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KRITI FOR
RESPONSIBLE
HANDLING
OF #METOO'
14 VIVACITY

Akbar fights back MeToo

Trashes charges, threatens legal action, gives no indication of stepping down

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister MJ Akbar on Sunday tried to brazen out the charges of sexual misconduct levelled against him by several women journalists and threatened them with legal action while giving no indication of stepping down from office. Akbar described the charges against him as "false and fabricated" and gave a political twist to the whole controversy by suggesting that this was part of an "agenda" as the charges came a few months before a general election.

As many as ten women journalists, who served under Akbar when he was the editor of a national daily, have narrated horrifying tales of sexual assault made on them by their boss. Soon after returning from a trip to Africa, the Minister of State for External Affairs issued a statement trashing the charges against him, saying accusations without evidence have become a "viral fever" among some sections.

However, with more and more women coming out against him and the Government facing flaks, Akbar has reasons to face sleepless nights.

Dismissing Akbar's statement, Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi wondered how the BJP leader could try to hide behind the allegation of a political campaign against him. "I wonder how over a

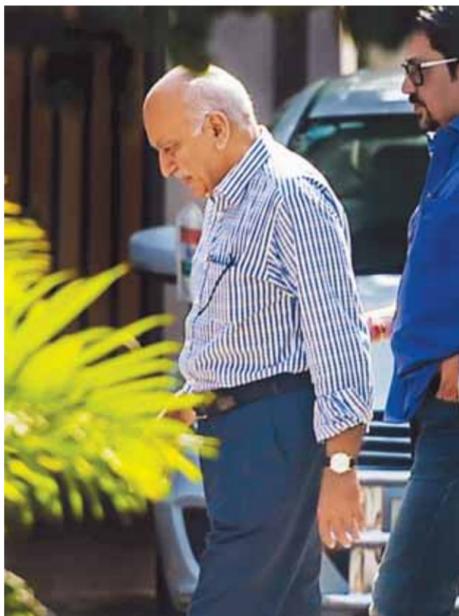
DEFENSIVE

- Soon after returning from a trip to Africa, the Minister of State for External Affairs issues a statement
- Accusations without evidence have become a 'viral fever' among some sections
- Gives a political twist to the whole controversy
- Lies do not have legs, but they do contain poison, which can be whipped into a frenzy. This is deeply distressing

dozen women sharing their experiences can be claimed as political conspiracy? Bigger wonder is which constituency does his stepping down impact in elections? The only clear answer is that this government is actively protecting & promoting the sexual perverts," Chaturvedi posted on Twitter.

The Congress has also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak his mind on the issue. "The PM's silence is conspicuous. A PM who speaks on everything is silent on #MeToo. The silence raises questions on the dignity of the PM's office. The country has been waiting for days for Modi to clear his stand on this," Congress leader Anand Sharma said at a Press conference.

Describing the allegations of misconduct made against him false and fabricated, Akbar said, these were "spiced up by



Union Minister MJ Akbar, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment by a number of women journalists, at his residence after his arrival from a foreign tour in New Delhi on Sunday

innuendo and malice."

"Accusation without evidence has become a viral fever among some sections.

Whatever be the case, now that I have returned, my lawyers will look into these wild and base-

less allegations in order to decide our future course of legal action," he said in the statement.

Akbar said even journalist Priya Ramani who started this campaign with a magazine

article a year ago did not accused him of doing anything. "She did not however name me as she knew it was an incorrect story. When asked recently why she had not named me, she replied, in a Tweet, "Never named him because he didn't 'do' anything." "If I didn't do anything, where and what is the story? There is no story.

"This was admitted at the very inception. But a sea of innuendo, speculation and abusive diatribe has been built around something that never happened. Some are total, unsubstantiated hearsay; others confirm, on the record, that I didn't do anything. Let me note examples. Shutapa Paul states, "The man never laid a hand on me," he said.

Akbar then referred to Shuma Raha and pointed out that she too said he didn't actually 'do' anything. "One woman, Anju Bharti, went to the absurd extent of claiming I was partying in a swimming pool. I do not know how to swim," he said.

"Another accusation was made repeatedly by Ghazala Wahab, in an effort to damage my reputation. She claimed that she had been molested in office, 21 years ago. This is 16 years before I entered public life, and when I was in the media. The only office where I worked with her was that of *The Asian Age*. A part of the editorial team then worked

out of a small hall.

"At the time concerned, I had a very tiny cubicle, patched together by plywood and glass. Others had tables and chairs two feet away. It is utterly bizarre to believe that anything could have happened in that tiny space, and, moreover, that no one else in the vicinity would come to know, in the midst of a working day. These allegations are false, motivated and baseless," he said.

Akbar went on to add, "Wahab states that she complained to Veenu Sandal, who wrote features for the paper. Sandal has described Wahab's version as nonsense, in an interview to the *Indian Express*. Sandal has also said she has never heard, in 20 years, anybody accusing me of any such thing."

Akbar then went on to remind that both Ramani and Wahab kept working with him even after these alleged incidents. "The reason why they remained silent for decades is very apparent: As Ramani has herself stated, I never did anything. This is the reason why no one went to the authorities for so long, because I had done nothing," he said.

Akbar ended his statement on threatening note saying, "Lies do not have legs, but they do contain poison, which can be whipped into a frenzy. This is deeply distressing. As indicated above, I will be taking appropriate legal action."

Maj Gen, 6 jawans get life in Dangari fake encounter case

5 youths were gunned down in 1994 by Army

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI



Seven personnel of the Indian Army, including a Major General, have been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Summary General Court Martial (SGCM) for their involvement in a fake encounter that had taken place in Assam in 1994.

"I am extremely happy to see that justice is finally delivered in the infamous Dangari encounter case where five innocent youths were killed. The verdict of the court martial yesterday once again brought to the fore the neutrality of the Indian Army. It has proved that one must have faith in Indian judicial system, democracy and the discipline and neutrality of an institution like Indian Army," said Jagadish Bhuyan, who has been pursuing the case for the last 24 years.

The Army jawans from 18 Punjab Regiment had picked up nine youths and student leaders from different areas of Tinsukia district on February 18, 1994 for their alleged role in killing the general manager of a tea estate. The arrest

caused widespread public outrage. The army branded them as Ulfa militants and gunned down five of them in what has now been established as fake encounters. Four others were released in a jungle.

The then All Assam Students' Union leader Jagadish Bhuyan filed a habeas corpus petition in the Gauhati High Court the same month seeking to know the details of these youths. Based on the petition filed by Bhuyan, the Gauhati High Court ordered the Army to produce the nine at the nearest police station. Later, the Army produced five bodies at the Dholla police station.

The investigation of the case was later handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which filed a chargesheet against the seven Army personnel.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

PARRIKAR DISCHARGED FROM AIIMS, BACK IN GOA
Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar arrived in his home State on Sunday afternoon from New Delhi, where he was undergoing treatment at the AIIMS for pancreatic ailment. Parrikar, 62, was flown in a special flight and later taken to his private residence at Dona Paula near here, in an ambulance. P7

PM HAS MUCH TO HIDE ABOUT RAFALE: CONG
New Delhi: Continuing with its campaign against the Government over the Rafale deal, the Congress on Sunday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was directly involved in it, adding that he had much to hide about it. P5

MALAYSIA KEEN ON ADOPTING AADHAAR
New Delhi: Taking a cue from India's Aadhaar initiative, Malaysia wants to bring changes in its national identity card system by adopting it for target delivery of welfare schemes and Government subsidies to avoid duplicity.

6 NEW ZIKA VIRUS CASES, TOTAL 61 IN RAJASTHAN
Jaipur: Six new cases of Zika virus were detected in Jaipur on Sunday, taking the total number of infected people to 61. The figures were issued after a review meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (AGS) medical and health, Veenu Gupta. "Forty-five out of the total 61 patients are healthy after treatment," the official said. P5

Eye to State elections, Cong pursues youth

Party mulls doles for jobless in its manifesto

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to wrest power in Hindi belt of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the upcoming polls, the Congress is conducting an elaborate exercise to gauge youths' mood, aspirations and hopes to woo them by offering them lucrative offers in the party manifesto for the three State Assembly polls. A group of dedicated professionals are working on the task.

Sources said the party has already started a survey to identify the qualifications of youths, degree of unemployment and how their "frustration" can be redressed by the grand old party. "We are conducting an independent survey and not based on Government data. Anything further can be worked upon only after the data collection as how they can be offered employment, re-engagements, allowances etc," said a top AICC functionary.

A team member of the manifesto committee said as per

- A group of dedicated professionals are working on the task
- Rajasthan Congress has conveyed to the party High Command that in its manifesto it would like to offer a monthly allowance of ₹3,500 to unemployed educated persons in the State
- Taking a dig at poll promises by the BJP, the Congress leader said, "Ours will obviously not be a collection of political jumla"

Government data while Madhya Pradesh has an employment rate of 43 per cent (40 per cent in rural and 44 in urban areas); Rajasthan has an extreme rate of 71 per cent unemployment with 43 per cent urban and 77 per cent rural.

In the Gujarat Assembly elections, too, the Congress had promised an unemployment allowance of up to ₹4,000 a month for each jobless youth in the State. The Congress has been highlighting what it alleged rising unemployment and shrinking job opportunities in the BJP-ruled States and the country in general in its campaigns, public rallies, statements etc.

Rajasthan Congress has conveyed to the party High Command that in its manifesto it would like to offer a monthly allowance of ₹3,500 to unemployed educated persons in

the State. Indian Youth Congress (IYC) launched an "Employment Form" under the Yuva Shakti programme and a campaign is already underway.

"To fulfil the needs and expectations of youngsters, there will be no dearth of resources. An atmosphere will be provided where there will be opportunities, quality education and loans on easy terms. Details of educated unemployed will be gathered and after forming the Government, we will provide ₹3,500 assistance to them.

The party will include this in the election manifesto," said a senior leader looking after Rajasthan affair.

Taking a dig at poll promises by the BJP, the Congress leader said, "Ours will obviously not be a collection of political jumla."

Continued on Page 4

Fire at Obra power plant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A fire broke out at the Obra thermal power plant, a subsidiary of Uttar Pradesh Thermal Power Generation Corporation Limited, leading to the closure of its 200 MW power units on Sunday morning.

The Obra thermal power plant, situated on the border of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, supplies power mostly to UP. Due to the fire, power generation was stopped at Obra and this disrupted power supply in some parts of the state.

Official sources said that the fire started from the switch gear in the cable yard around 5 in the morning and the fire spread to nearby areas within an hour. About 12 fire-tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. Due to the fire, unit numbers 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the power plant generating around 200 megawatt (MW) electricity were shut down. Senior officials of the UP Thermal Power Generation Corporation Limited along with district authorities rushed to the spot. Sonebhadra's District Magistrate Amit Kumar Singh said the units had been shut down and the employees had been evacuated.

AMU's Kashmiri students threaten to leave for home

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Kashmiri students studying at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) have threatened to leave for their homes on October 17, if the sedition charges against three of them are not dropped.

In a letter to AMU Vice-Chancellor, AMU students' union former vice-president Sajjad Rathar said: "If this vilification does not stop, more than 1,200 Kashmiri students will leave for their homes in the Kashmir Valley on October 17 as a last option."

Terming the slapping of sedition charges as "vendetta", Rathar said: "The option of holding Namaaz-e-Janaza (prayer meeting) in absentia was dropped after the AMU authorities did not give the permission." "If no prayer meeting was held as confirmed by all official agencies, the slapping of a case of sedition against three Kashmiri students is simply a vendetta, harassment and denial of justice," he said.

The letter was handed over to AMU Proctor Mohsin Khan in presence of large number of Kashmiri students at his office on Saturday night. AMU spokesman Shafay Kidwai, how-

ever, denied the Kashmiri students' charges of harassment and stressed that "no innocent would be framed".

Prof Kidwai also made it clear that "there is zero tolerance for any anti-national activity on AMU campus".

Three Kashmiri students of AMU were booked on sedition charges for allegedly for raising "anti-India" slogans and trying to hold a prayer meeting for Hizbul Mujahideen commander Manan Bashir Wani on October 12 (Friday).

Twenty seven-year-old Wani, pursuing a PhD course in Allied Geology at the AMU, had quit the university and joined militant ranks in January this year. He was killed in an encounter at Shatgund village in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday.

Aligarh's SSP Ajai Sahni said police took the action (on October 12) after a video surfaced, showing the three Kashmiri students raising "anti-India" slogans. "Police have filed an FIR against Wasim Malik, Abdul Mir and one unnamed person. They have been identified on the basis of a video recording," he said.

Prof Kidwai said show-

cause notices had been issued to nine students for trying to hold an unauthorised gathering Thursday. "A three-member inquiry committee has been set up to probe the incident. It will submit a report in the next 72 hours," he said. The three students were suspended from the AMU earlier.

Some AMU students from Kashmir had on Thursday (October 11) gathered near Kennedy Hall on the campus to hold funeral prayers for Wani, following which the varsity staff and the students union leaders had rushed to the spot and tried to stop them.

A heated exchange erupted between the students union leaders and the Kashmiri students and they finally moved out of the area, Kidwai said, adding three Kashmiri students were suspended for trying to hold the "unlawful" gathering. He said the university has made it clear that it has a zero tolerance policy for any act which could even remotely be described as anti-national.

AMUSU president Faizul Hasan had told PTI that he had always championed the cause of freedom of speech but any act of treason or terror was unacceptable to the students' union.

Army sells 16K imported cows at throwaway prices

Closure of 15 farms part of plan to give up non-critical functions

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to streamline its resources to improve operational preparedness by giving up non-critical functions, the Army has closed down 15 military farms and sold 16,000 imported Frieswal cows.

The cows were sold to various States at a price of ₹1,000 each and the Army plans to sell the remaining 9,000 high-yield milk cattle shortly. Moreover, the remaining 24 military farms, a colonial legacy, will also be shortly closed down and land handed over to the local military authorities.

The decision to close down the Raj era military farms set up by the British to rear milch cattle for providing dairy products to the Armed forces was taken by the Government last



year to improve teeth to tail ratio of the Army. It means more soldiers deployed for operational role than static duties like maintenance of vehicles and farms amongst others.

Following the official directive, the Army has so far closed

down 15 farms out of total 39 located all over the country. As regards 25,000 Frieswal cows, a cross breed between Holstein-Friesian cows of Netherlands and native Indian Sahiwal breed, the Army first decided to auction the milch cattle. Each cow can yield at an aver-

age more than 3,500 litres of milk per lactation and costs ₹1 lakh each.

However, there were no takers for the cows in the auction and the authorities then decided to sell each cow at a nominal price of ₹1,000 each to various States provided they were ready to foot the transportation bill.

This scheme met with success and 16,000 cows were sold in the last few weeks, officials said here on Saturday. While 9,000 of the sold cattle were already dispatched the remaining 7,000 will be transported shortly, they added. Nagaland and West Bengal have already bought cows and some more States have evinced interest, they said.

The closure of military farms is one step in restructuring the Army as recom-

mended by the Lt General (retired) DB Shekatkar committee report.

The committee was constituted by the Defence Ministry to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces. The committee submitted its report in December 2016.

Some of the recommendations for implementation included optimisation of signals establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.

Continued on Page 4

SIT to probe shooting of judge's family

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been set up under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police East of Gurugram to investigate the Saturday incident in which both the wife and son of Additional District Judge Shrikant were shot at by the judge's security guard.

While the wife, Ritu (38), died overnight, the 18-year-old son, Dhruv, is at a hospital, police said. They were seriously hurt after being shot from close range by Mahipal Singh, a Haryana Police Constable hailing from Bhungarka village in Mahindargarh posted with the judge for nearly two years. Detailed report on P7

CS: Krishi Kumbh to boost all sectors

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

This will be a Kumbh of a different kind in which farmers and agricultural scientists from across the country will brainstorm for three days in the state capital from October 26 to search avenues for increasing the income of the farming community.

The agri-meet — Krishi Kumbh-2018 — will also be attended by Haryana and Jharkhand as partner states.

Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey said that Uttar Pradesh had already organised UP Investors' Summit 2018 and MSME conclave — One District One Product Summit — and the Krishi Kumbh would be the third important summit that will give a boost to all the three sectors, particularly ODP.

The aim is to promote modern agricultural techniques and diversification of crops which in turn help the farmers to double their income. Over 100,000 farmers, scientists, experts and entrepreneurs are expected to take part in this three-day event.

Manish Sharma, a senior

official looking after the preparations for Krishi Kumbh, said that this event would include all aspects of rural economy, such as agriculture, horticulture, dairy, pisciculture, bee-keeping, food processing, animal husbandry and farm implements to provide a holistic picture to farmers for increasing their income.

The summit seeks to introduce farmers to the evolving dynamics of farming so that they may increase their earnings by tapping the vast potential in agriculture and post harvest management of crops, he said.

Sharma said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government always advocated diversification in the farm sector as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath believed that in present day scenario, diversification in farm sector would lead to better profits for farmers.

The Chief Minister advocates that farmers should take up vegetable growing, fruit production, horticulture, pisciculture and dairy development other than conventional farming.

In a recent meeting with a delegation of Asian Development Bank, the Chief

Minister had said: "It is a beneficial effort to enhance agricultural production. Experts in this field should be roped in for wide ranging deliberations. This will also help the government in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to double the income of farmers by 2022."

Sharma said the government was following the vision of the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister in totality to help the farmers to achieve the set target.

"The need is to popularise Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme and Prime Minister Agriculture Irrigation Scheme. Besides, soil health cards is helping farmers in knowing the nature of their soil," the official said.

He said through the use of new technology, food grain production had increased in Uttar Pradesh by two million tonnes (MT) and the state claimed to have surplus food grain inventory of 10 MT.

Besides, he said, the agricultural and horticultural production had been robust, including potato, which clocked a record output of 15.5 MT.

Bharadwaj Muni's statue to be erected, says CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The statue of Bharadwaj Muni will be erected at the Bharadwaj Park. This was said by the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, while inspecting the park here on Sunday.

It may be pointed out here that during his two-day-long visit the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, inspected a number of places being developed ahead of the forthcoming Kumbh. During his 15 minutes' inspection of the Bharadwaj Park, the Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to get a meditation centre constructed and a heritage light installed at the Park here. He also asked the officials to get installed such lights so that the trees in the premises of the park could get illuminated and look beautiful. Besides, laser lights should be installed around the idol of Bharadwaj Muni here.

The Chief Minister said that the Bharadwaj Park had been named after Bharadwaj Muni. As there were several ashrams near the Bharadwaj Park so his idol should be erected here. After the Chief Minister's inspection, the Uttar Pradesh Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Suresh Kumar Khanna, said that the idol of Bharadwaj Muni would be installed ahead of the mega event. Similarly, the Mayor, Ahilasha Gupta 'Nandi' said that all the formalities would be completed for installing the idol of Bharadwaj Muni.

Meanwhile the Chief Minister paid a visit to the localities situated in the trans-Ganga area.

He instructed the officials concerned to expedite the works of Kumbh here. He also visited the Sachcha Baba Ashram and Pucca Ghat here



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing mediapersons in Allahabad. Pioneer

and asked the officials to ensure that the renovation was carried out as soon as possible. He also directed the officials concerned to send the wards of the labourers working at the Triveni Pushp Park to a school for better education.

Similarly the Chief Minister also inspected the Sobhatabagh overbridge and reached Alopibagh and also saw the work of the widening of roads there. He then visited the Beni Madhav Temple located at Daraganj here and offered prayers to Lord Beni Madhav and prayed for the success of the mega event. He also directed the officials to ensure the renovation of the temple before Kumbh.

The Chief Minister after taking a rest at night inspected the Naini and Jhansi areas besides some places here in the urban area. He looked into the progress of works being carried out related to the Kumbh preparations.

He issued necessary directives to the officials to ensure that the tent city which was being constructed near Delhi Public School could be set up close to the Sangam City and

also asked the officials to localise Sectors 19 and 20 here.

On his return journey the Chief Minister reached the fort located in Sangam area. He also visited Patalpur located at Odi Fort and saw the Saraswati Koop and Akshay Vat here. Thereafter the Chief Minister reached the Baghambari Math located at Allahapur and had a conversation with the office-bearers of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad. The Chief Minister then proceeded to the Police Lines and reviewed the works being done for the forthcoming Kumbh here.

The CM was also accompanied by the Health Minister, Siddharth Nath Singh, the Stamp and Civil Aviation Minister, Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', the MLA from City North, Harshvardhan Bajpai, the DIG, SN Sabat, the Divisional Commissioner, Dr Ashish Goel, IG, Range, Mohit Agarwal, the District Magistrate, Suhas LY, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Nitin Tiwari, the Additional Municipal Commissioner, Ritu Suhas, and other officials concerned on the occasion.

Ram temple: Mughal descendant offers to place gold brick

Lucknow (PNS): Prince Yakub Habeebuddin Tacy, who claims to be a descendant of Mughal emperor Babur, has announced to place a gold brick to start the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Tacy said he tried to meet Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath but the latter had so far refused to meet him. "I was in Gorakhpur for two days recently but could not meet the Chief Minister," he admitted before the media at a press conference here on Sunday.

Tacy said there was no dispute between the Hindus and Muslims on the construction of Ram temple. "It is politicians who are trying to confuse the people of the country. I will personally go (to Delhi) to meet President Ram Nath Kovind to support early construction of Ram temple (at Ayodhya)," he said, adding that if required he would lay the first brick of gold of the temple.

"The President has the power to intervene in any court matter and as the issue is about the title of the land he can intervene in it," Tacy said.

The prince claimed that the disputed land actually belonged to Babur and as he was a descendant all the rights vested in him.

Gujarat CM in city, to meet Yogi today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani will formally invite Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to attend a function to unveil the Statue of Unity, deemed to be the tallest statue, at Kavedia in Gujarat.

The Gujarat Chief Minister and a 14-member delegation accompanying him will meet the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister at his official residence here on Monday morning.

Rupani has arrived in Lucknow with his team and will have a series of meetings, including an interaction with the Gujarati samaj in the state capital. He will also address the media to give details of the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He is expected to return to Gujarat on Monday evening.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue, named as the Statue of Unity, will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31.

During the meeting, both the Chief Ministers and their officials would discuss various issues, including attacks on north Indians in Gujarat after a rape incident.

Earlier, the UP Chief

Minister had expressed his concern over the security of north Indians living in Gujarat after the violence.

The Chief Minister is also likely to reiterate his request for land for construction of Uttar Pradesh Bhawan at Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat complex which will come up near the Statue of Unity.

Yogi had earlier written a letter to Rupani demanding land for construction of UP Bhawan. In his letter on September 12, 2018, the UP Chief Minister had sought land around the Statue of Unity.

Once complete, the Statue of Unity will be the tallest statue of the world. It is being built at a cost of ₹2,989 crore. The work for this project began in December 2015.

Meanwhile, police had a hard time in controlling Congressmen when they showed black flag to Rupani on Sunday night. Around a dozen Congressmen were detained by the police in Hazratganj police station but they were later released.

The Congress leaders also staged a demonstration at the GPO for some time raising slogans against the Gujarat Chief Minister.

Two killed as roof of building under construction collapses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two workers were killed and over a dozen injured when the roof of a two-storey school building under construction collapsed in Shahjahanpur city around 3:30 pm on Sunday. They all were working at the constructing site.

The rescue teams extricated 16 labourers from under the rubble and rushed them to a hospital. Two seriously injured labourers were later referred to the trauma centre in Lucknow.

The rescue operation was going on till going to press and the police suspect that three persons were still trapped under the rubble.

Teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) from Lucknow had been sent to the scene.

The police said there was no law and order crisis in the locality where the mishap took place.

District Magistrate Amrit Tripathi, Superintendent of Police S Chinappa, several officials from police and district administration were supervising the rescue work.

As per reports, a beam of the roof of the under-construction school building at Niwazpur village in Roza collapsed all of a sudden when the labourers and masons were working on it. There was a stampede-like situation as the workers started fleeing the scene, leaving their colleagues buried under the rubble.

The rescue teams were demolishing the walls around the administrative block of the building with JCBs to rescue those trapped under the rubble.

According to police, the private intermediate college is owned by Jasmeet Sahni and Brijendra Sahni and they were getting the building constructed on contract.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and two injured when a speeding truck hit their bike near Atarhat village in Chilla area of Banda on Saturday night.

Cong against renaming Allahabad as Prayagraj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Following in the footsteps of Congress president Rahul Gandhi who has become a devotee of Lord Shiva and Lord Ram, the Uttar Pradesh Congress has invoked Brahma to question Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's announcement to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.

The UP Congress, which is now pursuing soft Hindutva, said the Chief Minister was ignorant of the fact that the city was already named as Prayag and there was no need to rename it.

Citing the role of Allahabad in the freedom movement and its association with Nehru, the UP Congress has opposed the move to rename Allahabad city as Prayagraj. It said, "Erasing the name of Allahabad from history will be an insult to the freedom movement. The government can carve out a new district and name it as Prayag as Kaushambi district was carved out of Allahabad."

place and name Prayag was formed by adding two words, 'Pra' and 'Yaag,' claimed UP Congress general secretary Onkar Nath Singh here on Sunday. The Congress leader said there was already a railway station named as Prayagraj at the Kumbh Mela Area spread over 20-22 kilometres.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday had announced to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj. He had also said that Governor Ram Naik had also supported the move.

After invoking the Vedic past of Allahabad, the Congress leader reverted to the medieval history of the city and said, "During the Mughal era,

Emperor Akbar had built a fort on the bank of the Ganga and named it 'Allahaabad' which later became Allahabad during the British period."

"Allahabad had played a major role in the freedom movement. Liaquat Ali had led the 1857 mutiny from Allahabad and later the all-India sessions of the Congress were also held there in 1888, 1892 and 1910 while an all-party meeting was held at Allahabad in 1919 to launch the agitation against the Rowlett Act. The foundation of the non-cooperation movement was also laid in this city," Singh said.

He said Swaraj Bhawan was located in Allahabad and the Congress had spearheaded the freedom struggle from this city and the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, was also from Allahabad.

Moreover he said, Allahabad was the state capital of United Province from 1904 to 1949 and police headquarters, CAG office, head office of North Central Railway and Allahabad University were located there, hence it would be imprudent to rename the city as Prayagraj.

POLICE BUST ILLEGAL ARMS FACTORY

Muzaffarnagar (PTI): An illegal arms manufacturing unit was busted in Khatoli here on Sunday and one person was arrested, police said.

HDFC BANK Department for Special Operation 11th Floor, Indian Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, I.T.O., New Delhi-110001
Branch Office at: 1st Floor, Pransy Towers, Near Vidhan Sabha, 38, Darabai Lal Sharma Marg, Lucknow-226001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT-2002 (SARFEESI ACT).

Notice is hereby given that under mentioned borrower(s) guarantor(s) mortgagee(s) who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of loan facility obtained by them from the Bank and whose loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA) on 29.07.2017. The notice were issued to all of them separately under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 (SARFEESI ACT) on the last known address, but they have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice that each of you is hereby called upon to pay jointly & severally the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication failing which the bank will proceed against below mentioned properties under sec. 13(4) of the said Act to realize its dues with interest and cost as contemplated under the Act. This notice is addressed to you with out prejudice to any other remedy available to the bank.

Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s)	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Notice	Amount Outstanding as on 31.01.2018
1) Uni-Tech Enterprises, UGF-4 Hightech Plaza 34 Lalbagh Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India Pin Code : 226001	Property Shop No. 8, on Khasara no. 220, Upper Ground Floor, Building known as "F1, Graphics" situated at Bhopal House, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 owned by Mr. Anshul Rastogi	08-03-18	Rs 87,42,856/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lacs Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six Only) as on 31-Jan-2018 along with future interest from 01-Feb-2018 till the date of realization as per loan agreement.
2) Anshul Rastogi (Proprietor/ Guarantor) 23/1/11 Raja Bazar Lucknow Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India Pin Code : 226003			
3) Mrs. Soni Rastogi (Guarantor) 223/138 B Rastogi Tola Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India Pin Code : 226003			

Date : 15.10.2018
Place : Lucknow
Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd.

HDFC BANK Department For Special Operations
11th Floor, Indian Express Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand notice dated 11-April-2018 calling upon the borrower M/s JMD Infrastructure (Partnership Firm) Through its Partners and Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) 1) Mr. Brijesh Kumar Singh 2) Mr. Kunwar Bhupender Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 30,27,003/- (Rupees Thirty Lacs Twenty Seven Thousand & Three Only) as on 31.03.2018 along with the future interest from 01-04-2018 and incidental expenses, cost as per the sanction terms till the date of payment within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s), having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 12th day of October, 2018 at Mohanlalajanj (Lucknow), Uttar Pradesh. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s), in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd, for an amount of Rs. 30,27,003/- (Rupees Thirty Lacs Twenty Seven Thousand & Three Only) as on 31.03.2018 along with the future interest from 01-04-2018 and incidental expenses, cost as per the sanction terms till the date of payment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

S. No.	Description of the Property	Owned by
1.	Plot of Gata No. - 1859 min & 1860 situated at village Gaura (0046) Pargana & Tehsil Mohanlalajanj, District Lucknow	Brijesh Kumar Singh

Note: The above notice be also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 8 and 9 of the Act.
Place: Mohanlalajanj, Lucknow, UP
Date : 12 October-2018
Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

INVITES PROPOSALS for SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE PRODUCT/ TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE)
Supports academia to develop technologies/ products (up to PoC stage) and their subsequent validation towards commercialization through: **Academic Innovation Research (AIR) and Contract Research Scheme (CRS)**

Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)
Supports industry for development of proof-of-concept and early stage validation of products/ technologies

Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)
Supports industry for high risk, transformational technology/ process development from proof-of-concept to late stage validation leading to product commercialization

Who can apply? For PACE
Academic institute, University, NGO, or Research Foundation, registered/accredited by a government body is eligible to apply either alone, or in partnership with academia or industry (while involvement of industry is optional for AIR scheme, it is mandatory to have an industrial partner for CRS)

For SBIRI & BIPP
A single or consortia of Indian company (ies) registered under "The Indian Companies Act 2013" with minimum 51% Indian ownership, and in-house R&D unit, are eligible to apply either alone, or in collaboration with another Company/ Institute/University

How to apply?
Proposals for all the Schemes are required to be submitted **online only**. For scheme details and submission of proposal, please log on to BIRAC website (www.birac.nic.in)

For queries, please contact:
Head - Investment, BIRAC. Email: investment.birac@gov.in

Last date for submission of proposals
30th November, 2018

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Durga Puja: Different committees, different themes



Canitt puja pandal entrance



(Left to right) Devotees making rangoli at Sevegram (Charbagh) Durga Puja pandal; Durga idols at Latouche Road, and Cantonment pandals



Pioneer

had included more than 25 female members. "This is happening for the first time with females taking up the work," he pointed out.

Bhattacharya said that this year, they had changed the mukha-baksha of the idol. "Normally, the samitis accept the idols made by sculptors, but this time we have changed the face and bust," he said.

"The celebrations this year will see evenings replete with cultural programmes, including magic shows, Bengali drama, performance by singers such as Manto Das

and Utpal Mukherjee," he added. Bengali Club will have its 104th Durga Puja this year. President of Bengali Club Arun Banerjee said they would be organising traditional puja which they had been doing in the past. "Tomorrow, we will be organising 'Sri Sri Durga Chandri Path' and 'Mahisasur Mardini' programme. In the evening, there will be 'Tridhara, a fusion of Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Odissi," he added. Saurav Bandopadhyay, key organiser of Sahara Estate Jankipuram Durga Puja, said their celebrations had already

begun and the pandal was inaugurated on Saturday. The huge pandal which has been aesthetically decorated and made as a replica of the ISKCON temple being constructed in West Bengal. "We are witnessing a huge rush of people which is the same that we witness on Saptami and Ashtami," he added. He said everything in the traditional Bengali cuisine was served in the pandal but for 'bhog', the visitors were served khichdi, one fried vegetable, gobhialoo, kheer and papad.

Nihar Ranjan De from

Cantonment Durga Puja said the main attraction would be the two cutouts of Rafale jet which they would keep in the pandal and one of the two would be a selfie point. "The celebrations are for both Army personnel and civilians. We want to assert that Rafale should be brought to India since it has been a long time since the country has purchased a fighter plane," he said.

Sanjay Banerjee from Latouche Road Durga Puja said the attraction were the floral designs on which the

pandal had been made. "This is our 77th year. We have a footfall of over 1 lakh on Saptami, Ashtami and Navmi," he said. PK Ghosh, key organiser of Charbagh Durga Puja, said their pandal would highlight the theme of 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. "We promote culture and artists at our Durga Puja and the art work at our pandal has been done by Lucknow University students," he said.

Gomti Nagar Durga Puja Samiti is getting the tribal 'Chhau' dancers from Purulia

in West Bengal for the first time. He said they organised a 'Mauni Mela' on Sunday in which women brought food from their houses.

Bidyut Majumdar from Banga Bharti Durga Puja Samiti, which is celebrating its 40th Durga Puja at Bhootnath, said their aim and focus was the traditional puja. "Our focus will always remain on the way the puja is performed in the Bengali households and that is a very traditional manner. Our puja is one of its kind in the trans-Gomti area," he added.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

community will celebrate and locals will join in. The Pioneer interacted with members of different Durga Puja committees to know their highlights.

General secretary of Sarvajanin Durga Puja Samiti (Vidyant College) Avik Bhattacharya said for the 83rd Durga Puja this year, they

The city is all set for celebrating Durga Puja which will begin with 'Chandi puja' and 'pran pratishtha' on Monday. Artistically-decorated puja pandals have come up in all parts of the city where for the next four days, the Bengali

Youths go on the rampage as singer fails to turn up

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A group of youths defrauded several music lovers of cash on the pretext that famous singer Sapna Chaudhary would be performing in the show at Smriti Upvan in Ashiyana. However, as the singer did not turn up on Saturday night, irate fans created an uproar at the programme venue, broke the chairs and ransacked the property.

Interestingly, the district administration and police came to know about the fraud only after the bedlam. On the information, a police team reached the place to control the situation. The angry mob, most of whom were in their teens, lodged a case of criminal breach of trust and fraud against the woman artiste and organisers of the programme.

As per reports, owner of a coaching institute (Pahal Institute) Ibad Ali of Hazratganj and his friends Amit Pandey of Alambagh, Ratnakar Upadhyay of Gomti Nagar, along with two private sponsors Junaid Ahmad of Daliganj and Naveen Sharma of LDA Colony of Krishna Nagar, had organised the function. Junaid told newsmen that he had invested Rs 10 lakh in the programme. "The work to get appointment from Sapna Chaudhary was of Ibad, Amit and Ratnakar. We paid Rs 7 lakh to the manager of Sapna for the programme when Ibad and his other friends asked us for the same. We were promised a share in the profit out of the sale of tickets," Junaid said. He said they campaigned for the programme by putting up posters and distributing pamphlets all across the city for the past few weeks. The group sold online and offline tickets among the public. Junaid, however, expressed his ignorance about the cash that the group generated by the sale of tickets. ASP Rakesh Kumar said the organisers did not inform the customers that Sapna had postponed the programme due to some reason. "The police were yet to find out why the singer did not reach the venue. We will interrogate her too," he said. The ASP said after the singer did not reach the venue, the onlookers flew into rage and created a ruckus. "The reports that the mob manhandled the woman artistes present on the dais were unfounded. Nothing of that sort happened. There was a huge police force present at the scene and the mob was controlled soon after they indulged into unseemly act," the police officer said. He said a case was registered in this connection and the police had summoned those named in the case for interrogation.

No action against Dr Dev so far

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the registration of a case of unnatural sex and rape against city's famous neurosurgeon Dr Ravi Dev and a case of criminal intimidation against his aides, Mahanagar police were yet to start the investigation into the case.

Mahanagar SHO Vikas Pandey said the police would get the statement of the woman registered. "This needs a procedure and we will inform the woman to report to the police to get her statement recorded," the SHO said. He said the police were yet to identify other accused, the journalist and the constable of the crime branch.

Defending the police when asked about the delay in initiating the investigation, police spokesman AK Singh said the police were collecting documentary evidence against the persons accused in the case presently. "In the investigation into a case of such nature, the police initially collect the documentary evidence. Later, the veracity of these evidence is examined. The interrogation of persons accused in the case is usually done in the final stage," he informed.

The woman had accused the doctor of raping her after offering her sedatives at his clinic and sexually exploiting her. She claimed that she gave birth to a male child out of their relationship. The woman also had accused Dr Dev of adopting harassing tactics with her. The incident came to the notice of police after two aides of Dr Dev stopped the woman near PAC office (on embankment road) on October 12 and threatened her with dire consequences if she did not succumb to Dr Dev's diktat.





संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, लखनऊ
में आधुनिक चिकित्सा सुविधाओं से युक्त
550 शैय्याओं का विस्तार

डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ़ इमरजेंसी मेडिसिन व किडनी ट्रान्सप्लान्ट सेन्टर
का
भूमि पूजन व शिलान्यास
एवं
सेन्टर ऑफ़ ह्रीपैटोबिलियरी डिजीजेज एवं ट्रान्सप्लान्टेशन,
सेन्टर फार हिमटोलॉजी, बोनमैरो ट्रान्सप्लान्ट एवं स्टेमसेल रिसर्च सेंटर
तथा कॉलेज ऑफ़ मेडिकल टेक्नोलॉजी
(कुल लागत : ₹. 600 करोड़ लगभग)
का
लोकार्पण

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

के कर कमलों द्वारा किया जायेगा।

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

आशुतोष टंडन 'गोपालजी'
मंत्री, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग
उत्तर प्रदेश

संदीप सिंह
राज्य मंत्री, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग
उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 15 अक्टूबर, 2018

समय : अपराह्न 4.00 बजे

स्थान : श्रुति प्रेक्षागृह
संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान कैम्पस, लखनऊ



साफ नीयत-सही विकास



चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

LU's placement cell to organise capacity-building programmes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Counselling and Placement Cell (CPC) of Lucknow University will be organising a series of capacity-building programmes for the students of the universities for its various departments and faculties. Realising the fact that building up a strong base is necessary for ensuring safe future employability capabilities enhancement, the Cell has now planned to reach each department turn by turn in two sessions.

CPC director Madhurima Lal said she saw that the students would not reach the Cell due to various reasons like ongoing classes or reluctant behaviour so they have planned to reach the students' department-wise covering all streams so that no genuine job seeker was left out from its primary capacity-building programme which would definitely help the students at the time of their finding a job in future. "I want my student to



possess the best market competitiveness once they are facing the world of competition," she said. She said that the students had to learn how to prepare themselves for an interview and develop a formal dress sense to face corporate interviews. "As the students are from the management stream it is important to condition them for GST training with immense job potential.

Therefore, Section 1 will be followed by training in GST, including both basic knowledge as well as practical knowledge. In this section we will provide core knowledge of GST, conduct a GST quiz session, distribute certificates of appreciation to the participants of quiz session, provide training to the selected candidates and provide placements also if they qualify during their training

period. She added that more than physical prowess it was necessary to strengthen them mentally and therefore the capacity-building initiative was started on the World Mental Health Day with a strong psychological training of students with Malti Singh as its chief guest, and Prof Abha Awasthi, Dr AN Agarwal and Dr Shashi Rai, all well known for their core efficiency of building up mental health. The CPC has targeted the Psychology, Faculty of Arts students in this segment.

She said that the capacity-building programme would now reach the Faculty of Commerce to train the students on the above subject matter. She pointed out that it was also worth noting that the CPC never ever charged any amount from its students whether it was the training part, the final placement or internship and provided the students the best professional facilities which could otherwise cost them a fortune.



As Dussehra nears, Ravan effigies being prepared in Telibagh on Sunday

Pioneer

CISH encouraging farmers for strawberry cultivation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) is encouraging the farmers of Malihabad to cultivate strawberries. Director Shailendra Rajan said they had helped four farmers from Mehmoodnagar Taluqedari village of Malihabad plant strawberry saplings in their fields by providing them plating material and expertise. He said the saplings were planted a fortnight back.



"Strawberry is perennial in hilly areas and easily multiplied through runners whereas in plains, plants die during rainy season. During heavy rains, it is difficult to make them survive under normal conditions. Farmers have to arrange planting material every year and it is available in hilly areas, thus it is difficult for a general farmer to arrange planting material from unknown places," he pointed out. Rajan said that Virendra Rawat, a landless contract worker at CISH and a resident of Mehmoodnagar Taluqedari (Malihabad) who started strawberry cultivation, had reaped benefits. "CISH is making efforts to develop a technique using which a farmer can develop runners for next year. One of the entrepreneurs learnt tips for successful strawberry cultivation and applied the same in his village. His enthusiasm forced him to arrange leasehold land for strawberry cultivation where he planted 1,000 saplings and every alternate

day, he harvests 5-6 kg of strawberries. After getting profits in strawberry cultivation, he left the job as a contractual worker and has become self-employed. He easily sells his produce at Rs 200 per kg," Rajan said. The CISH director said strawberry was a super health food but not a common constituent of Indian diet. "In Europe and US, people are aware of its benefits in their diet as it improves eyesight, regulate blood pressure, improve brain function, helps in arthritis and many cardiovascular diseases. The antioxidants found in strawberry are responsible are good for health. Rich folic acid, potassium, manganese, dietary fiber, magnesium vitamin C and kaempferol content makes it rich in several compounds. Strawberry is rich in quercetin which prevents cancer cell proliferation," he added.

Strawberry is a delicate fruit and requires lot of care while harvesting, handling and transporting to the market.

"Market demands properly-packaged fruits and while handling, fruits are often bruised or damaged. Slight pressure on the fruit may deshape the fruit, and oozing of juice from the pulp causes discoloration and rotting. A wide range of packaging trays are used. These trays are designed to keep the fruits safe and in good condition during transit. Few resourceful farmers are managing these trays in an innovative manner," Rajan explained.

He said that gradually, the area under strawberry was increasing in different parts of UP and thus, availability of the fruit would increase in near future. "Farmers will make the crop easily available in the local markets which will help common consumers include strawberries in their regular diet, at least during the spring season. Presently, it is consumed fresh and is a constituent of several recipes. Strawberries can be frozen and stored easily at low temperature," he added.

IGP to hold big events from Jan next year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Now the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan located in Gomti Nagar Extension will be the venue for national and international seminars and conferences from January next. Lucknow Development Authority will initiate renovation work next month to make the place suitable for holding big events.

Private or petty functions will not be allowed there anymore and it will be developed exclusively to hold events of national and international importance. The work in this regard will be completed by December-end. Deputy director and incharge of the gardens SS Sisodia said that over 10,000 saplings would be planted and the venue would be decorated with 4,000 colourful flowers pots backed by 500 LED bulbs.

The state Horticulture department has agreed to assist the LDA administration to develop the venue. It special feature will be excellent landscaping which will be done by students of local Arts College. An open-air auditorium will be developed on the 60,000 square feet of land to accommodate 5,000 guests at one time. There will also be a provision to cover the venue in case of downpour or any inclement weather.

Yogi to lay foundation of 2 SGPGI depts, inaugurate new facilities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will lay the foundation stone of Emergency Medicine and Renal Transplant departments besides inaugurate three new facilities — Hepatobiliary and Transplantation, Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation and Stem Cell Unit and College of Technology — at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) on Monday. Director Dr

Rakesh Kapoor said that the Emergency Medicine and Renal Transplant departments will have 210 and 180 beds respectively.

He said that the College of Medical Technology would be running courses on 12 subjects associated with medicine for which students doing BSc and MSc courses would be selected. "There will be more than 80 students taken for this course. The courses have already begun and 52 students constitute the first batch," he said. The director said the separate

building of Hepatobiliary and Transplantation would have 112 beds. The fourth building will be Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation and Stem Cell Unit which will have nine beds with 40 beds in the OPD. "In total, the inauguration of the facilities will give a total of 549 beds to the patients. Liver and kidney transplant is not new and is being carried out at the hospital. With the increased number of beds, we are only hoping to decrease the waiting period which is almost a year," he added.

A book that promotes road safety

Lucknow (PNS): Author Ravinder Singh's latest book gives the message of road safety and he is getting a lot of response from the people who are posting messages and promising him that they will wear a helmet while driving or won't drink and drive. The author was in the city on Sunday for a 'meet and greet' session with Lucknowites for his book titled 'Will You Still Love Me?'

Singh, whose first book was dedicated to his girlfriend whom he lost in a road accident, said it was a subject which had been bothering him for long. "I have been opening newspapers in the morning only to see increased number of road accidents in the past years. I also lost my father a couple of years back in a road accident. I wanted to write this love story with a road safety message," the author said.

He said he was getting a lot of response for the book. "People buy helmets and then post pictures saying they have imbibed the message of the book," he added.

Singh said he also tried to seek some government help for taking the message to another level. "I met Union minister Nitin Gadkari in this purpose but the process at the bureaucratic level works at a different pace. I think if we get corporate help and government support for this book, the message can reach the public because of the emotional connect that they feel," he said.

CITY BRIEFS

FELICITATED

Eight students of different branches of Ramswaroop Memorial Group of Professional Colleges affiliated to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam University were felicitated by college authorities (pic right). Utkarsh Mishra bagged the gold and Sadiya Khan bronze medal. The college authorities handed over cash prize to the medal winners.



CONVOCAION

The eighth convocation of Bhatkhande University will be held at Sangeet Natak Akademi on October 23. Girls have secured more medals than boys have this year. Out of the total 37 medals, girls will be getting 30 medals. Among the students, Priya Rathore of performing arts (tabla) will be getting five gold medals.

SNAKES RESCUED

The Lucknow zoo rescued over 30 snakes during the monsoon from various parts of the city. Zoo director RK Singh said that the snakes were of all kinds, including vipers, pythons and cobras. "The snakes were rescued with the help of NGOs and then released in the wild," he said.

With rains being heavy this year, there were reports of reptiles sneaking in from various parts of the city. A forest official said that there had been frequent rescue calls. Wildlife experts said it was important to understand how to handle the reptiles when they appeared in residential areas and the effort should be not to harm them.

SCHOOLSCAN



CMS STUDENT 1ST PRIZE IN DANCING CONTEST

Aarna Shukla, a class IV student of City Montessori School (Aliganj Campus II), bagged the first prize in an inter-school dance competition, organised by Vibhoo Educational, Social & Cultural Society. Students of various noted schools participated and showcased their dancing talents in the competition. In the junior category, Aarna performed brilliantly and walked away with the first prize.

WORLD UNITY SATSANG

Speaking at the World Unity Satsang on Sunday, CMS founder-director Bharti Gandhi said mothers had a significant role in turning their children towards God. "Each mother wants her child to touch the pinnacle of Himalaya or become famous in the world. CMS gives education to its students and these children will bring unity, peace and cordiality in the world when they grow up," she added.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MAJ GEN...

Following this, the Gauhati High Court asked the Army to go for a court martial, which was challenged by the Army in the Supreme Court. Later, on the apex court's instruction, the Army started the process of holding the Summary General Court Martial (SGCM) of the encounter on July 16 and concluded the process on July 27. The Summary General Court Martial on Saturday awarded life imprisonment to Major General AK Lal, Col. Thomas Mathew, Col. RS Sibiren, Capt. Dilip Singh, Capt Jagdeo Singh, Naik Albinder Singh and Naik Shivendar Singh for the fake encounter killings. "We have waited for justice for the last 24 years. We thank the witnesses who deposed before the Army court during the court martial braving threat to their lives. We also thank the then AASU leader Jagadish Bhuyana who had been pursuing the case alone all these years," said Debashish Biswas, brother of late Debajit Biswas, one of the five victims of the fake encounter.

EYES ON STATE...

"Our priority is to provide quality education and employment based on education to youth," he added. The BJP in last Assembly elections

had promised 15 lakh jobs in the State. According to National Career Service under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, job-seeker registration in Rajasthan was 8,80,144 till June 30, 2018. The Congress' promise of Rs 3,500 as unemployment allowance would cost around Rs 308 crore. The party in its manifesto is also working largely for benefits in other social sector for other backward classes (OBCs) and weaker sections of society.

ARMY SHUTS...

The other proposals were restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static/Station Workshops in the field Army besides redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms. Better utilisation of supply and transportation echelons and animal transport units, closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations, enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army and improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) were the other recommendations.

Graded plan to clean toxic air

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will implement a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR beginning Monday as the air pollution is becoming "very poor", an official said on Sunday. If the air quality is in "moderate to poor" category, measures like stopping garbage burning in landfills and other places and enforcing all pollution control regulations in brick kilns and industries are implemented. If the air quality falls in the "very poor" category, additional measures of stopping use of diesel generator sets, enhancing parking fees 3-4 times and increasing frequency of metro and buses would be implemented.

If the air quality falls in the "severe" category, additional measures would be implemented, like increasing the frequency of mechanised cleaning of roads, sprinkling of water on roads and identifying road stretches with high dust generation, said officials.

If the air quality falls to "severe plus" emergency category, then measures like stopping entry of trucks into Delhi (except those carrying essential commodities), stopping construction activities and appointment of task force to take decision on any additional steps, including closing of schools, are implemented, said the official.



All out efforts will be made to clean the polluted air.

Currently the air quality is in the "poor" category but the authorities have predicted that it would reach to "very poor" category in the next couple of days. In addition to GRAP, the CPCB has also deployed 41 teams across Delhi-NCR to monitor proper implementation of the norms to prevent pollution at the source.

Till October 11, inspections were conducted by the teams across Delhi-NCR and the inspections would intensify in the coming days, a CPCB official said. Meanwhile, satellite images from the NASA showed rampant stubble burn-

- Satellite images from the NASA show rampant stubble burning activity in Punjab and Haryana
- The overall air quality index (AQI) recorded at 10 am on Sunday stood at 208 which falls in the 'poor' category
- The CPCB has deployed 41 teams across Delhi-NCR to monitor proper implementation of the norms to prevent pollution at the source

Air quality remains poor

New Delhi (PNS): The air quality in Delhi remained poor on Sunday as the wind slows down even as authorities predicted further deterioration in air quality index of Delhi in the coming days. The overall air quality index (AQI) recorded at 10 am Sunday stood at 208 which falls in the poor category, according to Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). On Saturday, the AQI of the national capital stood at 300. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) website, Anand Vihar recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 261, DTU registered AQI of 207, ITO recorded AQI of 204 while Jahangirpuri recorded an AQI of 300, just one point below the very poor level.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor', and 401-500 'severe'. The PM10 level (presence of particles with diameter less than 10 micrometers) in Delhi stood at 183 and the PM2.5 level was recorded at 93, according to the data. Authorities have predicted further deterioration of air quality in the coming days. A slew of measures are being taken by the CPCB to fight pollution during the upcoming winter season, when the air quality in Delhi is generally the worst.

With rains being heavy this year, there were reports of reptiles sneaking in from various parts of the city. A forest official said that there had been frequent rescue calls. Wildlife experts said it was important to understand how to handle the reptiles when they appeared in residential areas and the effort should be not to harm them.

DEGRADATION BY RISING FOOTFALLS IN HIMALAYAS

Niti Ayog favours green cess

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's top think tank, Niti Ayog, has favoured imposing a "green cess" from tourists to arrest the environmental degradation caused by the rising footfalls in the Indian Himalayan region.

The Niti Ayog proposal in its recent 'Report of Working Group II Sustainable Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)' follows observation that the region annually records about 100 million tourists and the number is expected to increase to 240 million by 2025, putting huge pressure on resources.

The 'green cess' will help boost revenue services as well as ensure sustainable development of the region that stretches about 2,400 km across the northern border of India, covering an area of about 500,000 sq km, as per the report. It also suggested payments for environmental services (PES) such as charging entrance fees from tourists and services sector as a long term solution within the



tourism industry.

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal are the part of the IHR.

The report notes that though all mountain states have developed tourism/eco-tourism policies and master plans but not all of them address challenges such as climate change, inadequate solid waste management, air pollution, degradation of watersheds and water sources and loss of natural

resources and biodiversity and harness opportunities that change brings.

Also, sustainable aspects of tourism development in the IHR, such as carrying capacity of potential destinations, do not find enough resonance in planning long-term investments.

The think tank also noted that the movement of Indian tourists is increasingly becoming individualistic as standards of living have gone up and people travel to IHR landscapes as and when they want. "As a result, traffic congestion and air and noise pollution, over-booked hotels, non-availability of parking places, and local water and energy security are becoming recurrent problems, even in smaller towns such as Dharamsala.

"Even trials of control mechanisms to restrict the number of visitors to very fragile sites (e.g. Rohtang Pass from Kullu/Manali or Amarnath Yatra), have not yielded desired results as people find alternative routes and means to reach such

sites.

"Even Sikkim, which has good experience with ecotourism, is increasingly challenged by mass tourism," as per Vikram Singh Gaur from NITI Aayog and Dr. Rajan Kotru from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the lead authors of the report. Among other contributors were Ashok K Jain (NITI Aayog), Sejal Worah (WWF India) and Mridula Tangirala (Tata Trust).

Not only the panel has favoured 'tourism tax' as being imposed by many countries like Bhutan as sources of revenue, it also suggested PES schemes that offer financial incentives for locals to provide a wide range of ecosystem services untouched by normal market transactions.

The panel has also called for carrying out tourism development management of Destination Carrying Capacity as the destinations have their own limited natural and heritage resources and infrastructure.

PM Modi has much to hide about Rafale deal: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its campaign against the Government over the Rafale deal, the Congress on Sunday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was directly involved in it, adding that he had much to hide about it.

Questioning Modi's silence over the deal, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma claimed that only the Prime Minister was aware that the offset contracts would not be given to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). "It was his (Modi's) decision. Only he was privy to what he was going to do," said Sharma at AICC Press conference.

"It was expected that the Prime Minister would speak on this issue of national importance, but he continued to remain silent while making tall claims about his Government. The Prime Minister has much to hide in the Rafale deal. His silence raises fundamental questions, because he is directly complicit and personally accountable for it," he alleged.



Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma addresses a Press conference at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday

PM's silence raises fundamental questions, because he is directly complicit and personally accountable for it

—Anand Sharma

Claiming that the Rafale deal was the biggest scam in the history of the country, Sharma reiterated his party's demand for setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into it.

The former Union Minister also questioned Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to France, during which she will take stock of the progress of French firm Dassault Aviation supplying 36 Rafale jets to the Indian Air Force under the ₹58,000-crore deal.

Sharma maintained that there was a

hike in the price of the fighter aircraft India was buying from France and asserted that the Prime Minister needed to clear many doubts about the deal that had been raised. He said more details of the deal would emerge if a forensic audit of it was carried out.

The Congress has been claiming that the aircraft will cost significantly more than what the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government was negotiating. The Opposition party has also been demanding answers from the BJP Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government as to why HAL was not involved in the deal as finalised during the UPA regime.

Railway proposes RPF to safeguard Metros

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cash starved Indian Railways has proposed that Railway Protection Force (RPF) be given the responsibility of securing the premises of all upcoming metro stations in the country. Presently Metro property is being managed by the elite Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

The railway board has written to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs saying that the RPF which is already guarding the Kolkata Metro be made in charge of security for the new metros in Lucknow, Nagpur, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Indore, Bhopal and Hyderabad.

"Having a single dedicated force for the Metro Railway is advantageous since the staff can be trained in the safety and security requirements of the metro. The RPF has specialised training because it is already securing sub-urban stations for years," a senior railway official said.

The official also pointed out that the move will also be cost effective. The CISF charges ₹1.84 lakh annually per jawan for securing metro premises,



while the RPF charges only ₹78,000 per jawan yearly.

Also, as the RPF is entrusted with the responsibility of protection and security of railway property, passenger area and has the power to arrest, investigate and prosecute criminals, it would be able to use them at stations as well.

"The RPF with only 900 staffers is managing Kolkata metro which has a footfall of about five to six lakh commuters daily. They have both the expertise and the experience to manage and secure mass transport system like Railways, so they are equipped to deal with metros," the official said. The RPF has a sanctioned strength of 74,456 personnel

Rajnath Singh to celebrate Dussehra along Indo-pak border

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Home Minister Rajnath Singh will celebrate Dussehra and perform 'shastra puja' in Bikaner along the highly sensitive Indo-Pak border with BSF jawans. During the two-day visit, the Home Minister will arrive in Bikaner on October 18, stay the night at the BOP, before celebrating the festival with the jawans on October 19, said Home Ministry officials.

Singh is expected to review the situation on the border and assess the progress in various infrastructure projects. He will attend 'Bada Khana' (feast with the jawans) and address the security personnel, they said.

The 3,323-km-long Indo-Pak border is considered to be highly sensitive. Even though the border in Rajasthan is peaceful, the border guarding forces of the two countries often engaged in massive firing in Jammu & Kashmir, leading to loss of human lives and properties. Last year, the Home Minister had celebrated Dussehra at Joshimath in Uttarakhand along the Sino-Indian border with ITBP jawans.

China's Confucius Institute on India's covert agencies' radar

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The role of China's Confucius Institute, which is overtly an intellectual institution, has now come under the scanner of the Indian covert agencies, which suspect that the institute is exploited by Beijing worldwide for intelligence gathering. The establishment of one Confucius Institute centre in Mumbai University and efforts at setting up similar centres in Vellore, Sulur, Coimbatore and Kolkata has sent alarm bells ringing in the Intelligence community here.

The Chinese agencies' efforts through Chinese businessmen to gain access to decision making levels in Indian establishments have also emerged as another area of concern, a senior Intelligence official said. Amid China's growing geopolitical ambition, the Indian Intelligence agencies are apprehending aggressive intelligence gathering by Beijing.

The agencies are keeping a watch on the MoUs signed with Indian universities /colleges, student exchange programmes and attempts to manipulate the post-Dalai Lama situation in their favour. China has reportedly sought the custody of the

17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje from Washington. Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje deceitfully exited from India to the US in April last year.

Karmapa is the second most important leader in the Tibetan Buddhism hierarchy after Dalai Lama. China already has taken custody of another key Tibetan Buddhist leader Panchen Lama.

Union Home Ministry sources said Home Minister Rajnath Singh is seized of the threats emanating from Chinese penetration in Indian educational institutions and has sought a strategy to be put in place to deal with the challenge. The Intelligence agencies have advised the States to keep a watch on the Chinese activities and inform the Central agencies for collation of data and remedial action.

"The modus operandi of the Chinese Intelligence gathering apparatus globally is using amateurs and its expatriate community settled worldwide which is not only a big challenge to detect but also difficult to prove in a court of law. China is the most active nation involved in cyber espionage with formidable capabilities," an Intelligence official said.

The Chinese intelligence

agencies are also known to be different from their counterparts in US and Russia where in Beijing exploits its soft power for espionage activities under the cover of legitimate activities. Notably, China indulges in intelligence gathering through academics and scholars, business people and intelligence operatives under official cover of diplomats, defence attaches and journalists, another official said.

India and China share a complicated relationship due to the lack of delineation of India-China boundary, lack of clarification of the Line of Actual Control, Beijing's concern about presence of the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso in India and New Delhi's concerns regarding post-Dalai Lama scenario.

The relationship is further complicated by Chinese support to Northeastern insurgent groups, increased Chinese interest in the Indian Ocean Region and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC, a part of BRI) which passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and growing Chinese influence in India's neighbourhood especially Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives, added the official.

Top court comes to rescue of SC man who was terminated twice by UP Govt

New Delhi: In a rare instance, the Supreme Court has come to the rescue of a man belonging to the Scheduled Caste category whose services were terminated twice by the Uttar Pradesh Government owing to a dispute over his caste certificate.

The top court, held that the subsequent change in law does not have the effect of reversing all the decisions made prior to the fresh view taken by a court of law.

The Supreme Court in 2013 had upheld an Allahabad High Court order by which Vijay Shankar was reinstated to service with all consequential benefits, holding him as a member of SC category after state government had withdrawn its appeal following a lengthy hearing.

The Uttar Pradesh government, however, in 2015 again dismissed him from service, saying a larger bench of the high court has taken a different view and his caste does not fall under the Schedule Caste category.

Shankar, who belongs to the 'Kasera' community, a sub-caste of 'Shilpkars' which is a SC category notified under the Constitution, challenged the decision once again before the Allahabad High Court, but it dismissed his plea saying that the law has now been changed by a larger bench of the top court.

A bench of justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao said the high court in its judgment, dated August 12, 2015, has completely "misappreciated and misapplied the law".

"The difference between a superior court reversing a decision, which is in appeal before itself, and overruling the view is well known," it said.

The apex court directed the Uttar Pradesh government to immediately release the withheld pension and other retirement benefits of Shankar, who superannuated from the post of assistant prosecution officer during his second termination period.

The court, while allowing the appeal of Shankar, set aside the high court order of August 2015, rejecting his plea and his dismissal order of June 15, 2015.

"If a point is settled inter-parties and there is a subsequent change in the law because the court takes a different view, the change in a

law does not have the effect of unsettling the rights settled earlier.

"The subsequent change in a law does not have the effect of reversing all the decisions made prior to the fresh view," the bench said.

It said in the present case, Shankar's rights were settled by the earlier high court judgment of December 23, 2011, which was upheld when the appeal of the state government was dismissed as withdrawn by the apex court. The apex court said it was not permissible for the principal secretary, home department, to rely upon the subsequent contrary decision and dismiss the appellant (Shankar) from service again.

The order of Shankar, who joined the service in 1991 as assistant prosecution officer, started when he was terminated on May 21, 2007, by the state government on the ground that he has obtained the job by submitting a forged Scheduled Caste certificate.

It was found that Shankar's caste was recorded as 'Kasera' in his school certificate, which according to the state government was not a SC category.

Shankar, first challenged his dismissal order before the Uttar Pradesh State Public Services Tribunal, which granted him relief by setting aside the punishment order and reinstated him with all consequential service benefits and continuity in service.

The tribunal also observed that 'Kasera' is a sub-caste of 'Shilpkar' as per a government order dated December 12, 1950. It said there are 26 sub castes of 'Shilpkar' and that 'Kasera' was one of them.

Thus, 'Kasera' being a sub-caste of 'Shilpkar' comes under the category of Scheduled Caste, the tribunal said.

Aggrieved by the tribunal's order, the Uttar Pradesh government moved the Allahabad High Court that on December 23, 2011, upheld the tribunal's order, saying the caste of his parents as per the National Citizen Register, was found to be 'Shilpkar', which is a Scheduled Caste.

The State Government, then moved the apex court where after a lengthy hearing, the appeal was withdrawn and the order of the high court reinstating Shankar was upheld.

PTI

Dehradun-based plant will convert e-waste into high grade fuel: Harsh Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will soon be able to convert its plastic wastes into high-grade petrol and diesel with the help of Dehradun-based Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP). "The plant has been set up at Dehradun and it will be operational by January next year. The plant converts plastic into gasoline, diesel or aromatics through the use of a combination of suitable catalysts. It will also produce LPG as a common by-product.

The IIP, a constituent lab of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, has for the first time in the country developed a technology to convert plastic waste into petroleum products. Such a technology is so far available only in Germany, Japan and the US while Australia and the UK are still working on it.

According to Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan, the facility, which will be run on pilot basis, is capable of converting plastic waste into bio-diesel. The model will then be replicated across the country. The Union Minister said that the plant has the capacity to convert one tonne of plastic waste into 800 litres biofuel which will be of highest quality and it can be used in any diesel automotive vehicle. E-waste is the world's fastest growing waste stream and India is the fourth largest e-waste producer. At present around 95 per cent of the waste is processed by the informal sector, using practices harmful to their health and the environment.

6 new Zika virus cases detected in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Six new cases of Zika virus were detected in Jaipur Sunday, taking the total number of infected people to 61, a Rajasthan health department official said.

The figures were issued after a review meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) medical and health, Veenu Gupta.

Of the infected people, 11 are pregnant women, a source in the Union Health Ministry said.

The Centre will review the outbreak of Zika in the capital city of Rajasthan on Monday, the source said.

"Forty-five out of the total 60 patients are healthy after treatment," the Rajasthan health

department official said. Most of the cases which have been reported are from Shastri Nagar area here where fogging and other anti-larvae activities are being carried out to prevent the spread of the virus.

Till Saturday, door-to-door survey at 76,000 households was conducted in Shastri Nagar and mosquito larvae was found and

quarantined in nearly 64,000 households, the officer said.

The state health department has also issued an advisory for pregnant women staying outside the affected area to not visit Shastri Nagar.

The virus, transmitted through the aedes aegypti mosquito, causes fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint

pain. It is harmful to pregnant women, as it can lead to microcephaly, a condition in which a baby's head is significantly smaller than expected, in newborn children.

In India, the first outbreak was reported in Ahmedabad in January 2017 and the second in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district in July that year.

NATIONAL PROJECT TO CONVERT DCs INTO E-UDIDs

Development moving at a snail's pace in all States

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Launched in 2016, the national project to convert disability certificates (DCs) into e-Unique Disability Identity cards (UDIDs) that aims to ensure Persons with disabilities (PwDs) avail all the Government benefits like pension irrespective of their domicile status is moving at a snail's pace in almost all the States.

Data available as on October 9, 2018, from the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry shows that a minuscule percentage ie 7 per cent of the total 1.44 crore PwDs having DCs have been issued the UDID cards. The laggard States are Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Telangana, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Bihar and almost all the Northeastern States which have either not started or taking their own time in issuing the UDIDs. (See Box) These States have sizeable population of PwDs.

However, five States-four BJP-ruled — Chhattisgarh,

Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh have comparatively fared better, reaching the double digit enrolment with Rajasthan leading the pack. Rajasthan has issued UDID cards to 61% of its PwDs population, followed by Madhya Pradesh (42%), Chhattisgarh (26%). Gujarat

and Odisha are limping at 15% and 17% respectively.

With an 18-digit UDID number, the card is designed to reduce the duplicate and fake entries and ensure that benefits such as admission, employment and pensions reach the deserving beneficiaries. But the cards have not reached

majority of the beneficiaries due to lack of awareness and updated data, admitted an official from the Ministry.

Clearly, the sector does not seem to be the priority for the States. The official pointed out that, in fact the PwDs population could be several times higher, firstly because of

the widening of disability categories from seven to 21 as per the new Disability Act announced in 2016. Also, just less than 20-25% PwDs actually get the DCs.

Also, many families don't acknowledge their presence while people and children suffering from involuntary body movements, Downs Syndrome and multiple disabilities do not have an Aadhaar card, a mandatory document to get the UDID.

APATHY GETTING IN THE WAY OF PWDS RIGHTS

STATES	DCS	E-UDID CARD	%WRT DCS ISSUED
Andhra Pradesh	9,38,220	415	5.38
Assam	2,76,030	0	0
Bihar	12,35,434	206	0.02
Chhattisgarh	3,15,833	82726	26.19
Delhi	1,34,705	0	0
Gujarat	4,89,629	73179	14.95
J&K	1,79,385	14	0.01
Jharkhand	4,20,895	5969	1.42
Karnataka	9,72,305	0	0.00
Kerala	4,22,087	1227	0.29
MP	6,60,313	282728	42.82
Maharashtra	13,47,949	24160	1.79
Odisha	8,42,250	138864	16.49
Punjab	3,58,206	6078	1.70
Rajasthan	4,49,618	275629	61.30
TN	11,19,151	27808	2.48
UP	19,43,868	76965	3.96
Uttarakhand	98,881	0	0.00
WB	10,81,316	1	0.00
Total	144,32,999	10,18,680	7.06

*DCs: disability cards



Artists preparing effigies of Ravana for the upcoming Dussehra in New Delhi on Sunday

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

BENGAL DURGA PUJAS

Govt makes massive police arrangement

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The bitter memory of the Nagerbazar blast that left two persons, including a child, dead less than a fortnight ago still fresh in the mind, the Bengal Government has thrown an unprecedented security net across Durga Puja-bound Kolkata, police sources said.

With the pandal hoppers already cramming the roads from Dwitiya (second day of the 10-day-long celebrations) the administration has made massive police bandobast deploying 8000-strong police force across the city.

This figure is in addition to several thousand civic volunteers and private security operations, sources said. "Our officers to the rank of Deputy Commissioners will personally man vital positions in north and South Kolkata," said a senior official, adding that the police officers will be deployed in three shifts.

The first shift will work from 8 am to 4 pm. The second shift will work from 4 pm to 12 in the midnight and the third shift will be deployed from 12 to 8 am, officials said adding about 800 police pickets have been put up in places near important Durga Puja Pandals like Ahiritola, Bagbazar, Md Ali Park, College Square, Sealdah in the North and Ekdalia Evergreen, Ballygunge Cultural, Tridhara Sanmilani, Deshapriya Park, Suruchi Sangha, Chetla Agrani etc.

"We have deployed 25 divisional mobiles and 46 watch towers at important locations," said a Deputy Commissioner adding 74 additional CCTV cameras have been installed at various locations. "This is in addition to the existing ones," he said adding the CCTV feed will be monitored round the clock by the police officials in the control room.

The Government was not willing to take chances during the Durga Pujas, said a senior IAS officer adding these Pujas Kolkata is likely to witness more than 30 million crowd spread across 5-6 days.

"In order to make pandal hopping during the Pujas safer, secure and trouble-free we have set up 27 trauma care ambulances that will move around the city to tackle emergencies" he said adding nine missing person's squads will also be deployed to help people find their children who often are lost in the crowd. This year the police expects about 20 lakh people to visit Kolkata from distant districts and states.

Immersion of Durga idols will take place from Vijay Dushmi which falls on October 19. Some select clubs will however be required to take part in the Durga Carnival to be organized at historic Red Road on October 23.

A brainchild of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee about 100 clubs will march past the Red Road ala the Republic Day Parade with guests and revelers enjoying the occasion from the galleries raised on the two sides. Durga Carnival became a huge success in 2017.

BJP to use occasion to improve outreach

PTI ■ KOLKATA

As Bengal's biggest festival Durga Puja nears, the Opposition BJP in the State is leaving no stone unturned to use the mega platform to reach out to the masses and has decided to set up nearly 3,000 bookstalls displaying books on the party's ideology outside pandals in the State, party leaders said.

In addition to books on BJP's ideology, those on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the works of Jan Sangh icons — Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mookherjee — would be put up on display in these stalls.

Besides, literature on National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would be exhibited to make people aware of the contentious issues.

"This year, we had received requisitions for nearly 3,000 bookstalls from across the state. We hope to come up with stalls outside various puja marquee," BJP State general secretary Sayantan Basu told PTI.

According to State BJP president Dilip Ghosh, the number of stalls coming up this Durga Puja is the highest in the history of the State BJP.

"Earlier, our party organisation was not so strong that

we could afford to set up stalls outside puja pandals. But things have changed and more and more people are getting connected with our party," Ghosh said.

The BJP aims to highlight the NRC issue in Assam as well and how its updation exercise earlier this year was carried out to benefit the northeastern State as well as the country.

The complete draft NRC was published in July this year with 2.9 crore names in which over 40 lakh people were left out from the document, touted to be a proof of Assamese identity.

"We will use this (platform) to propagate about NRC in Assam and how it is done for the benefit of that state and country, contrary to the propaganda of the TMC. We will also issue articles on violence and misrule of TMC Government and the developmental work done by the Narendra Modi Government in the last four-and-half years," he said.

According to party sources, the State leadership has been buoyed by its performance in the last Panchayat polls and now wants to do even better in the next Lok Sabha polls by reaching out to the people of the State.

The BJP had emerged as the number two in West Bengal after TMC in the three-tier local bodies' polls recently, leaving behind CPI(M) and the Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah have on several occasions said that West Bengal is a priority State for the party in the coming parliamentary poll.

Shah recently set a target of winning 22 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal for his party workers.

The BJP leadership apprehends it would be denied permission for setting up bookstalls under "instructions of TMC leaders in respective areas".

For years, various political parties including the CPI(M) have been setting up stalls in the State to promote their books and literature outside Puja pandals as a public relations exercise.

After the Left Front was voted out of power in 2011, the TMC has been promoting party mouthpiece "Jago Bangla" outside puja pandals in the State.

"For us, Durga Puja is integral part of Bengali culture, heritage and history. We look up to it as a festival, unlike the BJP which tries to use religion to create rift among the masses," TMC Secretary General Partha Chatterjee said.

Ex-BJP Min Bimal Shah may join Cong

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Bimal Shah, former Transport Minister in the BJP-run Keshubhai Patel Government who has been side-lined for almost one decade, may join the Opposition Congress party after the Diwali.

Sources in the Congress party said that Shah has put some condition in order to join the Opposition party that includes ticket for the Lok Sabha seat in Central Gujarat. Even in the ruling BJP many believe that the ex-MLA from Kapadvanj assembly constituency would join the Congress.

He was elected to the State assembly from Kapadvanj seat in Kheda district in 1998 and 2002, and had served as Minister of State for Transport in 1998. Although in 2007 assembly polls, BJP won with thumping majority, but Shah lost measurably and since then his role in the ruling party reduced gradually.

In order to keep his sinking political career afloat, the 57-year-old political leader contested from Kapadvanj as an independent candidate after the saffron party ignored him. He however couldn't make his mark as an independent candidate as he could secure nearly 47,000 votes and stood third.

Sources in BJP said that because of Shah, BJP lost Kapadvanj seat as division of votes helped the Congress candidate Kalabhai Dabhi to win the seat by defeating BJP candidate Kanubhai Dabhi with margin of 27,000 votes.

Despite Shah's denial to join the Opposition party in near future, a senior leader in Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) said that very shortly Shah would meet Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Meanwhile Shah is maintaining that he would let media know if any such development would take place. In case Shah would join Congress, he may contest from Kheda Lok Sabha Constituency as the opposition party didn't have powerful leader in the constituency to take on the saffron brigade.

With Lok Sabha polls coming closer, political migration from one party to another would start not only in Gujarat but across the country. Being a home-state of the Prime Minister, Congress party is trying hard to make major dent in PM Modi's bastion as in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls BJP won all 26 seats.

Man injured in blast dies in Kolkata hospital

IANS ■ KOLKATA

A fruit seller injured in a bomb blast in West Bengal's Dum Dum area died at a Government hospital here on Sunday, police said.

"The injured Ajit Halder (38), who had a fruit stall in Dum Dum's Nagerbazar, succumbed to his injuries at SSKM Hospital on Sunday," the police said.

With this, the toll has risen to two.

An eight-year-old boy was killed and nine others, including Halder, injured in a socket bomb blast in front of a multi-storied building in Nagerbazar area on October 2.

The blast that had taken place near Halder's fruit shop severely damaged at least two shops and shattered the window panes of an adjacent multi-storied building.

The State's Criminal Investigation Department is probing the blast.

67% people unaware of emergency kits, disaster preparedness in Kerala: Survey

Thiruvananthapuram: The people of Kerala, the State which has an enviable record in several human development indicators, have largely been found to be unaware of precautionary measures and emergency kits to be used at times of disasters with two-thirds of respondents of a survey pleading ignorance.

The findings in the State-wide survey held just over two months after the State was devastated by unprecedented floods of a century have prompted the organiser, Kerala State Literacy Mission (KLSM), to pitch for a "disaster management literacy programme".

The State is known for its high literacy, lowest infant mortality and highest life expectancy rates among others.

Yet according to the survey, 66.77 per cent of people, cutting across cities and villages, were unaware of precautionary measures and emergency kits to be used at times of disasters.

The detailed report of the survey-How and What the Flood-Affected Kerala Thinks-carried out by the KLSM, was

released by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at a function here on Saturday.

At least 20.02 per cent of people, who took part in the survey, had not even heard about climate change, though it is one of the most discussed topics globally, it says.

Only 43.74 per cent of people were aware of different forms of natural disasters such as drought, flood and earthquake, while just 8.43 per cent knew that cyclone is a form of disaster, the report said.

The initiative, carried out with the support of about 50,000 students pursuing the mission's equivalency programmes on October 2, covered over 2.91 lakh households in all the 14 districts of the State.

Besides men and women, the survey covered over 35 transgenders also, the mission sources said.

At least 66.77 per cent of people were unaware about the emergency survival kits that can be used during the time of disasters, the survey report said.

Director of Literacy

Mission P S Sreekala said it was also interesting to note that 41.86 per cent of people did not have an idea about the precautionary measures to be taken during the time of emergencies.

Carried out as part of the rebuilding initiatives of the State Government post the August deluge, the survey was aimed at assessing the public's scientific knowledge on climate change, disaster management and environment-friendly lifestyle, she said.

Based on the report, the Literacy Mission has submitted a set of recommendations to the Government.

One of the major proposals was to introduce a disaster management literacy programme in the State, Sreekala said.

Disaster management, emergency preparedness and climate change should be made part of the public education system, she said. Floods and rains had claimed at least 493 lives and left a trail of destruction during this year's South West Monsoon in Kerala.

Teenager killed in snowstorm

PTI ■ JAMMU

A 15-year-old boy was killed and four of his family members were injured in a snowstorm in the higher reaches of Poonch district in Jammu & Kashmir, a police official said Sunday.

Over 150 sheep and goats also perished in the snowstorm which swept the high altitude Hill Kaka area in Pir

Panjal yesterday, trapping a Bakerwal family from Rajouri district, the official said.

He said the family comprising five members was undertaking the bi-annual migration from central's Kashmir's Budgam to their Rajouri home town when they got stuck in the storm while crossing Choti Marg near Hill Kaka.

After getting information

about the incident, a police party with some villagers from Bafliaz reached the remote area and recovered the body of Usman Ali (15), a resident of Androte area of Rajouri, the official said.

Four other family members - Mohammad Aslam, his wife Bano Bi, Nazir Ahmad and Mohammad Yousuf - were rescued with injuries to their feet and shifted to a hospital in Srinagar.

Scientific solution to beach erosion makes a coastline breathe easy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

There is an Indian solution for beach erosion, the fall-out of global warming and climate change. Scientists of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (under the Ministry of Earth Sciences) have reconstructed a beach which fell victim to erosion over the years.

"It was a beach nourishment programme. The Puducherry coastline, one of the scenic and serene beaches, had lost much of its surface charm and area due to sea erosion over a period of time. We were contacted by the Government of the Union territory when it became a cause of concern and that was how NIOT entered the scene," Dr M Atmanand, director, NIOT, told The Pioneer.

Scientists led by Dr M V Ramana Murthy, project director, undertook a study of the coastline with satellite pictures and field data and used it to run models which

Formation of Beach

Significant extent of beach has formed to the south of the reef and people have been thronging in large numbers.




Present Status




revealed the intensity of the erosion. The engineering minds of the institute felt that a "new" beach could be built with the introduction of submerged dyke using steel caisson (a giant structure made of 900 tonnes of steel which is submerged into the sea) and allowing the beach to grow by itself.

"This submerged structure, which is at a distance of about 100 metres from the shore, reduced the wave activity by working as a breakwater and allowed free movement of the sand towards the shore," explained Dr Murthy. The pilot project saw the beach gaining an extent of 60 meters and this led to the major venture. The sand dredged from the port was used for "nourishment" For the complete restoration, another dyke at the south side is being worked.

The steel caisson built by the NIOT is of 60 meter long, 50 meter wide and has an elevation of 2.5 metre. It acted as an artificial reef and was lowered into the sea on August 2018.

"As a consequence, the sandy beach started to restore of the south side of the beach and is still growing. It is



The longest dance festival, 'Navaratri Garba,' is in full swing in Gujarat. The Gandhinagar Cultural Forum is organising the nine-day long Garba in the State Capital. Nayan Dave | Pioneer

Free ₹5L insurance for Vaishno Devi pilgrims

Jammu: Pilgrims heading for the Vaishno Devi shrine will get free insurance cover of ₹5 lakh.

This was decided on Saturday at a meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (MVDSB) chaired by Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik.

The Board has approved enhancement of free accident insurance cover for pilgrims visiting the shrine to ₹5 lakh besides free treatment to trauma victims. The Governor is also the Chairman of the Board. The spokesman added that the insurance cover shall be in addition to the accidental cover available to each pilgrim once he or she collects the yatra slip and commences the journey.

"It is pertinent to mention that premium on providing insurance cover to the pilgrims is borne by the Board and the insurance cover has been upgraded after a gap of eight years", the spokesman added.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital.

"The Board ... approved a medical support policy for the treatment of victims of trauma under its social support initiative at the super speciality hospital.

"The beneficiaries will include public trauma victims of road accidents, landslides or shooting stone incidents and such calamities from surrounding areas of the shrine referred to the hospital by Deputy Commissioners.

"The medical assistance would be provided in all such cases by the Board till the stabilization of the patient up to a ceiling of ₹2 lakh as a goodwill gesture.

"The Board also decided to create a new medical unit at Bhairon temple at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore keeping in view futuristic requirements," spokesman said. Each year over two crore pilgrims visit the shrine situated on the Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu region. IANS

Discharged from AIIMS, Parrikar returns to Goa

PTI ■ PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar arrived in his home State Sunday afternoon from New Delhi, where he was undergoing treatment at the AIIMS for pancreatic ailment.

Parrikar, 62, was flown in in a special flight and later taken to his private residence at Dona Paula, near here, in an ambulance.

The flight landed around 2.35 pm at the State's Dabolim airport and the ambulance was brought out from the gate of the naval enclave INS Hansa, which is a part of the Navy-run airport.

Earlier, Parrikar was on Sunday morning discharged from the AIIMS.

According to sources in the AIIMS, he was in the morning shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for a while after his condition deteriorated. But later, the administration decided to discharge him.

The state-run Goa Medical College and Hospital near here has made elaborate arrangements at its private residence with a team of doctors on standby to take care of his health.

Parrikar was admitted to the AIIMS on September 15.

On Friday, Parrikar met Goa BJP's core committee members and ministers from coalition partners at AIIMS to discuss ways to ensure his Government functions normally during his absence from office due to ill health.

Leaders of the ruling BJP



Ambulance and other vehicles outside the private residence of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar in Panaji on Sunday

PARRIKAR HAS BEEN AILING SINCE MID-FEBRUARY AND HAS BEEN TREATED AT DIFFERENT HOSPITALS INCLUDING THOSE IN GOA, MUMBAI AND THE US

and its allies, who met Parrikar separately, had ruled out any change in leadership in the coastal State.

The core committee is the BJP's key decision-making body in Goa, comprising senior leaders like Parrikar, Union Minister Shripad Naik and party State chief Vinay Tendulkar, among others.

Parrikar has been ailing since mid-February and has been treated at different hospitals including those in Goa, Mumbai and the US.

"I got the news that he is coming back but I can't believe

that he is returning. His health is improving and he was expected to stay at the AIIMS for a few more days," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

Naik dismissed any possibility of dissolution of the Goa Assembly and expressed confidence that the Parrikar-led government will complete its five-year term.

Questions over the stability of the Goa government have been raised by the Opposition Congress because of Parrikar's illness.

In the 40-member Goa Assembly, the Parrikar-led government has the support of 23 MLAs.

These comprise 14 BJP MLAs, three each from the Goa Forward Party and the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) as well as three Independents.

The Opposition Congress is the single largest party in the state Assembly with 16 MLAs.

Parrikar should've stayed at AIIMS, completed treatment, says Minister

IAN S ■ PANAJI

Ailing Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar should have stayed back at the AIIMS in New Delhi and nursed himself back to health instead of returning to the State, a Minister said here on Sunday.

Speaking to the media ahead of Parrikar's arrival in Goa, Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik said: "I have got the news. I still cannot believe it. I met him day before yesterday. His health has improved over last 15 days but I feel he should stay there for a few days more."

Naik also said that it was imperative that Parrikar takes adequate rest as part of his healing process after being treated for advanced pancreatic cancer.

"After he returns, I will meet and speak to him. He must have returned (to Goa) because the last chemotherapy must have been administered. He can take future treatment in Goa."

Parrikar was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences last month.

The former Defence Minister has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and now Delhi for the last seven months.

On Friday, Parrikar also held a meeting of his cabinet ministers and senior BJP state executive committee members at AIIMS.

The opposition Congress has been demanding Parrikar's resignation on account of his prolonged illness and absence from office.

SIT to probe shooting of judge's family in G'gram

Accused dismissed, in 4-day remand now

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Haryana Police has been constituted to investigate the Saturday shooting in which an Additional Sessions Judge wife and his son were attacked by the personal security officer of the Judge. The incident left wife dead while the son is battling for his life. Even as the highly placed sources in the Haryana Police on condition of anonymity said that the head constable was allegedly enraged as the mother-son duo used to pass "taunts" over his alleged conversion to Christianity. The team will be headed by the Deputy Commissioner of police (East), Sulochna Gajraj including three Assistant Commissioner of police (ACP) and four inspector officials of the Haryana police visited the crime spot on Sunday and sought detailed reports from the concerned officials. The department on Sunday dismissed Mahipal, the accused head constable, from service with immediate effect under Section 311 (2) of the constitution of India.

Meanwhile, the local court on Sunday sent the 32-year-old Mahipal Singh, the former personal security officer (PSO) of additional session's Judge Krishan Kant Sharma in connection with the case on four days of police remand. The investigation team had sought



Accused head constable Mahipal Singh

seven days of police remand.

Earlier on Saturday the police had questioned the accused and had reportedly indicated that he might be mentally unstable. However, the police have not found any medical history or any medicine from his possession and it is reportedly being assumed that the accused is mentally stable. Highly placed sources said the accused head constable had converted to Christianity around a week before the incident. The judge's son and wife reportedly used to taunt Mahipal over his change of religion. Sources within the police department said this is also being regarded as one of the possible reasons behind the terrible incident. The accused claimed to have visited Church, Temple and Mosque.

The SIT will find out the motive behind the incident as throughout the day the police officials were unable to disclose the mystery behind the crime.

Also, a team of a medical board on Sunday conducted the autopsy of the Judge Krishan Kant's wife Ritu (37) who was shot in the chest twice in the incident later on Saturday night succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

"The cause of death of the victim was excess bleeding and shocked. The body has been handed over to the family after the medical examination," Doctor Deepak Mather, who conducted the autopsy, said.

Meanwhile, the teenaged boy Dhruv (17) who was shot twice in the head and once in the shoulder is still critical and is on life support at the Medanta Hospital. "We took him on remand and after the questioning, we will be able to say anything about the motive behind the crime," SIT head Sulochna Gajraj told reporters on Sunday. She said a preliminary investigation has revealed that the PSO lost his cool after he was reportedly admonished

for not taking out the car from the parking. However, the police said that the motive behind firing is not clear yet.

"The accused is keeping changing his statement he told us that he was worried and has some tensions. The further questioning into the matter is on. We are investigating the matter from all possible angles," the DCP said. "There is some mystery behind the incident. During the probe, we will disclose the actual facts behind the mystery as what was actually happened before the incident," Gajraj said. The probe team said, "The accused told them he has eliminated the 'Shaitan' and his mother."

Meanwhile, the DCP said Yes, he had been speaking about Shaitan and it seems to his habitual word and was also talking about several religions."

A case was filed against the PSO on the complaint of additional session's judge Krishan Kant Sharma at Sector-50 police station. "On Saturday at about 3.30 pm while I was in the court complex during the course of my duty hours, I received a phone call my PSO Mahipal and he told that he had shot my wife Ritu and son Dhruv, the Judge claimed in the First Information Report (FIR) to the police. Earlier on Saturday, Wife and son of the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Gurugram local court were shot at and injured in full public view by their Personal Security Officer at Arcadia Market in South City-II. The culprit was arrested within two hours of the incident on the Gurugram-Faridabad Road.

Goa Forward MLA quits party over fish mafia row

IAN S ■ PANAJI

Goa Forward vice-president Trajano D'Mello resigned from the party after accusing the BJP-led Government of brazenly backing the fish mafia in the State, adding to the state's political turbulence.

Even as the BJP-led coalition in Goa battles to stay afloat amid Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's prolonged illness, a past ghost of a formalin-in-fish controversy continues to dog the government, especially BJP ally Goa Forward.

On Sunday, D'Mello resigned from the party, claiming that the Government was backing the fish mafia which uses formalin, a carcinogenic preservative used to preserve cadavers, to preserve fish sold in the state's fish markets.

"I would like to state that if fighting for justice for an upright officer who is mentally tortured is anti-party

The controversy involving use of formalin in fish erupted in July this year, Fernandes found traces of formalin in fish being sold in Goa during a raid

activity, I would prefer to fight for the injustice meted out to an officer who has alerted and saved the trusting Goan from the deadly cancerous poisoning of our brethren," D'Mello said in his Facebook post on Sunday.

D'Mello was referring to the targeting of the whistleblower Food and Drugs Administration official Iva Fernandes, who exposed the formalin-use scandal and has now complained to the Human Rights Commission claiming harassment by her seniors after she conducted the raid in July.

The controversy involving use of formalin in fish erupted in July this year, Fernandes found traces of formalin in fish being sold in Goa during a raid.

The BJP-led coalition Government, of which Goa Forward is a part, has been on the backfoot ever since, after several of its Ministers were accused of allegedly protecting fish-traders who were allegedly importing formalin-laced fish consignments into Goa from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

D'Mello, who had been served a show cause notice by Goa Forward for his critique of the party last week, also said questioned the party leadership about its silence against the harassment of Fernandes.

"If Goa Forward, which forms one fourth of the state cabinet with its three Ministers, cannot insist on a crackdown on those who poison fish consumed by the people of Goa, then who can?" D'Mello said.

BJP sure to win state polls: Vasundhara

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Terming Congress as a "divided house", Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Sunday exuded confidence that the BJP would form the next Government both in the Centre and the State.

The Chief Minister ridiculed the Congress saying its various leaders have already become Chief Ministers and started forming their cabinets even before the state assembly elections.

"The BJP has the unity and uniformity while the Congress has several faces and is a divided house. Various Congress leaders have already become Chief Ministers and formed their cabinets even before the elections but the BJP workers would clear their misunderstanding in the upcoming Assembly elections," she said.

Raje made the remarks Sunday during a meeting of the party workers at Ranakpur in Pali district. The meeting was attended by the BJP workers from 31 assembly constituen-

cies, including those from Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jodhpur and Sriganaganagar. The workers submitted to the Chief Minister their written suggestions in sealed envelopes. Raje said the workers have the right to claim tickets from the party, but their targets should be to ensure that "lotus" blooms in the State again. The Chief Minister also sought to ridicule the Congress' "optimism" over the tradition of the state having the BJP and the Congress Governments alternatively since 1990 and said had it been so, the Congress would not have ruled the State for 50 years. Raje exuded confidence that her party will form Governments both in the State and the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah.



Chopper ride for Puja revellers in Tripura: TRTC

PNS ■ AGARTALA

A chopper ride for Durga Puja revellers for an aerial view of the festival here and its adjoining areas has been arranged by the Tripura Road

Transport Corporation (TRTC). "We are offering the ride for three days on Saptami, Navami and Dashami and the duration of the ride will be for 25 minutes," TRTC Chairman Deepak Majumder told reporters here Sunday.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RES, DIVISION-AURAIYA. Tender Notice

No.-: 645 /R.E.D./ Tender Notice /2018-19 Date:- 01-10-2018
1. The Executive Engineer UP RED, Division Auraiya on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved contractors registered with UP RED. The Bidder may submit bids for any one or all of the works.

क्र. सं.	जन पद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	अंकीकृत न्यूनतम (लाख रु० में)	परिष्कार धनराशि (ला० में)	निविदा न्यून (ला० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	अधिकांशी अधिनियम कार्यालय का पता	अधीन अधिनियम कार्यालय का पता	जिला/कार्यकारी कार्यालय का पता
1		कच्चापूर में डाकघर से दरमजरा राजपुर जी की निधि के कार्य।	3.08	15400	150+500 +GST	एक माह			
2		पूर्वा नुमानी में बांके लाल के मकान से नुमीलाल के मकान होते हुये राजबहादुर के मकान तक इन्टरलॉकिंग का कार्य।	1.92	9600	75+500 +GST	एक माह	विकास भवन, ककोर मुख्यालय औरिया	117/क-19 सवाई नगर ककोर मुख्यालय औरिया	ककोर मुख्यालय औरिया
3		पूर्वा नुमानी में दिनेश के मकान से लाल सिंह के मकान तक इन्टर लॉकिंग का कार्य।	1.75	8750	75+500 +GST	एक माह			
4		कच्चापूर कृष्णम चौक से आठेसाल के मन्दिर तक इन्टरलॉकिंग का कार्य।	2.72	13600	150+500 +GST	एक माह			
5		खरकपुर में सोहनलाल के मकान से हरविन्द के मकान तक इन्टरलॉकिंग का कार्य।	2.85	14250	150+500 +GST	एक माह			

- Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no. 7 (including rainy season).
- The bids shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of 90 (Ninety) days, from the last date of submission of bids. Bids once submitted can not be withdrawn.
- A set of Bidding documents may be purchased from the office of Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle Kanpur, Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department, Division Auraiya, District Magistrate Auraiya in column 8, 9 & 10 respectively of the table corresponding to the respectively works, between the hours of 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. on any working day from 30-10-2018 to 03-11-2018 for a non refundable fee for tender cost, stationery charges, per set per work as indicated in column 6 in the form of cash or Demand Draft drawn on any schedule bank in favor of "Executive Engineer" RED, Division-Auraiya Payable at Auraiya. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same dispatched by registered/ Speed post on payment of an extra amount of Rs. 200/- (Two Hundred Only) Applications for issue of Bidding documents by post shall be entertained only up to 4:00 P.M. on date 01-11-2018. The Authority inviting tender will not be held responsible for postal delay if any in the delivery of documents or non receipt of the same. Bidding document can also be downloading from the web site www.upgov.nic.in/ruralengineering. But its cost i.e. cost of bid documents as mentioned in column 6 above in the form of cash or Demand Draft drawn on any schedule Bank in favor of Executive Engineers, RED, Division-Auraiya will necessarily be attached with the bid. However for bid document downloaded from the website, the drawings will be available in the office of concerned Executive Engineer at the address indicated in column 8 respectively of the above table against the concerned work.
- In case of any discrepancy between the downloaded bid document and that available with the Executive Engineer the bid document available in the Executive Engineers, office as indicated at column 8, would be considered authentic.
- Bid must be delivered to the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer & District Magistrate mentioned in column 8, 9 & 10 of the table corresponding to the respective work on or before 12:00 noon on date 05-11-2018 and Technical Bids will be opened on the same working day i.e. on 05-11-2018 at 03:00pm. In the office of the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Auraiya mentioned in column 8 in presence of the Bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt or opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time and venue and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified by a notice displayed in the office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Division-Auraiya and also by individual notice to the eligible and qualified bidders. The financial bids shall be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Division - Auraiya in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- Bids must be accompanied with the security of the amount specified for the work in column 5 Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms Fixed Deposit Receipt of a scheduled bank, NSC, Post office saving bank issued in favor of concerned Executive Engineer.
- A bidder shall not be permitted to bid for work in the division/circle responsible for award and execution of contracts in which his or his spouse's near relative (Defined as first blood relation, and their spouses) is posted as divisional Accountant or as an officer in any capacity between the grades of Superintending Engineer and Junior Engineer (Both inclusive).
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other gazetted officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State / Central Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of 2 years after his retirement from Government Service, without Government permission. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contract or any of his employee is found any time to be such a person who had not obtain the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- Bid document and other detail consisting of qualification, information and eligibility criterion of bidders, plans, specification, drawings, the schedule of quantities of the various classes of works to be done and the set of terms and conditions of contract to be complied with by the contractor can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer mentioned in column 8 of the table corresponding to the respective work between hours of 11.00A.M. and 4.00 P.M. on any working day between 30-10-2018 to 03-11-2018.
- Any bidder who is having criminal record is not allowed to participate in the bidding process.
- Any bidder who is registered with the State Bar Council is not allowed to participate in the bidding process.
- Bidder must submit all information /Documents on prescribed Proforma (RES-T-4, T-5, T-6).
- Bidder must submit Physical & Financial Certificate Program Table.
- Work not transfer for any Bidder, then condition of sanctioned bid transfer so Bond may be reject.
- By Government Order no. 622/23-12-2012-2 Audit/08 TC-02 Dated 08-06-12 for below % of Rate Contractor Deposit Extra Security as Below.
 - a- Below 10% rate Deposit 0.50% per 1% below
 - b- Above 10% rate Deposit 1% per 1% below
- Quantities can be vary.
- Executive Engineer, RED, Division Auraiya may reject any tender without any reason or any prior information to contractor.
- Conditional bid will not be accepted.
- There is advised to bidders to inspection the site before submit tender.
- Excess payment will be made after allotment of balance fund.

UP 133136 Date 11.10.2018
Execution Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Auraiya
विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।



Devotees of Lord Ayyappa, the deity of Sabarimala temple, participate in a rally to protest against a recent Supreme Court verdict, in Ahmedabad on Sunday

TDB invites stakeholders to discuss Sabarimala issue

Thiruvananthapuram: Amid continuing protests on the Sabarimala issue, a temple body which manages the Lord Ayyappa shrine on Sunday invited stakeholders for a meeting to discuss 'various aspects', including preparations for the annual pilgrimage season, beginning next month. As Various Hindu outfits and Lord Ayyappa devotees have been staging protests over the last few days all over Kerala against implementation of the Supreme Court order, permitting women of all age groups into the shrine, the call for talks is considered an attempt for a consensus.

The Travancore Devaswom Board has invited trannies (temple priests), Pandalam royals and devotee groups to the meeting. TDB president A Padmakumar said the meeting is scheduled to be held on October 16 at its headquarters here. Besides the Tazhamon tantri family and the Pandalam royals, various stakeholders of the Sabarimala shrine, including Ayyappa Seva Sangam, Ayyappa Seva Samajam, tantri mahamandalam and Yoga Kshema Sabah would be invited for the talks, he said. "TDB has no prejudice over any matter related to Sabarimala...Let them come and share their views. We will take a suitable decision on all aspects regarding the temple after that," Padmakumar told reporters. The members of the Padalam royal family and tazhamon trannies later said a collective decision would be taken soon on whether to attend the TDB meet or not. The three-month-long annual

'Mandalam-Makaravilakku' pilgrimage season of the Sabarimala Temple will begin on November 17.

Meanwhile, various devotee groups and Hindu outfits took out protest marches in different places across the state, demanding that the sanctity of the temple rituals be protected.

The BJP-led NDA's 'Long March', which started last week from Pandalam in protest against the CPI(M)-led LDF Government's decision to implement the top court order without going for a review, reached the capital city Sunday.

Actor-turned-MP Suresh Gopi flagged off the rally here at Alankode. "Each BJP worker will fight till his final drop of blood is shed to protect the sanctity of the centuries old tradition of Sabarimala" party state president P S Sreedharan Pillai said addressing the rally. The march, which criss crossed the southern districts of the State, would conclude before the State Secretariat, the administrative hub here, Monday. Hundreds of activists of Antarashtriy Hindu Parishad (AHP) also took out a rally here, urging the State and Union Governments to address the concerns of devotees of Lord Ayyappa.

AHP president Pravin Togadia called for a hartal in the State on October 18 if the Left Government implements the apex court order. "We demand that the state Government file a review petition in the Supreme Court. Till that petition is pending, they should not implement the court order," he said.

PTI



Flying unsafe

As an Air India Express plane crashes into an airport wall and flies for four hours, the scanner is on airport security

What does it say about Indian airport security that it took several hours for the airport authorities and the pilots to realise that an Air India Express plane had grazed the airport wall at Tiruchirappalli Airport. There are nowadays almost weekly incidents that are affecting Indian aviation, from taking-off and landing on wrong runways, forgetting to pressurise the plane and now hitting a wall and not realising it. We have had a horrible few months. But thankfully there has been not a single fatality in any of these cases, some aircraft damage to be sure but planes can always be repaired like the aircraft involved in this incident even with its ripped underbelly will be.

Aviation traffic has grown dramatically in India over the past few years. India's civil fleet has grown from just over 200 planes to over 500 now. New aircraft are arriving every few weeks and new airports are bringing connectivity to the farthest corners of the country. However, like with any growing industry there will be growth pains. The problem is that these growth pains are playing with the lives of fare-paying passengers. Airport perimeter security and careful flying are important to ensure that incidents are kept to a minimum. Of course, that is not to say that incidents will not happen and when incidents happen with large commercial aircraft there tends to be a media frenzy, quite unlike a bus or a train accident, because like it or not, the passengers on a plane are what we would consider 'people like us', and while one can argue whether that is fair, that is what will happen. Incidents also tend to be blown out of proportion by a sensationalist television media in particular. Having said that, it must be pointed out that there is genuine concern among passengers on airport safety in particular and the scary bit is not that the Air India Express aircraft hit the wall but that it took off and flew for four hours with a seriously damaged underbelly before anyone on the ground noticed it and alerted the captain. It was providential that a major air disaster did not take place.

Many of the recent incidents have been avoidable and that could spark a fear of flying among the general public. And with high fuel prices and declining yields, this is not something that India's airlines or the government itself want right now. For one, India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) needs urgent reform to improve their incident reporting and investigation teams, the DGCA has been rife with allegations of nepotism for years and the kith and kin of several officers are employed by the airlines in a perverse quid pro quo. Similarly, Indian airport security that obsessively focuses on passengers, should improve their security to become more holistic. One hopes that the incidents remain ones where nobody gets hurt, but that is just a hope.

50 WORD EDIT Poor air quality, warm winter

If it wasn't enough that the beginning of crop stubble burning my farmers looking to clear their field for the next sowing cycle in the adjoining States of Haryana and Punjab combined with rising construction, roadside and vehicular pollution has left residents of the Capital weathering and coughing, now comes news that the El Nino weather phenomenon will make the coming winter in Delhi warmer. From the frying pan into the fire about sums it up.

River of pain

Lack of due recognition to GD Agrawal's contribution to India's environmental movement is a matter of shame

Octogenarian environmentalist GD Agrawal died on October 11 on the 111th day of his fast to save the Ganga. It is a national tragedy that he was martyred in a cause to which he dedicated his entire life. There have been unfortunate attempts to link his tragic death with the alleged inaction of the Government of the day despite the environmentalist's demands, which has riposted with pointing to what the Opposition when it was in power did or did not do despite repeated urging also from Agrawal. This is as ironical as it gets because both sides are wrong. And both equally guilty in some measure though it must be understood by those trying to make his sad death a mobilisation tool that all administrations have to balance completing and sometimes contradictory demands from the people who elect them.

Yes, Agrawal died at a time when the BJP-led NDA Government has undertaken the ambitious Namami Gange project to clean the sacred river for which ₹20,000 crore has been allocated but not even 25 per cent of it has been spent. Equally, the Congress in the past, despite Manmohan Singh having come in for some praise from the Ganga crusader Agrawal for his controversial decision to stop all construction on the Bhagirathi and Lohari Nagpala hydel power projects, too has fallen woefully short of keeping its promises to Agrawal and others activists like him. Much is also being made of the three letters he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with great expectations given the latter's avowed commitment to the cause of the sacred river. While it certainly true that Agrawal was disappointed by the current regime's performance which was not up to the standards he had wanted, he is also known to have had higher and better expectations from the Modi regime than its predecessors. Especially, since Modi had set up a separate Ministry for cleaning the Ganga. The civil-engineer-turned-environmentalist-seer was a real grass-roots crusader who believed in action on the ground. One did not have to agree with everything he said to have immense respect for him. The lack of due recognition of his contribution to India's environmental movement which more media-savvy activists have garnered is a shame.

Agrawal died as he lived, uncompromising on his demands for which he last 111 days to save the holy river. His demands included the closure of all hydel projects that cause irreversible damage to the river, thereby obstructing its flow.

Row over Rafale could inflict a serious dent on defence preparedness. Government must aim to develop a robust defence industry with participation from the private sector and encourage foreign investment



Defence procurement has always been in the vortex of politics in India as the Opposition seeks to find chinks in such deals. Everyone remembers the Swedish Bofors Guns which, according to many experts, won India the Kargil War with Pakistan but had rocked the boat of the Rajiv Gandhi Government. Politics for electoral benefits precedes national security concerns when it comes to smelting corruption in defence deals. To acquire power is the primary concern of the Opposition and for this reason, the Congress had made a big hue and cry over the signing of Government-to-Government agreement between France and India in April 2015 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France for the purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft at the cost of ₹7.8 billion Euro, which approximately would cost around ₹58,000 crore.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has directly blamed the Prime Minister for indulging in "crony capitalism" and his entire party is in hyper mode to garner public opinion on this matter. The party has also filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court, which came up for hearing on October 10. The Court has sought details of the decision-making process that resulted in the award of Rafale jet purchase to the French firm, Dassault Aviation in a sealed cover. The three-member Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gopoi, made it clear that it is not expressing any opinion on the suitability of the Rafale aircraft, but wants to be satisfied about the legitimacy of the decision-making process.

Cacophony on the Rafale deal has cast a cloud on the country's defence preparedness and our enemies are having a hearty laugh over our bickering. The country has already suffered during the past 15 years in defence preparedness. The Congress was in power for 10 years and itself has much explaining to do about its inaction.

It is, however, of utmost interest to review the parameters available in the public domain with a focus on India's defence needs. The Air Force is awfully short of multi-purpose aircraft to meet external threats from two fronts. As against the requirement of 44 squadrons, it has only 32 Squadrons (half of these squadrons are of vintage Mig 21, Jaguar and Mig 27, which



IF OUR LEADERS CONTINUE TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS NO GOVERNMENT CAN FINALISE THE RAFALE DEAL EVEN IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS

are more than 40 to 55 years old) to guard the Indian skies. Never ending controversies in defence purchases meant that our forces could never get the weapons to its full strength.

First, criticism from the Congress. The very next day after the deal was signed in April 2015, the Congress spokesperson raised the question of its cost and asked for making public the details of the agreement. He also questioned the escalation of cost of a single aircraft from ₹715 crore to ₹1,600 crore. The party blamed the Modi Government for bypassing the procurement procedure and smelled a rat over the signing of an agreement between Dassault, the manufacturer of Rafale, and the Air Ambani-led Reliance defence firm for implementing the 50 per cent offset clause. The interview of former

French President François Hollande to a French TV, about the Indian Government proposing the name of Reliance Defence for the offset clause, only added fuel to the fire and gave the Opposition another handle to beat the government with.

The Government has stoutly rejected the allegations and questioned the rationale of comparing the two different base year prices even as it insisted that it got significantly better terms than those quoted in the original bid under the UPA, with a total saving of more than 1,600 million euros (350 million Euros) on the cost of aircraft with a further reported saving on weapons, allied maintenance and training package amounting to a round 1,300 million Euros (₹12,600 crore).

However, a cost breakdown of Rafale in the original bid under UPA and in the 36 aircraft in the Government-to-Government deal will never be available in the public domain due to the secrecy clause between the two Governments. The Government's stand has been strongly supported by the serving Air Chief as well as his predecessor as they said that the two prices cannot be compared as these are being fully loaded with India-specific high-end technology. Former Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, too, has opined that he cannot level accusation unless he gets the proof.

Now let us examine it from the perspective of informed citizens. The Rafale aircraft was

selected by the then UPA Government in 2012 over its other rivals. However, negotiations with Dassault dragged on over disagreements on warranty for aircraft to be produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). India wanted Dassault to ensure the quality of aircraft produced by HAL, but Dassault refused to do so. The other cause of difference was HAL demanding three times the manpower days than offered by Dassault.

In January 2014, Dassault informed that the cost of each aircraft had increased by 120 million dollar (₹756 crore). There was no further action by the then UPA Government and in May 2014, the NDA dispensation took over. Soon thereafter, the Air Force seriously flagged the issue of replacing its ageing fleets before new Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. This ultimately led to the signing of the Rafale deal as a Government-to-Government venture during the Prime Minister's France visit in April 2015. The deal was thus an emergency response to the demand of the Air Force. The twin-engine Rafale combat jet is designed as a multi-role fighter for air-to-air and air-to-ground attack and is nuclear-capable. Its on-board electronic warfare systems can also perform reconnaissance. If our leaders continue to be at each other's throat then no Government can finalise the deal even in the next 50 years. There is also a catch

in Hollande's remarks. When asked by the French media about the conflict of interest involving former President's partner Julie Gaye (whose film was funded by Anil Ambani) he took a diversionary tactics to escape. In international arms deals, firms do lobbying and Reliance must have been in touch with Dassault which should be none of our business. The air on this has been cleared by Dassault and the French Government. It is a fact that the country's enemies will try to derail this deal through clandestine planting of false reports directed at the doors of opposition leaders and in dinner gossips. Hence, the Government should seriously plan to develop a robust defence industry with private sector participation and encourage foreign investment with private players.

As for HAL, it has taken almost 33 years to develop 'Tejas'. They will now face competition from private sector in the long-term which in effect is an opportunity for them. Now Reliance, Tata and Adani, all new in the defence sector, have forged alliances with foreign arms manufacturers and people should welcome this trend. The 50 per cent offset clause in this deal should be used to develop the defence infrastructure in the country. Let us end the saga of mathematics of incompetence in defence procurement where incompetence plus incompetence equals incompetence. (The writer is a retired civil servant)

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

It is going beyond boundaries and tolerance level now. She (Kangana Ranaut) is missing the #MeToo movement. —Vikas Bahi's ex-wife RICHIA DUBEY



Another ex-wife to her ex-husband's rescue. Why do they leave their holier-than-thou husbands in the first place? —Actor KANGANA RANAUT

Auto sector: Hype over reality

Electric mobility offers a promising long-term solution to reduce dependence on fossil fuel. But clarity of thought must take primacy in policy-making over hype and emotions



India, for the first time, organised the Global Mobility Summit on September 6, 2018. Needless to say, it was a mega show, very well attended by global CEOs who adequately demonstrated the importance of Indian market in the contemporary auto world. Kudos to the event management skill of the NITI Aayog. Indeed, magnificent but what perplexed most analysts assessing the outcome of this impressive show was that there was no policy declaration, leave alone lack of any firm commitment from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to invest in India.

Even the much awaited FAME-II declaration was missing. Instead, debate was dominated by the only concern about subsidies for electric vehicles which presumably can result in import substitution of crude oil; albeit with import of expensive electric vehicle (EV) parts like lithium ion batteries, motors and electronics for the singular objective of reducing pollution. This is not surprising as these imported parts constitute more than 65-70 per cent of the value of an electric vehicle and in 2017, the import of electronic parts alone was around \$47 billion, the highest after oil and gems. The Indian auto industry is competitive in traditional engine and transmission parts that constitute approximately 40 per cent of its turnover.

In 2017-18, India exported auto components worth \$90,571 crore while imports that included 27 per cent from China stood at ₹106,672 crore. Hence, there is justified worry that policy push for electric vehicles without addressing the issue of existing auto component industry and the local manufacturing of EV parts may only end up increasing the net import bill, worsening the current account deficit situation in the short to medium term. However, shift to electric vehicles is a promising long-term solution to reduce dependence of the transport sector in India on fossil fuel. And without the initial Government support, there will not be enough demand to justify any investments for manufacturing of EV parts in India. Hence, this seems to be a classic chicken and egg story. It is essential for our policy makers to find a viable approach to overcome this dilemma.



The import implications of advance batteries for EVs is even more serious than electronic parts import as batteries constitute almost 55-60 per cent of the total value of an electric vehicle. Hence, it is obvious that we need to try quickly to facilitate the manufacturing of advance batteries in India. For this, aggregation of demand from other applications such as renewable energy storage, energy back up for telecom towers, defence requirements, and home applications, among others, are needed where Government incentives can help. However, this in itself will not be enough given the fact that China, which has the globally largest and fully integrated battery manufacturing industry, will attain 73 per cent of the global market share by 2021. Hence, at the global stage, access to latest battery and process technology and secured raw materials supply are essential for these investments to be viable. Moreover, even if we start today, it will take at least three to four years for these plants to go on line. So, can India afford to carry on with a business-as-usual approach in the intervening period? The answer is clearly no.

Some analysts propose that a cess levied on all fossil fuels vehicles which can be used to incentivise electric vehicles, thereby resulting in demand generation which will in turn lead to efficient manufacturing ecosystem created in the country. To my mind, this is myopic, over simplistic approach and clearly fails to address many fundamental questions. For instance, what are the costs and benefits of such an approach? Is this the optimal pathway for creating viable demand for EV parts manufacturing? Does it not mean taxing the Indian industry to create demand for imports from China? Does this approach support other technology options that substan-

tively help in fossil fuel substitution as well as higher fuel efficiency? It must be clearly understood that through electric mobility what we are fundamentally attempting to do is to reduce fossil fuel consumption and, hence, reduce pollution. CNG, LNG etc or technologies that give fairly high fuel efficiencies like hybrid electric vehicles, need to be encouraged by a transparent policy framework. Taxation policy (GST) based on oil consumed by the vehicle is carbon taxation is one such powerful transparent policy tool that will encourage auto companies to adopt such technologies very quickly. This has already been adopted by many other countries, including Thailand.

Second, full range of electric vehicle technologies, including electric hybrid technologies, should be supported in the transition phase since they use the same parts (batteries, motors, and electronics) and, thus, can help in creating demand for EV parts, thereby leading to faster localisation. By being technology agnostic we can rapidly replace millions of petrol/diesel vehicles by these technologies that the vehicles of today are cleaner and consume lesser fuel for the next 15 odd years as they ply on Indian roads before being replaced by electric vehicles. Hence, clarity of thought with 'India first' approach based on pragmatism must take primacy in policy making over hype and emotional pitch.

(The writer is former secretary to Government of India and former vice chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade)

Indigenous edifice for new education

As we pass through an era that is witnessing weakening of sincere, committed and selfless pursuit of new knowledge, a course correction is needed. Who else can guide us better in this endeavour than Swami Vivekananda?



The current state of Indian education system is a cause of concern on various fronts. It is very clearly visible in most learned narrations on education. It is indeed intriguing, and even amazing, that the real concern is not new but old. Therefore, the answer to these questions warrants that in addition to securing sizeable battery manufacturing in the country, a 100 years ago: "Education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out their strength and character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion — is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's own legs."

That the current education system is weak on this front is universally known. It needs new insights and ideas. Every effort undertaken to reform the education sector — be it education policy, programmes, implementation strategy or articulation of outcomes — can derive immense benefit from the vision and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.

Rabindranath Tagore once told French writer Romain Rolland, "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative." Even today, if someone wishes to understand the Indian tradition of knowledge quest, its systems of creating, generating, disseminating and utilising knowledge, there would be no better resource and support than to read Vivekananda on what all he said about education, its goals, objectives, relationship to the growth of civilisations, human advancement and welfare of the people.

It would also indicate how and why the Indian civilisation advanced far ahead of others in comprehending the basics of human existence on planet Earth; queries on/before life and after life! Their contemplation was deep enough to let them internalise spirituality, human values and what could be the best and satisfying for any human being during his sojourn on earth. No one other than Swami Vivekananda has articulated with such a deep understanding the rise and downfall of India, the sub-



continent in freedom struggle. Swami Vivekananda was quick to realise the cause of the decline of a great number of people who claimed to be the children of immortality; *Anritasya Putrahi!* They had already understood that "all this that is changeable in this ephemeral world must be enveloped by the lord!" The query, in spite of all this and much more about national degradation, was answered by Swamiji. Attitude to false superiority played the most prominent role in the downfall of the children of god. While on the one hand, India boasted of Taxila, attracting learners from 60 nations, its social structure gradually declined, even a journey on seas was declared sinful and invited heavy penalties.

How can any system, social structure or a civilisation, maintain its dynamism if it isolates itself from the world outside? In 1894, Vivekananda said in his book, *The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda*, "To my mind, the one great cause of the downfall and the degeneration coming was the building of a wall of custom — whose foundation was hatred of others — round the nation, and the real aim of which in ancient times was to pre-

vent the Hindu from coming in contact with the surrounding Buddhist nations". In the same piece he offered the solution: "Give and take is the law, and if India wants to raise herself once more, it is absolutely necessary that she brings out her treasures and throws them broadcast among the nations of the earth, and in return be ready to receive what others have to give. Expansion in life, contraction is death."

Finally, in this very piece he exhorted: "We must mix with all the races of the Earth." The lamp that was lit by Swami has spread its light across the nation, across the communities and the entire world now realises and relishes India's global presence. But mere travel around and outside, opening up the sea shores and airports alone is only one initial step. It alone is not sufficient to give Indians their due on the global stage. If India is to stand up with its head high in the global community, it has to prepare its young generations, who are self-assured, confident, proud of their heritage, history and motherland, and are keen to prove that they are not inferior to anyone. It must make them believe that they all have the capability and potential to lead a glob-

al renaissance. For a committed researcher and explorer, knowledge pursuit is a pious task. Indian culture and tradition links it to the individual's urge to gain better understanding of the forces of nature, and utilise that knowledge for the welfare of the people, humanity and that, too, without any distinction or selfish motive. He prays for one and all — men and women of all religions and faiths, of all colours and creeds. No distinction, every soul being divine.

The *rishis* and *munis*, saints and sages — they all created knowledge and disseminated it for the "human weal". Things have changed in the modern world and India and Indians are no longer exceptions. Now, knowledge quest is often pursued with the sole commercial considerations getting a patent earlier than others and 'takeover the market! Historical interventions impeded Indian knowledge traditions, and today, we are just copying the trends of much-glamourised globalisation.

However, as we are passing through an era of weakening of sincere, committed and selfless pursuits of new knowledge, a course correction is urgently needed. Essentially, it amounts to broadening of the vision of knowledge quest that India must articulate in the current-day India, accept and implement.

How to proceed to comprehend this change was so lucidly elaborated by Swami Vivekananda: "Every one born in this world has a bent, a direction towards which he must go, through which he must live, and what is true of the individual equally true of the race. Each race, similarly, has a peculiar bent, each race has a peculiar *raison d'être*, each race has a peculiar mission to fill in the life of the world. Each race has to make its own result, to fulfil its own mission. Political greatness or military power is never the mission of our race; it never was and, mark my word, it never will be. But there has been the other mission given to us, which is to conserve, to preserve, to accumulate, as it were, into a dynamo, all the spiritual energy of the race, and that concentrated energy is to pour forth in a deluge on the world whenever circumstances are propitious." Can India not build the edifice of its new education for resurgent India on this outstanding postulate?

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

Confidence for the future

Generational change is now passé. With longevity increasing and pace of change seeing rapid growth, learning has new challenges



Any thinking person knows that change is the law of life. There are classes and categories of change. Next to the topic of longevity (perhaps the largest block of time), researching topics of universal interest to human kind is the topic of change. Like leadership, attempts to understand it have taken place from the vantage point of philosophy, sociology, literature, management and more. Clearly, the list can be added to. Yet, the predictive validity of directions, content and speed of change are always a challenge to discern.

In the context of present times, it is obvious that technology is the biggest variable in the processes of change. Illustratively, those who cannot keep pace with digitalisation are likely to be enveloped by the expanding frontiers of the Jurassic Park. The second most significant aspect of change of present times is its speed. People in the generation of this writer have the four decades, beginning mid-80s of the 20th century, lived through at least seven generations of changes in desktop computing.

Similarly, felicity with numerals and numbers has become exceedingly important. In the late 50s and early 60s, the permission to take a 'log table' into the examination hall of school leaving 'O' level certificate examination of Cambridge University, was considered a revolutionary move. There was heated exchange of opinion amongst those who claimed to know, whether this move strengthened accurate and ethical assessment or weakened it. Six decades down the line, young boys taking the school leaving examination may even find it difficult to understand the content and purpose of a 'log table'.

Put simply, generational change is now a passé. People undergo three to five significant changes in a life span of say 80 years. Longevity increases, pace of change increases and aid to learning becomes critical. There is as yet no programmed formula to facilitate this. This then becomes one of the core challenges of the present times. What has to change is the selection, content and execution of research themes. Higher education system in most parts of the world seem to have hardly developed a method of reorienting themselves to respond to this challenge.

The conflict between the outcomes of learning and the requirements of livelihood, as they stand today, need to be understood if they are to be tackled. The almost endemic spread of digitalisation has encouraged learning to a point where video medium of transference of learning seems to become incrementally more important. Obviously, whether in a face-to-face situation with a person or through intermediary of videos, learning content in many ways remain the same. Variable elements touch delivery of knowledge, the assessment of precision and volume of transfer of knowledge. It is there that the challenge lies.

There is one more area which would need to be flagged. If elements of change are as noted above, the sources of livelihood would also get affected. There was a time where the mason was literally the building block of a physical structure. Today, that profession is not eliminated but has been substantially taken over by prefabricated masonry structures. A skilled person, who can put them together, is now in demand. A clear case of a profession which is receding, and a skill which is expanding in replacing it.

When this is the global scene, for a like the World Economic Forum cannot be left far behind. They survive on riding the crest of the current interests. They are credited with a report, 'Future of Jobs Report 2018'. It is their estimate that global change will flow up emerging roles. By 2022, there will be 133 million emerging roles. By the same token, by 2022, declining roles would be about 75 million. Hence, the approximate rise in the emerging roles will be about 58 million. Like many reports, the derivation of this figure and its methodology is not clearly stated. It may be closer to truth to observe that there may be a likelihood of expanding the number of emerging roles. However, this does not necessarily convert itself into the actual number of available jobs. And this is the catch.

Globally, there is talk of recession and the prophets of gloom are talking of the possible repeat experiences of a decade ago. Irrespective, one thing is clear. That one thing is that skills of employability would have completely transformed. This would have rendered escalation of the ability of self-learning and sourcing of information to the top of the list. One needs to wake up to this reality.

In the future, the skills of postal service assistants, material recording and stock-keeping assistants would have been rendered obsolete and the requirements of operations and coordinating managers, artificial intelligence and machine learning intermediaries would have gone galloping. The question is simple: Is this, above phenomena, widely recognised enough to give confidence to everyone for the future? (The writer is a well-known management consultant)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GETTING SERIOUS

Sir — This refers to the 50-word edit, "Martyr to Ganga" (October 13). The passing away of eminent environmentalist-professor GD Agrawal is saddening. He will be remembered for a significant contribution towards rejuvenating the Ganga river, which remained the hallmark of his career. Agrawal, was fasting unto death for the last 111 days to save the holy river. His demands included the closure of all hydel projects that cause irreversible damage to the river, thereby obstructing its flow.

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER

Sir — This refers to the article, "Chronicle of a death foretold" (October 13) by Hirannay Karlekar. The UN's special report on climate change precisely extols the impending catastrophe

LOGICAL CONCLUSION

Sir — This refers to the article, "McMeToo movement: A spark or fire?" (October 12) by Ajay Kumar. It is shameful that despite the presence of laws aimed at women's security and a Government at

Busting Rahul's myth on the Rafale deal

This refers to the report, "Rafale row: Repeating lies not going to change reality: Goyal to Rahul" (October 15). Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been misleading the people of the country by branding the Rafale deal as the biggest scandal ever.



However, Dassault has made it clear that it freely chose to get into a partnership with Reliance Group in the joint-venture Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL). Besides, other partnerships have also

been signed with companies such as BTL, DEFSYS, Kinetic, Mahindra, Mami and SAMTEL, while negotiations are going with a hundred-odd other potential partners. While using inoperative language against Prime Minister Modi, Gandhi called him *bhrast* and *chor* (corrupt and thief). Interestingly, Gandhi himself is out on bail in the multi-crore *National Herald* scam.

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

STRENGTHEN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Sir — This refers to the article, "McMeToo movement: A spark or fire?" (October 12) by Ajay Kumar. The McMeToo movement has been empowering women to step forward and take a stand against their oppressors.

SHAMING THE MEN

Shaming the men and making them a subject of public scrutiny might be a very effective tool against powerful people at a time when the judicial system has not been effective. However, to ensure that this doesn't lead to a situation where, one is guilty unless proven innocent, a comprehensive system for probing the culprits and delivering brisk justice to the affected is needed.

MA SIDDHQUI

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



There is a need to improve policies which can give fillip to skill development programmes at colleges, schools, skill centres to produce skilled population for our nation. The policymakers should put more efforts into linking education with employment and entrepreneurship through skill development to ensure that our skilled youth can get jobs

Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, Advisor to J&K Governor

BUZZ FROM GOVT

Under the current scenario, I see at least another three plus quarters of losses. Why? Because personally, I do not think the present tariffs are sustainable for long term health of the industry. Already we have been through two quarters of losses (this fiscal).

So something dramatic has to happen in the next two quarters and we know that is not going to happen

Rajan Mathews, Director General, COAI



Govt invites bids for int'l Udan flights

OPERATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME WILL BE PERMITTED THROUGH FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ONLY WITH MORE THAN 70 SEATS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Central Government has invited proposals from interested air operators for the international version of its 'Udan' (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) scheme as it seeks to enhance air connectivity from India to select overseas destinations.

This is despite the domestic format of the scheme failing to yield desired results with almost half of the routes approved in the first phase of the bidding for the scheme still to be launched.

National airports operator AAI, which has been mandated to implement the international version of the Udan scheme, has invited "e-proposals (bids) from international bidders for selection of airlines under the International Air Connectivity Scheme, IACS

Udan," according to a notice in a leading English daily.

The Government, in its bid to make flying more affordable for masses, had in October 2016 announced the Udan scheme with airfares capped at ₹2,500 for a one-hour journey through subsidised ticket rates and to provide air connectivity to smaller towns.

In the subsequent developments, five airlines were mandated to fly on 128 regional routes in the first phase of the bidding in March 2017, and 15 airlines on 325 regional routes, including those having chopper operations, in the second phase in January this year.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is also the implementing agency for the domestic format of the regional connectivity scheme.

The bids could be submitted to the AAI by November 22, according to the notice inviting e-proposals.

The AAI has invited the bids on behalf of the civil aviation ministry and the Assam Government, as per the notice.

The Central Government had in August unveiled a draft scheme for extending the Udan scheme to international circuits, with state governments identifying routes for the operations.

The draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme envisages to increase the international ticketing to 20 crore by 2027.

As per the draft, the scheme is to be made operational only for states which demonstrate their commitment to implement and provide the requisite support for promoting operations under the scheme.

The BJP-ruled Assam had last year offered to provide Rs 100 crore as viability gap funding towards extension of the scheme for international air connectivity from the state capital Guwahati.

According to the draft scheme, State Governments will identify the routes to be connected, and airline operators will assess demand on the identified routes and submit proposals for providing connectivity.

Operations under the scheme will be permitted through fixed-wing aircraft only with more than 70 seats.

The scheme has proposed to set up an International Air Connectivity Fund (IACF) — dedicated for providing subsidy support under the scheme. It will be created through the contributions of State Governments.

Bank credit rises by 12.51%, deposits by 8.07%



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit rose by 12.51 per cent to ₹89.82 lakh crore in the fortnight ended September 28, while the deposits grew by 8.07 per cent to ₹117.99 lakh crore, according to the RBI data.

In the year-ago fortnight, advances stood at ₹79.83 lakh crore, while the deposits at ₹109.17 lakh crore.

In the fortnight ended September 14, bank credit had risen by 13.46 per cent to ₹87.98 lakh crore, while the deposits grew by 8.58 per cent to ₹115.70 lakh crore.

In August this year, non-food credit rose by 12.4 per

cent, as against an increase of 5.5 per cent in the year-ago month, the RBI data showed.

Advanceto industry rose by 1.9 per cent in August, against a contraction of 0.3 per cent in August 2017.

Bank loans to agriculture and allied activities were up by 6.6 per cent, compared with an increase of 6.5 per cent in the same month last year.

Credit to the services sector expanded by 26.7 per cent, against 5 per cent last year.

Personal loans rose by 18.2 per cent in August 2018, compared with 15.7 per cent in August 2017.

Govt may not further hike import duty on non-essential items

THE IMPORT DUTY ON MOBILE PHONES HAVE BEEN SPARED IN THE RECENT DUTY HIKE AS THE LEVY HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED EARLIER

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government may not go for another round of import duty hike on any more items and could take other measures to contain the impact of rupee slide on current account deficit (CAD), an official said.

The Government, within a span of two weeks, has hiked import duty on a host of household items like refrigerators and air conditioners, and telecom and communications system products as it looked to cut import of non-essential items.

"Further hike in import duty on non essential goods is not likely," the official said.

In the latest round of duty hike effective October 12, the Finance Ministry increased the levy of import of base station, IP Radios, soft switches and

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipments, and optical transport equipments, among others, to up to 20 per cent.

The import duty on mobile phones have been spared in the recent duty hike as the levy has already been raised earlier.

"This round of duty hike was suggested by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeITY), after discussion with Ministry of Commerce and Industry. We have gone ahead with their suggestion," the official added.

Indian rupee had touched a historic low of 74.50 to a dollar on October 11. It later recovered and ended October 12 trading session at 73.57 to a dollar as global crude prices eased. The rupee has depreciated about 13 per cent since the beginning of 2018.

"We expect the rupee to rise from here. No more import curbs would be needed at the moment. Rather we should look at ways to check dependence on petrol, diesel," another official said.

The Government, effective September 27, had doubled duties on import of 19 items, including air conditioners, household refrigerators and washing machines (less than 10 kg), to 20 per cent. The cost of import of these items was ₹86,000 crore in 2017-18 fiscal.

Following a meeting by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government had on September 14 announced that the centre would impose curbs on import of non-essential items to contain the widening CAD and check the rupee fall.

To address the issue of expanding CAD, the Government will take necessary steps to cut down non-essential imports and increase exports. The commodities of which imports will be cut down will be decided after consultations with concerned ministries and will be WTO-compliant," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had then said.

Earlier in the day, a finance ministry official had said more steps will be taken to check CAD and hoped that the rupee would appreciate.

"Rupee, Balance of Payments, CAD are the main worries, we have strategy in place to tackle situation. We will take action at opportune time on these issues," the official said.

The CAD widened to 2.4 per cent of the GDP in the first quarter of 2018-19.

Large trade deficit and rupee decline against the US dollar are putting pressure on the CAD, and these steps are likely to have a positive impact on the external sector.

Results, rupee movement to guide mkts this week: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings from blue-chips like Infosys and RIL as well as movement of the rupee and crude oil prices will dictate the market trend in the holiday-shortened week ahead, say experts. "Currently, broader markets look attractive while investors may seek more clarity from upcoming quarterly results. The continuity of this trend largely depends on stability on bond yields and INR.

"However, worries about US Fed rate hike, US-China trade dispute and political uncertainties in India on account of upcoming state elections may impact sentiment in the short-term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"Companies like Infosys, Federal Bank, ACC, Reliance are to announce their results this week," said Prateek Jain, Director, Hem Securities. Over the last week, the BSE 30-share Sensex gained 356.59 points to close at 34,733.58 on Friday.

Govt may give ₹2.5K cr bank guarantee for State-owned firm STC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Trading Corporation (STC) may soon get relief from the Government in terms of bank guarantee of ₹2,500 crore to help the company resolve the liquidity problem, sources said.

The commerce ministry has approved the proposal and sent that to the finance ministry for final approval.

"There is also a plan to restructure loans of STC as the company is facing financial hardship," the sources said.

The firm is also in the process of preparing a plan to sell its non-core assets to raise funds.

The move assume significance as there was a proposal of the commerce ministry for a merger of STC and another state-owned trading firm MMTIC.

STC has posted 88.44 per cent fall in standalone net profit to ₹1.46 crore during April-June 2018-19, on account of poor income.

The company, while releas-

The Commerce Ministry has approved the proposal and sent that to the Finance Ministry for final approval

ing its unaudited financial result for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 in August, had stated that it has appointed financial advisor for restructuring of existing loans and for raising additional loans.

It had also proposed to raise additional working capital funds against its properties.

"Therefore, the Company has approached its lender banks for an appropriate resolution plan with the objective to make the operations of the company viable and sustainable. The lender banks have formed Joint Lender Forum to finalise the reconstruction plan," it had said.

Govt to give priority to State power producers for coal supply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has asked Coal India Ltd and its subsidiaries to prioritise coal supply to State power producers like NTPC, leaving private electricity plants in a lurch, multiple sources said.

The Coal Ministry has directed CIL to prioritise the coal supply to select central and State Government-owned power houses under the pretext of building coal stocks at these plants.

Following this, all subsidiaries of Coal India like South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) have been directed to supply coal to state power generators such as NTPC.

This has come at the cost of private power producers, who are running out of feedstock used to produce electricity.

Sources in private producers say rationally Coal India should give first priority to those plants having critical coal stocks. Next should come plants facing supplies below contractual obligations and then to most efficient plants, irrespective of ownership.

Preferential and priority

distribution should not be limited to public sector, they said, adding that private power plants should not be discriminated against.

As per the sources, following the instruction from coal ministry, Coal India has its subsidiaries like SECL to supply 25 rakes per day of coal to NTPC's Korba, Mouda and Bhilai power plants and such other state power plants.

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) has also accorded priority supplies to central public sector plants and WCL has been verbally instructed to supply coal to only Mahagenco (formerly known as Maharashtra State Electricity Board) plants.

As a result, SECL in October increased the supplies to state and central generating companies from an average 10 rakes per day (40,000 tonnes) to 17 rakes per day (68,000 tonnes) whereas for private power plants it has reduced from an average 10 rakes per day to only 6 rakes per day (24,000 Tons).

Private power generators feel such priority supply only to state and central PSU electricity generating companies is

discriminatory.

This discrimination based on ownership of assets puts into question the sanctity of level playing field and ease of doing business besides being bad in the eyes of law and equity, they said.

The move comes just when the festive season has started when power demand goes up. Also, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana will go to polls this year.

Also, power tariff in spot market have hit a record high past few days. In last week of September, spot electricity price touched nine year high of ₹14.25 per unit and swelled further to ₹18.20 in the first week of October on Indian Energy Exchange.

This spark in power tariff was attributed to inadequate coal supplies from Coal India, the sources said.

While domestic coal production during April-September has risen to 256 million tonnes from 232 million tonnes in the year ago period, increased power demand has meant that coal imports have also risen to 119 million tonnes from 105 million tonnes in April-September 2017.

74 firms generated 11 bn euros revenue in Germany: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As many as 74 Indian companies have generated annual revenues of 11 billion euros and employed nearly 23,300 people in Germany, a recent survey said.

According to a survey titled 'Indian Investment in Germany: Update 2018' conducted by EY, Indo German Chamber of Commerce and CII, four dominant sectors accounted for almost 95 per cent of the revenue generated by Indian companies in Germany, as well as 89 per cent of the 23,300 people employed.

"Out of the total number of more than 213 Indian subsidiaries operating in Germany, nearly 74 Indian companies each with annual turnover of more than 10 million euros generated combined annual revenues of around 11 billion euros," the report said.

The four dominant sectors include automotive, metals and metal-processing, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and professional, scientific and technical services.

"The top 10 Indian compa-

nies alone account for more than 74 per cent of all revenues generated by Indian companies and employ around 59 per cent of this group's total workforce," it said.

The report noted that excellent infrastructure, favourable R&D and innovation conditions as well as a highly skilled labour force comprise top-rated business environment factors by Indian investors in the 2018 update.

"In addition, the opportunity to access European market post Brexit is an important factor for Indian investors," it said.

The study noted that Indian investors viewed the quality of living at affordable prices very positively. "The quality of education, which is offered for free by the Government, makes Germany an attractive location for relevant research and development activities."

"Also, the security standards, personally and for financial investments, qualify Germany to be a perfect destination for Indians, who intend to diversify risks investing their private wealth in the Federal Republic," the report added.

'Continued investment in infra will help industry'

The CEO of SpotOn, a Bangalore-based logistics firm, Abhik Mitra talked to *The Pioneer*. Here are excerpts of his interview taken by Vikas Kumar:

Recently you developed Piece Level Tracking System to track products being delivered. How does it work?

The technology that we use for tracking a consignment or boxes/pieces within a consignment is a combination of track and trace system which is supported by Piece Level Tracking System. Piece Level Tracking means the box of a consignment can be tracked. A consignment may be from say a auto spare parts to a distributor. He may be sending one consignment box. But in that one consignment note there could be 10 boxes. so we can track each box in that consignment. The technology has been developed in house. What it helps us to do and the customer to do is know exactly where his shipment is, in

which vehicle it is and in which hub or service centre it is.

Purpose of this technology is visibility for the customer and control for SpotOn; so that we know where every shipment is. And we can move the shipment fast enough and correctly so that we make an accurate delivery.

You are going to provide air services in 2019 across India. What are your plans to provide the same to neighbouring countries in particular and world in general? And why are you coming up with air services after long seven years of establishment of your company?

The air services that we are starting in April 2019, for which the work has already started in building the IT platform and building the infrastructure that we need is something we are going to do for domestic air cargo. Where the product will be available to our existing customers and B2B

"Yes, there is a time lag but while it is (fuel prices) challenging; but not that challenging that can affect our business"



customers. We believe this could have happened a little earlier but as you know there was a transaction was going on. Our earlier investors were existing and new investors were coming in so as a result of that we just delayed the whole process by a period of around 6-8 months.

We started planning process for this about a year ago when we knew the new investors were coming on board. And now we have started work so that we can launch the product by April

What are the challenges logistics sectors is facing due to rising fuel prices? Tell us how hard is it to run operations during such volatile market conditions?

Of course it is hard. having said that the stability of network is never compromised, because service is most important thing. We typically get a pass through to our vendors who compensate us for higher prices, and we also get compensated by our customers. Yes there is a time lag but while it is challenging but it is not that challenging that

can affect our business.

Is logistics industry facing any hurdles due to Government rules and regulations? What suggestions would you like to give to the Government so that logistics sector easily can comply with the regulations?

Not really. The GST has been a very positive step for us. E-Way bill has been positive. Of course the implementation and execution takes a little bit of time. And the Government has been listening to us in terms of our situations; especially under the express industry because as an express industry we do not move from one pick up point to one delivery point. We move through hubs and spokes. And obviously large number of e-way bills need to be made, which are made using technology as manually it is impossible to do that and I don't think there are any negatives. These are positives.

Obviously continued

investment in infrastructure, will help the industry. The ability to move through tolls (I understand the need for tolls) - but if trucks could move faster through toll booths faster than what happens now it would improve the speed and predictability of the network.

Did the recent truck union's strike hamper your operations?

Yes of course it did, because our trucks were stopped and held back at different places. Loads were in the trucks. Customers did not get the service they should have got. Couple of the trucks was also attacked. Fortunately we didn't lose anything. A strike does impact the industry.

In an express network- for us a network is like a loop. A truck leaves Delhi to Mumbai and there are 2 en-route after that. The truck which has left from Delhi needs to reach Mumbai and go back. If this loop is broken it certainly takes time to settle down.

India International Silk Fair to begin this week

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani will Tuesday inaugurate India International Silk Fair (IISF), a three-day event where over 108 exhibitors of silk and blended silk will display their produce here.

"The fair will give a platform to exporters to display their products and to overseas buyers an opportunity to place orders and source their merchandise," the textiles ministry said.

"The IISF-2018 is expected to generate business of over \$20 million for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) engaged in producing silk and blended silk garments, fabrics, accessories and floor covering," it added.

Over 218 buyers from various countries will participate in the fair. Artisans from Jammu & Kashmir and north-east will showcase their unique

THE IISF-2018 IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE BUSINESS OF OVER \$20 MILLION FOR THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) ENGAGED IN PRODUCING SILK AND BLENDED SILK GARMENTS, FABRICS, ACCESSORIES AND FLOOR COVERING

products from their region which will be an added attraction for buyers.

India is the second largest producer of silk in the world. The country's silk industry is agriculture based and labour intensive and provides gainful employment to around 8 million artisans and weavers in rural areas.

OPEN-ENDED (GROWTH)

SCHEME NAV

HDFC MUTUAL FUND	
Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996
Index Fund-Sensex Plus (FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623
Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	309.9354
Index FundSensex Plan (FV Rs 32.161)	306.5626

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan A - Dividend	13.5898
Blended Plan A - Direct Plan Bonus	10.9152
Blended Plan A - Growth	22.7587
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Dividend	13.6408
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Growth	23.0933

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Bluechip Fund - Dividend	31.676
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	34.468
Bluechip Fund - Growth	210.87
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	223.999
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	21.286
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	24.64
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	34.688
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	37.015
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.0423
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.2378
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7359
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0381
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0584
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.6888
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.4285
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.5305
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	22.969
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	24.696
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	105.988
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	112.65
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.8901
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.3976
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	11.0045
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.52
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.1333
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.9059
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	15.195
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.973
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	15.196
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	15.902
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	19.58
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.698
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	48.034
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	51.667
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Div	16.193
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	17.774
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct Plan-Div Option	18.948
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct - Growth Option	19.166
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	34.375
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	37.134
Small Cap Fund - Growth	66.567
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	71.434
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	21.113
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	22.587
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth	31.609
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	33.437

SAHARA MUTUAL FUND

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	64.5499
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION	60.8821
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	21.9234
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	21.5229
Growth Fund-Dividend	37.8643
Growth Fund-Dividend-Direct	38.5599
Growth Fund-Growth	130.3965
Growth Fund-Growth- Direct	145.5617
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	25.4496
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	17.2523
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	23.6255
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Dividend	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	28.0185
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	20.1426
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	27.3815
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	71.5549
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	76.4255
Midcap Fund-Bonus	71.5549
Midcap Fund-Bonus- Direct	76.4255
Midcap Fund-Dividend -Direct	32.0292
Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	31.5581
Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	76.4255
Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	71.5549
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	16.5529
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth - Direct	20.8981
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth Option	19.4074
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option	19.5224
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	19.9131
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund	19.5192
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund-Direct	21.5048

Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.9545
Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	16.68
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	23.1748
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	21.5681
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.9689
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	20.6309
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	18.9673
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	29.4685
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	41.5708
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	28.9942
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	40.7108
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend	34.8372
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	48.5678
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	34.3497
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	47.3791

SBI MUTUAL FUND

MAGNUM NRI FLEXASSET PLAN-DIVIDEND	30.3025
MAGNUM NRI FLEXASSET PLAN-GROWTH	30.1918
ONE INDIA FUND - DIV (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43
ONE INDIA FUND - GR (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43

OPEN-ENDED (INCOME)

DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - DIRECT PLAN -GROWTH	14.096
FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - REGULAR PLAN -GROWTH	13.9784

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.266
Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	17.7362
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0808
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.0227
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option - I	10.7
Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	11.9703
Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.032
Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122
Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan- Cumulative	72.4243
Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484
Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985
Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9656
Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.7894
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	N.A.
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.6497
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	23.3622
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	21.8977
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7978
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	10.8352
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.7495
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6945
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	21.7637
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	11.7708
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4818
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4088
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - 1 Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.0022
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I Plan - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0023
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296

Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9985
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qtrly Div Payout	10.0085
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct Plan - Div	10.9291
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative	14.9454
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct Plan - Div	10.441
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	13.7979
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
Interval Fund II - Qtrly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2479
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0015
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.6425
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.224
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0024
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth	14.0323
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2204
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Instl Qtrly Div Payout	10.2061
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.1535
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7073
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Quarterly Div Payout	10.2309
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0168
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7138
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0095
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth	17.716
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Qtrly Dividend Payout	10.0046
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0001
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2084
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B -Dividend	10.1688
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.234
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.9183
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829
MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171
MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248
MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602
MIP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
MIP - Growth	48.1366

JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.5701
MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend	19.5151
MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
MIP Fund (Direct)- Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503
MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362
MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option	13.7652

Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5901
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.4269

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188
Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604
Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	40.0173
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.5059
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.6285
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.6102
Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.0861
Bond - Growth - Direct	50.1636
Bond - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.5759
Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.391
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736
Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Bond Regular Plan Growth	47.9724
Bond Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	10.7277
Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Bond-Deposit-Growth	42.9354
Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.2716
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend)	10.1317
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)	33.1652
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)- Direct	34.5907
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend)	12.0897
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.2705
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Growth Option	2034.9063
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	2410.4554
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1106.9616
Corporate Bond Fund- Institutional Plan-Growth Option	2090.4924
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2359.5035
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Quarterly Dividend Option	1052.9376
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1066.6837
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1040.0538
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Weekly Dividend Option	1052.3061
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option</	

Saudi rejects threats as stocks plunge after Trump remarks

AP ■ DUBAI

Saudi Arabia warned on Sunday it will respond to any "threats" against it as its stock market plunged following President Donald Trump's warning of "severe punishment" over the disappearance of *Washington Post* contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump made a point of visiting the kingdom on his first overseas trip as President and has touted arms sales to Saudi Arabia. But both the White House and the kingdom are under mounting pressure as concern grows over the fate of the veteran journalist, who hasn't been seen since he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom's upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as "Davos in the Desert."

"The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats and attempts to undermine it, whether by threatening to impose economic sanctions, using political pressures or repeating false accusations," the statement published by the



state-run Saudi Press Agency read. "The kingdom also affirms that if it receives any action, it will respond with greater action, and that the kingdom's economy has an influential and vital role in the global economy."

The statement from the world's top oil exporter came after the Tadawul exchange in Riyadh dropped by 7 per cent at one point during the week's first day of trading, with 182 of its 186 listed stocks showing

losses by the early afternoon. The market clawed back some of the losses, closing down 3.5 per cent for the day.

Turkish officials say they fear Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi after he entered the consulate, saying they have audio and video recordings of it that they have not released. The kingdom has called the allegations "baseless," but has offered no evidence the writer ever left the consulate.

In an interview to be aired

Sunday, Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" that the consequences of Saudi Arabia being involved would be "severe."

"There's something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we're going to have to see," Trump said. "We're going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment."

However, Trump in the same interview said: "As of this moment, they deny it and they deny it vehemently. Could it be them? Yes."

Other stock exchanges in the Mideast saw far less volatility Sunday. US markets have been rattled by rising interest rates, signs of a slowdown in the global economy and the US-China trade dispute.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has aggressively pitched the kingdom as a destination for foreign investment. But Khashoggi's disappearance, and suspicions he may have been targeted over his criticism of the crown prince, have led several business leaders and media outlets to back out of an upcoming high-profile investment conference in Riyadh.

Trump also said "we would

be punishing ourselves" by canceling arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which his administration touted on his first overseas trip.

The sale is a "tremendous order for our companies," and if the kingdom doesn't buy its weaponry from the United States, they will buy it from others, he said. Trump said he would meet with Khashoggi's family.

American lawmakers in both parties have been more critical of Saudi Arabia, with several suggesting officials in the kingdom could be sanctioned if they were found to be involved in Khashoggi's disappearance and alleged killing.

Khashoggi, who was considered close to the Saudi royal family, had become a critic of the current government and Prince Mohammed, the 33-year-old heir apparent who has shown little tolerance for criticism.

As a contributor to the *Post*, Khashoggi has written extensively about Saudi Arabia, including criticism of its war in Yemen, its recent diplomatic spat with Canada and its arrest of women's rights activists after the lifting of a ban on women driving.

Turkey accuses Saudi of not cooperating as Trump threatens 'punishment'

Istanbul: Turkey accused Saudi Arabia of failing to cooperate with a probe into the disappearance of a journalist inside its Istanbul consulate, as US President Donald Trump threatened "severe punishment" if it turns out he was killed.

Comments by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu represented a hardening of Ankara's hitherto circumspect tone over the case of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who has not been seen since he stepped inside the consulate on October 2.

Turkish officials have said they believe Khashoggi was killed inside the consulate and lurid claims have been leaked to media that he was tortured and even dismembered, while Trump has also struck a pessimistic tone about the missing journalist's fate.

Saudi Arabia insists

Khashoggi, a *Washington Post* contributor whose writings have been critical of powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, left the building safely but has yet to offer visual evidence of this.

The outcry surrounding his disappearance threatens to not just harm brittle Turkey-Saudi relations but also alarm the kingdom's supporters in the West and tarnish the reform drive spearheaded by the crown prince.

"We're going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment," Trump told CBS's "60 Minutes," according to an extract of an interview that was released on Saturday.

"As of this moment, they (Saudi) deny it and they deny it vehemently. Could it be them? Yes," Trump said in the interview, which was conducted on Thursday. **AP**

UK, US may boycott Saudi conference over scribe's killing

London: Britain and the US are considering boycotting a major international conference in Saudi Arabia after the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the *BBC* reported on Sunday. Khashoggi, a critic of the Saudi Government, vanished on October 2 after visiting its consulate in Istanbul, triggering tensions between Riyadh and Ankara.

The authorities in Istanbul believe he was murdered there by Saudi agents. Saudi Arabia has rejected the allegations as "lies." Several sponsors and media groups have decided to pull out of this month's investment conference in Riyadh, dubbed Davos in the Desert, as a result of concerns over Khashoggi's fate.

Diplomatic sources said both US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox might not attend the event, being hosted by the kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to promote his reform agenda. **IANS**

Trump wants people to come to US on basis of merit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said he wants people with merit to enter the United States, a move that can help technology professionals from countries such as India. "I'm very tough at the borders. We've been very tough at the borders. People have to come into our country legally, not illegally. Legally. And I want them to come in on merit," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Responding to a series of questions on illegal immigration, the president reiterated that he wants people based on merit, a move that can help technology professionals from countries such as India.

"What I want is merit. I

want a lot of people to come in. We have great car companies entering our country again. This hasn't happened for 35 years. We have companies like Foxconn going to Wisconsin with a massive, massive plant," he said.

"We need people coming in, but we want them to come in on merit. We want people that are going to help us. It's very important," Trump said. Observing that immigration is not tricky to him, he insisted that the administration and the Congress have to do the right thing whether there's an election or not.

He opposed the chain migration policy and said, "If that's a bad policy, then guess what, a lot of bad things are



going to happen. But a lot of people agree with me. I would say a vast majority of our country agrees. They don't want criminals coming into our country. They don't want people that they don't want in the

country that aren't going to help us as a country. They don't want these people coming in. So we have a very strong policy."

"The one thing that really has changed over the last couple of years since I've been President — our country is doing so well, even with real interest — not with false interest rates. Zero interest. Nobody can do well with zero interest. We're the hottest country in the world, economically, by far. You take a look at us compared to China, compared to everybody else, we're the hottest country in the world. A lot of people are trying to come in. Our border security, our ICE, our law enforcement is doing an incredible job," he said.

Ready to share debt details of CPEC with IMF: Pak

Islamabad: Pakistan is ready to share details of the debt related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the IMF, Finance Minister Asad Umar has said while rejecting the US view that China-funded projects were to blame for the cash-strapped country's current economic woes.

Speaking to the media here on his return from Indonesia where he requested International Monetary Fund's Managing Director Christine Lagarde for a bailout package for Pakistan, Umar said the decision to approach the global lender was taken after consultations with friendly countries.

The IMF team, Umar said, was scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on November 7 to

negotiate the programme, likely to span over a three-year period. He said Pakistan's current year debt repayments were about \$9 billion but obviously it would not entirely be available from the IMF.

Lagarde has made it clear that the IMF would require absolute transparency on Pakistan's debts, including those owned by China under the \$50 billion CPEC.

Umar, however, rejected the US State Department's statement, suggesting that the debt accrued on the CPEC projects was to blame for Pakistan's current economic crisis. The CPEC is a network of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan that will



connect China's Xinjiang province with Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan province. It is the part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road initiative.

The US said the huge Chinese debt was responsible for the economic challenges in Pakistan, adding it will review Islamabad's bailout plea to the IMF from all angles, including the country's debt position.

"We understand that Pakistan has formally requested assistance from the IMF. In

all cases, we examine that closely from all angles of it, including Pakistan's debt position, in evaluating any type of loan programme," State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert had said, adding this is something the US has been tracking fairly closely. Responding to a question, Nauert said; "The secretary (of state Mike Pompeo) had spoken about this a few months back, I know, in some interviews not that long ago. I think part of the reason that Pakistan found itself in this situation is Chinese debt, and the fact that there is debt that governments have incurred that they maybe thought wouldn't be so tough to bail themselves out of, but has become increasingly tough." **PTI**

Pak auto rickshaw driver summoned after Rs 300 crore found in his account

Karachi: An auto rickshaw driver got the scare of his life when he received a call from Pakistan's top investigation agency which sought an explanation from him about a whopping Rs 300 crore worth of transactions made to his account. The driver, identified as Muhammad Rasheed, who lives in Karachi came to know about the huge transactions in his account when the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) summoned him for an explanation.

"I got a call from the FIA office and they told me to show up for questioning. I was so scared as I didn't know what had happened," Rasheed said. "When I went to the FIA office they showed me the record of my bank account," he said.

"The FIA officials told me that transactions of some 300 crore rupees were made through my salary bank account which I had opened back in 2005 when I was working for a private company as a driver," Rasheed said. Rasheed said he had quit job just after a month to start his own work. "Three hundred crore rupees is a dream. I have never even seen Rs 1 lakh in my life," he lamented. **PTI**



A view of the sail boats taking part in the 50th edition of the traditional Barcolana regatta in the gulf of Trieste, north-eastern Italy on Sunday. The Barcolana is an annual sailing race in the Gulf of Trieste with hundreds of participants which is described by the organisers as "everybody's regatta" **AP**

Mattis 'could be' leaving as US Defence chief: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump said in an interview airing on Sunday that Defence Secretary Jim Mattis "could be" leaving, referring to him as "sort of a Democrat."

Mattis, seen as one of the steadiest but also more independent members of Trump's cabinet, has served as a low-profile counterweight to the president in his often abrasive treatment of US allies.

In an interview, Trump was asked whether he wanted Mattis to leave. "It could be that he is. I think he's sort of a Democrat, if you want to know the truth," Trump said, according to an excerpt released by CBS. "But General Mattis is a good guy. We get along very well. He may leave. I mean, at some point, everybody leaves." Trump said he had lunch

with Mattis two days earlier and Mattis, a retired Marine four-star general, had not told him that he was leaving.

The exchange on Mattis came after Trump alluded to upcoming changes in his cabinet, which last week saw the surprise resignation of Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the United Nations.

"I'm changing things around. And I'm entitled to. I have people now on standby that will be phenomenal. They'll come into the administration, they'll be phenomenal," Trump said.

"I think we have a great cabinet. There're some people that I'm not happy with. I have some people that I'm not thrilled with. And I have other people that I'm beyond thrilled with," he said. **AFP**

4 men killed in shooting at child's birthday party in Texas

Taft (US): Investigators say a party in South Texas to mark a toddler's first birthday erupted in gunfire, leaving four men dead and a fifth man wounded. The Texas Department of Public Safety says the shooting happened shortly after 5 pm in Taft, 19 kms north of Corpus Christi. Sgt Nathan Brandley says an altercation erupted between two families attending party and escalated into deadly shooting.

Brandley said the wounded man was airlifted to a Corpus Christi hospital. His condition wasn't clear. Brandley said two suspects are on the loose. No identities or other details have been released. **AP**

US is loser by abandoning Iran N deal: Rouhani

Tehran: Iran's President boasted Sunday the US has lost against the Islamic republic's "righteousness and wisdom" by walking out of the landmark nuclear deal. "Everyone knows that America has lost legally and politically by giving up on its international obligations and that we have achieved victory,"

said President Hassan Rouhani in a speech at the University of Tehran to mark the beginning of the school year.

"There are but a few countries in the world that would call the US withdrawal from the JCPOA a good move," he added. "Those that are cautious express disappointment, those

that are more frank say it was a mistake, and the outspoken say it was illegal." Washington pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers in May and is reimposing punishing sanctions on the country, hoping to pressure Tehran into what Trump calls a "better deal". **AFP**

As sea ice melts, some say walrus need better protection

AP ■ ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Given a choice between giving birth on land or sea ice, Pacific walrus mothers most often choose ice.

Likewise, they prefer sea ice for molting, mating, nursing and resting between dives for food. Trouble is, as the century progresses, there's going to

be far less ice around. How well walrus cope with less sea ice is at the heart of a legal fight over whether walrus should be listed as a threatened species, giving them an added protection against human encroachments.

The federal government in 2008 listed polar bears as a threatened species because of

diminished sea ice brought on by climate warming. That year the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to do the same for walrus.

However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in October 2017 that walrus are adapting and no one has proven that they "need" sea ice.

"It is unknown whether Pacific walrus can give birth, conduct their nursing during immediate post-natal care period, or complete courtship on land," said Justice Department lawyers in defending the decision.

A federal judge in Alaska will hear the center's lawsuit challenging the government's decision not to list the walrus as threatened. There is no court date set for the lawsuit. Pacific walrus males grow

to 12 feet (3.7 meters) long and up to 4,000 pounds (1,815 kilograms) — more than an average midsize sedan. Females reach half that weight. Walrus dive and use sensitive whiskers to find clams and snails in dim light on the sea floor.

Historically hunted for ivory tusks, meat and blubber, walrus since 1972 have been shielded by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Only Alaska Native subsistence hunters may legally kill them.

An Endangered Species Act listing would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for walrus and plan for their recovery. Federal agencies, before issuing permits for development such as offshore drilling, would be required to ensure walrus and their habi-

tat would not be jeopardized.

Inaccessibility protected walrus for decades, but a rapid decline in summer sea ice has made them vulnerable.

In the Chukchi Sea between Alaska and Russia, where Pacific walrus females and juveniles spend their summer, ice could be absent during that season by 2060 or sooner, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Since 1981, an area more than double the size of Texas — 610,000 square miles (1.58 million square kilometers) — has become unavailable to Arctic marine mammals by summer's end, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

By late August, as sea ice recedes beyond the shallow continental shelf, female walrus and their calves face a



choice: Stay on ice over water too deep to reach the ocean floor for feeding — or come ashore for rest periods, where the smallest animals can be crushed in stampedes triggered by a hunter, airplane or bear.

More open water already has meant more ship traffic. Walrus also could find more humans in their habitat with a reversal of U.S. policy on Arctic

offshore drilling. Former President Barack Obama permanently withdrew most Arctic waters from lease sales, but President Donald Trump in April 2017 announced he was reversing Obama, a decision being challenged in court. The administration's proposed five-year offshore leasing plan includes sales in the Chukchi Sea.



GLOBE TROTTER

ALL ISRAELI AIRLINES TO STOP FLYING FROM 2019

Jerusalem: Israel's leading airline El Al warns that all Israeli airlines will stop flying from January 1, 2019 because of security concerns abroad, a newspaper reported on Sunday. The surprising announcement was made by Eli Dapas, El Al chairman, in his urgent letter to the deputy head of Israel's National Security Council and the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, the Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported.

HUNTER KILLS BRITISH CYCLIST IN FRENCH ALPS

Paris: A prosecutor says a hunter shot and killed a 34-year-old cyclist in the French Alps in what appears to be an accident. Thonon-Les-Bains prosecutor Philippe Toccanier said the 22-year-old hunter was hospitalised for shock after the Saturday evening shooting and couldn't be taken into custody while he is investigated on suspicion of aggravated manslaughter.

CHINA'S 1ST SATELLITE FOR WAVE DETECTION

Beijing: China plans to launch its first satellite to test the technologies of the space-based gravitational wave detection programme "Tianqin" by the end of 2019. The programme Tianqin, meaning "harp in sky," was initiated by Sun Yat-sen University in south China's Guangdong province in 2015.

CYCLONE LESLIE SLAMS INTO PORTUGAL, 27 HURT

Lisbon: A weakened hurricane Leslie slammed into the coast of Portugal, leaving 27 people injured as it uprooted trees, brought down power lines and smashed store windows with gusting winds and heavy rain.

19 KILLED IN MIGRANT VEHICLE CRASH IN TURKEY

Istanbul: Nineteen people, including children, died on Sunday when a vehicle carrying migrants reportedly heading for EU member Greece plunged off the highway into a waterway in western Turkey.

TALIBAN ATTACK AF ARMY BASE, 17 SOLDIERS KILLED

Kabul: Afghan officials say the Taliban have attacked an Army base, killing 17 Afghan soldiers and abducting 11 others.

Engagement with data, information and policy can aid in preventing forest fires, says TEAM VIVA



Technology can save India's forests

At a time when India has managed to increase its forest cover to over 20 per cent of its geographical area, forest health continues to show signs of strain. Regeneration is either inadequate or absent in about 45 per cent of all forest area and about 95 per cent of all forest plots inventoried show some signs of degradation, according to the report, "Strengthening Forest Fire Management in India", jointly prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the World Bank. The report discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management (FFPM) at the national, state and local levels. It provides recommendations on five broad themes – policy, institutions and capacity, community engagement, technology, and data and information and looks at national and international best practices in FFPM.

According to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the annual carbon emissions from forest fires globally range between 2.5 billion to 4.0 billion tons of CO₂, adding large volumes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

The report was released by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. "Forest fire management is part of our long-term vision for sustainable forest management. It is also crucial for sustaining progress towards our global pledge of creating additional sinks of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tons worth of CO₂ stored in its forests by 2030,"

he said. "The new study will provide critical inputs for the preparation of Government of India's National Action Plan on Forest Fire Prevention and Management," he added. Just 20 districts (mostly located in the Northeast) accounts for over 40 per cent of all forest fires detected between 2003 and 2016. Similarly, the top-20 districts (mainly in Central India) account for about 48 per cent of the total fire-affected area, while having just 12 per cent of the country's forest cover in the year 2000 and 7 per cent of its land area.

"Forest fires are a challenge across many countries. They lead to the loss of lives and livelihoods for people directly dependent on forest produce. This report discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management and underscores the need for better fire prevention practices and a well-equipped and trained workforce to fight fires," said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country Director in India. "We are delighted to have this opportunity to work with the MoEFCC on this important agenda, and to contribute towards informing its National Action Plan on Forest Fire



Prevention and Management in India."

GOOD MANAGEMENT IS BUILT ON GOOD KNOWLEDGE

Today many states in India are trying out innovative solutions for fire prevention and management. Madhya Pradesh was the first state to develop an SMS-based system to alert field staff about active forest fires in their area. Odisha has pioneered the use of fire suppression equipment and states like Mizoram, Tripura and MP have effectively involved the community in preventing forest fires. States can learn from each other's experiences to make these systems more effective. "We recommend that a formal mechanism for knowledge sharing between states should be established so that states

can learn from each other," note Urvashi Narain, lead economist, and Pyushi Dogra, senior environmental specialist, World Bank, and lead authors of the report.

INVESTING TO MAKE SERVICE DELIVERY MORE EFFECTIVE

While India has made great strides in the use of technology for detecting forest fires, there is still a need to strengthen fire prevention practices and to build a well-equipped and trained workforce to fight fires. Investments in modern technologies for fire detection, investing in adequate fire suppression and safety equipment, while at the same time working to build capacity across the rank of forest officers and improving accountability will help the forest department deliver on this mandate, the report says. Rather than prescribing specific fire-suppression tools to be used in all states, states be encouraged to experiment, and best practices be scaled up, where appropriate. There is also an urgent need to fill vacancies for field staff, particularly in fire-prone areas, and to make adequate and reliable funding available, the

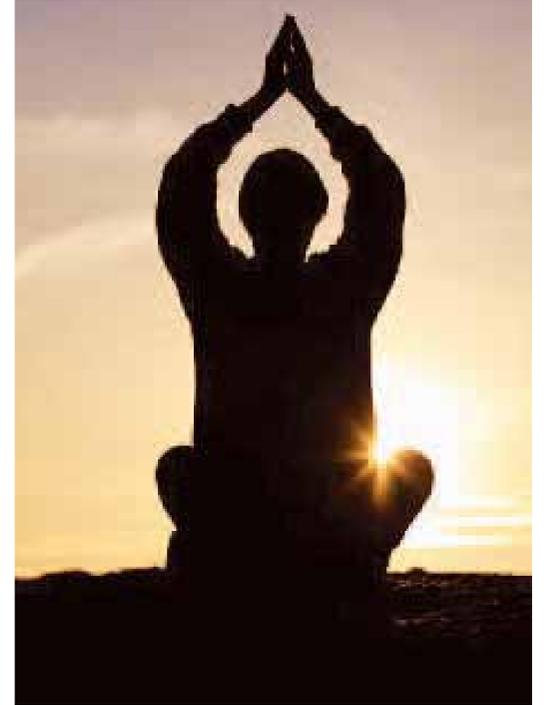
report adds.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITIES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Recognizing the fact that people will continue to use forest fire, and that some fire is desirable, engaging with the communities that depend on forests and involving them in the decision-making process is therefore vital, as is improving coordination with the other agencies that are involved in managing forests and responding to forest fires, such as disaster management agencies, the report says. It also suggests that the National FFPM Action Plan should delineate the roles and responsibilities of the MoEFCC, state forest departments, communities, and disaster agencies.

IMPROVING DATA AND RESEARCH

Lastly, there is a need to support forest fire management through improved data, and research to fill critical knowledge gaps. A national forest fire information database, bringing together satellite-based remote sensing data, and field-reported data, will be instrumental for assessing longer-term trends across states and regions and for planning fire prevention and response. Also, defining a national research agenda for fire management and provision of funding opportunities for scientific research would help to establish formal cooperation between members of the research community and the forest department.



BE A KARMA YOGI

Fight the urges of vices with a spiritual war within. By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Bhagavad Gita — the song of spirit or the divine song is one of the greatest contributions India has made to the world, and is ranked as one of the greatest repository of wisdom since ages. For centuries people have been daily reading and teaching the message of the Gita with great devotion and it has been the guiding post for many seekers of truth who wish to know in detail about the existence of soul, god and karma. There have been numerous interpretations, commentaries and expositions on the verses of the Gita. Still most people see it in a literal sense, because they believe that the conquest of evil was achieved by a bloody war between two armies and the good men won because they were fighting for dharma or righteousness and because God was supporting them. However, there are clear references in the Gita towards another kind of war. There are numerous verses pertaining to the subtle war against vices such as lust, anger, greed, attachment etc.

In the Gita, God tells Arjuna that by means of this war gates of heaven will open and that if anyone dies fighting this war he will go to the heaven. It is further clarified in the Gita as to who is entitled to go to heaven. When the righteousness in man gets to the highest limits of perfection, it is only then that man attains the highest and purest heaven. Hence, the war is symbolic of the spiritual endeavour to conquer all vices and make oneself pure. It is further said that in this war within the human mind, one must conquer lust and anger. Violence is born from anger so how can God promote violence on one hand and exhort us to conquer anger? Even the word warrior refers to a person who battles the vices or Maya with the weapons of spiritual knowledge and yoga. A yogi is the one who stabilises his mind on God and conquers all forms of Maya or vices. Such a person is brave, courageous and a powerful soul.

His power comes not from any martial skills of warfare but spiritual knowledge and true love for God. So then why does the Gita put so much emphasis on violence and war? The word war implies strong action and decisiveness. Human souls are sleeping in a deep slumber of spiritual ignorance and even though they are living in subjugation of vices, they continue to be indolent and carry on their passive existence. Thus, when we realise that we are in a battlefield and are at war, we cannot be apathetic and careless in our thoughts, decisions and actions and we cannot go on ignorantly indulging in vices, because in a battlefield one has to be constantly attentive, alert and active. A warrior has to be skillful, agile and intelligent. He cannot afford to make mistakes or be sluggish. In a war there are only two responses — fight or flight. Hence, the realisation that vices are the soul's enemies and have to be conquered will bring out the qualities of courage and will give power to fight this war within our mind. However, there are many who choose to take flight or to escape from vices by renouncing active life and worldly duties. They believe that is the only way to free the soul from the vicious grip of lust, greed and attachment. But the Gita espouses the path of *karmayoga* — which entails living in the world and yet transcending its vices. Hence, by practising true spiritual knowledge, being in yoga with the Supreme and by imbibing divine virtues, a *karmayogi* is able to manifest the highest level of perfection and gain victory over all vices. Moreover, such a spiritual endeavour happens on a war-footing at a time when the forces of evil and chaos are at their peak in the world i.e. at the end of *Kaliyuga*. Hence the war against vices is described as the great war of Mahabharata. It is at this time that Supreme being Himself is awakening humans from their deep ignorance and empowering them through knowledge and yoga to gain victory over vicious tendencies. In this way He is preparing humans to open the gates of heaven.

(The writer is a spiritual educator.)



India needs world class higher education system

The growth in the sector has been phenomenal but the focus has been on quantity over quality

India has the third-largest higher educational system in the world. In 2016, there were 799 universities and 39,071 colleges spread across the country. The growth of higher education in India over a little more than half a century has been even more staggering. Between 1950 and 2014, the number of universities in India increased by 34 times. This quantitative explosion in higher education institutions has not been matched by the quality of the education they provide. To become such a leader, India needs to develop a world class higher education system.

Two years ago, the Narendra Modi administration attempted to put some focus on quality in higher education with its introduction of draft regulations for a new initiative called the UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016. By 2018, when the first six institutions were named under this initiative, they were designated as Institutions of Eminence as opposed to world class institutions. This is to elevate the status of these institutions. But enhancing the capacity of a few institutions, thus possibly enabling them to be rated a little higher in the world rankings of higher education institutions, does nothing for the many.

That's not to say that India does not need world class institutions of higher education. India needs a world class higher education system. It is one where the student is the focus rather than the institution. It comprises



certified and caring institutions that have the resources required and the core mission of ensuring that students/customers acquire the knowledge/skills/abilities and dispositions that they need to achieve their individual goals and to maximise their contribution to society. The current system has been almost exactly the opposite of that. The emphasis has been on a few institutions and individuals rather than embracing and addressing the needs of the whole.

There are many steps that must be taken to change this. They include:

- Increase public financing: The feder-

al and state governments currently provide limited funding for higher education. As a result, over 70 per cent of the higher education institutions are operated by the private sector. These institutions are not well regulated and are of highly variable quality. Public sector financing could be used to support existing public institutions and to establish new ones in regions in which there are limited higher educational opportunities.

- Enhance the infrastructure: Colleges and universities throughout India have inadequate physical settings, lack equipment, and suffer from a shortage of competent

teachers. Ensuring that each higher educational institution is infrastructurally sound, establishes the proper environment for learning and growth.

- Expand access to and participation in higher education: The enrollment in higher education is approximately 15 per cent of the eligible population. This needs to be much higher to be considered and to become a developed or developing country. It also needs to be representative of the entire population.

- Enforce standards and requirements appropriately: The announced replacement of the UGC with the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) created considerable debate. The essential question regardless of whether there is an UGC or HECI, is the proper data being collected and used to monitor performance and ensure accountability for each institution in the higher education system?

- Place an emphasis on vocational education: The higher education system must meet the needs of potential employers and prospective employees. Currently, there is a mismatch.

There are many other steps that must be taken, such as addressing politicians controlling many educational institutions but there must be only one mindset. That mindset must be that the country's higher education system must be restructured, redesigned, and renewed to benefit all Indians.

-IANS

“It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.” —Aristotle

MOTHER'S PUBERTY LINKED TO SON'S

The age at which a young woman experiences her first menstruation is associated with the age at which her son experiences puberty, according to a latest research. While it has been known for some time that mothers' age at puberty is associated with their daughters', much less was known about the link with their sons' age at puberty.



The findings, published in the journal *Human Reproduction*, suggested that mothers who reported having their first menstrual bleed earlier than their peers had sons with signs of puberty starting earlier than their peers. "The relationship in sons has only been sparsely investigated," said Nis Brix, a researcher.

ABNORMAL VISION IMPAIRS BRAIN FUNCTION

Children with abnormal vision are likely to have impairment in functions of brain areas responsible for things such as attention, a new study has found.

The researchers uncovered differences in how the brain processes visual information in patients with various types of lazy eye.

Lazy eye, known as amblyopia, is a loss of vision that originates in the brain, typically when a child develops an eye turn. The unequal input causes the brain to ignore information from the weaker eye during brain development.

The findings demonstrated that the brain can divert attention away from a lazy eye when both eyes are open.



IMMUNE SYSTEM LINKED TO PREMATURE BIRTH

Researchers have found that the immune system may play a role in preventing premature labour and birth. It was previously known that cytokines are found in the amniotic fluid of many women who gave birth prematurely.

Although the immune system ought to attack the foetus, a foreign body in the mother's womb, something blocks that from happening during pregnancy. It means that the protection is stopped for some women, causing premature labour, the researchers said. "There's a lot of anti-inflammatory mechanisms that prevent the foetus from being rejected. So we thought maybe dangerous inflammation, that can break down the tolerance barrier, could mediate the start-up of birth even — or especially — premature birth," said Anthony Vella, an immunologist at the University of Connecticut.



LAB-GROWN EYES DECODE HUMAN VISION

US biologists have grown human retina tissue in the laboratory to determine how cells that allow people to see in colour are made, an advance that can lead to the development of therapies for diseases such as colour blindness and macular degeneration.

The study explored how a cell's fate is determined or what happens in the womb to turn a developing cell into a specific type of cell, an aspect of human biology that is largely unknown.

The team from the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, US, focused on the cells that allow people to see blue, red and green — the three cone photoreceptors in the human eye.

"Trichromatic colour vision delineates us from most other mammals," said lead author Kiara Eldred, a graduate student at the varsity.



C-SECTION BIRTHS DOUBLED GLOBALLY

The number of babies born through caesarean section nearly doubled from 12 per cent to 21 per cent of all births between 2000 and 2015, worldwide, according to research published in *The Lancet*, that shed light on a huge gap in childbirth care between rich and poor mothers.

While C-section is a life-saving intervention for women and newborns, it is not without risk for mother and child, and is also associated with complications in future births. It is estimated that 10-15 per cent of births medically require surgery due to complications such as bleeding, foetal distress, hypertensive disease. However, the researchers estimate that more than one in four countries in 2015 had lower levels (28 per cent), while most countries used C-section above the recommended level (63 per cent).



Trend Slazer

Sonakshi recalls her time in Bhuj

Actress SONAKSHI SINHA said that certain experiences become a part of who you are while calling the time that she spent with soldiers in Bhuj an "unforgettable" one. "Thanks for this amazing opportunity. Sports girl for life, volleyball, Jai Jawaan, Bhuj, Punjab Regiment, Army camp," tweeted Sonakshi, who was at the camp to shoot for a news channel. "Will never forget the time I spent with our amazing soldiers, tried some of the things they do, made them smile and left with an unforgettable experience," she added. She will soon be seen in *Kalank*, which is conceptualised by Karan Johar.



'I have a lot of friends. I do not believe in having 'best friends' because I am a social person. I get along well with a lot of people and establish a good relationship with each of them. I met Erica (Fernandes) for the first time on set. We hit it off right away.'
—Parth Samthaan



Actors ABHAY DEOL and PANKAJ KAPUR's films are among the 11 projects chosen for the first edition of the South Asian Film Market (SAFM). It includes a selection of 11 filmmakers and their projects giving them an opportunity to showcase them for a jury, which includes producers like Marc Baschet, Shailesh R. Singh and Saurabh Gupta. Through this initiative, SAFM intends to introduce promising new filmmakers to the world of independent cinema. The 11 projects chosen for the first edition of SAFM are *Aadi*, *Barasinghey*, *JL50*, *18 Not Out*, *So Sicily*, *Khwaish*, *Samir*, *Maadathy*, *Country Of Blind*, *Charulata* and *Hum Bhi Akele Tum Bhi Akele*.



BEYOND 377

While the Supreme Court has decriminalised homosexuality, the road ahead is long for the LGBTQ+ community to get their fair share of rights, says AYUSHI SHARMA



Rights, for centuries has been nothing more than an empty word for the LGBTQ+ community. They have been denied basic rights like Right to Dignity, Personal Liberty, Health, Education, and even the Freedom of Expression. The Keshav Suri Foundation which aims to work towards the upliftment of the marginalised LGBTQ+ community, is a step in that direction.

While the Supreme Court's historic verdict might have decriminalised homosexuality and paved the way for same-sex couples to legally cohabit and conduct their personal affairs without fear of persecution but it did not automatically translate into a seamless transition to equality for the lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer (LGBTQ) community. For while it has opened the doors for several changes to be introduced to marriage, medical, adoption and inheritance laws for same-sex couples but legal experts say that even though the judgement was historic, same-sex couples still have an uphill task ahead of them. The verdict is indicative of consequential revolutionary changes, but these don't follow automatically. The government now needs to act on this and frame laws to allow same-sex marriages or adoption by LGBTQ couples.

Advocate Neeha Nagpal, who is a practicing lawyer at the Supreme Court for over 10 years, says, "Although the onus is on the government to formulate legislation permitting LGBTQ couples to marry, adopt and inherit their spouse's property, this verdict lays down the legal basis for the formulation of such legislation. At the same time, individuals who face discrimination because of their sexual orientation can now count on the Judiciary." The fact that we can be proud of the country today, is because of the Supreme Court's verdict

which has finally put an end to all the worthless conversations. Now is the time to have a conversation about how to move forward, become more inclusive and equal because one thing is to change the law and the other is to change what's in people's mind.

Advocate Saurabh Kripal says, "Once this judgement stands the test of time and people accept the homosexual relationships, I think it'll become a new normal and once it becomes normal then we can ask for something a bit more abnormal which will then again become a normal. Don't push the pace of change because everyone knows slow and steady always wins the race. I think there's an inherent human desire to push as much as they possibly can but remember we must distinguish between the political space and the judicial space. We need to give time in order to get what we desire."

"I strongly feel employment and medical are the major issue which we have to fight for. If your partner falls ill and you aren't married you might not be able to take a combined medical policy. For this you need to have a positive action which will happen but will take time. Nevertheless you need extra rights to bring everyone up, equal and in power. The only solution is to go back to court, and I think the court is ready to face it. The court has laid down the judgement which is a very broad in framework. Now it will think beyond 377," adds he.

Keshav Suri, executive director of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, who launched the foundation is excited about the endeavour and he says, "We are glad that Section 377 has been read down. However, we have merely scratched the surface. Building on the success of the It Gets Better campaign, the Keshav Suri Foundation will illustrate how it can get improve in the Indian context. The founda-



tion aims to provide employable skills to the community and sensitise organisations on incorporating more diverse and inclusive practices. The idea at the foundation is to give individual attention to all members. Each story is different and every person has baggage. Counsellors will evaluate each individual, basis of their story. They will then be helped to achieve a skill set best suited to their personality in order to earn a livelihood and lead a life of dignity. Role models from the LGBTQ+ community will also interact with members. This is being planned to help lift the self-esteem and morale of all. These efforts are all centred around one goal — usher the community into mainstream society by putting an end of discrimination."

The motto of the foundation is to embrace, empower, and mainstream the community. It is building a discrimination free platform, enabling community members to share their stories and stigmas - physical, emotional or mental.

Alex Mathew, better known as Maya the drag queen who outed himself as a gay man in October 2014 says, "Things got better after I met Keshav Suri, who has changed my life completely. Because of him, I'm now currently working as a PR and marketing executive at The Lalit

Ashok Bangalore.

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, a transgender rights activist, faced many difficulties and challenges in life. But things improved for her when she had the guts to say 'NO' to the abusive behaviour of people towards her and when she found her husband in Anjali Gopalan. Laxmi says, "Anjali has taught me to speak my mind. I was like an animal in a cage where trans community member said, 'Oh she's divine' but normal people treated me like a piece of waste. The day I got to know the reason of their hatred towards me, people loved me so much that they hated me. It got better when I was exposed to this different world (LGBTQ community). When there were was a controversy about me being a bad woman, I said good girls go to heaven whereas bad girls go everywhere. I have the power to go everywhere."

Satyashri Sharmila who hails from Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu is India's first transgender woman to enroll as a lawyer in the TN bar council. She says that, "Change is the only constant and it begins from home. The family must start accepting their child for who they are. When you have support from your parents and your family you can fight all the battles. I'm so glad that Keshav has his mother by his side all the time supporting him and he's so blessed to have a mother like her. If I had someone like her, trust me, my journey would have been so much easier. Family is the first frontier."

In response, Jyotsna Suri, chairperson and managing director of Bharat Hotels Limited and mother of Keshav says, "Its the primary point. Unless parents don't support their children, we are not going to make a change. It's not the politicians, not even the judiciary, it is we the people of India who have to make that difference. Judiciary has done its part by decriminalising. We have to begin from home."



From Russia with love

Bollywood, Russian films and books are an important cultural connect between the two countries. A festival aims at revitalising the existing relations to strengthen them, says CHAHAK MITTAL

The fan following of veteran legends like Raj Kapoor, Nargis Hema Malini and Mithun among the Russian public was as massive as India, if not more. On the other hand, through books and Russian classical films, there's a lot that even India has learnt and admired about the Russian film industry. The ties between the then USSR and India have been linked closely to the cultural exchange between the two nations for years.

Exchanges like these continue to merge various cultural habits of both the countries even today. Initiatives like Russian Film Days, by the Russian Federation bring a range of Russian classics and contemporary films to revitalise the relations and strengthen linkages between the two nations.

As the fourth edition of the film festival begin in three major cities — Delhi, Mumbai and Pune — Russian actresses and Russian Ambassador to India inaugurated the three-day festival on Friday at the Russian Federation Centre. He said, "Generations of Russians have experienced emotions through Raj Kapoor's films." The first day saw the world premiere of the Russian film *The Last Trial*, starring Anna Churina, Alisa Grebenshchikova, among others, who were also present at the inauguration. Among the others at the event were Galina Lemesheva, general producer of Russian Film Days in India, TV presenter, editor-in-chief of *The Hollywood Reporter*, Russian edition, actress Valentina Mazunina, Artem Tkachenko, and Vladimir Poluektov, press secretary.

Lemesheva highlighted the importance of the festival, saying that it is important for a better understanding between two nations and their cultures. She said, "People's knowledge of the Russian culture might only be based on books and old classical films. But what is currently happening in Russia can only be found in contemporary movies."

As the festival showcases around seven Russian films, the question arises that on

what criteria are these chosen? There are three broad ideas. "The film *The Last Trial* is one of the highest grosser at the box office and that's why it was chosen. The second basis is new idea and experimental. *Gogol*, the film was originally shot as a serial but the producers decided to first make it as a film and then bring it as a TV series. The third is the variation, where we want to bring a variety of movies and hence, we bring different genres like animation, comedy, war, blockbusters." She said that they are trying to bring out the newest and the best movies, for example, the film *The Last Warrior*.

While the current Indian film industry has been high on realism and are more inclined towards sports films, or biopics these days, the Russian films veer towards patriotism. "For example, the film, *Spaceworkers*, shows one big country where two heroes work for the nation and a woman who saves all the hostages," she said

She believed that the Russian film industry has evolved to a great extent over the years as compared. "After the fall of the Soviet Union, we have had a huge gap in the progress. In Russia, we mostly shot commercial movies which were not produced with very good quality, but now the landscape has changed. Now, for the past seven-10 years, we have been trying to screen our films at every place in the world because they are worth showing and are of good quality like the Russian classics. Now we are using our knowledge of the past to head towards a better future."

Russians have always admired Indian actors and Anna Churina told us that one of her favourites is actor Shah Rukh Khan.

Representing his film *Gogol*, which was much loved in Russia, Artem Tkachenko said that it was not his first visit to India and that he "loved coming here, its culture and wants to keep coming back to the country."

Highlighting the significance of the film festival, he said that the festival enables them to come to India without having any political tensions where they do not have to answer any serious questions. Here "we just have to answer about the characters we play in our films and about how the character has evolved."

Among the films that will be shown are among a wide range of genres — a sports drama, *Ice*, cosmic drama, *Spacewalkers*, cinema series, *Gogol: The Beginning*, comedy, *Well*, *Hello There Oksana Sokolova*, fairytale, *The Last Warrior* and animation series, *Sheep and Wolves*.
(The festival ends today.)

As the fourth edition of the film festival begin in three major cities — Delhi, Mumbai and Pune — Russian actresses and Russian Ambassador to India inaugurated

Important to handle #MeToo movement responsibly: Kriti

Kriti Sanon on Sunday praised women for sharing their stories of sexual harassment in the wake of the #MeToo movement and said the fear which is being instilled in the offenders, courtesy the campaign, is a welcome change. The actor said she hopes the movement is here to stay "but we need to make sure this does not get diluted."

"It takes a lot of courage for a girl to come out in the open and talk about her #MeToo story and hats off to the ones who have spoken up. Thanks to you girls and the movement that now people will fear being caught if they wrong anyone. This fear was much needed and is hopefully here to stay," she posted on Twitter. Kriti, however, questioned the anonymity of some of the alleged victims, saying just one fake account can malign someone's name and career.

"What happens when a #MeToo story of an anonymous girl comes out against someone? Do we simply believe it without knowing who the girl is or if she even exists? How does one inspect such an incident in order to come to any conclusion? Is it fair to consider the accuse



'guilty' when the #MeToo story does not come with the victim's name? Should the media carry such stories? It takes just one story to spoil someone's name and career. It is important that we handle the movement responsibly and find a lawful way. Ultimately there has to be a legal repercussion of #MeToo for it to be enduringly effective," she said.

The actor urged both women and men to reveal their identity or follow the legal route while sharing their stories. "I urge all the women/men who want to share their #MeToo stories to either come out in the open with their names and faces or file an FIR or a legal case (while asking for your identity to not be given to media or public) so that the case can be at least inspected and the #MeToo movement does not get misused or diluted," she said.

Kriti's statement comes days after director of her upcoming film "Housefull 4" Sajid Khan, stepped down from his duties after he was accused of sexually harassing three female actors and a journalist. Filmmaker Farhad Samji has taken over the project as the director.

Streets of nostalgia

Designer RAHUL MISHRA talks about how walking down the lanes of memory brought him closer to the idea of his new collection. By C MITTAL

How do you preserve the memory of home? By reconstructing the sights of childhood in varying gradients, like a child would sort out a messed up up jig-saw puzzle, or probably by recalling your old toys and clothes that you've outgrown physically but still adore.

Internationally-acclaimed designer Rahul Mishra's collection on the third day of the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week looked back in time.

"My true motivation was my home and childhood which in turn was inspired by my three-year-old daughter," said Mishra. Opening the floodgates of memory, his collection, titled, *Gossamer*, brought back the "1980s in colour" and was aimed at "exploring an intimate relationship with the things of my



childhood — the chequered white and blue *lungis* that the weavers wore, my grandmother's Maheshwari sarees, the pillow covers, the white curtains and the table cloth with Daraz work, a craft that is dying now." There were long shrugs and jackets in Maheshwari silks that had Madras checks pattern, which used to be popular in the 80s and the 90s. The waist and knee-length

blazers with floral and leaf motifs gave the garments a vibe of spring. The jackets, if styled with either a denim or even a skirt, would look equally gracious. There were long skirts and one-strap long dresses with striped patterns. Precisely, Mishra's collection set an example of wearable and very sustainable fashion, that is light-weighted, much-loved and instantly worth falling for.

He points towards one his designs worn by a model with its special element being that "it has only four stitches so as to make the whole garment wrap around the body in such a way that it looks both like a dress as well as a jacket to be worn over a dress." Well, there's yet another element in the garment that will make one applaud the designer's creativity instantly — that it is made from one cloth without any cuts or wastage. The chequered design pattern indeed makes one go back to the weavers who wore such *lungis* with blue checks and white stripes.

"Gossamer is also the very thin thread that spi-



ders produce to make their webs. I have perceived them as the threads of memory through which we weave this collection," said Mishra, about the significance of the title of his collection.

As he talked about the fabrics, he said, "Taking the craft of *Chikankari* and *Daraz*, I wanted to elevate them to luxury fashion. Because memory is a luxury, after all."

He applauded the craftsmanship. "The Maheshwari textiles in the collection with their blue and white checks are an ode to the memory of a village, from where around 75 per cent of the weavers come. The work gives them a chance to improve their lot's condition as well. And, it makes me grow as a designer working with them. The fine cotton was woven in West Bengal. The textile creation very much relates to the collection's theme — memory and relation."

Mishra recently also presented a wide range of collection made of fabrics like *Chanderis*, *Banarasis* and *Maheshwaris* at his debut at the Paris Fashion Week.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

Novak seals Shanghai title

Djokovic defeats Coric in straight sets, reaches second in ATP rankings

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

The "new" Novak Djokovic warned that he was gunning for Rafael Nadal's world number one ranking after winning the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric on Sunday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion has been imperious all week and barely offered a sniff to the 19th-ranked Croatian, a good friend and sometime-training partner.

The end when it inevitably arrived was anti-climactic, with the Serb winning the championship point after a video review.

Djokovic buried his head in his hand at the absurdity of it.

The 31-year-old will leapfrog Roger Federer into second in the world when the rankings are released on Monday but will not stop there as the season reaches its climax.

Spanish great Nadal, who was not in Shanghai or Beijing last week because of a knee injury, will be just 215 points ahead of Djokovic in the race to finish as year-end number one.

"I could not ask for a better scenario," Djokovic, who last sat atop the rankings two years ago, said of his late surge to the summit of men's tennis.

"I am very close now to Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good position for the last period of the year."

Red-hot Djokovic has now been victorious in 18 ATP matches in a row and in recent months won Wimbledon, the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and now Shanghai for a fourth time.

It is all a far cry from just five months ago, when Djokovic fell to 22nd in the world as he struggled following elbow surgery in February.

He missed the second half of 2017 with elbow and off-court issues, but said he had adapted his game since the operation.

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, said: "I think you're seeing the new Novak."

"I don't need to describe him, that's all I can say."



Winner's Novak Djokovic, left, holding the winner's trophy shakes hands with Borna Coric after the award ceremony for the Shanghai Masters AP

"I had to reinvent myself and find, you know, (a) proper formula for success."

"I found it and I'm just trying to hold on to it as long as I can."

Asked by AFP if he had a message for the under-pressure Nadal, the Serb smiled: "I will leave that up to your creative spirit of journalism."

The 32-year-old Nadal could return from his latest injury for the Paris Masters, which starts at the end of this month.

Djokovic said he could play Vienna or Basel, the week before

Paris, in an effort to further rein in his rankings rival.

RUTHLESS DJOKOVIC

The 21-year-old Coric said that he had no complaints about losing to "one of the best in the history of tennis".

In what was the biggest match of his life, he wore heavy strapping on one thigh and has been troubled by a stiff neck that saw him ponder pulling out before the tournament.

But he refused to blame those for defeat to the man he considers something of an idol.

"He was the much better player on the court. I was playing good, really, I was really happy how I played," he said. "I felt even if I was serving a little bit better, he'd still return my serves, so there is nothing I can do."

Coric, the 13th seed, was chasing only the third title of his career and defeated top seed Federer in the semi-finals to underline his rich promise.

He also dispensed of three-time Grand Slam winner and Federer's fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in his opening match.

Paes wins Santo Domingo trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Old warhorse Leander Paes is still going great guns as the veteran tennis star won his second Challenger level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.



The second seeded Indo-Mexican pair, playing its second consecutive final, came from behind to beat Ariel Behar and Roberto Quiroz 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 in the summit clash, which lasted one hour and 26 minutes.

Paes, who is ranked 69, added 110 ranking points to his kitty and shared a prize purse of \$7750 with his partner.

Last week, the 45-year-old Paes and Angel ended runners-up at Montrey Challenger to Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Marcelo Arevalo.

Paes also ended runner-up at Chicago, Dallas on the ATP Challenger circuit and won the Newport Beach event in January.

Apart from these, Paes also reached the final of Winston-Salem Open and Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships on the ATP World Tour, ending runner-up with Jamie Cerretani in both the tournaments.



GARCIA STUNS PLISKOVA, WINS TIANJIN OPEN

AP ■ TIANJIN

Second-seeded Caroline Garcia won her first tournament of the year with a 7-6 (7), 6-3 win over top-seeded Karolina Pliskova in the Tianjin Open on Sunday.

It was the 16th-ranked Garcia's first title since she won back-to-back trophies at the Wuhan and Beijing tournaments in Asia just over a year ago.

The Frenchwoman's two titles at the end of last season earned her a spot into the year-end WTA Finals in Singapore. This year, the victory in Tianjin is not enough to put Garcia into a second consecutive year-end final appearance.

Pliskova's failure to take the title also kept her from confirming a berth in the WTA Finals.

Currently in eighth place in the race to Singapore, the Czech will have to wait out the results from next week's tournaments in Luxembourg and Moscow to see if she qualifies for one of the three remaining spots. Pliskova is scheduled to play in Moscow.

American Sloane Stephens, Ukrainian Elena Svitolina and Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens are the other remaining contenders for Singapore.

Garcia was down 1-5 in the first set tiebreaker before she rebounded. She saved a set point for Pliskova at 5-6 to go on to win the hour-long first set.

In the second set, Garcia raced to a 5-0 lead, and first served for the match at 5-1, but had to wait for her victory to come

three games later. She secured the title with her sixth ace of the match.

DANYA WINS WTA TITLE

HONG KONG: Ukrainian teen Dayana Yastremska won her maiden WTA title by upsetting sixth-seeded Wang Qiang of China 6-2, 6-1 in 65 minutes at the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

The 18-year-old was playing in her first career WTA final in only her 11th career appearance in the WTA tournament main draw.

Yastremska is the sixth teenager to advance to a WTA final in 2018 and the second to win a title. Serbian teen Olga Danilovic won the Moscow River Cup earlier in the year.

Prior to arriving in Hong Kong, Yastremska held a 3-10 record in WTA-level matches this season. Her best previous result was reaching the 2017 Istanbul quarterfinals.

The victory, in which she posted 33 winners to 21 unforced errors, will move the 102nd-ranked Yastremska to a new career high ranking in the top 80 when the next rankings are released on Monday.

Yastremska's win prevented the 24th-ranked Wang from winning her third career title. Earlier this fall she won the Nanchang and Guangzhou trophies.

Wang, who was playing in her fifth consecutive tour semifinal, will move up to a career-high No 23 ranking despite failing to lift the title.

Dutch embarrass Germany 3-0

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk led the Netherlands to a crushing 3-0 win over Germany in the Nations League to ramp up the pressure on German coach Joachim Loew.

A first-half header by Dutch skipper Van Dijk gave the hosts the lead in Amsterdam. With the German defence in disarray, late goals from Memphis Depay and Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum sealed the win on a golden night for the Oranje at Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena on Saturday.

This is the first time the Dutch have beaten Germany for 16 years and the comprehensive defeat leaves Loew under increasing pressure to resign after 12 years in charge.

These are dark days for the Germans, still reeling from their woeful World Cup display when they crashed out early after finishing bottom of their group.

Defeat in Loew's 168th international means Germany are once again last — this time bottom of Group One in the Nations League.

Van Dijk opened the scoring with a well-taken header after Ryan Babel had headed against the crossbar on 30 minutes.

Depay then compounded Germany's misery by stroking home a pass from Quincy Promes three minutes from time after the pair got in behind the defence.

Depay then hit the Germany crossbar moments before Wijnaldum netted Holland's third goal just before the final whistle.

Germany now face world champions France in Paris on Tuesday and Loew can ill



Georginio Wijnaldum, left, celebrates with Memphis Depay after scoring third goal against Germany AP

afford another heavy defeat.

Earlier Saturday, Munich-based newspaper, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, revealed there is a release clause in Loew's contract, which runs until 2022, allowing either party to end the agreement prematurely.

Loew had promised an improved performance from the Germans.

Yet again, his senior players let him down as the Bayern Munich axis of Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Thomas Mueller struggled.

Loew pulled a surprise before kick-off by starting Manchester City starlet Leroy Sane on the bench.

Schalke striker Mark Uth made his debut up front with RB Leipzig winger Timo Werner and Mueller on the flanks.

Loew opted for a 4-3-3 formation, just

like his opposite number Ronald Koeman who started with Besiktas' Babel, Lyon's Depay and Eindhoven striker Steven Bergwijn up front.

Uth and Werner both forced chances early on to keep Jasper Cillessen, Holland's Barcelona goalkeeper, busy.

The Dutch went ahead after 30 minutes when Babel out-jumped Germany midfielder Joshua Kimmich to the ball, headed onto the post and Van Dijk pounced on the rebound.

Germany had their chances as Mueller and then his replacement Sane, who came on for the last half an hour, both fired wide with the goal at their mercy.

Having broken the German defence in the final 10 minutes, Depay hit the net, then the crossbar before Wijnaldum swept in their third goal just before the final whistle.

Messi is not a leader for Argentina: Maradona

AFP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi "is not a leader," said Diego Maradona of the current Argentina talisman in an interview in Mexico.

"It's useless to try and make a leader out of someone who goes to the bathroom 20 times before a game," Maradona said on Fox Sports.

"Before speaking to the coach and players he will be on the PlayStation. Then, on the field, he wants to be the leader," Maradona said as he answered questions in a stumbling voice, sometimes seeming to contradict himself.

"He is the best in the world along with Cristiano (Ronaldo)," Maradona said. "But he's not a leader."

Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the 1986, said Messi, who was again unable to emulate that feat in Russia this summer was expected to be "the saviour of the fatherland."

"Let's stop making a god out of Messi. Messi is Messi for Barcelona, but playing in an Argentina shirt he is another Messi."

Maradona, who is in Mexico coaching second-division Sinaloa, said that if he was Argentina coach he would "not call on Messi" before adding "never say never."

"You have to take the leadership away for him to be the Messi we want him to be," Maradona said.



Lionel Messi disappointed after loss in WCup

Messi, who is 31, has not played for Argentina in three low-key friendlies since a 4-3 loss to eventual champions France in the first knock-out round at the World Cup, but has not officially retired from the national team.



Deschamps backs Henry for success in Monaco

AFP ■ PARIS

Thierry Henry has "everything" needed to become a good manager, France coach and former international teammate Didier Deschamps said of the newly-named Monaco coach.

"Thierry's ready," Deschamps told TF1. "He has everything" to be a good coach.

"He's throwing himself into an exciting, exhilarating project where he'll have to take responsibility. It'll be up to him to take the reins."

Former Arsenal star Henry was named Monaco coach on Saturday, his first job in club management after leaving his position with the Belgian national team.

The 41-year-old French World Cup winner, who had been working as an assistant to Belgium coach Roberto Martinez since 2016, returns to the club where he began his professional career.

Henry, who has signed a contract with Monaco until June 2021, said it was "fate" that he had returned to the Principality.

Henry replaces Leonardo Jardim, who in 2017 guided Monaco to their first Ligue 1 title since 2000. He was sacked on Thursday after a string of poor results left Monaco in the relegation places.

The former striker will be joined by Joao Carlos Valado Tralhao, under-23 coach at Benfica, and Patrick Kwame Ampadu, coach at Arsenal's academy and father of Chelsea player Ethan Ampadu.

Henry graduated from Monaco's youth system and made his debut for the club in 1994.

He notably scored seven goals in the 1997-98 Champions League as the Monaco team of the time, then coached by Arsene Wenger, reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Juventus.

"It is with great pride that I am delighted to announce that I have accepted the position to become the manager of AS Monaco FC," he said on Twitter.

"I'm incredibly excited to be given this opportunity but now the hard work must begin. Can't wait."

Deschamps, who captained the France team featuring Henry that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, also started his coaching career at Monaco, back in 2001.

"The first season was very complicated," he said, wishing Henry "lots of courage and big success".

INDIA ENTER HOCKEY 5s FINAL

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

The Indian men's and women's teams advanced to the final of hockey 5s competition in the Youth Olympics after registering emphatic wins over their respective opponents here.

India defeated hosts Argentina 3-1 in the men's semi-final match on Saturday while the women's team beat China 3-0 in their last-four match.

The Indian men face Malaysia in the summit clash while their women counterparts take on hosts Argentina in the final.

This is the first time India is taking part in a hockey competition in the Youth Olympics.

The country did not feature in the earlier two editions.

Hockey 5s, the five-a-side version, is played on a pitch smaller than the normal 11-player game and it was introduced in



the 2014 Singapore Youth Olympics. In the men's semi-final match, Sudeep Chirmako (12th and 18th minute) and Rahul Kumar Rajbhar (3th) scored for India while captain Facundo Zarate found the target for Argentina.

India took the lead through Rahul Kumar but Argentina were

quick to equalise as they scored through Facundo Zarate in the 4th minute.

In the second period, India maintained pressure and benefited from it as they took the lead in the 12th minute through Sudeep Chirmako who produced a fine finish to swing the match in India's favour.

Indian attackers also created

chances and were successful again in the 18th minute as Sudeep Chirmako scored his second goal of the match to give a two-goal advantage for his side.

In the women's semifinal, India outplayed their Chinese opponents with goals coming from Mumtaz Khan (1st minute), Reet (5th) and Lalremsiami (13th).

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Wrestler Simran wins Silver

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

Indian wrestler Simran settled for a Silver in women's freestyle 43 kg category competition after she lost to Emily Shilson of United States in the final bout here.

Simran, who had won a 40kg class Bronze in the 2017 Cadet World Championships, lost 6-11 as the American registered a 'victory by points' to clinch the Gold on Saturday night.

Simran conceded a 2-9 lead to Shilson in the first period and that virtually sealed her fate.

The Indian produced a better show in the second period by scoring four points as against two by his American opponent but that proved to be too little, too late to have any impact on the result of the bout.

Shilson is the Gold medalist in 43kg in the 2018 Cadet World Championships.

This is India's fifth Silver along with three Gold in the ongoing Youth Olympics. The medals won by shuttler Lakshya Sen (Gold), shooter Manu Bhaker (Silver) and judoka Tababi Devi (Silver) in mixed team events are not counted in the country's total medal tally as they had paired with athletes of other countries.

The other Indian in the wrestling competition, Mansi finished eighth after losing her classification match to Imbabi Ahmed of Egypt who received a 'victory by fall' decision.



Simran poses with Silver medal SA/

DOUBLE DONE & DUSTED

India crush West Indies in three days by 10 wickets to win second Test, wrap series 2-0

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A clinical India completed one of the most ruthless clean sweeps in recent times, demolishing a listless West Indies by 10 wickets in the second Test, inside three days, to clinch the series 2-0 on Sunday.

Umesh Yadav's maiden 10-wicket haul (6/88 and 4/45) on a decent track was the highlight as India reached the meagre victory target of 72 in 16.1 overs, courtesy unbeaten partnership between openers Prithvi Shaw (33) and KL Rahul (33).

While any Test series victory is welcome, it hardly was an ideal preparation for the big away-series against Australia, starting December 4 in Adelaide.

West Indies were back to their worst despite showing signs of fight in the first innings as they couldn't last two full sessions and were bowled out for 127 in only 46.1 in their second innings.

Out of the four innings in this series, West Indies couldn't cross the 200-run mark thrice which was a testimony to their plight during the series.

For India, it was their 10th series win at home since their last defeat against England way back in 2012.

Virat Kohli's side did an encore of 2013 series which India won by an identical margin in that year's most lopsided contest with Sachin Tendulkar's farewell taking limelight.

The second innings started with Yadav on split hat-trick but Kraigg Brathwaite (0) survived one delivery before gliding one into Rishabh Pant's gloves.

Kieran Powell (6) edged one off Ravichandran Ashwin to Ajinkya Rahane in the slips.

Shai Hope (28) hit three delightful boundaries off Umesh while Shimron Hetmeyer (17) was trying to be more assertive against spinners in their 39-run stand.

However, a rush of blood saw Hetmeyer give Kuldeep Yadav the charge only to be caught by Cheteshwar Pujara at point.

From 45 for 3, there was not much resistance as Hope was snapped when he played a Ravindra Jadeja delivery for the turn to give Rahane his second catch.

West Indies' biggest hope Roston Chase (6) got a sharp inswinger while Shane Dowrich (0) played on with Umesh getting his ninth wicket of the match.

The wicket had its share of wear and tear but it wasn't a difficult track where



surviving would be an arduous task. Yet, it was another instance of lack of application from the West Indies batsmen with opener Brathwaite and young Hetmeyer playing atrocious shots.

Jason Holder (19) and Sunil Ambris (38) added 38 runs for the seventh wicket but once Holder edged one to Pant off Jadeja, any chances of match going to fourth day slowly disappeared.

However, West Indies had started off well by dismissing India for 367, keeping the first innings lead down to a mere 56 runs.

In the process, they denied Rishabh Pant (92) and Ajinkya Rahane (80) from reaching their hundreds.

In a space of 16.1 overs, India lost five wickets for 25 runs to move from a comfortable 314 for 4 to 339 for 9 before Ravichandran Ashwin (35, 83 balls) made a useful contribution.

West Indies captain Jason Holder

MOST CONSECUTIVE TESTS VS AN OPPOSITION WITHOUT A LOSS

Matches	Team	Opposition	Time Period
47	England	New Zealand	(1930-75)
30	England	Pakistan	(1961-82)
29	West Indies	England	(1976-88)
24	Australia	South Africa	(1911-52)
24	West Indies	India	(1948-71)
22	Pakistan	India	(1980-99)
22	Australia	New Zealand	(1993-11)
21	India	West Indies	(2002-18)*

Faisal Features

WINNING MOST HOME SERIES IN SUCCESSION

Matches	Team	Time Period
10	Australia	(1994/95-2000/01)
10	Australia	(2004-2008/09)
10	India	(2012/13-present)

Faisal Features

(5/56 in 23 overs) used the second new ball to good effect as he completed his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket. Shannon Gabriel after erratic perfor-

mance on Saturday came back well to take 3/107 in 20.4 overs.

Holder first got one to rear up from back of length to shatter Rahane's dreams of a 10th Test hundred. The Indian vice-captain was caught at gully for 80 off 183 balls to give the opposition captain his third wicket. His innings had seven boundaries.

Rahane-Pant duo added 152 runs for the fifth wicket and once the visitors got the breakthrough, the floodgates open.

Pant (92), who added seven more runs to his overnight score, got a short ball from Shannon Gabriel, which he pushed at only to be caught by Shimron Hetmeyer at cover point.

In two consecutive Tests, Pant has been dismissed for identical scores of 92. This time he played 134 balls hitting 11 boundaries and two sixes.



Umesh Yadav celebrates after dismissing West Indies batsman during the third day of 2nd Test PTI

For the record, during the West Indies second innings, the new SG Test ball had to be changed twice inside 12 overs.

On Saturday, Mohammed Siraj and Hanuma Vihari were released to play Vijay Hazare quarter-finals for their respective teams Hyderabad and Andhra.



Virat Kohli celebrates with Rishabh Pant after scoring hundred PTI

Kohli expects batsmen to replicate form in Australia

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India captain Virat Kohli has no issues with the team's bowlers but wants his batsmen to replicate their home form when they travel to Australia next month.

While the bowlers have done the job for India, both home and away of late, batsmen have let the team down time and again.

After hammering Windies, Kohli said the batsmen must keep delivering to compliment the good work of the bowlers.

"I'm really happy to see these guys fit and hungry. It's up to the batsmen to do the rest of the job. I think this game was tougher for the batsmen. This first innings was more challenging than the last one (in Rajkot)," said Kohli at the post-match presentation.

Compared to Rajkot, the batsmen had it tougher against the West Indies pace attack comprising Jason Holder and Shanon Gabriel. India were put under a little bit of pressure in their first innings before Rishabh Pant and Ajinkya Rahane steadied the ship with a 152-run partnership.

"Jinx has been batting really well, he got runs in Nottingham and we won the Test. He wanted runs under the belt. His partnership with Pant is something we want to see more of," said Kohli.

He was also all praise for Umesh Yadav, who became only the third Indian pacer to take 10 wickets in a Test at home. Ahead of the Australia series, he has given a selection headache to the team.

"If you look at the three new guys (Vihari in England, Shaw and Pant) who've come in, they've grabbed their opportunities. I think all these things are a big positive. But from this Test I want to single out Umesh.

West Indies captain Jason Holder conceded that the embarrassing back-to-back three-day defeats against India is "difficult to digest", considering pitches were batsman-friendly.

"Honestly, it's hard to take it. I am trying to understand the reasons why it is happening. It's a case where we all need to put our heads together — the management, the selectors and the players. The onus must be on the players and we must be responsible for our actions," said Holder.

Asked about the positives, the skipper termed Roston Chase and Sherman Lewis' performance.

"It's a tough series and we didn't play our best cricket. We look back in the last two years and we have some good results. India is No 1 team in the world and we expected to be pushed by them. They're quality cricketers, especially in their own backyard. We all saw some positive performances from Roston Chase. I thought Sherman was awesome."

He admitted that batting has been an issue for them for quite some time now.

"You can look and honestly say we didn't put enough runs on the board. Quite for some time now, we've been relatively inconsistent and that has really let us down in the recent past. We haven't been getting the runs we've been looking for. We have heavily relied on middle and lower half which is not ideal. So we need to rectify at the top. The guys in the top five have to put hands up and come to the party," he said.

SINGLES

INDIA A TO TAKE ON AUSTRALIA A IN WOMEN'S CLASH

MUMBAI: India A will take on their Australian counterparts in the first of three women's limited overs games here at the Mumbai Cricket Association's Bandra-Kurla complex facility on Monday. The latter two matches are also to be played at the same venue on October 17 and 19. The games are expected to test the bench strength of hosts and all eyes will be on skipper Poonam Raut. Poonam, who played a key role in the Indian team reaching the World Cup final last year, will like to lead from the front. Along with her there are likes of Mona Meshram, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Shikha Pandey in the squad. They will all be eyeing to put up an impressive show in front of the selectors and force their way into the senior team. The 50-overs series will be followed by a T20 series and the BCCI will announce the squad for it later. The visitors will be also looking to begin the series on a winning note, but will have a tough task at hand in adapting to the wicket and weather conditions.

SHUBHANKAR FINISHES T-10 IN CMB CLASSIC

PARIS: Overnight joint leader Shubhankar Sharma could not play his best golf on the final day, managing only an even par round to finish Tied-10th at the \$ 7 million CIMB Classic on Sunday. Coming on the heels of a period during which he has had six missed cuts in nine starts, a joint round by round three augured well for the 22-year-old from India. However, it did not turn out to be his day and he was understandably disappointed at not being able to convert his second career 54-hole lead into a maiden PGA Tour title. The genial Australian Marc Leishman, who came close to quitting the game in 2015 when his wife was discovered with a rare life-threatening condition, continued his fine run to win his fourth title on the PGA Tour. Leishman, playing a very high level of golf since his second round 62, carded a 7-under 65, that took his total to 26-under 262, equalling the tournament record set in 2015 by Justin Thomas. Leishman ended five shots ahead of second placed trio — first round leader, Bronson Burgoon (68), Emiliano Grillo (66) and Chesson Hadley (66) — who finished T-2 with 21-under 267.

FINAL SOUTH AFRICA-ZIMBABWE T20 ABANDONED

BENONI: Rain and a wet outfield caused the abandonment of the third and final Twenty20 between South Africa and Zimbabwe on Sunday. South Africa won the series 2-0 after winning an earlier one-day series 3-0. The matches were largely one-sided and South Africa used them to test the depth of their resources, using 22 players across the five matches. South Africa travel to Australia later this month to play three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international, while Zimbabwe depart later this week for Bangladesh where they will play three one-day internationals and two Tests. The first ODI is in Dhaka next Sunday. JP Duminy, who was due to captain South Africa on Sunday, said the objective of giving opportunities to several players had been achieved. "The selectors got a look at quite a few guys," he said. "We will be going into Australia with some confidence, although it is a work in progress."

GAMBHIR TAKES DELHI INTO SEMIS

BENGALURU: Captain Gautam Gambhir smashed 104 off 72 balls after left-arm pacer Kulwant Khejroliya ran through the Haryana batting with a hat-trick to set-up a five-wicket win, sending Delhi into the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Sunday. Batting first, Haryana were all out for 229 with Khejroliya collecting six wickets for 31 runs in 10 overs, his career-best performance in List A cricket. Navdeep Saini, with figures of three for 39, was a good foil for Khejroliya. Birthday boy Gambhir then ensured his team countered with a whirlwind knock comprising 16 fours. In the end, Delhi got home with 64 balls to spare and five wickets in hand. The other major contribution from the bat came from Dhruv Shorey (50 off 85).

'Shaw has bit of Sachin, Sehwag and Lara'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India coach Ravi Shastri saw in Prithvi Shaw's batting, glimpses of two of the greatest batsmen of modern era and a non-conformist who redefined batsmanship.

An overwhelmed Shastri on Sunday, in one breath, mentioned the names of three legends — Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Virender Sehwag — while trying to describe the 18-year-old Shaw who accumulated big runs in his first brush with top-flight international cricket.

"He (Shaw) is born to play cricket. He's been playing since the age of eight in the maidans of Mumbai. You can see all that hard-work showing. He's a spectator's delight. There's a bit of Sachin there, a bit of Lara in him and when he walks - there's a bit of Lara as well," Shastri said.

"If he can keep his head on his shoulders and keep the work ethic, he has a bright future."

Shastri was speaking after India completed a 2-0 series sweep over the West Indies with a 10-wicket victory here.

MAN OF THE SERIES ON DEBUT SERIES

Player	Country	Against	Year
S Ganguly	India	England	1996
J Rudolph	South Africa	Bangladesh	2003
S Clark	Australia	South Africa	2006
A Mendis	Sri Lanka	India	2008
R Ashwin	India	West Indies	2011
V Philander	South Africa	Australia	2011
J Pattinson	Australia	New Zealand	2011
R Sharma	India	West Indies	2013
M Hasan	Bangladesh	England	2016
P Shaw	India	West Indies	2018

Faisal Features

Opener Shaw flayed the Caribbean attack during his 52-ball-70 on the second day of the second Test to give India a flying start, days after hitting a century on debut.

Even skipper Virat Kohli gushed about the 18-year-old.

"The guy (has) grabbed his chance beautifully. He looks like someone who can get you off to a kind of start you require. Making a mark in the



Prithvi Shaw bats during the second day of the second Test AP

first series that you play, from that point of view, it is great to have a guy who is so fearless. And he is not reckless, he is very confident about his game," he said.

"You might feel that he will nick one now and then but he hardly nicks the ball. That we saw in England as well. He was batting in the nets, really attacking but was in control. But that kind of rare control against new ball is a great thing to have. Any of us weren't even 10 percent of what when he is at 18 or 19," added the captain.

LOCAL EVENTS



MAYANK, RISHIKA EMERGE WINNERS

Mayank Pandey and Rishika Bhattacharya emerged winners in the men's and women's category respectively in the 10th Shivani Cup Sunday Open Chess Tournament, organised under the aegis of Lucknow District Chess Sports Association at Shivani Public School on Sunday. Tanishq Gupta finished second while Manav Bhattacharjee settled for third place. Riddham Nigam, Medhansh Saxena and T Krishna Tejas won the under-10, under-14 and under-16 category respectively.

WUSHU

Uttar Pradesh players bagged 10 bronze medals in the 27th Senior National Wushu Championship, which concluded at Assam Rifles in Meghalaya on Sunday.

NATIONAL, JNPG ENTER SEMIS

JNPG College beat Shia PG College by 25 runs to enter the semi-finals of the 20th Chandra Bhanu Gupta Memorial Inter-Collegiate Cricket Tournament at CB Gupta ground on Sunday. In other quarter-final matches, National PG College defeated DAV PG College by 43 runs while while Mumtaz PG College pipped Lucknow University

by four wickets.

BRIEF SCORES:

JNPG: 158 (Vikasdeep Yadav 68, Bhupendra Singh 31, Bhushan Mishra 31; S Murtaza Hasan 20/2, Anubhav Srivastava 28/1)

SHIA: 133 (Raj Yadav 48, Mohd Abid 22, S Murtaza Hasan 21; Jitendra Kumar 23/5, Vikas Pradhan 39/2, Durgesh 8/2)

NATIONAL: 134 (Kanha Srivastava 56, Anurag 24; Ajeet 11/3, Neeraj 15/2)

DAV: 91 (Yogesh 19, Ajeet 17, Aditya 17; Rajeev Rai 4/6)

LU: 85 (Puspendra 25, Tarun 22; Abhishek Sharma 13/2, Zubair Alam 10/2)

Mumtaz: 88 (Amir Khan 25, Ranjnikant 16; Prabal 5/4, Shakti 14/2)

ONLINE TICKETS SALE TO BEGIN TODAY

The online tickets sale for the T20 International between India and West Indies, to be held at Ekana International Stadium, will begin on Monday at 7 pm at Paytm. The offline tickets will go on sale from October 18 from gate No. 2 of the stadium.

Pakistan under pressure to beat Australia: Azhar

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

Senior batsman Azhar Ali admitted Pakistan will be under pressure of expectations in the second Test against Australia starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday.

Pakistan dominated much of the first Test in Dubai but failed to get the last two wickets as Australia finished at 362-8.

Set a daunting 462 runs Australia's fightback was led by opener Usman Khawaja's 141, ably assisted by Travis Head (72) and skipper Tim Paine (61 not out).

"I can't say if the pressure will be more on Pakistan or Australia but we are the home side and obviously people expect us to win and so there is pressure," said Azhar on Sunday.

"However, having said that these are favourable conditions for us and we have to make the most of it."

"Pressure is always different in every match and obviously this is a decider. Being the home team we have to win it and we will enter the field thinking that. We will look to play positive cricket and hopefully the result will go our way."

Pakistan will be forced to make a change after regular opener Inam-ul-Haq fractured his finger in the first Test and was ruled out, opening an option to bring Azhar as opener.

The 33-year-old held the opening

spot since the Oval Test in England in August 2016 and struck a triple century against the West Indies in Dubai and a double hundred against Australia in Melbourne — both in 2016.

He went to his customary number three position for the two Tests against Sri Lanka last year and in last week's first Test against Australia.

Pakistan can also bring in limited over specialist Fakhar Zaman to play his first Test, despite a poor form in the Asia Cup scoring only 56 runs in five matches with two ducks.

Azhar said he will do it against his team.

"When playing for Pakistan one has to be ready for everything," said Azhar. "I have always believed in that and whatever the team management decides or the captain decides, I will be ready to do that." Azhar admitted Pakistan players were disappointed at not winning the first Test.

"We are not disheartened but, yes, disappointed, obviously after dominating the Test match throughout and then not winning it," said Azhar, a veteran of 66 Tests.

"Unfortunately we couldn't win but I think we also have to give credit to the Australians as well as they showed resilience and kept fighting till the end."

Azhar said he remains focused despite not in the best of form, managing only 95 runs in the last four Tests.