo has been co-designed by Mahindra Design Studio and the Italian design house, Pininfarina.

It has been engineered in collaboration with Mahindra North American Technical Centre and the Mahindra Research Valley, Chennai.

Cyprus refused to grant more time to rescue airline

AFP NICOSIA

Cyprus turned down appeals from the country's ailing airline Cobalt for more time to find investors as it withdrew the carrier's operating licence, officials said Friday.

"We wanted more time, but our licence was revoked," Cobalt's chairman Grigoris Diakos told state radio, a day after the carrier's sudden collapse.

"We asked for a suspension (of the licence), we needed two months to find a strategic investor after the Chinese investor pulled out," he added.

Diakos said there were "one or two serious proposals" from potential investors.

But the Cyprus Air Transport Licensing Authority (ATLA) decided to revoke the licence, senior transport ministry official Alecos Michaelides said.

A temporary suspension was ruled out because there was no sign of a solid rescue plan.

"A company that is constantly posting losses, and especially losses of around 30 million (euros, or USD 34 million) a year over a three-year period, cannot survive," Michaelides told ANT1 television.

He said the strategic Chinese investors were estimated to have ploughed in \$114 million, but losses had continued unabated.

Although the airline's licence has been revoked, it can reapply to resume operations



once it finds the necessary financing, the government said, although it could also face legal action.

Cobalt Air ceased all operations at Wednesday midnight and entered an administration process, after only two years and three months of operations.

Transport Minister Vassiliki Anastasiadou has said USD 2.3 million have allocated for the repatriation of thousands of passengers left stranded by Cobalt's collapse.

Cyprus said it will pay to ensure hundreds of Cobalt passengers stranded on the holiday island can return home safely.

Cobalt was launched in 2016, filling the void to become the Mediterranean island's biggest airline after state-owned Cyprus Airways went bankrupt in January 2015.

It operated 13-15 flights

daily, carrying up to 3,000 passengers to 23 destinations including Athens, Beirut, Heathrow, Paris and Tel Aviv. It had plans to launch flights to China.

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday, its website was replaced with a single-page statement announcing the cancellation of all flights within two and a half hours.

Cypriot MP George Prokopiou said 18,000 travellers had been affected by the airline's closure.

Cobalt ceased operations after failing to reach a deal with a potential strategic investor to help it pay for leasing its six aircraft — two Airbus 319s and four Airbus 320s.

The airline's largest shareholder was AJ Cyprus, with 49 per cent of the shares. AJ Cyprus is owned by China's AVIC Joy Air.

EU, Singapore sign free trade deal

AFP BRUSSELS

The European Union and Singapore signed a landmark trade deal on Friday on the sidelines of a Europe-Asia summit that Brussels hopes can be a rebuke to protectionism in Washington.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong signed the accord in Brussels with European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country currently holds the EU Presidency.

Hailing the Singapore agreement, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said "we can make it clear that the world is about creating win-win situations."

These deals "make it clear that what benefits one, can also benefit the other," she added as she arrived for an EU-Asia summit where the deal was signed, in a tacit criticism of US President Donald Trump.

The text still needs to be validated by the European Parliament before it enters into force in 2019.

The leaders also signed of the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement, the more controversial aspect of the package as it sets up a special court to decide business conflicts.



After a successful battle spearheaded by environmental activists in Europe, this aspect of the deal must now face ratification by the EU's 28 member states, a process that could take months or years.

"It is a very important stepping stone, this is the most ambitious agreement we have ever made with a developing country so it sets the standard ... For whatever we do in the region," EU Trade Commission Cecilia Malmstrom said on Wednesday.

"What we have with Singapore is ... Paving the way for a future region-to-region agreement," Malmstrom added.

The deal with Singapore came after the EU suspended effort to strike a bloc deal with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2009 amid widespread disagreements, including European concerns over Myanmar's human rights record.

The EU has instead pursued deals with individual ASEAN countries and concluded talks in 2015 with Vietnam.

Majority of members voted to keep repo unchanged

PTI MUMBAI

Majority of the RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee, including Governor Urjit R Patel, favoured to retain the key repo rate unchanged earlier this month, as part of "calibrated tightening" to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent, as per minutes of the meeting released Friday.

Pami Dua, Ravindra H Dholakia, Michael Debabrata Patra, Viral V Acharya and Urjit R Patel voted in favour of keeping the policy repo rate unchanged, RBI said in its minutes of the MPC meeting held between October 3-5.

MPC member Chetan Ghate voted for an increase in the policy rate by 25 basis points (bps), RBI said.

During its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy review that kept the key repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent, the RBI's MPC noted that global headwinds in the form of escalating trade tensions, volatile and rising oil prices, and tightening of global financial conditions pose

substantial risks to the growth and inflation outlook.

"It is, therefore, imperative to further strengthen domestic macroeconomic fundamentals," the RBI had said in its monetary policy.

The MPC meeting was attended by all the members - Ghate, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute; Pami Dua, Director, Delhi School of Economics; Ravindra H Dholakia, former professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; Michael Debabrata Patra, Executive Director RBI; Viral V Acharya, Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy - and was chaired by Governor Urjit R Patel.

The central bank said the decision of the MPC was consistent with the stance of calibrated tightening of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of (plus, minus) 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

Regarding the stance, Dua,

Ghate, Patra, Acharya and Patel voted in favour of changing the stance to calibrated tightening.

Dholakia voted to keep the neutral stance unchanged. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled on December 3-5 and the minutes of the meeting will be published 14 days later.

The policy repo rate — at which RBI lends to banks — was raised by 25 basis points (0.25 per cent) each in the last two consecutive meetings of the MPC in June and August.

"Moderation in inflation in the last two months has lowered the projected inflation trajectory. I vote for keeping the policy repo rate unchanged. Recognising that inflation risks have been persistent, and to reaffirm the commitment to securing the mandated 4 per cent inflation target on a durable basis, it is appropriate to change the stance of monetary policy from neutral to calibrated tightening," the minutes said quoting Patel.

"Calibrated tightening means that in the current rate

cycle, a cut in the policy repo rate is off the table, and we are not obliged to increase the rate at every policy meeting," Patel added.

Ghate, who voted for an increase in the policy repo by 25 basis points and for a change in stance from neutral to calibrated tightening, said anchoring inflationary expectations, which are shaped by the target, is extremely important in an inflation targeting regime.

"If there is substantial deviation of inflationary expectations in relation to the target, by failing to react with the policy interest rate, we will lose credibility and reduce our capacity to influence expectations," Ghate said in the meeting.

Dua said while inflation has softened, upside risks to inflation remain alongside some downside risks to output growth, while Dholakia noted that the impact of depreciating rupee on inflation is not likely to be very substantial and the headline inflation forecast 12 months ahead by RBI is on a higher side.

Reliance Industries shares slump 7% post Q2 results

PTI NEW DELHI

Shares of Reliance Industries Friday slumped 7 per cent despite the company reporting its highest ever quarterly net profit in the July-September quarter.

The stock opened lower and declined further by 6.59 per cent to ₹1,073.15 on BSE.

At NSE, shares of the company dipped 7 per cent to ₹1,070.25.

In terms of equity volume, 10.50 lakh shares of the company were traded on BSE and over one crore shares changed hands at NSE during the morning trade.

Reliance Industries Wednesday reported its highest ever quarterly net profit of ₹9,516 crore in July-September as record earnings from petrochemical business and bumper earnings from retail business and telecom arm made up for a decline in refinery margins.

ICICI Securities' H1FY19 PAT up 8% at ₹268 crore

REVENUE OF THE COMPANY GREW BY 4 PER CENT

PTI MUMBAI

ICICI Securities, subsidiary of ICICI Bank, on Friday posted 8 per cent growth in profit after tax (PAT) at ₹268 crore during the first half of this financial year compared to the same period last year.

The company's PAT stood at ₹248 crore in H1FY18, a release issued here said.

Revenue of the company grew by 4 per cent to ₹894 crore during the first half of FY19, compared to ₹857 crore in H1FY18.

"We have sustained revenue and profit growth for the half year in an otherwise muted market. In the broking business, we continue to sustain our market share and have maintained our leadership position. We are focused on revenue diversification through cross-sell and are garnering scale in

several of our newer initiatives like financial advisory businesses," company managing director and CEO Shilpa Kumar said.

The company will invest in technology and innovation to take advantage of the macro-economic trends of increasing financialisation and equitisation in household savings, she added.

Broking revenue of the company for H1FY19 improved by 5 per cent to ₹568 crore against Rs 543 in H1FY18.

Distribution revenue in H1FY19 stood at ₹244 crore, improvement of 18 per cent from the year ago.

Distribution business contributed 27 per cent to the company's overall revenue in H1FY19, up from 24 per cent in H1FY18.

'Missing Saudi scribe Khashoggi likely dead'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said it looks like Saudi Arabia's missing dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi is dead and warned of "very severe" consequences if the kingdom is responsible.

Trump's remarks came after he was briefed on the investigation by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who returned from a trip to Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Khashoggi, 60, who has not been seen since entering Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul earlier this month, is feared to have been killed inside the mission. The incident has resulted in a global outrage, more so in the US where he lived as a legal permanent resident and worked for 'The Washington Post'.

"It certainly looks that way to me. It's very sad. Certainly, looks that way," Trump told



reporters at Joint Air Force base Andrews before boarding Air Force One on his way to Montana for a campaign rally.

This is the first time that the US has officially acknowledged about Khashoggi's death, who was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Turkish investigators have told local media and also to the US media that Khashoggi was brutally killed inside the consulate on October 2.

"Well, it'll have to be very severe. I mean, it's bad, bad stuff. But we'll see what happens," Trump told reporters when asked what would be the

consequences of such an unfortunate incident.

The President's remarks came hours after he had a detailed meeting with Pompeo, who a night earlier arrived from his trip to Saudi Arabia and Turkey, where he talked to them about the missing journalist.

"We are waiting for some investigations, and waiting for the results.

We will have them very soon, and I think we'll be making a statement, a very strong statement. But we're waiting for the results of about three different investigations, and we should be able to get to the bottom fairly soon," Trump said.

Trump so far has resisted the call for strong action against Saudi Arabia.

During his meeting with Trump, Pompeo advised that Saudi Arabia be given some more time to complete investigation.

US Prez praises congressman who assaulted reporter

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Thursday praised a US congressman who assaulted a reporter, making light of the attack.

Greg Gianforte was sentenced to six months of deferred jail time, 40 hours of community service, 20 hours of anger management sessions and USD 385 in fines and court fees for the misdemeanor assault that propelled him and his congressional race into the national spotlight last year.

Trump's remarks at a rally in Montana come amid an international outcry over the disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist who has been missing since entering Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on October 2, whom the president has said is likely dead.

At the rally, Trump urged people to vote for Gianforte, describing him as "an incredible

Montana leader" and "one of the most respected people in Congress."

"By the way, never wrestle him," Trump said, referring to Gianforte's assault on The Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs. "Any guy that can do a body slam — he's my kind of guy, he's my guy."

Trump said he originally thought the assault — which took place on the eve of his election — might hurt Gianforte's chances. "Then I said, 'Well wait a minute, I know Montana pretty well, I think it might help him.' And it did," the president said.

The Guardian US editor John Mulholland took aim at Trump's remarks.

"To celebrate an attack on a journalist who was simply doing his job is an attack on the First Amendment by someone who has taken an oath to defend it," he said, referring to the amendment to the US constitution that guarantees freedom of the Press.

Turkey suggests remains taken out of consulate

AP ■ ISTANBUL

A Turkish official said on Friday that investigators are looking into the possibility that the remains of missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi may have been taken to a forest in the outskirts of Istanbul or to another city — if and after he was killed inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul earlier this month.

The official told The Associated Press that police have established that two vehicles belonging to the consulate, left the building on October 2 — the day Khashoggi had walked into the consulate and vanished.

One of the vehicles travelled to the nearby Belgrade Forest while the other travelled to the city of Yalova, across the Sea of Marmara from Istanbul, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the secrecy of the ongoing investigation.

It was not immediately



A view of Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on Friday

clear if police had already searched the areas.

Turkish reports say Khashoggi was brutally murdered and dismembered inside the consulate by members of an assassination squad with ties to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Saudis have dismissed those reports as baseless but have yet to explain what happened to Khashoggi, a colum-

nist for The Washington Post who wrote critically of Prince Mohammed's rise to power.

President Donald Trump, who first came out hard on the Saudis over the disappearance but had since backed off, said Thursday that it "certainly looks" as though Khashoggi is dead, and that the consequences for the Saudis "will have to be very severe" if they are found to have killed him.

Turkey denies giving 'any kind of audio tape' on Khashoggi to US

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey on Friday denied giving "any kind of audio tape" from the investigation into the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo or any American official.

"It is out of the question for Turkey to give any kind of audio tape to Pompeo or any other US official," said Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, two days after meeting with the US's top diplomat for talks in Ankara.



A dozen of Indonesian journalists hold posters with photos of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi during a protest outside Saudi Arabian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia on Friday

Turkey's pro-government press has reported that Turkey has an audio recording that proves the alleged murder of Khashoggi at the consulate and that he was tortured before his death.

The existence of the tape has never been confirmed on the record by Turkish officials.

ABC News, quoting a senior Turkish official, reported Thursday that during his visit to Turkey this week Pompeo heard this audio and was shown a transcript of the recording. But Pompeo denied the report.

"I've seen no tape. I've seen no -- or I've heard no tape. I've told reporters during a trip to Latin America.

Cavusoglu, like other Turkish officials, stopped short of revealing details of the investigation but vowed they would be shared in due course.

"We will share the results to emerge with the entire world. It is out of the question for us to share this or that information with any country," he said, quoted by the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Saudis may blame intelligence official for Khashoggi killing: Post

IANS ■ ISTANBUL

The rulers of Saudi Arabia are considering blaming a top intelligence official close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the Washington Post reported.

The plan to assign blame to Maj. Gen. Ahmed al-Assiri, a high-ranking adviser to the crown prince, would be an extraordinary recognition of the magnitude of international backlash to hit the kingdom since the disappearance of

Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi dissident, it said.

A resident of Virginia and contributor to The Washington Post, Khashoggi was last seen entering the Saudi Consulate here on October 2. The Post based its report after speaking to three people with knowledge of the Saudi plans.

Blaming Gen. Assiri could also provide a plausible explanation for the apparent killing and help deflect blame from the crown prince, who American intelligence agencies are increasingly convinced was behind

Khashoggi's disappearance, the daily said. Turkish officials have said they possess evidence showing that 15 Saudi agents assassinated and dismembered Khashoggi in the consulate.

After two weeks of blanket denials and mounting pressure from Turkey and Washington, Saudi Arabia said it would conduct its own investigation to determine who was responsible, the Post said. But even with the investigation still ostensibly underway, the Saudis are already pointing to Gen. Assiri as the culprit, it said.

European, Asian leaders want free trade, push back at Trump

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European and Asian leaders pledged their support for free trade at a meeting on Friday that underscored global trade tensions with US President Donald Trump.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels would send a signal that "countries are coming together here from Europe and Asia that all want rules-based global trade and are committed to multilateralism."

The meeting brought together 30 European leaders with their counterparts from 21 Asian nations as well as top officials from the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Together, the group accounts for some two-thirds of the world's economic output, 55 percent of global trade and 60 percent of the world's population.

A written statement said the leaders "highlighted the vital need of maintaining an open world economy and upholding the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core."

Trump stepped 25 percent tariffs on steel imports and 10 percent on imported aluminum from the EU on June 1. He said the move was to protect U.S. national security interests, but the Europeans claim it is simply protectionism and breaks



French President Emmanuel Macron speaks with Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte during a round table meeting at an EU-ASEM summit in Brussels on Friday

global trade rules.

The EU hit back with tariffs on about 2.8 billion euros worth (\$3.4 billion) of U.S. steel, agricultural and other products.

The stakes are even higher in Trump's trade war with China. Trump has imposed tariffs on about \$250 billion worth of Chinese products amid US accusations that China engages in cyber-theft and coerces foreign companies into handing over technology in return for access to the Chinese market, as well as by Trump's anger over China's trade surplus with the US.

The wide-ranging agenda in Brussels also included discussions on climate change. In their closing statement, the leaders expressed "profound

concern that current global efforts are insufficient" to meet goals set out in the 2015 Paris climate accord. Trump has removed the U.S. from that deal.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the EU signed a pact with Vietnam that aims to tackle illegal logging. Later the EU was signing a free trade deal with Singapore.

In another conclusion that ran counter to U.S. policy, European and Asian leaders praised the Iran nuclear deal — another multilateral initiative rejected by Trump.

"Preserving the nuclear deal with Iran is a matter of respecting international agreements, and promoting international security, peace and stability," they said.

British-Pakistani cleric released from jail

IANS ■ LONDON

Radical preacher Anjem Choudary was released from prison on Friday after serving half of his sentence for urging support to the militant Islamic State group and pledging allegiance to it.

Choudary, 51, who was a key figure for a succession of extremist Islamist groups, emerged early morning from Belmarsh prison in southeast London. The 51-year-old former lawyer of Pakistani descent was sentenced in 2016 to five-and-a-half years in prison.



People attend a farewell ceremony in Kerch, Crimea on Friday

Afghanistan delays polls after Taliban attack

AFP ■ KABUL

Afghanistan postponed legislative elections in Kandahar province on Friday, after a Taliban-claimed attack on a US-Afghan security meeting killed a powerful police chief and threatened stability across the south.

Saturday's parliamentary ballot would be delayed by one week, a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani said in a statement, following an extraordinary meeting of the National Security Council.

The Independent Election Commission would announce the new date, he added.

Preparations for the vote in Kandahar, the Taliban's birth-

place, were thrown into turmoil on Thursday when a gunman wearing a security forces uniform opened fire on a gathering of US and Afghan officials.

General Scott Miller, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, escaped unhurt, but Kandahar police chief General Abdul Raziq was killed along with the head of the provincial intelligence unit

and an Afghan journalist.

Another 13 people were wounded in the assault inside the heavily fortified provincial governor's compound, including the governor and two Americans.

Voter turnout for the election — which is more than three years late — already was expected to be far lower than the 8.9 million people officially registered, following the Taliban's pledge to attack the ballot.

Raziq's death is likely to deter even more voters from showing up at the more than 5,000 polling centres around the country, which Afghanistan's overstretched security forces have been tasked with protecting.

More than 2,500 candidates are competing for 249 seats in the lower house, which is responsible for making laws and supervising the government.

Hundreds of people have been killed or wounded in poll-related violence so far. At least 10 candidates have been killed.

Despite the threat of violence, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on Friday urged eligible voters to "exercise their constitutional right to vote."

The poll is seen as a crucial test for next year's presidential election and an important milestone ahead of a UN meeting in Geneva in November where Afghanistan is under pressure to show progress on "democratic processes".

GLOBE TROTTER

BULGARIA INDICTS SUSPECT IN JOURNALIST KILLING

Sofia: Bulgarian prosecutors on Friday indicted a man accused of the rape and murder of a television journalist and the court hearing the case ordered him to remain in custody pending trial. Severin Krasimirov, 20, was handcuffed and under heavy guard when he appeared before the regional court in the northern town of Ruse.

SEVERE TURBULENCE INJURES 15 ON FLIGHT

Buenos Aires: An Argentine airline says fifteen passengers aboard a flight from Miami to Buenos Aires suffered minor injuries after their plane hit turbulence. Eight of the passengers were taken in for a second check-up. Aerolineas Argentinas said in a statement Thursday that the passengers were aboard Flight 1303 when their plane hit turbulence of "severe intensity."

TURKEY TO HOST 4-NATION SUMMIT ON SYRIA CRISIS

Ankara: A Turkish official says a summit between the leaders of Turkey, France, Germany and Russia will be held in Istanbul this month to discuss the conflict in Syria. Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, in a written statement Friday said a summit will take place on October 27.

TAIWAN: WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR PAPAL VISIT

Taipei: Taiwan said Friday it would continue to push for a papal visit to the island after the Vatican turned down its most recent invitation. Vice president Chen Chien-jen made the invitation during an audience with the pope Sunday as Taiwan seeks to deepen ties with its only ally in Europe after the Holy See signed a historic deal with Beijing.

FBI LEAKER JAILED FOR FOUR YEARS

Washington: A former FBI agent who leaked internal documents showing how the agency used racial profiling in counter-terror investigations was sentenced to four years in prison Thursday. In the third case this week to underscore the Trump administration's determined crackdown on media leaks, Terry Albury, a 17-year FBI veteran and son of an Ethiopian refugee, was ordered to prison for 48 months by a Minnesota judge after pleading guilty in the case.



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe waves as he departs an EU-ASEM summit in Brussels on Friday

Six dead in fire at Rohingya camp in Myanmar

AFP ■ YANGON

Six Rohingya were killed early on Friday after a blaze tore through an overcrowded camp for the persecuted minority in Myanmar's Rakhine State, the local fire service said.

Global attention has focused on the 720,000 Rohingya Muslims forced from the State's north into Bangladesh last year by a brutal military crackdown.

The UN Human Rights Council has accused top Myanmar generals of genocide over the bloody campaign, allegations the country strongly denies.

Sitharaman holds bilateral talks with her US, ASEAN counterparts in Singapore

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held a series of bilateral meetings with her counterparts from ASEAN nations and US Defence Secretary James Mattis on the sidelines of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meet here.

Defence Ministers from ASEAN countries and that of Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the US have gathered here for the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the 5th ADMM-Plus, which is being hosted by Singapore.

The ADMM and ADMM-Plus serves as key Ministerial-level platforms in the regional security architecture, promoting strategic dialogue and practical cooperation between ASEAN and its partners.

"Smt @nsitharaman in a bilateral meeting with #SecDef James Mattis, United States Secretary of Defense on the sidelines of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meet (Plus) in Singapore," the defence minister tweeted.

Sitharaman also met her Malaysian counterpart Mohamad bin Sabu, Australian Defence Minister Christopher Pyne, Philippines' Secretary of

National Defense Delfin Lorenzana and Vietnam Defence Minister Ngo Xuan Lich during her fast-paced day-long meetings.

She will also hold a bilateral meeting with her Singapore counterpart Dr Ng Eng Hen.

According to sources, India and Singapore will extend their already comprehensive bilateral defence collaboration. A new agreement is likely to be signed for the Army-to-Army collaboration as well as bilateral hosting of logistics and furthering supports for exchange visits by of naval vessels of the two countries, the sources said.

SHORT CIRCUITS

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

Badhaai Ho's success is an overwhelming and a humbling moment for me as an actor. As an artiste, I have always backed concepts, filmmakers who were doing clutter breaking work. I have been lucky enough in my journey to have got the right films and I'm thankful to all my filmmakers for believing in me.



USHA UTHUP

I represent a true *Bharatiya* (Indian). What I love about myself is that I am a *Madrasi* (Tamilian), I have studied in Mumbai, married to a Keralite and live in Kolkata. Isn't it amazing? I don't understand why people want to restrict themselves to a particular region they belong to.



KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN

The film (*Veere Di Wedding*) is quite different from what I have done previously. While the movies I have acted in had a male lead, this story revolves around four girls who are at different stages in their lives and their friendship. I am glad we made a film like this one.



CARDI B

There are things I want to do with my daughter. I want to go to the beach, want to take a stroll down the street with her. I don't know who's next to me now and their intentions. I don't want to show my baby to the public right now. I'm not mentally ready. So paparazzi be everywhere.

GIGI HADID

I loved my body when I was curvier. Then as I lost (the weight), people were still mean. I know I'm skinny. I'm looking in the mirror. I'm trying to eat burgers and do squats. I want an ass too. I get it. I got it. Thank you.



'Storytelling will never change'

Cinematographer HARIS ZAMBARLOUKOS talks about the emotional connect in films and working with Kenneth Branagh. By ASMITA SARKAR

Fantasy stories and films may be disregarded as content not serious enough but the thought process that goes into world building proves that it is no easy feat.

Creating the Marvel Universe, for instance, took decades with plots and subplots linking different superheroes and multiple individuals are invested in the process. Haris Zambarloukos, cinematographer, worked on the first Thor film (2011), which was directed by Kenneth Branagh.

Use of technology like VFX has become one of the elements of a fantasy film but Zambarloukos says that what really matters is the emotional content and how it connects with the audience. While technology has made the experience more real and immersive by taking the audience inside the film storytelling has not changed.

For him, technology is a way to delve into more unknown categories. However, it is crucial to maintain the emotional journey. Technology shouldn't distract you from the story, he says. "As filmmakers it is important to remember that technology is only a tool," he says. "Sometimes it is hard because you are taken in with what you can create visually and how far you can push boundaries of reality that you forget sometimes the underlying use of it," he adds.

The first time an audience saw a film, *The Arrival of a Train* (1896), they were so taken back to see a train coming towards them that they left the theatre causing almost a stampede. "The impact 100 years ago was also an emotional experience," says he.

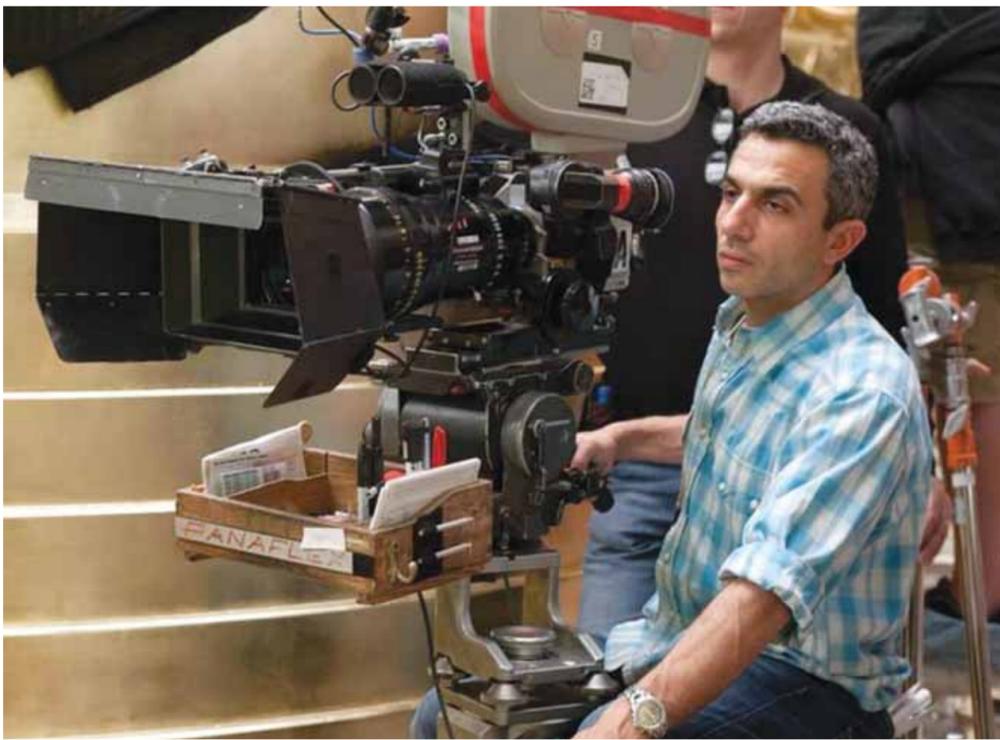
While talking about the

process of filmmaking he says that it is a collaborative effort and nobody's singular voice translates onto the screen. There are hundreds of people who work on a film and there are priorities like in any organisation. "At some point someone has to make the decision though," he says. "The best way to navigate through a film is by having a great director and script. Kenneth is a fantastic director who plays with emo-

THE FIRST TIME AN AUDIENCE SAW A FILM, THE ARRIVAL OF A TRAIN (1896), THEY WERE SO TAKEN BACK TO SEE A TRAIN COMING TOWARDS THEM THAT THEY LEFT THE THEATRE

tions very well. Thor is a family story and one of the central themes is sibling rivalry while the fights and affection from the father was the anchor. He used these to centre the audience's focus," he adds.

The cinematographer has worked with Kenneth on *Thor*, *Sleuths*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. "It has been a fantastic association. I like being his



way of storytelling and we have worked together for so long because of our mutual storytelling ambitions. He loves to tell stories about the human condition and so do I," he says.

His next project, *Artemis Fowl*, based on the science fiction novels written by Irish author Eoin Colfer, is his next. The series has had a huge following in the early 2000s when

they were released and the pressure runs high. "We wanted to remain authentic to the material but certain judgement calls have to be made. There are decisions made on the script before I am involved. They are made by the writer, director and producer," he says. The eight novels are about a teenage genius, who is also an anti-hero, and his adventures in a magical land where fairies exist.

The film is being adapted by Disney.

Having worked for twenty years so far, he says that he's never been overwhelmed and has handled every roadblock as a challenge. "I have been working with the same people for a long time and together we overcome the challenging situations," he says.

Apart from films being his passion it has also given him

more — his life partner — since he met his wife on the sets of *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. "The achievements as a cinematographer are an every day affair but this film is close to my heart personally because I met my wife while shooting for it," he says.

Thor Ragnarok will premiere on October 28 at 1 pm and 9 pm on Star Movies for the first time in India.

#METOO ISN'T ABOUT BASHING MEN'

Actress CHITRANGDA SINGH feels that the movement is not a battlefield for genders

The beginning of every change is when we start talking about it. And the talk has started. Realistically speaking, there is a huge difference in Western society and us. Just because we watch English shows and movies doesn't make us that society.

"There is a difference in our society and in our thought process, and that is the reason why we can't have a similar #MeToo movement in India," Chitragda said. "I want to quote Tanushree Dutta here. She was right in saying that for a #MeToo movement to happen, society has to create that atmosphere. We need to be ready in our intent, not just an idea," added the actress.

The actress feels men and women need to come together to bring about change.

"I don't think any movement works with just one gender going on about it, till the time the other gender doesn't come and stand next to you. Until the time the men in our society don't feel that it is their responsibility to come and stand next to that woman and make her feel safe, it (the impact of #MeToo) is very difficult."

Chitragda stressed that "it is not at all about men versus women."

"It is about making our society safe. It is not male bashing at all. #MeToo movement is for men as well."

After making quite an impact in the West, the #MeToo wave has swept into Bollywood and beyond following Tanushree revisiting an unpleasant episode with veteran actor Nana Patekar on the sets of *Horn 'OK' Pleassss* in 2008.

It has brought out many dark truths from the world of Bollywood, with women coming out to name and shame their predators. Big names like Vikas Bahl, Chetan Bhagat, Gursimran Khambra, Kailash Kher, Rajat Kapoor, Alok Nath, Anu Malik and Sajid Khan have been named for using their position to exploit the vulnerable. Multiple female actors, journalists and others have accused the famous names of sexual harassment and in some cases, rape. Those who stood by silently like Anurag Kashyap while the perpetrators roamed free have also had to become accountable. Kashyap resigned from the position of director of MAMI. Chitragda, who has worked in the film *Inkaar*, which was based on sexual harassment at the work place, supported Tanushree.

"I believe her. I want to hear what Nana has to say. But my only take on this...

and I am not only saying this for Tanushree... is that if there is truth, then it must be heard.

It doesn't matter whether she came out after three years or five years or ten years.

"If there was rape or molestation or any kind of harassment — whether it happened now or five years ago, and if the person is choosing to talk about it now, you have to listen to her. It doesn't make that rape or molestation or assault or harassment any less," added the actress.

What hurts her most in the ongoing debate is when people say: "Tab kyun nahi boli (why didn't you say then)?"

"Are you serious? Are you kidding me that you would come up with a return like this? That is shocking and disheartening," she said.

However, she understands the problem behind it. "It is because somewhere men feel that they need to be defensive. It is not about men versus women. They should feel an ownership of the fact that if she is saying the right thing, we need to stand with her. Just stand with the right."

She feels the onus lies on the media to keep the dialogue on. "Please don't make it as a sensational headline and let it pass and move to the next — this is my request to the media."

The actress will be seen next in Gaurav K Chawla's *Baazaar*. —JANS



'Difficult to defend oneself in Bollywood'

2018 has been a fantastic year for women empowerment. Now, for the first time in the history of *Koffee with Karan*, Karan Johar is all set to lay down the carpet for two of the most powerful young divas, Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone, of Bollywood to open the talk show's new Season 6.

Deepika talks about how it's not easy to stand up for each other in Bollywood

While *Padmavat* turned out to be one of the biggest blockbusters, Deepika continues to be disappointed because she feels that there wasn't any need to be in that space, in the first place. When Karan asked if she felt she received adequate support from within the industry, she said, they mostly did. Adding, "Standing up for yourself is not always taken in the right sense" While the Bollywood fraternity always stands together as a family, there are times when it's difficult to openly speak up about some issue.

For everyone who ever said that Bollywood's leading ladies cannot see eye to eye, this episode is sure to be a huge surprise as Alia and Deepika charm everyone with their all their pizzazz and #GirlPower.

The episode will see them set the house on fire with their candidness as they spill some beans on some of the most well guarded secrets by the dazzling beauties.

Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone will be the first guests to grace the sensational *Koffee couch* on October 21 at 9PM on Star World.

OLD SOUL

Actor RIDDHI SEN speaks to A SARKAR about the unconventional life he has lived while growing up in a household full of talented performers

looked like a fish out of water but the moment I entered a theatre hall I was exuberant and happy. So they thought 'why should we force our kid to do something he doesn't like?'" he said.

When not working, he spends most of his time with his family and two friends, all of whom comprise of his close-knit friend circle. He doesn't believe in partying or clubbing or even being on social media. "I started using Twitter for promotions. I am not on Instagram," he said, unlike the millennial star children of Bollywood. We met him on the eve of the release of his Hindi film, *Helicopter Eela*, in which he played a central character with Kajol.

"It would take me to a wider audience. I am proud of the Hindi movies I did before. At the transformative age of 16-20, you don't really get roles which are interesting. I have been lucky about carving out a niche for myself from a young age, he stopped conventional schooling right after finishing his class 10. "My parents knew that physics and chemistry is not going to help me at the end of the day. Acting is what I actually want to do in life. My parents supported me silently even though lots of people said a lot of things," he said.

He started out with helping with stage craft and light design at his father's 25-year-old theatre group Swapnasandhani. "My mother says that when I came out of school at the end of the day I



'I owe everything to my family. The most important thing while growing up is the ambience you see around since kids pick up from it'

young actor believes that the duration of his screen time doesn't make a difference if the character that he plays contributes to the script.

"As long as a script is not giving out a wrong or derogatory message which will be harmful for the society I am okay with it. And my character can have three or 15 scenes but if there's something the character is contributing to the script I am okay with it," he said.

Before taking on *Helicopter Eela* he didn't know that Ajay Devgn will be producing it. He has worked with Devgn's production house in an earlier project, *Parched*, which had run into controversy over some bold scenes in the film.

In Devgn's latest home production, Kajol played Riddhi's mother and the film centres around the struggles and strains on their relationship when she enrolls at his college. He describes working with Kajol as "beautiful".

"She is what she is. The interviews I read of her 15 years ago and now, nothing has changed. Her value system is so strong. I love people who don't pretend and she speaks her mind. Seeing that from close proximity has been beautiful. When you're doing a movie what you take back are the memories of the people you meet. If you dread going back to the set every morning it means that you're not enjoying," he said.

He remembers being treated like family by the cast and crew when he received the news of winning the National Award in 2018 while shooting for *Helicopter Eela*.

"Pradeep da announced it on the microphone and everyone was congratulating each other. They got a cake for me. What I loved is that when I got the news it was for what I love doing the most and I went right back to it in 10 minutes. It's a rare moment," he said.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

ENCOUNTER 20 MINUTES

THE STRANDED CHARACTER

As the season seven of *Arrow* hits TV screens, actor STEPHEN AMELL addresses a few questions that were left unanswered in the previous season



It was Oliver Queen's life that went kaboom as the season six of *Arrow* concluded. So what's in store for its viewers this season? We learn it from Oliver himself.

■ In the season six finale, Oliver Queen went to jail after declaring he was Green Arrow. Where do we find the character as the season seven begins? Does he have any allies in jail?

Oliver is in prison with a bunch of people that he put in prison. It's not good. It's really bad.

And no, he doesn't. He's on his own. Oliver is trying to keep his head down and to manage his time. He's taking it day by day, step by step. He hasn't had any contact with Felicity (Smoak, played by Emily Bett Rickards). He's just trying to press on.

■ On an emotional and mental level, how does Oliver cope with prison?

He copes really badly. In the premiere episode of season seven, there's nothing about him that's heroic. It's pretty much the opposite. Prison life is really tough. As an actor, I'm really enjoying myself. I'm having a really good time playing Oliver, but it's been tough for the character.

■ How does he cope with being separated from his family and his team?

Badly. That's my whole answer. He deals with everything badly.

■ How would you describe a day in the life of Oliver Queen in prison? Is he constantly watching his back?

That pretty much sums up his life behind the bars. He's in prison with a bunch of people that he put in prison, so he's always got to watch his back. In some ways the situation is great because we got some great people to come back to the show that we haven't seen in a while.

■ To give an example?

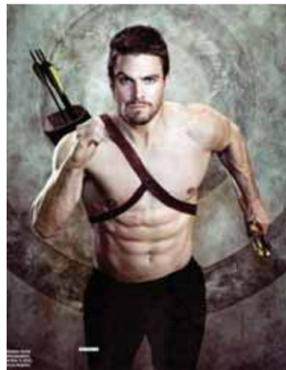
I'm afraid that's a secret for now. I can't reveal any names currently. Absolutely not. But I was

really thankful that some of the people have come back. There are some people that we hadn't seen in a reasonable amount of time, but that's all I can say. It's really cool to see them back in the show.

■ Did you watch any prison movies to inspire your portrayal of Oliver Queen behind bars?

Not really. In the first episode (of season seven), I took a lot of inspiration from our director, James Bamford. I don't know how much of it will end up in the episode but we did a lot of stuff where I stared down the barrel of the camera. There's a lot of material from Oliver's perspective. We really try to show that perspective in this season.

■ Will fans see a new side to the character in prison? How long will the character stay in prison with all the craziness happening outside?



You know what? The thing that I like about Oliver right now is the fact that he's not heroic. In season seven, it's the complete opposite of that. In the past, he has always been the one to take charge and solve problems. He would save people. But that's not what he's doing in the premiere. And he has a life sentence.

■ Will he stick to that?

Well, Oliver can break out of prison at any point of time. However, the terms of the deal he made means that he will stay inside. I talked about this a lot with Beth Schwartz because I kept saying, 'We know that Oliver can break out of prison at any point, right?' No, he's behind the bars. He is inside. And Oliver has effectively no contact with the outside world. His prison time is literally just the prison time.

■ Looking back at season six, what was your standout moment from last season?

I really liked the finale. I liked Oliver's moments with everyone in that episode. My scene with Emily (Bett Rickards), where I'm telling her what I'm going to do. That was a highlight for me. And my last scene with Paul (Blackthorne, who played Quentin Lance) was another. I feel sad just thinking about it. That was intense, too.

■ The CW announced the crossover between the Arrowverse and Batwoman at their upfront event in May. How long has the crossover been in works?

They told me about it two days before the upfront, but it was very exciting. To be honest, I was thankful that they had me back for the upfront. They don't always bring back shows that are running because they often want to talk about their new shows. To be there and to make that announcement was really cool. I think it showed a lot of faith in me and I appreciate it.

■ How does it feel to have an iconic character like Batwoman join the Arrowverse?

It's absolutely awesome. I don't think this character has ever been done in a live-action project, right? That's fantastic. I hope it's great. I'm really glad that they're doing a show with the character. I hope it works out. David Rappaport nailed the casting with Grant (Gustin, in *The Flash*) and Melissa (Benoist, in *Supergirl*). Me? Maybe. But I'm sure he has nailed the casting with Batwoman, too. It's going to be fantastic.

■ When Oliver finally gets out of the prison, what are your thoughts on him meeting Batwoman?

Wait... Oliver is getting out of the prison? Maybe. I don't know anything about that. Hopefully he'll be out of prison to interact with Batwoman. That's a spoiler, right? Well, I'm very excited. I'm also very excited that they are considering doing a series with the character. I think that's amazing.

■ What can you tease about Oliver's interaction with Batwoman in the crossover?

Oliver's interaction with Batwoman in the crossover is not the interaction that I'm most interested in. For that too, he has to get out of prison first.

■ Apart from the appearance of Batwoman, what else can you tease about the season's crossover?

What can I say? I feel like there's a character in the crossover that nobody actually knows about yet, which is also very exciting. Do watch this space.

(The show airs on *Colors Infinity* at 11 pm.)

HOME DECOR 10 MINUTES



Bring in the joy

Architectural designer SARABJIT SINGH shares tips on how to give a makeover to your house this festive season

With the festive season around the corner, decorate your home elegantly with the right accessories, colours, and much more.

Festive colours: Use traditionally vibrant or bold colours to add in a festive effect to your home. Ochre, lime green and crimson red are the ideal colours to enhance and jazz up any space.

Décor items to own: Today, with the array of décor items on offer, households feel spoilt for choice and find them to be an imperative part of a festive house makeover. For me, a large cluster of hanging lanterns in a nice metal finish with cutwork motifs is a must-have décor item this festive season.

Re-arrange your furniture: Festivals mean an inflow of guests, which often leads to space issues. Move your furniture around, let the sofa be closer to the wall and table in the centre. This will bring in a change and make your space look bigger. You can also use ethnic inspired cushions, throws, screens in wood or metal and hanging lanterns to make your space look more festive without altering your furniture. Use lots of cushions and sofas dressed in a mix match of colours. You could opt for an ottoman instead of a centre table to give a spacious vibe to your space.

Re-do your walls: Use a mirror mosaic with a mix of mirrors of different sizes



collected from various places over time and fixed in unique patterns so that the reflection in the mirrors makes the space look bigger

and lighter. Further, a marigold or lotus motif in brass repeated on any wall in a random pattern would surely help add a festive pop to your space. I would also recommend using brass screens and decorative hanging lights with auspicious brass motifs to complete your Diwali look.

Mix and match modern and traditional elements: Use a mix of traditional and modern elements such as mason jar candle stands with candles of different colours, paper lanterns and wine glass candle holders to create a unique, festive look.

CAUSE 15 MINUTES

Creating cross-border conversations

What do pilgrims in Punjab's Dera Baba Nanak feel when faith travels across the border to Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan through binoculars or a telescope? At a time, when borders have mental images as frontiers of cross-fire, illegal crossings and violence, a documentary filmmaker intends to humanise them and create conversations on cross-border relationships.

Director Samarth Mahajan, 27, comes from Dinanagar, a small town situated 10 miles from the India-Pakistan border. Interactions with borderland citizens was a way of life in his growing-up years.

After his National Award-winning non-feature film *The Unreserved*, which was an inquiry into the lives of passengers who use the unreserved compartment in trains, the idea of *The Borderlands* struck him. "During *The Unreserved*, we met a young Kashmiri guy who told us how he supported Pakistan while his brother, being an army man, supported India. The conversation ended with him telling us that if he got a job in India, he would start supporting India too."

"It taught us something about the fluidity that a borderland citizen might experience due to the 'other' country being an immediate reality," said Mahajan. This piqued his interest, resulting in researching stories from border areas. "We found such counter-intuitive narratives that we had to start making the film. In the current context, when borders are

Growing up while interacting with borderland citizens, documentary maker SAMARTH MAHAJAN narrates how he aims to take the concept of boundaries much beyond Indo-Pak

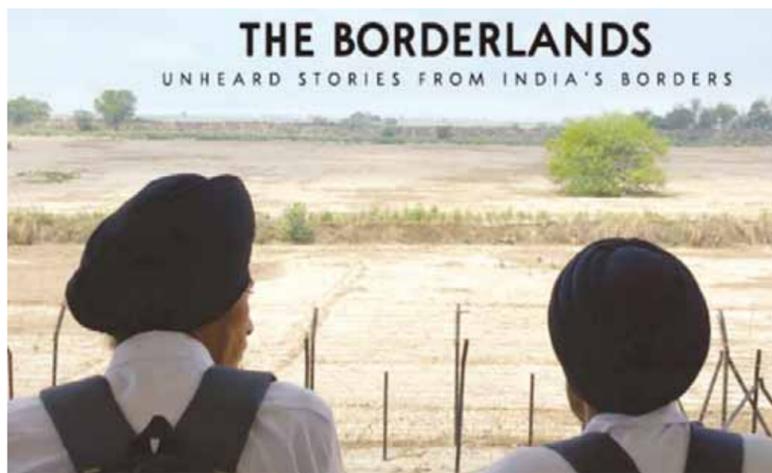
being used as a divisive tool and depicted as hubs of violence, we intend to humanise them and create conversations on cross-border relationships," he added.

The intent of the film's team — camera and shorts — is to explore all of India's borders.

"Our journey is divided over three phases, Kutch to Punjab, then Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, and then our borders with Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. We feel a film will be representative of the title *The Borderlands*, only when we move beyond the set image of borders being the Indo-Pak border or the LoC in Kashmir," he said.

For example, he said, they are looking at how families cope when, in Diu and Kutch, fishermen looking for a better catch often drift into Pakistan's waters and are consequently jailed. Or how, in Jaisalmer and Barmer, grooms from a Pakistani Hindu community visit border towns in Rajasthan in search of brides. Can such alliances break stereotypes?

The research for the project involves a mix of visits to border towns in Punjab, Rajasthan and



Gujarat, talking to locals, watching previous visual works on India's borderlands, reading travel books and ethnographic accounts of researchers.

Mahajan, who has taken the crowdfunding route through 'Wishberry' for the movie, feels it could be image-changing for people who have grown up in the mainlands to know about life in the borders.

"As mainland citizens, it is quite easy for us to say that we want to wage war with another country, without having any idea of the effects on the lives of people there. We are hardly taught to comprehend what it means to

belong to a nation. Borderland narratives can shed a new understanding of fluidity in identities and movement across borders," said Mahajan.

When the film takes complete shape — by April 2020 — Mahajan hopes for a theatrical release for *The Borderlands* in tier-I and tier-II cities. They are in talks with a few digital platforms. "Our bare minimum budget for the film is ₹25 lakh, yet to do it at the scale which the idea deserves, we need funds to the tune of ₹1 crore. The crowdfunding campaign has inspired us by proving that people trust our idea and ability," But has the market for documentaries

opened up in India? "The market is improving with the springing up of digital platforms like Netflix and Amazon which have dedicated sections for non-fiction films. There is still a gap between traditional distributors and non-fiction filmmakers. The distribution networks for documentary films remain fragmented and non-fiction filmmakers continue to shy away from taking professional routes of distributing their films due to fears about return on investment of time and energy. "There is a dearth of development funds, which is a major reason why we decided to crowdfund," Mahajan said.

Weaving hope

To mark October as the breast cancer awareness month and raise funds for patients' treatments, a gallery here will exhibit and sell artwork-printed carpets, gallerist-doctor Tarana Khubchandani said.

Titled *cARTPet*, the event will put out hand-woven and tufted carpets reproduced from key artworks of 22 renowned Indian artists, including S.H. Raza, Satish Gujral, Thota Vaikuntam, Paresh Maity and Ram Kumar.

The exhibition and sale, from October 22 to November 1, will culminate her and curator Brinda Miller's two years of art collection work.

The exhibition preview on October 21 will also host an awareness session where doctors and women could converse about breast cancer.

Khubchandani, a breast cancer survivor herself, narrates a fascinating backstory behind the carpet exhibition.

"I started by NGO Passages in 1998, the core motivation behind which was the realisation that when a woman at home falls sick, everything collapses around her. We started addressing women's issues as an awareness platform," the oral surgeon said.

However, even for a medical practitioner, the dearth of conversations around breast cancer was alarming.

"There wasn't one other person in my age group who I could ask for guidance," Khubchandani said, adding that the NGO's focus soon shifted to raising awareness about breast cancer.

"I started looking out for ways how women can be empowered. I also penned a helpbook *Whispering Hope* for those diagnosed with it. It touches on the



process of treatment, nutrition, and finding courage," she said.

The NGO, which pays for the treatment of many cancer patients, soon felt the need for funding, leading to the set-up of Mumbai-based gallery, Art and Soul in 2003. Now most of the fundraising comes from art events.

Once a Blues- Mourinho returns to Stamford Bridge

Struggling to find form this season, Jose's Manchester visit Chelsea for high voltage clash; City play host to Burnley; Liverpool face Huddersfield

AGENCIES ■ LONDON

All eyes will be on Stamford Bridge on Saturday when Jose Mourinho returns to face the club he managed twice in his career.

Mourinho goes back to Chelsea's home ground in charge of Manchester United and still under pressure following a poor start to the season. The Portuguese coach saved a possible 'match-ball' when his side fought back from 2-0 down at home to Newcastle United to win 3-2 thanks to an injury time goal from Alexis Sanchez.

Defeat to Newcastle would almost certainly have cost Mourinho his job, but Alexis' late goal now sets up a fascinating encounter against a Chelsea side that is currently second in the Premier League and level on 20 points with league leaders Manchester City.

New Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri has implemented a free-flowing attacking style of play that his players are clearly enjoying and that contrasts with Mourinho's conservative approach.

Although the London-based club perhaps lack a truly world class centre forward, with Alvaro Morata and Olivier Giroud guilty of missing chances, they have Eden Hazard in outstanding form as rumours over his future don't seem to be affecting the Belgian international.

The game sees some fascinating individual



Chelsea's manager Maurizio Sarri, left, Manchester United's boss Jose Mourinho; (right) Liverpool's forward duo of Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino celebrates after Firmino scores



Liverpool's forward duo of Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino celebrates after Firmino scores

battles with French international midfielders N'golo Kante and Paul Pogba on opposite sides, while Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga and his Manchester United counterpart are currently second and first choice in the Spanish national team.

More than anything, the game will be about contrasting styles: Chelsea's willingness to attack and to get their full backs into advanced positions and Mourinho's instincts to defend. However, the Newcastle game showed that one thing is clear - when Manchester United do attack, they do it well.

Two weeks ago Mourinho had no alterna-

Chelsea vs Man Utd
Live from 5:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1



Premier League

Other than to throw his players forward and they responded by saving his job. Could he spring a surprise at Stamford Bridge or will he revert to defensive type?

Saturday also sees Manchester City in action as they entertain an improving Burnley. Kevin de Bruyne could return in some capacity for Pep Guardiola's side after suffering a knee injury earlier this season.

Liverpool travel to face a Huddersfield side who are without a win this campaign, while on Sunday, Arsenal look to make it 10 consecutive wins under Unai Emery as they entertain Leicester City.

There is a south-coast derby between sixth place Bournemouth and Southampton which should provide goals and a tense London derby between West Ham and Tottenham Hotspur.

Newcastle United will hope that Brighton can provide their first win of the campaign, while Cardiff City also aim to claim their first triumph since returning to the top-flight at home to Fulham.

Wolves entertain Watford, whose bubble has burst spectacularly after winning their first four matches of the season.

Everton look to consolidate their improvement under Marco Silva at home to Crystal Palace, who need to recover some of the form they showed at the start of the season in order to calm a few nerves.

Barcelona and Real look for revival

AFF ■ MADRID

Real Madrid and Barcelona cannot avoid heading into next week's Clasico under pressure but each have two games to lift the mood at least, ahead of the pivotal clash at the Camp Nou.

Eight games into La Liga and both Julen Lopetegui and Ernesto Valverde are feeling the heat, forced to defend poor runs that have seen their teams manage a combined total of two wins from their last 10 games.

Madrid's slump feels the more entrenched, given they are without a goal in 360 minutes, discounting injury time, and three of their last four matches have ended in defeat.

While Barca can point to their riveting win at Wembley over Tottenham, and then a point gained in Valencia, Madrid have endured successive setbacks away to CSKA Moscow and Alaves.

They have two home games to clear the fog, and winnable ones too, against Levante in La Liga on Saturday before Viktoria Plzen visit on Tuesday in the Champions League.

A pair of victories, and just as importantly, some goals, would earn Lopetegui much-needed breathing space.

He is already being asked about his future in the same job he sacrificed Spain and the World Cup for in June.

"A coach does not think about this, we are in October," Lopetegui said after Alaves' first league win at home to Real Madrid since 1931.

"The only positive is we are close to the top of the league, the most important thing now is to recover the injured players and then calmness will come by winning games and scoring goals."

Injuries have certainly not helped. Marcelo and Iso are both expected back against Levante while Gareth Bale has been training again this week, albeit on his own. All three would provide an attacking boost.

Karim Benzema is struggling with a hamstring strain but the forward might anyway be less missed.

Seven games without a goal have seen calls grow louder for Mariano Diaz to be given a chance and Lopetegui may now be able to oblige, without the unwanted dig at the Frenchman's confidence.

Lopetegui is also right to draw comfort from the table, as Barcelona's stumbles mean his team are only two points off the top, where Sevilla are the surprise front-runners.

Barcelona vs Sevilla
Live from 12:15am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK



Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring



LaLiga

BARCA FACE TABLE-TOPPERS SEVILLA

Barca face Sevilla on Saturday night in an unexpected duel of first and second, where the onus will be on Valverde's men to make a statement. Sevilla have won four league games on the bounce and, in one of those, thumped Real Madrid 3-0.

They also continue a run of blockbuster ties for Barca, which has already included Spurs and Valencia, and will stretch deep into November.

After Sevilla, they play at home to Inter Milan on Wednesday and Real Madrid on Sunday. At the start of next month, they face Inter again in Italy, Atletico Madrid and Real Betis.

A win this weekend and Barcelona might feel a corner has been turned. Level with the Catalans are Atletico Madrid, whose resurgence after a slow start is already in full swing.

"We are the annoying team, that will always come between Barcelona and Real Madrid," said Antoine Griezmann last week. Atletico visit struggling Villarreal on Saturday, looking to make it eight games unbeaten.

The real surprise leaders of the weekend, however, could be Alaves, who were playing in Spanish football's third tier only five years ago. They will go top, even if only temporarily, with a win away at Celta Vigo on Friday.

Srikanth slays Lin Dan

PTI ■ ODENSE

Kidambi Srikanth defeated the legendary Lin Dan for the second time in his career to set up an all-Indian quarterfinal against Sameer Verma at the Denmark Open here.

World number six Srikanth bounced back to beat the world number 14 from China 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the second round clash played on Thursday night.

Dan, a two-time Olympic Gold medalist and five-time world champion, is not the player he used to be but is still a force to reckon with. It was

a fifth meeting between Srikanth and Dan and the Chinese great won the last time they played, in the quarterfinals of the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Srikanth had famously scored his maiden win over Dan to win the 2014 China Open.

After a tough match against the Chinese, Srikanth will have to play fellow Indian Verma in the quarterfinals to be held later on Friday night. World number 23 Verma had beaten 2018 Asian Games Gold medalist, Jonathan Christie of Indonesia, in his second round match.

INDIA MAUL OMAN 11-0 IN OPENER

Competition starts with Pak clash: Harendra

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Indian men's hockey team chief coach Harendra Singh says his team has shrugged off the disappointment of the Jakarta Games and is looking forward to the keenly awaited contest against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asian Champions Trophy here on Saturday.

Title holders India started the tournament with a runaway 11-0 victory over hosts Oman, while former champions Pakistan will take on South Korea in their first fixture.

"The competitive part of the tournament starts with the match against Pakistan," said Harendra, who admitted the dejection within the squad when they failed to defend the Asian Games title in Jakarta.

"After the semi-final loss in the Asian Games, the mood was not good for a few days. The disappointment of not winning the Gold is still playing on the minds of the players somewhat, but we cannot keep thinking of the past," he said. India, however, managed to secure Bronze with a win over Pakistan.

"We are now focused on this tournament and the side is shaping

well. Nine of our players scored goals against Oman in the first outing here. A victory here in the Asian Champions Trophy will be a good path for the World Cup just over a month away. This tournament is close of the World Cup, we need competitive matches and we are getting them," he said.

Pakistan Skipper Rizwan Senior insisted that his team is not thinking about the India game yet.

"Our first priority is to make a winning start against Korea on Friday. They have made about eight changes in their team and since we don't know too much about what these new players bring to the team, we have to be quite cautious against them," he said.

But yes, India-Pakistan matches are always good for the audience and this will be the first time the two teams will be playing in Muscat as naturally the excitement is high among hockey lovers here. Hopefully, we will live up to the expectations and ensure it will be a thrilling match."



Coach Harendra Singh says his team has shrugged off the disappointment of the Jakarta Games and is looking forward to the keenly awaited contest against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asian Champions Trophy here on Saturday.



Indian players celebrate after scoring against Oman in the Asian Champions Trophy clash. India will next face Pakistan in the 2nd match

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Young striker Dilpreet Singh scored a hat-trick as India launched their title defence with a runaway 11-0 victory over hosts Oman in the Asian Champions Trophy.

After being denied in the first quarter, India opened the scoring through Lalit Upadhyay's goal in open play in the 17th minute.

Three more goals followed in the second quarter of the match played on Thursday night as Harmanpreet Singh (22nd minute) sounded the board with a low drag-flick, followed by Nilakanta Sharma (23rd minute), who flicked in during a goalmouth scrimmage and Mandeep Singh (30th minute), who capitalised on a pass

from the right flank.

Having started with two forays into the Indian circle in the first quarter, Oman wilted under pressure in the second half.

Dilpreet scored three goals (41st, 55th and 57th minute) and was adjudged Man of the Match, while Gurjant Singh (37th minute), Akashdeep Singh (27th minute), Varun Kumar (49th minute) and Chinglensana Singh (53rd minute) also made entries on the score-sheet.

Elated at his first Man of the Match performance for the senior national team, Dilpreet credited his teammates for creating opportunities.

"It was not just an individual effort. My teammates created the



openings for me to score the goals," he said.

Oman team's coach Tahir Zaman said he expected India to go all out, but was upset at the errors by his defenders.

"We gave away four or five goals that should not have been there. We were playing against Asia's highest-ranked team. Our target was to sustain and absorb the pressure that was expected from India," said Zaman, a former Pakistan captain.

"Despite the highly skilled opponents, our team did well to create some scoring opportunities in the first quarter. But the difference in quality became evident as the game proceeded," he added.

Win-or-bust for Vettel in Texas

AFF ■ AUSTIN

Sebastian Vettel will take a win-or-bust approach to this weekend's title showdown at the United States Grand Prix, the German driver told reporters on Thursday.

Speaking ahead of Sunday's race in which he will make a last-ditch bid to stop Lewis Hamilton beating him to a fifth title triumph, the German said he plans to be as 'aggressive' as possible.

Fellow-four-time champion Hamilton of Mercedes will take the championship if he outscores Vettel of Ferrari by eight points.

"I think it's simple for us," said Vettel. "We're quite some points behind so we have to focus on winning and then see what the others are doing."

"It's quite straightforward for us, to be honest. I always try to win and I think you have to be aggressive to win, and of course you need to find the right balance."

"You never try to do something silly or not to finish, because that way you can't win." I know what it takes, I know what to do, so in that regard it's fairly similar, but for sure we know that we need to take a bit more risk because we are not in a position to manage the gap in the championship, because we don't have a gap."

Looking back on recent races in the championship, he said it was clear that Mercedes had been superior.

"It's pretty obvious, you just have to look at the points," he said. "For us, unfortunately, some of the



Sebastian Vettel poses for a photo ahead of US Grand Prix

aces didn't go our way at all and they were able to benefit from that, but they were very strong benefiting from that.

"It's not just that we stepped aside and they were there — I think they had to do their job and they did it to get the points. Obviously it hurt us, but well played to them."

Bajrang leads India at Wrestling Worlds

PTI ■ BUDAPEST

Asian Games Gold medalist Bajrang Punia will be India's best bet for a medal in the World Wrestling Championship as a 30-member team seeks a strong performance in the the flagship event beginning here on Saturday.

Already a Bronze winner at the 2013 World Championship, Bajrang has come a long way in last five years, establishing himself as a force to reckon with in the 65kg category.

He was ignored for the prestigious Khel Ratna Award last month but he has left behind the snub and trained hard to have a shot at bettering the colour of his 2013 medal.

Considering the ease with which he won Gold at the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, Bajrang will be one of the medal favourites. The only Indian to be seeded at this championship, Bajrang will compete on the second day of the championship on Sunday.

With Russia's Ilya Bekbulatov, a Silver medal winner at the 2018 European championship pulling out, Turkey's top seed Selahattin Kilicallayan would be the one to watch out for in the 65kg category.

"We have had very good training sessions since the past couple of weeks followed by quality sparring. We also had the chance to take a good look at the opponent wrestlers and I am confident that we will not fall short on the mat," said



Bajrang Punia celebrates after win

Bajrang.

Vinesh Phogat would have been another strong medal contender in the women's 50kg but an elbow injury ruled her out. Her cousin Ritu Phogat will now present India's challenge. It remains to be seen how Olympic Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik performs here as she has been struggling for some time.

Post her Rio Olympics high, she has not got

the desired results. The mentally fragile grappler barely managed to win a Bronze at the Gold Coast CWG and returned empty-handed from Jakarta Asian Games.

"We have been sparring regularly and the mood in the squad is really great and positive. The sparring with wrestlers from other countries have also helped us and we are ready for the challenges but we will put up our best efforts saved for the bouts," said Sakshi.

The bouts will begin on Saturday in four men's freestyle categories and the most prominent Indian wrestler to take the mat would be Jitender, who was drafted in the 74kg category after celebrated but struggling Sushil Kumar pulled out.

Also in action would be Sonba Tanaji Gongane (61kg) Pawan Kumar (86kg) and Sumit (125kg).

Freestyle chief coach Jagminder Singh is confident that the Indians will put up a spirited fight. "All the boys have put in that extra bit. The acclimatization and arriving here in advance have helped the wrestlers to not only help to adjust but the optimized training sessions have ensured our grapplers are in all in good shape. We have prepared well and are confident we can create history at this Championships," he said.

Sushil Kumar remains India's lone Gold medalist at the World Championships, where India has so far managed to win only seven medals.

Dibaba ready for Jepkosgei challenge

Ethiopian star says she's fully fit to compete in Delhi Half Marathon and ready to compete for 1st prize

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethiopia's distance running great Tirunesh Dibaba on Friday declared herself fit for Sunday's Airtel Delhi Half Marathon despite having a recovery period of just five weeks from the gruelling Berlin Marathon.

Three Olympic Gold winner in 5,000m and 10,000m, Dibaba ran an outstanding time of 2:18:55 at the Berlin Marathon on September 16 but she said she has recovered quickly despite the short amount of time between the two races.

She said she is ready to challenge for the first prize cheque of \$ 27,000 — the richest half marathon winner's jackpot in the world — in the Capital city on Sunday.

"One of my plans was to run a 21K (half marathon) after Berlin and my manager told me about Delhi, and I thought it was a good idea," said Dibaba, who has turned into one of the world's top road runners after a medal-laden track and cross country career.

"I've recovered more-or-less, although I wanted to run faster in Berlin. I've come to Delhi with the first target of winning. I'm not thinking about times too much," added Dibaba.

The ADHM course record of 66:54 was set by Kenya's Mary Keitany in 2009. Current half marathon world record holder Joyciline Jepkosgei said weather conditions would be key in the race on Sunday.

"I'm very happy to be here, it's a privilege to meet Indian people, and I'm looking to run a fast time. Of course, it all depends on the weather and climate," added the diminutive Kenyan who holds the world record of 64:51 set in October 2017.

She missed out competing in India last year after her world record feat but Kenya's star is all geared up to scorch the roads of the national capital this time.

Jepkosgei is the current women's half marathon world record holder with a timing of 1 minute 04.51 seconds, which she clocked while winning in



Half Marathon world record holder Joyciline Jepkosgei and Olympic Gold medalist Tirunesh Dibaba pose with their bibs

Valencia (Spain) on October 22 last year. She had planned to run in the 2017 Delhi Half Marathon, which was held on November 19 but later dropped as she had less than a month's recovery time after the world record feat in Valencia.



Jepkosgei rose to stardom when she broke four world records in a single race in the Prague Half Marathon in April 2017

"Last year, I had planned to run in Delhi but it was held less than one month after Valencia. The recovery time was very less and so I dropped the idea. But this time I am here and I am excited to give my best on Sunday," Jepkosgei said at the sidelines of elite athletes unveiling event.

However it will not be so easy for

Jepkosgei's as she will be up against Ethiopia's Tirunesh Dibaba, who is arguably the greatest ever woman distance runner in the world in a career spanning more than 15 years.

"It is a tough field on Sunday and it is an honour to be running along with Tirunesh. I don't have any particular time in my mind but I am give my best to win the race and will see the timing according to the race conditions," said Jepkosgei.

The rise of Jepkosgei has been phenomenal as she had started her professional career in 2014-15 only.

Jepkosgei rose to stardom when she broke four world records in a single race in the Prague Half Marathon in April last year. She won the race in then half marathon (21.0975 km) world record time of 64:52. She also set 10K, 15K and 20K world records during that race.

On October 22, she bettered her half marathon world record to 64:51. Delhi has a reputation as a flat and fast course, demonstrated by the times posted by the leading runners in recent years, and the 14th edition of the ADHM — which has established itself as one of the world's leading races over the distance — is expected to have good running conditions on the race day.

The men's race will see 2016 Olympic marathoners Gopi Thonakal and Nitender Singh Rawat go head-to-head, the former also the 2017 Asian marathon champion and the latter the leading Indian man in last year's ADHM.

The target for both men is not only Rawat's Indian ADHM best of 63:53 set in 2017 but the national record of Bugatha Shrinu from Bhopal in 2016.

"Fifteen years ago, there was no road running culture in India and now we have world record holders and Olympic champions coming here. This is something India can be very proud of," said Vivek Singh, joint managing director of race promoters Procram International.

"The fact that runners like Tirunesh (Dibaba) and Joyciline (Jepkosgei) have chosen the ADHM over the many other race options they had it a great statement for this event and for India," he added.

DELHI, MUMBAI BATTLE FOR BEST

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A daring Delhi will have to be at their best to upstage the mighty Mumbai when the traditional domestic powerhouses square off in the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Saturday.

Both teams have their bases covered though Delhi have an upper hand in the pace department with Navdeep Saini and Kulwant Khejroliya doing the job for the team in helpful conditions at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Mumbai, on the other hand, have a star-studded batting line-up comprising India's Test deputy Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw and in-form captain Shreyas Iyer.

With the firepower they possess, Mumbai should not be missing the services of Rohit Sharma, who played the quarterfinals and semifinals before joining the India ODI squad ahead of the West Indies series beginning on Sunday in Guwahati.

Mumbai, who have won the tournament twice ever since it became a pan India affair, have cruised into the final having thrashed Bihar and Hyderabad in the quarter and semi-final respectively.

Pacers Dhawal Kulkarni and Tushar Deshpande have delivered in crunch moments and so has young left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, who is Mumbai's lead-

ing wicket-taker in the tournament with 16 scalps.

Captain Iyer has led from the front, amassing 366 runs at an average of 122 including two hundreds and a fifty. Shaw, who turned heads with special performances in his debut Test series against the West Indies, has made his presence felt in the four games he has played so far, scoring 348 runs at 87 including a quick-fire 61 in the semifinal.

However, it will be a test for them against Saini and Khejroliya. Both the Delhi pacers and rest of the team will be fired up for the final, considering they came out of nowhere to beat Jharkhand

in the second semi-final. Gautam Gambhir-led side were on the brink of elimination before Pawan Negi, batting at number nine, played a sensible knock under severe pressure to take Delhi over the line in the final over of the match.

The in-form skipper, who missed out in the last game, will be expected to deliver again alongside Dhruv Shorey and Nitish Rana.

Gambhir's opening partner Unmukt Chand has not yet fired in the knock-out stage and will be under pressure to perform in the all-important final.

The likes Pranshu Vijayaran and Lalit Yadav will also like to play their part in the summit clash.

Mumbai vs Delhi
Live from 9:00am IST
STAR SPORTS 2



Prithvi Shaw bats during Vijay Hazare

10-wicket Abbas destroys Aussies

AFF ■ ABU DHABI

Medium pacer Mohammad Abbas took his maiden ten-wicket haul in a match to fire Pakistan to a 373-run win over Australia in the second Test in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Abbas followed his 5-33 in the first innings with figures of 5-62 to wreck Australia for 164 after they were set a big 538-run target.

The win gave Pakistan a 1-0 win in the two-match series after Australia fought back to draw the first Test in Dubai last week.

This becomes Australia's heaviest defeat against Pakistan, beating the 356-run hammering at this same venue four years ago.

It was Abbas who destroyed Australia with a haul of 17 wickets in the series — becoming the first Pakistani fast bowler to take ten wickets in a Test since

Mohammad Asif's feat against Sri Lanka at Kandy in 2006.

Abbas had jolted Australia with four wickets off just 23 balls while Yasir Shah finished with 3-45 to give Pakistan their tenth series win on the neutral venues of United Arab Emirates (UAE).

They have only lost one series — 2-0 to Sri Lanka last year — since being forced to play their home matches in UAE since 2009.

Australia's batsmen had no answers to his accurate seam bowling under cloudy conditions at Sheikh Zayed Stadium as only Marnus Labuschagne (43), Travis Head (36) and Aaron Finch (31) offered some resistance.

Yasir dismissed number ten Jon Holland soon after lunch to hand Pakistan victory. The first Test ended in a draw in Dubai last week.

Australian opener Usman Khawaja could not bat after suf-



Mohammad Abbas celebrates after dismissing Marnus Labuschagne

fering a recurrence of a knee injury during practice on Thursday.

Abbas jolted the Australians in the seventh over of the day when he removed a solid-looking Head,

getting an edge to substitute wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan, deputising for Sarfraz Ahmed.

Sarfraz, who was hit on the helmet by a rising Mitchell Starc

PAKISTAN'S BIGGEST WINS IN TERMS OF RUNS IN TESTS

Margin	Opponent	Venue	Season
373 runs	Australia	Abu Dhabi	2017-18
356 runs	Australia	Abu Dhabi	2014-15
341 runs	India	Karachi	2005-06
328 runs	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2014-15
301 runs	Sri Lanka	Colombo	1994

Faisal Features

delivery on Thursday, had gone for a precautionary scan.

Head and Finch added 61 runs for the second wicket while Starc (28) and Labuschagne added 67 for the sixth wicket, but it only delayed the inevitable. Abbas hit Mitchell Marsh (five) and Finch (31) leg-before wicket and dismissed Tim Paine for nought —

before Yasir Shah removed Starc

137-run lead. The highlights of Pakistan's batting in this match were 94 and 66 from opener Fakhar Zaman in his first Test while skipper Sarfraz returned to form with innings of 94 and 81.

Both the teams now play a series of three Twenty20 internationals with the first in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

and Peter Siddle for three.

Australia had reached 155-7 at lunch with the writing very much on the wall. Pakistan made 282 in their first innings and then bowled out Australia for a paltry 145, gaining a match winning

4-11.

GUPTILL PULLS OUT OF PAKISTAN SERIES

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's limited overs opening batsman Martin Guptill will miss the upcoming series against Pakistan after straining his calf playing domestic cricket, officials said on Friday. Selector Gavin Larsen said Guptill had no choice but to withdraw from the one-day international and Twenty20 squads to face Pakistan in the UAE. Larsen said selectors had not yet decided on a replacement. Guptill, 32, is a mainstay of New Zealand's limited overs line-up, averaging 42.99 runs in ODIs and 34.40 in T20s. New Zealand will play three T20s from October 21, followed by three ODI and three Tests, although Guptill is not part of the Test squad.

Agencies

Khaleel sets eye on World Cup berth

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Having impressed the team management with his skill set, left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed now wants to seal his spot in the 2019 World Cup bound Indian squad with some good performances in the upcoming series against the West Indies.

Khaleel made his debut during India's victorious Asia Cup campaign in Dubai and his ability to swing the ball at a fair pace impressed none other than stand-in captain Rohit Sharma.

With 18 games left before India's World Cup opener

against South Africa on June 5, next year, Khaleel has his priorities in place.

"It's a good preparation for me for the World Cup. I want to take as many wickets as I can in the ODIs leading up to the World Cup. It will also boost my confidence and I will be under less pressure, if I am picked for the World Cup," Khaleel said ahead of India's first ODI against West Indies on Sunday.

His stint at the Delhi Daredevils with Zaheer Khan as the mentor has helped him evolve, feels Khaleel.

"I think I became a better bowler with his (Zaheer's)



Khaleel Ahmed celebrates with Rohit Sharma after India's win

advice," the 20-year-old from Rajasthan's Tonk said.

"I have spent a lot of time with Zaheer bhai during my two-year stint at the Delhi Daredevils. We played in different conditions during IPL and he always kept discussing on how to bowl on different surfaces," he added.

In his second series with the senior team, Khaleel recalled how nervous he was before his debut against Hong Kong, in which he recorded impressive figures of 3 for 48.

"I was very nervous (for my debut) as my first tournament happened to be a big

tournament like the Asia Cup.

There was pressure. But after doing well on debut, I felt I could go further," Khaleel said after the net session at Assam Cricket Association's Barsapra Stadium.

Even though it's his second series, Khaleel said that the seniors have never made him feel like a newcomer.

"I never have a feel that I'm a junior in the side. Seniors support me well. Everyone keeps talking to me and boost my confidence," he said of the good camaraderie in the side, he said.

Wimbledon to introduce final set tie-breaks

AFF ■ LONDON

Wimbledon will introduce tie-breaks in the final set of all events for the first time next year, but only once the score in the deciding set reaches 12-12, the All England Lawn Tennis Club announced on Friday.

"Our view was that the time had come to introduce a tie-break method for matches that had not reached their natural conclusion at a reasonable point during the deciding set," said the club's chairman Philip Brook.

A tie-break is normally played to decide the set when the score reaches 6-6. However, until now the US Open has been the

only Grand Slam that uses a tie-break in the fifth set.

In this year's Wimbledon men's final, South African Kevin Anderson lost to Novak Djokovic in straight sets less than two days after beating John Isner 26-24 in the fifth set after more than six-and-a-half hours on court.

Djokovic's own five-set semi-final victory over Rafael Nadal also had to be played over two days due to the delay in a conclusion to the Anderson-Isner match.

"While we know the instances of matches extending deep into the final set are rare, we feel that a tie-break at 12-12

strikes an equitable balance between allowing players ample opportunity to complete the match to advantage, while also providing certainty that the match will reach a conclusion in an acceptable timeframe," added Brook.

The AELTC said it had studied data from the past 20 years at Wimbledon, as well as consulting players and officials before reaching the decision.

Big-serving American Isner was also famously involved in the longest match in Wimbledon history when he beat France's Nicolas Pietrangeli 70-68 in the deciding set in 2010 after over 11 hours on court over three days.