

**OPINION 8**  
HEDGEWAR: A NATIVE  
VISION OF NATIONHOOD**WORLD 13**  
B'DESH DELAYS PLAN TO SHIFT  
ROHINGYAS TO REMOTE ISLAND**SPORT 15**  
BAYERN MUNICH HOST  
AJAX IN UCL CLASH

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



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# Govt seizes control of in-red IL&FS

## After NCLT nod, Centre sets up new board, vows to prevent defaults, improve liquidity

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday seized control of debt-trapped Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS), superseding its board with one led by India's richest banker Uday Kotak, and vowed to stop further loan defaults.

This is only the second time after Satyam Computer Services Ltd that the Government has taken control of a private company board. The Government in 2009 superseded the board of Satyam.

The Mumbai-bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved six directors, including Kotak Mahindra Bank MD Uday Kotak, former SEBI chairman GN Bajpai and ICICI Bank chairman GC Chaturvedi, to takeover the IL&FS board.

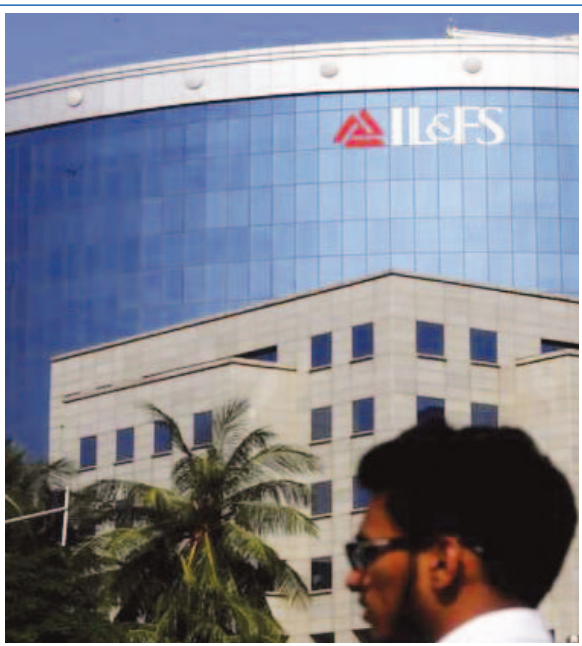
This followed the Ministry of Corporate Affairs moving NCLT against IL&FS and its subsidiaries, seeking a change of the board and management control of the company.

Kotak was named as non-executive chairman of the new board. The other directors approved by the NCLT are retired IAS officers Malini Shankar and Vineet Nayyar, and veteran auditor Nandkishore.

The move to take over IL&FS followed its recent defaults roiling Indian markets. "The Government stands

### Remedial steps

- Mumbai-bench of National Company Law Tribunal approved six directors, including Kotak Mahindra Bank MD Uday Kotak, SEBI ex-chairman GN Bajpai, ICICI Bank chairman GC Chaturvedi, to take over the IL&FS board
- This is only the second time after Satyam Computer Services Ltd that the Government has taken control of a private company board
- The move to take over IL&FS followed its recent defaults roiling Indian markets
- The Finance Ministry said the Government found 'serious corporate related deficiencies' in the IL&FS holding company and its subsidiaries and has ordered an SFIO probe into the financial irregularities in the NBFC



fully committed to ensuring that needed liquidity is arranged for the IL&FS from the financial system so that no more defaults take place and the infrastructure projects are implemented smoothly," the Finance Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi.

"Restoration of confidence" across markets and the financial system in IL&FS group "is of utmost importance for the financial stability of capital and financial markets".

The NCLT allowed the Union Government's interim

prayer to reconstitute the board of IL&FS, observing that the company's affairs were being conducted in a manner "prejudicial" to the public interest.

The Finance Ministry in a statement said the Government found "serious corporate related deficiencies" in the IL&FS holding company and its subsidiaries and has ordered an SFIO (Serious Fraud Investigation Office) probe into the alleged financial irregularities in the NBFC.

"The restoration of confidence of the money, debt and

capital markets, the banks and financial institutions in the credibility and financial solvency of the IL&FS Group is of utmost importance for the financial stability of capital and financial markets. There is an emergent need to immediately stop further financial defaults and also take measures to resolve defaulted dues to the claimants," it said.

The company would require a combination of measures like asset sales, restructuring of some liabilities and a fresh infusion of funds by

investors and lenders to prevent defaults.

"The confidence of the financial market in the credibility of the IL&FS management and the company needs to be restored," the Finance Ministry said.

The Government, it said, had approached the NCLT after it was convinced that the governance and management change in IL&FS Group is very necessary for saving it from "financial collapse".

"Continuance of the present Board had become prejudicial to the interests of the company and its members and this management was affecting public interest because of its adverse impact on financial stability and making capital markets so adversely affected," the Ministry said adding its prayer before NCLT was to supersede the board of IL&FS and its substitution by the new Board of Directors.

The Ministry said IL&FS Group, which has assets of ₹1.15 lakh crore, is presently facing tremendous debt pressure and struggling to service around ₹91,000 crore in debt which is the outcome of its "mismanaged borrowings in the past".

Before the NCLT, the Government said the IL&FS directors had failed to discharge their duties and that many mutual funds would collapse if the company collapses.

There were concerns that default by a large NBFC like

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

Approving the immediate takeover of the IL&FS board by six Government nominees, an NCLT bench of judges MK Shrawat and Ravikumar Duraismy said that the suspended directors of IL&FS must henceforth cease to represent the company anywhere.

"After considering the Government's case, we are of the view that prima facie, this is a fit case to invoke Sections 241 (2), 242 of the Companies Act and to declare that the affairs of IL&FS were being conducted in a manner prejudicial to the public interest," the bench said.

The Government said in its plea said that it had chosen to intervene as it impacted the entire nation's economy.

The Government cited the precedence of the 2009 takeover of erstwhile Satyam Computers and urged the bench to invoke the jurisdiction of Sections 241 (2) and 242 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The sections provide for the Union Government to approach the NCLT, and the tribunal to pass orders to regulate the affairs of a company, respectively, in a case where the affairs of such company were not in public interest.

Taking note of the Government's arguments, the bench held in its interim order that the present case was a fit one to invoke the jurisdiction of the above sections.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacts with the children of slain Apple executive Vivek Tiwari in Lucknow on Monday

PTI

## CM Yogi meets Vivek's family, assures support

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the backfoot over the murder of Apple executive Vivek Tiwari by two trigger-happy cops, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath finally met the victim's family members and assured them of all help, including monetary support and a government job to his widow.

Victim's widow Kalpana Tiwari (38), her two daughters and brother-in-law Vishnu met the Chief Minister at his 5, Kalidas Marg official residence for over 25 minutes on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma went to Tiwari's residence and took the family to the Chief Minister's residence.

"This is a shocking incident and my condolences are

with the bereaved family. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted and it has started probe. Directives have been given to the police to spare no one in this case," Yogi later said in a statement.

The Chief Minister said that the government would take care of the family, including the children and Vivek's elderly mother.

The state government later announced ₹25 lakh for the family and ₹5 lakh each for the education of Tiwari's daughters. Another ₹5 lakh was given for Vivek's elderly mother. The Chief Minister asked the district administration to release the money immediately.

Yogi also said that Kalpana Tiwari would be given a job as per her qualification in Nagar

*Continued on Page 7*

## CAPSULE

### SUBMIT PLAN TO DE-LINK AADHAAR: UIDAI TO TELCOS

**New Delhi:** Days after the Supreme Court imposed curbs on the use of Aadhaar, biometric-issuing authority UIDAI on Monday asked telecom companies to submit, within the next 15 days, a plan to start linking the 12-digit unique ID number for customer authentication.

### US, JAPANESE PAIR WIN NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE

**Stockholm:** Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, won the 2018 Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how the body's natural defences can fight cancer.

### STATES ASKED TO IDENTIFY ROHINGYAS: RAJNATH

**Kolkata:** Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the State Governments have been asked to identify Rohingya refugees in their regions and collect their biometric details.

### ED ATTACHES NIRAV'S ASSETS WORTH ₹637 CR

**New Delhi:** The ED said on Monday it has attached foreign properties of fugitive diamond jeweller Nirav Modi worth ₹637 crore, including two apartments in New Yorks Central Park, in its ongoing probe into the Punjab National Bank fraud case.

## 4 shot across Delhi in spate of violence, 3 die

### BSF jawan held for gunning down colleague in Gzb, rest killers on run

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A spate of incidents involving shootings and murder shook the national Capital on Monday and its adjoining areas in matter of just 24 hours.

While a 31-year-old private tutor was shot dead by two unidentified assailants in Northwest Delhi's Mahendra Park over an alleged illicit relationship on Monday morning, a 34-year-old man was shot dead at Taimoor Nagar in South-east Delhi by an unidentified person on Sunday night.

In another incident in Ghaziabad, a BSF constable allegedly gunned down his colleague in a fit of rage after a minor tiff with him at Braj Vihar locality on Monday, a police official said.

In another two separate shootings in Delhi, a 20-year-



Locals put the body of a 34-year-old slain man on a road in Taimoor Nagar to protest against the murder, on Monday

Pioneer photo

old-girl and a local BJP leader's security officer were injured. Save the BSF jawan who was arrested by police, all other killers are absconding.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) North-West district Aslam Khan, the private tutor, identified as Ankit, was shot dead around 8.30 am.

"Ankit used to give private tuitions. During our initial investigation, Ankit's family

has claimed that this might have happened due to a woman with whom he was in relationship. The deceased was known to a girl for more than 10 years. The angle of personal enmity is not ruled out," said the North-West DCP.

In Taimoor Nagar incident, residents protested against the murder of a 34-year-old man, identified as Rupesh.

*Continued on Page 7*

## 50K farmers on verge to storm Delhi, police slap Sec 144

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As 50,000 farmers from UP, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Punjab are on march from Haridwar to reach the national Capital on Tuesday to gather at Kisan Ghat, the Delhi Police on Monday imposed prohibitory orders (Section 144) in East and Northeast Delhi, anticipating law and order problems.

The order prohibits assembly of five or more people, holding of any public meeting, use of amplifier, loudspeaker and similar instruments.

The Delhi Traffic Police in its advisory asked commuters to avoid Ghaziabad, Hapur, Meerut, Muzafarnagar, Roorkee, Haridwar to avoid Meerut Expressway, which the protesting farmers are likely to take. The order would be in force till October 8 and covers Preet Vihar, Jagatpuri, Shakarpur, Madhu Vihar, Ghazipur, Mayur Vihar, Mandawli, Pandav Nagar, Kalyanpuri and New Ashok Nagar police station limits.

*Continued on Page 7*

## 'Barred' Karmapa seeks Dalai like freedom in India

### Govt has banned Dorje residing in US from visiting Sikkim monastery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback to India, the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje (32), who has fled to the US, is now negotiating with the Indian Government interlocutors for parity of status with the Dalai Lama and permission to visit the Rumtek monastery in Sikkim. India has given political asylum to the Dalai Lama but the Karmapa was living on a refugee card. The Karmapa is reportedly acting at the behest of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and his stand has irreversibly altered over six decades long India's Tibetan card to its disadvantage. India has barred the entry of the Karmapa to Rumtek monastery, the biggest monastery of the Kagyu sect that he heads fearing him to be a Chinese agent. Earlier, he was



not allowed to even visit Sikkim, but the NDA Government had changed the rules in 2017.

The Karmapa and CTA have ostensibly colluded to sideline the Dalai Lama, the tallest leader in the Tibetan Buddhism hierarchy, sources said.

The Karmapa is staying at sprawling farmhouse of a Chinese couple in New Jersey from April 2017 onwards. Although the Karmapa has hinted at least twice that he will come back to India but he has not returned despite repeated assurances to the Indian officials. He has not specified a timeline and does not have any intention to return to India, Government sources said.

The Karmapa is effectively the second most important spiritual leader in Tibetan Buddhist hierarchy after the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso. The Karmapa is also the singular Tibetan Buddhist monk recognised both by the Chinese Government and the Dalai Lama.

Acting smart, the Karmapa, a recipient of a refugee card from India and an accused in a money laundering case, wants the Government of India to sideline the Dalai Lama, top sources said.

The CTA receives hefty annual grants (USD 40 million annually) from the US State Department as well as Rs 800 million from the Union Home

*Continued on Page 7*

## Any Rly staffer can throw out troublemaking passengers

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Any railway employee, and not just the Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) or the Travel Ticket Examiners (TTE), can throw out passengers who are either drunk or are creating nuisance in the train. The Uttarakhand High Court has authorised "any railway servant" to take the action.

"If any person in any railway carriage or upon any part of a railway is in a state of intoxication, or commits any nuisance or act of indecency or uses abusive or obscene language, willfully or without excuse interferes with any amenity provided by the Railway Administration so as to affect the comfortable travel of any passenger, he can be removed from the coach by any railway servant and shall, in

addition to the forfeiture of his pass or ticket, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months and with fine which may extend to ₹500," said Justices Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Rajiv Sharma last week posting the matter for October 25, 2018.

Giving this directive to ensure cleanliness on trains and railway station premises, the court has also asked the Railways to ensure that train compartments, bogies, coaches and platforms as well as railway stations are not dirtied through spitting. And this they have to ensure within a period of one month ending October last, the order said.

The court has asked the railway magistrates to impose a fine of not less than ₹5,000 in their random checking in case any person is found violating the said orders. The orders of

the court that has reached Railway Board also made it clear that the toilets in all the trains/coaches have to be cleaned after every two hours.

Interestingly such directives came to the fore after a petition was filed by one Pankaj Miglani against the Indian Railways seeking help of the

judiciary to direct the authorities concerned to make efforts to ensure Naini-Doon Jan Shatabdi Express runs daily and at a desired timings.

Miglani sought that the train leaves Kathgodam for Dehradun in the evening and leaves Dehradun for Kathgodam in the early morn-

ing. He also desired that there be a new rake and a dedicated AC first class in the train.

During the technical argument between the judges and top rail officials, the rail authorities expressed their concern that the movement of certain trains would be adversely affected, if the time-table is

changed for one particular train. The court, however, said that the Railways can make extra efforts and do the requested changes. "We also permit both the DRMs to get clarification from the Chairman of the Railway Board in larger public interest," the judges said.

DRM Moradabad AK Singhal and DRM Izzatnagar Dinesh Kumar Singh vowed in presence of the judges that the timings of the said train will be looked into and AC bogies of 'Ramnagar-Chandigarh Weekly Superfast Intercity Express' train would be replaced within 72 hours of the orders passed on September 26. The DRM Izzatnagar also agreed to upgrade AC 1st Class coach of Ranikhet Express within a period of one month time.

"The Railway Administration is also direct-

ed to replace all the damaged windowpanes of the trains within a period of one month from today," said the court.

On the issue of cleanliness, the DRMs assured the court that various circulars issued by the Railway Board from time to time are being followed in letter and spirit, as far as the cleanliness inside the bogies and outside the bogies are concerned.

"We can take judicial notice of the fact that, though sincere efforts are being made by the Railway Administration, but still the bogies from inside and outside are not cleaned regularly. The platforms are also littered with garbage. The Railway Administration has not taken any steps to remove the stray dogs from the platforms. Begging on the platforms is also a serious issue," observed the court.

## CJI Misra signs off, says Indian judiciary most robust in world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Embroiled in controversy for better part of his tenure, outgoing Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra held court for the last time on Monday and later asserted that Indian judiciary is the "most robust institution" in the world and young lawyers were assets having potential to develop the jurisprudence.

"Our judiciary has been strongest judiciary in the world having capability to handle mind boggling number of cases," Justice Misra, who will retire as the CJI on Tuesday, said while speaking at the farewell function organised on the premises of the SC.

*Continued on Page 7*



# State govt responsible for Vivek’s murder: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Politicians made a beeline to meet the bereaved family of Apple executive Vivek Tiwari, who was shot dead by cops in Gomti Nagar on Saturday, to express their condolences.

The slain executive’s widow, Kalpana Tiwari, spoke to former president of Congress, Sonia Gandhi, over phone while Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav went to the Tiwari residence at New Hyderabad Colony to meet the bereaved family.

Akhilesh slammed the Yogi Adityanath government for the “cold blooded” murder of Vivek Tiwari and demanded that the family be given ₹5 crore as compensation.

“The government is patting its back on encounters in the state and now the people have seen its real face. Probes should be ordered into all encounters that have occurred during the present regime of Bharatiya Janata Party and family members of the people killed in encounters should be given financial aid,” Akhilesh said after meeting the bereaved family on Monday.

The SP chief said that the police were to protect people and if they started killing them, what would happen in society. “This BJP government in UP is trying to create fear



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav meeting slain Apple executive Vivek Tiwari’s widow Kalpana Tiwari at her residence in New Hyderabad Colony in Lucknow on Monday

among the people so that no one challenges them,” he said.

The Samajwadi Party chief said that none other than Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was responsible for Vivek Tiwari’s killing in a fake encounter. He said the Chief Minister had given the killer instinct to the police and the cops in turn had unleashed a reign of terror across the state since March 2017.

Akhilesh said the National Human Rights Commission had issued the maximum num-

ber of notices of fake encounter, custodial deaths and police brutalities to UP government.

The SP chief was accompanied by party spokesperson Rajendra Chowdhary.

Former SP spokesperson Pankhuri Pathak also met the family.

Earlier in the day, a delegation of Congress leaders led by Kishori Lal Sharma, representative of Sonia Gandhi from Rae Bareli, and Congress MLC Deepak Singh, went to the bereaved family’s residence and

expressed condolences.

During the meeting, the Congress delegation arranged a call between Sonia Gandhi and Kalpana Tiwari for about five minutes.

“Sonaji assured the family of all help by the party,” the leaders said.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Secular Morcha convenor Shivalp Singh Yadav condemned the killing of Vivek Tiwari and demanded a probe by a CBI and one crore rupees as compensation for the family.

# UP govt to appoint over 600 judges

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to clear backlog of cases and provide speedy justice to the people, the state government will appoint over 600 judges in district courts by the end of this fiscal. The process of appointment will start from November.

Law and Justice Minister Brijesh Pathak said that there were around 2,500 posts of judges in the state of which 630 posts were lying vacant. “The process to appoint civil junior judges will start from November and we expect that the appointments will be made by March next year so that the newly-appointed judges are

sent for training,” he said.

“We want to complete the appointment process by this fiscal only. UP Public Services Commission has initiated the process. Once the appointments are made, we will have enough bench strength to clear the backlog of cases. This will, in turn, provide speedy justice to the masses,” Pathak told ‘The Pioneer’ in Lucknow on Monday.

The Law Minister said that the government was committed to providing speedy justice to the people and therefore it had decided to set up 125 fast track courts and 11 family courts.

“We will also have 13 com-

mercial adalats to deal with commercial cases. Besides, all district headquarters will have permanent lok adalats.

The government is also going to appoint 35 new chief judicial magistrates by March next year. All new adalats and appointments have been cleared by the Cabinet and ground work is being done to give a final shape to the mission,” Pathak said.

The minister said that the government had also directed government advocates not to seek fresh dates unnecessarily for cases and plead cases efficiently without any delay.

“It has come to our notice that sometimes government

advocates unnecessarily linger cases by seeking fresh dates. We are keeping an eye on those advocates who are known for delaying cases,” he said.

When asked about the government decision to withdraw criminal cases against political leaders, Pathak said the process was on and over 2,500 cases had been withdrawn.

“We have received over 25,000 applications but only political cases are being withdrawn after careful scrutiny. Beneficiaries in this process are leaders from all parties. Even political cases against Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and Congress leaders have been withdrawn,” Pathak said.

# BSP to hold rally on Kanshi Ram’s death anniv

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party will hold a massive rally in Lucknow on the 12th death anniversary of party founder Kanshi Ram on October 9.

The rally would be a formal platform to launch the party’s Lok Sabha poll campaign in Uttar Pradesh and Mayawati could be the chief guest.

The rally is politically significant as it is being organised after a decade. The last such rally on Kanshi Ram’s death anniversary was held in Lucknow in October 2007 and then Mayawati was the Chief Minister of UP.

It also gains significance politically in view of the uncertainty prevailing over an alliance with non-BJP parties for the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Mayawati is known for keeping her political strategy a guarded secret. Her speech at the rally will be awaited as she is expected to unfold her strategy on alliance with other parties to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in UP in the next general election.

Prospects of the BSP joining hands with Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal and Congress suffered a set back after Mayawati refused to join hands with the Congress in poll-bound Chhattisgarh and instead chose to align with Ajit Jogi’s party for the Assembly poll there.

The BSP chief delivered another shock to her potential allies by announcing to go it alone in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls due in November next.

BSP state chief RS Kushwaha said in Lucknow on Monday that the rally would be held at Kanshi Ram eco-garden in Lucknow.

“Each division of the BSP has been asked to bring around 10,000 supporters to the rally and hence we are expecting a gathering of around two lakh supporters,” he said.

Kushwaha said the party president could also be present in the rally but it was yet to be confirmed.

The BSP founder died on October 9, 2006 and in the past, Mayawati had organised rallies on the day a couple of times.

# Cop attempts suicide inside police station

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A police constable attempted suicide by consuming poison inside the Aliganj police station compound in Etah on Monday allegedly over family discord.

Police said the constable, Mahendra Singh, a native of Etawah, was disturbed over family discord and attempted suicide by consuming poison and was taken seriously ill.

He was admitted to the district hospital where his condition was stated to be serious.

Senior officials, including

ASP Sanjay Kumar, visited him in hospital and issued directive to provide him all possible medical facilities.

Meanwhile, a Dalit woman, working at a beauty parlour was allegedly raped by two persons at Mansurpur village of Muzaffarnagar district.

According to police, the woman was abducted when she was returning home from her parlour and gang-raped on Sunday.

The woman was later abandoned in an unconscious state at the village. Efforts were on to nab the accused.

# Maya expresses solidarity with slain Vivek’s family

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Monday demanded a high-level probe into the killing of an Apple executive in Gomti Nagar on Saturday and stern action against the guilty policemen.

Apple executive executive Vivek Tiwari (38) was shot dead by a constable for refusing to stop his car despite being asked to by the cops.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, the BSP chief said, “Besides the guilty cops, we demand that the government take stern legal action against the lax senior officials so that recurrence of such incident could be prevented. We also demand a high-level probe into this case.”

The BSP president added that the government should not confine itself to what members of the bereaved family were demanding.

“The family members, at this point of time, are in shock. If the government thinks it has no hand in this case and wants to ensure justice to the bereaved family, it should order a high-level probe on its own,” Mayawati said here.



The former Chief Minister of UP alleged that Tiwari’s killing was the latest example of how upper caste people, especially Brahmins, were also facing harassment in the Bharatiya Janata Party rule.

She said the BSP was very sad over the incident and party national general secretary, Satish Chandra Mishra was directed to meet and console the family and ensure that they got justice.

“If the government fails to deliver justice to the family, SC Mishra will take up their case and help them get justice,”

Mayawati said.

While condemning the incident, Mayawati said that jungle raj prevailed in the state and the present BJP government had no control over its police force.

“Aisa lag raha hai ki UP mein kanoon vyavastha poori tarah dhwaat ho chuki hai (It seems that law and order has totally collapsed in the state),” the BSP chief said, adding that the BJP government had no moral right to continue in office as it had failed to protect the life of the common citizen.

# Mahant Das on indefinite fast for Ram temple

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In an attempt to exert pressure on the Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath governments for early construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Mahant Ram Parhamans Das of Taspmi Chhavni temple along with his disciples sat on an indefinite fast in Ayodhya on Monday.

Mahant Das announced before the media that he would not consume any food or water till the announcement for a temple was made.

The saint also slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party governments for ignoring Ram temple and said that after promising it, they were now backing out.

Mahant Das said that now Muslims too wanted the Ram temple and hence all problems had been sorted out and only a small section of the minorities was opposing it.

“I have sent information about my indefinite fast to President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other persons concerned,” the Taspmi Chhavni temple mahant said.

Recently, the Supreme Court has decided to hear the vexed Ayodhya title suit on day-to-day basis from October 28.



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# Seven Roadways passengers killed in accident

**Lucknow (PNS):** Seven passengers of a UP Roadways bus were killed and two injured when they were hit by truck while pushing the bus which had broken down in Basti on Monday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives and directed officials to ensure financial assistance to the families of the deceased and injured persons.

Circle Officer of Harraiya, Rahul Pandey, said that bus conductor Amit Kumar Lodhi of Fatehpur also died in the accident, which took place near Bhadohi village in Chhavani area of Basti. The Roadways bus was heading to Gorakhpur from Allahabad when its engine stalled near a roadside eatery and passengers alighted. After efforts to fix the

snag failed, the passengers started pushing the bus to get its engine started.

In the meanwhile, a speeding truck coming from behind hit the bus, leaving six passengers dead on the spot.

The local residents rushed for rescue of the passengers and admitted the injured to a hospital, where another person succumbed to his injuries.

“The deceased were identified as Indradev Verma (Basti), Awadhesh Kumar Pandey (Allahabad), Vivekanand Tiwari (Basti), Amit Kumar Lodhi (Fatehpur), Ramesh Yadav (Sant Kabir Nagar), and Pradeep and Shailendra (both from Siddharthnagar),” the Circle Officer said, adding that the truck driver fled the scene after abandoning the vehicle at some distance.

# Woman killed over illicit affair

**Muzaffarnagar (PTI):** A 30-year-old married woman was strangled to death on Monday allegedly over illicit relations in Loi village here, police said, adding that the accused was arrested.

The woman was displaced from Phugana to Loi during the 2013 riots in Muzaffarnagar.

Circle Officer Hariram Yadav said a case was registered against accused Munawwer, under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code.

The husband in his complaint alleged that the woman had been missing for some days. During investigation, Munawwer’s involvement was found and he was arrested. Police also recovered the body, which was dumped in the field.

The accused has confessed to the crime, police said, adding that Munawwer claimed that the woman had been exerting pressure him to marry her.

The body was sent for post-mortem.

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davp 05216/11/0001/1819



# Dacoits storm bizman's house

Jewellery worth ₹35 lakh, ₹15 lakh in cash looted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Blowing to smithereens the Lucknow police lofty claims on the law and order front, five armed dacoits stormed the house of a businessman, held him hostage, locked his wife in the bathroom and looted jewellery worth Rs 35 lakh and Rs 15 lakh in cash from the house in the PGI police station area of the city early Monday morning.

The dacoits stayed well over 30 minutes in the house and children of the businessman remained huddled in fear in one of the corners of their room but the police had no clue about the daring dacoity even though the house is located close to the main road and a police team was patrolling in the area.

A unit of dog squad and forensic scientists visited the spot to collect evidence. The police claimed that the miscreants were carrying sticks and rods while the family told newsmen that they were also carrying javelins. SSP Kalanidhi

Naithani himself visited the crime scene to monitor the ongoing investigation. He instructed the PGI police to crack the case. Motilal Agarwal of Subhahi Kheda locality (near Telibagh) runs a grocery shop at his house and lives at the house with wife Saroj and two daughters in a three-storeyed house. Agarwal and his wife were resting in a room on the first floor of the house while their children were sleeping on the second floor of the house.

"Around 5 am, I suddenly heard noise of somebody breaking shutters of our shop housed on the ground floor. Before I could guess the wrong and study the situation, five men, all masked, forcibly entered the room. One of them trained a pointed and sharp-edged object at me while his other aides put a long knife on Saroj throat threatening to slit it if we cried. They then shoved her towards the bathroom and bolted it from outside after pushing her inside the bathroom," Agarwal said. Recounting the nightmar-



Police conducting investigation outside the businessman house in Telibagh on Monday

ish experience that he and his family faced, Agarwal said he tried to confront one of miscreants but other aides overpowered him and later tied him with bedsheets and pasted a tape on his mouth so that he could not cry. "They forced us to give the keys of the almirah. As I could not find it at that time, they broke the almirah doors which a click. They stayed over 30 minutes. I was seeing all their activities. I had lump in my throat

due to fear and I stopped resisting them sensing fear of the lives of my family members. Their voice was deep and still. It seemed they would kill me if they did not get the jewellery," he recounted. Agarwal added that both his daughters mustered courage after the miscreants fled the scene and they came down and reached the room where he was tied. "They freed me and later we freed Saroj," he said. After the incident, a large

number of residents swarmed the scene. They called the police and a team reached the place. Irrate residents booed the police for failing to curb crime and stop dacoits from targeting innocents. Agarwal, who is also a member of a traders' association, later called the office-bearers of the association. To petition his case for speedy action, traders, led by KL Maurya and others, reached the SSP camp office. "We got an audience with the SSP and were assured that the case would be worked out soon," Maurya said. He said residents of the area demanded removal of the incharge of the police outpost in their locality. The incident came as a body blow to the police who are passing through a titanic struggle these days following the Gomti Nagar shooting case. PGI SHO RN Rai was assigned the task to probe the case. The daredevilry of miscreants could be gauged from the fact that they broke locks on three channels, one after another, at the entry point to gain access into the house.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified trigger-happy miscreants, travelling in a car, shot at a jeweller after he argued with them on car parking and asked them to speak in a gentle tone in Madaon on Sunday night. The victim suffered injuries on the right of his chest and was undergoing treatment at Trauma Centre of KGMU. The police termed the incident a case of drunken brawl and said the victim had parked his car in the middle of the road resulting in arguments with the miscreants. A case was registered in this connection but the miscreants are yet to be identified.

As per reports, Kusumesh Bajpai of Garubheet locality of Madaon, along with his friends Atul, Pramod Shukla and Arvind, was standing outside his house on Sunday night. They had parked the car on the road and thus had made the passage narrow. Meanwhile, another car whizzed past the road and the man on the dri-



ving seat applied the brakes all a sudden on seeing the car ahead and thus avoided collision. "The man on the driving seat downed the window panes and howled at Kusumesh asking him why he had parked the car in the middle of the road and asked him to remove the car while talking in a rough tone," victim's brother Saurabh Bajpai alleged. He said Kusumesh expressed annoyance at his conduct and asked him to mind his language. "This irked the occupants in

the car to such an extent that they opened fire at Kusumesh hitting him on his chest. They then backed the car and sped off the scene. We rushed Kusumesh, who slumped down after the attack and began to bleed profusely, to Trauma Centre. His condition is critical there," Saurabh said. Police had registered a case in this connection.

The police spokesman said Kusumesh ran a shop in Faizullahganj locality. "Kusumesh was standing outside his house at night and was chit-chatting with his friends, unmindful of the fact that his car had obstructed the passage on the road," the spokesman said while giving details of the investigation made in the case so far. He ruled out the possibility of enmity due to which the victim was attacked. "The family did not name any person in the FIR. The miscreants probably were in a drunken state and they blew their top when Kusumesh asked them to talk politely," he said.

## APPLE EXEC KILLING

# Resentment brewing among policemen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A voice of dissent is fast gaining ground among lower-rung cops of UP police with several constables and sub-inspectors expressing support to the constables accused in the Gomti Nagar shooting case. In the incident, Apple area manager Vivek Tiwari of Mahanagar was gunned down in Gomti Nagar Extension early Saturday morning when he was going to drop his colleague Sana Khan at her house in Vinay Khand.

They argued that accused constables Prashant Chaudhary and Sandeep Kumar were doing their duty as per instructions of their bosses and Prashant opened the fire in self-defence. "We are asked to control the law and order and also are asked to conduct vehicle-checking. The top cops are concerned about the end result and they have no exposure to troubles we face while discharging the duty. When we share the same, we are snubbed by them," a group of constable said.

They said the top cops did not hear the story from Prashant's side. "Prashant was denied permission to present his side of the story in the episode

and it is against natural justice. Even those charged in criminal cases have the right to present his side in the case in which he has been accused during the investigation," they said.

They justified the sentiments which some cops were showing on the social media in favour to Prashant. "The outpourings of sentiments on the social media by cops is not bad. If the public can use the social media to express its anguish on some issue, why cannot cops? Eventually, the issue is related to the constables who had been jailed and whose family members are perishing due to the one-sided approach of the top cops of the UP Police," they defended.

Sources in Police department said a sort of division was being seen in the rank on the Gomti Nagar shooting incident. "Those recruited between 2000 and 2015-16 are more strident on the issue and are battling for the accused constables while those recruited between 1996 and 2000 are playing safe on the issue. Some constable and sub-inspectors are evasive to speak on the issue as they are in the line of departmental promotions," they claimed.

## LU CONVOCATION

# None found worthy of Chancellor's gold, V-C's silver medals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University will not be awarding the Chancellor's gold medal and Vice-Chancellor's gold medal at this year's convocation as no candidate was found suitable for the same. LU media incharge NK Pandey said several rounds were held by the committee, which




Anchal Saxena (top) and Sachin Singh to get Dr Chakraborty gold medal Chancellor's silver medal respectively

takes a final decision, but none was found suitable.


The Dr Chakraborty gold medal will be awarded to Anchal Saxena while Chancellor's silver medal to Sachin Singh and Chaitanya Rathore.

Anchal Saxena (BA), who has won the medal for overall academic and co-curricular activities, said: "I have joined the NSS and have been extensively involved in spreading financial digital literacy and other campaigns of the Prime Minister. I have also received a letter of appreciation from the HRD Minister for these activities on LU campus."

Anchal, who is the daughter of a lawyer (father) and a Government Girls' Inter College teacher, said she had always been interested in the idea of social service and devoted time between and after classes for the same. "This is something which I have inherited from my mother, who has always helped others and also taught her children to follow suit. I have also taught children of the underprivileged," pointed out Anchal, who wants to pursue a career in civil services. Sachin Singh has done MA in Economics. He has been actively organising programmes and represented Lucknow University at Lucknow Mahotsav. "I am interested in joining academics and will be pursuing PhD in Economics," he added.


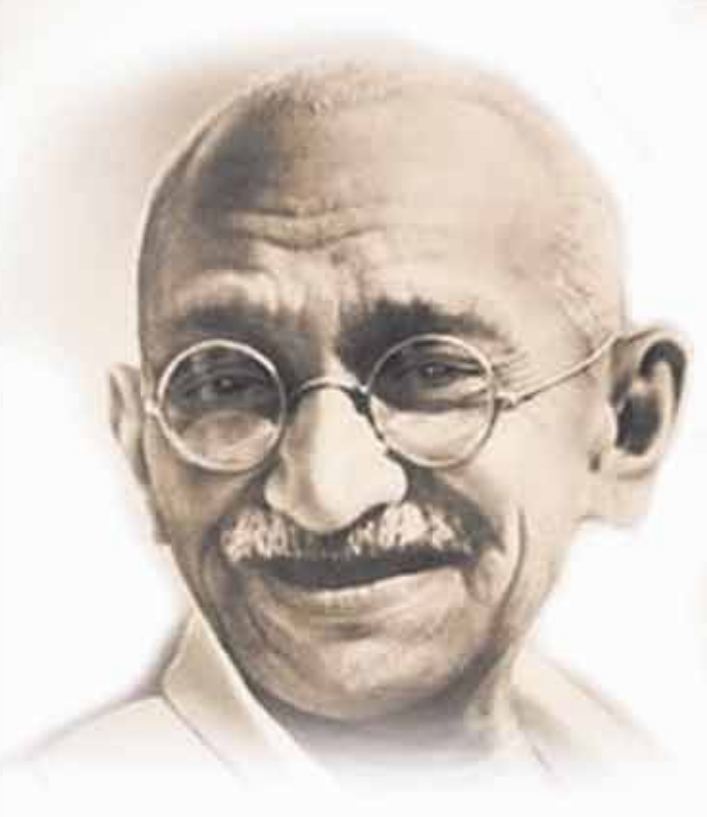


Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India




स्वच्छ भारत  
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

## NATION PAYS TRIBUTES TO TWO OF ITS GREATEST SONS MAHATMA GANDHI & LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI



“Come, Let's pledge to take forward their ideals and fulfill their vision for a better nation and a better self”

-Narendra Modi



15

YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
THE MAHATMA

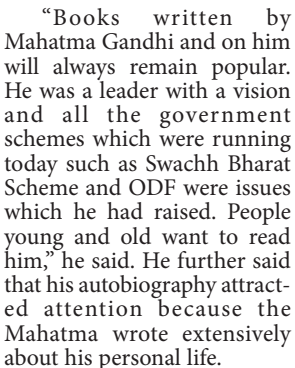
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**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW**

**M** Experiments with Truth written by the Father of the Nation remains the bestseller at the National Book Fair, currently going on at Moti Mahal Lawns. The Book Fair is also themed on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Key organiser Manoj Chandel said that this book had been an evergreen bestseller because the autobiography was extremely candid and honest.

Chandel said that Bapu was one leader who had inspired not only the general public but also the leaders of the stature of Nelson Mandela and Dalai Lama. He said that the readers were also interested in him because even the man who shot him dead, Nathuram Godse, also paid respects to the great man before shooting him. "He also becomes the point of interest for the people because of the fact that he is a universal leader and in any part of the globe one can find something that is dedicated in his name," he said. Kalpnath Prasad, incharge of the Prabhat Prakashan stall, said that they had sold the maximum number of autobiographies of the Father of the Nation since the start of the Book Fair. He admitted that there were three leaders which attracted the attention of the young and old alike which included Mahatma Gandhi, the former President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, and Swami Vivekananda.



other books such as 'Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar,' 'At the Feet of Mahatma Gandhi,' 'Gandhiji ki Dein' and 'Satyagriha in Champaran.'

Meanwhile, he said that they had showcased almost 250 new titles which they had released this month. Amongst the new titles were two interesting books on Islam. One of the books is 'Dharmon ke Qatar mein Islam' which is written by Arun Bhole. "This is an interesting book and is attracting the attention of the readers due to its catchy title. Assimilating in the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York and the Godhra riots, the book analyses and traces the place of this religion amongst other religions,"<sup>5</sup> he said. He said that another book, 'Indian Mujahideen and Bhitri Shatru' by Shishir Gupta gives the fundamentalistic activities post the fall of the Babri Masjid in 1992.

**Lucknow (PNS):** Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan inaugurated the Wildlife Week at Lucknow Zoological Gardens on Monday. The minister flagged off a wildlife tableau which will move across the city. He also inaugurated a souvenir shop at the zoo and mobile app, website, audio tour, mixed reality and other augmented services. Speaking on the occasion, he issued directions for construction of an underground aquarium. He said Wildlife Week was important to involve a new thought for wildlife conservation. He said that in Bijinore, the Wildlife Control Bureau, along with the police, had seized 27 bags full of mongoose hair. Wildlife Week is celebrated across the country in October's first week every year.

power-point presentation, quiz, etc for various age groups.

Around 300 participants from different schools and colleges participated in the competitions. The winners were given away medals and certificates from the Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University.

“Throughout the Wildlife Week, people of all ages learn from experts through seminars, lectures as well as hands-on workshops in order to become closer to nature. Wildlife preservation is the plan to manage wildlife alongside human progress, both of which are inter-connected, therefore, it is necessary to save the wildlife,” said coordinator of Wildlife Institute of India, Amita Kannaujia.

Meanwhile, the Turtle Surveillance Alliance also organised a programme on the occasion. A signature campaign was held in Kukrail Gharial, Turtle rehabilitation centre from 7 am to 10 am. Local residents, who are regular morning-walkers, participated in the signature campaign. Apurva Bandal and Ashish Singh from TSA organised the programme with the help of UP Forest and Wildlife department and Kukrail staff.

## PRABHAT PHERI

On the eve of International Day of Non-Violence and Gandhi Jayanti, around 3,000 teachers and staff of City Montessori School took out a 'prabhat pheri' and showed enthusiasm to imbibe the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. The 'prabhat pheri' was led by Minister for Women and Child Welfare Rita Bahuguna Joshi. CMS founders Jagdish Gandhi & Bharti Gandhi, president Geeta Gandhi Kingdon, director of strategy Roshan Gandhi, principals of various campuses and renowned personalities from various fields came together on the occasion. The rally started from Maqdoompur Police Chowki in Gomti Nagar Extension and culminated at Gomti Nagar Campus-II auditorium.

## GANDHI JAYANTI

Seth MR Jaipuria School celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on Monday with enthusiasm. A special assembly was organised by the students which began with a prayer by the school choir in the form of an ode to Gandhi.



## Pioneer

was being run by Chhavy Foundation was likely to be given back to the Lucknow Development Authority. Sources said that the premises had been leased out to the Mahila Kalyan Nigam for a period of two years by the Lucknow Development Authority primarily to help the acid attack victims till they become self-reliant.

“The Nigam thereafter entered into an MoU with the Foundation concerned for running the cafe for a period of two years in which the Nigam gave them the running

expenses of approximately Rs 4 lakh and the salaries for the 10 acid attack victims associated with it. In return the Foundation had to deposit the earnings with the Nigam," he said. Sources said that there

had been a misuse of the funds and the Foundation had not deposited any money with the Nagar Nigam for the past two years. They further said that in March 2018 the lease period was over and the Nagar Nigam floated an EOI (Expression of Interest) for another agency to run the cafe. “The Chhnav Foundation, which had earlier been running the cafe, participated in this exercise but could not fulfil the technical condition. Another agency was selected which had agreed to run the cafe at its own expense and was ready to give the acid attack victims double the salary of what they were getting but they did not agree to work under them and wanted to remain with the Foundation,” he said. On the other hand, Alok Dixit

from the Chhany Foundation said that the allegations of financial irregularities were just baseless and documents could be verified for this. He said that the cafe was running on profit and alleged that the sum for running it was withheld and not given to the Foundation. “When the tenders were floated after the completion of two years for the running the cafe in the premises the name of the company was announced even before they were opened and very little is known about the company. We also drew the attention of the authorities concerned to this discrepancy. The Sherone Cafe has become a well-known hub and is doing well. However at a meeting held recently they had decided to return the premises” he added.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW**

Two children died after they were buried under the debris of a terrace which collapsed all a sudden at house in Musariyan Kheda village of Maal on Monday morning.

As per reports, three children, identified as Arpit (10), his sister Goldi (13) and the neighbour's daughter Mausam (10), were sitting under the terrace and were studying. It was around 7 am when the terrace suddenly caved in and all the three children were buried under the debris. The incident drew attention of family members and they started the rescue work. They pulled out the children from the debris and later rushed them to a hospital where Arpit and Mausam were declared "brought dead". Goldi suffered fracture and was out of danger.

Police spokesman Al Singh said the children were

## LT GEN KRISHNA TAKES CHARGE

Lt Gen Abhay Krishna took charge as the Army Commander, Central Command, on Monday. He paid tributes to the martyrs at 'Smritika' war memorial and later reviewed the guard of honour. Lt Gen Krishna was commissioned in the Rajputana Rifles in June 1980 and has an outstanding professional career having served in all the Command theatres of India. The Army Commander extended his warmest greetings to all ranks of the Surya Command, veterans and veterans as well as their family members. Lt Gen Krishna has a distinct service profile, covering all military theatres ranging from counter-insurgency and anti-terrorism operations in the Eastern and Northern Commands, commanding troops in high-altitude areas of Ladakh and Sikkim to mechanised operations in Rajasthan and Punjab. He has also the distinction of donning the appointment of Chief of Staff of United Nations Force at Burundi.

## EXHIBITION ON PATEL

A special exhibition on 'Uniting India: Sardar Patel' at the Regional Science City was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, on Monday. Sharma said it was a pleasure to inaugurate this exhibition. He said that in this exhibition, there was state-of-the-art technology which enabled people to pose questions to Sardar Patel and he answered them. He also

sitting on a wooden cot when the terrace collapsed. "Arpit was a class II student while Mausami was studying in class IV. Mausami is the daughter of Arpit's neighbour Ram Swaroop," he said.

Meanwhile, property dispute claimed the life of a man while two others suffered injuries during a brawl between two brothers in Gosainganj early Monday morning. Police had arrested four persons in this connection. As per reports, Suresh Rawat of Navi Kheda had a difference with his brother Shiv Raj over a land-related issue for some time. In the morning, both came to blows over the issue. As some villagers took side of Shiv Raj, Suresh called the brother of his wife for help. A little later, Suresh's brother-in-laws Sooran and Deepak, along with their uncle Pawan, reached the scene and took side of Suresh.

This escalated the brawl and both the parties attacked one

another. Pawan suffered injuries after some of his rival hit him on his head with a stick. Sooraj and Deepak also suffered injuries in the attack. The attackers fled the scene sensing danger. On the information, a team, led by Gosinganj SHO Anand Sahi, reached the place and later a manhunt was launched. Sahi said that Suresh had named four persons, including his brother, in the case. "All these accused were arrested and they were identified as Shikharaj, Rajendra, Mangal and Raghuiraj," he added.

Meanwhile, an unidentified man was killed and his body was dumped on Ilmorog Road in Madaiaon. The incident came to light after a granpradhan spotted the 4-day-old body and informed the police. According to police, the body was covered with stones and a belt was tied around the neck. "The body was beyond identification as the face had been smashed with stones. We

have sent the body for autopsy," the police said.

## ACCUSED

A man accused of luring his daughter to run away from her house in Vikas Nagar on Monday. The girl, in her statement, however, claimed that she eloped with the youth on her own. Reports said the 15-year-old girl went missing on September 29 from her house in sector J of Aliganj. On the same day, her father lodged a case with the Vikas Nagar police alleging that the son of the BJP MLA was behind the sudden disappearance of the girl. While a search for her was on, the girl appeared at the police station where she said she had gone on her own will. Police are investigating the case. She added told that she travelled to Gonda and later returned. She refused to undergo medical test and said she had fled her house as she was being chided by her parents.

be organised as will a poster and collage competition. Students from department of Philosophy and Social Work (LU), Guru Nanak Girls' College, Rajat Degree College, and Rama Degree College will participate in the contests.

## CONVOCATION WEEK

The Convocation Week Cultural and Literary Fest of Lucknow University, organised by Sanskritikri, the cultural activity board of the university, started with its inaugural function in the JK Hall of the department of Social Work on Monday. Nawab Mir Jafar Abdullah was the chief guest for the occasion. The programme also witnessed the presence of DSW RK Singh, and head of the department of Social Work Gurnam Singh. Abdullah sketched the kalaidoscope of the history of Lucknow before the gathering. He elaborated on the historic and cultural contribution of Lucknow. The day was marked by a poetry recitation competition organised by Literary Club.

<b>NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY</b>				<b>CORRIGENDUM</b>
<b>Amendment in published e-Auction dates of October &amp; November-2018</b>				
Following correction/amendment is carried out in published e-auction dates of months October & November-2018				
Published e-Auction dates		Amended e-Auction dates		Jurisdiction of Lots
October-2018	November-2018	October-2018	November-2018	
5, 13, 22 & 30	7, 15 & 27	5, 15 & 24	2, 10, 19 & 27	Dy.CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur
6, 15, 23 & 31	9, 17 & 26	11, 23 & 31	8, 17 & 26	Dy.CMM/GSD/Izzatnagar
8, 16 & 25	2, 12, 20 & 28	8, 16 & 25	3, 12, 20 & 28	Sr. DMM/Lucknow
6, 15, 23 & 31	9, 17 & 26	11, 23 & 31	8, 17 & 26	Sr. DMM/Varanasi
5, 13, 22 & 30	7, 15 & 27	5, 15 & 24	2, 10, 19 & 27	Sr. DMM/Izzatnagar



**PNB SCAM**

# ED attaches Nirav’s assets worth ₹637cr

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached assets worth ₹637 crore of absconding jeweller Nirav Modi and his family, including two apartments in New York’s iconic Central Park and another property in UK, as part of the ongoing action in the ₹13,400-crore PNB credit fraud case.

The agency said it has issued as many as five provisional orders, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), for attachment of assets in London, New York, bank balances in Singapore and other countries, a flat in Mumbai and diamond studded jewellery that was shipped to India from Singapore.

Two immovable properties in New York that were attached are worth \$29.99 million (₹216 Crores approximately) a owned by Nirav Modi and another property attached in UK is worth ₹56.97

crore (owned by Purvi Modi).

The agency said the investigators have got issued multiple Letters Rogatories (judicial requests) for legal formalisation of these assets and the action has come to fruition after three months of “close coordination” between the Enforcement Directorate and its foreign counterparts.

“The international cooperation has bore fruit. This has resulted in seizure and provisional attachment of jewellery, bank accounts and immovable properties worth ₹637 crore in India as well as four foreign jurisdictions.

The agency also seized diamond jewellery worth ₹22.69 crore after getting them to India from Hong Kong in 23 shipments besides bank balance of ₹44 crore, kept in an account in Singapore, in the name of a British Virgin Island based company has also been attached.

The beneficial owners of these

deposits have been identified as Purvi Modi and her husband Mayank Mehta, the ED said.

Five other overseas bank accounts, holding ₹278 crore, have been attached and they belong to Nirav Modi, Purvi Modi and firms controlled by them.

“During investigation it was found that most of the money was transferred to these accounts after FIRs were filed in this scam,” the agency said.

A ₹19.5 crore worth flat in south Mumbai, owned by Purvi Modi, has also been attached as part of the proceedings.

The central probe agency, a senior official said, also got issued an Interpol Red Corner notice (global arrest warrant) against Aditya Nanavati, an accused and employee of a Nirav Modi firm in the same case, for involvement in alleged money laundering.

Nirav Modi has been absconding after the emergence of the PNB scam earlier this year.

## CBI pulled up for delays in obtaining sanction to prosecute 4 IAS officers

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The 2G Court pulled up CBI on Monday for delays in providing Sanction for Prosecution of four IAS officers in the Aircel-Maxis scam, who are co-accused with former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in the chargesheet. Special Judge OP Saini asked CBI, why they submitted Chargesheet without obtaining the Sanction and directed CBI to provide it by next hearing November 26. He also cautioned CBI that if failed to provide the Sanction, the Court may take appropriate action.

In the July 19, submitted chargesheet, the CBI has charged former Finance Secretaries Ashok Jha and Ashok Chawla in the illegal approval given to Malaysian firm Maxis to acquire the mobile phone operator Aircel. Both these officers are now retired and Ashok Chawla is now servings as NSE Chairman. Apart from these two officers, two serving IAS officers Kumar Sanjay Krishnan and Deepak Kumar Singh were also charged as accused by CBI.

“You (CBI) should not have filed the charge sheet. It is only increasing the pendency of the court. A lot of time of the court has been wasted due to this,” Special Judge O P Saini said.

“Granting of sanction is under active consideration of the government,” said senior prosecutor Sonia Mathur said. The Sanction for Prosecution has to be recommended by the Finance Ministry and approved by DoPT.

### TOILET FOR ALL INITIATIVE

# WHO launches first global guidelines on sanitation, health

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Four years after India rolled out the ambitious Swachhh Bharat Mission (SBM), aiming to have a toilet in each household besides making the country open defecation free by next year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday initiated an almost similar move. It launched the first global guidelines on sanitation and health even as it pitched for higher investments and policy shifts to achieve the goal of universal sanitation coverage by 2032.

“By adopting WHO’s new guidelines, countries can significantly reduce the 829, 000 annual diarrhoeal deaths due to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene. For every US \$1 invested in sanitation, WHO estimates a nearly six-fold return as measured by lower health costs, increased productivity and fewer premature deaths,” said a statement by the



A man walks carrying water to defecate in the open in Greater Noida on Monday AP

Global health body here.

Taking note of India’s move of taking the “challenge of ending open defecation to the highest level,” the WHO said that under the Prime Minister’s (Narendra Modi) leadership, the SBM (Clean India Programme) is coordinating action across many sectors to ensure basic sanitation rapid-

ly reaches and improves the lives of millions.

Senegal was another country which, the WHO appreciated for recognising “the role of pit latrines and septic tanks in ensuring services for all.”

The new WHO guidelines set out four principal recommendations including sanitation interventions to ensure entire communities have access to toilets that safely contain excreta. “The full sanitation system should be undergo local health risk assessments to protect individuals and communities from exposure to excreta — whether this be from unsafe toilets, leaking storage or inadequate treatment,” it said.

“Without proper access, millions of people the world over are deprived of the dignity, safety and convenience of a decent toilet,” said Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Deputy Director-General for Programmes, WHO.

## Modi’s DeMo good deal for crony capitalists: Rahul

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Monday said in “Modi’s India”, demonetisation meant “lining up and depositing money in banks” for the poor, while it was a “means of converting their black money” for crony capitalists. Rahul who has been continuously attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recent days, has also alleged that crony capitalists got their ₹3.16 lakh crore debt written off using public money.

“Modi’s India — For Common Man: Notebandi-line up and put your money in banks. All your details into Aadhar. You can’t use your own money. For Crony capitalists: Notebandi-convert all your black money to white. Let’s write off ₹3.16 lakh crore using common man’s money,” Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

The Congress leader also hit out at the BJP-led NDA

Government over a media report which, citing Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, stated that public sector banks had written-off over seven times the recovery amount in the last four years.

Between April 2014 and April 2018, the country’s 21 state-owned banks ended up writing off ₹3,16,500 crore of loans even as they recovered ₹44,900 crore written off on a cumulative basis — or less than one-seventh the write-off amount, the report said. The Congress president has often targeted the Government over writing-of bad debts of industrialists and not of farmers.

The issue is also likely to be taken at the party’s working committee meeting on Tuesday at Wardha in Maharashtra. Rahul Gandhi will be at the Sevagram Ashram in Wardha for the meeting and the Congress will take Mahatma Gandhi’s message to all over the country.

# India, Uzbekistan sign 17 agreements



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev as Uzbekistan President’s wife Ziroat Mirziyoyeva, President Ram Nath Kovind with his wife Savita Kovind look on during a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday Alwin Singh | Pioneer

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held comprehensive talks on Monday to broaden the scope of bilateral partnership and set up cooperation in key areas such as defence and counter-terrorism.

The two sides signed 17 pacts in the sectors of defence, agriculture, science and technology and space, among others, which was termed “historic” by the Uzbek President.

The two leaders also discussed regional security, including the situation in Afghanistan, and asserted that dialogue was the only way to bring peace in the war-torn country.

“We have had very comprehensive discussions. We have taken a long-term view to deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries,” a statement quoted Modi as saying. On his part, Mirziyoyev said the strategic partnership with India is “one of the most important priorities” of Uzbekistan.

Defence has been an important aspect in the India-Uzbekistan ties. In this regard, the two sides agreed to work closely to expand and strengthen defence ties as well as defence

industry cooperation, the joint statement said.

Both sides have agreed to hold joint military training exercises in counter-terrorism and cooperate in the field of military education and medicine, it said.

They agreed to strengthen cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and special services of the two countries, including under the framework of the Uzbekistan-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

Both sides have also called for early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Uzbekistan will also set up a defence wing at its embassy here, the statement said.

Noting the importance of a safe and secure regional environment for development and prosperity, the two sides agreed to work closely in addressing threats and challenges to national as well as regional security.

Modi said a stable, democratic, inclusive and prosperous Afghanistan was beneficial for everyone. “The two countries have decided to have regular contact in this regard,” he said. **PTI**

## Gram Sabhas to inform farmers about PMFBY

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

Ahead of Rabi crop season beginning October 1, Gram Sabhas across the country have been asked to inform the farmers about the enrolment and benefits of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojan (PMFBY). The Gram Sabhas will also inform the farmers on how they can insure their crops under the Scheme.

After tweaking the guidelines of the PMFBY to reach out maximum number of farmers ahead of the assembly polls in five states due this year and Lok Sabha polls in 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture has asked the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Stats and Union Territories to include this as an agenda. The Ministry has come out with revised guidelines of PMFBY allowing coverage for crop loss

due to attack of wild animals, cloud burst, hailstorms, natural fire besides unseasonal and cyclonic rainfalls and landslides. The Government has also decided to include perennial horticultural crops under the ambit of PMFBY on a pilot basis.

According to the ministry, as many as 1.20 crore farmers have benefited from the crop insurance scheme during the Kharif season last year and the Rabi season in 2016-17 as compared to 1.62 crore in 2013-14. There is a decline of over 42 lakh farmers who could not be benefited from crop insurance scheme under PMFBY. In 2016-17, over 5.73 crore farmers have insured their crop while 3.33 crore farmers in 2013-14. In 2016-17, gross premium collections of insurance companies - both

charged to farmers as well as subsidy received from the Centre and States — amounted to ₹22,180 crore. As against this, total claims to the tune of ₹15,352 crore were paid to the farmers.

After the revised guidelines of PMFBY, the Ministry expects the companies to reduce premium rates, especially as the general cut-off date for enrolment has been advanced by 15 days for both seasons. As per the revised operational guidelines, the farmers get 72 hours to intimate individual claims against the existing 48 hours.

This can be done through any of the channels provided under the Scheme and directly on the portal of PMFBY. In case of any grievance, the farmers can access dedicated grievance redressal authorities. Revised operational guidelines

provide for appointment of District Level Grievance Redressal Officer and creation of State and District Grievance Redressal Cells for fast redressal of grievances.

Non-loanee farmers can approach designated Common Service Centres, banks and insurance agents for insuring their crops or directly enrol on the portal. Those farmers who avail short term crop loans from formal financial institutions at concessional rates of interest are automatically covered under the Scheme.

To ensure that more non-loanee farmers are insured under the scheme, apart from various awareness activities being scheduled, the insurance companies are given a target of enrolling 10 per cent more non-loanee farmers than the previous corresponding season.

# Rise in consumption of ‘dohra’ in UP alerts Govt

**ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Health experts have drawn the attention of the Government towards the health threat due to a widely consumed carcinogenic product called dohra — a mixture of areca nut (supari), catechu (kattha), edible lime, pepper-mint, cardamom and flavouring agents — in the eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Since, it is being sold in the market without any brand and does not carry any health warn-

ings, people perceive it to be safer than gutkha, a banned product in Uttar Pradesh, the health experts in a study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) said as they called for making the people aware about its health hazards.

Because of unawareness about its health hazards, its consumption is on increase, they said.

In fact, the health experts said that it is being sold in different forms and local names as

well. For instance, dohra was found to be produced and sold in three major districts Jaunpur, Allahabad and Pratapgarh, the health experts found after interviewing vendors in the region.” Different varieties of dohra existed such as dry dohra (sukha dohra), dry mulethi dohra (sukha mulethi dohra) and wet dohra (geela dohra) using different processing methods its production,” they added.

There are evidence that chronic use of this product is a major risk factor of oral sub-

mucous fibrosis (OSF) in the younger age group which might later progress to oral cancer, warned Vishwas Sharma and Ravi Kaushik from ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention & Research, Noida and Amrita Nandan from Society for Life Science and Human Health, Allahabad. Ajay Kumar Shukla from Department of Botany, Ganpat Sahay P.G. College, Payagipur, Sultanpur.

They explained that its consumption leads to oral

submucous fibrosis, a commonly known condition in tobacco chewers, decreases the salivary secretion, causes dental problems like stained teeth, periodontitis) as well as digestive system problems and intestinal cancer.

More studies on this product need to be undertaken. As this product increases the risk of cancer, it needs to be completely banned.

If not, at least, the product should be sold in a packet with statutory warning sign and

proper details of constituents it contains, so that the consumers are aware of its adverse impact on their health as is being done in smokeless and smoking products like tobacco items and cigarettes, they suggested.

The other authors were Anshika Chandra and Ravi Mehrotra from WHO FCTC Global Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco, ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention & Research, Noida and DN Sinha from School of Preventive Oncology, Patna.

## IMD to release detailed scientific analysis of monsoon 2018

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will come out with a detailed scientific analysis of the 2018 monsoon season that led to over 9 per cent less rainfall. A preliminary scientific analysis reveals that the sea surface conditions over the equatorial Pacific (El Nino conditions) did not have any adverse effect on the performance of monsoon rainfall. The four-month-long southwest monsoon season officially ended on September 29. The IMD had forecast a normal monsoon but the rain fall deficiency is recorded 9.4 per cent this year. This is a second year in a row when monsoon ended with below normal rainfall.

On the other hand, the IMD on Monday attributed that 24 per cent shortfall of rains over north-east India, have led to deficient monsoon (9.4 per cent) this year, ended on September 30. During the period 1901-2017, only four years — 1992, 2005, 2009 and 2013, the rainfall deficiency over north east India was more than 20 per cent. Also, the northeast region, known for large scale floods, did not witness significant floods during the season.

According to IMD, due to day to day variability of rainfall has led to floods in several parts including Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Despite deficiency, the kharif crop sowing is higher by 2.6 per cent this year as compared to the last year. Besides,



the water reservoir levels stands at around 5 per cent higher than 10-year mean storages and 17 per cent higher than the storages of corresponding period during 2017.

“If northeast region had received normal rainfall, the all-India rainfall would have been 96 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA). However, over northwest India, central India and south Peninsula, seasonal rainfall distribution was satisfactory and well distributed as predicted, with only marginal rainfall deficiency of 2 per cent, 7 per cent and 2 per cent respectively,” the IMD said.

As per data, Manipur (-58 per cent), Lakshadweep (-48 per cent), Meghalaya (-40 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (-31 per cent) recorded the lowest rainfall till September 30. Every second state experiencing deficient rainfall is from the northeast.

IMD officials said that the season also witnessed formation of a large number of low pressure systems over Bay of Bengal and

their westward movement across central India. During the season, 10 Low Pressure Areas formed, out of which one system intensified into a Cyclonic Storm, one into a Deep Depression and 4 into Depressions.

According to IMD, the resultant acreage is largely manifested by the good soil moisture distribution across the country. Adequate soil moisture available over northern parts of India may help the Rabi crops during 2018-19. The cumulative rainfall across the country for the overall season between June 1 and September 30 was recorded at 804 millimetre (mm) against the normal rains of 887.5 mm, the report suggests. The overall rainfall was 84 mm fewer than normal. The month of June ended with a rainfall deficiency of 5 per cent, which increased to 6 per cent in July. In August, the rainfall deficit increased to 8 per cent. The deficiency increased to 22 per cent in September.

## Government releases Agri census data for 2015-16

### Female participation rising in farm sector

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

More and more females are participating in the management and operation of agricultural lands, as per the agriculture census for 2015-16 released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday. The census, however, showed a 1.53 per cent decline in total operated area at 157.14 million hectare as compared to 2010-11 data.

The census found out that the percentage share of female operational holders has increased from 12.79 per cent in 2010-11 to 13.87 per cent in 2015-16. In terms of operated area, the share of women increased from 10.36 per cent to 11.57 per cent.

The average size of operational holding declined to 1.08 hectares (ha) in 2015-16 compared to 1.15 ha in 2010-11, as per the provisional data.

The Agriculture Ministry said the first census was conducted with reference year 1970-71. The census is conducted every five years to collect data on structural aspects of operational holdings in the country. So far, nine censuses have been done and this is the 10th in series.

“The total number of operational holdings in the country has increased from 138 million in 2010-11 to 146 million in 2015-16, an increase of 5.33 per cent,” the statement said.

Total operated area, which includes both cultivated and uncultivated area provided part of it is put to farm production,

fell from 159.59 million ha in 2010-11 to 157.14 million ha in 2015-16.

As per the census data, small and marginal holdings taken together (0-2 ha) constitute 86.21 per cent of the total holdings in 2015-16 against 84.97 per cent in 2010-11. Their share in the operated area stands at 47.34 per cent in the current census as against 44.31 per cent in 2010-11. Semi-medium and medium operational holdings (2-10 ha) in 2015-16 were 13.22 per cent, with 43.61 per cent of operated area.

The large holdings (10 ha and above) were merely 0.57 per cent of total number of holdings in 2015-16 and had a share of 9.04 per cent in the operated area as against 0.71 per cent and 10.59 per cent, respectively for 2010-11 census.

Out of 146 million operational holdings, the highest number of holders belonged to Uttar Pradesh (23.82 million) followed by Bihar (16.41 million), Maharashtra (14.71 million), Madhya Pradesh (10 million), Karnataka (8.68 million), Andhra Pradesh (8.52 million), Tamil Nadu (7.94 million), Rajasthan (7.65 million) and West Bengal (7.24 million).

In total operated area, the highest contribution was from Rajasthan (20.87 million ha), followed by Maharashtra (19.88 million ha), Uttar Pradesh (17.45 million ha), Madhya Pradesh (15.67 million ha) and Karnataka (11.72 million ha).

Among states, the highest increase in number of operational holdings was in Madhya Pradesh (12.74 per cent) followed by Andhra Pradesh (11.85 per cent), Rajasthan (11.12 per cent), Kerala (11.02 per cent), Meghalaya (10.9 per cent, Karnataka (10.78 per cent) and Nagaland (10.5 per cent).



# SPO who looted 7 cops’ rifles joins HM

All cops suspended

**KHURSHEED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

The authorities in Jammu & Kashmir on Monday suspended seven policemen whose service rifles were looted from the official residence of a legislator last week. The suspension orders were issued on a day when a Special Police Officer (SPO), who looted the rifles, surfaced on social media sites along with a group of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists to announce his joining the terrorist group along with the arms and ammunition.

The policemen have already taken into custody for detailed investigation. Officials said they were suspended for their callous attitude towards duties. Besides police, the sleuths of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other investigating agencies have also joined interrogation of the detained cops.

Security sources said their cell phones have also been confiscated for investigation. However, the case has not yet been exclusively taken over by the NIA.

The SPO Adil Bashir who fled with seven rifles and a pistol from the residence of a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) legislator Aijaz Ahmad Mir’s Jawahir Nagar residence in Srinagar stunned the security grid. Bashir has reportedly joined Hizbul Mujahideen as his pictures while posing with a gun along with other members of the outfit including top commander Zeenatul Islam have gone viral on social networking sites. A separate picture of the looted cache of arms has also gone viral.

Last Saturday, the Police and NIA began in-depth investigation into the arms loot case.

The SPO was deployed as Personal Security Officer (PSO) of PDP legislator repre-

senting Wachi constituency in south Kashmir’s Shopian district. he had joined the force last year. Besides seven rifles he also decamped with licensed pistol of MLA who was in winter capital Jammu at the time of commission of act by the PSO.

Sources said since MLA was in Jammu, his all seven PSOs had gone to their respective homes on leave, leaving their weapons in a trunk at J-11 quarters at Jawahar Nagar.

Besides legislator Advocate Ajaz Mir, around a dozen other PSOs deployed in MLA security unit were also questioned by Police and NIA sleuths at legislator’s official residence on Saturday (Sep 29).

The Police had also announced a cash reward of two lakh rupees for capturing deserted Special Police Officer (SPO) alongwith weapons.

The PSO’s act is being seen as highly motivated and unprecedented act in the past nearly three decade history of terrorism in Kashmir region.

There have been several recent cases wherein SPOs and police personnel deserted Police force and decamped with service rifles before joining the terrorist ranks.

Official statistics revealed that 34 rifles and one pistol have been looted, snatched or taken away by the terrorists besides SPOs and Policemen who deserted police force, in nine major incidents since March 29, 2015.

The 24-year-old SPO Aadil Bashir Sheikh hails. from legislator’s native Zainapora village. Mir is one of the youngest legislators in J&K assembly and considered as loyalists of Mehbooba Mufti. his father was killed by terrorists in late 1990s.

The SPOs are low paid and irregular recruits to State police primarily tasked to do menial jobs at police stations or assist counterinsurgency operations.

Last week, the Ministry of

## Separatist leaders urge UN chief to resolve Kashmir dispute

**KHURSHEED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik on Monday released copies of a letter they have addressed to UN chief Antonio Guterres ahead of his three-day visit to India. The separatists have urged upon the UN Secretary General to resolve the “dispute” over Kashmir that “remains on the agenda of the United Nations”.

“India’s refusal to talk was doing unimaginable harm not only to Kashmir but to the entire South Asian region at a time during which interconnectedness culturally, economically and politically (often termed globalization) is the driving force in international relations,” the letter reads.

The leaders impressed upon New Delhi to engage with the separatist leadership in Kashmir and with Pakistan with whom India’s relations are also deteriorating by the day. “We have a right to self-determination. Delhi would like us to abdicate that responsibility before they talk. To cede to that

demand would be to concede before talks, rendering talks unnecessary,” the leaders said.

The JRL has also raised the issue of “human rights violations” in Jammu & Kashmir documented recently by the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights.

They said, “Lack of sustained attention by the international community to this aspect of the disputed conflict and not calling India to account on this score, has only succeeded in emboldening its armed forces, enjoying impunity from law causing untold misery for civilian Kashmiris who are forced to live with arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, torture and killings in their everyday lives.”

“Indian forces continue to shower pellets and bullets indiscriminately on the unarmed civilian population. According to estimates, more than 16,000 people in Kashmir have been seriously injured by pellets while hundreds have been permanently blinded. 14 percent of these victims are below the age of 15,” the letter reads.

“The campaign of suppression through daily cordon and search operations (CASOs) has become a per-

resignations through video statements after three police personnel including one SPO were killed in south Kashmir’s Shopian district last week.

The police department denied it has received any formal resignations from SPOs. Even internet services were snapped in Pulwama and Shopian district to scuttle influ-

manent feature. During these operations, the forces assault residents and damage their properties. A warlike situation exists in Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian districts,” it said.

The JRL said, “Jammu & Kashmir is not a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. We would like to assert that it is primarily a question of the rights of the peoples of the State of J&K and that resolution must be sought within the parameters of that definition as well. We urge you to take these points into consideration as you engage with the Government of India.”

On Sunday, Kashmir Centre for Social and Development Studies (KCSDS), a civil society group headed by Prof Hameedah Nayeem invited UN Secretary-General to Kashmir and requested him to take up “Kashmir Issue with Indian authorities”.

KCSDS in a statement issued to media claimed that the groups invite was responded by UN Secretary General’s Office with a note of regret that Antonio Guterres won’t be able to accept the invitation owing to prior commitments and pressing demands already

ence of SPOs videos tendering resignations. One woman SPO from another south Kashmir district Kulgam with 15 year service had also posted resignation video. Even one counter insurgent SPO Uzair Billa from Srinagar outskirts posted his resignation video through social media networking sites seeking apologies from public.

# Rajnath: States to collect biometrics of Rohingyas



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee attend the 23rd meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at the Nabanna in Kolkata on Monday

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Biometric technology will be put to use to identify the Rohingyas illegally staying in India, Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh has said.

The Minister, who was on a two-day visit to Kolkata to chair the 23rd Eastern Zonal Council meeting, said the State Governments had been asked to collect the biometrics of illegal immigrants so that the data could be sent to the country concerned.

“The State Governments have been asked to identify the Rohingyas and collect their biometrics,” the Minister said at the end of the meeting held at Bengal State secretariat Nabanna adding the data reports thus sent by the States

to the Centre will then be sent to Myanmar through diplomatic channels for action.

The meeting was attended by Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her Jharkhand counterpart Raghubar Das, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi and Odisha Finance Minister Sashi Bhushan Behra.

There are about 40,000 Rohingya immigrants staying illegally in India. While a majority of them stay in the State of Jammu & Kashmir the Bengal BJP has repeatedly accused the Trinamool Congress Government of harbouring the Rohingyas in Bengal too.

Singh also told in the meeting that Leftist ultras were one of the major security threats in

the country and assured adequate central forces for the Maoist-affected States. This after the Bengal Government raised the issue of a probable withdrawal of central forces from the Maoist-hit Jangalmahal area. According to sources the Centre had proposed to withdraw CRPF from Jangalmahal for election purpose in four States. The Bengal Government has registered a strong protest against the central move to withdraw central forces from the State.

The Minister however assured central forces would be redeployed if there was a need, sources said. The Home Minister also met Mamata Banerjee for 20 minutes but there was no comment on what transpired.

# Finance panel for sympathetic consideration of Bihar’s issues

**FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA**

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has promised to look into the geographical status, problems and issues of Bihar and consider them sympathetically in its recommendations. “There is no question of being unsympathetic to Bihar. Its geography cannot be changed but the problems the State face can be considered for redressal,” said Commission chairman N K Singh here on Monday.

Addressing a one day national seminar “Addressing the problems of Inter-State and Inter-District Disparity of India” organised by the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Singh, who belongs to Bihar and served as bureaucrat, said, “We will keep in mind Bihar’s problems and demands.”

Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Chaudhary highlighted the problems of the State and said recurring flood was a major factor for its backwardness and Bihar has nothing to do with this problem. He said the basic duty of the panel was to help the economically backward regions. “We are geographically unfortunate. But this situation also makes our State first claimant for special category status,” he said while raking up the demand for special status to Bihar.

**FC chairman also highlighted that the historical experiences of countries like Italy are very helpful in understanding issues facing Bihar and such other States**

Chaudhary emphasized the need to monitor the implementation of the 15th FC recommendations and said this will be necessary for realising the goals set forth by the panel. The Speaker also put a question mark on the utility of the Niti Ayog.

Jharkhand’s Parliamentary Affairs, Food and Supply Minister Saryu Rai said, “While the northeast always had a council working towards bringing development to the seven sisters, the eastern Indian States remain bereft of any such focus. Despite having abundant natural resources, many States in eastern India severely lack the infrastructural facilities. The 15th FC would be of great help to these States if it recommended favourably for them.”

The FC chairman Singh said the issues that the 15th FC has been finding to be ‘very complex’ have actually been found exactly so by all the Finance

Commissions so far. He also highlighted that the historical experiences of countries like Italy are very helpful in understanding issues facing Bihar and such other States. Singh stressed on the urgent need for evaluating centrally sponsored schemes in the country, which he said were numerous, with an aim to bring efficiency and streamline their finance.

Stating that the “Terms of Reference of the 15th FC has followed the provisions contained in Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, he said the FC decision on divisible pool of resources will try to strike a balance between the provisions and the demands arising countrywide. Singh expressed concern at the expanding Concurrent List and talked about the need to revisit the provisions of the 7th Schedule.

ADRI’s member-secretary Shaibal Gupta said, “The problem of inter-state and inter-district development disparity is not academic alone. It is a serious development challenge and reduction of this disparity demands responses from various sources such as Central and State Governments, national and international development agencies, academicians, professionals, civil society organisations, media and others.”

# Vaccination at school goes haywire, Assam town tense after attack

**ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI**

Tension has gripped newly created Hajo district in Assam following reports of some school students feeling dizziness after administering of Measles Rubella vaccination on Monday.

An Irate public attacked the school where the vaccination was carried out and injured health workers who had carried out the vaccination programme.

The mob also attacked the security personnel forcing the security personnel to resort to firing of tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

“The mob had damaged five police vehicles by pelting with stones. This forced us to resort to non-lethal means to combat the mob which was over 2500,” said Hajo Superintendent of Police, Ankur Jain.

He said that the agitated mob also attacked the CRPD personnel guarding the NRC seva Kendra nearby.

He said that police have detained five persons in this

**The mob also attacked the security personnel forcing them to resort to firing of tear gas shells to disperse the crowd**

connection.

The Assam Government has started administering Measles Rubella vaccine under a scheme.

In some districts, the Government agencies has also roped in religious leaders of minority communities to create awareness the upcoming Measles Rubella vaccination campaign and dispelling rumors that it does not contain anything that causes impotency.

In 2017 students in several areas of Assam gave a miss to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine following rumours about the vaccine that it could lead to infertility spread.

# UP tops consumer redressal in country

**KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU**

Giving impetus to consumer Education, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s Uttar Pradesh tops the list of consumer redressal in the country.

An analysis of the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) by the Centre for Consumer Studies, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi reveals Uttar Pradesh stands first in the consumer complaints followed by Maharashtra and other States.

The study conducted by Professor Suresh Misra, Professor & Coordinator, Centre for Consumer Studies, at IIPA New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh received over 47000 consumer complaints during January to August 2018 and in this according to him more than 60 percent have been addressed and resolved to the benefits of the consumer.

He said, “We have done an

analysis of the NCH from January 2018 to August 2018 and we have received more consumer complaints from UP and over 60 per cent have been resolved.”

“NCH is the unique model in the world which addresses the consumer redressal with Government and private partnership. More than 500 top companies are part of this venture taken up by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs,” he added.

National Consumer Helpline (NCH) is the grievance redressal mechanism set up by the Department of Consumer Affairs, to educate and handhold consumers in redressing their consumer related issues and make efforts to resolve his grievance.

NCH was started in March 2005, and has been handling consumer queries and grievances pan India for the last thirteen years.

Since May 2014, the Project

is managed by the Centre for Consumer Studies, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. A consumer can seek advice , information or file a complaint using toll free number 1800 - 11- 4000 and short code, 14404, or SMS on +918130009809 or file complaint directly on online portal [www.consumer-helpline.gov.in](http://www.consumer-helpline.gov.in) . One can use ‘Consumer App’ downloadable from online play stores. NCH advice depends on the stage exhausted by complainant and the resolution expected by him. NCH handles calls in English and Hindi only. There are 6 Zonal Consumer Helplines which feed into the NCH - one each in Patna, Bangalore, Jaipur Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Guwahati, which were set up in October 2017, established to cater to local languages and regional issues.

“NCH’s hallmark of redressing consumer griev-

ances is by the ‘Alternate Dispute Redressal system (ADR) at the pre-litigation level. NCH provides an automated platform to escalate grievances to companies and organizations for redress and resolution.

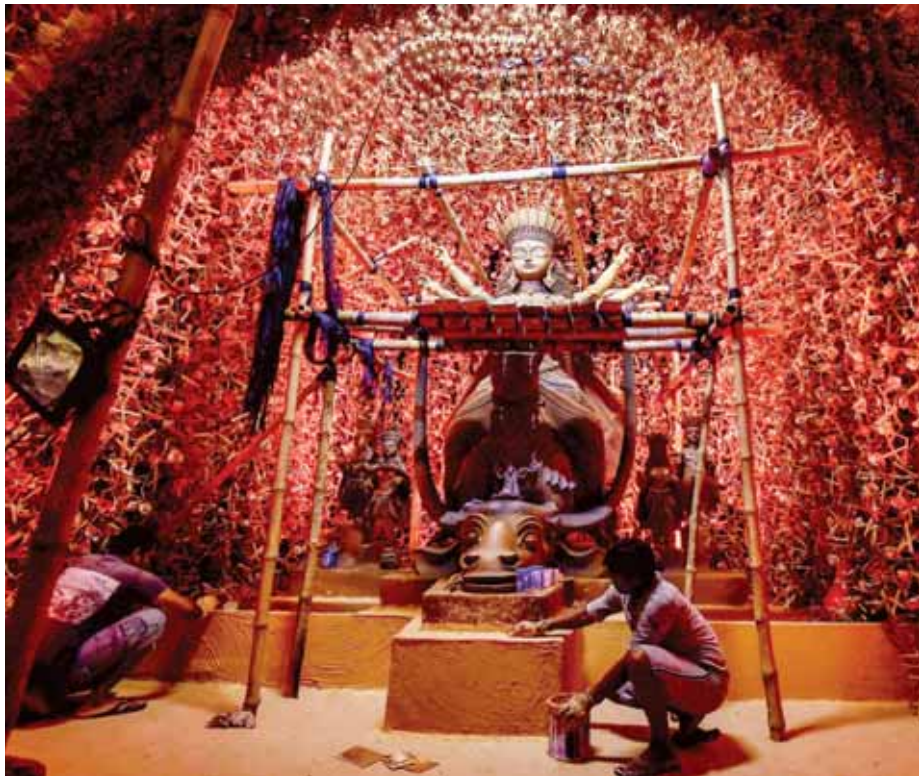
Companies and organizations are invited to partner with NCH for ‘free, fair and fast grievance resolution of their consumers/customers. This is a completely voluntary initiative. The alternate redressal mechanism for resolving consumer grievances is branded as ‘Convergence’ and has proven to be a successful model for resolving consumer grievances at the pre - litigation level” adds Suresh Misra.

According to Deepika Sur, the Project Manager of the NCH in the Convergence initiative, 460 companies have partnered with NCH, grievances received by these com-

panies are on ‘real time’, and companies update the portal with the a suitable redressal at an average time frame of 30-60 days. For companies not under the convergence partnership, grievances are forwarded to them for redressal and updated on the portal by NCH. In addition, 21 Government Departments are mapped to the NCH portal to handle grievances for their respective departments.

Suresh Misra says consumer empowerment branded ‘Jagriti’ is an inherent part of the activities of the National Consumer Helpline.

“Programmes in Community Radios are aired giving information on consumer issues in different sectors. Nukkad Natak are enacted on various themes on which grievances are received. This is a powerful medium, and has a wide range of audience from all classes of society” he adds.



An artiste works at a Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata on Monday

PTI



# Pawar denies supporting PM on Rafale

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an attempt to put a lid on a major controversy over his purported remarks defending Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Rafale deal, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said on Monday that he had not given a clean chit to Modi as had been reported by the media and rooted for a JPC probe into the issues relating to the deal.

Speaking at a NCP rally at Beed in Marathawada region in Marathwada, Pawar responded to the criticism against him over his controversial remarks, by saying that he had not thrown his weight behind the Prime Minister as had been quoted as saying in the media. He, however, hastened to add that he would not make allegations against any one as “long as I do not have any proof with me”.

“When UPA was in power, we had decided to purchase Rafle aircraft. But at that the prices of the aircraft had not been finalised. The estimated cost of one Rafle aircraft was ₹650 crore and the same aircraft has been purchased at ₹1,660 crore by the Modi Government. I don’t defend Modi. But the Government should give clarification as to why the Rafle price went up much. The Government should accept the Opposition’s demand for a JPC probe in the Rafle deal,” Pawar said.

“Till I have proof with me, I do not make allegations



NCP chief Sharad Pawar waves during the party's 'Vijay Sankalp rally' in Beed, Maharashtra on Monday

PTI

against any one. The Government may keep the technical details of the Rafle aircraft as secret, but it should part with the information about the price of the aircraft,” he said.

Hitting out at the now ruling BJP and then in the Opposition of adopting dual yardsticks in matters relating to defence deals, Pawar said: “When it was in the Opposition, the same BJP had strongly rooted an inquiry into Bofors deal. But when there is prima facie evidence of a large-scale loot in the Rafle deal, why is the same BJP – now in the Government – is refusing to answer questions from the

**TILL I HAVE PROOF WITH ME, I DO NOT MAKE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ANY ONE. THE GOVERNMENT MAY KEEP THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE RAFLE AIRCRAFT AS SECRET, BUT IT SHOULD PART WITH THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRICE OF THE AIRCRAFT, HE SAID**

Opposition. If the current Government does not respond, the allegations will continue. Hence the Prime Minister should accept the Opposition’s demand for JPC probe”.

It may be recalled that fol-

lowing Pawar’s purported remark in a television interview that the people had no doubts about Modi’s intentions in the minds of the people vis-a-vis the Rafle deal, there was a massive controversy in political circles across the country.

While NCP founder member Tariq Anwar and general secretary Munaf Hakim had quit from the party, there was jubilation in the ruling BJP which had begun to drive a wedge in the UPA camp and ready its plans to woo the NCP president in the post 2019 Lok Sabha scenario.

A pleased BJP national president had made the most

of Pawar’s controversial comment, by thanking the NCP chief through a tweet and taking a dig at Rahul Gandhi: “I thank Shri @PawarSpeaks Ji, a former Defence Minister and veteran MP, for placing national interests above party politics and speaking the truth. Dear @RahulGandhi, you would be wiser by believing your own ally and a leader of Pawar Saheb’s stature,” Shah tweeted.

Pawar’s daughter and MP had sought to clarify matters by saying that her father had been misquoted. “The thing which he (Pawar) is being quoted that he has given a clean chit to Narendra Modi is not true. Those who are saying so have either not heard or seen his interview or they are twisting it intentionally” Sule had a day after the controversy broke.

“People conveniently chose to ignore three things. One, there should be a clarification about the price escalation of the jets. Two, he demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee to conduct an inquiry on Rafale. And, three, he talked about BJP’s double standards about JPC—they demanded for Bofors and now they are avoiding it for Rafale,” Sule said.

However, from the Congress’ side, AICC general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge had defended Pawar by saying that that the latter did not support the Prime Minister in any manner.

# Scrap Aadhaar KYC, give plan, telcos told

**TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS MAY BE LIABLE FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR ANY NON-COMPLIANCE**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UIDAI on Monday asked telecom companies to submit within next 15 days a plan to stop using Aadhaar for customer authentication, days after the Supreme Court imposed curbs on the use of the 12-digit unique ID number.

A circular to this effect has been issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to telecom service providers (TSPs), including Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea and others.

The UIDAI circular says: “...All TSPs are called upon to immediately take actions in order to comply with the judgement dated September 26, 2018. In this regard, TSPs are hereby directed to submit by October 15, 2018, an action plan/exit plan to the authority for closure of use of Aadhaar based authentication

systems...”

Significantly, the UIDAI has also asked all telecom operators to “take immediate cognizance” of the request for delinking Aadhaar with mobile number as and when such requests are received from subscribers.

The authority noted that TSPs may take appropriate action to perform fresh KYC as per the Department of Telecom (DoT) approved list of proof of identity, and proof of address within six months from the date of such request to avoid de-activation of the mobile number.

“All TSPs shall immediately notify their customers the facility of delinking their Aadhaar number and the UID token from their database and establish a system to accept and process such requests for delinking,” UIDAI said adding that the “process of delinking” should form a part of the exit plan that has been sought.

The Supreme Court, last week, struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, which allowed private companies to use the 12-digit biometric ID-based eKYC. Following this, private companies like telecom operators will not be able to use this instantaneous and inexpensive Aadhaar eKYC route.

This would mean that the

industry will have to revert to alternates like legacy paper-based technique (collect physical paper forms with signature, photographs, ship to verification centre and call up the customer to cross-verify submitted details). The turn around times in this route is between 24-36 hours.

When contacted, UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey said: “In order to ensure smooth discontinuation...There are certain requirements which are there under the Aadhaar regulations...So the companies are in the best position to know what exactly is needed and they can submit their plan by October 15. If any additional requirements are to be done from the UIDAI side, we will tell them after receipt of their plan.”

TSPs may be liable for contempt of court for any non-compliance, the UIDAI said in its instruction to telecom companies.

Quoting from the Supreme Court judgement, the UIDAI circular said it is understood that neither can the telecommunication service providers continue using Aadhaar number for the purpose of issuance of new SIM cards nor for the re-verification of existing SIM cards under Telecom Department’s circular dated March 23, 2017.

# Broke seal as ‘symbolic protest’: Tiwari to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Monday told the Supreme Court that he had broken the seal of a premises here as a “symbolic protest” against the illegal action of officials of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) and was willing to accept the role of ‘sealing officer’ as suggested by the apex court. He said he was willing to assist in executing the directions with regard to sealing and if the court-mandated monitoring committee was dissolved, he would make the city a “better liveable and lawful place” within four years.

Tiwari, a Member of Parliament from the north-east Delhi constituency, said he had not “disobeyed” any orders of the apex court.

Tiwari, against whom the apex court has issued a contempt notice for allegedly breaking

the seal of a premises which was being run in violation of the Delhi Master Plan, claimed that the monitoring committee and EDMC were misusing the authority of the court by trying to sensationalise the whole issue.

In an affidavit filed in the court, he said that no contempt was committed by him as he has not disobeyed the orders of either the court or the monitoring committee, and EDMC officials had sealed a premises in Gokalpuri area without following “due process of law”.

He has also referred to the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act 2011, and said that this law extends the protection to unauthorised colonies across the city from sealing and demolition action. “The deponent (Tiwari) had broken the EDMC seal as a symbolic protest against the illegal action of the EDMC officials as they carried out the seal-



ing action contrary to the specific provisions of law and also contrary to the principles of natural justice,” he has said in his affidavit. He further said that since the sealing action in the case was not initiated under the orders of the court or under the direction of monitoring committee, no contempt was committed by him.

“It is most respectfully submitted that if this court dismisses/dissolves the monitoring committee, the deponent

(Tiwari) shall, as a ‘sealing officer’, make this city a better liveable and lawful place within four years,” he said, adding that he would not adopt a “pick and choose” method in doing the work. He has claimed that the EDMC has dragged the monitoring committee in the matter with a sole intention to gather “media glare and publicise” the whole issue. He said that on September 16, when he had gone for a visit in his constituency, he came to know about the sealing of an alleged “illegal dairy”, and when he inquired from EDMC officials about it, they were not ready to offer any satisfactory explanation. “Since no explanation was coming forth from the authorities, the mob which had gathered there, were turning violent against the illegal sealing action. Hence as the representative of the area, the deponent (Tiwari) was forced to take some affir-

mative protest action against the illegal sealing in order to control the agitated mob,” he said.

“Otherwise there would have been many untoward incidents. Hence, in order to control the mob and to prevent the law and order situation, the deponent (Tiwari) was forced to do symbolic affirmative protest action against the illegal sealing action done by the EDMC officials,” he said.

He has claimed that the monitoring committee was set up by the apex court to oversee implementation of orders of the court but it was never the scope of the panel to take actions, in unauthorised colonies since they are protected under the 2011 Act. “The officials of the corporation under the garb of the monitoring committee is acting in an absolutely arbitrary manner and creating terror in the mind of the general public,” he has said in his affidavit.

# Kind-hearted cop’s gesture goes viral

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

A uniformed policeman sitting under a tree trying his best to console a crying baby whose mother was writing an examination inside the centre has won the hearts of millions as his photo was gone viral on social media.

The photo of head constable Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, retweeted and liked by thousands, was first shared by the district superintendent of police, Mahbubnagar Rama Rajeshwari.

According to the SP the head constable, posted at the Moosapet police station was on duty at Boys Junior College, Mahbubnagar where the examination for selecting police constables was being held. While discharging his duty he



saw a young girl trying to console a four month old baby crying for his mother.

“Earlier I had seen the mother leaving the baby in the care of the girl. When he continued to cry I decided to do my

bit and tried to take care of him”, the kind hearted cop said. He said he was aware that the mother from a poor family was forced to bring her child to the center as nobody was at home to take care of the baby. “The mother is a post graduate but she could not get a proper job and now she has decided to become a police constable”, Rehman said.

Mujeeb-ur-Rahman is a loving father of two children. While his daughter was in high school final year, his son was studying medicine in China.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**50K FARMERS...**

As per the traffic police unit, commuters can use the alternative routes such as Gazipur Chowk, Road No. 56 towards ISBT Anand Vihar, Apsara Border, GT Road, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad. Further the commuters can also choose the routes as per their convenience to reach Ghaziabad such as through using ISBT Kashmere Gate, G.T. Road, Shahdara, Dilshad Garden, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad. Moreover, those who want to reach Noida can use DND Flyover, Noida Link Road, Mahamaya Flyover. Motorist coming from Faridabad side can take Mathura Road, Road No. 13-A, Sarita Vihar, Kalindi Kunj, Mahamaya Flyover to reach Noida. Incidentally, farmers affiliated to the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) flagged off the ‘Kisan Kranti Yatra’ on September 23 from Haridwar’s Baba Tikait Ghat. It may be recalled the BKU has submitted a comprehensive list of demands to the Centre for immediate implementation.

**4 SHOT ACROSS...**

Till the filing of the report, angry residents blocked the road, demanding a CBI probe into the incident and immediate arrest of the accused. Locals staged protests and accused the police of being hand in glove with the accused. Initially, locals burnt two motorcycles and pelted stones at the police personnel who were trying to manage the crowd. A policeman was injured in the stone peltng and is currently in hospital, they added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal said, Rupesh was injured in firing by two unknown men who were passing by his house.

He succumbed to injuries later at the hospital. However, locals alleged that Rupesh was shot at by two men, suspected to be linked to drug peddlers. His family claimed that he had opposed the sale of drugs in the area and that is why he was attacked, they added. Residents alleged that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are residing in the nearby JJ cluster and are involved in drug trafficking. They alleged that illegal immigrants are also involved in petty crimes and are the ones involved in sale of drugs.

The entire incident was captured in CCTV camera installed at a nearby house. The footage of the incident shows two men walking up to Rupesh, who was standing outside his house, and shot him in the chest at point blank range before fleeing the spot. “Rupesh was playing cricket with his 14-year-old daughter and two sons when the accused without any provocation shot him,” said Rajiv, neighbour of Rupesh. In the BSF jawan case, police said jawns Ajit Singh a resident Pathankot in Punjab and Jagpreet Singh a resident of Gurdaspur in Punjab quarreled over some issue. During this course, Ajit sprayed bullet from his rifle on Jagpreet who died on the spot. The other fellow colleagues rushed the injured jawan to a local hospital where he was declared brought dead. As the information reached the police station police rushed the crime spot and took the accused in custody. A 20-year-old woman was shot at allegedly by a man in northeast Delhi’s Harsh Vihar on Monday morning.”The woman is currently hospitalised. It is suspected that the accused was in a relationship with her but

they had broken up. We are looking for the accused and further investigation is going on,” said a senior police official. In yet another incident of shoot out a Personal Security Officer (PSO) of a BJP leader in Shakapur was injured on Sunday evening. The BJP leader Mohit, who is also son of Pramod Nagar, president of Karkarduma Bar Association along with his PSO, was in Angad Vihar area when unidentified assailants opened fired on him. “The PSO Deepak in return fired upon the assailants. Deepak was hit in the shootout. He was rushed to nearby hospital and is undergoing treatment,” said a senior police official.

**CJI MISRA...**

Saying that justice must have human face, the CJI said, “History can be sometimes kind, and unkind. I don’t judge people by their history but by their activities, perspective.” “In my whole career as a judge, I never dissociated myself from the lady of equity,” Justice Misra said. “I am indebted to Bar at every level and go from here with satisfaction,” he added. He spoke after Chief Justice of India-designate Justice Ranjan Gogoi praised him saying that his greatest contribution has been to civil liberties and cited his recent verdicts in this regard. Justice Gogoi, who will be sworn-in as the CJI on Wednesday, said Justice Misra was a remarkable judge. He said, “If we fail in endeavour to hold true to our Constitutional ideals, we will continue to kill, hate each other,” and added that the judges in the Supreme Court are all committed and they will remain committed. “We live in times when what we should eat, wear have stopped

being little things of our personal lives,” Justice Gogoi said while addressing the farewell function for the CJI. In the court, the CJI stopped a lawyer who broke into a song to wish him long life, to say that he was “responding from the heart” but will speak from his mind in the evening. Justice Misra, who presided over benches that delivered a series of key verdicts, including the ones on Aadhaar and homosexuality during the last 10 days, appeared to be emotional during the court’s proceedings which lasted for 25 minutes.

At the CJI-led Bench, also comprising Justices Gogoi and AM Khanwilkar, Misra made it clear at the outset that he would not hear matters listed for urgent hearing and they would be dealt by his successor on October 3. The brief proceedings in CJI’s courtroom witnessed an emotional turn and drama when a lawyer crooned, “Tum jiyo hazaron saal...,” singing the opening lines of a Hindi film song from the late 1950s usually played on birthdays. The Chief Justice in his imitable style said, “no, no” and stopped the lawyer from singing further. Then, in a strange turn of events, lawyer RP Luthra mentioned two ostensibly controversial tweets by senior lawyer Indira Jaising and advocate Prashant Bhushan against the outgoing CJI, criticising his recent judgments, including the verdict on the Koregaon-Bhima violence case. He urged the court to take cognisance of the tweets, but the Bench didn’t respond after perusing them. Later in the day, the CJI visited journalists on the apex court premises and parried all the questions including those related to his experience as

head of the judiciary. The CJI spoke at length about English literature and famous poet and writers. “What are your future post retirement plans,” a scribe asked. “Astrology is not a science, yet people believe in it. I am not an astrologer,” the CJI responded.

**‘BARRED’ KARMAPA...**

Ministry. The CTA has been persisting with the Union Home Ministry for last 10 years not to treat Karmapa as a foreign agent.

The CTA led by President Lobsang Sangay had been meeting Indian officials to make them believe that the Karmapa is not a foreign agent and will return to India if provided travel documents. Apparently, the CTA successfully lobbied with the Government to relax the travel restrictions put on the Karmapa by the MHA on the recommendations of the agencies. The travel restrictions on the Karmapa were waived a few months before his flight to the US last year. A refugee requires prior permission from the MHA every time he or she intends to travel abroad and needs to take visa while returning. The US, which has also been liberal in providing assistance to Tibetans in the past is now embracing the Karmapa, is providing him assistance and security cover during his stay there.

Interestingly, the US had remained in denial mode by not granting visas to an elected leader from Western India with the potential to lead the country but is hosting the Karmapa, wanted in India in a money laundering case.

The CTA has consistently backed the Karmapa and countered suspicion within the Indian establishment of

him being a foreign agent. The Indian establishment has been suspecting him to be Chinese agent, a reason why he was denied travel documents earlier. “The Government could not make a distinction between the CTA’s claims denying Karmapa’s loyalty to China and his other foreign connections,” an official said explaining what went wrong. As a counter-measure to Karmapa’s flight to the US, the Centre has appointed Indian Foreign Service officer Siddharth Mallik as an interlocutor for the CTA to keep tabs on the movement of the Tibetan leaders to foreign shores.

**CM YOGI MEETS...**

Nigam. Later, talking to reporters, Kalpana said that all her demands had been met. “I wanted strict action against the guilty, a job accommodation, educational expenses of my daughters and my mother-in-law. The Chief Minister agreed to all my demands,” she said. “I am satisfied with the government action. I had earlier said that I have faith in our government and today my faith has been strengthened,” Kalpana said. Vivek Tiwari (38), a sales manager with Apple, died after being shot by a constable for allegedly refusing to stop his SUV for checking in Gomti Nagar Extension area in the early hours of Saturday. Errant constable Prashant Chaudhary and his colleague Sandeep Kumar were arrested and terminated from service amid waves of public outrage. The Opposition targeted the Yogi government over the incident and its response. They said that the government had given a free hand to cops to kill innocent people in the name of encounter.

# Two immolate selves after falling in love with same girl

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

In a bizarre incident two lovelorn teenagers burnt themselves to death after learning that they had fallen for the same girl.

The incident in typical film style has left Jagatiyal town in Telangana in shock and disbelief. Jagatiyal deputy superintendent of police Venkat Ramanna told the media on Monday that the two class mates of 10th standard in St John’s School K Mahinder and Ravi Teja committed suicide by pouring petrol and setting themselves on fire. “They were inspired by a recent Telugu movie RX100”, he said sharing the findings of the investigation into the incident of last night.

According to the police Mahinder and Ravi, both 16, were in depression for the last few days after they realized that they were in love with the same girl and they were also afraid that if their parents or teachers knew about it, they would be punished and they will not be able to live without the girl.

“The two had watched the film together and inspired by it they decided to end their lives as they realised that their love was destined to fail. Sunday being a holiday they went around together, had a drink at an isolated spot late in the evening. Later they poured the petrol they had brought with them on each other and set themselves on fire”, said the DSP.

Initially the police had suspected that they had killed each other after altercation but subsequent investigations revealed that it was a case of suicide pact.

“Both the teenagers were in depression for sometime. They failed to realize that the films were made for entertainment and not to copy it in the real life. The families of the two boys failed to realize the mental condition and the suicidal tendencies of the boy”, Venkat Ramanna said.

He urged the parents to keep an eye on their wards and if they notice any unusual changes they should immediately take them to the counselors.

After the incident on Sunday night the local people alerted the police and the ambulance about the two young boys caught in the flames.

Police said that Madhinder died when he was being shifted in an ambulance to a local hospital and his class mate died when he was being taken to Karimnagar district hospital.

Earlier the police inspector Prakash had said that the boys might have set each other on fire angered by the fact that they were infatuated by the the same girl.

The police had initially registered a case of mysterious death and were probing the incident from various angles.

The families of the two boys alleged that there was a third person at the spot when the incident occurred.

St. Johns School remained close on Monday after paying condolences over the death of the two students.

The school correspondent Shobha said that she was not aware of any problem between the two students. While Mahinder was a regular in attendance, the other boy was irregular, she added.



## Progressive law

Karnataka's grant of legal protection to 'good samaritans' must become a template for other States to follow

For far too long, we have been perverse consumers and makers of viral videos showing an accident, shooting or attack victim bleeding to death on the road with multiple injuries. For far too long India's road fatalities have topped charts globally mostly because of "no response" in the golden hour when hundreds of victims stand a chance of being saved. So it is more than welcome that passersby have been protected from legal and medical inquiry and their consequences when they rescue victims on the road. President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the first bill to give legal protection to good samaritans in Karnataka so that they step forward without hesitation and help accident victims get to the nearest medical facility. With the Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulations during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016, Karnataka becomes the first State in India to implement a law that will encourage more responders to save lives fearlessly. Now the demand for a good samaritan law has been in the works for some time. If you may wonder why good intentions and karma have not been enough, then consider this. Most surveys down the years have revealed that 90 per cent bystanders stop short of taking charge of the serious road accidents primarily because of police inquiry and hassles, hospital refusal to accept admissions and the fear of their intervention being interpreted as being criminal in the event of the victim's death. Most helplessly step back fearing uncalled for legal harassment post the humane act or intent. So now that the law proofs them against bullying of any kind, they can be part of the frontline response mechanism. Bystanders are the critical link in ensuring that medical assistance reaches an injured person as swiftly as possible. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has emphasised more than once that no matter how sophisticated and well equipped the hospitals or their trauma care protocol, including advanced paramedics, they would be able to do very little if bystanders failed to call for help or provide basic care until help arrived. Most advanced countries in the world — Australia, Canada, UK, US, China, Finland and Israel among others — have had the samaritan laws in place for some time precisely respecting this argument.

The move by Karnataka, which happens to be in the top five States with the ignominy of having the most road accidents, is rounded. The State Government will be creating a "Good Samaritan Fund" as an incentive for those who have shifted accident victims in their own vehicles. Good samaritans won't be liable to repeatedly visit police stations and courts either. In cases where court attendance is necessary, the travel expenses (to courts and police stations) will be reimbursed from the collected fund. Once the victim reaches the hospital, the samaritan can leave immediately. This can become a template for other States to adopt similar protective laws. However, the bigger challenge is to communicate to common people, as with many other legislations, that they are within their rights to save a life on the road and should be confident enough to exercise it. Of course, there is another issue with those who watch and film a victim dying. Right of duty anyone? Yes that exists in Finland, which urges people to "engage in rescue activities according to one's abilities." Or the one in Germany where failure to provide first aid to a person in need is punishable.

### SO WORDEDIT Murder in Lucknow

The murder of an Apple executive in the heart of Lucknow by a police constable who shot him at point-blank range for allegedly not stopping his vehicle when flagged down by cops in the wee hours, has once again exposed the rot in our police system. While the Yogi Adityanath Government has initiated punitive action, the incident shows the Uttar Pradesh constabulary does not have even basic training in the handling of arms — shooting at the tyres ought surely to have been the first response.

## Breathing easy?

Don't. The ways things are going, it looks like air pollution is going to choke Delhi this year too

It was sheer good luck that the national capital through most of September registered satisfactory Air Quality Index (AQI) levels with data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showing AQI at around 30 on certain days at a few monitoring stations; overall, the city recorded an AQI of between below-50 to 150, which is good. Credit for this improvement goes to the munificence of nature, though, with the rains thanks to the delayed withdrawal of the monsoon washing away pollutants. Come October, and normal service has resumed, as it were. According to the CPCB, air quality levels have worsened four times and are now in the 159-200 range. Ever increasing levels of nitrous oxides and soot particles, registered from emissions from vehicles, the beginning of crop stubble burning in neighbouring States, construction and industrial activity in the Capital—all the usual suspects — are back in play.

The one issue that last week's AQI data has highlighted is of vehicular pollution. Data from the Delhi Government transport department shows that the number of vehicles in the city crossed the one crore mark in 2017 and two-wheelers have been the major contributors to air pollution. Lakhs of vehicles do not even have pollution certificates. The powers-that-be have not helped matters by dragging their feet on implementing measures aimed at checking polluting vehicles. Take, for example, the Supreme Court directions in August last year to ensure classification of vehicles to make it easier to take action when required — blue stickers for CNG and petrol vehicles and orange stickers for diesel cars — which were to have been mandatory by October 2018 to hasten the process of identifying and acting against polluting vehicles. The deadline has been crossed and everybody is clueless. The construction industry, on the other hand, has been rampantly flouting the Construction and Demolition Waste Rules, 2016 as a visit to any construction site in the Capital will confirm. And it remains to be seen how effective action if any against crop stubble burning in Haryana and Punjab will be over the next few months. With the cooler months approaching, our depressing prognosis is that the Capital's residents should brace for another gas chamber-like situation.

Bhagwat's decision to put Hedgewar at the centre of his outreach at the RSS conclave was a necessary corrective. Long a shadowy figure at the edge of historical consciousness, Bhagwat has done justice to a visionary



SANDHYA JAIN

Hindu *rashtra* (nation) is not *rajya* (state), though critics tend to obfuscate the issue. A state is a politico-legal entity; a nation is a civilisational, cultural, and psychological entity, generally identified with an ancient or distinct geography linked to its people. Hindus form the bedrock and mainstream of the Indian nation; a Hindu polity respects its minorities precisely because it is Hindu. This is true of both Hindu *rashtra* and *rajya*.

Keshav Baliram Hedgewar founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1925 as an ideological alternative to the dominant Indian National Congress, to uphold the primacy of Hindu civilisation and Hindus in India. Though Hedgewar and many *swayamsevak*s joined the freedom movement under the aegis of the Congress, mutual distrust over the Partition and murder of Mahatma Gandhi persuaded the organisation of the need for a polit-

ical praetorian guard. The fortuitous availability of Syama Prasad Mookerjee led to the formation of the Jan Sangh; his tragic death in Srinagar consolidated the fledgling party's nationalist credentials, a legacy that transferred to its remake, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Unsurprisingly, Jawaharlal Nehru loathed both the RSS and the Jan Sangh because they did not value his Western liberal worldview and sought inspiration from India's native ethos, which was by definition Hindu. Like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and BR Ambedkar, Nehru understood that the RSS was not innately anti-Muslim, but was astute enough to realise that painting it in such colours would give him the consolidated Muslim votebank, which kept his party in power for several decades.

RSS *sarsangchalak* Mohan Bhagwat addressed a complex range of political, social, cultural, civilisational and psychological issues that have crystallised with the ascent of the BJP as India's ruling and dominant political party in 2014. At a three-day conclave titled, "Future of Bharat: An RSS Perspective", Bhagwat sounded the bugle of an ideological war at a modern-day Kurukshetra, where none of his invited opponents turned up. Round one to Bhagwat.

Critics have questioned the reasons for the outreach, linking its timing to the parliamentary election of 2019. Some have taken his assurances that Hindutva does not and cannot exclude Muslims as an exercise in 'Congress-isation'. The issue is more complex. Some things have



GIVEN RAHUL GANDHI'S VITUPERATIVE ATTACKS ON THE RSS, AND HIS ALLUSION THAT IT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE, BHAGWAT PRESENTED A STALWART WHO OPPOSED BRITISH COLONIALISM FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD AND RUBBED SHOULDERS WITH BAL GANGADHAR TILAK, BS MOONJE, SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, AND THE SAVARKAR BROTHERS

changed unimaginably. The hitherto inviolable Muslim personal law has been challenged by Muslim women, who have got triple *talaq* (*talaq-e-biddat*) legally invalidated, and are now fighting to ban polygamy, *nikah halala* and female genital mutilation. The state is standing by them; the days of inhumane orthodoxy are over.

Then, the politically dominant State of Uttar Pradesh has asked *madrasas* to incorporate the national school curriculum in their teaching programme. It is a matter of time before parents decide what kind of education they want the *madrasa* to emphasise in future. The internal dynamics of the Muslim community, therefore, are destroying mental ghettos and driving Muslims to build bridges with Hindu civilisation and Hindu India.

A return to the patronage offered to Muslim orthodoxy by the Congress and other secular parties is no longer possible. Hence, Muslim investment in such parties is no longer necessary. A Hindu India must seek to make this transition as painless as possible, especially as the challenge of Islamic terrorism increases and innocents have to be protected. Bhagwat's speech is a nudge in that direction. The decision to put Hedgewar at the centre of his outreach was a necessary corrective. Most *swayamsevak*s have grown up under the shadow of MS Golwalkar (*gururaj*), who led the RSS for 33 long years and established it in northern India. His speeches made him in the troubled Partition years and thereafter have derailed the public discourse

to the detriment of the RSS' prestige. The situation-based editing of Golwalkar's speeches in Parliament must be seen in this context. Given Congress president Rahul Gandhi's vituperative attacks on the RSS, and his allusion that it did not participate in the freedom struggle, Bhagwat presented a stalwart who opposed British colonialism from early childhood and rubbed shoulders with Bal Gangadhar Tilak, BS Moonje, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Savarkar brothers.

As a student in the sixth standard, he threw the sweets received on Queen Victoria's 60th coronation day in the dustbin, saying slavery to the British empire was nothing to celebrate and motivated children not to go to see the lights on Nagpur Empress Mill as part of the celebrations. In the 10th grade, Hedgewar managed to organise students of Neil City High School to shout '*Vande Mataram*' when the inspector visited the classrooms. When investigations began to identify the mastermind, he confessed to save fellow students from trouble, and was rusticated. He passed the metric exam from Pune as a private student under the Lokmanyaa Tilak Yojana. While there (1908), he threw a bomb at a police post on Vijaydashami; he was arrested but released because he was a student.

Tilak and Moonje sent Hedgewar to study at Calcutta Medical College and meet leaders of the Anushilan Samiti and organise the revolutionary activities of Bengal and Maharashtra. During his six years in the province, he helped the Ramakrishna Mission to provide relief during

a famine in Bengal; the Mission later sent MS Golwalkar to join Hedgewar after he founded the RSS. Returning to Nagpur with his degree in 1917, Hedgewar decided to dedicate his life to the nation. He joined the Congress and as general secretary of the Nagpur Congress Sewa Dal, helped organise the Non Cooperation Movement in 1921. He was arrested for sedition and jailed for one year. Later, he became secretary of the Congress in Central Provinces.

Deeply influenced by Moonje, Hedgewar felt that the nation needed a vehicle, different from the Congress, which placed Hindutva as the basis of nationhood. The RSS was founded at a meeting in his home, where like-minded people would gather for weekly meetings, which gradually evolved into the daily *shakha*. The emphasis was on character building (*vyakti nirman*); the rest would follow. Hedgewar and many RSS workers remained in the Congress and participated in the freedom struggle under Gandhi's leadership. In 1932, he inspired the Jungle Satyagraha, wherein 6,000 persons cut jungle grass in defiance of a Government ban, similar to the ban on making salt. He was jailed for nine months. Long a shadowy figure at the edge of historical consciousness, Bhagwat has done justice to a visionary with formidable organisational skills.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

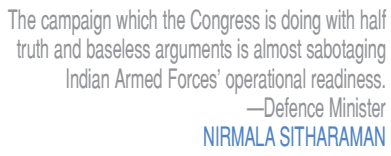
### POINTCOUNTERPOINT

Congress leaders and workers will go all out to hold agitations from State and district headquarters to grassroots level against the Rafale deal.



—Congress general secretary ASHOK GEHLOT

The campaign which the Congress is doing with half truth and baseless arguments is almost sabotaging Indian Armed Forces' operational readiness.



—Defence Minister NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

## Mosaic of all-embracing Hinduism

As we enter the 150th year of Gandhi's birth, let us not just remember the Father of the Nation but also his values of satyagraha and ahimsa which made him a mahatma, writes NITIN LUTHRA

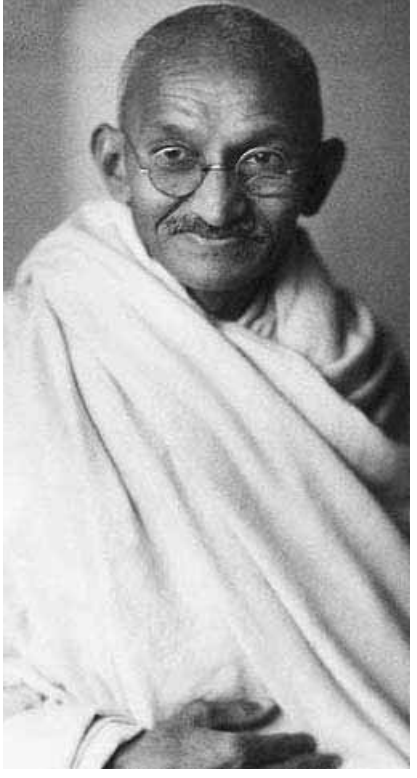
In his book, *The Gandhi Reader: A Source Book of His Life and Writings*, Mahatma Gandhi wrote, "Politics, divorced of religion, has absolutely no meaning". A commitment to religion was fundamental to the Mahatma's life, ideology and work. Time and again he asserted his identity primarily as a Hindu. However, he had a pluralist conception of religion, which for him, was a matter of spirituality and social responsibility; rather than institutional observance and dogmatic behaviour.

In 1927, he wrote in the *Young India* that "In spite of my being a staunch Hindu, I find room in my faith for Christian and Islamic and Zoroastrian teaching and, therefore, my Hinduism seems to some to be a conglomeration... It is a faith based on the broadest possible toleration". He defined Hinduism as a search after truth through non-violent means. His faith in Hinduism did not hinder him from condemning several customs and practices, such as caste untouchability, child marriage and prohibition of widow remarriage.

In his formative years, the Mahatma read widely and took inspiration from diverse sources. It is well-known that the *Gita* and the *Bible* influenced Gandhi profoundly, but he also learned from Western writers, like John Ruskin, Leo Tolstoy and Henry David Thoreau. Gandhi was influenced by British writer Ruskin's critique of distancing morality and ethics from economics and politics in his book *Unto This Last* (1862). He later translated the book into Gujarati as '*Sarvodaya*' (well-being of all) in 1908. Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's advocacy of non-violence in his theory of 'non-resistance to evil' also left a lasting impression on Gandhi. He also learnt from Tolstoy the 'law of bread labour' ie, everyone must do physical labour.

Tolstoy used to work on his farm for eight hours a day, in spite of being a nobleman, a practice that the Mahatma imbibed from him and practised throughout his life. He put their ideas into practice by establishing the Phoenix Ashram (1904) in South Africa where all the residents were to get the same remuneration and lived as an integrated community, irrespective of their race, religion and nationality.

Although religion was very important to Gandhi, he believed it to be a personal matter. Religious conversion was a futile



activity as one didn't need to renounce his/her religion to incorporate the teachings of other great religions in his life. As a law student in England, the Mahatma read the *Bible* and the life of Jesus inspired him immensely. MN Srivinas, in his article, '*Gandhi's Religion*', notes that the notion of returning love for hatred and good for evil enthralled him (*Economic and Political Weekly*, June 24, 1995). The suffering of Jesus for others had the greatest impact on Gandhi and he later incorporated this self-sacrifice (*tapasya*) in his philosophy of non-violence. He lectured on the *Bible* and the life of Christ in Gujarat Vidyapeeth in 1926.

The Mahatma also appreciated the *Quran* for its evolutionary view of religion. He included verses from the book in his prayer meetings. In his book, *Communal Unity* (1949), he stated his appreciation for Prophet Muhammad's fasting and austere living. He also found justification of non-violence in the *Quran*. According to him,

although the *Quran* allowed violence, it proscribed non-violence as a duty. He believed in the unity of all religions. He not only helped in the establishment of Jamia Millia Islamia University for the education of Muslims, but also sent one of his sons to study there.

While it is universally known that the *Bhagavad Gita* had a great impact on his mind, he had a very different interpretation of the religious book than most others. According to him, it evinced the futility of violence and materialism. The ideal of acting without any desire for result (*nishkama karma*) influenced him profoundly and led him towards a life of philanthropy. Gandhi focussed primarily on ethical instead of the metaphysical aspect of religion. According to him, "every formula of every religion has in this age of reason to submit to the acid test of reason and universal justice if it is to ask for universal assent" (*Young India*, 1925).

Many great leaders around the world, like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr, have read and practised Gandhi's teachings successfully in their struggle against inequality and injustice. Unlike the Western thought (*grace* à Machiavelli), Gandhi's thought was based on the means, in Gandhi's view, *ahimsa* becomes both the means as well as the end. At its core, his thought espouses a democratic philosophy of action which involves a consistent re-examining and introspection of one's thought to ensure one's pursuit of truth. Even the desired end does not carry the connotation of winning but of persuasion which involves as much a questioning of the self as the other.

Gandhi's ideas are more than relevant in today's time. In a society still struggling with communal tension and caste-based violence, we need to hark back to his ideas of *ahimsa* and *satyagraha*. On the issue of cow protection which has resurfaced as a severe communal issue, he had written in the *Young India* in 1921 that to "attempt cow-protection by violence is to reduce Hinduism to Satanism". As we enter the 150th year of the Gandhian era, let us not just remember the father of our nation but also the values that made him a '*mahatma*' (great soul).

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### CHINESE INFLUENCE

Sir — This refers to the article, "India's abiding Chinese addiction" (October 1) by Kushan Mitra. The writer has painted a disturbing and depressing picture of India's addiction to cheap Chinese goods and also its huge investments in our infrastructure, including metro networks, highways, power plants etc. The Chinese are now manufacturing their own brands in India, making a mockery of the 'Make in India' programme.

It is unbelievable how a nationalistic regime led by the NDA under the

strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi could shut their eyes to this alarming economic situation. China invaded India in 1962 and now our over-dependence on 'China may not ever need to fight a war with India as it is winning the little battles, essential to winning the war', the writer rightly concluded.

M Ratan

Via email

#### REMEMBERING GANDHI

Sir — October 2, apart from being celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti, was also

declared as International Day of Non-Violence in 2007 by the United Nations. When interests of one person or a group clashes with the other, there is a strong possibility of violence.

If this grave situation is not dealt with calmly, and if people are allowed to resort to violence, it may have serious repercussions. "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind", said Mahatma Gandhi who further said, "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace".

On this day, we need to remember that the message of non-violence

This refers to the article, "Recent SC verdicts negate existence of absolute law" (September 30) by Swapan Dasgupta. While the writer has chosen his words with great discretion, it is clear that he is not aware of the role of the court for the sake of proper functioning of the three pillars of democracy, it is essential to keep judicial pronouncements absolute without individual opinions or inclinations creeping in there.

In case it doesn't happen that way, the line that separates the Supreme Court from



### Judicial pronouncements must be free of opinion

Parliament ceases to exist. A great responsibility, therefore, lies with the general public, the Government and last but not the least with the Supreme Court itself, which has to take a major burden of it.

As it is, there has been too much of the Supreme Court in the recent past with all sorts of matters coming before it in the name of fundamental rights. A majority of them have been such where no interpretation of law was involved and the top court had to act as the elders of the soci-

ety. For the sake of India being looked as a mature country, this has to end soon. It would, therefore, be good for the country as a whole, that Supreme Court entertains only such cases that require interpretation of laws, leaving the social problems to the elected Governments, so that the judicial pronouncements remain absolute with no scope for personal opinions or inclination.

BP Srivastava  
Noida



in India. Without that level of philosophical and intellectual advancement, the Ganga-Jamuni culture would never have flourished in India.

Those in their 20s around 1955 still recall how they were convinced that caste and religion would cease to be a factor in the national polity and also in the social structure within a country. He was in know of his facts, sound on his philosophical moorings and was energetically eager to move with the changing times.

As a teacher, I found his 'performance' a classic example of how to influence people and win friends. It was a superb articulation — no unnecessary sentence, no jargon, every word and sentence appeared duly weighted and whetted. Politicians of every shade and age, including the most die-hard critics of the RSS, would do well if they watch the three-day visuals of the orator who established an organic link with the audience without any apparent effort.

They could emulate gainfully on how to convey their viewpoints to the audiences.

I am confident, many of them have already done so. Many critics were also invited but they probably felt uneasy and did not attend; they were certainly losers. A couple of them with whom I could interact after the event, were even keen to know what Bhagwat handled the question answer

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session on the third evening, could impress anyone, irrespective of his ideological leanings. The responses were so clear, confident, and precise. There was not even an attempt to bypass any query, no matter how intrusive it was.

On the lighter side, there was a relaxing moment when Bhagwat was asked why the Sangathan Mantri of the RSS? The 'innocence' afloat in the answer charmed everyone: "Because only they ask us to provide one. If others make a request, we shall consider". One may disagree and genuinely attempt to decipher the meaning and interpretation of the statement, but it would be impossible not to be charmed by the manner of response to an intrusive query. Was this the main reason for the absence of political invitees who were afraid of being swept off their feet by Mohan Bhagwat face-to-face?

Politically and ideologically unconstrained senior citizens, concerned about the national, social cohesion and religious amity, often recall how after Independence, caste politics and politicisation of secularism was pursued by unscrupulous politicians, who just could not think beyond somehow, or anyhow, winning the next election.

Absence of transparency in public life and reluctance on the part of politicians to know more about their opponents and their ideas and intentions were declared communal and conservative. Secularism of their interpretation became the weapon to consolidate the Left hegemony in key institutions; everyone else was to be discarded. They just ignored that the strength of the dialogical tradition that is one of the strongest pillars of the Indian civilisation.

They just forgot that the people were willing to listen to the RSS which millions remained glued to their television sets even in remote and rural/far-flung areas. Enough has been spoken about his speech at various

levels, and there was a widespread consensus that no politician should have rejected the invitation, they could have proved the courtesy and courage to join and ask questions and seek clarification. They missed the chance. The nation would have benefited if an intense interaction had taken place. It would have generated the possibility of enhancing the level of discourse in social, cultural and political life of the nation.

If one refers to the great example of dialogical tradition represented by the *Bhagavad Gita*, Yudhishtir-Yaksh interaction, or the *shashtri* between Adi Sankaracharya and Mandana Misra, most of the self-proclaimed secularists would look the other way. They may even not be familiar with these examples, as most of the cultural context of India, its philosophical moorings and literature finds little place in school education.

However, it will be difficult for anyone to ignore what Mahatma Gandhi has written in the *Harjan* of April 29, 1938: "I would like to say to the diligent reader of my writings and to those who are interested in them that I am not at all concerned with appearing to be consistent. In my search for truth, I have discarded many ideas and learnt many new things. Old as I am, I have no feeling that I have ceased to grow inwardly or that my growth will stop at the dissolution of the flesh. What I am concerned with is my readiness to obey the call of truth, my inner urge, moment to moment, and, therefore, when anybody finds any inconsistency between any two writings of mine, if he has still faith in my sanity, he would do well to choose the later of the two on the same subject".

When Bhagwat publically declared that his organisation had moved ahead of the 'bunch of thoughts' era, brought out a new version and self out certain thoughts that did not appear relevant to present realities, it can logically be viewed in light of the above quote of the Mahatma. As individuals grow up, so do organisations. Not all of them, though.

For every independent observer and objective interpreter of India's development initiatives, the decline of the dialogical culture amongst politicians appears to be a big impediment in ameliorating the miseries of those still waiting at the end of the line for a better and dignified life. Gandhi had warned in 1922 in a letter that even if Swaraj comes now, four things shall weigh heavily on our people and they would not get happiness. He identified these four as: Defects of elections, injustice, burden of administration, and treachery of the rich. His words have proved prophetically accurate. In 1925, he had identified seven social sins which included 'politics without principles' and 'wealth without work'. At present, these two appear to be organically linked. Politics of confrontation retards the advancement of the nation. Hence, every possible opportunity must be utilised to the hilt to bring people of varying political affiliations across the table, to sit together and talk to each other. Even if no tangible gain becomes visible, personal distrust and levels of animosity would certainly rise in ample measure. India can no longer afford ideological/political 'un-intractability' and plunge itself into further chaos. Leadership in every sphere — social, cultural, political — must learn to live together, first between us, and then with the rest of the world. Leadership shop maturity; talk to each other, and together, let the nation move ahead.

(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

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What Adam Frank has done, in his recent book, '*Light of the Stars: Alien Worlds and the Fate of the Earth*', is to point out that there must therefore have been a lot of 'exo-civilisations'. Make your assumptions about first life and then intelligence emerging on any given planet as pessimistic as you like, and there will still be a lot.

Maybe not billions or even millions, but even if you assume that only one life-supporting planet in a million trillion ever supported a civilisation, there would have been 10 thousand of them. That's big enough for a statistical sample, and what Frank really wanted to do was to crank the numbers and get a handle on how many of those civilisations would have made it through the bottleneck. He doesn't need to know anything specific about those unknown exo-civilisations. He only needs to know that all civilisations use large amounts of energy, and that there is a strictly limited number of ways that a 'young' technological civilisation like ours can access energy. There are fossil fuels, if your planet had a Carboniferous Era, or just burning biomaterials if it didn't. There's hydro, wind and tides. There's solar, geothermal and nuclear. That's it. Using energy always produces waste but some of these modes produce far less heat, carbon-dioxide and toxic chemicals than others.

So put different original mixes of these energy sources into your experimental models, put in different planetary conditions as well (some planets closer to their suns, some further away), and run a few thousand of these models through your computer. It turns out that most of the models see runaway population growth, followed at a distance by growing pressures on the planet's environment that lower its 'population carrying capacity'. At some point, the alarmed population switches to lower-impact energy sources. There is still a steep die-back (upto 70 per cent) in the population, but then a steady state emerges and the civilisation survives. In other models, the planet's people decide switching the energy sources for too long. They all switch in the end but the laggards still don't make it. The population starts to fall, appears to stabilise for a while and then rushes downward to extinction. Nobody saw that one coming, but it's what the models are telling us.

There's still a huge amount of research to be done in this new domain, but it's time to ask where our own planetary civilisation falls in this spectrum of possible behaviours. I don't know, but this just in: Oil production is at an all-time high of 100 million barrels a day, and the Organisation of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) predicts that it will reach 112 mbd in the next 20 years. That's definitely a wrong direction.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

## Life exists but will our civilisation survive?

High-energy technological civilisations successfully pass through energy-environment bottleneck. But not many do so without suffering major losses



GWYNNE DYER

The universe is a pretty big place, as Carl Sagan once remarked. "If it's just us, seems like an awful waste of space." The Drake Equation was gradually filling out, and it's looking good for the existence of life, the rise of intelligence, and the likely number of civilisations elsewhere in the universe. There's even reason to hope that some high-energy technological civilisations successfully pass through the energy-environment bottleneck that our own planetary civilisation is now entering. But not many make it through the bottleneck without suffering major losses, and quite a lot just collapse.

The Drake Equation was written by American radio astronomer Frank Drake in 1961 to estimate how many high-tech civilisations were there in the galaxy. It had seven factors, but they were all empty. The first three factors, all uncertain in 1961, were: What is the average rate of star formation in our galaxy; how many of those stars have planets; and what proportion of those planets can potentially support life? We know the answers now and they are pretty encouraging.

There's around one new star annually, most stars have planets, and about one star in five hosts one or more planets with liquid water on the surface. That means that there are probably around a hundred billion planets in this galaxy alone that can support life, but that's just a start. As Douglas Adams pointed out in '*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*', "Space is big. Really big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is." The Hubble telescope has revealed around a hundred billion galaxies in the universe. Total number of potentially life-supporting planets? Around 10 billion trillion.

Drake's remaining factors are still unknown quantities. The only two that matter to Adam Frank — because all he wants to know is how many non-human civilisations have ever existed anywhere in the universe — are what fraction of potentially life-supporting planets actually do develop life and what proportion of those planets go on to develop an intelligent life.

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## DOCYARD

DR KALPANA NAGPAL

Senior Consultant – ENT

INDRAPRASTHA APOLLO HOSPITALS, DELHI



# Robots won't let you snore

With the use of newer technologies that are evolving one can access minute body parts that would otherwise be inaccessible to a surgeon. Robotic assisted surgery (RAS) is one such technology that is gaining popularity in the Healthcare sector. Medical institutions are investing in it heavily while doctors and clinicians are getting trained to become better skilled at using robotics. This is because robotics does not just help surgical staff access certain parts of the body more easily, but they also help in reducing error. The RAS also reduces the invasiveness, which comes with conventional surgical procedures, thereby ensuring faster recovery due to smaller incisions and lesser blood loss. Other benefits include lower chances of postoperative infection, less pain, great cosmetic results and better post-operative immune function. The cost benefit is therefore proportional.

One of the key advantages of RAS is that the need for the doctor to be physically present beside the patient is reduced. These surgeries can be performed with the doctor sitting thousands of km away. The technology also reduces things like errors due to finger tremors while significantly improving dexterity and ergonomics. The robotics arms and instruments can reach areas which are difficult for humans to access due to the physical limitations of the human arm, wrist and hands. Robotic arms have seven degrees of freedom, and provide the surgeon

**Robotics surgeries are increasingly being used to cure snoring & obstructive sleep apnea, thyroid & parathyroid issues, neck dissections, tumours of oral cavity, oropharynx & larynx, recurrent nasopharyngeal cancer as well as hemangiomas, lingual thyroid, floppy epiglottis, elongated styloid processes & cysts in the lower throat**

with 360 degree access while sitting comfortably on the console. In the case of nerve and brain surgeries, the use of robotics allows surgeons to get to the microscopic areas using various levels of magnification. Another benefit of RAS is that it allows the surgeon more time to perform surgeries, as the doctor wouldn't have to physically twist and turn to reach the nooks and crannies during the surgery. This also lessens fatigue of the surgeon.

Robotics surgeries are increasingly being used to cure snoring and obstructive sleep apnea, thyroid and parathyroid issues, neck dissections, tumours of oral cavity, oropharynx and larynx, recurrent nasopharyngeal cancer as well as hemangiomas, lingual thyroid, floppy epiglottis, elongated styloid processes (eagle's syndrome) and cysts in the lower throat. To treat cancerous or benign tumours of the oropharynx and supraglottis, transoral robotic surgery is increasingly being preferred. This type of robotic surgery eliminates the need for cutting the jaw, inserting feeding tubes, blood transfusions or tracheostomies which happens in traditional surgeries. This helps to improve quality of life for patients post surgical operation.

Then there is the reduced cost. While the expertise, as is the case for most cutting edge technologies, can be expensive, robotic assisted surgery significantly cuts down other costs. It can be used to avoid chemotherapy in the case of some cancers, and even in treating thyroid and sleep apnea issues. The time taken for recovery after surgery is also minimal. Even the time taken to prepare the patient, set up the equipment and to perform the actual surgery comes down significantly. With reduced hospital stays and costs, health insurance providers also encourage such procedures. People have started to actively opt for this kind of procedure. One other advantage is that junior doctors and other staff can watch the surgery on the additional 2-D screen display, which helps to supplement their learning curve.

## SUMMERCOOLER

**LADY FINGER:** Also known as Okra or Bhindi, Lady Finger is high in dietary fiber and metabolism and thus, it is good for digestion, constipation and also aid in prevention of diabetes. Foliates present in Okra reduces the neural tube defects in a new born baby. So it is highly recommended for women during pre conception period or pregnancy. It is high in Vitamin K which helps in strengthening the bones in our body. People diagnosed with asthma are strongly suggested to consume lady finger. It helps prevent sun strokes. With regular usage of Okra, in either raw or cooked form, you can avoid obesity. Obesity is not necessarily due to consumption of fatty and calorific foods but also due to lack of nutrients. It absorbs less cholesterol preventing heart diseases and ailments occurring due to cholesterol in the blood. Vitamin C found in okra actually helps maintain a younger looking skin and repair body tissues. If you are tired of your distressed hair, try using Okra to get that bounce back. Boil okra with some water and the transparent mucilage that you get can be used to get your bouncy hair back. Okra is an excellent moisturizer for your dry and itchy scalp and the same mucilage can be used as hair conditioner. Wash your hair and squeeze out excess water. Massage the watery mucilage through your hair and rinse thoroughly with water.



# CARE FOR YOUR HEART

Cardiovascular diseases are the most common cause of death in India. To mark World Heart Day, PIONEER HEALTH draws attention to various aspects of heart diseases and how we can prevent & diagnose them early

India is the 'cardiac capital' of the world with a significant increase in heart disease over the last 15 years. "Primary risk factors for heart disease include diabetes, smoking, blood pressure, alcohol consumption, poor diet, deranged blood lipids, physical inactivity, obesity, stress, anxiety & depression. If either of an individual's parent is suffering from a heart disease, it increases the risk of the individual by 15 to 20% and in case both parents are affected, the risk increases by 30 to 40 per cent. Thus, early screening is crucial for

timely detection and treatment," Dr Naresh Trehan, Chairman, Medanta, Heart Institute, Trehan says.

Dr Shobha Gupta, gynecologist & IVF specialist, Mother's Lap IVF Centre, points out: "Women with PCOS (poly cystic ovarian syndrome) have a risk of heart attack four to seven times higher than women of the same age without PCOS. Women with PCOS may have a higher rate of miscarriage because of elevated levels of luteinizing hormones, insulin or glucose."

## TREATMENT

A routine TMT (treadmill test) can only pick up artery blockages beyond 75%. People above 40 must undergo detailed tests such as calcium scoring by CT scan to detect any abnormalities. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) chest compression is done to revive the patient after a heart attack.

Primary angioplasty is the preferred option for heart attack. In this, a balloon is threaded into the affected blood vessel and inflated, pushing the plaque blocking the artery to the sides of the vessel. A stent or wire mesh tube is inserted into the artery to keep it open after angioplasty. Drug-eluting coronary stents can help prevent plaque buildup, promote good blood flow to the heart, and relieve chest pain.

Angioplasty or percutaneous coronary intervention has benefited millions of patients. Angioplasty is a minimally invasive procedure in which the chest doesn't need to be opened, thus, substantially reducing pain, recovery time, and scarring. Some other options include anti-platelet medications, clot dissolving drugs, and cholesterol lowering medications.

— Dr Vishal Rastogi, Principal Interventional Cardiologist, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, Okhla Road, New Delhi

## HIGH INTAKE OF CALCIUM & VITAMIN D

Studies suggest a low level of calcium and Vitamin D in the blood increase the risk of cardiac arrest. Research suggests that dietary calcium in the form of supplements but not calcium-rich food might have a harmful impact on the heart.

"Cardiac muscles require calcium to contract and squeeze blood out of the heart and in the arteries. Calcium flows in the muscle cells through tiny channels and works as a switch that allows each heart muscle fiber to slide past each other and shorten to contract. At the end of

each contraction, calcium flows out of the channels to let the muscles to relax and lengthen again. As Vitamin D is an important prohormone for intestinal calcium absorption for bone mineralisation, its deficiency also leads to the risk of cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension, heart failure & ischemic heart diseases," Mohamad Yusuf N Shaikh, founder, Kudrati Ayurveda Health Center, says.



## DIET

Eat five servings of fruits (bright ones like berries) & vegetables in a day. Limit the fat, sugar and salt in your diet. Intake of plant based diets like legumes & seeds are good as they contain fibre, proteins, good fats & anti-oxidants are good for the heart. Walnut and almonds very healthy but should be consumed in moderation (about 30 gm/day) as they are dense in calories. Tea and coffee consumption is good but should be taken in the overall context of dairy and sugar added to it. Lean meats like chicken and fish are also okay for the heart but should be consumed in moderation. Vitamin B12, if found deficient, should also be supplemented.

Synthetic sugars, aerated drinks, energy drinks, fruit juices without pulp are not good. So also are the processed foods and namkeens including fried foods, especially those made using trans-fat and/or poor quality vegetable oils. Red meat is also high in fat and calories and not heart healthy.

Dietary fats, if consumed in large quantity, lead to increase LDL. Take eggs in moderation. Olive, canola and sunflower oils are heart friendly.

— Dr Vivek Chaturvedi, Senior Consultant Cardiologist, Narayana Superspecialty Hospital , Gurugram

## DIABETES AND HEART DISEASES

Heart disease affects people with Diabetes twice as often. More than 65 per cent deaths with Diabetes are attributed to heart and vascular diseases. And most of the times, this is silent.

A diabetic's blood sugar levels are often high. Too much sugar in the blood damages many parts of the body, including blood vessels resulting in coronary artery disease. Those with diabetes sometimes suffer what is called 'silent ischemia' or silent heart attack (without any chest pain), which accounts for 25-30% heart attacks.

■ **A—A1C, or hemoglobin A1c test:** It measures average blood glucose over the past three months. It should be less than 7%. Your doctor may prescribe insulin if your HbA1c is more than 9.5% at the time of diagnosis or more than 7.5% even after taking oral drugs. This test is recommended at least twice a year.

■ **B—BP:** It must remain less than 130/80 mmHg. Checking BP at every doctor's visit is essential. A person with diabetes will need medications if blood pressure is above this level.

■ **C—Cholesterol.** It is an important factor that affects the heart. The cholesterol that needs to be checked is the HDL, LDL and the triglycerides. All of them should be within the specified limits. The optimal target is less than 100 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dL) for LDL cholesterol. For HDL cholesterol, the recommended level is more than more than 40 mg/dL. Every diabetic should get his lipid profile done every year.

— Dr Ameya Joshi, endocrinologist, Novo Nordisk

## TAKE CARE OF SMARTPHONE THUMB

DR KK AGGARWAL lists side-effects of overuse of texting, emailing and web surfing



The repetitive motions of texting and typing can lead to general hand pain from underlying osteoarthritis (the wearing away of cartilage in the joints). Using these gadgets doesn't cause osteoarthritis, but if you're prone to it, it can increase your symptoms. Here are a few problems that can arise:

■ Using your thumbs too much to text can cause strain or overuse injuries of the tendons that run from the wrist to the thumb (a condition called De Quervain's tenosynovitis). Symptoms include pain over the thumb side of the wrist, which can appear gradually or suddenly and move up the forearm.

■ Pushing buttons too hard with your fingers can lead to inflammation around the tendons and pulleys that enable the fingers to bend, increasing the risk for trigger finger (stenosing tenosynovitis). Symptoms include pain, popping, and a feeling that the digit is locking when you bend or straighten it.

■ Carpal tunnel syndrome — a condition in which the median nerve is compressed as it passes through a small area at the wrist known as the carpal tunnel. Typing may bring out the symptoms of the condition like pain, tingling, and numbness in the thumb, index finger, middle finger, and inner half of the ring finger.

■ Leaning too much on your elbows may worsen cubital tunnel syndrome. Here the ulnar nerve is compressed where it passes through tissue near the elbow called the cubital tunnel. Symptoms include pain, numbness, or tingling in the ring or little finger.

■ Looking down at an electronic gadget for long periods can lead to neck and back pain.

■ It's the posture and the amount of time in that posture that matters.

■ It can also irritate the occipital nerve where the spine connects to the base of the skull, which can cause headaches

■ Treatments for hand or wrist conditions include taking a break from the offending activity; splinting; short-term use of over-the-counter painkillers exercises to stretch the tendons; and sometimes steroid injections.

■ If texting with your thumbs causes pain, you need to use other fingers to text. Another option would be to use a stylus.

■ If you have hand deformity or pain, use voice commands, or use a fatter stylus to put less stress on the thumb joint.

■ To ease carpal tunnel pain, set up your workstation so that your forearms are parallel to the floor, your wrists are straight and in line with your forearms, and your elbows are relaxed and bent at a 90-degree angle at your waist.

■ Using a vertical mouse places the hand in a less stressful position. And keep the mouse in front of you, not to the side

■ To relieve back and neck pain, adjust your posture when using a device. Keep your gaze parallel to the floor as opposed to downward. It's helpful to raise the computer monitor so it's level with your eyes. Do the same with handheld devices by propping them on a few pillows.

The writer is president, Heart Care Foundation of India



## DadiKaKehna

*With a change in season comes problem of common cough and cold. Here are a few simple home remedies that will help you feel better within a few days, says*

ROSHANI DEVI



Most people will recommend chicken soup and Vitamin C to help you recover from a bout of cough and cold. But most Indian homes have their traditional remedies to tackle the problem. Here are a few of them:

**Adrak (ginger)** tea is the cure for even the worst kind of cough and cold. The chai helps in drying running nose and extracting phlegm bringing relief in breathing.

Another way to consumer ginger is to cut it into small pieces and add salt. Chew on these to bring the much needed relief from cough that may keep you up all night.

Boil water, add black pepper, cumin and gur. Drink this solution while it is warm. It helps in cough and cold.

Most homes have garlic and this can be used to bring soothe cough and cold. Saute a few garlic cloves in ghee. Eat these when warm.

Though garlic has a pungent flavour, it is great impact in treating common cold and cough.

Honey has antibacterial and antimicrobial properties. Drinking honey in tea with lemon can bring relief to a sore throat. A word of cautious, honey should not be given to kids if they are below the age of 1.



## TIPTOP

Around 68 per cent of schoolchildren under the age of 13 years across India may suffer from mild back pain, which can develop into chronic pain and later into hunchback, reveals a study conducted by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). The survey noted that over 88 per cent of children in the age group of 7-13 years carry more than 45 per cent of their weight on their backs including art kit, skates, taekwondo equipment, a swim bag, cricket kit every alternate day leading to serious spinal damage and irreversible back problems. As per the Children's School Bag Act 2006, a schoolbag should not weigh more than 10 per cent of a child's weight.

To prevent back problems to occur, EUME has launched a first of its kind built



— in massager backpack that has been devised to alleviate pain, rejuvenate & relax the back and shoulder muscles. It also comprises of an in-built portable USB charger for all your mobile devices, as well as specially engineered anti-theft zippers. Supported by intensive research with inputs from spine doctors, chiropractors, and fitness experts, the backpack is crafted using only the finest handpicked materials by master craftsmen of the trade.

With patent pending in India and USA, the bag has a simple, organised, and ergonomically designed interior, which makes finding what you need quick and hassle free. All one need to do is plug their bag to the powerbank and press the button given on the strap and you can adjust its speed by pressing it thrice. Priced at ₹3999, the EUME massager bags are available on <https://amzn.to/2u81n5K>.

## SLIMLINE

Apollo Cradle has unveiled its advanced technology neonatal intensive care unit (eNICU). Through the eNICU, specialists at the hospital will now be able to monitor minute details including medication levels, nutrition, feeding pattern, calorie and growth charts of babies, whilst in the hospital and also remotely. This will also help doctors support NICU's in smaller towns. The real-time monitoring of pre-term babies, with complete digital records will improve clinical outcomes

and provide world-class treatment in India.

Dr Anupam Sibal, Group Medical Director, Apollo Hospitals Group & Senior Consultant Pediatric Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals said: "eNICU will enable the care of babies that is difficult in most other hospitals. It will help doctors and medical officials monitor each baby from a central location. The cloud-based system also manages doctors' workflow, nursing workflow and resident doctor handovers."

## STUDYCENTRE

According to a report by the WHO, the per capita alcohol consumption in India has more than doubled from 2005 to 2016. It has increased from 2.4 litres in 2005 to 5.7 litres in 2016 with 4.2 litres being consumed by men and 1.5 litre by women. The total alcohol per capita consumption (15+ years) is expected to increase in half of the WHO regions by 2025. An increase of 2.2 litres is expected in India alone.

Consumption of alcohol is one of the leading risk factors for health issues in populations worldwide. It has a direct bearing on many health-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including those for maternal and child health, infectious diseases (HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis), non-communicable diseases and mental health, injuries and poisonings. Some tips to stop or reduce consumption of alcohol are:

■ Understand why you want to stop and put it in writing. For the initial few weeks, keep track of every drink.

■ Those who are cutting back should set a limit as per their health — for the healthy it should be less than 40 ml in one hour, 80 ml in one day and less than 240 ml in a week. Women should take less than half of this amount.

■ Sip and do not gulp.

■ Keep busy.

■ Ask for support.





# India Inc’s credit profile moderates YoY in April-September: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India Inc's credit profile improved in the April to September period, compared with the preceding six months, but moderated when compared to the same period last year, domestic rating agency Crisil said Monday.

It further said the rupee depreciation, rising interest rates and tariff were pose a risk for Indian companies in future.

India Inc's credit ratio, which is the number of upgrades to downgrades, stood at 1.68 times in the first half of fiscal year 2018-19, compared with 1.88 times in the first half of the previous fiscal year and 1.45 times in the preceding six months, according to Crisil.

The debt-weighted credit

ratio, which is the total quantum of debt upgraded to the one downgraded, stood at 1.20 times for the April to September period, against 1.53 times in the year-ago period and 3.19 times in the preceding six months, it added.

However, its smaller rival Igra said its rating actions in the first half point out to an increase in the downward rating pressure on investment grade entities. "The credit quality pressures on investment grade entities intensified. The just-continued half of FY19 saw 45 investment grade ratings being downgraded to the on-investment grade at an annualised rate of 4.3 per cent, the highest proportion in the past five years," said Anjan Ghosh, chief rating officer, Igra. Sectors that

saw an improvement in the credit quality are ferrous metals, micro lenders and fertilisers, while companies in textiles, roads, real estate, automobile dealerships, education and financial services reported a worsening, according to Igra.

Crisil's senior director Somasekar Vemuri said the rupee depreciation will have a low to moderate impact on India Inc and estimated an impact of up to 1.50 per cent on the net margins of corporates.

On the recent issues at non-bank lenders, it said active liquidity management holds the key and added that while asset quality and capitalisation are "comfortable", "continued market disruption can constrain access to funding".

Vemuri said non-perform-

ing assets in the banking system will come down to 11 per cent by end of FY19, from 11.6 per cent in the year-ago period, and added that they will go down further.

He said a bulk of the recognition has already happened and added that recoveries from the assets being resolved under the bankruptcy laws will also be helpful. From a credit growth perspective, Crisil said banks will clock a double digit growth in FY19, driven majorly by state-run companies.

On the crucial issue of private investments, Vemuri said he does not expect those to revive for at least a year as the corporates are waiting for the election results and an uptick in capacity utilisation before investing further.

## NCL registers 13 pc growth in coal production



**Singrauli:** Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has produced 48.38 million tonnes of coal and despatched 49.19 million tonnes of coal in the first half of the current year (i.e. from April to September). In the first half of the current year, the coal production and dispatch are in excess of the assigned target for the first 6-months. According to the target, the company had to produce 47.04 million tonnes of coal and 45.22 million tonnes of coal in this period.

The coal production by the company in the first half was 13 per cent higher than the corresponding period of the last financial year. In the first half of the last financial year, the company produced 42.80 million tonnes of coal. Similarly, the company's coal dispatch in the first half was 10 per cent higher than the same period last fiscal. In the first half of last financial year, the company had despatched 44.63 million tonnes of coal.

Talking only standalone September figures, the coal production and dispatch of the company in September this year is more than the production and off-take made figures of last year September. NCL has produced 7.99 million tonnes of coal in September 2018, compared to 7.16 million tonnes in September last year. Similarly, in September 2018, the company has despatched 8.16 million tonnes of coal as against 7.90 million tonnes in September last year.

It is worth mentioning that in the current financial year, NCL has to produce 100 million tonnes of coal and dispatch 100.50 million tonnes of coal. Looking at the results of the first half, it is expected that the company will surpass its assigned targets.

## BUSINESS CORNER

### DATSUN BEGINS BOOKINGS FOR NEW GO, GO+ MODELS

**New Delhi:** Datsun, the sister brand of Japanese auto major Nissan Motor, Monday commenced pre-bookings for the new Datsun GO and GO+ at a booking amount of ₹11,000. "We are confident that the new Datsun GO and GO+ offer a complete package with attractive design, power and performance to our customers in India," Nissan Motor India Director Sales and Commercial Hardeep Singh Brar said in a statement. Deliveries of the updated vehicles from company's authorised dealerships will begin from October 10, it added.

### LUPIN INKS PACT TO DISTRIBUTE ELI LILLY'S DIABETES INJECTION IN INDIA

**New Delhi:** Drug major Lupin Monday announced partnership with Eli Lilly and Company (India) to distribute Eli Lilly's diabetes injection Aplevant in the country. Lupin said the expansion of the business partnership with Eli Lilly is aimed at widening access to diabetes medicines in India. Under the new partnership, Lupin will distribute and market Lilly's Aplevant (dulaglutide), once a weekly injection for type 2 diabetes treatment, Lupin said in a regulatory filing. Lupin expects to make Aplevant available in India from October 2018, it said in a statement. The partnership between the two companies was initiated in 2011 to expand the promotion and distribution of Lilly's diabetes portfolio in India where Lupin has a large network. "With this new partnership, we are expanding our diabetes portfolio to include a once-weekly diabetes treatment, and improving access to innovative medications for better diabetic care in India," Rajeev Sibal, Lupin President - India Region Formulations, said. Shares of Lupin were trading 1.99 per cent down at ₹882.75 apiece on the BSE.

### TATA MOTORS DOMESTIC SALES UP 20% IN SEP

**New Delhi:** Tata Motors on Monday reported a 20 per cent increase in domestic sales at 64,520 units in September as compared to 53,964 units in the same month last year. Domestic passenger vehicle sales were up 7 per cent at 18,429 units last month as compared to 17,286 units in September 2017, the company said in a statement. Commenting on the passenger vehicle sales performance in July, Tata Motors President - Passenger Vehicles Business Mayank Pareek said the growth for the overall PV industry is stressed with degrowth in all three months of the quarter. "Early indications have been that the industry has declined in September this year. Having said that, we grew at 7 per cent on the back of continued demand of our new generation vehicles," he added. The company expects sales to pick up this festive season and to boost its customer morale, it is launching four new products, Pareek said. "Out of these four products, we have already launched the Nexon KRAZ and the Tiago NRG and are now gearing up for our third new product launch, scheduled on October 10," he added.

## Manufacturing sector activity rises in Sep on new orders: PMI

**New Delhi:** The country's manufacturing sector activity improved in September amid gains in new orders, output and employment, a monthly survey said Monday. The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index strengthened slightly in September to 52.2, up from 51.7 in August, as sales rose from both domestic as well as foreign clients.

This is the 14th consecutive month that the manufacturing PMI remained above the 50-point mark. In PMI parlance, a print

above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.

"Growth of India's manufacturing sector picked up during the latest survey period, reflective of strengthening demand especially from foreign clients, which helped to drive export growth up to its highest level since the turn of the year," said Paul Smith, Economics Director at IHS Markit and author of the report.

Meanwhile, price pressures intensified, as input costs rose the most since June. A

strong US dollar and supply shortages had exacerbated high global prices for steel and fuel, the survey noted. "Output charges increased subsequently, albeit at a rate that remains well below the equivalent measure for input prices," Smith added. Amid rising price pressures, RBI Governor Urjit Patel-headed Monetary Policy Committee will start deliberation on the fourth bi-monthly monetary policy for 2018-19 on October 3 and announce its decision on October 5.

## BSE 500

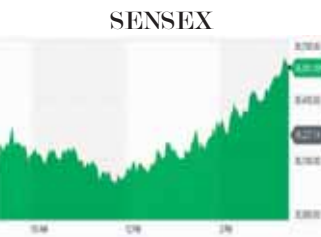
Script	Traded	Last Price	Abs Change	% Change
3MINDIA	22987.2	546.9	2.44	
8KTMILES	182.65	-9.6	-4.99	
AARTIND	1139.85	-34.8	-2.95	
ABB	1418.55	16	1.14	
ABBOTINDIA	7649.7	-132.8	-1.71	
ABCAPITAL	111	4	-3.48	
ABFRL	184.1	1.2	0.66	
ACC	1574.9	24.4	1.57	
ADANIEXPORTS	330.5	2.05	0.62	
ADANIPOWER	26.05	2.2	9.22	
ADANITRANS	157.15	-3.1	-1.93	
ADENZYMES	182.5	-6.7	-3.54	
AEGISLOG	189.35	-7.45	-3.79	
AIANG	1735.7	-26.4	-1.5	
AJANTPHARM	1070.1	8.5	0.8	
AKZOINDIA	1634.05	27.7	1.72	
ALBK	36.2	0.65	1.83	
ALKEM	2066.3	7.9	0.39	
ALLCARGO	99.65	-2.45	-2.4	
AMARAJABAT	745.95	6.6	0.89	
AMBUJACEM	222.05	-0.9	-0.4	
ANDHRABANK	27.6	0.2	0.73	
APARINDS	571.8	-12.55	-2.15	
APLAPOLLO	1259.05	-0.35	-0.03	
APLLTD	634.7	9.8	1.57	
APOLLOHOSP	1065.95	22.85	2.1	
APOLLITYRE	213.05	0.7	0.33	
ARVIND	325.85	7.15	2.24	
ASHINDIA	317.85	-1	-0.31	
ASHOKA	106.45	4.05	3.96	
ASHOKLEY	119.85	0.8	0.67	
ASIANPAINT	1278.6	-15.45	-1.19	
ASTRAL	953.85	-28.45	-2.9	
ATUL	3132	-63.5	-1.99	
AUBANK	562.85	-12.85	-2.23	
AUROPHARMA	768.7	24.95	3.35	
AVANTI	369.15	-19	-4.9	
B&M	593.95	-18.4	-3	
BAJAJFINSV	6,000.00	5,771.00	5,909.00	-97.2
BAJAJ-AUTO	2729.75	42.65	1.59	
BAJAJCORP	394.35	-18.05	-4.38	

BSE: GAINERS	
	Current (Chng %)
LAKSHVILAS	85.20 (19.92)
IL&FSTRANS	26.95 (19.51)
DHFL	317.90 (15.43)
INFIBEAM	67.15 (14.20)
SREINFRA	36.05 (11.44)

NSE: GAINERS	
	Current (Chng %)
YESBANK	199.85 (8.82)
HINDALCO	244.00 (6.25)
IBULHSGFIN	892.05 (4.11)
HDFC	1,815.00 (3.45)
SBIN	274.10 (3.24)

BAJAJELEC	502	2.05	0.41
BAJAJFINSV	5888.35	-100.3	-1.67
BAJAJHLNG	2953.45	-134	-4.34
BAJFINANCE	2208.65	41.25	1.9
BALKRISIND	1084.75	65.2	6.39
BALMLAWRIE	188.35	1.2	0.64
BALRAMCHIN	73.35	2.45	3.46
BALAKRANBK	451.2	-112.8	-20
BANKBARODA	104.5	5.1	5.13
BANKINDIA	79.05	2.15	2.8
BASF	1834.15	-24.5	-1.32
BATAINDIA	970.95	-1	-0.01
BAYERCROP	4361.95	27.15	0.63
BBL	1318.3	5.75	0.44
BEL	82.75	2.55	3.18
BEMIL	585.05	-27.25	-4.45
BERGEPAINT	286	-6.85	-2.34
BHARATFIN	1016.8	-19.2	-1.85
BHARATFORG	624.75	23.75	3.95
BHARTIARTL	325.85	-12.4	-3.67
BHEL	71.05	2.65	3.87
BIOCON	678.8	-12.7	-1.84
BIRLACORPN	665.65	-27.2	-4.26
BLISSGVS	174.65	-2.15	-1.22
BLUEDART	2928.7	-36.4	-1.23
BLUESTARCO	556.8	-9.35	-1.65
BOMDYEING	159.7	-8.4	-5
BOSCHLTD	19686.35	-131.1	-0.66
BPCL	368.5	-5.2	-1.39
BRITANNIA	5829.55	28.65	0.49
CADILAC	396.75	10.25	2.65
CANFINHOME	232.95	12.1	5.48
CANFINHOME	261.15	23.3	9.8
CAPF	506.65	16.75	3.42
CAPPL	426.35	14.1	3.42
CARBORUNIV	388.15	4.95	1.29
CAREERATING	1178.85	-10.85	-0.91
CASTROLIND	145.3	2.5	1.75
OCL	249.95	-1.5	-0.6
CEATLTD	1134.95	-6.55	-0.57
CENTRALBK	40.7	-0.4	-0.97
CENTRUM	36	2.95	8.93
CENTURYCEP	176	-4.55	-2.52
CENTURYTEX	835.25	11.55	1.4
CERA	2496.95	-43	-1.69
CESC	867.1	46.3	5.64

ENDURANCE	1345.35	33.65	2.57
ENGINEERSIN	119.4	1.5	1.27
ENIL	636	5.8	0.92
EQUITAS	121.45	-0.6	-0.49
ERIS	714.3	-8.45	-1.17
ESCORTS	623.05	12.1	1.98
ESSELPRO	102.5	-2.05	-1.96
EVEREADY	209.75	12.35	6.26
EXIDEIND	262.4	-2.75	-1.04
FCOXSUMER	38.6	-0.55	-1.4
FDC	211.05	-3.25	-1.52
FEDERALBNK	73.15	2.45	3.47
FINCABLES	517.9	-12.65	-2.38
FINOLEXIND	525.7	0.7	0.13
FLFL	397.55	0.3	0.08
FORBESCO	1991.85	-104.28	-5
FORCEMOT	1724.7	-107.25	-6.85
FORTIS	135.2	0.15	0.11
FRETAIL	443.1	-20.3	-4.38
GAIL	61.75	0.05	0.08
GDL	380.75	2.2	0.58
GEPIL	731.7	-7.1	-0.96
GESHIP	279.95	-5.1	-1.79
GET&D	237.85	0.25	0.11
GHCL	215.55	-3.95	-1.8
GICHSGFIN	254.35	0.15	0.06
GICRE	317.7	-9.55	-2.92
GILLETTE	6517.8	-134.7	-2.02
GLAXO	1448.35	3.35	0.23
GLMCLD	636.15	3.85	0.61
GNOMARK	91.75	-1.7	-1.82
GNRFINRA	17	0.9	5.59
GNC	333.7	-12.55	-3.62
GODFREYPHLP	759.7	8.35	1.11
GODREJAGRO	519.7	7.95	1.55
GODREJCP	796.65	28.35	3.69
GODREJIND	509.85	-7.25	-1.4
GODREJPROP	602.05	8.6	1.45
GPPL	100.4	0.9	0.9
GRANULES	97.8	2.65	2.79
GRAPHITE	852.05	10.65	1.27
GRASIM	1000.5	-20.05	-1.96
GREAVESSCOT	128.25	-4.4	-3.32
GREENPLY	147.55	-7.55	-4.87
GRINDWELL	500.55	-10	-1.96



GRUH	292.95	-10.55	-3.48
GSFC	94.95	1.1	1.17
GSKCONS	6977.9	-273.6	-3.77
GSPL	181.25	6.3	3.6
GUJALKALI	595.4	3.1	0.52
GUJLUFORO	789.8	-19	-2.35
GULGAS	628.2	8.7	1.4
GULFOILLUB	743.35	6.7	0.91
HAL	803.55	21.7	2.78
HATSUN	673.25	-22.85	-3.28
HAVELLS	597.55	3.45	0.58
HCC	11.17	0.51	4.78
HCLTECH	1098	9.9	0.91
HDFC	1803.4	47.9	2.73
HDFOCBANK	2036.35	30.7	1.53
HDCLIFE	388.85	-3.25	-0.83
HDIL	20.15	-0.65	-3.13
HEG	3365.3	37.1	1.11
HEIDELBERG	144.2	-0.85	-0.59
HERITGFOOD	502.3	-5.3	-1.04
HEROMOTOCO	2972.45	40.3	1.37
HEXAWARE	431.2	2.8	0.65
HFLC	20.1	0.4	2.03
HIMATSEIDE	242.4	13.4	5.85
HINDALCO	49.85	-1.3	-2.54
HINDCOPPER	243.25	-7.5	-2.99
HINDPETRO	1642.85	35.2	2.19
HINDUNILVR	289.25	-1.15	-0.4
HINDZINC	112.25	-2.25	-1.97
HISCL	253.55	-3.25	-1.27
HSIL	44.2	-2.05	-4.43
HUDCO	82.6	-6.25	-7.03
IBREALST	905.7	52	6.09
IBULHSGFIN	509.85	-26.8	-4.99
IBVENTURES	314.15	9.15	3
ICIBANK	787.6	-22.7	-2.8
ICICIGI	330.65	-2.8	-0.84
ICICIRPLI	61	-3.4	-5.28
IDBI	54	4	8
IDEA	38.8	0.35	0.91
IDFC	40.95	1.3	3.28
IDFCBANK	37.35	1.05	2.89
IEIX	1600.1	-6.6	-0.41
IFBIND	1003.25	-41	-3.93
IFCI	12.42	0.57	4.81
IGL	247.25	3.75	1.54
IL&FSTRANS	26.95	4.4	19.51
INDHOTEL	128.9	-6.55	-4.84
INDIACEM	100.25	-0.85	-0.84
INDIANG	246.25	19.1	8.41
INDIAINF	807.75	-17.8	-2.16
INDUSINDBK	1643.5	-43.55	-2.58
INFIBEAM	67.15	8.35	14.2
INFRATEL	266.5	4.4	1.68
INFX	744.45	16.6	2.28
INOXLEISUR	220.9	3.8	1.75
INOXWIND	83.25	-4.25	-4.86
INTELLECT	213.2	9.65	4.74
IOB	13.29	0.29	2.23
IOC	153.8	0.6	0.39
IPCALAB	661.95	-11.65	-1.73
IPMTR	144.3	7.7	5.64
ISCEG	5495.5	17.2	0.31
ITC	296.7	0	0
ITDC	317.1	-5.85	-1.81
ITDCOM	119.15	0	0
ITI	80.6	-1.05	-1.29
J&KBANK	42.7	1.75	4.27
JAGRAN	115.7	2.65	2.34
JAJCORPLTD	106	-7.5	-6.61
JAINMAUTO	74.15	4.45	6.38
JBCHEPHARM	292.05	-0.55	-0.19
JCHAC	1809.95	6.15	0.34
JETAIRWAYS	171.9	-8.55	-4.74



JINDALSAV	72.15	-0.65	-0.89
JINDALSTEL	193.9	-2.25	-1.15
JISLJALEOS	64.25	3.3	5.41
JKCEMENT	754.45	-18	-2.33
JKIL	164.4	-41.1	-20
JKLAKSHMI	297.6	-6.25	-2.06</



# Xi greets Maldives Prez-elect Solih

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has greeted the Maldives President-elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who defeated pro-China incumbent Abdullah Yameen, raising concern in Beijing over its big investments in the strategically located country in the Indian Ocean.

China, which has invested millions of dollars in different projects in the Maldives, is weighing its options in the country as Yameen has been trounced by Solih, widely regarded as a pro-India leader.

State-run Xinhua news agency reported about Xi's congratulatory message to Solih on Sunday after the election commission in the island nation confirmed his win, putting to rest speculation that Yameen plans to dispute election results in a bid to continue in power.

Solih is scheduled to take over power from Yameen on November 17. The long gap for transfer of power raised concerns among Solih's supporters whether Yameen would hand over power smoothly.

Election of Solih has raised anxieties in Beijing over its massive investments as well as the likely strategic shift of the Maldives towards India after Yameen's consistent attempts to burn bridges with New Delhi.

In his message to Solih, Xi said China highly values the development of China-Maldives relations and is willing to join hands with him to lift the comprehensive friendly cooperative partnership



between China and Maldives to a new level, the report said.

He said China and Maldives share a longstanding friendship, and China is committed to developing relations with Maldives on the basis of the 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence'.

China is willing to work with the Maldives to continue to cement their friendship and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields to better benefit the people of both the countries.

China's big investments including the building of bridges and airport totalling to over USD 1.5 billion also caused worries about the raising debt level of the Maldives as neighbouring Sri Lanka which had also received huge Chinese loans ended up mortgaging its Hambantota port on 99-year lease as a debt swap.

China has established a logistics base at Djibouti in the Indian Ocean and a series anti-India actions by Yameen including asking New Delhi to remove the naval helicopters sparked off speculation about

the likely establishment of a similar base in the Maldives. Yameen also signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China last year though it is yet to become operational. The FTA was expected to provide major opening for Chinese goods and services in the Maldives.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang slammed Solih's party colleague and former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed for his criticism of the Chinese projects questioning their commercial viability as well as lacking in transparency and democratic procedures.

Nasheed, who is currently exiled in Sri Lanka, is the leader of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), to which Solih belonged and has in the past accused Beijing of "busy buying up the Maldives" during Yameen's presidency.

Commentaries in the official media attributed Yameen's defeat more to domestic politics than anti-China mood prevailing in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

# Iran Guard launches missiles into Syria over parade attack

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said Monday that it launched ballistic missiles into eastern Syria, targeting militants the force blames for a recent attack on a military parade. The launch was the Islamic Republic's second such missile attack on Syria in over a year. Iranian state television and the state-run IRNA news agency said the attacks "killed and wounded" militants in Syria, without elaborating. Syrian state media did not immediately acknowledge the strike.

The TV aired footage of one of its reporters standing by as one of the missiles was launched, identifying the area as being in Iran's western province of Kermanshah. A state TV-aired graphic suggested the missiles flew over central Iraq near the city of Tikrit before landing near the city of Abu Kamal, in the far southeast of Syria.

Abu Kamal is held by forces loyal to Syria's embattled President Bashar Assad. However, the city has been targeted even now by militants from the extremist Islamic State group, who have lost almost all the territory they once held in Syria and Iraq.

One missile shown on state television bore the slogans "Death to America, Death to Israel, Death to Al Saud," referring to Saudi Arabia's ruling family. The missile also bore in Arabic the phrase "kill the friends of Satan," referring to a verse in the Quran on fighting infidels. "This is the roaring of missiles



In this photo released on Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, missiles are fired from city of Kermanshah in western Iran targeting the Islamic State group in Syria. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said Monday it launched ballistic missiles into eastern Syria targeting militants it blamed for a recent attack on a military parade. AP

belonging to the Revolutionary Guard of the Islamic Revolution," the state TV's reporter said as the missiles launched behind him.

"In a few minutes, the world of arrogance — especially America, the Zionist regime and the Al Saud — will hear the sound of Iran's repeated blows."

The semi-official Fars news agency, believed to be close to the Guard, identified the six missiles used as Zolfaghar and Qiam variants, which have ranges of 750 kilometers and 800 kilometers respectively.

Iran also launched drone attacks on the site afterward, state TV reported. The attack adds to confusion over who carried out an assault on a military parade in Ahvaz on Sept.

22 that killed at least 24 people and wounded over 60.

Iran initially blamed Arab separatists for the attack in which gunmen disguised as soldiers opened fire on the crowd and officials watching the parade from a viewing platform in the southwestern city.

Arab separatists also immediately claimed the attack and offered details about one of the attackers that ultimately turned out to be true. The Islamic State group also claimed responsibility for the assault, but initially made factually incorrect claims about it. Later, IS released footage of several men that Iran ultimately identified as attackers, though the men in the footage never pledged allegiance to the

extremist group. In announcing the attack, Iranian state media said the missiles targeted both "takfiri" militants — a term it often applies to the Islamic State group — and Ahvazi separatists. The separatists have not been known to work with IS in the past.

This is the third time in the last couple of years that Iran has fired its ballistic missiles in anger.

Last year, Iran fired ballistic missiles into Syria over a bloody IS attack on Tehran targeting parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. In September, Iran fired missiles into Iraq targeting a base of an Iranian Kurdish separatist group. The separatists say that strike killed at least 11 people and wounded 50.

## Former ISI chief moves HC seeking revocation of travel ban

**Islamabad (PTI):** Former chief of Pakistan's spy agency, ISI, Lt Gen (ret'd) Asad Durrani, who had co-authored a book with his Indian counterpart, moved the high court on Monday seeking revocation of a travel ban on him by the government, according to a media report. The government had placed Durrani's name in the Exit Control List (ECL) in May, a day after he appeared before the Pakistan Army officials at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi to explain about his stance pertaining to "The Spy Chronicles", a book written jointly by him and former chief of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) A S Daulat.

In the book, the two former spy chiefs have touched upon some thorny issues including terrorism, particularly the Mumbai attack, the surgical strikes, Kulbhushan Jadhav, Kashmir and the influence of intelligence agencies. Durrani had revealed that track-II diplomacy was in place since long aimed at averting war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. Durrani, in his petition, said his only intention to travel was to pursue his professional commitments and visit his children living abroad. The Express Tribune reported. A person placed under the ECL cannot travel abroad.

He also said that he and his wife do not hold a nationality of any other country.

## Pak SC asks PM Imran Khan to pay fine to regularise his Gala property

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan should be the first to pay a penalty to get his posh Bani Gala property here regularised, Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Saqib Nisar said on Monday. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice Nisar heard a case regarding encroachments in Bani Gala, a residential area located in Islamabad at the eastern bank of Rawal Lake.

The cricketer-turned-politician had sought the court's attention towards the large-scale encroachment, unchecked and unplanned construction in Bani Gala, massive denuding due to massive tree felling and pollution of the Rawal Lake due to sewage.

The apex court observed that it is the job of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led (PTI) government of Khan to regularise all properties located in the Bani Gala area, including his private residence, Dawn newspaper reported. Recalling that it was Khan himself who had approached the apex court with an application regarding illegal constructions in Bani Gala, Chief Justice Nisar said the prime minister would have to initiate the process of regularisation of the area by paying the



required fine. "Imran Khan should submit fees towards regularisation before anyone else," directed Justice Nisar.

During the hearing, the additional attorney general presented a report prepared by the Survey of Pakistan regarding illegal constructions in Bani Gala. He informed the court that the reports prepared by the Capital Development Authority and the federal ombudsman are similar to the report of Survey of Pakistan. The top judge wondered how encroachments could be removed in Bani Gala, saying that besides illegal constructions issues like security and pollution are also impacting the area. He said a new government is now in power and it

should look towards resolving these issues. "Those responsible for illegal constructions need to be fined," the top judge remarked.

Turning to Prime Minister Khan's counsel Babar Awan, the chief justice asked, "You are part of the government, tell us what measures are being taken to regularise properties." In response, Awan said, "The Cabinet is taking up this matter."

Justice Nisar then remarked, "Prime Minister Imran will also have to get his property regularised and if it is not already then he should pay a penalty and get it done." He observed that while the constructions outside the limits of Korang riverbed could not be razed, those within its perimeters are "not acceptable in any condition".

He directed the federal government to regularise all constructions in the area, including its own. Wrapping up the case to the extent of encroachments, the bench also ordered the government to pay its own penalties, and collect those due to be paid by citizens.

The top court ordered authorities to demolish all unauthorized constructions around Korang riverbed in the light of the report drafted by the Survey of Pakistan.

## Pak hints readiness to 'bridge gap' with US on Dr. Afridi ahead of key meetings

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A head of his crucial meetings with top Trump administration officials, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has indicated that Islamabad may be willing to discuss the fate of Dr Shakil Afridi, one of the key issues which has hurt ties with the US. While Afridi is hailed as a "hero" by the US security establishment for his role in the raid by US special forces in May 2011 that killed al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad, he is viewed as a "traitor" in Pakistan.

The 56-year-old physician helped the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) run a fake hepatitis vaccine programme in Abbottabad to confirm bin Laden's presence in the garrison city by obtaining his DNA samples. In May, 2012, Afridi was sentenced to 33 years' imprisonment for treason.

"Openings are always there," Qureshi said in an interview with Fox News, a channel that is known for backing President Trump and his policies. "He is viewed in a particular light in Pakistan, he is viewed as a traitor in Pakistan. But he is viewed as a friend in

the US. So we have to bridge this gap," Qureshi said when asked about the fate of Dr. Afridi. He said that the future of Afridi lies with the courts and not with politics. He added that the now-imprisoned CIA asset went through the due legal process and was given a fair trial and a chance to plead his case.

"He was sentenced, he was convicted and is serving a sentence. We expect you to respect our legal process, as we respect yours," said Qureshi while alluding to interference by the US in the country's internal affairs. Qureshi acknowledged that bilateral relations between the once-close allies have "sour" since President Trump took office last year.

The relations between Pakistan and the US nose-dived after President Trump accused Islamabad of giving nothing to Washington but "lies and deceit" and providing "safe haven" to terrorists. The US Congress also passed a bill to slash Pakistan's defence aid to USD 150 million, significantly below the historic level of more than USD one billion per year. The foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan was unjustly blamed for the deteriorating security situation in war-torn Afghanistan.

## Man at centre of Nobel Literature scandal convicted of rape

**Copenhagen (AP):** The man at the centre of a sex-abuse and financial crimes scandal that is tarnishing the academy that awards the Nobel Prize in Literature was convicted of rape and sentenced to two years in prison on Monday. Jean-Claude Arnault, a major cultural figure in Sweden, had faced two counts of rape of a woman in 2011.

He was found guilty of one rape, but was acquitted of the other because the victim said she was asleep and judges said her account wasn't reliable. Stockholm District Court said that the ruling was unanimous. Judge Gudrun Antemar said the role of the court was to decide whether the prosecutor had proven the charges beyond a reasonable doubt. "The court's conclusion is that the evidence is enough to find the defendant guilty of one of the events," she said, adding the evidence "has mainly consisted of statements made during the trial by the injured party and several witnesses."

In Sweden, rape is punishable by a minimum of two years and a maximum of six years in prison. Prosecutor Christina Voigt had demanded three years in prison for Arnault, who is married to a Swedish Academy member. There were no immediate com-



ments from Voigt or Arnault's lawyer, Bjorn Hurtig, who earlier had said they would appeal if he was convicted. Arnault had denied the charges, which have rocked the prestigious academy, with seven members either being forced to leave or quitting in April.

In May, the academy announced that no prize would be awarded this year. Arnault, who is a French citizen, is married to poet and Swedish Academy former member Katarina Frostenson. She quit in April at the same time as former permanent secretary Sara Danius.

On top of that, Arnault also has been suspected of violating century-old Nobel rules by leaking names of winners of

the prestigious award — allegedly seven times, starting in 1996. It remains unclear to whom the names were allegedly disclosed, and it is not known whether it has been investigated.

All the allegations have shredded the academy's credibility, called into question its judgment and the scandal has sparked a debate over how to face up to its flaws. It has divided the body's 18 members — who are appointed for life — into hostile camps and prompted seven members of the prestigious institution to leave or disassociate themselves from it.

Many in the Scandinavian nation, known for promoting gender equality, have expressed dismay over the scandal, which has exposed bitter divisions within the academy and given rise to accusations of patriarchal leanings among some members. It began in November, when 18 women came forward in a Swedish newspaper with accusations against Arnault.

In April, the Swedish Academy said an internal investigation into sexual misconduct allegations found that "unacceptable behaviour in the form of unwanted intimacy" had taken place within the ranks of the prestigious institution.

## US, Japanese pair win Nobel Medicine Prize for cancer therapy

AFF ■ STOCKHOLM

Two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, won the 2018 Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how the body's natural defences can fight cancer, the jury said on Monday. Unlike more traditional forms of cancer treatment that directly target cancer cells, Allison and Honjo figured out how to help the patient's own immune system tackle the cancer more quickly. The award-winning discovery led to treatments targeting proteins made by some immune system cells that act as a "brake" on the body's natural defences killing cancer cells. The Nobel Assembly said after announcing the prize in Stockholm that the therapy "has now revolutionised cancer treatment and has fundamentally changed the way we view how cancer can be managed".

In 1995, Allison was one of two scientists to identify the CTLA-4 molecule as an inhibitory receptor on T-cells.

T-cells are a type of white blood cell that play a central role in the body's natural immunity to disease. Allison, 70, "realised the potential of releasing the brake and thereby unleashing our immune cells to attack tumours," the Nobel jury said.

Around the same time, Honjo discovered a protein on immune cells, the ligand PD-1, and eventually realised that it also worked a brake, but acted in a different way. On the website of his University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Allison said he was "honoured and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition". "I never dreamed my research would take the direction it has," he said.

"It's a great, emotional privilege to meet cancer patients who've been successfully treated with immune checkpoint blockade. They are living proof of the power of basic science, of following our urge to learn and to understand how things

work." Honjo, 76, meanwhile vowed to push ahead with his work. "I want to continue my research... so that this immune therapy will save more cancer patients than ever," he told reporters at the University of Kyoto where he is based.

The Nobel jury said that "for more than 100 years, scientists attempted to engage the immune system in the fight against cancer". "Until the seminal discoveries by the two laureates, progress into clinical development was modest." Antibodies against PD-1 have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as an investigational new drug and developed for the treatment of cancer. Research by Allison's team has meanwhile led to the development of a monoclonal antibody drug, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2011 for the treatment of melanoma. It is known commercially as Yervoy. His research also led

to the first-ever immune checkpoint inhibitor drug. Allison and Honjo have previously shared the 2014 Tang Prize, touted as Asia's version of the Nobels, for their research. Other cancer treatments have previously been awarded Nobel prizes, including methods for hormone treatment for prostate cancer in 1966, chemotherapy in 1988 and bone marrow transplantation for leukaemia in 1990.

"However, advanced cancer remains immensely difficult to treat, and novel therapeutic strategies are desperately needed," the Nobel Assembly said.

The duo will share the Nobel prize sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about USD 1.01 million).

They will receive their prize from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Monday's announcement was partially eclipsed by a Stockholm court's decision to sentence a Frenchman at the heart of a Nobel scandal to two years in prison for rape, in a scandal that emerged during the #MeToo campaign. An influential figure in Stockholm's cultural scene, 72-year-old Jean-Claude Arnault was found guilty of a rape dating back to 2011. Arnault is married to a member of the Swedish Academy which selects the Nobel Literature Prize winner, and his cultural club Forum received generous funding from the Academy.

The scandal has led to a bitter internal dispute that has prevented the Academy from functioning properly, and as a result it postponed this year's Literature Prize until 2019 — the first time the prize has been delayed since 1949. The winners of this year's physics prize will be announced on Tuesday, followed by the chemistry prize on Wednesday.



The Nobel prize laureate in medicine or physiology 2018 is shown on the screen as James P Allison, left, and Tasuku Honjo, during the presentation at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday. AP



# Hard-hit Indonesian city buries its dead as toll tops 840

AP ■ PALU (INDONESIA)

Brightly coloured body bags were placed side-by-side in a freshly dug mass grave Monday, as a hard-hit Indonesian city began burying its dead from the devastating earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 840 people and left thousands homeless. The death toll, largely from the city of Palu, is expected to keep rising as areas cut off by the damage are reached. The magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck at dusk Friday and generated a tsunami said to have been as high as 6 meters (20 feet) in places.

Local army commander Tiopang Aritonang said 545 bodies would be brought to the grave from one hospital alone. The trench dug in Palu was 10 metres by 100 metres (33 feet by 330 feet) and can be enlarged if needed, said Willem Rampangilei, chief of Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

"This must be done as soon as possible for health and religious reasons," he said. Indonesia is majority Muslim, and religious custom calls for burials soon after death, typically within one day.

Local military spokesman Mohammad Thorir said the area adjacent to a public cemetery can hold 1,000 bodies. All of the victims, coming from local hospitals, have been photographed to help families locate where their relatives were buried. Video footage showed residents walking from body bag to body bag, opening the tops to check if they could identify faces.

Around midday, teams of workers, their mouths covered by masks, carried 18 bodies and laid them in the trench. A backhoe waited to push soil on top of the dead. More burials were expected to follow. Military and commercial aircraft were delivering some aid and supplies. But there was a



People queue for gasoline following a massive earthquake and tsunami at a gas station in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on Monday. AP

need for heavy equipment to reach possible survivors buried in collapsed buildings, including an eight-story hotel in Palu where voices had been heard in the rubble.

People suffering from a lack of food and supplies were also becoming more desperate. Local television said around 3,000 residents had flocked to the Palu airport trying to get out. Footage showed some people screaming in anger because they were not able to board departing military aircraft. The airport has resumed only some commercial flights. "We have not eaten for three days!" one woman yelled. "We just want to be safe!" Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo authorised the acceptance of international help, said disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, adding that generators, heavy equipment and tents were among the items needed.

He said the European Union and 10 countries have offered assistance, including the United States, Australia and China. "We will send food today, as much as possible with several aircraft," Widodo

told reporters in the capital, Jakarta, adding that a supply of fuel was also set to arrive.

Nugroho said conditions in the Balaroa section of Palu were particularly bad because the earthquake caused the ground to violently heave up and sink down in places, trapping many people under destroyed houses. In Petobo, another area of the city, the tremor caused loose, wet soil to liquefy, creating a thick, heavy mud that caused massive damage.

"In Petobo, it is estimated that there are still hundreds of victims buried in mud material," Nugroho said. Villagers who pulled out loved ones — alive and dead — over the weekend expressed frustration that it took rescue teams until Monday to reach Petobo. Edi Setiawan, 32, said he and fellow villagers were able to rescue five children and four adults, including a pregnant woman. However, his sister and father were not among them. "My sister was found embracing her father," he said. "My mother was able to survive after struggling against the mud and being rescued by villagers."

Another villager, 52-year-old Idrus, who uses one name, said that "up to Saturday we still saw many people screaming for help from the roofs. But we could not do anything to help them. Now their cries are no longer heard." But there were cases of survivors still being pulled from the rubble in different locations, including a 25-year-old woman found alive Sunday evening in the ruins of the Roa-Roa Hotel, according to the National Search and Rescue Agency, which released photos of her lying on a stretcher covered with a blanket. Novry Wullur, an officer from Indonesia's search and rescue agency, said Nurul Istiharah, 15, managed to survive after being trapped inside her house after it collapsed.

Her mother and niece were dead beside her, and water had left her submerged up to her neck and in danger of drowning. Her legs were finally freed and she was pulled out of the rubble. She was being treated for hypothermia at a hospital. The confirmed death toll of 844 released by Nugroho on Monday afternoon was an increase of only 12 since the previous day, with nearly the entire total from Palu. The regencies of Donggala, Sigi and Parigi Moutong — with a combined population of 1.2 million — had yet to be fully assessed. Nearly 50,000 people have been displaced from their homes in Palu alone, Nugroho said.

He said 114 foreigners were in Palu and Donggala during the disaster. All were accounted for except one Belgian, one South Korean and six French. It was the latest natural disaster to hit Indonesia, which is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

# UN chief appreciates India's support to UN reform proposal

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN chief Antonio Guterres has appreciated India's support to his proposal to reform the UN Security Council and expressed hope that the progress will continue to be made during the current session of the General Assembly to make the world body reflect the current global realities. For long, India has been calling for the reform of the UN Security Council along with Brazil, Germany and Japan. The four countries support each others' bids for the permanent seats in the top UN body.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges today, so we need to adapt and make the organisation fit for purpose. That is why I embarked on the reform of three key areas: the peace and security architecture, UN development system and management. I highly appreciate the support India has given to my reform proposals," UN Secretary-General Guterres told PTI ahead of his three-day visit to India beginning Monday.

His visit coincides with the beginning of events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2019.

On the first day of his visit to India, the Secretary-General will formally open the new UN House in New Delhi. Guterres will participate in the closing session of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention.

He will also meet Speaker of the Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan before giving an address at the India Habitat Centre on Global Affairs on the theme 'Global challenges, global solutions'. In the evening, the Secretary-General will take part in the General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.

He will meet President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime



Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar on October 3. Guterres said he personally believes that a more democratic UN, with power divided in a more balanced way and with more diversity in the regional representation in all bodies of the UN including the Security Council is important.

"The makeup of the Security Council must reflect the current realities, not the world as it stood at the end of World War II," he said.

Reforming the Security Council is a matter for member states and the General Assembly, in which all 193 members are represented, has a central role to play, Guterres said.

The intergovernmental negotiations within the General Assembly on Security Council reform represent the key forum for advancing the discussion on the five components of Council reform, namely categories of membership, the question of the veto, regional representation, the size of an enlarged Council and its working methods as well as the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

"I hope that progress on Council reform will continue to be made during the 73rd session of the General Assembly," he said.

India has been at the forefront of global efforts to achieve the long-pending reform of the 15-nation Security Council.

Last week, G4 nations India, Brazil, Germany and Japan met on the margins of the high-level General Debate of the 73rd General Assembly session and reaffirmed the need for an early reform of the council including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership to enhance its legitimacy, effectiveness and representativeness.

They said that the current composition of the 15-nation Council does not reflect the changed global realities and stressed that UNSC reform is essential to address today's complex challenges.

"As aspiring new permanent members of a reformed Council, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to work to strengthen the functioning of the UN and the global multilateral order as well as their support for each others' candidatures," the statement had said.

## 'Initiatives launched in India emblematic of actions needed to achieve SDGs'

**United Nations:** India's ambitious programmes such as 'Clean India' and 'Educate the Girl Child' are "emblematic" of the types of actions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said. Guterres, who begins a three-day visit to India Monday, said that while India still faces challenges, the country has a long history of innovation and leadership in developing programmes to further social welfare and tackle inequalities.

"National initiatives such as those being launched in India are emblematic of the types of actions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to a common objective of more inclusive development," Guterres told PTI ahead of his first trip to India as the UN chief.

The SDGs, otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for action to end poverty, protect the planet, improve health, education and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. "The initiatives hold promise for expanding the availability of adequate sanitation, empowering women and girls, increasing access to quality education, and reducing inequality by shrinking the digital divide," Guterres said. He said the various programmes launched in India have already achieved impressive results. "I was very impressed to learn that, in the first 2.5 years of implementation, the Clean India campaign supported the construction of over 39 million household toilets working toward an open defecation free India by 2019," he said.

# US, Mexico, Canada agree on free trade pact to replace NAFTA

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Negotiators from Canada and the United States went down to the wire but were able to reach an agreement on a new free trade pact that will include Mexico, the governments announced late Sunday night. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) updates and replaces the nearly 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which President Donald Trump had labeled a disaster and promised to cancel.

The rewrite "will result in freer markets, fairer trade and robust economic growth in our region," according to a joint statement from US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland.

After more than a year of talks, and six weeks of intense discussions, the governments were able to overcome their differences with both sides conceding some ground, but both hailing the agreement as a good deal for their citizens in the region of 500 million residents that conducts about \$1 trillion in trade a year.

Canada will open its dairy market further to US producers, and Washington left unchanged the dispute settlement provisions which Ottawa



demand. This will allow them to sign the agreement before Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto leaves office December 1, the date that was the cause of the last minute flurry of activity.

Under US law, the White House is required to submit the text of the trade deal to Congress 60 days before signing — and officials barely made it by midnight. The United States and Mexico had already reached an agreement on a new NAFTA in late August, and since then negotiators from Ottawa had been in Washington for continuous talks, but as of late last week officials warned time was running out.

Trump complained about the behavior of Canadian officials, and said he rejected a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, although Trudeau's office said no meeting was planned.

A senior US administration official said the final rewrite is

a "fantastic agreement" and he called it "a big win for the United States, Mexico and Canada." In addition to the changes to the dairy market in Canada, officials said it includes stronger protections for workers, tough environmental rules, and updates the trade relationship to cover the digital economy and provides "groundbreaking" intellectual property protections, the official told reporters. In addition, it adds provisions to prevent "manipulation" of the trade rules, including covering currency values, and controls over outside countries trying to take advantage of the duty-free market, he said. While the new deal — which includes revised provisions on the critical auto sector — should protect Mexico and Canada from Trump's threatened 25 percent tariffs on cars, still pending are the duties on steel and aluminum, which officials said was on a "separate track," handled by the Commerce Department.

# Yale classmate recalls Kavanaugh as heavy drinker

AP ■ WASHINGTON

FBI agents interviewed one of the three women who have accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct as Republicans and Democrats quarreled over whether the bureau would have enough time and freedom to conduct a thorough investigation before a high-stakes vote on his nomination to the nation's highest court.

The White House insisted it was not "micromanaging" the new one-week review of Kavanaugh's background but some Democratic lawmakers claimed the White House was keeping investigators from interviewing certain witnesses. President Donald Trump, for his part, tweeted that no matter how much time and discretion the FBI was given, "it will never be enough" for Democrats trying to keep Kavanaugh off the bench.

And even as the FBI explored the past allegations that have surfaced against Kavanaugh, another Yale classmate came forward to accuse the federal appellate judge of being untruthful in his testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the extent of his drinking in college. In speaking to FBI agents, Deborah Ramirez detailed her



allegation that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party in the early 1980s when they were students at Yale University, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to publicly discuss details of a confidential investigation.

Kavanaugh has denied Ramirez's allegation. The person familiar with Ramirez's questioning, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said she also provided investigators with the names of others who she said could corroborate her account.

But Christine Blasey Ford, a California professor who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers, has not been contacted by the FBI since

Trump on Friday ordered the agency to take another look at the nominee's background, according to a member of Ford's team.

# Bangladesh delays plan to shift Rohingya to remote island

AFF ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh has postponed plans to begin relocating Rohingya Muslims to a remote island, officials said Monday, amid staunch opposition to the controversial idea among refugees living near the Myanmar border. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was slated to open the new settlement built to house 100,000 refugees on Bhashan Char on October 3, despite warnings the silty strip was prone to violent weather.

But a spokesman for Bangladesh's armed forces, which has overseen the \$280 million-effort to transform the muddy islet into a habitable camp, said the opening ceremony had been delayed. "We will announce a new date soon," Lieutenant Colonel Alamgir Kabir told AFP, without providing further details. The controversial plan, first floated in 2015, was already well behind schedule. Officials previously said they wanted to start moving refugees from overcrowded camps near the border with Myanmar to the island in June, before the monsoon season began. A senior disaster management official told AFP in September that nearly three quarters of the project was complete, with the navy fast-tracking construction of shelters and evacuation centres. No



reason was provided for the latest delay. But the proposal to uproot the refugees to a remote island that only rose from the sea in 2006 remains unpopular in the teeming Rohingya camps.

The island is one hour by boat from the nearest land but violent storms make the journey by sea dangerous or sometimes impossible. "It is cut off from the mainland. What if someone needs emergency medical attention?" said Rohingya community leader Abdul Gowffar.

The UN has insisted that any relocation to Bhashan Char be voluntary. Local authorities have been seeking to reassure refugees that they will be safe on the island. "We are still working on it. We're talking to the families," Bangladesh's Refugee Commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam told

AFP. One million displaced Muslims live cheek by jowl on hillside shanties near the Myanmar border, in conditions aid groups warn put them at risk from floods, landslides and disease.

There was a further push to get the plan off the ground after 700,000 Rohingya, fleeing a violent crackdown in Myanmar in August last year, poured into southeast Bangladesh. But rights groups have warned it is too risky to house refugees on the island.

Hundreds of thousands have died in Bangladesh from natural disasters in the last 50 years, mostly in coastal areas near Bhashan Char. Local officials have pointed to a newly-constructed three-metre (nine-foot) high embankment around the island they say will keep out tidal surges in the event of a cyclone.

# Aus Navy: Indian Navy sailor returning home after rescue from Indian Ocean storm

**Melbourne (PTI):** Injured Indian Navy sailor Abhilash Tomy, rescued in a multi-nation operation from the remote Indian Ocean near Australia, is set to return home, the Australian Navy said on Monday.

Last month, 39-year-old Tomy, a Kirti Chakra awardee, who was sailing his boat as part of the Golden Globe Race (GGR) - a solo sailboat race around the world — drifted in the seas for three days. His boat was hit by a deadly storm, about 1,900 nautical miles from Perth, Australia. The main mast of his boat was ripped off by

around 15-metre high waves.

Tomy, who suffered a back injury, is being picked up by the Indian Navy frigate INS Satpura for return to India, the Australian Navy said in a statement in Sydney. Tomy and Irishman Gregor McGuckin, competitors in round-the-world Golden Globe race were rescued by the French fishing vessel Osiris on last Monday and taken to Ile Amsterdam, an island in the southern Indian Ocean. "We are very pleased that both yachtsmen are now safe," Australia's navy chief Vice Admiral Mike Noonan said in a statement. The res-

cue operation was assisted by the Indian Navy's maritime surveillance aircraft P 8i and the Australian Navy had sent one of its frigate as part of the operation.

Tomy's boat, the Thuriya, is a replica of Robin Knox-Johnston's Suhaili, winner of the first Golden Globe Race in 1968. Tomy, who hails from Kerala, was placed third in the race when he faced the storm. The Golden Globe race involves a single-handed circumnavigation of the globe - a distance of 30,000 miles - without using modern technology, except for satellite communications.

PTI ■ LONDON

Dogs may not be exceptionally intelligent as their cognitive abilities are matched by several other animals, according to a study. Scientists from the University of Exeter and Canterbury Christ Church University in the UK compared the brain power of dogs with other domestic animals, other social hunters and other carnivores — an order including animals such as dogs, wolves, bears, lions and hyenas.

They found the cognitive abilities of dogs were at least matched by several species in each of these groups. The



study, published in the journal Learning & Behaviour, exam-

ined more than 300 research papers on the intelligence of

dogs and other animals, and found several cases of "over interpretation" in favour of dogs' abilities.

"During our work it seemed to us that many studies in dog cognition research set out to 'prove' how clever dogs are," said Stephen Lea, a professor at the University of Exeter.

"They are often compared to chimpanzees and whenever dogs 'win', this gets added to their reputation as something exceptional," Lea said.

"Yet in each and every case we found other valid comparison species that do at least as well as dogs do in those tasks,"

he said.

The review focussed on sensory cognition, physical cognition, spatial cognition, social cognition and self-awareness. "Taking all three groups (domestic animals, social hunters and carnivores) into account, dog cognition does not look exceptional," said Britta Osthaus from the Canterbury Christ Church University.

"We are doing dogs no favour by expecting too much of them. Dogs are dogs, and we need to take their needs and true abilities into account when considering how we treat them," Osthaus said.



## Trend Slazer

### 'Progress of nation matters more'

Actor **KAMAL HAASAN** says "Not religion, not culture, progress is what matters." He says people in India are busy debating trivial issues whereas the need of the hour is to rise above them. So, how important is it to address the real issues? He says, "It is very important. We have lost that dialogue. We are talking about everything else and trying to prove a point which does not exist. We are debating things that don't matter at all." He feels that change can only come with unity when we are ready to talk about all issues.



**'I haven't heard the whole story, but I think what's most important at a work place is respect — whether for a woman, man or a child. If we want to make our industry a safe place, everyone deserves equal respect. It takes great courage to tell something openly and I applaud Tanushree (Dutta) for it.'**  
—**Varun Dhawan**

Actor **SAIF ALI KHAN** said that as a child, he was a bit rebellious and unpredictable but now everything has settled well for him and he feels wiser and a little enlightened. "I think maybe it comes from the reading or thinking, or endless hours sitting around waiting for a shot and contemplating stuff. It has led to a certain amount of comfort and understanding and peace," Saif said.



### Chris Evans slams Kanye West

Actor **CHRIS EVANS** has criticised rapper **Kanye West's** call for the abolition of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, labelling the rappers tweet "maddening." It all started as West, 41, captioned his Twitter photo wearing a pro-Donald Trump 'Make America Great Again' hat on a private plane. West tweeted, "This represents America becoming whole again. We will no longer outsource to other countries. We build factories here in America and create jobs. We will provide jobs for all who are free from prisons as we abolish the 13th amendment. Message sent with love." Evans tweeted, "There's nothing more maddening than debating someone who doesn't know history, doesn't read books, and frames their myopia as virtue."



Young ones are forced into regimented activities these days and those are hardly increasing their intelligence levels, says **NAVIN MODI**

**N**ine. That's how many fewer hours kids today have compared with thirty years ago. Most of their free time gets 'invested' in extracurricular activities like sports, music classes, self-defence lessons, and tutoring.

Ironically, sports and music classes haven't done much to enhance children's creativity or increase their energy. For instance, the increase in music lessons has corresponded with a drop in creativity. In a study titled *The Creativity Crisis*, Dr. Kyung Hee Kim noted that "over the last twenty years, children have become less emotionally expressive, less energetic, less talkative and verbally expressive, less humorous, less imaginative, less unconventional, less lively and passionate, less perceptive, less apt to connect seemingly irrelevant things, less synthesising, and less likely to see things from a different angle."

The rise of the organised sport has coincided with increased obesity in children. Getting 'trained' at sports means children get less freedom to move around. They spend most of their under house arrest in front of a screen — either video games or smartphones and tabs. Most parents do this to keep their kids safe from external predators like germs, unclean air, and dirty surroundings. But they don't notice the secret killer within the house — lethargy, which eventually leads to obesity. To add to that, screen time stifles children's mental growth. According to a study, each hour of babies between age eight to sixteen months who watch educational videos correlated with them learning six to eight fewer words than their unwired peers. This shows that we're not making infant geniuses. On the contrary, we're impeding their verbal and mental development.

All this highlights two major aspects. It's difficult for children to discover and express their creativity today. And parenting has become far tougher. The biggest contributors to both these aspects are the lack of outdoor activities for children and the lack of attention that parents pay to what their kids really want to do.

Creating the right atmosphere to nurture kids' passion is one of the key roles of a parent. They don't need to develop the same passions as their parents. But some parents harbour aspirations to

# Give children space



make their child achieve what they couldn't. In the process, they tie down the child. Or by being too loving, they over-pamper their children and make them powerless in the real world.

The key is to strike the right balance by letting kids discover things for themselves. They blossom when the environment is right for them. Instead of trying too hard to keep them safe, parents should allow children to explore the great outdoors. Otherwise, children develop a restricted view of the world similar to that of their parents, and can't build perspectives of their own.

The more time children spend in outdoor activities the less screen time they want. Playing with their peers also helps them build emotional intelligence. They learn to think for themselves and become independent. It's also important for parents to engage with their kids in the latter's activities. This helps parents understand which areas the child gravitates towards, and indicates what the child could be passionate about. Modi suggests parents put their smartphones away and dedicate certain hours for their children. According to him, this goes a long way not only in identifying a child's passion but also in the parents strengthening their emotional bond with the child. Exposing their kids to various experiences also gives parents an idea about what interests their child. Each child is different, so what appeals to one child need not appeal to another. The same holds true for the level of attention, love and strictness. A child inflow during a certain activity — a state where, according to Hungarian-American psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, one performing an activity is fully immersed in a feeling of energised focus, involvement and enjoyment in the process — can indicate to parents where the child's passions could lie.

The more a child does things in her own way, the more she learns to think for herself. This thinking is what helps kids connect the dots and discover their passions for themselves.

An environment of love, learning and freedom is paramount for parents to let their children bloom. The ideal parents raise their children such that the kids don't need the parent. It sounds ironic, but it's what true love is about. Such a parent creates an atmosphere which fuels intelligence, creativity and most importantly, love. Warren Buffett says that the best thing he got from his father, a US Congressman, is unconditional love.

In this digital age, it has become more important than ever to encourage children to step outside and channelise their energy. With skills becoming obsolete each day in the knowledge era, kids must also learn to build skills relevant to today's times. These skills can only be developed when kids pursue their passion and get the necessary love and support from their parents.

(The author is the director of Melt Water)

## India has 5th largest cigarette package warnings

**M**ore than 118 countries worldwide now have made picture warnings mandatory, representing a global public health achievement and 58 per cent of the world's population is covered by this regulation globally now. Timor-Leste now has the largest warnings in the world on cigarette packages at 92.5 per cent on front and back, Nepal and Vanuatu are at second at 90 per cent, New Zealand is fourth at 87.5 per cent, and Hong Kong, India and Thailand are at fifth position with 85 per cent on both sides of cigarette packets.

Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018 was released in Geneva, Switzerland, at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) being held from October 1-6 2018. The report highlights the tremendous progress internationally in implementing package health warnings on tobacco product packages, with many countries

A larger size means that warnings are more visible, more important, and have more impact. By **TEAM VIVA**



increasing warning size, more countries enforcing picture warnings, and an increasing number of countries requiring multiple rounds of picture warnings. The worldwide trend for larger, picture health warnings is growing and there is enormous international momentum for implementation of plain packaging. In total 107 countries/jurisdictions have required warnings to cover at least 50 per cent of the package front and back (on average), up

from 94 in 2016 and 24 in 2008. There are now 55 countries/jurisdictions with a size of at least 65 per cent (on average) of the package front and back.

Health warnings on packages of tobacco products are a highly cost-effective means of health communication. Package warnings reach every smoker (and consumers of other tobacco products) every day. Warnings are always working — 24 hours per day, seven days per week. A pack a day

smoker would take his or her pack out 20 times per day, 7300 times per year. Warnings are also seen by those around the consumers, such as family, friends and co-workers. Effective package warnings increase awareness of the health effects and reduce tobacco use. As a result of health warnings, consumers receive more information, not less. Consumers are entitled to be fully informed of the many health effects of tobacco products, and the package is the best way to do that. Studies show that consumers, including children, underestimate the health effects, in low, middle and high income countries. A larger size means that warnings are more visible and have more impact. A larger size allows for bigger and better pictures, a larger font size and/or additional information, including cessation information. Further, a larger size makes it more difficult for the branded promotional part of the package to distract the consumer's attention away from the warning.

## Bollywood mourns Krishna Raj Kapoor's demise

**F**or the Hindi movie world, Krishna Raj Kapoor, who died here on Monday aged 87, will always remain the 'First Lady of the Film Fraternity' who personified grace, dignity and affection. With Krishna Raj Kapoor's death, the second generation of the influential clan ends. The clan started in the silent films era with Prithviraj Kapoor.

Bollywood celebrities like Aamir Khan, Anjad Ali Khan, Karan Johar and Manisha Koirala mourned the death of Kapoor family's matriarch, the widow of the legendary Bollywood actor-filmmaker Raj Kapoor.

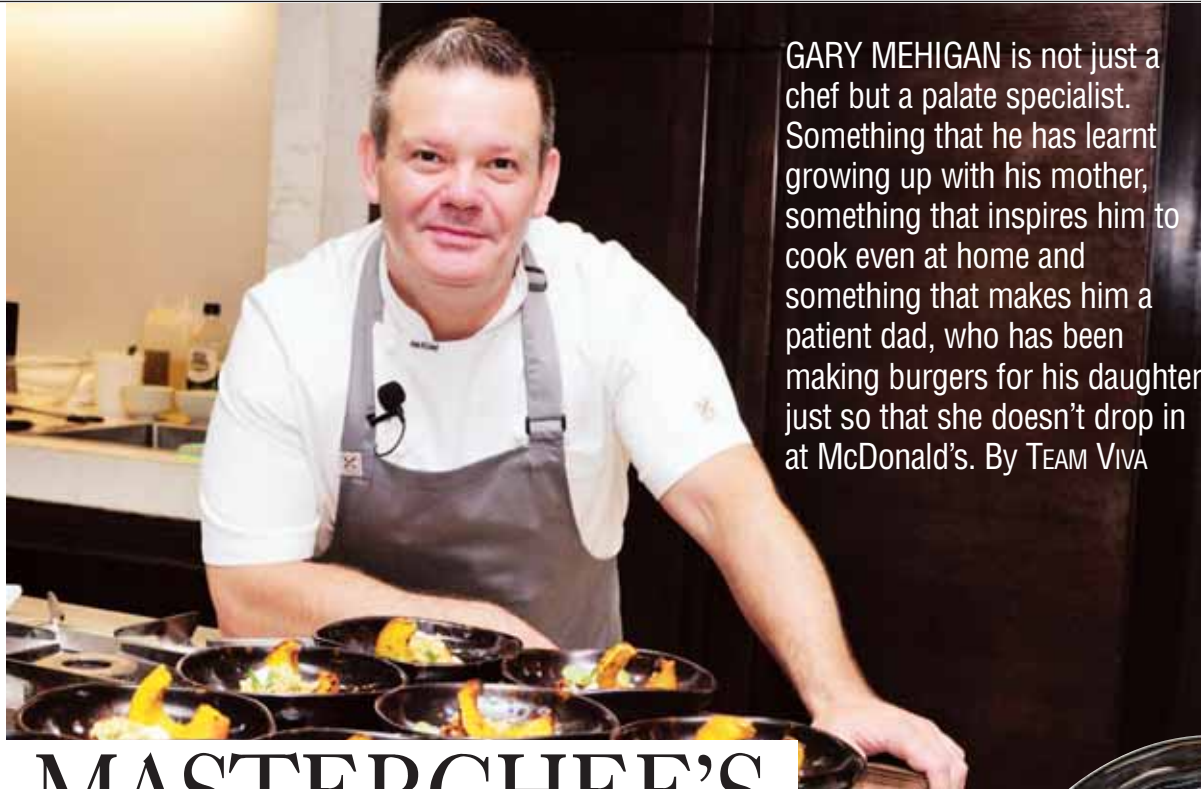
Here's what the celebrities expressed:

Anupam Kher, "Deeply saddened... She was one of the most dignified and affectionate ladies that I met. May her soul rest in peace."



Aamir Khan, "If Raj Kapoor was an institution in filmmaking, Krishnaji was an institution in living life. A very sad loss to all of us." Karan Johar, "The embodiment of grace, dignity, elegance and of strength. Krishna aunty will always be the 'First Lady of the Film Fraternity'. The most generous, kind and gentle person I have ever known with the most terrific sense of humour. Will miss you."

—IANS



## MASTERCHEF'S HOME TRUTHS

do, topping it with Japanese furikake (mixture of dried fish, sesame seeds, chopped seaweed, sugar, salt, and monosodium glutamate), the citrusy yuzu mayonnaise and garlic chips, making for a crunchy freshness that is subtle and light at the same time. Mehigan can toss about ingredients from across the world simply because he immerses himself in them when trav-

elling. So over his several visits to India, he has eaten local and taken to tandoori delights and the South Indian staples. Only recently, he has discovered the wonders of black pea in *chhole kulche*.

But it is with the roasted mulwara lamb rump that the chef stole the show. He patiently waited for the lamb to slow-cook, prodding it but just once

**GARY MEHIGAN** is not just a chef but a palate specialist. Something that he has learnt growing up with his mother, something that inspires him to cook even at home and something that makes him a patient dad, who has been making burgers for his daughter just so that she doesn't drop in at McDonald's. By **TEAM VIVA**

uted to each pore of the meat and how he still considered his mother's tips the best. "My mother would rest the roasted meat by closing all doors and windows and let the residual atmospheric heat do the job," he said. A simple trick to prime the meat as it were.

Then he drizzled black olive jus gras over it. But what we weren't prepared for was the way he rested it on a spiced carrot puree, zested up with cinnamon and clove with the much-needed caramelised element he talked about. He paired it up with spinach and feta gozleme, a flattened *samosa* if you like with a creamy veggie mush that you perhaps would not have had if it were served as is.

And just when you thought you have had the perfect fill, Mehigan laid out the almond and native honey friande with pickled blueberries and yogurt ice cream. Not too sweet, not too overbearing or heavy, not too breadly but oozing enough to make you want more.

Mehigan is not just a chef but a palate specialist. Something that he has learnt growing up with his mother, something that inspires him to cook even at home and something that makes him a patient dad, who has been making burgers for his daughter just so that she doesn't drop in at McDonald's. And this is what keeps him invested in his art, one that does away with homogenisation and looks for indigenous revival.





# TOUGH TEST AWAITS IN CL

## Bayern host Ajax while Man City travel to Hoffenheim for UCL clash; Utd tie against Valencia

**AFF ■ SINSHEIM**

Hoffenheim coach Julian Nagelsmann is plotting to outsmart his idol Pep Guardiola when Manchester City attempt to get their Champions League campaign back on track by winning in Germany on Tuesday.

At 31, Nagelsmann is the youngest coach in Champions League history, and admits to being a keen student of Guardiola's methods.

Now he hopes to thwart the Spanish master tactician in Hoffenheim's first home Champions League match in the club's history.

But in Sinsheim, City will be aiming to bounce back from their shock 2-1 loss at home to Lyon in their first Group F game. Hoffenheim drew their opener 2-2 at Shakhtar Donetsk.

City beat Brighton 2-0 at home at the weekend to go top of the Premier League, but Hoffenheim's form is far shakier as they suffered their third defeat in six Bundesliga games on Saturday, losing 2-1 at home to RB Leipzig, who the ambitious Nagelsmann will coach next season.

This is the first time Nagelsmann will go head-to-head with Guardiola, who coached Bayern Munich to three consecutive Bundesliga titles from 2013 to 2016 before joining City.

**BAYERN WITH POINT TO PROVE**

**MUNICH:** Bayern Munich host Ajax in the Champions League on Tuesday with Niko Kovac needing to fix a leaking defence and lack of finishing after yielding top spot in the Bundesliga.

The clash at Munich's Allianz Arena could well decide Group E after Bayern claimed a 2-0 win at Benfica in the opening round a fortnight ago while Ajax won 3-0 at Greek side AEK.

Dauntingly for Ajax, Bayern have won the last 12 matches at home in the Champions League's group stages.

However, the five-time European champions finished the

game in the (Bundesliga) this season, but now it has happened in no time at all," he added.

Uncharacteristically for Bayern, they leaked a late equaliser in a 1-1 league draw with Augsburg last Tuesday, which was followed by the defeat in Berlin.

Nevertheless, a win over Ajax would boost confidence before Saturday's home league match against Borussia Moenchengladbach when they can aim to make up the one-point gap behind new Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Historically, there is nothing separating Bayern and Ajax, who have three wins each, plus two draws, in their previous eight



**Man City vs Hoffenheim**  
Live from 10:25pm IST  
**SONY TEN 1 & 1HD**

**Bayern Munich vs Ajax**  
Live from 12:30am IST  
**SONY SIX & SIX HD**

weekend second in the German league after crashing to a shock 2-0 defeat at Hertha Berlin on Friday after being outplayed in the capital.

"It is an important game against Ajax. A win would make things easier for us going into our next four games," said Bayern head coach Kovac.

"Many people said we wouldn't lose a

meetings.

**MADRID HEAD WITH FEWER STARS**

**MADRID:** Luka Modric returns to the Luzhniki Stadium on Tuesday, the scene of Croatia's World Cup final defeat to France, not only as FIFA's best men's player but the star of Real Madrid too.

For the first time in his six seasons at



Madrid, Modric will line up for a Champions League tie without Cristiano Ronaldo, who was sold, or Gareth Bale, who is injured.

Bale is the last, and he would have been playing against CSKA Moscow, had it not been for a thigh injury picked up on Saturday.

In other matches of the game day 2, Italian champion Juventus will host New Boys in Turin without the services of

**Aguero can beat PL goals record: Bernardo**

**LONDON:** Sergio Aguero could beat Alan Shearer's record of 260 goals to become the Premier League's greatest ever marksman, according to Manchester City teammate Bernardo Silva.

The Argentine forward scored the 148th goal of his Premier League career for City in Saturday's 2-0 victory over Brighton, equalling Shearer's tally for Newcastle.

The pair are joint third in the list of highest goalscorers for a single club behind Thierry Henry for Arsenal (175) and Wayne Rooney for Manchester United (183).

"Sergio is the best scorer in Manchester City's history," said midfielder Silva. "He's a legend not only for Manchester City but also for the Premier League, if not the best striker in the world then one of the best."

"It's great to have him with us. I think he can reach it (the record). He's got the potential. Every season he keeps scoring more and more. We hope he can keep helping us win more titles here in Manchester."



posterboy Cristiano Ronaldo, who will miss the game because of suspension.

Also in the other clash of same group, Manchester City will face tough challenge from Spanish club Valencia, who are head-

ing into this game after losing to Juventus in their first group game.

Elsewhere, Lyon will face Shakhtar Donetsk, while back on winning terms Roma will play against Viktoria Platen.

## Mumbai aim for winning start against Jamshedpur

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

With a new head coach in place, the Mumbai City FC will look to start the fifth season of the Indian Super League (ISL) with a win when they take on Jamshedpur FC here on Tuesday.

The coveted ISL crown has eluded Mumbai for the past four seasons.

The 'Islanders' - as they are fondly called -- had a particularly disappointing time last season.

But with new coach Jorge Costa taking over their reins, they will look forward to an improvised show and change of fortunes at the Mumbai Football Arena in suburban Andheri.

Mumbai have made several changes to their squad and roped in Indian players like Souvik Chakrabarti, Raynier Fernandes and Subhashish Bose.

Their notable foreign acquisitions include Paulo Machado (Portugal) and striker Rafael Bastos (Brazil).

With Bose, Mumbai have strengthened their defence, which was a definite concern last season, and also included Romanian Lucian Goian, Arnold Issoko (Congo), Souvik Ghosh and Anwar Ali.

With Senegal's Modou Sougou bringing his experience to the table, Mumbai now have a strong mid-field.

If Sougou and Bastos fire in unison, Jamshedpur's defence



will come under severe threat.

The hosts also have the solid Amrinder Singh and Kunal Sawant to call upon as goal stoppers.

Mumbai will heave a sigh of relief as Jamshedpur's best bet, Australian World Cup striker Tim Cahill, and senior goalkeeper Subrata Paul will not feature in Tuesday's clash as they have been suspended.

With these two stars missing from the visitors' ranks, Mumbai look to have the edge. Jamshedpur FC head coach Cesar Ferrando revealed the reasons for the suspension of the two players.

"Two of our players have been banned — Subrata Paul and Tim Cahill. Dhanachandra Singh is out injured and so has

not travelled with the team.

"Paul has a three match ban for the incident in the Super Cup. Cahill has a three-match suspension for an incident which took place for Millwall in the England Second Division and tomorrow his ban ends," Ferrando told reporters at the pre-match media conference.

The coach, however, said that he had a good squad.

"I have a good squad and working very hard and not having three players around is no excuse," he added.

And according to Costa, it was important to focus on his players.

"It would be good if he (Tim Cahill) can play. I am not that kind of coach who looks at a player's absence.

"It is more important to work at my house - my house means my players - and look at what we can do in the game," Costa said.

Jamshedpur, who finished fifth on the points table last season, also have a new head coach — Cesar Ferrando who will also be aiming for a positive beginning.

But with two of his best players out from the Tuesday game, the others will have to display something special, if they have to spring a surprise.

Also, Mumbai have not won against Jamshedpur, having drawn and lost a game in their two meetings last season.

The hosts would strive hard to change the narrative this time around.

## Bhaker named India's flag-bearer at Youth Olympic

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker was on Monday named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires from October 6-18.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Narinder Batra announced during the send-off ceremony here that the 16-year-old Bhaker will lead the Indian team in the opening ceremony.

"It is a great honour for me. I never expected to be the flag-bearer for the Indian contingent," Manu said.

A contingent of 68 members, including 46 athletes, will depart for Argentina on Tuesday to compete in 13 sports during the prestigious event.

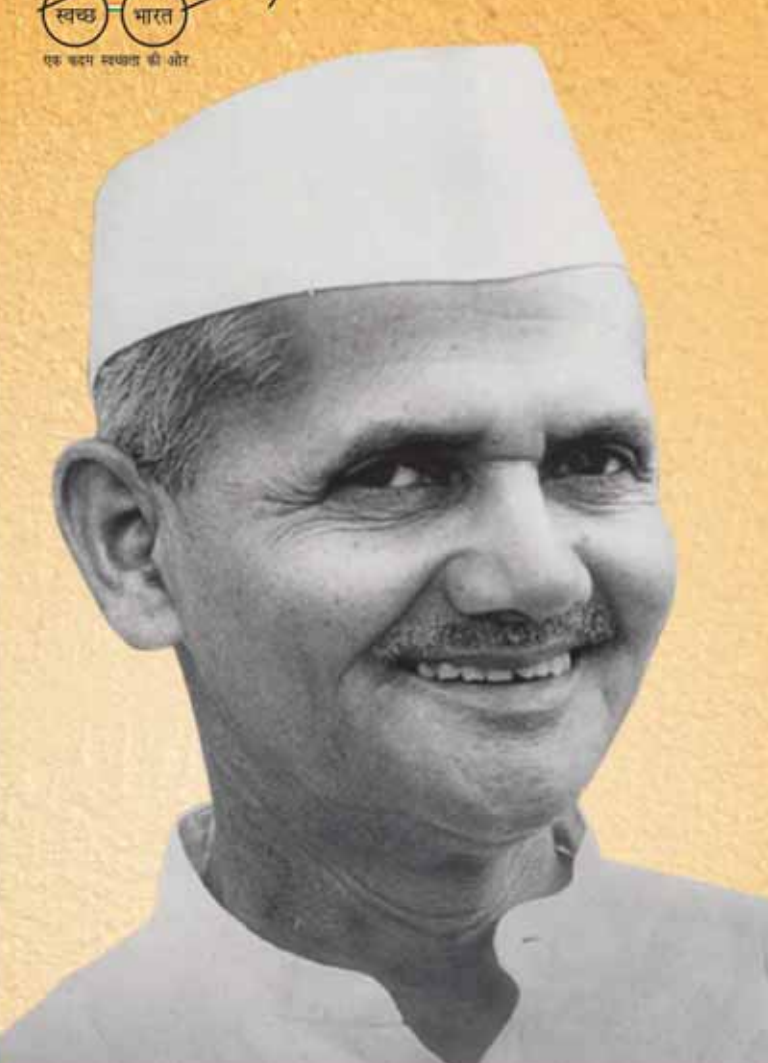
"It gives me immense pleasure to announce the young athletes' participation in the Youth Olympic Games. May the Indian flag fly high and our athletes bring laurels for the country," Batra said.

This is India's largest ever contingent at the Youth Olympics. Hockey 5s has most number of Indian participants with 18 (nine each in men's and women's team) while track and field has seven athletes. Other Indian participants are: shooting (4), recurve archery (2), badminton (2), swimming (2), table tennis (2), weightlifting (2), wrestling (2), rowing (2), boxing (1), judo (1), sport climbing (1).

Bhaker, who had won Gold in 10m air pistol at Guadalajara World Cup as well as Commonwealth Games, will be among top medal contenders for India at the Youth Olympics.

Other medal contenders include CWG and World Championship Silver medallist shooter Mehuli Ghosh, Asian Games champion marksman Saurabh Chaudhary and Asian junior badminton champion Lakshya Sen.

IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta said, "Youth Olympics is a good platform for athletes to familiarise with the Olympic values and the Olympic Games environment at an earlier stage. I urge our young team to see the Games as a medium for sporting and cultural exchange whilst giving their best performances."



**स्वच्छ भारत**  
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

**जय जवान-जय किसान**

**“अपने देश की आजादी की रक्षा करना केवल सैनिकों का काम नहीं, बल्कि ये पूरे देश का कर्तव्य है।”**  
- लाल बहादुर शास्त्री

**‘भारत रत्न’ देश के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी की जयन्ती (2 अक्टूबर) पर शत-शत नमन।**  
- योगी आदित्यनाथ  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



