

OPINION 8
SABARIMALA: JUSTICE
DOWNSIZES DIVINITY

WORLD 12
KHAN'S PARTY SUFFERS
SETBACK IN BYPOLLS

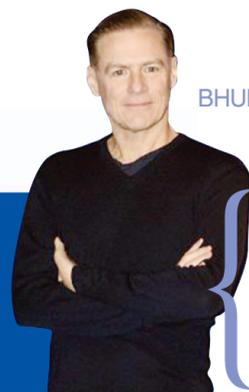
SPORT 16
SINDHU, SAINA LEAD
INDIA AT DENMARK OPEN

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



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



**BRYAN'S
ULTIMATE
TOUR IN NCR
14 VIVACITY**

Cut oil prices: Modi to producers

Soaring crude must be tamed before it kills global economic growth, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flagging concerns of oil consuming nations like India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday pointed out to oil producers like Saudi Arabia that higher crude prices, which have already sent retail petrol, diesel and LPG rates to record highs, are hurting global economic growth and they should do more to bring down the rates to reasonable levels.

He also asked them to review the payment terms in order to provide relief to a weakened rupee. He was speaking at the third annual brainstorming meeting with chief executives of top global and Indian oil and gas companies and experts.

Modi's nudge to countries like Saudi Arabia comes against the backdrop of ever-increasing prices of fuel and public unrest amid increased concerns within the ruling dispensation ahead of the approaching five Assembly elections, considered the semi-finals before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls final.

The PM also appealed to

the oil producing countries to channel their investible surplus to pursue commercial exploitation in the oil sector in developing countries, a statement from his office said. During the interaction, the Prime Minister highlighted the significant positioning of India in the oil and gas market and said the oil market was producer driven and quantity and prices were determined by oil producing countries.

"Though there is enough production, the unique features of marketing in the oil sector have pushed up the oil prices. The Prime Minister made a strong case for partnership between the producers and consumers in the oil market, as it exists in other markets. This will help stabilise the global economy which is on path of recovery," said the PMO statement.

Modi highlighted that the consuming countries, due to rising crude oil prices, face many other economic challenges, including serious resource crunch. "The cooperation of the oil producing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with the CEOs and experts from the oil & gas sector from India and abroad, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

countries would be very critical to bridge this gap. He appealed to oil producing countries to channel their investible surplus to pursue commercial exploitation in oil sector in the developing countries," said the PMO.

He also sought the role of private participation in the distribution of gas sector. On

technology, he appealed for assistance in areas where high pressure and high temperature technology applications are relevant to commercial exploitation of natural gas. Modi reiterated for review of payment terms so as to provide temporary relief to the local currency, the statement said.

Continued on Page 7

Tharoor's Ram Temple barb puts Cong in a fix

BJP latches on to comments, asks Rahul to clarify stand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ram Temple issue has yet again taken the centre stage notwithstanding Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's clarification pertaining to his statement regarding its construction. The BJP on Monday latched on to his remarks that "no good Hindu would have wanted to see the Ram temple built by demolishing somebody else's place of worship (Babri Masjid)" to accuse the Congress of using its leaders to build a momentum against its construction.

The BJP also targeted Congress president Rahul Gandhi wondering whether he was a Hindu. Tharoor's controversial statement forced the Congress to take a defensive stand.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said he is astonished that Tharoor believes that true Hindus don't want a Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "This could be a view of Tharoor or his party chief Rahul, not of people. This shows how cut off they are from reality and how they only become Hindu during elections," said Javadekar.



Following the storm over his statement, Tharoor came out to clarify that his remarks on the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya were quoted out of context by the media. Tharoor asserted he never said Hindus do not want a temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya. Tharoor tweeted that he made the remark at the literary festival in a personal capacity when he was asked for his opinion. He said his remark should not be seen as the Congress's view on the matter.

"I condemn the malicious distortion of my words by some media in the service of political masters. Most Hindus would want a temple at what they believe to be Ram's birthplace. But no good Hindu would want it to be built by destroying another's place of worship," he clarified in a tweet.

"I was asked for my personal opinion at a literary festival and gave it as such. I am not a spokesperson for my party and did not claim to be

speaking for the Congress party," he added.

But the BJP was unrelenting in its attack. BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao said his party wants an early verdict from the Supreme Court on the Ram Temple case but the Congress is trying everything to delay it.

The BJP wants a grand Ram Temple and will wait for the court's verdict, Rao said, asking Rahul to clear his stand. "You (Congress) are conspiring to ensure that there is no verdict from the court," he said.

The Congress is doing "vote bank politics," he said, alleging that Rahul had earlier claimed that his party was a "Muslim party". Rahul wears his "Shiv bhakti" (devotion to Lord Shiv) on his sleeve but he would not answer whether he is a Hindu or not, Rao said.

"I was asked for my personal opinion at a literary festival and gave it as such. I am not a spokesperson for my party and did not claim to be

Continued on Page 7

Unyielding Akbar files criminal defamation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister MJ Akbar on Monday filed a private criminal defamation complaint against journalist Priya Ramani for levelling charges of sexual misconduct against him amid a rising MeToo campaign in India, even as the Congress demanded his resignation and the BJP continued to back him by maintaining that the junior External Affairs Minister has already presented his side of the story.

Soon after returning from his Africa tour on Sunday, Akbar had dismissed the charges by nine women journalists as "innuendoes, hearsay, false, fabricated", saying that he would take legal action which he did on Monday accusing Ramani of "wilfully, deliberately, intentionally and maliciously" defaming him. He sought her prosecution under the penal provision on defamation.

"The complainant (Akbar) also had a long career in journalism, he launched India's first weekly political news magazine..." the complainant said and listed out defamatory imputation made by Ramani on social media against him.

The MeToo movement has singled the media and entertainment industry in India. Last week, the movement stirred many women scribes to accuse many senior journalists, including Akbar, of gross sexual harassment and misuse of their position as editors.

While Akbar sought to fight a legal battle, the



Minister of State for External Affairs MJ Akbar comes out of the MEA at South Block in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

women journalists too have said that they stood by their charges and would strike back legally. Incidentally, not a single legal case has been filed against Akbar by any of those who have levelled the charges.

The women, who accused Akbar of sexual harassment, include Priya Ramani, Ghazala Wahab, Shuma Raha, Anju Bharti, Suparna Sharma and Shutapa Paul.

Akbar's complaint said while it is apparent that the accused (Ramani) has resorted to a series of maliciously serious allegations which she is diametrically and viciously spreading in the media, it is also apparent that false narrative against the complainant (Akbar) is being circulated in a motivated manner for the fulfilment of an agenda, it said.

Continued on Page 7

Journalist Priya Ramani named in suit; MeToo accusers say they stand by their charges

- Soon after returning from his Africa tour on Sunday, Akbar had dismissed the charges by nine women journalists as "innuendoes, hearsay, false, fabricated"
- BJP spokesman GVL Narasimha Rao said at a Press conference that he (Akbar) has given his version on the row and that it is not about whether the party agrees or disagrees with him
- The Youth Congress activists staged a protest near Akbar's residence demanding his "immediate resignation" over allegations of sexual misconduct by several female journalists

Bollywood sanskari baap moves court for damages

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A week after writer-director A Vinta Nanda accused senior film and television actor Alok Nath — known for his "sanskari" father on-screen image — of sexually violating her 19 years ago, Alok Nath filed a civil suit against her at Dindoshi sessions court here demanding an apology and compensation of ₹1.

Meanwhile, Nanda's lawyer Dhruvi Kapadia said that his client would fight the battle against Alok Nath legally. "At the moment we are awaiting the decisions of various associations where my client has filed her complaint, like Cine & TV Artists Association (CINTAA), Screen Writers Association (SWA), and Indian Film & Television Directors Association (IFTDA). Pursuant to (their) decisions, we will decide our next step of action. It is pertinent to note my client

is further humiliated in continuity for which we will take legal recourse," said Kapadia.

In another application filed before the Andheri Metropolitan Magistrate on Saturday, Alok Nath and his wife Ashu sought a direction to the suburban Amboli police station to take cognisance of the letter sent by them seeking defamation proceedings against Nanda. As part of the application filed by her and her husband before the Andheri Court, the actor's wife Ashu appeared before Magistrate RM Nerlikar and recorded her statement before the Magistrate and pressed for initiation of defamation against Nanda. The Magistrate has now scheduled the application for further hearing on November 1. On that day, the court is expected to record the statements of three witnesses on behalf of Alok Nath and his wife.

Continued on Page 7



An idol of goddess Durga in Nadarganj in Lucknow on Monday.

Somesh Guha / Pioneer

CAPSULE

MINOR GIRL GANGRAPPED IN EAST DELHI, 4 HELD

New Delhi: A Class X student of a Government school was allegedly raped by four men, including the son of her landlord, who lured her with an offer to buy her a pizza, the police said on Monday.

AI AIR HOSTESS FALLS FROM PLANE, INJURED

Mumbai: A 53-year-old female flight attendant fell off a stationary Air India plane while closing its door at the Mumbai airport on Monday, suffering serious injuries, airline and hospital authorities said.

NUN RAPE: KERALA HC GRANTS BAIL TO BISHOP

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday granted bail to Bishop Franco Mulakkal, arrested over allegations of repeatedly raping and sexually assaulting a nun.

Attacks on migrants a Cong conspiracy: Guj CM Rupani

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Monday assured that the people of Uttar Pradesh were fully secured in his home state and had blamed Congress for hatching a conspiracy to malign the image of Gujarat which had developed due to the support and hard work of the people of other states.

"I can assure you that the situation is normal and every non-Gujarati individual is safe and secure. It is the tradition of all Gujaratis to safeguard the lives and property of non-Gujaratis," Rupani said while claiming that Gujaratis and non-Gujaratis had mixed in the state like "milk and sugar" and they all were behind the development of Gujarat.

Addressing a press conference on Monday along with his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath, Rupani said that everyone knew who was behind the conspiracy. "We have arrested around 700 people for the conspiracy in which more than 50 are Congress leaders and workers. They also conspired through social media in which 70 people have been arrested," the Gujarat Chief Minister said. Without taking the name of Congress MLA Alpesh Thakor, who was allegedly behind the conspiracy, Rupani said the government had initiated legal action against the legislator.

However, Rupani was critical of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, saying just a tweet against his MLA was not enough. "Gandhi should have

Statue of Unity: World's tallest

Lucknow (PNS): Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Monday gave the details of the Statue of Unity, saying the 182-metre statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel would be the tallest statue in the world with top class tourist facilities in the area.

"The construction of the statue commenced in 2013 after iron and other scraps were collected from six lakh villages of the country. It took just four years to complete the statue near Sardar Sarovar dam," he said.

Rupani said the Statue of Unity was based on a big building which housed a museum of Sardar Patel, who was instrumental in bringing 562 independent states in India under the fold of the country after Independence. "There is a lift which can take 50 people at a time up to the bust of the statue from where people can witness the scenic beauty of the place and there is also an exhibition hall," he said. For the comfort of tourists, there is a tent city and a three-star hotel while 100 guides are being trained to help the tourists. Besides, a tribal market, valley of flowers and other attractions are also nearby.

taken action against his MLA and not just tweeting and forgetting everything," he said, adding that it was surprising that the alleged MLA was also the party in-charge of Bihar

and had conspired against the people of Bihar.

Giving reason for such a conspiracy by the Congress, the Gujarat Chief Minister said that the party, which was lagging behind the Bharatiya Janata Party in the country, had tried to implicate the Gujarat government just before the Assembly polls in several states and also to counter the move of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Statue of Unity at Sardar Sarovar dam on October 31.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in his brief interaction, said that he had accepted the invitation of Rupani to attend the inauguration function of Statue of Unity on October 31. He added that the Gujarat CM had also accepted the UP's demand for

land to construct a guest house near the Statue of Unity. "It will be the highest statue in the world and the credit for it goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Gujarat government," he said. Earlier, both the Chief Ministers attended an "Ekta Sambaad" function in which they launched a solar charkha.

Yogi Adityanath, on the occasion, said that solar power was becoming a revolution in the country and now power would run by it. "Mahatma Gandhi's dream of village empowerment will be fulfilled through this solar power revolution and it will also help UP's policy of One District, One product (ODOP)," he said.

Rupani said that Gujarat had always welcomed people

from other parts of the country and it was the contribution of non-Gujaratis that Gujarat had developed to such an extent. "In Surat, Baroda and other parts of Gujarat, north Indians are working efficiently to develop the state," he stated. He also appealed to the people of UP to visit Gujarat, particularly religious places of Somnath and Dwarka, tourist places like Kutch and Gir forest and Sabarmati Ashram of Mahatma Gandhi, which was the ultimate place for all the people. Rupani had arrived in the UP capital on Sunday evening and had extended an invitation to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the unveiling ceremony of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 'Statue of Unity' on the banks of the Narmada river on October 31.

Shivpal may contest Ferozabad LS seat

Holds road show in Etawah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Shivpal Singh Yadav, the Samajwadi Party's rebel leader who has floated his Samajwadi Secular Morcha, is likely to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Ferozabad constituency.

At present, Ferozabad seat is represented by Akshay Kumar Yadav, son of senior SP leader and Rajya Sabha member Ram Gopal Yadav, in the Lok Sabha.

Shivpal, in a show of strength, held a road show from Jaswantnagar in Etawah district to Ferozabad on Sunday in which over a thousand vehicles joined his cavalcade.

The road show is being seen as Shivpal's direct challenge to the political authority of Ram Gopal Yadav, who is daggers drawn with his cousin. Shivpal is a five-term MLA from Jaswantnagar constituency.

A large number of



Samajwadi Party leaders joined the road show and many announced to join the SSM of Shivpal.

The road show actually began at the border of Ferozabad district and terminated at Tundla. During the whistle-stop tour of the district, Shivpal was accorded warm welcome at over 50 places.

Prominent among those who joined him were Vijay Yadav, former chairman of Ferozabad district panchayat and son of senior SP MLA from Ferozabad Hair Om Yadav, a close relative of Mulayam Singh

Yadav. Azeem Bhai, former SP MLA from Ferozabad has already been appointed district president of SSM unit in Ferozabad.

Sources in the Samajwadi Party said the road show in the Yadav belt, the core area of the party, dampened the spirits of the party cadre as they were now disillusioned with the vertical split in the party organisation from state to grassroots level.

Addressing a public meeting at Tundla, the culminating point of the road show, Shivpal explained the reason for parting company with the SP and floating the SSM.

"I along with Netaji nursed the Samajwadi Party and brought it to this level from scratch in last over two decades, yet I was subjected to worst kind of humiliation and now there is no place for honest and dedicated workers in the SP and sycophants and brokers have complete sway over the party," Shivpal said.

"I would have never floated the SSM had I got the due respect in the SP," he added.

Rizvi: Girls getting basic facilities in Modi rule



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chairman of National Commission for Minorities, Syed Ghayoorul Hasan Rizvi, said that the Narendra Modi government had provided basic facilities for the girl child, particularly from minorities, in 308 districts across the country.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Rizvi said the programmes for the development of people (jan vikas karyakram) launched by the Prime Minister for the poor and socially disadvantaged persons had proved to be a boon for them and had immensely contributed to their social and economic empowerment.

Rizvi said that under these programmes, hostels and ITI were being set up in remote areas for the educational empowerment of girls by imparting them training in skill development. He pointed out that earlier these facilities were not available in 308 districts.

He said during the last four years, as many as 16 degree colleges, 1,992 schools, 3,71,234 additional class rooms, 1,147 hostels, 173 industrial training institutes, 48 polytechnics, 38,753 anganwadi centres, 3.42 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 73 residential schools and 494 market sheds were constructed across the country.

Besides, Rizvi said, special schemes had been launched for the welfare of women of minority community. He claimed that the Modi government, instead of pursuing the policy of minority appeasement, was concentrating on the overall welfare and empowerment of the minority community as per its agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.

Rizvi said the policies for the welfare of the minority community, particularly Muslims, had resulted in a sharp rise in the number of Muslims undertaking Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. He said in 2018, a record number of 1.75 lakh Muslims went for Haj pilgrimage.

Cong continues protest against Guj CM, releases black balloons

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress workers continued their protest against Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on the second day on Monday by releasing thousands of black balloons in Hazratganj area against the attack on north Indians in that state.

Police detained several Congress leaders and workers for their protest on Monday after they saw thousands of black balloons in the air when Rupani came out of the VVIP Guest House to go to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's residence for a meeting with Yogi Adityanath.

Later, the Congress workers staged dharna at the police station where they were kept.

On Sunday also, the Lucknow police had a hard time in controlling Congressmen in the state capital when they showed black flags to the Gujarat Chief Minister.

Around a dozen Congressmen were detained by the police in Hazratganj area for the protest and they were released on Monday evening.

The Congress leaders also staged a demonstration at the GPO for some time, raising slogans against the Gujarat Chief Minister. They shouted "Rupani go back" to protest the attacks on north Indians in his state.



Congress workers staging protest against Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani over attacks on north Indians in his state.

Pioneer

UP Congress general secretary Vinod Mishra said here on Monday that the party workers were protesting against the Gujarat government over the attacks on north Indians.

"We will continue our protest till the people of north India in Gujarat are not only secure but also start working there smoothly," he said.

Meanwhile, UP Congress president Raj Babbar claimed that Rupani's visit to Lucknow, at the time when north Indians

were being targeted in his state, was like rubbing salt into the wounds. "This is also against the ideology of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel whose massive statue is being unveiled in Gujarat later this month," Babbar said, while attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Bharatiya Janata Party leaders for creating differences between people on caste and religion lines.

The Gujarat Chief Minister was in the state capital on a two-

day visit since Sunday to meet his UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath and invite him for the function to unveil the Statue of Unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31.

He faced protests as Hindi-speaking migrants from north Indian states were attacked in several parts of Gujarat after a labourer hailing from Bihar was arrested for allegedly raping a 14-month-old girl in Sabarkantha district on September 28.

BSP leader, driver shot in Ambedkarnagar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified assailants struck terror in the state as they sprayed a Bahujan Samaj Party leader and his driver with bullets in Ambedkarnagar, shot a Delhi Police constable in Meerut and killed one person and critically injured his wife and daughter in Azamgarh.

According to reports, senior BSP leader Zurag Mehndi was returning home on Monday morning when three assailants riding a motorcycle intercepted him at Naserabad hamlet of Hanswar in Ambedkarnagar and sprayed bullets into his car, critically injuring him and his driver Sumit Yadav.

Both were rushed to a nearby hospital where they were pronounced dead.

The police suspect the hand of local ganglord Khan Mubarak in the killing as they both had long enmity.

Mehndi was attacked earlier also and he had sought security from the local police but his plea went unheard.

A case has been registered but no arrest has been made so far.

In Meerut, Delhi Police constable Swajeet Singh, residing in Kharkhauda area of the district, went to gurudwara along with his wife on Monday morning. When he was returning home, the assailants, who were riding a motorcycle, stopped the couple at Kabatte

hamlet in Kharkhauda and opened fire, critically injuring Swajeet Singh. His wife raised an alarm and with the help of some passers-by, took her husband to hospital where he was pronounced brought dead.

The police registered a case and were looking into personal dispute of the victim to get some lead and close in on the killers.

In Azamgarh, one Atretray Singh, hailing from Awani hamlet of Tarwa in the district, was having property related dispute with his brother Maitretray Singh. Last week, the court had issued order in favour of Atretray Singh, and on Sunday he had started constructing a boundary wall on the area. However, Maitretray reached there with his friend Rajesh and some goons and forcibly stopped the work.

When Atretray Singh, called the police, the local officers took Maitretray Singh with them and deployed sub-inspector Suresh Chandra and constable Arun Yadav at the spot to ensure that no further dispute took place.

Reports said that in the wee hours of Monday, both the cops left the spot after which Rajesh and other aides of Maitretray Singh came there and opened indiscriminate fire in which Atretray Singh, his wife Anita and daughter Sikha were critically injured.

Their neighbours came to their rescue and shifted them to hospital where Atretray Singh succumbed to his injuries while the other two were referred to the medical college hospital in Varanasi where they are battling for their lives.

Senior officers including Azamgarh Range DIG Vijay Bhushan, who visited the spot, placed both the cops under suspension. A case was registered and efforts were on to nab the assailants.

Meanwhile, three alleged criminals were arrested in Shamli district's Ragana village after an encounter and two rifles looted recently from policemen were seized from them.

Senior officers including Azamgarh Range DIG Vijay Bhushan, who visited the spot, placed both the cops under suspension. A case was registered and efforts were on to nab the assailants.

Meanwhile, three alleged criminals were arrested in Shamli district's Ragana village after an encounter and two rifles looted recently from policemen were seized from them.

Senior officers including Azamgarh Range DIG Vijay Bhushan, who visited the spot, placed both the cops under suspension. A case was registered and efforts were on to nab the assailants.

Meanwhile, three alleged criminals were arrested in Shamli district's Ragana village after an encounter and two rifles looted recently from policemen were seized from them.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

This is to inform that Balam Singh Rawat alias Balam Singh are the name of one and same person. In future all document I will be known by both names. Balam Singh Rawat S/o Balam Singh Rawat, R/o House No. 6/506, Kanchan Nagar, Kalyanpur, Lucknow - 226022.

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



NAIK ANIL KUMAR
01 MAR 1986-29 AUG 2018

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEGRIEVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK ANIL KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MIED AMRITSAR.

FROM: LT GEN ANUP BANERJI, SM AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

RLD to expose misgovernance of BJP govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal has set in motion a campaign to expose the misgovernance of Bharatiya Janata Party in the state. A meeting of the office-bearers of central UP zone and Bundelkhand zone was held at party headquarters here on Monday.

Addressing the meeting, RLD state president Masood Ahmad asked the office-bearers and party workers of the zone-level teams to form committees at booth level and mobilise people.

He also asked the office-bearers and party workers to organise demonstrations to get public issues resolved.

Masood said every party worker was of great importance. "Our workers are selflessly propagating the ideology of late farmers' leader Chaudhary Charan Singh," he said. Masood added that senior party leaders would hold meetings in different districts of central UP and in Bundelkhand zone. The meeting was also addressed by RLD state spokesman Surendra Trivedi and national general secretary Shiv Karan Singh.

Sinha criticises BJP govt over Rafale deal

Muzaffarnagar (PTI): Disgruntled BJP leader Shatrughan Sinha criticised the BJP government over the Rafale deal. He said a French publication had quoted former French President Francois Hollande as saying that the Indian government had proposed Reliance Defence as a partner for the French aerospace major Dassault Aviation for the deal.

Oppn flays move to rename Allahabad

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The opposition parties slammed the move of the Yogi Adityanath government to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj ahead of the Kumbh Mela beginning from January next year.

Even as a formal order for the renaming of Allahabad is being issued, the religious leaders of Ayodhya have raised the demand for renaming Faizabad as Ayodhya. The saints of Ayodhya have decided to raise the demand before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath when he visits Ayodhya for Deepotsav (lighting the lamps) ceremony on the bank of river Sarayu on Diwali.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav criticised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the move to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj, saying he was "doing nothing for the people and claiming credit by just renaming cities". "Raja Harshvardhan made 'Prayag Kumbh' great by offering donations but the present day rulers are trying to take credit for the work just by renaming the city to Prayagraj," the former Chief Minister tweeted on Monday. "They (BJP) have even renamed Ardh Kumbh as Kumbh. This mocks our tradition and belief," he added.

The Congress also hit out at the ruling dispensation. Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Onkarnath Singh said changing the name of the historic city to Prayagraj was an attempt to fiddle with the history of the nation. The UP Congress, citing the role of Allahabad in the freedom movement and its association with Nehru, has opposed the renaming of the city as Prayagraj.

The Congress said erasing the name of Allahabad from history would be an insult

to the freedom movement. It said the government could carve out a new district and name it as Prayag as Kaushambi district was carved out of Allahabad.

"There is already an area which is called Prayag so there is no need to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj. Allahabad has its own historic importance and changing the name of the city will definitely not be accepted by the people of the country," the Congress leader said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had announced on Saturday that there was a proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj ahead of the 2019 Kumbh Mela.

Allahabad's ancient name was Prayag, but it was changed after 16th-century Mughal Emperor Akbar built a fort near Sangam, the holy confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati. He named the fort and its neighbourhood 'Allahabad'. Later, Akbar's grandson Shah Jahan renamed the entire city as 'Allahabad'. But the area near the Sangam, the site of the Kumbh Mela, continues to be known as Prayag.

"Prayag is where Lord Brahma performed the first yajna. The confluence of two rivers is a 'prayag', and in Allahabad three rivers — Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati — meet hence it is the king of 'prayags'. That is why it is 'Prayagraj'," the Chief Minister said explaining the root of the name.

Earlier, the Yogi Adityanath government had changed the name of Mughalsarai Junction as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction. Last year, the seers of different akharas had met Yogi in Lucknow and had urged him to change the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj.

5 die in mishaps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five persons were killed and 24 injured in separate road accidents during the past 24 hours.

At least two persons of a family were killed and nearly six others were injured when a tempo collided with a milk collection vehicle at village Karas on Iglas road in Hathras on Sunday night.

The condition of five of the injured was said to be serious. The deceased were identified as Vimesh Devi (55) and Gopal (40). The driver of the milk collection vehicle was arrested and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.

Two persons were killed when their motorcycle collided with an electric pole in a village in Deoria. The accident took place late Sunday night in Malkauli village under

Salempur police station area, additional superintendent of police Surendra Bahadur said.

The deceased were identified as Omprakash (40) and Vinay Prasad (24). The bodies were sent for post-mortem.

In Muzaffarnagar, a man was killed and 18 others were injured when the tourist bus they were travelling in collided with a truck near Khatoli on Delhi-Rishikesh National Highway on Monday.

According to circle officer Rajiv Kumar Singh, the accident took place when 25 pilgrims from Tamil Nadu were returning to Delhi from Rishikesh in a tourist bus.

The deceased was identified as Pradeep Singh, 45, the bus driver. The injured were admitted to hospital.

On getting information, police rushed to the spot and started rescue operations.

SOUTH ASIAN ENTERPRISES LTD.
Regd. Office: Mikky House, K-Block, Kirti Nagar, Kanpur-208011.
Corporate Office: 2nd Floor, 13, Sant Nagar, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065.
CIN: L91990UP1990PLC011753
E-mail: southasianenterprises@gmail.com, Website: www.sael.co.in

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given in terms of regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday, 24th October, 2018, inter-alia to consider the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th September, 2018.

For further information please visit the website of the Company viz. www.sael.co.in or website of BSE Ltd. viz. www.bseindia.com

For South Asian Enterprises Ltd. IJS Aujla Compliance Officer M. No.: A34144

Place: New Delhi Dated: 15.10.2018

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given by the undersigned for and on behalf of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office, Shahajaj Road, Lucknow Pursuant to Circular No. 422/Annexure-E of LIC HFL that the original sale deed dated 09.03.2016 executed by Smt. Majda Khatoun W/o Mohd. Wassem in favour of Mohd. Nabil Jaan S/o Late Abdul Raheem in respect of Part of Plot Kharsa No. 63, area 74.349 Sqm. situated at Kharika, Subhani Khera, Ward Kharika, Lucknow has been lost by its present owner Smt. Pushpa Singh W/o Rajendra Kumar Singh.

The said sale deed is registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-1, Lucknow in Book No. 1, Volume No. 20444 on pages 1/38, Serial No. 4612 dated 09.03.2016. Sri Pawan Singh has applied for housing loan for purchasing the said property, for which has proposed the said property to be mortgaged by depositing Original sale deed dated 09.03.2016 with LIC HFL, and as such any person claiming to be the said property covered by the said documents may file claim before me within 15 days from the date of publication of notice failing which it will be presumed that the applicant as mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 days of publication of the notice.

Mahendra Mohan Mishra - Advocate Chamber: Shop No. 11-12, Ground Floor, Krishna Tower, Near CMO Office, Kaiserbagh, Lucknow. Mob: 9559985554, 9559975554

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
NMDC Iron & Steel Plant - Nagarnagar (Bastar) C.O. PIN: 494001
Email: srinivasan@nmfdc.co.in, basraj@nmfdc.co.in, ramojirao@nmfdc.co.in
Phone No.: 07782-265318, Fax: 07782-265353 CIN: L31000AP1958GO001674;
GSTIN: 22AAACN7325A373

CORRIGENDUM

| Tender No & Date | Description of Items | Date of last Publication |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| NISP/CONTRACTS/M&C/54/AMBULANCE/2018/105, dt: 13/08/2018 | Hiring of Ambulance - 2 No. (01 No. for 12 hrs/day and other for 24 hrs (day) both for a period of 24 months at NISP/NISP Hospital, Nagarnagar District Bastar, Chhattisgarh 494 001. | 13.08.2018 |

Corrigendum has been issued against the above enquiry. For further details please visit the websites: www.nmfdc.co.in, www.epprocure.gov.in.
For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd. JGM (Materials & Contracts)

Form No. : 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW
600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction : Part of U.P.)
Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication
(Summons to Defendant under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
Original Application No. 265 of 2018 Date : 25.9.2018
HDFC BANK LTD. ...Applicant
VERSUS
Reetesh Kumar Srivastava To, Reetesh Kumar Srivastava, E-1604, E Block, Rajajipuram, Ropami Tailor Chaudharia, Lucknow, UP-226017 ...Defendants
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 06-11-2018 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

EASTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2018
No. : S.4/S/DAP/2018-19 Dated : 09.10.2018
Eastern Railway will conduct E-Auction for the following Depot/Division as per following table :

| Auction Date | Jurisdiction (Depot & Division) |
|-----------------------|--|
| 15.11.2018 (Thursday) | Halisahar Depot, Sealdah Division |
| 15.11.2018 (Thursday) | BESY Depot, Howrah & Asansol Divisions |
| 20.11.2018 (Tuesday) | Jamalpur Depot, Malda Town Division |
| 29.11.2018 (Thursday) | Halisahar Depot, Sealdah Division |
| 29.11.2018 (Thursday) | BESY Depot, Howrah & Asansol Divisions |
| 29.11.2018 (Thursday) | Jamalpur Depot, Malda Town Division |

N.B. : Schedule of E-Auction, other details and terms and conditions are available on the website http://www.ireps.gov.in/
(Stores-40/2018-19) PPS Principal Chief Materials Manager, Kolkata
Tender Notices are also available at Eastern Railway's Website www.e.indianrailways.gov.in

F.No. A-12023/1/2016-Estt.
Government of India
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
Department of Consumer Affairs
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
14th September, 2018
VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT
Applications are invited to filling up one post of Registrar in National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), a body under the administrative control of Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of consumer Affairs, food & Public Distribution in Pay Band - 4 of Rs. 37400-67000 + Grade Pay of Rs. 10000/- (Level-14 of the pay matrix) by composite method [Deputation (including Short Term Contract) / promotion] from amongst the officers under the Central Government or State Government or Supreme Court or any High Court or PSUs or Tribunal or Quasi-Judicial Authority. The last date for receipt of the application in this Department is upto 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.
2. For eligibility criteria, qualifications and other details, login to website http://www.consumeraffairs.nic.in or http://www.ncdrc.nic.in.
Under Secretary (Estt.)
davp - 08101 / 11 / 0012 / 1819 Tel. No. 011-23381120

Yogi for SGPGI satellite centres across state

CM lays foundation of two departments, inaugurates three facilities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing that Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute (SGPGI) should take the challenge of reaching out to a large majority outside of the state capital needing medical care, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that the premier medical institute should develop satellite centres across the state. He said it would not only provide medical facilities to people in need but also give an opportunity to the institute to carry out research on different diseases which they encountered in those areas.

The Chief Minister expressed these views after laying the foundation stone of the departments of Emergency Medicine & Renal Transplant, and inaugurating three new facilities — Hepatobiliary and Transplantation, Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, and Stem Cell Unit at SGPGI which will give the institute a total of 550 extra beds. Yogi said that the state government was committed to providing the institute all possible help which it required for setting up these satellite centres and added that it should think in this direction.

He said that even after 10 decades of Independence health care remained a great

challenge in the country, both in the public and the private sectors. "Those who have the resources can approach both these sectors but it is difficult for those who do not have the resources to get medical care and as a part of the medical fraternity they need to find a solution to this," he told the doctors.

Emphasising on the fact that a good doctor should have sensitivity and should understand that there was a lot of new things which should be done in medical care, he said, "For those who cannot come for treatment to Lucknow because they are scared or do not have the necessary resources, the Institute should go to them," he said.

Sharing the problems faced by the government in providing these medical facilities, he said, "We have no problems in setting up the infrastructure for health for which resources can be managed but we face problems in getting the faculty while the SGPGI will have no problem in managing," he added. He said he had watched the disease of encephalitis from close quarters during his 10-year-long tenure as an MLA in Gorakhpur. "When I visited the Baba Raghav Das Medical College in 1998 after I was informed that many children had been admitted there I



CM Yogi Adityanath having a look at the model of Renal Transplant department to come up at SGPGI

found that the condition of the ward was extremely bad. Four children were piled on one bed and the toilet had become clogged as it had not been cleaned for the past eight years yet people sat over there for their treatment in this pitiable condition. The facilities since then have improved and the number of deaths has come down," he said.

Referring to the incident when there were reports of mysterious deaths in Balrampur district, the Chief Minister said that when he was not satisfied with the answer given by the CMO himself he visited the hospital and found that the symptoms were closely associated with encephalitis and so he immediately issued directions for shifting the

patients to Lucknow. The Chief Minister said that the people who sought help for reference always wanted to get admitted in SGPGI.

He said that there were two AIIMS which were under construction in the state. "While work on AIIMS (Gorakhpur) has begun, the functioning of the Out Patient Department will begin in 2020. The work at

BHU-AIIMS will start shortly. Nearly 13 medical colleges were constructed between 1947 and 2016 in UP and the state government was constructing 13 new medical colleges between 2016 and 18. Work has already started in six medical colleges and is likely to start in seven others soon," he said. He added that they were aiming at one medical college in each district for better healthcare.

The Chief Minister congratulated the SGPGI director and staff for maintaining the presence of the institute in the state as a centre of excellence despite limited resources. The Emergency Medicine and Renal Transplant building, the foundation stone of which was laid by the CM, will have 210 and 180 beds respectively. The College of Medical Technology will be running courses on 12 subjects associated with medicine for which the students doing BSc and MSc courses will be selected. Hepatobiliary and Transplantation which was inaugurated will have 112 beds.

Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation and Stem Cell Unit will have nine beds with 40 in the OPD. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Technical Education Ashutosh Tandon and SGPGI director Dr Rakesh Kapoor.

Mentally tortured by hubby, woman jumps to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Having failed to withstand the emotional torture by her husband, a woman jumped off from the 11th floor of Betwa Apartment (behind Janeshwar Mishra Park) in Gomti Nagar Extension under Gomti Nagar police station on Monday night. The police reached the scene after doctors at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital declared her dead and informed the police.

As per reports, Sumiti Singh (36) of E Block of the apartment jumped off the building around 7.30 pm on Monday after she had a verbal spat with her husband Alok Chauhan who is a medical representative with a renowned company. On Sunday, Alok celebrated his birthday with Sumiti and sons Yashvardhan and Prithviraj. "On Monday evening, the couple locked horns on some family issue. In a fit of rage, Sumiti ran towards the railing and later jumped off. Alok ran behind her to save her and both had scuffle too," Gomti Nagar SHO Triloki Singh said. ASP, Gomti Nagar, Chakresh Mishra said Alok was a native of Kanpur while Sumiti belonged to Gwalior in

Madhya Pradesh. "Alok is a medical representative. The couple fought on some issue and later Sumiti jumped off the building. They were living in a rented flat," he said. The officer said the family of the woman had been informed of the incident. "If parents of the woman lodged any complaint, we will register a case and the investigation will start thereafter. The body had been sent for autopsy," he said.

The residents told news-men that they heard a thud sound around 7.30 pm on Monday in the open space at the back of the building. "We saw a man crying atop his voice and weeping while quickly coming down the staircase. It later surfaced that woman living in a flat on the 11th floor had committed suicide," they said. They said they helped Alok is rushing the victim to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. "The doctors pronounced her dead and later informed the police," they said, adding high-rise buildings had become a suicide point in the state capital. "A number of such incidents occurred at different multistorey buildings in Lucknow," the residents commented.

Rly exam aspirant's body found on tracks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An aspirant for Group D services of Railways was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Gomti Nagar on Monday. His body was recovered from the railway tracks in Khargapur locality of the area. Police claimed that the youth fell down from some train and later died. The body has been sent for autopsy and the police had informed the family of the youth about the incident. As per reports, a rail track patrolling employee spotted the body which was lying beside the track in Khargapur locality (between Malhar and Dilkusha railway stations) and later the station master of Malhar sent a memo to the Gomti Nagar SHO.

On information, a team, led by sub-inspector Awanesh Mishra, reached the scene for investigation. Giving details, police spokesman AK Singh said an Aadhaar card and an admit card were recovered from the pocket of the youth.



School children planting saplings during a plantation drive organised by Loreto Convent School at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University on Monday



"The admit card read the name of the youth as Ramesh Kumar of Vaishali district of Bihar," he said. The spokesman said Ramesh was to write the exam at a centre in Lucknow on Monday. "It seemed that he fell down from the train by which he was travelling for Lucknow some time on Sunday night or early in the morning on Monday," he informed.

Sub-inspector Awanesh Mishra said Ramesh had injuries on the left side of the body. "The wound suggested that Ramesh suffered the injuries after he fell down from some moving train. An autopsy on the body will clear the cause of injuries and the death of the victim. We are sending the body for the same," he said. The sub-inspector added that the youth had injuries on his head too. A huge number of residents assembled at the scene after the news reached them on Monday. As the cops failed to conclude the reason behind the death of the youth whose body was lying beside the tracks in the locality, residents apprehended a foul play. "It seemed that some miscreants pushed down the youth from the train during journey. A youth, who was to take exam for a government service, would not be so careless that he would travel while standing at the gate of the doors in a compartment," they said.

Woman attempts to immolate self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A woman attempted to immolate herself inside the GPO Park in Hazratganj on Monday afternoon. The incident put the otherwise supine Lucknow police into action mode with a huge force arriving on the scene and rushing the woman to a hospital. As per reports, the woman, identified as Rani of District Urban Development Administration (DUDA) colony of PGI, along with her husband Fahim reached the Gandhi statue in the park

around 1 pm. After sitting there for a few minutes, Rani took out a bottle filled with kerosene and started pouring it on herself while her husband was crying for help and saying that Rani was ending her life due to the apathy of DUDA administration. The commuters and those present at the GPO for some work converged on the scene. Later, the cops resting in a corner of the park also rushed to the scene. The woman cops overpowered Rani, who was later admitted to Civil Hospital.

Giving details, the police spokesman said Rani lived at a house constructed by DUDA in the PGI locality. "The DUDA administration is getting the illegally occupied houses vacated these days. Rani and Fahim were not willing to vacate the house and so they chose to protest at GPO," the police spokesman said. He said Fahim also had been detained. "Their matter was referred to senior officials in the government and also to the DUDA administration," the police spokesman said. Meanwhile, a 40-year-old man ended his life at his house

in Ashiyana on Monday morning. Reports said the man, identified as Shyam Sunder of sector E, was working as a driver. Around 6.30 am, his wife gave him a wake-up call but Shyam Sunder did not respond. A little wary of his well-being, she sought help of her neighbours and the doors were broken open. "Shyam Sunder was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck," the police said. The police spokesman said the body had been sent for autopsy.

Dispute escalates, many injured in group clash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Two groups clashed in connection with a dispute over passage through a colony in Gudamba on Monday afternoon. More than a dozen persons from both the sides suffered injuries in the incident. The residents booted the police team which reached the scene late despite being informed immediately after the brawl erupted. Meraj Ahmad and Nasruddin of Paikarmau village had an old enmity over a passage near their houses. On Monday afternoon, Meraj, along with his son Nazim, was going for some work. Meraj had barely covered a few yards when Nasruddin and his sons Shadab and Suhaib stopped the bike asking him how he dared pass via the road.

This led to a verbal spat and people started flocking the scene. Later, some residents from Meraj's side and some from Nasruddin's side assembled gathered at the scene. As the crowd pelted stones on one another, several were injured. Meraj's son Nadeem suffered critical injuries and was admitted to KGMU. A huge police force was sent to the place to control the situation. Policemen are still camping in the locality.

crime scene to collect evidence. As per reports, Anil Rastogi of Jankipuram Garden colony is a prominent jeweller and runs the shop in Jankipuram. On Sunday morning, Rastogi, along with his family, left for his native place in Barabanki as he had some work there. Around 11 am on Monday, he returned to the city and reached his house. "I found the lock on the main gate lying broken. I went inside the house only to find locks of all rooms broken. The doors of almirahs were flung open when I entered my bedroom," he told the police. Rastogi said the miscreants decamped with a huge cash and jewellery from the house. "I am preparing the list of goods that I had put in the almirah. The miscreants stole jewellery worth several lakh," he told the police.

LDA to sell 2,500 plots

Lucknow (PNS): LDA will sell over 2,500 residential plots located in different housing schemes from Diwali day. It is after a gap of 16 years the LDA administration will be selling the land space on such a large scale. The possession will be given within a month of the allotment. As many as 320 residential plots are located at Ashiyana, Sharda Nagar extension and Mansarovar housing schemes on Kanpur Road and 2120 plots are located at Basantkunj housing schemes on Hardoi Road. As per the state government rules over 15 per cent of the land space should be reserved from the downtown. Office on special duty (OSD) SK Shukla said the entire land space measuring 25 acres in Basantkunj housing scheme meant for residential plots had been acquired from 3000 farmers after paying compensation.

IIM-L director admitted to SGPGIMS, critical

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Director of Indian Institute of Management (IIM-Lucknow) Ajit Prasad has been admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) in a critical condition. Chief medical superintendent, SGPGI, Dr Amit Aggarwal told *The Pioneer* that he was brought to the hospital on a ventilator. "The IIM-L director had a massive heart attack and was admitted to SGPGI on Saturday (October 13). He has suffered some brain damage too. His condition at the moment is critical," he said.

Incidentally, the IIM-L director was supposed to attend a programme at Abdul Kalam Technical University on Monday on the occasion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary. An AKTU official said that at 9 am, they were informed that the IIM-L director was not well. Prasad joined as the IIM-L director in November 2015. Prior to this assignment, he was

a professor at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research in Mumbai. An alumnus of St Stephens College, Delhi School of Economics and International Management Institute, Prasad has a vast experience in government, industry and academia. He has been a visiting faculty at leading business schools. He has also taught at leading business schools and universities across the globe.

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण
 (ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001-2008 प्रमाणित संस्था)
 प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.)
 दूरभाष 0522-2302586 वेबसाइट: http://www.ldaonline.in

सार्वजनिक सूचना

कानपुर रोड योजना सेक्टर-डी-1 के तलपट मानचित्र में कतिपय अनार्जित भूमि सम्मिलित करते हुए तैयार किये गये तलपट मानचित्र में उक्त भूमि को छोड़कर तैयार किये गये संशोधित तलपट मानचित्र पर जन सामान्य से आपत्ति एवं सुझाव आमंत्रित है। केवल उन्ही आपत्तियों एवं सुझावों पर विचार किया जायेगा जो इस सूचना के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 15 दिन के अन्दर उपस्थित, लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण को सम्बोधित एवं मुख्य नगर नियोजक, लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ स्थित कार्यालय में प्राप्त कराये जायेंगे। संशोधित तलपट मानचित्र की प्रति नियोजन अनुभाग में अवलोकनार्थ चस्पा कर दी गयी है जिसे कार्य दिवस में अवलोकित की जा सकती है। निर्धारित तिथि के उपरान्त प्राप्त आपत्तियों/सुझावों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

सचिव

आन्ध्रा बैंक
Andhra Bank
 Where India Banks
 (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

ANDHRA BANK
 Branch : Rai Bareli Road, Lucknow-226026
 (Telephone No's -0522-2443022)

POSSESSION NOTICE-(FOR IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTY)
RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT RULES) 2002

Whereas, the under signed being the Authorized Officer of Andhra Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002(Act 54/02) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of Act 54/02 read with rule 2 of the Security Interest Act (Enforcement Rules)2002, ANDHRA BANK issued a demand notice detailed hereunder upon the under mentioned borrower calling upon to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and given hereunder against their names within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules mentioned hereunder. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Andhra Bank, (Branch-Rai Bareli Road, Lucknow), Uttar Pradesh for the amounts due from the borrower and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

| DETAILS OF THE NOTICE/BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR AND DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Sl. No. | Name of the borrowers/ Co-obligant/Mortgagor | Details of property (All that part and parcel of the property consisting of) | Date of notice under Sec 13(2) Date of possession Amount demanded |
| 1. | Borrower/Mortgager : Mr. Santosh Kumar Pathak S/o Mr. Mahadev Pathak R/o 551/1 Gha/170 Cha, Nand Nagar Alambagh, Lucknow. | Urban Land & Bldg- Owned by Mr. Santosh Kumar Pathak S/o Mr. Mahadev Pathak, admeasuring approximately 1184 Sq.ft. situated at Plot at Gata No. 1922 and 1923, Village Mau, Pargana and Tehsil Mohan Lal Gani, Distt. Lucknow. Bounded by: East-Plot of others, West-Chak Marg, North- Field of Omprakash and Others, South-Link Road. | 04.06.2018 10.10.2018 Rs. 18,33,229.00 +Intt & Other Charges |
| 2. | Borrower/Mortgager : Mr. Santosh Kumar Pathak S/o Mr. Mahadev Pathak R/o 551/1 Gha/170 Cha, Nand Nagar Alambagh, Lucknow. | Residential Land & Bldg- Owned by Mr. Santosh Kumar Pathak S/o Mr. Mahadev Pathak, admeasuring approximately 10872 Sq.ft. situated at Residential Plot at Gata No. 1916, Village Mau, Tehsil Mohan Lal Gani, Distt. Lucknow U.P.- 226301. Bounded by: East-Field of Omprakash and Others, West-Railway Line, North-Field of Seller Himself, South-Chak Marg. | 04.06.2018 10.10.2018 Rs. 14,99,017.55 +Intt & Other Charges |
| 3. | Borrower/Mortgager : Mrs. Suraj Singh S/o Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh R/o E/2/2952, Vineet Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. | Residential Land & Bldg- Owned by Mrs. Reena Singh W/o Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh, admeasuring approximately 1320Sq.ft. situated at a Plot Part of Plot No. B-7, Portion of Kharsa No. 402SA, Village Sari Sheikh, Pargana and Tehsil & Distt. Lucknow. Bounded by: East-House of Ajay, West-House of Others, North- Plot Others, South-Road 20 feet wide. | 04.06.2018 12.10.2018 Rs. 17,07,463.00 +Intt & Other Charges |
| 4. | Borrower/Mortgager : M/s Anmol Suppliers & Construction through its Proprietor Mrs. Reeta Yadav W/o Mr. Shalendra Kumar Yadav R/o Gudoura, Bijnor, Lucknow, UP-226002 | Urban Land & Bldg- Owned by Mr. Shalendra Kumar Yadav, admeasuring approximately 1600 Sq.ft. situated at a Plot Part of Kharsa No. 756, Sharafat Nagar Colony, Village Rahimabad, Pargana Bijour, Tehsil Sarojini Nagar Ward Raja Bijali Pasi Ka Kila Lucknow. Bounded by: East-Plot of Sanjay, West-Road 22 feet wide, North-Plot of Seller, South-Plot of Murari Lal. | 04.06.2018 12.10.2018 Rs. 12,89,589.00 +Intt & Other Charges |

Place: Lucknow
Date: 12.10.2018
Authorized Officer
Andhra Bank

shubham
 Housing Development Finance Company

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.
 Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
 Ph : 0124- 4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website : www.shubham.co

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

It is to bring to your notice that your loan account has been declared as NPA by secured creditor Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited having its registered office at D-305, Ground Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi - 110017 (herein after called 'SHDFC') and you are liable to pay total outstanding against your loan to SHDFC. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Therefore, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to SHDFC within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which SHDFC will be empowered to exercise the power under Section 13(4) of the ACT. The details of borrowers and secured assets are as under:

| S. No. | Borrower(s) Name | Address | Notice Amount | Secured Asset |
|--------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| 1. | Rehan Ahmad, Abdullah Khan, Saleha Khan | 335/18, Mahmood Nagar Akbari Gatew Lucknow-226003 | Rs. 14,27,252/- | A Flat No. 402, at 11th Floor, Admeasuring 1148 Sq.ft.s. in a Residential Apartment, Constructed Over Property Plot No. 70 & 71, Part I Minjulia of Kharsa/ Gata No. 365, Situated at Mehtab Bagh (GendKhana), Ward-Hussainabad, Lucknow-226003 |
| 2. | Mohammed Anis, Shaheena Bano | KL 13 12 Market Jk Ashiyana GTB Nagar, Kareli Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211016 | Rs. 3,68,339/- | Arazi No.-90, at Present House No.- K.L-13 Mauza Eundipur, Pargana & Tehsil Sadar, Allahabad Uttar Pradesh 211016 |
| 3. | Tabassum Bano, Mohd Wassem | 656A, T.P. Nagar Allahabad U.P. 211011 | Rs. 5,70,188/- | Part of Plot No. 656 & 657, Transport Nagar (Parwanah Nagar), Pargana and Tehsil-Sadar, District-Allahabad U.P.- 211011 |

PLACE : GURGAON,
DATE : 15-10-2018
Authorized Officer,
Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd.

Durga Puja celebrations begin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Bengali puja celebrations began with the invoking of the Goddess Durga with *bodhan* and *pran pratishtha* on Monday. The pandals remained abuzz with members of the Bengali community. Organisers at various pandals said that the Bengali community members preferred Bengali puja celebrations here instead at Kolkata for the ambience created here by pandals in the state capital.

Bodhan and *pran pratishtha* ceremony was performed with traditional rituals. Main organiser Gautam Mitra said 400 Bengali families visiting Durga Puja pandal in Gomti Nagar preferred Lucknow because they had a space to sit and enjoy, and relish the food. "This is not possible in Kolkata where there are traffic snarls in front of the pandal itself and it is difficult coming out of and entering the pandals," he said. He pointed out that pandals at Kolkata were beautiful with exorbitant amounts as high as Rs 42 crore pumped in.

"The money is primarily spent on the idol and the decoration. Visitors are not served *bhog* at the pandals there," he said. However, he pointed out that in the Durga Puja celebrations at Lucknow, they made the arrangements in such a manner that families could also visit and relish food.

"Our focus is on ensuring that the families enjoy Durga Puja here and hence the focus on having cultural evenings and festival-like ambience. Even cultural programmes are not organised in Kolkata," he



said. General secretary of Latouche Road Durga Puja Samiti Sudeep Sanyal said reaching the pandals itself was a big issue at Kolkata, as the city remained crowded. "People who are in Kolkata also fan out to different places like Lucknow and other parts of the country to enjoy vacations because everything remains shut there," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the puja samitis are going an extra mile to make the pandals environment-friendly. Gautam Mitra said they had some packages of thermocol plates and plastic glasses which they would use this year and then bury the same so that people did not carry it outside the venue.



Guv gives away 'Dak Sewa' award to postal employees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Ram Naik awarded 'Dak Sewa' award to the postal department employees of UP circle at GPO on Monday. Naik, who was the chief guest on the occasion, gave away awards to six employees in individual category and three offices for cleanliness and sanitation at the closing ceremony of National Postal Week on Monday. Bharat Singh, Satendra Singh, Nitish Gaur, Ranjeet Singh, Rajeev Tiwari and Priyanka Mishra were given away 'Dak Sewa Award' along with commendation certificates and cash prizes. Post Office, Railway Mail Service Office and Speed Post Centre Lucknow GPO, Jhansi RMS and Agra National Speed Post Centre were also awarded. The Governor said that the department of Post was one of the oldest in the country. "It has the reach to every corner and people have attachments with post offices. In the times of changing modes of communication, the department has played an instrumental role in providing utility services to the last person in the society by adopting new technology," he said. He added that the role of India Post had become prominent in the field of digital India and financial inclusion.

"The Central government's various schemes are prominently being implemented through the department of Posts. Services like Aadhaar enrolment, Passport Service, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,



etc had brought post offices closer to people," he pointed out.

Naik said the Prime Minister had recently inaugurated India Post Payments Bank as an initiative to open account of the last man in the society. "When the country is going digital, the vision of 'Aapka bank, aapke dwar' will be realised by postmen knocking at the doors with mobile app," he added.

Chief Postmaster General Vinay Prakash Singh, referring to the advancements in postal services, said that the depart-

ment of Post was ready to play new roles in the changing environment. "The department is fulfilling needs of public with innovative technology in areas like savings, banking, insurance, e-commerce etc. After the launch of India Post Payments Bank, benefits of various social security schemes will be directly credited to accounts of people in remote rural areas by the direct benefit transfer method. The department is committed to providing various social security and public welfare schemes of the government to people," he added.

Mahila Kisan Diwas celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

'Mahila Kisan Diwas' was celebrated at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, on Monday with the tagline 'Sashakt Mahila, Sashakt Bharat' (empowered women, empowered India). The day was celebrated to recognise the contribution of women involved in agriculture as 80 per cent independent women in India are associated with the farm sector. IISR director AD Pathak said that the participation of women in agriculture was well-known since time immemorial. "A decline in both male and female labour

force in agriculture has been observed in the last three decades. The number of men in agriculture has decreased from 81 per cent to 63 per cent and women from 88 per cent to 79 per cent. The decline in the number of women is significantly lower than men and it can be easily called feminisation of agriculture," he said. Pathak said they were trying their best to ensure that women became part of mainstream agriculture, reaped benefits of every penny invested on agriculture and contributed to farm productivity and doubled their income. However, he said female farmers faced several inequalities.

"In spite of working for longer hours, the women are being paid lesser than their male counterparts," he pointed out. IISR has developed several women-friendly implements to reduce their drudgeries in sugarcane cultivation. Pathak also urged farm women to form SHGs and install jaggery-making plants to earn good profit. He appreciated the work of women adopting rooftop vegetable cultivation. He honoured Sangeeta Sharma for forming a self-help group to increase the income of women, and Sushila Chhetri for mushroom and rooftop vegetable cultivation.

The staff of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation reunited with his parents a six-year-old boy who got separated from them. The boy named Arif was handed over to his parents safely after he got separated from them at Mawaiya Metro station on October 14.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

On Sunday, Mohammad Jameel Ahmed of Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh), along with his wife Tanveer Dhaira and their child, was on their way to Mawaiya station. They alighted from the train but their child was left behind. As soon as they realised this, they informed the on-duty station controller who intimated the supervisor of the Transportnagar station about the incident. On getting information, the Transportnagar station staff immediately started an investigation and recov-



ered Arif from platform number 2 at 6:35 pm. "The child was handed

over to the station controller of Transportnagar Metro station at 6:37 pm. A few minutes later,

Arif's mother Tanveer Dhaira reached the station but she did not have any identity card with her. As per rules, it was necessary to establish the relationship between the woman and child. Keeping that in mind, the on-duty supervisor and Arif, accompanied by his mother, went to the Chabagh station where he was handed over to the station controller. After some time, Jameel Ahmad reached there with necessary documents. After the completion of formalities regarding identification, Arif was handed over to his parents," an LMRC official said.

In a similar incident a few months ago, a two-year-old boy named Guddu was left behind at the Krishnanagar Metro station in July. He was reunited with his parents within half-an-hour due to timely and quick response of the staff.

APJ memorial celebration held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The first Dr APJ Abdul Kalam memorial celebration was organised by the Medical Education department of King George's Medical University on Monday, the 87th birth anniversary of Kalam. Head of the department Dr Shally Awasthi said that Kalam was not only a great scientist and leader, but also one of the greatest teachers India had produced as he taught through personal examples. She said the occasion would also serve as a platform



to develop an MoU between Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and KGMU. MAHE Vice-Chancellor H Vinod Bhat, who is credited with drastic reduction in pregnancy-related woman and child mortality in the Manipal region, said medical education was special because teachers needed to teach while treating and students needed to learn while looking. He said he felt it was equally important for the medical student to learn about bioethics, stress management and communication skills.

AKTU Vice-Chancellor Vinay Pathak, who was the guest of honour, spoke about the four pillars of learning — learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together. He felt that collaboration between technical and medical institutes was a must for all-round growth. Srijan Pal Singh, the special invitee and protégé of Kalam, told the audience that the former President believed it was equally important to be a good human being as it was to achieve professional excellence.

presented by singer Savita. Organisers of the programme said music and dance was the best remedy to overcome tiredness and they organised such programmes every year so that visitors could forget their stress and hardships, and just enjoy themselves.

CITY BRIEFS

VALMIKI SAMAJ HONOURED

Valmiki Samaj, a community of sanitation workers responsible for cleaning sewerage drains, were honoured in an event in their own community in Luv Kush Nagar by HH Swami Chidanand Saraswati, president of Parmarth Niketan and founder of Ganga Action Parivar, on Monday. Saraswati first paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar and then took a round of the entire settlement to witness and understand the real problems of the community. Two women, Chandi and Shivane, presented their views as the voice of the community. They said they wanted to live with self-respect realise their dreams. Terming the role of sweepers and sanitation workers critical in the



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and recalling the Prime Minister's address to the nation on the importance of sanitation, Saraswati the community was worthy of everyone's respect and appreciation.

DANDIYA RAAS

Breath and Body, a dance and fitness institute in Gomti Nagar, organised Navratri special 'Dandiya Raas' on Monday. Women and children dressed in traditional Gujarati attire thronged the venue in large numbers and danced to the music and songs presented by singer Savita. Organisers of the programme said music and dance was the best remedy to overcome tiredness and they organised such programmes every year so that visitors could forget their stress and hardships, and just enjoy themselves.



Hindi Pakhwada (September 7-21) organised by Union Bank of India culminated with prize distribution and cultural programmes organised on October 12

AMU's Kashmiri students protest against sedition charges, alleged harassment

Aligarh: Kashmiri students studying at the Aligarh Muslim University organised a protest march on the campus on Monday against slapping of sedition charges on their three peers and alleged harassment by local authorities. The students marched from the Sir Syed Gate to the office of Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor.

Five of the protesting students met university registrar Abdul Hamid and handed over a memorandum alleging that they were living in a state of constant fear. On Saturday, sedition cases were registered against the three students for allegedly raising "anti-India" slogans and trying to hold a prayer meeting for Hizbul Mujahideen commander Manan Bashir Wani, an alumnus of the university who was killed in an encounter with the security forces in north Kashmir, officials had said.

"Police filed an FIR against Wasim Malik, Abdul Mir and one unnamed person. They have been identified on the basis of a video recording," Aligarh Senior Superintendent of Police Ajai Sahni had said. The protesting students said in their memorandum Monday that if the sedition charges were not withdrawn, more than 1,200 Kashmiri students would leave the campus on October 17 after presenting their case during the alumni meet on October 16, as part of the Sir Syed Day celebration.

SCHOOLSCAN

The first Dr APJ Abdul Kalam memorial celebration was organised by the Medical Education department of King George's Medical University on Monday, the 87th birth anniversary of Kalam. Head of the department Dr Shally Awasthi said that Kalam was not only a great scientist and leader, but also one of the greatest teachers India had produced as he taught through personal examples. She said the occasion would also serve as a platform

to develop an MoU between Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and KGMU. MAHE Vice-Chancellor H Vinod Bhat, who is credited with drastic reduction in pregnancy-related woman and child mortality in the Manipal region, said medical education was special because teachers needed to teach while treating and students needed to learn while looking. He said he felt it was equally important for the medical student to learn about bioethics, stress management and communication skills.

AKTU Vice-Chancellor Vinay Pathak, who was the guest of honour, spoke about the four pillars of learning — learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together. He felt that collaboration between technical and medical institutes was a must for all-round growth. Srijan Pal Singh, the special invitee and protégé of Kalam, told the audience that the former President believed it was equally important to be a good human being as it was to achieve professional excellence.

presented by singer Savita. Organisers of the programme said music and dance was the best remedy to overcome tiredness and they organised such programmes every year so that visitors could forget their stress and hardships, and just enjoy themselves.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and recalling the Prime Minister's address to the nation on the importance of sanitation, Saraswati the community was worthy of everyone's respect and appreciation.

Breath and Body, a dance and fitness institute in Gomti Nagar, organised Navratri special 'Dandiya Raas' on Monday. Women and children dressed in traditional Gujarati attire thronged the venue in large numbers and danced to the music and songs presented by singer Savita. Organisers of the programme said music and dance was the best remedy to overcome tiredness and they organised such programmes every year so that visitors could forget their stress and hardships, and just enjoy themselves.

Aligarh: Kashmiri students studying at the Aligarh Muslim University organised a protest march on the campus on Monday against slapping of sedition charges on their three peers and alleged harassment by local authorities. The students marched from the Sir Syed Gate to the office of Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor.

to develop an MoU between Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and KGMU. MAHE Vice-Chancellor H Vinod Bhat, who is credited with drastic reduction in pregnancy-related woman and child mortality in the Manipal region, said medical education was special because teachers needed to teach while treating and students needed to learn while looking. He said he felt it was equally important for the medical student to learn about bioethics, stress management and communication skills.

AKTU Vice-Chancellor Vinay Pathak, who was the guest of honour, spoke about the four pillars of learning — learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together. He felt that collaboration between technical and medical institutes was a must for all-round growth. Srijan Pal Singh, the special invitee and protégé of Kalam, told the audience that the former President believed it was equally important to be a good human being as it was to achieve professional excellence.

presented by singer Savita. Organisers of the programme said music and dance was the best remedy to overcome tiredness and they organised such programmes every year so that visitors could forget their stress and hardships, and just enjoy themselves.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and recalling the Prime Minister's address to the nation on the importance of sanitation, Saraswati the community was worthy of everyone's respect and appreciation.

Breath and Body, a dance and fitness institute in Gomti Nagar, organised Navratri special 'Dandiya Raas' on Monday. Women and children dressed in traditional Gujarati attire thronged the venue in large numbers and danced to the music and songs presented by singer Savita. Organisers of the programme said music and dance was the best remedy to overcome tiredness and they organised such programmes every year so that visitors could forget their stress and hardships, and just enjoy themselves.

Aligarh: Kashmiri students studying at the Aligarh Muslim University organised a protest march on the campus on Monday against slapping of sedition charges on their three peers and alleged harassment by local authorities. The students marched from the Sir Syed Gate to the office of Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor.

Five of the protesting students met university registrar Abdul Hamid and handed over a memorandum alleging that they were living in a state of constant fear. On Saturday, sedition cases were registered against the three students for allegedly raising "anti-India" slogans and trying to hold a prayer meeting for Hizbul Mujahideen commander Manan Bashir Wani, an alumnus of the university who was killed in an encounter with the security forces in north Kashmir, officials had said.

AIMED AT SCREENING ECONOMIC THREATS

Govt mulls policy to filter investment proposals

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a move that is aimed at using economics as a tool for furthering diplomatic agenda, the Centre is working on a policy framework to screen threats emerging from big-ticket investments in strategic sectors by a host of countries including China.

The Union Home Ministry is examining a proposal from the Intelligence Bureau (IB) to filter all sensitive investment proposals from foreign entities into three broad categories under "entities of concern", "countries of concern" and "sectors of concern" to check any unwanted investments into strategically important sectors like telecommunication, power and infrastructure.

As part of the policy level interventions to counter Chinese threat, the Union Home Ministry is mulling over the proposed scheme to examine proposals from the point of view of these three parameters. When approved, the scheme would cover threats from Chinese entities as well.

Chinese firms have emerged as the lowest bidders in many infrastructural projects in India with active support of Chinese Government. Such Chinese footprints were increasingly being

Amid huge investment agenda of the Chinese Government under the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, there is a significant uneasiness due to Chinese ascendancy

noticed in States like Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Haryana. "There is a large-scale presence of Chinese companies in States like Chhattisgarh where major investments were in the sectors of telecommunication, engineering and manufacturing," a senior Intelligence official said.

The Intelligence agencies have noted with concern the visit of Chinese business delegates to Betul Island in Goa near INS Khadamba to explore business opportunities. The other area of concern is the award of contracts to non-Chinese firms, which in turn employ Chinese firms/persons, as was the case in the Dhamra Port Company in Odisha, which is strategically located near APJ Kalam Island (Wheeler Island).

Amid huge investment agenda

of the Chinese Government under the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, there is a significant uneasiness due to Chinese ascendancy. The aggressive nature of the Chinese trade and culture promotion poses risks to economic engagement including the Indian Ocean Region.

China is also aggressively using its soft power through the setting up of Confucius Institute to gather Intelligence in the host countries.

According to Intelligence estimates, increased business and tourist activities besides Memorandums of Understanding with Indian universities and colleges for promoting Chinese language and culture through various student exchange programmes pose a threat to Indian interests. China is also attempting through its businessmen to gain access to decision making levels in Indian establishments.

"As part of the existing policy formulations, the Chinese investment proposals are cleared by the Government in consultation with the security agencies on a case to case basis. The new framework will further help in better identification of threats and restricting investments that may harm the Indian economy in the longer run," the official added.

Rahul: PM gave many speeches but forgot to give food to people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying while he gave speeches and "enjoyed life", he forgot to give food to the people. He attacked Modi citing a global survey on hunger that ranked India 103 among 119 nations.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Welthungerhilfe, ranked India 103, clubbing its position with Nigeria in the index, according to media reports.

"The chowkidaar (watchman) gave a lot of speeches, but forgot about people's stomach. Did a lot of Yoga and enjoyed life, but forgot to give food to people," Rahul said in Hindi on Twitter.

Termining the matter "very serious", senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot said it was a matter of shame that India was ranked 103rd among 119 countries in the global hunger index. The NDA Government should set its priorities right, he said.

Gehlot targeted Modi on India's ranking in the index, claiming Modi and his team never talked about hunger. If they do not even acknowledge it how will they make policies to feed the people, he said.

"India stands at a lowly 103rd position



among 119 countries, in GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX report, which is a matter of shame. This is a very serious concern and one which needs urgent attention. But for NDA Govt, the grave issue of hunger doesn't exist.

"Modi ji or his Ministers never talk about poor, hungry people. If they do not even acknowledge problem then can we expect them to make policies to feed hungry mouths. NDA needs to set its priorities right. 1st priority should be to eradicate hunger and provide food to all," Gehlot tweeted.

In 2017, India stood at the 100th rank among 119 countries, while it was 97th in 2016.

India was behind its neighbours Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, which stood at 67th, 72nd and 86th ranks in the index for 2018, as per a report.

Bose dead or alive? CIC asks National Archives of India

New Delhi: The Central Information Commission has directed the National Archives of India to give a "categorical" response to an RTI applicant who asked the Prime Minister's Office whether freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was dead or alive.

In his application, Avdhesh Kumar Chaturvedi also wanted to know why the Prime Minister had paid tributes to Bose on his birth anniversary in 2015 and 2016.

Not getting a satisfactory response, Chaturvedi approached the CIC, the highest appellate authority in RTI matters. He submitted that he had not received any authentic information regarding the death of Bose.

The Prime Minister's Office said the subject matter of this RTI application pertained to the Culture Ministry, so they had transferred it to the Ministry.

"Further, he (the PMO Central Public Information Officer) informed that all the files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were declassified and sent to the National Archives of India for permanent



The Prime Minister's Office said the subject matter of this RTI application pertained to the Culture Ministry, so they had transferred it to the Ministry

retention," Chief Information Commissioner R K Mathur said.

Mathur said the CPIO of the National Archives of India should give a "categorical" reply to the appellant as per this RTI application, within 15 days from the date of this order.

Bose had founded Indian National Army, commonly known as Azad Hind Fauz, in 1942 to fight British with the support of Japanese forces.

January 23 is celebrated as his birth anniversary. **PTI**

Delhi HC gets four new judges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Four new judges were on Monday appointed to the Delhi High Court, taking the strength of the court to 38 as against the approved strength of 60.

According to separate Law Ministry notifications, advocates Jyoti Singh, Prateek Jalan, Anup Jairam Bhambhani and Sanjeev Narula have been appointed as judges of the Delhi HC.

The Delhi High Court has an approved strength of 60, but was facing a shortage of 26 judges before these four appointments were made.

As of Monday, there are 34 judges in the Delhi HC. Once the new judges take oath, the working strength will go up to 38.

The collegium had also recommended the name of advocate Manoj Ohri.

But he does not figure in Monday's list as the Government has decided not to go ahead with his appointment "as of now", a senior Government functionary said.

In a first, India, China together to train Afghan diplomats

NEW DELHI: In the first such initiative, India and China came together Monday to provide assistance to Afghanistan through a joint training programme for Afghan diplomats.

The Joint India-China Training Programme for Afghan diplomats, from October 15-26, began Monday as part of an understanding reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan.

Ten Afghan diplomats started training at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) here after an event where statements by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi were read out by the diplomats of the two countries.

China's Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, in his remarks at the inauguration of the programme, said such a 'China-India Plus' cooperation should be extended from Afghanistan to other countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Iran and Myanmar. Describing India as a "regional major power", he said China and India can also join hands under the mechanisms of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM), to promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.



"Both of us (China and India) support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. Both of us uphold that Afghanistan should realise peace, stability and prosperity. Both of us are against terrorism.

"We are talking a lot about the regional connectivity initiatives, such as International North-South Transport Corridor, India-Afghanistan-Iran transit and trade arrangement and China-Pakistan-Afghanistan cooperation. All of these have provided a solid foundation for the current and future cooperation between China and India in Afghanistan," he said.

Noting that the training programme is

the first step for the 'China-India Plus' cooperation in Afghanistan, the Chinese envoy said this was just the beginning. Swaraj, in her statement that was read out by FSI Dean Ambassador J S Mukul, said the seeds for joint cooperation in Afghanistan were sown at the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi when they met in Wuhan in April 2018.

"Today, we see it blooming with the initiation of this training programme. This marks the beginning of what we visualise as a long term trilateral partnership for the benefit of Afghanistan," Swaraj was quoted as saying.

EC'S ADVISORY TO POLITICAL PARTIES

Shun religious, communal tone on public broadcast

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday issued guidelines to political parties advising them against attacking religions and communities during their radio broadcast and TV telecast for campaigning through public broadcasters like Doordarshan and All India Radio. The poll regulator also came out with the time schedule for the parties for the upcoming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Telangana.

The Commission categorically stated that political parties will be required to submit transcripts and recording of the broadcast and telecast. "The parties can get this recorded at their own cost in studios, which meet the technical standards prescribed by the Prasar Bharati Corporation or at the Doordarshan/All India Radio Kendra," it said.

"A base time of 45 minutes will be given to each national party and recognised State party (recognised in respect of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh



& Mizoram) uniformly on the regional kendras of Doordarshan network and All India Radio network in the above mentioned States and Union Territories," the EC said. In a single session of broadcast, no party will be allocated more than 15 minutes.

The EC has imposed complete prohibition on broadcasting or propagating election-related material on TV, Radio or even Newspapers. Any such material influencing the voters would not be permissible during the 48 hours before the poll in any constituency.

"Advising television, radio channels and cable networks to stop broadcasting any material that could effect the prospect of any candidate or

influence election result, the poll body writes, "During elections, there are sometimes allegations of violation of the provisions of the above Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by TV channels in the telecast of their panel discussions/debates and other news and current affairs programmes," it said.

However, any advertisement being published in the newspapers on February 3 and 4 requires prior permission or certification from the EC, he said, adding that all electronic media advertisements, except the bulk SMS, IVRS and social media are banned for broadcasting during the last 48 hours ending with poll.

The elections in Chhattisgarh will be held in two phases on November 12 and 20. The other four states will go to polls in a single phase. Voting in Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram will be held on 28 November while voting in Rajasthan and Telangana will be held on December 7. The counting of votes will be held on December 11.



President Ram Nath Kovind pays floral tribute to former President the late APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday

72 Zika cases detected in Jaipur; Centre asks States to intensify steps to control spread

New Delhi: As the number of people infected with Zika virus rose to 72 in Rajasthan, the Union Health Ministry on Monday asked States to check mosquito breeding and intensify vector control strategies to contain the spread of the disease.

Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare held a meeting with various state representatives through video conferencing. He asked them to implement

the guidelines as prescribed under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for effective control of Zika.

"States have been asked to intensify vector control strategies which include anti-larvae activities and fogging, and also follow the guidelines as prescribed under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for effective control of Zika virus disease," a Health Ministry official said.

States have also been asked to strengthen their surveillance systems.

Zika is caused by aedes aegypti mosquito which also transmits dengue and chikungunya and breeds in open stagnant water.

Twelve new cases of Zika virus were detected in Jaipur Monday, taking the total number of infected people to 72.

"Sixty out of the total 72 patients are healthy after treatment," a Rajasthan health department official said. **PTI**

Environmentalists vow to take forward GD Agarwal's fight to save Ganga

New Delhi: Environmental activists on Monday said they would take the message of 'Save Ganga' crusader G D Agarwal to every nook and corner of the country.

Agarwal died at a Rishikesh hospital on October 11, 111 days after he began a fast for a pollution-free Ganga. He was 86.

Sanjay Singh, national convener, Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan, said as a first step they would organ-

ise a march from Delhi to Banaras to carry the message of 'Save Ganga'.

"We will also talk about the dreams of Agarwal in every capital city of the country so that his message reaches each and every person," he said.

Another activist Rajendra Singh said they would also carry the message of cleaning Ganga to those attending the Kumbh festival next year. **PTI**

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SURVEY IN 9 STATES

75% women's participation in production of major crops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Research by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducted in nine States shows that the participation of women is 75 per cent in the production of major crops, 79 per cent in horticulture, 51 per cent in post-harvest work and 95 per cent in animal husbandry and fisheries.

In an address on the occasion of Mahila Kisan Diwas, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said that as many as 38.78 lakh women have been trained in the last two years under the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). "As many as of 53.34 lakh women have benefited



during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18," Singh added. About 400 women from 26 states participated in the two-day event that started on Sunday. Mahila Kisan Diwas is celebrated on October 15.

As per Census 2011, 65 percent of the total female workers in India is engaged in agriculture. Of the total cultivators (118.7 million), 30.3 percent are women. Out of

144.3 million agricultural labourers 42.6 per cent are Women. In 2001, female agricultural labourers were 21 per cent which increased to 23 per cent in 2011.

The Minister lauded the contribution of women in the development of agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry and beekeeping sectors. Singh pitched for appointing more women in agriculture extension service and said the Centre would write to states on this matter.

"More than 98.14 lakh women farmers have been trained so far under the Agriculture technology management agency (ATMA) scheme," he said. Alongside, it is focusing on women self-help

groups to connect them to micro credit through capacity building activities and to provide information and ensure their representation in decision-making bodies.

The Minister noted that in 2016-17, 21 techniques related to women were evaluated and 2.56 lakh women were trained in agriculture-related fields like sewing, manufacturing, value addition, rural handicraft, animal husbandry, beekeeping, poultry and fisheries.

In order to bring women in the agriculture mainstream, he said the Government has allocated more than 30 per cent of funds for women under various major schemes/programmes and development related activities.

J&J FAULTY HIP IMPLANT

Victims allege lack of transparency in deciding compensation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Johnson and Johnson faulty hip implant victims on Monday questioned the credibility of a Central Government panel to determine the compensation amount for them and alleged the entire process lacked transparency and followed no proper guidelines.

In a letter written to Union Health Minister J P Nadda, a group of over 30 victims also expressed reservation over the involvement of the multi-national company (J&J) in the process and threatened to boycott the entire exercise if their concerns were not addressed.

The Government has set up the five-member Central Expert panel to determine the quantum of compensation to be given

to patients who received "faulty" hip implants, manufactured by DePuy International, a subsidiary of J&J.

The patients have also questioned the credibility of the panel. They said they are distressed to see the Government continuing its consultation with the J&J while the patients who suffered grievous injuries 'have not been consulted even a single time'.

"Given the lack of transparency and any guidelines, there are grave concerns about whether the committee will be fair, just, equitable and reasonable in determining compensation. "A committee operating without guidelines, framed through a consultative process...lacks credibility and effectiveness," they said in the letter. The patients said their apprehensions are compounded by issues such as the lack of clar-

ity on which cases will be considered appropriate for compensation and the documents required by patients to make their claims.

They also expressed concerns over the manner in which compensation will be calculated, the "lack of expertise" in the committee to compensate for broader harm caused (for example, mental and physical pain, suffering, trauma), and the absence of any patient representative.

Earlier, a committee headed by Dr Arun Agarwal was formed by the Government to look into complaints of alleged faulty implants. The committee stated in its report that "the ASR (articular surface replacement) hip implants manufactured by DePuy International Ltd were found to be faulty which resulted in higher instances of revision surgeries globally including India".

SHIVAMOGGA LOK SABHA BYPOLLS

Sons of three former Chief Ministers in fray

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

Even though it is for a short period of time, the bypoll to Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency is poised for a very interesting political development in Karnataka. The sons of three former Chief Ministers are in the fray fighting for the prestige of it, ahead of 2019 general elections. The Shivamogga constituency has fallen vacant after BJP strong man BS Yeddyurappa quit to get elected to the Assembly to play his crucial right wing politics from Shikaripura constituency.

In Shivamogga, which is considered as the stronghold of Lingayat strongman Yeddyurappa, the BJP is fielding his son and former MP BY Raghavendra.

The Congress has ceded the seat to JD(S) and the ruling alliance is fielding former JD(S) MLA Madhu Bangarappa, who is the son of former Chief Minister S Bangarappa.

The JD(U) (Nitish Kumar) has fielded the son of another Chief Minister, late JH Patel, Mahima Patel. But it looks like a symbolic fight as Mahima Patel has no backing in the constituency.

But certainly the fight is between the BJP and the JD(S). All these candidates and their fathers are from Shivamogga district who played their politics to the hilt. Here even though cast is a factor Yeddyurappa commands significant clout to get his son elected.

Karnataka is having three by polls on November 3 and also by polls to two assembly seats. Yeddyurappa expressed confidence and said that his son will win with a huge margin to continue the good work in the constituency.

SHIVAMOGGA WHICH CONSIDERED AS THE STRONGHOLD OF LINGAYAT STRONGMAN YEDDYURAPPA OF THE BJP IS FIELDING HIS SON AND FORMER MP BY RAGHAVENDRA FROM BJP TICKET

The resignations of BS Yeddyurappa and B Srinamulu of the BJP and CS Puttaraju of the JDS necessitated the bypolls to Shimoga, Bellary and Mandya Lok Sabha seats.

Even though the political parties were not ready for the short period of by elections to lok sabha ahead of 2019 general elections the Election Commission of India's (ECI) decision came as a shock to them and with no other option before them but to go for polls. According to political observers this may have no bearing on the general elections a few months away, but significant in deciding the fate of the coalition Government of JD(S) and the Congress.

These elections before Assembly polls in five States might also indicate the political wind and its direction. For the BJP it is crucial to recapture Karnataka as the entry to the south. For its Lingayat strongman Yeddyurappa this battle is crucial as it decides his position in the saffron party.

The unity of opposition parties which got started in Karnataka to take on BJP, Modi Shah combine has fizzled out and BJP is Karnataka is expected to garner more seats to help the party it loss in other States.

In Bellary where Reddy brothers still control the BJP has fielded former MP J

Shantha for the by poll for Lok Sabha. She is the younger sister of party strongman and MLA B Srinamulu. The Congress has fielded MLC VS Ugrappa, ignoring the claims of Congress MLA B Nagendra's brother Venkatesh Prasad for the ticket. In Mandya Lok Sabha by poll, a stronghold of JDs the election looks one-sided. The JDS swept all eight seats in the recent Assembly polls and the BJP lost deposit in all seats. The JDS-Congress has fielded former MLA LR Shivaram Gowda and BJP has fielded retired Government official Siddaramaiah from Mandya. But the local Congress workers and leaders openly expressed displeasure over the alliance with JDS and the BJP is trying to woo some of them.

Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy said the Congress has given the seat to us. Madhu is a strong candidate." In the recently held Assembly elections, Congress and JDS together polled over 90,000 more votes than the BJP in Shivamogga," he said.

State Congress president Dinesh Gundurao said that Congress had asked JDS to field its candidate only to give a good fight to BJP.

In Ramanagara Assembly seat vacated by Kumaraswamy after he won from two seats, his wife and former MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy is contesting on JDS ticket backed by the Congress. The BJP has fielded local Congress leader and MLC CM Lingappa's son L Chandrashekar against her. This is the Vokkaliga heart land and the fight is between them. In Jamkhandi Assembly seat, the Congress has fielded deceased Congress MLA Siddu Nyamagouda's son Anand Nyamagouda. The BJP has fielded former MLA Srikanth Kulkarni against him.

AI air hostess falls from aircraft while closing door, hurt



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a freak mishap on Monday morning, a senior air hostess suffered severe injuries after she fell off a New Delhi-bound Air India aircraft as it was preparing for take-off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) here.

The incident took place shortly before 7 am when the 53-year old air hostess, identified as Harsha Lobo, was closing the door of the Mumbai-Delhi flight AI-864 for the push back prior to taxiing.

She fell all of a sudden from the aircraft onto the hard tarmac at least six metres below. Before long, some ground staffers around rushed immediately to Lobo's help.

She was taken to nearby Nanavati Hospital for treatment. Terminating the incident as "unfortunate", Air India said that Lobo had suffered injuries on her legs.

"In an unfortunate incident, one of our cabin crew (members) Harsha Lobo, fell down on the tarmac from the Boeing 777 aircraft door while closing it," an AI statement said.

She fell all of a sudden from the aircraft onto the hard tarmac at least six metres below. Before long, some ground staffers around rushed immediately to Lobo's help. She was taken to nearby Nanavati Hospital for treatment

The flight later departed for Delhi after over an hour's delay.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued later in the afternoon, Dr. Rajendra Patankar, COO, Nanavati Super Specialty Hospital said: "The patient (Lobo) is suffering from right leg compound fracture, fracture in both heels and soft tissue injury in chest, abdomen and lower spine. She also suffered from a sprain in the neck (cervical spine).

"She is being treated under Dr. Prakash M Doshi, Director of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. She is currently under observation".

One more lion dies in Gir forest; toll now 24

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Amidst the ongoing controversy over the death of lions in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary, one more carcass of an Asiatic lion was found around 2 km away from the sanctuary.

The carcass of the adult lion was found in the western part of the Gir forest near Visavadar town in Junagadh district. According to Chief Conservator of Forest DT Vasavada, prima facie the death of the lion near the western side of the sanctuary seemed to be natural and it has nothing to do with the death of 23 lions which died due to multiple reasons in Dalkhanian range situated on the opposite eastern side of the Gir forest.

Vasavada said that the age of the lion would be around 2-3 years.

The body has been sent for post mortem to confirm the cause of the death, he said adding that there was no symptoms of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) infection in the big cat's body.

It is worth mentioning that since September 12 this



year, as many as 23 lions were died in Dalkhanian range of Gir Sanctuary and most of them reportedly died of CDV infection.

The other reason of the deaths of these beasts according to officials is infighting and territorial war among the strong lions.

Gir forest and surrounding areas are considered as the only abode of Asiatic Lions in the world.

As per the last lion census in the area conducted in the year 2014, there were 523 big cats in eight districts of Saurashtra region that including 109 mature male, 201 female, 73 sub-adults and 140 cubs (below one year).

PNS

A sub-adult lion rescued

A team of the State Forest Department rescued a sub-adult lion from a well in the eastern part of Gir forest on Monday morning. Sources said that the lion fell down in the 25 feet deep well near Devla village when it was in search of water. As soon as the message pertaining to the lion came, a team of experts reached the spot and rescued the big cat after efforts of three hours. The lion around the age of 18-20 months got injured due to the sudden fall. After rescuing the beast, it was sent to Jashadar animal care centre.

I believe in serving, not seeking vote: Nitish

'No compromise with crime, corruption and communalism'

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar is now fully in an election mode. He is taking all attempts to woo all sections of the voters in a bid to expand his electoral base. His party is holding separate conclaves for backwards, dalits, minorities as well as women and youths of all sections and telling them the Government's steps taken for their welfare.

Incidentally, all these sections had wholeheartedly backed Nitish from 2005 except the 2014 Lok Sabha polls but regained the support of these

social groups in 2015 Assembly polls which he fought in alliance with Lalu Prasad and Congress.

Amid the apprehension that his party was losing the support base of particularly the dalits and minorities, the JD(U) on its own trying hard to maintain its hold on these sections because its main rival the RJD is also heavily banking on these social groups.

After holding the dalit conclaves at some places and one in Patna four days back which was also attended by Nitish, Monday was the day to host meeting on minorities issues. The emphasis of the CM was on maintaining communal harmony and addressing the problems faced to the Muslim community.

"I have never and will never compromise with crime, corruption and communalism. I believe in working and serving the people and not concerned for votes. I have committed to



serve and believe in "kaam" (work) and not the caste. All my schemes are universal and for the welfare of all and not any particular section," he declared at a meeting organised by the minorities welfare department.

The CM unveiled projects on minorities residential schools, wakf development and madrasa modernisation. He also approved the Indo-Islamic design for new construction of historical and iconic building Anjuman Islamia Hall in downtown Patna and said it should be completed Eid in 2020. He also listed the works done for

various Muslims institutions and students, wakf boards and financial corporation, Arabic & Persian University, minorities hostels and stipends. He said minorities residential schools will be opened in each district. The budget for minorities employment loan scheme has increased from Rs 25 crore to Rs 100 crore.

The JD(U) on Monday held a training programme for its proposed 'Mahila Samagam' (women conclave) to be held on 24, 25 and 26 November in all districts. The focal point of these conclave would be governance, prohibition, anti dowry and child marriage, women employment, education and health, said JD(U) national general secretary RCP Singh.

He said the works done by Nitish for the half of the population should be propagated through the 'Mahila Samagam'.

PIL in HC to regulate Netflix, Amazon Prime Video content

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A PIL has been moved in the Delhi High Court seeking framing of guidelines to regulate the functioning of online media streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime video, alleging that they show "uncertified, sexually explicit and vulgar" content.

The petition was listed for hearing on Monday before a bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice VK Rao, but was not taken up as the judges did not sit. The petition, by an Non Governmental Organization (NGO) has been listed for hearing on November 14.

Nun rape case: Kerala HC grants bail to Bishop

PTI ■ KOCHI/KOTTAYAM

The Kerala High Court on Monday granted conditional bail to Roman Catholic Bishop Franco Mulakkal, three weeks after he was arrested over allegations of repeatedly raping and sexually assaulting a nun.

Granting the bail, Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan directed the accused to leave Kerala and surrender his passport.

He has been directed to appear before the probe officer once in two weeks on Saturdays. This condition would be applicable till a charge sheet is filed in the case.

Earlier on October 3, the High Court had dismissed the bail plea of the clergyman while accepting the prosecution argument that the accused, holding a high position in the society, would try to influence witnesses in the case, if given bail.

The 54-year-old bishop, currently lodged in a sub-jail in Pala in Kottayam district, moved the high court again after a magistrate court extended his judicial remand.



Police opposed the bail application of Mulakkal, saying investigation was still on in the case.

The court, however, granted him conditional bail considering the fact that investigation in the case was almost over.

Fellow nuns of the victimised nun, who had staged public protest in Kochi seeking the bishop's arrest, expressed concern over the "speedy bail" of the accused, saying Bishop Mulakkal was very powerful who can influence the witnesses in the case

even if he stays outside the State.

They said there was a security threat for them and there was no guarantee that they would be alive tomorrow. Welcoming the decision, a Jalandhar diocese spokesperson said, "Thanks to the God."

Without elaborating, he said the case was under the consideration of the court and "let the court decide".

The bishop was arrested on September 21 after intense interrogation over the last three days. The Vatican had relieved him "temporarily" of all pastoral responsibilities as the bishop of the Jalandhar diocese of the Missionaries of Jesus congregation to which the alleged victim also belongs.

The nun had accused the clergyman of repeatedly raping and having unnatural sex with her between 2014 and 2016. In her complaint to the Kottayam Police in June, the nun had alleged that Bishop Mulakkal raped her at a guest house in Kuravilangad in May 2014 and later sexually exploited her on several occasions.

31 Bangladeshis held at Guwahati rly station



Police official stands guard as suspected Bangladeshi nationals who were detained sit on a platform of a railway station in Gauhati on Monday

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

A group of 31 suspected Bangladeshi nationals who allegedly entered the country illegally were apprehended on Monday from Guwahati Railway Station, according to police.

The group was detained when they were preparing to board Kanchanjunga Express to go to Agartala this morning, Railway Police Deputy Superintendent Iftekar Ali said.

The detained include eight women and 13 children, he said. "They could not produce any valid document to prove

their Indian citizenship. ... They then confessed that they hail from Bagerhat district in Khulna division of Bangladesh," Ali said.

During interrogation, the detainees said that they had entered India illegally two to three years ago and had moved to Bangalore where they did some petty jobs, the police official said.

The group had reached Guwahati yesterday by the Bangalore Express and spent the night on the station platform. "They were on their way to Bangladesh via Agartala to visit their homes ... Investigation is on," he added.

Goa BJP ally warns against Assembly dissolution

IANS ■ PANAJI

Goa Forward Party president and Agriculture Minister Vijai Desai on Monday warned against dissolution of the Assembly even as the State Chief Minister is fighting a serious illness.

Goa Forward Party is an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which leads the State Government.

Sardesai asked the BJP's central leadership, including party president Amit Shah, to "keep their word" and ensure continuance of the coalition Government in Goa and not go in for dissolution of the Assembly. Sardesai's comments assume significance as Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar remains seriously ill, plunging the State into political uncertainty.

"People of Goa are watching them because national parties need to keep their word. If they don't keep their word, people don't trust them. Now the onus is on them and they will have to fulfil their commitment to ensure that this Government completes its term and gets the continued support of the Central Government," Sardesai said in a video statement issued here on Monday.

The BJP is ruling the State in alliance with Goa Forward Party, and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party.

"The BJP National presi-

Parrikar advised week's rest

Panaji: Ailing Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has been advised to take a week's rest by the doctors, a statement by his office said on Monday.

Parrikar, who has been undergoing treatment for advanced pancreatic cancer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, was suddenly discharged and arrived in Goa on Sunday.

"Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's condition has improved further. He had a chat with his family members today morning. Doctors have advised him to take rest for a week," the statement said.

Parrikar was admitted to AIIMS on September 15.

He has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and now Delhi for



the last seven months.

On Sunday, state Power Minister Nilesh Cabral told the media here that he was awaiting a miracle to ensure Parrikar's quick recovery.

"However, he may be, we only hope that he recovers fast, a miracle happens and he leads us in the future. That is all we ask," Cabral said. IANS

Coal scam: Jindal, others granted bail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Monday granted bail to industrialist and Congress leader Naveen Jindal and 13 others, accused of money laundering in a case pertaining to alleged irregularities in allocation of a Jharkhand-based coal block. The court, however, put various conditions on the accused, including that they will not leave the country without its prior permission and not influence the witnesses or hamper the probe. Special Judge Bharat

Parashar granted the relief to Jindal and others on a personal bond of Rs one lakh and one surety of the like amount after they appeared in court in pursuance to the summons issued to them on August 14. During the hearing, Enforcement Directorate's special public prosecutors — senior advocate RS Cheema and advocate NK Matta — opposed the bail application, saying the relief may hamper the investigation. The court has now put up the mater for December 11 for scrutiny of documents. In

its charge sheet, filed through advocates Tarannum Cheema and Samvedna Verma, the ED alleged that Jindal's firm — Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) — along with others had influenced the screening committee to allot the coal block by investing more than Rs two crore in illegal gratification. The case, filed under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), pertains to the allocation of the Amarkonda Murgadangal coal block in Jharkhand.

The knock that broke their peace, a family remembers

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

A persistent knock broke the silence of the winter night, jolting the Duttas awake at their home in Assam's Tinsukia district and marking the beginning of a 24-year ordeal, the family of Pradip Dutta, who was taken away never to be seen again, said on Monday. It was 2 am on February 19, 1994. The Army had come calling for the 33-year-old businessman, who had been married just a month earlier, in connection with the killing of a tea estate manager by United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) militants, his elder brother recalled. "We never saw him again," Deepak Dutta, a manager with the United Bank of India in Guwahati, told PTI. Pradip was picked up by an Army team along with four others and killed four days later on February 23, 1994 in what has come to be known as the Dangori fake encounter case. The Dutta family's nightmare saw some martial on Saturday with a court martial sentencing seven Army personnel, including a major general, to life imprisonment in the case. The summary general court martial

looked into the extra-judicial killing of five people in February 1994 after a unit of the Punjab Regiment picked them up along with four others from different places in Tinsukia. The memory of Dutta's tortured body that was returned to them continues to haunt the family. Pradip, who had been married just a month when he was picked up, was the second of the five children of Bupeswar Dutta, a resident of Talap in Tinsukia district. "The Army men searched our home and when they saw some wedding gifts which were yet to be opened they asked who they belonged to. My brother told them they were his. After sometime, they took him away and we never saw him again," Deepak said. When there was no information for 24 hours, the family moved the Gauhati High Court on February 20, 1994 and filed a habeas corpus seeking his immediate production before a magistrate court.

"My lawyer was Hrishikesh Roy, who is now chief justice of the Kerala High Court. The Gauhati high court order directing the Army to produce Pradip in a magistrate court

1994 ASSAM ENCOUNTER

Pradip was picked up by an Army team along with four others and killed four days later on February 23, 1994 in what has come to be known as the Dangori fake encounter case

was given to the Army. But there was no result," Deepak said. Pradip's bullet riddled body, along with four others, was handed over to the respective families after they were killed on February 23. The Army officials then claimed they were United Liberation Front of Assam militants and killed in an encounter. "Pradip had no links with any organisation. He was a simple guy

doing his own business. But he was killed in a very brutal manner. All his nails were removed and the whole body had injury and burn marks which, we suspect, were due to electric shocks given to him," Deepak said. Overcome by grief, Pradip's father passed away after a few years. His mother, Subarnalata, also fell sick. "Our mother, who is 80 years old now, still weeps remembering Pradip. It is still incomprehensible for me how some people of the Indian Army, whom we all are proud of, can be involved in such barbarism," he said. Those found guilty are Major General AK Lal, Colonels Thomas Mathew and RS Sibiren and JCOs and NCOs Dilip Singh, Jagdeo Singh, Albindar Singh and Shivendar Singh. The verdict will have to be confirmed by the "higher competent authorities" like the Eastern Command in Kolkata and the Army Headquarters in New Delhi. The Army men can file appeals against the verdict before the armed forces tribunal and the Supreme Court.

Sonowal, AASU welcome court martial verdict against seven Army personnel

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and the All Assam Students' Union on Monday welcomed a court martial verdict sentencing seven Army personnel, including a major general, to life imprisonment for a fake encounter 24 years ago and said the long wait for justice had finally ended. The summary general court martial looked into the extra-judicial killing of the five people in February 1994 after a unit of the Punjab Regiment picked them up along with four others from different places in Tinsukia. Those found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment by the court martial, held at the 2 Infantry Mountain Division at Dinjan in Dibrugarh district of Assam, are Major General AK Lal, Colonels Thomas Mathew and RS Sibiren and JCOs and NCOs Dilip Singh, Jagdeo Singh, Albindar Singh and Shivendar Singh. "It is a welcome judgement. The judgement will strengthen people's faith in judiciary and the Army," Sonowal told PTI. He said the verdict, which was delivered on Saturday, will be a deterrent to people in authority not to engage in unlawful



acts and to behave responsibly and in a fair manner. The verdict will give solace to the families of the victims, who were innocent students and youths, the chief minister added. Sonowal said the judgement is a reflection of India's democratic values where human rights and fairness are respected. "The Army has also worked in a fair manner without any prejudice," he said. During the fake encounter at Dangori in Tinsukia district, Sonowal was AASU president and had sought an impartial probe into the case. "The long wait of the families for justice has come to an end and I hope the higher authorities will uphold the judgement," he said. "Justice has been given at last and we welcome it," added

AASU president Dipanka Kumar Nath. The verdict will have to be confirmed by the "higher competent authorities" like the Eastern Command in Kolkata and Army Headquarters in New Delhi, officials said. The Army men can file appeals against the verdict before the armed forces tribunal and the Supreme Court. The Army detained the group of nine at the Dhola Army camp after the general manager of Assam Frontier Tea Limited at Talap Tea Estate, Rameswar Singh, was killed by ULFA militants. The five later killed on February 23, 1994 were Prabin Sonowal, Pradip Dutta, Debajit Biswas, Akhil Sonowal and Bhaben Moran. "We are happy that we and the family members of our five victims are victorious in our legal battle. We believe in democracy and welcome the verdict. We thank the legal system for giving justice," Nath told PTI. There can be no compensation for the loss of the families of the AASU members but they have finally got justice, he added. "Many innocent people, including young men and women, lost their lives in Army operations in Assam," the leader of the influential students organisation claimed.

AASU general secretary Luringjyoti Gogoi said the government should give a government job to a member of each of the five families. "As Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was then AASU leader and then AASU leader Jagdish Bhuyan, who had filed a case against the fake encounter, is now an MLA, it is their responsibility to take the initiative to rehabilitate the five families by giving a government job to a member of each victim family," he said. The AASU leaders were taken to Dholla Army Camp where they were detained following the killing of Assam Frontier Tea Limited general manager Rameswar Singh at the Talap Tea Estate by ULFA extremists, said a family member of one of those who were killed. He did not want to be identified. Bhuyan had filed a habeas corpus in Gauhati High Court which had ordered the Army to produce the nine AASU leaders at the nearest police station on February 21, 1994, he said. According to the case history, the Army produced five bodies on February 22 at the Dholla Police Station, which refused to accept the bodies, while the remaining four were released in different locations.

2 gangrape incidents reported from Delhi

Class X girl, MNC employee victims

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital has witnessed two incidents of gangrape: One of a 16-year-old schoolgirl and another of Multinational Company (MNC) employee, police said on Monday.

In first incident, the girl was allegedly gangraped by her landlord's son and his friends and in other case the MNC staffer was raped by her colleagues. The two incidents have raised the issue of safety and security of women in the city.

The Class X student at a Government school was raped by four men, including son of her landlord, who lured her with an offer to buy her a pizza. The incident occurred on Friday at Kalyanpuri.

"They allegedly forced

themselves on her and threatened her of dire consequences if she revealed about the incident to anyone," said the DCP. "When the girl's mother returned from work, the victim narrated her ordeal to her mother, who took her to the police station following which a case was registered under the relevant sections of POCSO (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences) and Indian Penal Code (IPC). The accused were arrested on the same day," the DCP added.

"The girl and the landlord's son were friends for quite a long time. The landlord's son is aged 28 and is married. One of the accused is 18-year-old, who does the job of washing cars in the locality. Two of the other accused are 28 and 40 years old," said the DCP.

In another incident, a woman employed with an MNC in west Delhi's Dwarka was allegedly gangraped by two of her colleagues on Saturday night.

According to a senior police official, the accused identified as Birju (25), and his associate Vinod Kumar (31) offered her a lift after office hours on Saturday evening from Dwarka. "During the journey, the accused served her cold drink lashed with sedatives and she became unconscious. The victim was taken to a flat in an unconsociate state where they took turns to rape her. After committing the crime, the accused dropped the victim near Vasant Kunj area," said a senior police official.

"The victim somehow managed to reach her home and reveals her ordeal with family members. On Sunday, victim reached the Vasant Kunj police station and gave written complaint against the accused," said the senior police official.

"We have conducted medical examination of the victim which confirms rape. The accused have been arrested from their houses," the senior official added.

CBI submits closure report in missing JNU student Najeeb case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has submitted its closure report in the case over disappearance of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Najeeb Ahmed, who went missing from here in October 2016.

The agency has submitted his report in Patiala House court recently after getting permission of the Delhi High Court, the agency official said on Monday, adding that the court is likely to hear the matter on November 29. While taking permission of the Delhi High Court to close the case, the agency which began their probe in May last year had said all aspects were looked into but it could not find any trace of an offence.

Najeeb had gone missing from the Mahi-Mandvi hostel of the JNU here on October 15, 2016, following a scuffle the previous night with some students allegedly affiliated to the



Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

The agency had announced a reward of ₹10 lakh for anyone giving information about Najeeb and informed police chiefs of all state police in the country, they said. It also received some inputs from Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi where teams were immediately dispatched but to no avail, the officials said.

The agency had carried out a thorough check on unidentified bodies and pasted Najeeb's photograph on toll stations seeking information about him but these efforts did not result in any positive results, they said. After exhaustive search, the agency has decided to close the case, they added.

Delhi sees 543 new dengue cases, total victims 2,187

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the recent spurt of 543 fresh cases of dengue in just last one week, in the nation's Capital the total number of victims has reached 2,187, suggested the report released by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday.

According to the report, out of last week's fresh cases, 180 belonged to Delhi while 309 were from other States. In 54 cases, address of the patients was not reported by the hospitals. Of all the three corporations (North, South, East), South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) with 24 out of 180 recorded highest number of cases.

While North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) recorded 10, 19 were recorded in East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC).

Similarly, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) recorded 6 fresh cases, 15 cases were reported from Delhi Cantonment. Out of the 180, 106 were untraced after inves-



tigation. In the same way, around 66 cases of malaria were reported last week which is less than previous weeks' 75.

However, the total cases of the vector borne disease have risen to 766 this year. As far as chikungunya is concerned, 17 cases were reported last week.

Amidst this, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) sent legal notices to 5,848 households after they were found positive for mosquito breeding while 1,000 fresh prosecutions were launched last week, suggested the latest

report released by Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) on Monday.

"A total number of 8,941 households were found positive for mosquito breeding last week out of which 5,848 houses were sent legal notices," said a senior official.

As of now, more than 1, 60,000 houses have been sent legal notices and prosecution has been launched in around more than 23,000 cases. Apart from that, more than 17 lakh houses have been sprayed of which, 2, 32,789 were sprayed last week.

Mother, cousin of PSO detained; cops grapple with murder motive

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Haryana Police on Monday detained personal security officer (PSO) Mahipal Singh's mother and his cousin in connection with the murder of Additional District and Sessions (ASJ) Judge Krishan Kant Sharma's wife and murderous attack on his son on Saturday.

The accused cop had called his cousin soon after he had opened fire on the Judge's wife Ritu Sharma (37) and his son Dhruv (17) in the crowded Sector-49 market on Saturday. While Ritu succumbed to her injuries on Saturday night, Dhruv remains highly critical and has been put on ventilator.

Post-mortem report of slain Ritu has revealed that the PSO had hit her many times before opening fire. Ritu had sustained eight contusions on her chest, neck and face. Before breathing her last, Ritu had told her husband and another judge that Dhruv had asked Mahipal for the car keys which infuriated Mahipal who started hurling abuses at Dhruv and her. Soon after thrashed them, he started firing on them from his service weapon.

The SIT detained Mahipal's mother Tirpati and his cousin Manoj Kumar from Kosli in Rewari district to ascertain the reasons behind the shooting. "Mahipal had called up his cousin Manoj (23) a BSC student, soon after the incident.

He told him to take his mother Tirpati from his residence at Gurugram's police line but he didn't share anything about the incident to Manoj," said Mahipal's uncle Daan Singh. "Manoj reached Kosli along with Tirpati at around 7 pm on Saturday and around 8 pm a local police detained her and took her to Gurugram. Also, in the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, they had detained my son Manoj as well. A team of police came to his house and took the duo to Gurugram stating that they were to question them in connection with the shootout," said Daan.

The case was filed on the complaint of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Krishna 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 from my Personnel Security Officer (PSO) Mahipal and he told me that he had shot my wife Ritu and son Dhruv. On this, I immediately informed my colleagues and when one of them, RK Mehta, called my wife's number. It was answered by an unknown man who said she and a boy had been brought to Park Hospital with gunshot injuries. We all immediately rushed to Park Hospital," ASJ Sharma wrote in his complaint to police. "There, my wife, Ritu told me that she along with son Dhruv reached

Arcadia market and asked PSO Mahipal to wait near the car and thereafter when they returned, Dhruv asked him to hand over the keys of Honda City car on which he got angry. He then shouted and without any provocation rushed towards them and fired at her. When Dhruv came to her rescue, he shot him also," ASJ Sharma claimed in his complaint to police and First Information Report (FIR) was registered.

Meanwhile, throughout Monday the SIT officials as well as senior police officers were tight-lipped and didn't share anything with the media about the PSO's interrogation and detention of his family members. Police are yet to ascertain the motive behind the shooting which had shocked the city.

Also, SIT is looking into Mahipal's post on Facebook the night prior to the killing some strange scribbling on a piece of paper, mentioning "Pastor Robin". What has made police suspicious is that he wrote two words starting with the letters 'R' and 'D' and then crossed these. Furthermore, on Monday the family members of ASJ took the body of his wife to her native place in Hisar for performing the last rites.

Mahipal, a humanities graduate, had joined Haryana Police in 2007. Between 2015 and 16, he was posted with Chandigarh based judge and completed his commando training.

Four members of inter-state robbers' gang arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested four members of an inter-State gang of robbers who targeted vulnerable victims, specifically people on their morning walks, women picking up their children from school and women coming home late from work. They were arrested from a park in Sector-19 Dwarka. The gang active in different parts of India would rent flats which they used as their base to commit crimes, police revealed Monday. "The accused persons Ram Avtar (27), Rakesh (23), Rajender (23) and their kingpin Mangal Singh (26), all residents of Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh, are involved in several cases of robbery, snatching and auto-theft all over India. In Delhi alone, 12 cases of snatching and vehicle theft have been worked out. Mangal is a proclaimed offender (PO) in six cases at Karnal and Bangalore," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Bhisam Singh stated.

"On Friday, information was received that some members of the gang of robbers would be gathering in a park at Sector-19 Dwarka. The information was developed under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police Aditya Gautam led by Inspector Richtpal Singh and a trap was laid to nab them.

CUT OIL PRICES...

The high-level meeting included Ministers from Saudi Arabia and UAE and CEOs and experts from organisations including Saudi ARAMCO, ADNOC, BP, Rosneft, IHS Markit, Pioneer Natural Resources Company, Emerson Electric Company, Tellurian, Mubadala Investment Company, Schlumberger Ltd, Wood Mackenzie, World Bank, International Energy Agency (IEA), NIPFP, Brookings India and various Indian companies involved in both upstream and downstream operations. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog Raviv Kumar and senior officials from the government and Niti Aayog were also present in the brainstorming session to deal the current scenario in the oil and gas industry.

The experts made a special mention of India's competitive ranking from the upstream investment point of view which has gone up from 56 to 44. Subjects such as expansion of oil and gas infrastructure in India; enhancing exploration and production; potential in solar energy and biofuels; and the Government's holistic approach to the energy sector came up for discussion. During the interaction, the participants appreciated the steps taken by the Government for ease of doing business, specifically in the energy sector. The experts appreciated the unique initiative of this kind of a dialogue which brings various stakeholders together on policy matters. Modi also spoke about the various policy initiatives and developmental measures undertaken by gov-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ernment in the sector. He highlighted the liberalisation in gas pricing and marketing and about the ongoing commercial exploitation, and made a special mention of extension of production sharing contracts.

THAROOR'S RAM...

He has clarified that whatever he said has said in his personal capacity. As far as the issue is concerned, we have a clearly stated position. We have stated that over and over again, and I state that again. This issue is in court, the court will be hearing this issue. Whatever is the verdict, everybody will have to follow the same," Congress spokesman RPN Singh said. At the Press conference, Rao also accused the Congress of following a double-pronged strategy of showing its love for Pakistan and "working to break India" as part of Rahul's "divisive mindset".

He also cited Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's reported comments that he can relate to Pakistan more than south India to hit out at the Opposition party. He demanded that Sidhu must be sacked as a minister in the Punjab government in a week or the BJP would carry out protests. It was due to support from south India that the Congress came to power, he said in a reference to its win in 2004 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections, claiming that "otherwise Sonia Gandhi and Rahul would have fled to Italy".

UNYIELDING AKBAR...

The complaint describes as "scandalous" the allegations made by Ramani against Akbar

and said "very tone and tenor" are ex-facie defamatory and they have not only damaged his goodwill and reputation in his social circle but also affected Akbar's reputation in the community and friends, family and colleagues and caused irreparable loss and tremendous distress. The complaint, filed through advocate Sandeep Kapur, seeks issuance of notice to Ramani under Section 499 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Section 500 of the IPC provides that an accused may be awarded two years jail term or fine or both in the event of conviction. The sharp debate on the alleged sexual misconduct of Akbar has drawn the Opposition to accuse the Modi Government of backing a Minister with a taint, a charge that the ruling party denied. Asked whether the party agrees with the Minister's statement, BJP spokesman GVL Narasimha Rao said at a Press conference that he (Akbar) has given his version on the row and that it is not about whether the party agrees or disagrees with him. "It is not about agreeing or disagreeing. He has presented his version," Rao said. The BJP is in dilemma if there were more charges to flow against many more in high posts. For their part, the Youth Congress activists staged a protest near Akbar's residence demanding his "immediate resignation" over allegations of sexual misconduct by several female journalists. Meanwhile, several media bodies demanded an "impartial probe" into all allegations of sexual misconduct against MJ Akbar and said he

should step down from his post till investigation is completed. Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC), Press Club of India, Press Association and South Asian Women in Media issued a joint statement saying that Akbar is a "senior functionary of the government and his response should reflect the responsibility that is thus bestowed on him".

BOLLYWOOD SANSKARI...

In their complaint filed before the Andheri Metropolitan Magistrate, Alok Nath and his wife said, "The complainants (Nath and Ashu) have on October 12 addressed a letter to the Amboli police seeking action under Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 of the Indian Penal Code against Nanda." On their part, the Amboli police have said that since the offences are non-cognisable in nature, they would act on Alok Nath's letter only after the court passes an appropriate order.

In her lengthy Facebook post that she wrote last week, Nanda did not actually name Alok Nath but said that "the predator in question here is the actor par excellence who is known as the most #Sanskari (Cultured) person in the film and television industry". Maintaining that "I have waited for this moment to come for 19 years," Nanda tore into Alok Nath, by saying, "He was an alcoholic, shameless and obnoxious but he was also the television star of that decade, so not only was he forgiven for all his bad behaviour, many of the guys would also egg him on to be his worst." She alleged the actor even harassed the show's lead actress.



Here we go again

We are at that time of the year when pollution level rises and the Government, like every year, steps in to try and control it

There is an eerie similarity between the disconcerting presence of pollutants in the atmosphere and the authorities tasked to tackle the problem of air pollution in the Capital. Both seem to work in tandem, making their appearance annually during this time of the year. That, at least, is what has been the trend over the last few years. The Delhi Government's move to bring the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) into force confirms that the authorities have got into the act but not before a sharp spike in air pollution levels was recorded. The emergency action plan has been put into motion as the worsening air quality, which is expected to deteriorate further as we move into the crucial months of November and December. Apart from dust (both roadside and construction) and vehicular pollution, crop stubble burning in the neighbouring States of Haryana and Punjab starts having impact as it has this year, too, by the middle of October, and then there is a sharp spike in air pollution on a couple of days either side of Diwali. What aggravates the situation is that there is no reprieve from rainfall. Instead, as winter approaches, the smog that envelops the atmosphere makes white clouds of September appear as a grey smog. This is exactly the time when the authorities wake up and get into action. It's just like a sick person going to a doctor after her/his illness has got aggravated and s/he cannot take it anymore. GRAP is a response system which merely responds to the way the weather conditions and level of pollutant from different sources change. It's not a pre-emptive strike against the coming danger but follow-up action.

Admittedly, the Capital's battle against air pollution received fresh impetus when in 2016 the Supreme Court ordered the Government to bring GRAP in force and consequently it came into force in January 2017 with the best of intentions. It entailed a systematic approach to tackle each type and level of air pollution. Depending on how critical the situation is, it calls for measures like a ban on construction activities, ban on stone crushing, enhancing parking fees, and rolling out the odd-even road vehicle rationing scheme, besides calling for a ban on the use of diesel gensets. But while GRAP is in force, we cannot just sit back and think the system alone will tackle the situation. The fact is that the graded response formula can never be successful unless the State and the Centre, not to mention various agencies, coordinate among themselves better. Delhi alone has 16 agencies often working at cross-purposes which leads to a delay in decision-making. Politics between the Centre and the State is another issue with even officials nowadays busy exhibiting allegiance to political parties rather than the people of Delhi. Despite knowing that crop stubble burning is a recurring annual problem, enough has not been done to, if not eradicate, then at least minimise it. The ring of fire around Karnal in Haryana, for example, is there for all to see. Appropriate steps have not been taken. It is also ironical that fearing a Supreme Court ban on firecrackers as Diwali approaches, shopkeepers had set up shops months in advance so people could stock up before any restrictions on sale came into force. But then it is we, the people, who buy them. The reality is we need to be prepared for another winter of discontent and ill health.

50 WORDEDIT Saving the Himalayas
The Niti Aayog has come up with a proposal to impose a 'green tax' on tourists who visit the Indian Himalayan region. It is a good idea, as the 100 million tourists visiting the region annually, expected to go up to 240 million per annum by 2025, put immense pressure on extant resources. We need to preserve the Himalayas for future generations.

Honour in uniform

The Army owes it to its tradition of discipline to ensure crimes like the Assam fake encounter never happen again

There are many things than can, and do, go wrong when you deploy the Army which is trained to ruthlessly and without mercy eliminate external enemies on internal security duties. No officer or jawan wants to be in a situation where they have to take on their people, i.e. fellow citizens of India. Yet, the political leadership in India has for decades turned to the men and women in olive green to quell armed insurgencies in various parts of the country when their counterparts in khaki were either co-opted by those who have taken up arms against the state or proved singularly ineffective in facing them down. This is not by way of an apology for the excesses of the Indian Army but to contextualise the situation in which seven of its personnel, including a Major General, two Colonels, two captains and two JCOs have been held guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment at the conclusion of a Summary General Court Martial into a fake encounter that took place in Assam in 1994 in which five innocent youth were killed.

It is to the credit of a brave Jagadish Bhuyan, who has been pursuing the case doggedly for 24 years, that justice was finally done. It is also to the credit of the Indian Army which does, as it should, hold itself to a higher standard. Indeed, as Bhuyan himself asserted, the trial and verdict showed that the Army exemplified the best traditions of fairness and neutrality even when it came to their own who had transgressed. The specifics of the case are not important, though it is worth mentioning that the killings took place in the Tinsukia district where the Army men picked up nine student leaders suspected of being ULFA militants and gunned five of them down before releasing the other four into the jungles.

What is quite remarkable is that a number of witnesses were encouraged to come forward and were heard at length by the Army judicial authorities which can only happen when there is trust that the machinery of the justice delivery system will protect them. The Indian Army owes it to its own tradition of discipline and zero tolerance towards human rights violations to ensure such crimes are never repeated. The exemplary punishment awarded through due process to the guilty is another step in that direction.



SANDHYA JAIN

Its inclusive character notwithstanding, Sabarimala has several characteristics consistent with a denominational temple and should have been spared the humiliation that is currently agitating Ayyappa swami devotees across the country. In hundreds of Ayyappa temples, devotees are welcomed without distinction of gender, jati or even creed. At Sabarimala, Ayyappa, born from the union of Shiva and Vishnu as Mohini, takes the form of *Naishtika Brahmachari* (perennial celibate) and performs eternal *tapas* (meditation); hence women devotees of reproductive age (10 to 50 years) desist from disturbing him.

Hindu dharma celebrates divinity in its complex diversity. The same deity has different traits and is worshipped differently according to *naama* (name), *rupa* (form) and *svarupa* (essence). During the Navratri, Devi is worshipped in nine forms. At four major temples in Kerala, Ayyappa takes the

form of a 'kumar' (teenager) at Sabarimala; a 'balak' (child) at Kaluthapuzha; a *grishasha* (family man) with wives at Achankovil; and a 'tapasi' (ascetic) in Aryankavu; these denote the four stages of human life.

Sabarimala is essentially a denominational temple within the Ayyappa panth (stream); it has special rules and regulations appropriate to the deity in that *rupa* and *svarupa*. These rules have been practiced without demur from time immemorial and correspond to settled usage and custom. Violation, as in 2006 when an actress in the prohibited age group entered the temple, defiles the sanctity of the temple according to the Agamas, and requires purification.

The denominational nature of the temple is established by the rigorous 41-day *vrat* (penance) that Ayyappa Himself prescribed when he directed a king to build the temple at the spot where his arrow landed after vanquishing a demon. This includes total abstinence, celibacy, and other forms of asceticism. A person starting *tapas* takes blessings from his parents, elders and Guru and dons a *halu* or *radaksha* maula. The aim is to purify mind and body and establish the Oneness of all beings. On the pilgrimage, each devotee is addressed as 'Swami' as he has become pure. Justice DY Chandrachud's view that, "To suggest that women cannot undertake the 41-day *vrat* is to stereotype them", mocks at the sanctity of custom. That this has caused religious hurt can be seen from the



IT IS SURPRISING WHY THE APEX COURT REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE BALAKA GOD AS A MINOR AND A JURISTIC ENTITY, A SETTLED PRINCIPLE IN HINDU LAW. IN THE RAM JANMABHUMI CASE, RAMLALLA (INFANT RAMA) IS A MINOR AND JURISTIC ENTITY ENTITLED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW AND TO BE REPRESENTED BY A 'BEST FRIEND'

thousands of women pouring out on the streets of Kerala cities to protest the verdict.

Only those who conclude the *vrat* and carry the *Irumudi kettu* on their heads can cross the *Srichakra* and ascend the final 18 steps to the *sannidhanam* (sanctum), to the presence of Ayyappa. *Irumudi* is a twin bundle with offerings for the deity on one side, and the pilgrim's humble necessities on the other. Other devotees worship through a side entrance. The 18 steps represent the stages of knowledge and consciousness, to supreme bliss at the feet of Ayyappa swami. The *vrat* and *Irumudi* distinguish Sabarimala as a religious denomination or section thereof, which, under Article 26, has the right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion.

It is surprising why the Supreme Court refused to accept the *balaka* god as a minor and a juristic entity, a settled principle in Hindu Law in the Ram Janmabhumi case, Ramlalla (Infant Rama) is a minor and juristic entity entitled to the protection of the law and to be represented by a 'best friend'. Hindu Gods own wealth and property because they are juristic entities. In 1988, recognising this principle, a London judge returned the Chola Nataraaja of Pattur to India, ruling that so long as even one stone belonging to a temple built by a Chola chieftain remains *in situ*, the temple continues to exist in the eye of law and has the right to own property. Sabarimala is a living temple adhering to distinct agamas; it is incorrect to designate temples as 'pub-

lic spaces' and deny the deity's constitutional rights.

We may ask if it is wise to destroy the sanctity of Sabarimala to satisfy the iconoclastic urges (disguised as a quest for equality) of litigants whose *locus standi* is suspect? The principal activists behind the Indian Young Lawyers Association & Ors Versus The State of Kerala & Ors, (Writ Petition (C) No. 373 of 2006) have admitted that they were inspired by the furor over actress Jayamala's unlawful entry into the temple.

The erstwhile royal family of Pandalam, where Ayyappa grew up, and People for Dharma are seeking a review of the verdict, on grounds that "it has the effect of Abrahamising the core of the Hindu faith, namely diversity, and altering its identity". The organisation laments that the court failed to enquire if the traditional practice "is essential to the identity of the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple". Instead, it asked if it is essential to Hindu religion, when the Sanatana Dharma has no Book or Canon with uniform beliefs and practices.

The Sabarimala restrictions have been distorted as derogatory towards women in their fertile years. Different temples run according to distinct *agamas*. The menstrual cycle of Assam's Devi Kamakhya is celebrated in the Ambubachi Festival; Kajo, symbolising the menstruation of Mother Earth, is a major event in Odisha. The Mahatma temple in Chengannur celebrates women's fertility, and transgender have divine status in

Kottakkalanganra.

Only Justice Indu Malhotra, the sole dissenting voice, sifted the evidence clinically and observed that the restriction on women of a certain age group was not based on misogyny or menstrual impurity, but on the celibate nature of Ayyappa swami: "what constitutes an essential religious practice is for the religious community to decide". She questioned the *locus standi* of non-believers approaching the Court and claiming the right to enter the Temple, even as there was no aggrieved petitioner from Kerala. Justice Malhotra warned that in a plural and diverse country, judges must be careful before labelling a practice as discriminatory on the basis of personal morality; "issues which are matters of deep religious faith and sentiment must not ordinarily be interfered with by courts." In fact, Courts should not interfere unless a practice is "pernicious, oppressive, or a social evil".

The apex Courts' equation of Sabarimala customs with untouchability as defined in Article 17 of the Constitution, which refers to birth-based discrimination against some castes was unfortunate. The Kerala Government's decision to pass The Travancore-Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions (Amendment) Act, 2018 to allow appointment of non-Hindus to the Travancore Devaswam Board was the last straw.

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

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

No good Hindu would want a temple at Babri masjid site by demolishing somebody else's place of worship. —Congress MP SHASHI THAROOR

There is a chargesheet against him (Tharoor). What can we say on the statement of such a person? *Woh neech admni hai.* —BJP MP SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY



Nanotechnology's major pitfalls

Nanotechnology, which has seen great advances in recent times, proliferating deeper into our lives in amazing ways, also has potential dangers. It's time to raise awareness

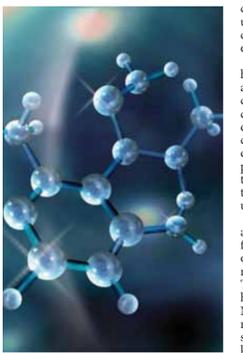


SOUMI ROY CHOWDHURY

According to the latest research study, "Global Nanotechnology market outlook of 2024", the nanotechnology industry is predicted to grow at a rate of 17 per cent during the forecasted period and is expected to exceed \$125 billion by 2024. These huge market expectations are because of the wide proliferation of this technology in almost all sectors of the global economy, including health, energy, cosmetics, electronics, transport, agriculture among others. However, this window of opportunity must be dealt with caution. Materials at nanoscale exhibit properties different from the bulk matter primarily because of the surface and quantum effects. These factors affect the chemical reactivity of materials and alter their mechanical, electrical and magnetic properties. Hence, the success of nanotechnology relies heavily on the ability of the researchers to address these uncertainties. They must become adept in understanding the prospects and implications that this new technology may leave on the eco-system as a whole.

Nanoparticles are sources of both natural and man-made processes — soil erosion, dust storms, burning of unprocessed fuel, industrial and other mechanical processes — release several million tonnes of nanoparticles in the air. Where studies have extensively researched the health impacts of PM2.5 and PM10 exposure, evidence on the toxic effects of nanoparticles on human health is insufficient and beyond the scope of a single discipline. This calls for an interdisciplinary research team of scientists, health professionals, and epidemiological researcher who can be convinced of the scientific composition, transmission and exclusive effects of nanoparticles on human health.

The large surface area and chemically reactive nature of nanoparticles make risk assessment highly uncertain. Inhalation is the most common route through which people get exposed to nanoparticles. Ingestions and dermal contact of engineered nanoparticles are also popular transmission mechanisms. Inhaled particles can enter the blood circulation from where it can be carried to different health organs, such as heart, kidney and liver, giving rise to cardiovascular,



pulmonary diseases and respiratory illnesses. Suggestive evidence show that nanoparticles accumulated in the vascular sites can clot the blood vessels, thereby increasing the likelihood of a heart attack or a stroke. Occupational exposure to these toxic elements can increase the risk of lung cancer and long-term exposure to higher concentrations of nanoparticles can lead to death. For patients with pre-existing heart or pulmonary conditions, the situation can get worse when exposed to elevated particle concentrations. Infant mortality, neonatal complications and birth defects are also likely to increase with every increasing concentrations of matters smaller than 10 µm.

Nanotechnology is in the cosmetic industry is not unknown. But there is no public knowledge about the amount and extent of use of nanotechnology in cosmetics, nor do we know of all the daily consumable food products that contain nanoparticles. Hence, it is difficult to quantify the damage caused through them. What we do know with certainty is their ability to penetrate deeper into the human skin as also their ability to accumulate and persist into human biological systems for long.

Other than human health, nanoparticles are likely to alter the environmental processes, especially through their effect on dust

cloud formation. Particulate matters from unprocessed fuel and burning of biomass create dust clouds which can be transported along thousands of kilometres.

Therefore, major environmental events happening in one part of the country can affect other far-away regions. Atmospheric clouds leading to lower intensity of sunlight can change the pattern of rainfall and duration of monsoon. This changing pattern can have consequences on agricultural productivity and reduce the production of staple food crops. Furthermore, the toxicity of these particles is responsible for depleting the ozone layer, allowing higher intensity of ultraviolet rays to reach the Earth's surface.

Given that the dangers of nanoparticles are impossible to calculate in the absence of further research, it is essential to be aware of the risks involved and to undertake the necessary steps to minimise their threat. Towards this end, the Government of India had laid out some initiatives, importantly the Nano Science Mission anchoring the promotion of nanoscience in India. The mission aimed to work on the following themes: national and international collaborations. Significant steps are underway to include nanoscience in the curriculum for post-graduate students. A comprehensive document, as the first of its kind, is brought forward by the Nano Regulatory Task Force on precautionary measures in handling practices of nanoparticles.

But the regulatory needs of such an upcoming technology will have to be spread further to have sector based regulations. Sectors of production should be able to separate particles used in macro versus nanofoms. Materials used in nano forms should have regulatory mechanisms different from their bulk properties. This initiative can then be furthered with mandatory reporting of nanoparticles in the finished products. As said before, people are not aware if their consumable products have nanoparticles. Once they are aware, they will be able to take appropriate measures limiting their exposure. Routine regulations of nanotechnology will only work better if we understand the different sources of nanoparticles, the varying levels of concentration by sources, the channels of transmission into living beings, and finally the causal relationships of nanoparticles affecting human health.

(The writer is Associate Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research. Views expressed here are personal)

Bhagwat's bunch of Golwalkar's thoughts

Some assume in the aftermath of his outreach that Dr Mohan Bhagwat has distanced the Sangh from Gurujii. This couldn't be further from the truth

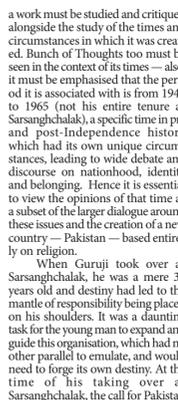


MANMOHAN VAIDYA

The three-day lecture series in New Delhi by Dr Mohan Bhagwat was an unqualified success and, as expected, conversations triggered by this first-of-a-kind interaction still continue. Among those who attended there were many who were yet to hear the Sangh's views firsthand and had often been misled by propaganda; hence, there was also some disbelief since the Sarsanghchhalak's speech was contrary to what had been said and reported about the organisation. Opponents of the RSS were numbed into silence, trying to pick apart the speech but failing to come up with an incriminating utterance that confirmed their often-repeated falsehoods. Their efforts, perhaps out of habit and hubris, saw only a desultory revival of their discredited allegations even as in the main the Sarsanghchhalak's outreach has overwhelmed past prejudice.

In this context, there seems to be on delight or surprise about the clarification the Sarsanghchhalak has given about the publication Bunch of Thoughts, a collection of speeches and thoughts of Shri Gurujii in Bengal faced widespread violence. As a result of Direct Action, Hindus in Bengal faced widespread violence. In 1946, there was an election held with the demand for Pakistan. In Muslim majority areas, Hindus were subjected to violence and persecution. As a result of Direct Action, Hindus in Bengal faced widespread violence. In 1946, there was an election held with the demand for Pakistan. In Muslim majority areas, Hindus were subjected to violence and persecution. As a result of Direct Action, Hindus in Bengal faced widespread violence.

On his centenary birth anniversary in 2006, a 12-volume edition, an authoritative compilation of his entire thoughts (Shri Gurujii Samagra Darshan) was published. If two volumes are too much for some then his ideas have been distilled into a book called — Shri Gurujii. His Vision and Mission (Drishti and Darshan). Dr Bhagwat appealed to everyone to read this book, so where does the question of distancing the RSS from the second thoughts arise? Leftists, who should be asked to quit his religious system. We neither said this, nor we are going to say so. Rather we believe that a single religious system for the entire human society is not suitable. Dr Jilani: You said it right. Its 100 per cent right. Therefore, I am thankful to you for this clarification. You have clarified it from your side quite well. Any thinking person and gen-



17-19 सितम्बर, 2018 विज्ञान भवन, नई दिल्ली



17-19 सितम्बर, 2018 विज्ञान भवन, नई दिल्ली

tleman wouldn't disagree with you. Don't you think it is high time that a meeting took place between you and such Muslim Indian leaders who would cooperate with you in finding ways and means to remove this communal discord once for all? Would you like to meet such leaders? Shri Gurujii: I would not only like it, I would welcome it. Well known journalist Khushwant Singh also interviewed Gurujii in 1972, and if you were to read that interview then the protracted effort to malign and misrepresent Shri Gurujii by the communists who exercised control on most of the media and academic disciplines will become clear. Singh starts by writing: "There are some people against whom you build up malice without knowing them. Guru Golwalkar had long been at the top of my hate list. However, as a journalist, I could not resist the chance of meeting him." In the end, he writes: "Was I impressed? I admit I was. He did not try to persuade me to his point of view. He made me feel that he was open to persuasion." Both the interviews are worth reading in their entirety. Leftists, however, have made it an art form to discuss and defame Gurujii without going through the vast literature on him. It is a style of propaganda that they have excelled at

across the world. In Bunch of thoughts the concerns raised by Shri Gurujii are the same that the world today is vexed with and are specific to an ideology (within the faith) that propagates fundamentalism and the *jihadist* mindset that leads to horrors and oppression. Even in Bharat the existence of such elements cannot be denied. In addition, forced and illegal conversion in violation of the law by missionary bodies, urban Maoism as well as the international support to such activities have once again in the recent past been highlighted through some incidents but have a long history of spreading disquiet and violence in society. Though it is necessary to take the Muslims and Christians of Bharat along in the nation-building process, it is also important to be cautious about the extremists, *jihad* and divisive elements active in the sense of so-called minorities. In this sense, Shri Gurujii's caution about the threats to the nation are relevant even today. As Hindu way of life manifests itself with the changing times, same is true with the nature of Sangh work. Perhaps the inherent qualities of the fundamental Hindu philosophy characterised by 'flexible rigidity' and transformation according to the times is its real strength. *(The writer is Sah Sarkaryayah, RSS)*

process, building up financial liabilities that would need to be serviced out of revenues. The global aviation industry is under duress due to fuel costs and we are no exception. Competitive pricing and increasing cost of operations are taking a toll. Given that aviation has to be predicted on 100 per cent plus levels of safety, the government, the industry and the passenger must share the onus of keeping the exponential growth of air travel safe and profitable. How we do that is the real question. *R Narayanan Navi Mumbai*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ALTERNATIVE TO CROP BURNING

Sir — It is a known fact that stubble burning in States of Haryana and Punjab are the major contributors to air pollution in Delhi. Last year itself, the burning led to a severe deterioration in air quality. This year, too, farmers continue to defy rules, which call for strict fines. This because they have no alternative at hand. It is a fact that for most farmers, stubble burning is the fastest, easiest and cost-effective way to steer clear of fields. With lack of affordable alternative they continue to do so. The issue of stubble

burning needs to be addressed with caution. A toll free number for complaints along with an app in which a 'photograph+location' that could be sent to the authorities concerned can help curb the issue. Further, satellite monitoring technologies can be made use of. *Shashank Sharma Via email*

BATTLING AIR WOE

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Flying unsafe" (October 15). Despite constant expansion, major airports are battling

increasing passenger transit. Even Tier-II airports are not untouched. While airport authorities keep trying to improve the infrastructure and systems to keep up with the passenger rush, crowding does affect the performance of aircraft as well. Today we enjoy a safety rating which is higher than the US according to the Federal Aviation Administration but the problems being faced by Air India and now Jet Airways are portents of a dangerous future.

The industry is ordering a large number of new aircraft in anticipation of more passengers taking to air travel and in the

quency of the subservient attitude expected of women in the male-dominated society, it does not come as a big surprise that it took the 'aggravated' so many years to come out of the shadows of oblivion to accuse their tormentors of various wrong-doings. However, the drastic changes seen in recent times with moral and legal obligations confirming equal status to women, it becomes difficult to perceive the weaker lot remaining silent. For every distressed female, the courage to come out with charges against

Riding high on India's #MeToo movement



Pachhi Menon Margao

her persecutor, there is an equal number who are held back by the fear of reprisals. If one is to believe that harassment and abuse are gender agnostic, considering that males too fall prey to such ' lascivious overtures', it would imply that men are not so forthcoming in coming out with their 'ordals'. There have been unmet cases of such sexual misdemeanours. If the #MeToo crusade can change perceptions, it needs to be lauded. *Pachhi Menon Margao*

When nationalism takes over the Internet

Nationalism is widespread on the Internet and it's getting worse. The translation to digital media is making people a lot less tolerant. We need to lamp down the rhetoric



DIPAYAN PAL

In Renaissance Europe, the Gutenberg printing Press is noted for its pivotal role in challenging the religious and political authority of the Catholic Church that eventually culminated in the Protestant Reformation. But before the emergence of religious and political revolutions that would primarily stage political establishments in the West, the printing Press was initially perceived by the church establishment as a way to strengthen its dominance. This shows the one-way nature of Print media: Produced by a few, for the many to consume. The result was a breakdown of classical and medieval forms of authority and the emergence of new sources of political identity. It is fair to say that the Internet, as a form of media, has had its share of comparable effects on the political establishments in contemporary times?

The advancement of neteic media technologies and discussion fora has added a new dimension to the conventional practices of political contention. Transformed from a remote source of information into a vibrant and interactive political public sphere in its own right, the Internet connects the societal actors, mobilises pressure and frames public opinion. Whereas the Print media allowed for the spread of ideas from the few to the many, Internet media connects at once the many to many. Like the Print media, it acts as a tool of emotionally-driven connectivity through which political communities are (re)imagined. Its two-way character makes for a more dialectical process between producers and consumers of media. This is a promise to enhance a public sphere of debate that is conducive to democracy. The Internet and in particular social media, however, lack the regulatory nature of a news daily. It is this very characteristic feature of social media that makes possible two contradictory forces: First, greater impetus for individuals to express opinions and foster discussions and deliberations; second, the (re)solidifying of communities based on exclusivist, narrow conceptions of identity. In this information age, masses are simultaneously consumers and products of social media. As a result, the dialectical process works both ways in terms of media (Internet), empowering the masses with new ideas, or segregating them through misleading information.

The overriding question is: How to handle this enormous volume of information and individuals' ability to interact directly with one another with unprecedented speed that in ways leads us to broader connections, rather than mistrust. Mistrust seems to come in two major forms. First, based on stereotypes and increased animosity towards those deemed foreign or outside one's community and second, towards remaining sources of fact-checked and institutionalised media. The result is an unprecedented set of tools through which leaders can divide and control populations by disseminating confusion by (mis)information overload (a strategy known during Soviet times as kompromat). This becomes all the more complex given the role average individuals can unknowingly play in fomenting hateful sentiments against groups or communities. Most of us thought as well as believed the digital technology would connect the whole world in new ways. The Internet was supposed to break down those last boundaries between what are essentially 'synthetic nation states' and herald a new age of globalisation. But the Internet age has actually heralded the opposite ramifications. We are not advancing toward a new global society, but instead retreating back to nationalism.

The translation to a digital media environment is making people a whole lot less tolerant of this dissolution of boundaries. For example, scapegoating of a foreign or non-white 'Other' was key to both the breakdown of European Cohesion and the election of Donald Trump. Then there are India's 'cyber-nationalists' who expound on the violence and martyr they wish to bring upon those who don't share their vision of national identity. Through the social media, they are effectively muddying the debate on the nature and character of nationalism in India. This all seems to vindicate what Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore had once envisioned. We are perplexed by today's nationalist, regressive anti-globalisation. Likewise, major nations of the world are in a cyber-war arms race. We're all being hurt by collateral damage. Governments across the globe have discovered the Internet and everyone is spying on everyone else. At the same time, many nations are demanding more control over the cyberspace within their borders. They reserve the right to censor and spy, and to limit the ability of others to do the same. The prevailing espionage technology will result in more cyberweapons for attack and more cyber surveillance for defence. Thereby, this will result in less free-market innovation and more Government control over the protocols of the Internet. We are actually intervening an information-age Cold War that could escalate into a full-fledged cyber-war. Globalism has had some genuinely deleterious effects on many of those who are now pushing back. Nationalism is widespread on the Internet, and it's getting worse. We need to lamp down the rhetoric. *(The writer is a Student Fellow (elected) of Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland)*



MentalVision

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 unequal input causes the brain to ignore information from the weaker eye during brain development



DOCYARD

DR ABIZERMANKED

Consulting physician & diabetologist

SAIFEE HOSPITAL, MUMBAI



Anxiety? No kidding

Mental illnesses have existed from time immemorial, but for most of history, which includes much of medical history, they have often been considered moods or feelings as opposed to the serious health conditions, which they truly are.

Anxiety is common during childhood; the trouble begins when a prolonged phase results in the child actively avoiding certain activities or places. This is usually accompanied by other closely related conditions like depression and obsessive compulsive disorder.

GENERALISED ANXIETY DISORDER (GAD)

This is characterised by excessive worrying, usually pertaining to family issues, performance at school, and interpersonal relationships. Children who suffer from it often seek the approval of others to an unhealthy degree and are excessively unforgiving towards themselves.

SOCIAL ANXIETY DISORDER (SAD)

Social Anxiety disorder is characterised by the intense fear of social situations like performing in front of crowds or in more extreme cases, even speaking to peers. It can severely restrict a child's social interactions.

Talking to an expert and gaining knowledge to cope with feelings, anxiety and depression is an excellent way to reduce the impact

PANIC DISORDER

A child is suffering from panic disorder when they experience two or more panic attacks over a short period of time. A panic attack is a period of intense anxiety or fear, an increased heart rate, profuse sweating, shaking, and shortness of breath.

SEPARATION ANXIETY DISORDER

This disorder is said to exist when a child experiences anxiety or apprehension whenever a parent is out of sight. This behaviour, while common in all young children, is indicative of SAD if it persists beyond late childhood.

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

This disorder affects children and teenagers and can continue into adulthood if not diagnosed earlier. Children experiencing this might be hyperactive and may be unable to control their impulses, or they may have trouble in paying attention. These behaviours interfere with school and home life.

Here are a few simple steps to overcoming mental illness: Exercise releases serotonin, a mood regulating hormone that increases the sensation of bliss and reduces feelings of anxiety and depression.

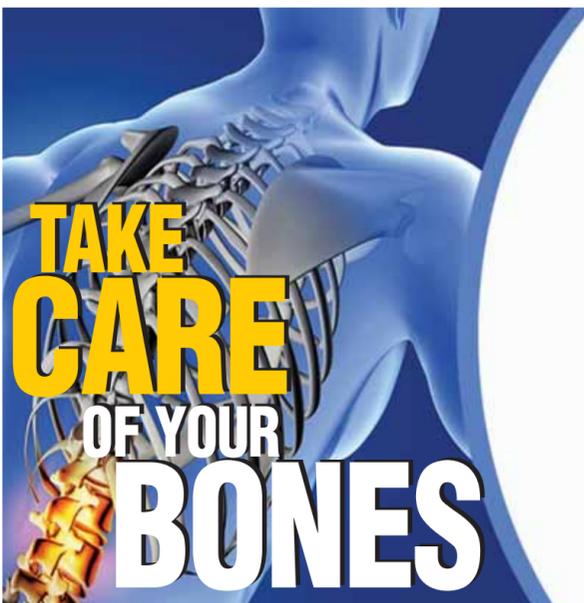
Simply talking to a well-grounded expert and gaining knowledge of various exercises to cope with feelings, and anxiety and depression is an excellent way to reduce the impact.

The last few years have seen enormous strides in anti-psychotic medications, when therapy is not as effective; medicine has proven to be an excellent second line of defence against mental illnesses. Like any medication, anti-psychotic drugs should only be taken after consultation with a qualified psychiatrist.

Yoga and meditation are proven to reduce feelings of anxiety by calming the mind and releasing serotonin.

SUMMERCooler

QUINOA: Quinoa is a small seed that's native to South America. It makes a fine substitute for white rice or pasta when you're trying to add more fiber and nutrients to your diet. It's flavorful, easy to digest, gluten-free, and high in protein. It contains almost twice as much fiber as most other grains which helps to relieve constipation and prevent heart disease by reducing high blood pressure and diabetes.



To mark the World Osteoporosis Day on October 20, doctors share their insights on preventing and treating the condition

OSTEOPOROSIS

It is a condition which leads to weakening of bones. Around 50 per cent of men and women above the age of 50 years will a sustain fracture of compromised osteoporotic back bone, hip or wrist. The problem can occur in younger people also.

The bone is a dynamic structure having constant turnover of its protein building scaffold and minerals, most importantly calcium salts deposited on it. At the microscopic level, it is like a huge meshwork of protein

Trabeculae with minerals deposited on them. Several factors affect the process of bone turnover.

Quantitative and qualitative decrease in bone framework at microscopic level can lead to osteopenia (osteo—bone; penia — decrease) and more serious osteoporosis when bone density decreases below a particular level and can give disastrous result at times. With osteoporosis, fragility increases because body fails to form enough new bone when too much existing bone is washed away.

Dr Yash Gulati, senior consultant, Orthopaedics, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi

WHEN TO SUSPECT

- Unexplained aches and pains all over the body in women around menopause or older men and women. Fracture sustained because of relatively trivial injury. Continuing back pain in people above 50 years of age. Stooping posture in elderly caused by multiple back bone compression collapses. Often silent with little or no pain. Sudden acute back pain in elderly because of Vertebral Compression Fracture (VCF).

Dr Gulati

TREATMENT

It can now be treated to a large extent and tendency of bones to break can be significantly decreased by certain drugs and of course by remaining active.

- Specific drugs such as Bisphosphonates Calcitonin and Teriparatide are now available Calcium and Vitamin D is important Various formulations are available which can be given daily, once a week, once a month or once a year, depending on the severity of disease and certain other factors. This must be done under medical supervision.

You will be asked to take the oral drugs empty stomach with water and to walk for half hour. This is because absorption of these drugs is otherwise poor. Drugs like teriparatide are given by daily injection under the skin (just as in Diabetes).

This is an expensive treatment; to be taken in special cases only.

Dr Gulati

CAUSES

- Age: Bone weakens with advancing age and is an important cause of osteoporosis. Lack of Activity: Sedentary lifestyle, lack of exercise leads to osteoporosis. Since bone is a living, dynamic structure, the more we stress it with activities like walking, jogging and sports, the more bone can remain healthy. Hormonal imbalance: Female hormone estrogen and certain male hormones have a positive effect on bone formation. Females

- are more prone to osteoporosis around menopause due to hormonal disturbances. Drugs: Steroids, anti-epilepsy and certain other drugs, can lead to osteoporosis. Alcohol and smoking: Heavy drinking and smoking have a definite negative effect on bone formation. Low body weight Race: Races such as caucasian's and Asians are more prone to osteoporosis.

Dr Gulati

DIAGNOSIS

There are simple non invasive methods available, like the DEXA scan which can accurately measure bone density and tell us if we have weak bones (osteopenia) or indeed osteoporosis. At the same time, we should check out mineral metabolism, when indicated, by doing blood test for calcium and Vitamin D.

It may be a good idea to check it once around menopause and after 50 year of age in case of men. There after it can be checked once every few years. In case of fragility fracture due to trivial injury after the age of 50 years around wrist, hip or spine, bone density must be checked.

FRAGILITY FRACTURES OF BACK BONE

The VCF can often be treated with medication and bracing. If it isn't successful and in certain fracture patterns, it is now possible to push bone cement into back bone



without giving general anesthesia (vertebroplasty or kyphoplasty). This can give excellent relief in pain and get the elderly patient back on feet very quickly.

HOW TO KEEP BONES HEALTHY

Here are five practices that can help: One manage your osteoporosis better. Vitamin D and calcium rich foods work wonders with bone strength. Dairy products, dark green vegetables like broccoli, green bell paper and okhra, soy products like soy milk, tofu are great source of calcium. Adult women in the age group of 19-50 years and men of 19-70 years should have an intake of 1, 000 mg calcium per day. Women above 70 should take

1200 mg of calcium Weight-lifting exercise can improve bone mass and mineral content in young, and helps maintain bone mass in older persons. Sunrays are a great source of vitamin D and sitting outside at least for 5-10 minutes early in the morning before the rays go harsh can improve bone health. Say no to alcohol and caffeine.

Dr Maninder Shah Singh, senior consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Delhi

SURGERY

In fragility fracture around the hip, surgery is often required either to fix the fracture with nail, plate or sometimes hip replacement may be required. It is very important to get the elderly person with such a fracture out of bed quickly & mobilise them with the help of good fixation of fracture. Early mobilisation can avoid serious complications like bed sores, pneumonia & increase in osteoporosis. This can literally make a difference between life and death.



DadiKaKehna

With the wedding season coming in, every woman wants to look her best even if she is not the bride. ROSHANI DEVI shares a few home tips that are easy to follow for a beautiful you



Most wedding invites are sent at least a month or two in advance so there is plenty of time to groom yourself for a glowing complexion. We all know the benefits of drinking water.

If you don't drink two-three litres of water a day, start doing it now. Water hydrates the skin giving you that glow.

This is the festival season and fried food and sweets is difficult to avoid. But oily foods give that patchy and oily look to the skin. The best option is to eat as much as green vegetables and fruits as possible. Go for a cheat day only once a week.

Once you have the basics in place, now is the time to

take of the specific problem. If you have a dry and scratchy skin: Mix equal amount of olive oil or Vitamin E capsule, glycerin rose water and aloe vera gel and apply this on the face before going to sleep. This will often your skin and give it a glow.

If you have an oily skin: Wash your face twice a day. Apply cucumber juice, tomato juice, aloe vera gel, honey and curd mask. This will reduce oil and whiten the skin.

We all love to wear sleeveless but the downside is a tan. Here's what you can do to get rid of it. Mix orange and tomato juice. Add yogurt. Apply it on the area. Wash after 15 minutes.



TIPTOP

A total of 22 positive laboratories confirmed cases of Zika virus infection have been detected so far in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This number will only rise. Last week the Health Ministry sounded an alert for Bihar after a student of computer science from Siwan, studying in Jaipur, tested positive for the Zika virus.

Zika virus disease is an emerging disease currently being reported by 86 countries worldwide. The symptoms of Zika virus disease are similar to those in other viral infections such as dengue, and include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache.

While enhanced surveillance, community-based including at international airports and ports, to track cases of

acute febrile illness is the need of the hour, creating public awareness about the disease including preventive measures should be the focus. At the same time, the public should be assured that there is no need to panic.

Speaking about this, Dr KK Aggarwal, former president Indian medical Association, said: Winter is on the horizon and so is the marriage season. In India, it will commence from the end of Chaturmas in November. All newly-weds should avoid starting a family if one of them has or is recovering from dengue-like illness. It is imperative to rule out Zika virus infection first.

Hygiene and sanitation are the cornerstones for preventing mosquito-borne disease like Zika.



SLIMLINE

As per the recently released mortality estimates by the UNICEF, WHO, the United Nations Population Division, and the World Bank Group, an estimated 6.3 million children under 15 years of age died in 2017, or 1 every 5 seconds. This is mostly out of preventable causes. In 2017, 2.5 million newborns died in their first month while 5.4 million deaths — occur in the first five years of life, with newborns accounting for around half of the deaths.

Most children under 5 die due to preventable or treatable causes such as complications during birth, pneumonia, diarrhea, neonatal sepsis and malaria. By comparison, among children between 5 and 14 years of age, injuries become a more prominent cause of death, especially from drowning and road traffic. About 80% of newborn deaths can be prevented through proven high-impact interventions and quality care for small and sick infants around the time of birth. It is also imperative to provide timely vaccinations.

WAT TO LOSE BELLY FAT

KANCHAN NAIKAWADI shares her thoughts on how to easily burn young belly fat



Childhood obesity is one of the leading public health concerns that affect children and adults alike. Obesity in children makes them prone to develop stress, sadness, depression and low self-esteem. In addition, they are at a higher risk of developing non-communicable disease (NCD) like heart diseases, hypertension, high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, sleep apnea and others in their adulthood.

These days, children become overweight due to the following factors:

- Unhealthy eating patterns Environmental factors Lack of physical activity Heredity and Family History

Although weight issues run in the family, not all kids with a case history are going to be overweight. Children whose parents or siblings are overweight may be at an increased risk of becoming obese themselves, but this can be linked to shared family behaviours like eating and activity habits.

Studies say that adolescents are prone to belly fat. Belly fat is considered even more dangerous than childhood obesity in general, because it's an important indicator for risks like heart disease and



diabetes. Obesity is a rising concern amongst teenagers. The only way to lose fat around the belly is to reduce the amount of calories intake and by increasing the activity level. These actions help in improving the overall health in many ways, and, in addition, help in losing belly fat. Also, parents need to motivate their children to indulge more in outdoor games and activities.

Following the below mentioned tips can help in reducing the fat around the belly:

- Eat on time: Eat breakfast around the same time each day. If you tend to sleep till late on weekends, eat as soon as you wake up. Keep away stress: Teens are under stress due to studies, friends, relationship etc. Help them relax through reading, practicing yoga or spending quality time with family. Be active: The best way to burn fat is exercise and limit obesity. Indulge in activities like running, walking, Zumba and many others. Sleep more: Most children and adults need at least 7 hours of sleep every night to function properly. Walk 10,000 steps a day: Get a pedometer and try to increase the number of daily steps you take. Keep yourself hydrated: Aim to drink an 8 glasses of water eight times per day. Reduce the daily television time. Make the portion size of meals smaller and eat after every two hours. Keep a check on the overall health status through regular checkups.

Besides changing diet and exercise habits, successful belly fat loss often requires other behavioural changes. Set reasonable weekly or monthly goals, monitor your weight loss or gain, and find healthy ways to reward yourself. Working with both a dietician and a behavioral specialist can help you put these practices into play. The writer is preventive healthcare specialist, Indus Health Plus

STUDYCENTRE

In its latest 2018 Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report, the WHO has indicated that countries are still not doing enough to end TB by 2030. The global body called for an unprecedented mobilization of national and international commitments and urged for decisive action from nearly 50 heads of state and government. Despite a decrease in the number of TB deaths in the past year, under reporting and under diagnosis of cases continues to remain a challenge.

To urgently improve detection, diagnosis and treatment rates, the WHO and partners launched a new initiative in 2018 to set the target of providing quality care to 40 million people with TB from 2018 to 2022. This was while predicting that at least 30 million people should be able to access TB preventive treatment during the period. Tips from Heart Care Foundation of India:

- Wash your hands after sneezing, coughing. Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough, sneeze or laugh. Discard used tissues in a plastic bag, then seal and throw it away. Do not attend work or school. Avoid close contact with others. Sleep in a room away from other family members. Ventilate your room. TB spreads in small closed spaces. Put a fan in your window to blow out air that may contain bacteria.

WPI inflation rises to 5.13%

Costlier fuel, hardening of food prices cause behind spike

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Inflation-based on wholesale prices spiked to a two-month high of 5.13 per cent in September, mainly due to hardening of food prices as well as rise in cost of petrol and diesel.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at 4.53 per cent in August and 3.14 per cent in September last year.

According to the government data released Monday, food articles witnessed hardening of prices with deflation at 0.21 per cent September as against 4.04 per cent in August.

Deflation in vegetables was 3.83 per cent in September, compared to 20.18 per cent in the previous month, indicating relative rise in prices.

Inflation in 'fuel and power' basket in September was 16.65 per cent. Individually, in petrol and diesel it was 17.21 per cent and 22.18 per cent, respectively, and for LPG it was 33.51 per cent.

ICRA principal economist Aditi Nayar said while crude oil prices have cooled in the recent sessions, and the excise duty and VAT cuts would provide some relief for fuel prices, the weaker rupee would continue to push up the WPI inflation in the current month.

"This remains a crucial risk for the CPI inflation trajectory as well. Moreover, the sharp narrowing in the disinflation for primary food items, led by cereals, fruits, vegetables, condiments and spices, and tea, may be a precursor to a rise in the retail food inflation in the ongoing month," Nayar said.

Data released last week showed retail inflation rose to 3.77 per cent in September from 3.69 per cent in the previous month. The RBI mainly takes into account retail inflation data while formulating monetary policy.

"The divergence in the extent of the uptick displayed by the WPI and the CPI inflation prints for September 2018 reflects the underlying difference in the composition of these two indices, with a smaller weight of food items and a larger weight of globally traded commodities in the WPI than the retail basket," Nayar said.

India Ratings & Research Chief Economist D K Pant said WPI inflation has remained more than 4 per cent in last five months, which suggest though the demand conditions in the economy have remained strong, the pace of demand growth is gradually declining. "The prevailing market price for most kharif crops at

major mandi's has remained lower than the MSP, suggesting procurement hasn't picked up. The future inflation trajectory would depend on the response of mandi prices with respect of new MSP, and the movement of crude oil price and value of currency," Pant said.

The government had, with effect from October 5, cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹1.50 per litre and asked state-owned oil firms to subsidise the fuel by another Re 1 a litre.

Still, fuel prices continued to rise, and petrol was sold at ₹82.72 a litre, while diesel at ₹75.46 per litre. Diesel and petrol in Mumbai cost ₹79.11 per litre and ₹88.18 per litre, respectively, on Monday.

The 5.13 per cent WPI inflation is the highest in two months, and a higher inflation than this level was last seen in July at 5.27 per cent.

In its fourth monetary policy review for the fiscal, the Reserve Bank earlier this month maintained status quo on the benchmark interest rate but warned that volatile and rising oil prices, and tightening of global financial conditions pose substantial risks to the growth and inflation.

For October-March, the RBI pegged CPI-based retail inflation to be between 3.9-4.5 per cent.

Data localisation: Govt, RBI not in favour of extending deadline

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government and the Reserve Bank are not in favour of extending the Monday's deadline for local data storage by foreign payment companies, an official said.

The government would not relent under pressure from the global payment firms and the RBI is unlikely to extend the October 15 deadline for data localisation, the official said. "We are not in favour of extension. Also, data mirroring is not an option," the official told reporters.

Data localisation is an act of storing data on any device that is physically present within the borders of a particular country where the data was generated.

Two top American Senators John Cornyn and Mark Warner have asked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to adopt a soft stance on data localisation, warning that India's policy on the issue will adversely affect American businesses in the country. "Data localisation requirements, such as those contained in the draft data protection bill and draft national e-commerce policy framework, will have negative impacts on the ability of companies to do business in India, may undermine your own economic goals and will likely not improve the security of Indian citizens' data," they said.

The Reserve Bank, in April, gave six months time to global payment companies to store transaction data of Indian customers within India. The deadline ends Monday. Global financial technology companies have reportedly sought an extension to the October 15 timeline.

Foreign payment companies had reportedly also asked the RBI to allow data mirroring which would mean they can store a copy of the data overseas as well. The RBI in April had said that in order to ensure better monitoring of payment service operators it is important to have "unfettered supervisory access to data stored with these system providers as well as their service providers/ intermediaries/third party vendors and other entities in the payment ecosystem." "All system providers shall ensure that the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India," it had said.

The RBI has further said that data should include the full end-to-end transaction details, information collected/carried/processed as part of the message/payment instruction.

The government and the Reserve Bank are not in favour of extending the Monday's deadline for local data storage by foreign payment companies, an official said.

The government would not relent under pressure from the global payment firms and the RBI is unlikely to extend the October 15 deadline for data localisation, the official said. "We are not in favour of extension. Also, data mirroring is not an option," the official told reporters.

Data localisation is an act of storing data on any device that is physically present within the borders of a particular country where the data was generated.

Two top American Senators John Cornyn and Mark Warner have asked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to adopt a soft stance on data localisation, warning that India's policy on the issue will adversely affect American businesses in the country. "Data localisation requirements, such as those contained in the draft data protection bill and draft national e-commerce policy framework, will have negative impacts on the ability of companies to do business in India, may undermine your own economic goals and will likely not improve the security of Indian citizens' data," they said.

The Reserve Bank, in April, gave six months time to global payment companies to store transaction data of Indian customers within India. The deadline ends Monday. Global financial technology companies have reportedly sought an extension to the October 15 timeline.

Foreign payment companies had reportedly also asked the RBI to allow data mirroring which would mean they can store a copy of the data overseas as well. The RBI in April had said that in order to ensure better monitoring of payment service operators it is important to have "unfettered supervisory access to data stored with these system providers as well as their service providers/ intermediaries/third party vendors and other entities in the payment ecosystem." "All system providers shall ensure that the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India," it had said.

The RBI has further said that data should include the full end-to-end transaction details, information collected/carried/processed as part of the message/payment instruction.

BUSINESS CORNER

SBI LAUNCHES 6-DAY YONO SHOPPING FESTIVAL

New Delhi: State Bank of India said Monday its digital service platform YONO will launch a six-day shopping festival beginning October 16 in which customers using the app for shopping via online portals can avail discounts. The YONO shopping festival would provide discounts up to 40 per cent from top 14 e-commerce merchants in electronics, fashion, home furnishing, gifting, jewellery, accessories and travel space. Besides, SBI credit and debit card holders would get an additional 10 per cent cash back over and above the discounts provided by the merchants, State Bank of India said in a statement. The YONO shopping festival would begin from October 16 and will continue till October 21. SBI MD (Retail & Digital Banking) P K Gupta said YONO has continued to gain momentum and popularity with an average addition of 25,000 customers per day since it was launched last year.

NETWORK18 MEDIA Q2 LOSS AT RS 68 CRORE

New Delhi: Network18 Media & Investments today reported a consolidated net loss of ₹67.87 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. It had reported a net loss of ₹70.70 crore in July-September quarter a year ago. Network18 said in a BSE filing. Total consolidated income from operations during the reported quarter stood at ₹1,200.34 crore. It was ₹331.40 crore in the same period last fiscal. The company said results are not comparable consequent to Viacom18 Media and IndiaCast Media Distribution becoming subsidiaries with effect from March 1, 2018. "Consequent to Viacom18 Media and IndiaCast Media Distribution becoming subsidiaries with effect from March 2018, and TV18 Home Shopping Network and NW18 HSN Holdings Pic ceasing to be subsidiaries and becoming associates... the figures for the current quarter and half year are not comparable with those of the corresponding periods," the company said. Its total expenses during the quarter was ₹1,227.38 crore.

TATA MOTORS STARTS BOOKING FOR SUV HARRIER

New Delhi: Tata Motors said it has commenced bookings of its upcoming SUV Harrier from Monday. "Since its showcase as a concept at the Auto Expo 2018, the Harrier has made huge waves amongst the SUV lovers," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle Business Unit President Mayank Pareek said. With the rising excitement and consistent demand from discerning customers to book the Harrier at the earliest and be amongst the early ones to receive deliveries, the company has taken a conscious decision to open bookings in the festive season, he added. Customers can book the Harrier with an amount of ₹30,000 on Tata Harrier's website or visit the nearest Tata Motors authorised dealership. Tata Motors said. Shares of Tata Motors Ltd today closed at ₹184.30 per scrip on BSE.

NIFTY 50

| SCRIP | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | LTP | CHANGE |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| DRREDDY | 2,461.10 | 2,579.95 | 2,443.40 | 2,567.25 | 116.75 |
| CIPLA | 623 | 649.8 | 618.05 | 647.65 | 24.75 |
| INFY | 688.6 | 705 | 681.5 | 703.5 | 24.7 |
| HINDALCO | 229 | 232.85 | 224.4 | 232.5 | 5.8 |
| ITC | 278.95 | 283.6 | 276 | 281.65 | 6.45 |
| BPCL | 290.9 | 300.7 | 277.5 | 295.55 | 6.65 |
| IBULHSGFIN | 941.25 | 960 | 935.6 | 949.9 | 17.95 |
| TCS | 1,940.00 | 1,955.55 | 1,920.00 | 1,954.60 | 36.3 |
| ONGC | 158.95 | 160.9 | 156.65 | 160.35 | 2.95 |
| HCLTECH | 980 | 1,006.15 | 980 | 1,001.80 | 16.65 |
| SUNPHARMA | 593.7 | 603.45 | 586.65 | 600.45 | 9.85 |
| ZEEL | 471 | 475 | 463 | 474 | 7.3 |
| UPL | 627.95 | 638.5 | 620.75 | 636.9 | 8.95 |
| HDFCBANK | 1,990.00 | 2,010.80 | 1,970.30 | 2,009.70 | 27.85 |
| BAJFINANCE | 2,319.75 | 2,319.75 | 2,261.10 | 2,314.25 | 26.9 |
| WIPRO | 317.35 | 322.05 | 314.15 | 320 | 3.7 |
| INFRADEL | 267.55 | 271.6 | 264.85 | 268.55 | 3 |
| RELIANCE | 1,129.90 | 1,146.90 | 1,118.15 | 1,137.75 | 11.2 |
| BHARTIARTL | 290.05 | 293 | 284.05 | 292.4 | 23.8 |
| IOC | 135 | 136.8 | 129.6 | 134.8 | 0.9 |
| TITAN | 805.2 | 812 | 788.75 | 808.15 | 3.4 |
| TATAMOTORS | 186.5 | 186.5 | 182.7 | 184.4 | 0.65 |
| KOTAKBANK | 1,170.00 | 1,183.80 | 1,157.50 | 1,168.74 | 1.6 |
| NTPC | 164.25 | 165.55 | 163.7 | 164.4 | 0.2 |
| HDFC | 1,755.00 | 1,765.50 | 1,703.65 | 1,732.00 | 1.7 |
| GRASIM | 897 | 903.8 | 881.3 | 895 | -0.1 |
| YESBANK | 248.95 | 250.6 | 241.55 | 246.35 | -0.1 |
| TECHM | 693.5 | 709.4 | 681.45 | 693 | -0.8 |
| BAJAJ-AUTO | 2,644.00 | 2,647.40 | 2,576.10 | 2,619.75 | -3.3 |
| SBIN | 264.4 | 265.7 | 261.1 | 263.15 | -0.6 |
| POWERGRID | 188.45 | 190 | 186.1 | 187.8 | -0.65 |
| ADANIPORTS | 326 | 326.4 | 315.15 | 321.9 | -1.25 |
| HEROMOTOCO | 2,902.00 | 2,914.50 | 2,867.00 | 2,881.30 | -12.65 |
| ASIANPAINT | 1,255.00 | 1,257.20 | 1,241.50 | 1,250.00 | -11.2 |
| JSWSTEEL | 380.65 | 381.1 | 372.6 | 375.1 | -3.6 |
| COALINDIA | 279.3 | 280.85 | 272.75 | 275.75 | -2.85 |
| TATASTEEL | 578.25 | 579.45 | 566.5 | 569.75 | -6.75 |
| INDUSINDBK | 1,667.70 | 1,667.70 | 1,588.55 | 1,631.00 | -21.7 |
| AXISBANK | 585 | 585 | 569.45 | 577 | -7.9 |
| LT | 1,230.00 | 1,236.80 | 1,208.40 | 1,216.50 | -18.75 |
| VEDL | 216.9 | 216.9 | 208.65 | 211 | -3.3 |
| MARUTI | 7,320.00 | 7,340.00 | 7,126.05 | 7,166.00 | -121.2 |
| ICICIBANK | 316.9 | 317.9 | 309.55 | 312.95 | -6.45 |
| ULTRACEMCO | 3,820.00 | 3,820.00 | 3,662.10 | 3,718.55 | -76.6 |
| EICHERMOT | 24,100.00 | 24,134.05 | 23,000.05 | 23,370.00 | -533.75 |
| GAIL | 358.9 | 360.25 | 341.5 | 351 | -8.3 |
| M&M | 775 | 775.45 | 738 | 749.9 | -18.6 |
| HINDUNILVR | 1,549.70 | 1,552.95 | 1,500.00 | 1,530.55 | -39.05 |
| BAJAJFINSV | 5,815.00 | 5,815.00 | 5,611.00 | 5,660.00 | -153.55 |
| HINDPETRO | 218.5 | 218.8 | 204.45 | 212.2 | -6.2 |

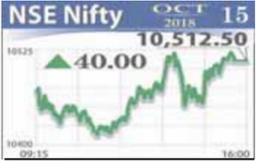
BSE 500

| Straded | Last Price | Abs Change | % Change | CGPOWER | 41.1 | 0.5 | 1.23 |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|-------|
| CHAMBLFERT | 146.2 | 7.15 | 5.14 | CHAMBLFERT | 146.2 | 7.15 | 5.14 |
| CHENNPETRO | 257.25 | -0.75 | -0.29 | CHENNPETRO | 257.25 | -0.75 | -0.29 |
| COALINDIA | 1193.65 | 3.65 | 0.31 | COALINDIA | 1193.65 | 3.65 | 0.31 |
| CIPLA | 646 | 23.55 | 3.78 | CIPLA | 646 | 23.55 | 3.78 |
| COCHINSHIP | 402.2 | 7.5 | 1.9 | COCHINSHIP | 402.2 | 7.5 | 1.9 |
| COFFEEEDAY | 253.55 | 3.3 | 1.32 | COFFEEEDAY | 253.55 | 3.3 | 1.32 |
| COLPAL | 1096.75 | -2.9 | -0.26 | COLPAL | 1096.75 | -2.9 | -0.26 |
| CONCOR | 603.5 | -4.25 | -0.7 | CONCOR | 603.5 | -4.25 | -0.7 |
| COROMANDEL | 381.7 | 3.8 | 1.01 | COROMANDEL | 381.7 | 3.8 | 1.01 |
| CORBANK | 23.7 | -0.15 | -0.63 | CORBANK | 23.7 | -0.15 | -0.63 |
| COX&KINGS | 202 | 5.2 | 2.64 | COX&KINGS | 202 | 5.2 | 2.64 |
| CRISIL | 1622.9 | -10 | -0.61 | CRISIL | 1622.9 | -10 | -0.61 |
| CROMPTON | 201.65 | -4.25 | -2.06 | CROMPTON | 201.65 | -4.25 | -2.06 |
| CUB | 166.8 | -3.85 | -2.26 | CUB | 166.8 | -3.85 | -2.26 |
| CUMMINSIND | 705.2 | 25.1 | 3.69 | CUMMINSIND | 705.2 | 25.1 | 3.69 |
| CYIENT | 675.7 | 20.25 | 3.09 | CYIENT | 675.7 | 20.25 | 3.09 |
| DABUR | 397.3 | -10.2 | -2.55 | DABUR | 397.3 | -10.2 | -2.55 |
| DALMIABHA | 2089.15 | -12.35 | -0.59 | DALMIABHA | 2089.15 | -12.35 | -0.59 |
| DBCORP | 189.15 | 0.1 | 0.05 | DBCORP | 189.15 | 0.1 | 0.05 |
| DBL | 532.25 | 6.35 | 1.21 | DBL | 532.25 | 6.35 | 1.21 |
| DCBBANK | 162.4 | 0.35 | 0.22 | DCBBANK | 162.4 | 0.35 | 0.22 |
| DOMSHIRAM* | 417.3 | 43.15 | 11.53 | DOMSHIRAM* | 417.3 | 43.15 | 11.53 |
| DEEPAKERT | 210 | 12.25 | 6.19 | DEEPAKERT | 210 | 12.25 | 6.19 |
| DEEPAKERT | 210 | 12.25 | 6.19 | DEEPAKERT | 210 | 12.25 | 6.19 |
| DEEPAKERT | 210 | 12.25 | 6.19 | DEEPAKERT | 210 | 12.25 | 6.19 |
| DEENABANK | 226.45 | 5.7 | 2.58 | DEENABANK | 226.45 | 5.7 | 2.58 |
| DEENABANK | 14.85 | 0.05 | 0.34 | DEENABANK | 14.85 | 0.05 | 0.34 |
| DHANUKA | 409.3 | -2.45 | -0.6 | DHANUKA | 409.3 | -2.45 | -0.6 |
| DHFL | 281.35 | -12.15 | -4.14 | DHFL | 281.35 | -12.15 | -4.14 |
| DHFL | 54.35 | -1 | -1.81 | DHFL | 54.35 | -1 | -1.81 |
| DIVIS | 1296.1 | 14.5 | 1.13 | DIVIS | 1296.1 | 14.5 | 1.13 |
| DIVIS | 156.85 | -0.9 | -0.57 | DIVIS | 156.85 | -0.9 | -0.57 |
| DMART | 1333.15 | -7.7 | -0.58 | DMART | 1333.15 | -7.7 | -0.58 |
| DRREDDY | 2561.15 | 110.8 | 4.52 | DRREDDY | 2561.15 | 110.8 | 4.52 |
| ECLERX | 1063.4 | 8.9 | 0.84 | ECLERX | 1063.4 | 8.9 | 0.84 |
| ECLERX | 183.75 | 3.25 | 1.8 | ECLERX | 183.75 | 3.25 | 1.8 |
| EIDERRMOT | 23419.9 | -532.15 | -2.22 | EIDERRMOT | 23419.9 | -532.15 | -2.22 |
| EIDERRMOT | 212.7 | 10.05 | 4.96 | EIDERRMOT | 212.7 | 10.05 | 4.96 |
| EIHOTEL | 149.05 | 0.4 | 0.27 | EIHOTEL | 149.05 | 0.4 | 0.27 |
| EJELQUEIP | 255.25 | -1.65 | -0.64 | EJELQUEIP | 255.25 | -1.65 | -0.64 |
| EMAMILTD | 446.9 | 2.55 | 0.57 | EMAMILTD | 446.9 | 2.55 | 0.57 |

SENSEX



NIFTY



NIFTY NEXT 50

| SCRIP | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | LTP | CHANGE |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| MOTHERSUMI | 241.1 | 252.55 | 234 | 250.8 | 12.1 |
| LUPIN | 849 | 892.45 | 849 | 887.5 | 42.5 |
| BIOCON | 610 | 633.9 | 608.3 | 628.6 | 22.2 |
| GICRE | 301.5 | 319 | 301.5 | 316.5 | 9.75 |
| LICHSGFIN | 432.9 | 449.3 | 430.35 | 444.05 | 12.8 |
| AUROPHARMA | 738 | 756.8 | 736.35 | 756.8 | 21.3 |
| SIEMENS | 913 | 938.75 | 908.5 | 938.75 | 25.05 |
| MCDOWELL-N | 526 | 541.75 | 522.1 | 535 | 13.3 |
| GODREJCP | 727.95 | 736.5 | 709.3 | 734.45 | 18.1 |
| INDIGO | 809.85 | 828.65 | 786 | 827 | 18.45 |
| IDEA | 36.4 | 37.35 | 35.8 | 36.75 | 0.8 |
| NMDC | 111.3 | 113.5 | 109.7 | 113.45 | 2.2 |
| BEL | 86.45 | 88.1 | 84.3 | 87.1 | 1.55 |
| PGHH | 9,075.00 | 9,125.00 | 8,900.00 | 9,125.00 | 153.1 |
| OIL | 205 | 206.25 | 197.65 | 205.85 | 3.25 |
| ACC | 1,502.05 | 1,530.85 | 1,463.00 | 1,525.90 | 22.7 |
| CADILAH | 376.1 | 385.95 | 375.5 | 382 | 5.1 |
| BHEL | 75.4 | 76.7 | 73.85 | 76.1 | 0.95 |
| ASHOKLEY | 117.35 | 117.9 | 115.5 | 117.25 | 1.45 |
| BANKBARODA | 96.05 | 98.05 | 95.4 | 97.7 | 1.2 |

Khan's party suffers set back in by polls

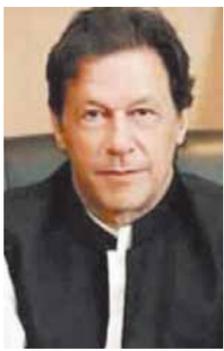
PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a set-back to Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Opposition alliance led by deposed premier Nawaz Sharif's PML-N gained five more parliamentary seats in by-polls, reducing the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's margin in delicately balanced National Assembly.

Elections were held Sunday in nine National Assembly constituencies in Punjab and one each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 24 provincial assemblies seats, including 11 in Punjab, nine in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two each in Sindh and Balochistan. Most of the seats where by-polls were held had been vacated by those elected on more than one seat in the July 25 general elections, including Prime Minister Khan who won in all the five NA constituencies he had contested.

In by-polls, Khan's party lost two seats vacated by him. His seat in Lahore (NA-131) was won by former railways minister and a firebrand Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Saad Rafique. In Bannu, Zahid Akram Durrani of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) defeated the PTI candidate Naseem Ali Shah.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who had lost the July 25 elections



led by former president Asif Ali Zardari, and Awami National Party won two each and independent candidates were elected on two seats. The PML-N won six out of 11 contested seats in Punjab while its arch-rival PTI won five. The PML-N also won a provincial assembly seat in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, which is the stronghold of the PTI. Commenting on the results, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said the PTI would have won at least nine of the 11 NA seats had Prime Minister Khan led the campaign for by-elections. Talking to a private TV channel, he said the top party leadership did not run the campaign due to the Election of Commission's bar on them.

According to the Election Commission, 9.28 million voters were eligible to vote. For the first time, overseas Pakistanis also participated in the elections through a special online portal designed by the ECP.

Officials said 84 per cent registered overseas voters cast their vote in by-polls. Thousands of army soldiers, police and paramilitary Rangers and Frontier Corps were deployed to provide security at 7,489 polling stations. The ECP had designated as many as 1,727 polling stations as highly sensitive where extra troops were deployed and security cameras installed.

By election results indicative of the times to come: Sharif



Islamabad (PTI): The improved poll performance by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the by-elections is "indicative of the times to come," party supremo and ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif said on Monday. Speaking to the media outside an accountability court here where he is facing corruption charges, a beaming Sharif said that in the by-polls held on Sunday, "We received more votes than we expected."

Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged as the single largest party in the July 25 general elections and formed a government with the support of smaller parties and independents.

In the by-elections, Sharif's PML-N managed not only to improve its position in the National Assembly by bagging four NA seats but also extended gains in the Punjab provincial assembly by securing five

more seats. Most of the seats where by-polls were held were vacated by those elected from more than one seat in the July general elections, including Prime Minister Khan who won in all the five NA constituencies he had contested.

"For the first time in Pakistan's history, we are seeing such a result after a government has been in power for 50 to 60 days," Sharif, 68, who is facing three corruption cases, said. Stating that despite the current situation, people came out in droves to vote for the PML-N, the three-time former premier said. "(Former prime minister) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi emerged victorious in the by-election and we even nearly won from the Rawalpindi constituency. The other seats were not ours and we still defeated PTI," he said.

"These results send out a message and are indicative of the times to come," he cautioned Prime Minister Khan.

He also talked about his younger brother and president of the PML-N party Shehbaz Sharif, who was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on October 5 in a Rs 1,400 crore housing scam case. Shahbaz, the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and former Punjab Chief Minister, was accused by the country's anti-graft body of corruption in the Ashiana Housing case. Asserting that everyone should pray for the well-being of the country, Nawaz

PTI'S WOMAN CANDIDATE DEFEATS SON IN PUNJAB ASSEMBLY BY-POLLS

Lahore (PTI) A woman candidate of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party defeated her son, who ran elections as an independent candidate against her, in a tough contest in the Punjab assembly by-polls, a media report said Monday. Zehra Batool defeated her son and three-time lawmaker Haroon Sultan in the Punjab Province-272 by-poll Sunday, Express News reported.

Her husband Abdullah Shah Bukhari is a former National Assembly member and their elder son, Basit Sultan Bukhari, had won from the seat in the July 2018 general elections. Basit had

also won from the NA-185 constituency and decided to vacate the provincial seat, opening it up for a by-election. Batool secured 24,019 votes against Haroon's 17,072 votes. Haroon has been a member of the National Assembly three times and a provincial minister twice. Elections were held Sunday in nine National Assembly constituencies in Punjab and one each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 24 provincial assemblies seats, including 11 in Punjab, nine in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two each in Sindh and Balochistan.

Sharif said, "As prime minister and Punjab chief minister, Shehbaz Sharif and I fulfilled our responsibilities with honesty and this can be cross-checked." "During our time things were not this expensive and people were happy," he claimed. Basic items were affordable and the poor were satisfied, he said. "It is owing to the prayers of these satisfied citizens that the PML-N is emerging victorious," he contended.

"All of a sudden everything changed. I was imprisoned and cases are being made against me while Shehbaz has been imprisoned and remanded in the National Accountability Bureau's custody." "The world knows how cases are being made against Shehbaz and me and everyone has verified this," he

Pak panel to record Mush statement in treason case

Islamabad (PTI): A special court in Pakistan on Monday ordered the formation of a high-level judicial commission to record Pervez Musharraf's statement in Dubai in a treason case after the former military dictator declined to appear before the court through video conferencing.

General (ret'd) Musharraf, 75, who has been living in Dubai since March 2016, is facing the treason case for suspending the Constitution in 2007, a punishable offence for which he was indicted in 2014.

A conviction for high treason carries the death penalty or life imprisonment.

The former army chief left for Dubai for medical treatment and has not returned since, citing security and health reasons. Musharraf's lawyer told a special court bench comprising Justice Yawar Ali, Justice Tahira Safdar and Justice Nazir Akbar that his client was unable to record his statement via video link since he is "indisposed", Dawn news reported.

Justice Ali asked the lawyer whether Musharraf had been diagnosed with cancer, to which he responded that the former president had been diagnosed with heart problems, the report said.

"He says he is not a coward. He wishes to appear before the court himself and present the evidence in his defence," the lawyer said. "The accused is in a foreign country right now. According to his lawyer, he is very ill." Justice Ali noted.

"Pervez Musharraf's previous record is before us. He is not ready to record a statement via video link," the prosecution lawyer said. "We are told that Pervez Musharraf cannot appear in court due to his illness. He wishes to record his statement in the treason case," the bench observed.

The court decided to order the formation of the judicial commission that will go to the UAE to record Musharraf's statement in the case. The members of the commission and its scope will be decided later and if anyone had objections, they could challenge the formation of the commission before the high court, the bench said. The report said that Musharraf's statement will be recorded in Dubai in accordance with Section 342 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The case was adjourned until November 14. Last week, the Supreme Court Chief told Musharraf that "there are good doctors in Pakistan" and directed him to appear before the apex court to record his statement.

Korean govt ministers meet to discuss post-summit specifics

AP ■ SEOUL

The rival Koreas are holding high-level talks Monday to discuss further engagement amid a global diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea. South Korea said Monday's talks will be aimed at finding ways to carry out peace agreements announced after the summit last month between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

The meeting between senior officials comes at a sensitive time as Washington has expressed unease over the fast pace in inter-Korean engagement, which it says should move in tandem with U.S.-led efforts to denuclearize the North.

South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said the discussions will include setting up a joint sur-



South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon leaves for the border village of Panmunjom to attend a meeting between South and North Korea, at the Office of the South Korea-North Korea Dialogue in Seoul, South Korea on Monday. AP

vey of a North Korean railroad section the Koreans plan to connect with the South. The

North's chief delegate to the talks is Ri Son Gwon, who chairs the North Korean

agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs.

There could also be dis-

cussions over the specifics of a joint military committee agreed between their leaders to evaluate tension-reduction steps and maintain communication to prevent crises and accidental clashes.

"The infinite waters of the Pacific and the Atlantic start out as a gathering of smaller repositories of water," Ri told South Korean reporters as he arrived at the border village of Panmunjom for the meeting. "Likewise, the high-level meeting today will contribute to peace, prosperity and unification (between the countries) that are desired by the entire nation," he said, referring to the people of both Koreas.

In their third summit this year, Moon and Kim committed to reviving economic cooperation when possible, voicing optimism that international sanctions could end and allow such activity, and holding a groundbreaking ceremony by

the end of the year on an ambitious project to connect their roads and railways.

The North and South also announced measures to reduce conventional military threats, such as creating buffer zones along their land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border, removing 11 front-line guard posts by December, and demining sections of the Demilitarized Zone. The Koreans also said they will make a push to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics.

Moon has described inter-Korean engagement as crucial to resolving the nuclear standoff and is eager to restart joint economic projects held back by sanctions if the larger nuclear negotiations between the United States and North Korea begin yielding results.

However, South Korea's enthusiasm for engagement with its rival appears to have

created discomfort with ally United States amid growing concerns that the North is lagging behind its supposed promise to denuclearize.

Moon's government last week walked back on a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea following President Donald Trump's blunt retort that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha also said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had expressed displeasure about the Korea's military agreement. Kang was not specific but her comments fueled speculation Washington wasn't fully on board before Seoul signed the agreement. Trump has encouraged US allies to maintain sanctions on North Korea until it denuclearizes to maintain a campaign of pressure against Kim's government

Koreas agree for railway ceremony next month

Seoul (AFP): The two Koreas will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the reconnection of their railways and roads as early as next month, they agreed Monday, as Seoul pursues an approach to the nuclear-armed North increasingly diverging from the US.

The agreement was reached at a high-level meeting held at the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, which has hosted ever more frequent cross-border talks in recent months.

"The South and North agreed to hold the groundbreaking ceremony for the connection and modernisation of the east and west coast rail and road in late November or early December," read a joint statement issued after the meeting.

But all civilian travel and communication between the two neighbours has been banned since the end of the Korean War in 1953, and it was not clear when construction and refurbishment work might start.

Officials also agreed to hold military talks "as soon as possible" to ease tensions at the border area and to arrange a Red Cross meeting to discuss issues on reunions for war-separated families.

They will also separately discuss a planned joint bid to host the 2032 Olympics and a show by North Korean performers in Seoul, the statement said. Monday's talks marked the second meeting between South Korean unifi-

cation minister Cho Myoung-gyon and his North Korean counterpart Ri Son Gwon since President Moon Jae-in met with Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang last month.

But as Seoul takes strides with the North, it has displayed increasing differences with its ally Washington, which is wary of the rapid pace of rapprochement on the peninsula.

At a summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore Kim declared his backing for denuclearisation of the peninsula, but no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have subsequently sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved.

The dovish Moon has long favoured engagement with the North, which is subject to multiple UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

Moon — who is currently in France on a European tour — has dangled large investment and joint cross-border projects as incentives for steps towards denuclearisation, while the US has been adamant pressure should be maintained on Pyongyang until it fully dismantles its weapons programmes.

The head of Seoul's financial watchdog said last week that the US Department of Treasury held a defence call with South Korean banks in September urging them to "adhere to the UN and US sanctions against North Korea."

Syria FM says needs 'time' to see if Idlib deal fulfilled

Damascus: Syria said Monday it was waiting for Russia to determine whether a deal creating a buffer in the northwest was implemented, hours after jihadists missed a deadline to leave the zone. A Russian-Turkish truce agreement reached nearly a month ago for the region of Idlib gave "radical fighters" until October 15 to leave a proposed demilitarised area between government and opposition forces.

Jihadists failed to withdraw overnight, but Foreign Minister Walid Mualllem did not declare the deal dead. "We must give the time... to judge whether the agreement was fulfilled or not," Mualllem told reporters during a joint news conference with his Iraqi counterpart in Damascus.

"We have to wait for the Russian reaction. Russia is monitoring and following the situation," he said. The top diplomat expressed hope that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would still be able to "fulfil the agreement from his part". But he hinted that the military option was not off the table, saying jihadist groups in Idlib "must be removed from its last stronghold in Idlib". "We have to wait, but at the same time, our troops are still ready around Idlib," Mualllem said.

"Idlib — as any other province — has to return back to the Syrian sovereignty," he repeated. "After Idlib, our goal will be east of the Euphrates," he said, referring to an area controlled by a Kurdish-Arab alliance backed by the US-led coalition.

Flash floods kill at least 13 people in France

Paris (AP): Flash floods tore through towns in southwest France, turning waterways into raging torrents that killed at least 13 people, nine of them in just one town, authorities said Monday. People had to be helicoptered to safety from the roofs of their homes as overnight storms dumped the equivalent of several months of rain in just a few hours.

Worst hit was the town of Trebes, east of the medieval walled city of Carcassonne. The rains that swept in from the Mediterranean killed nine people there, Interior Ministry spokesman Frederic de Lanouville said.

He told BFMTV that the floods in the Aude region also killed four other people in other locations, left one person missing and seriously injured five others. In the town of Villegailhenc, witness Ines Siguet said the waters rose so quickly that people were stranded on the roofs of their homes and had to be helicoptered to safety. She posted

video of a ripped-up road where a bridge used to be, torn away by a flood torrent that cut the town in half. "There's nothing left. There's just a hole," the 17-year-old resident told The Associated Press. "It was very violent."

Other roads also were flooded, leaving the town cut off, she said. Siguet's school was shut down amid the destruction. Two people were killed in the town, according to the Aude regional government.

Alain Thirion, the prefect of Aude, said some of the dead appeared to have been swept away by floodwaters. In the town of Conques-sur-Orbiel, the river rose by more than six metres, he said.

Floodwaters were in some cases too powerful for emergency services to get through, even on boats, he said. Television images showed waters coursing through towns and villages, with cars stranded in the floods and piled up on top of each other like children's toys.



French soldiers patrol after flash floods in the town of Villegailhenc, southern France on Monday. Flash floods tore through towns in southwest France, turning streams into raging torrents that authorities said killed several people and seriously injured at least five others. AP

Climate change causing sea snail shells to dissolve: Study

London (PTI): Shelled marine creatures living in increasingly acidified oceans face a fight for survival as the impacts of climate change spread, a study suggests.

Researchers from the University of Plymouth in the UK and the University of Tsukuba, Japan assessed the impact of rising carbon dioxide (CO2) levels on the large predatory "triton shell" gastropod. They found those living in regions with predicted

future levels of CO2 were on average around a third smaller than counterparts living in conditions seen throughout the world's oceans today.

However there was also a noticeable negative impact on the thickness, density, and structure of their shells, causing visible deterioration to the shell surface, researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Marine Science, found that the

effects are down to the increased stresses placed on the species in waters where the pH is lower, which reduce their ability to control the calcification process.

The researchers have warned other shellfish are likely to be impacted in the same way, threatening their survival and that of other species that rely on them for food. "Ocean acidification is a clear threat to marine life, acting as a stressor for many

marine animals," said Ben Harvey, an assistant professor at the University of Tsukuba.

"Here we found that the ability of the triton shells to produce and maintain their shells was hindered by ocean acidification, with the corrosive seawater making them smoother, thinner, and less dense," Harvey said.

"The extensive dissolution of their shells has profound consequences for calcified animals into the future as it is

not something they can biologically control, suggesting that some calcified species might be unable to adapt to the acidified seawater if carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise unchecked," he said.

The research was conducted at a marine volcanic seep off the coast of Shikinejima in Japan where carbon dioxide bubbling up through the seabed lowers seawater pH from present-day levels to future predicted levels.

China also meddled in US polls: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has alleged China, in addition to Russia, meddled in the 2016 US presidential elections. Last month, chairing a UN Security Council meeting on the sidelines of the UN general Assembly in New York, Trump had alleged that China was trying to interfere in the 2018 mid-term polls and that it did not want him to be the president. China has denied these allegations. However, for the first time Trump came out in open to say that China also meddled in the 2016 presidential elections.



"They (Russians) meddled. But I think China meddled too," Trump told CBS News's popular '60 Minutes' in an interview. Recorded on Thursday, the interview was broadcast Sunday night. "I think China meddled also. And I think, frankly, China...is a bigger problem," Trump said and denied that by saying so he is not trying to divert the entire Russia thing "I'm saying Russia, but I'm also saying China," he said. But it's the investigation of Russia's inter-

vention in the 2016 election that hangs over his presidency and caused a rift with his Attorney General Jeff Sessions, because he recused himself from the inquiry. Trump expressed disappointment that his Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescued himself from the Russia investigation.

"I was disappointed that he recused himself and many people think I was right on that. I was very disappointed. Why should he have recused himself? So I was very disappointed," he said. Former FBI

Director Robert Mueller is conducting investigations into the allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Responding to a question, he said he has no intention of shutting down the Russian investigation. "Well, I don't pledge anything. But (I) will tell you, I have no intention of doing that.

I think it's a very unfair investigation because there was no collusion of any kind," he said. To date, 32 people have been charged or pleaded guilty in Special Counsel

US PRESIDENT WANTS TO NEGOTIATE A FAIR DEAL WITH CHINA

Washington: President Donald Trump has said he is willing to negotiate a fair deal with China and want the Asian giant to open its market like the US.

Having slapped China with additional tariff on import of its products worth USD250 billion, Trump did not rule out coming up with more tariffs on Chinese products.

In an interview with CBS News's popular '60 Minutes' programme, Trump described this as a skirmish, and not war or a battle as being characterised by experts, and asserted that he would win this against China. If things does not improve, he might not have a good relationship with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, he said.

"I have a great chemistry also with President Xi of China. I don't know that that's necessarily going to continue. I told President Xi we cannot continue to have China take USD500 billion a year out of the United States in the form of trade and other things," Trump told CBS news in his interview.

Xi is one of the few world leaders to have been hosted by Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. Trump has travelled to China and has met Xi

multiple times after he became the US President On January 20, 2017. However, the relationship has deteriorated since then and has now reached an all time low since the historic visit of the then US President Richard Nixon in 1972.

Responding to a question, Trump claimed that China, even if it wants, cannot retaliate beyond a point. "They can retaliate, but they can't — they don't have enough ammunition to retaliate. We do USD100 billion (worth of business) with them. They do USD531 billion with us," he said. He denied that he wanted to push the Chinese economy into depression. "No no, although they're down 32 per cent in four months, which is 1929," he said. "I don't want that. No, I don't want that. I want them to negotiate a fair deal with us. I want them to open their markets like our markets are open," Trump said, reiterating that he wants a fair deal with China.

Trump exuded confidence that he will win what he described as a "skirmish" with China. "I called it, actually I called it a battle. But, actually, I'm gonna lower that. I consider it a skirmish. And we're gonna win," he said.

Robert Mueller's investigation. President Trump's campaign chairman, top campaign aide, former national security advisor and long-time personal attorney are all

cooperating in the inquiry, which the president calls a witch-hunt. Trump questioned the very proposition that he called Russia to help him in the elections. "Do you really think I'd call Russia to help me with an election? Give me a break. They wouldn't be able to help me at all. Call Russia. It's so ridiculous," he said.

'Climate change scientists have 'political agenda'



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has backed off from his claim that climate change is a "hoax", but accused climate scientists of having a "very big political agenda". The comments by Trump, who in June last year pulled the US out of the historic Paris Agreement on climate change, was made during an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes. It came less than a week after climate scientists issued a final call to halt rising temperatures.

Last week's report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the leading international body evaluating climate change - warned the world was heading towards a temperature rise of 3C. In an interview, Trump accused scientists of having a "very big political agenda" and asserted that he does not want to put the US, the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, at a disadvantage in responding to climate change.

Asked whether he still thinks climate change is a hoax, Trump said, "I think something's happening. Something's changing and it'll change back again. I don't think it's a hoax, I think there's probably a difference. But I don't know that it's manmade." "I will say this. I don't

wanna give trillions and trillions of dollars. I don't wanna lose millions and millions of jobs. I don't wanna be put at a disadvantage," the US president said.

Trump, who had previously called the climate change a "hoax", last year pulled the US out of the Paris Agreement on climate change arguing that deal agreed by more than 190 nations unfairly benefited countries like India and China and hit American economy and jobs.

When asked if he could go to Greenland, watch these huge chunks of ice just falling into the ocean, raising the sea levels, Trump said one doesn't know whether or not that would have happened with or without man. "I'm not denying climate change. But it could very well go back. You know, we're talkin' about over a millions of years."

Trump accused scientists who say hurricanes are getting more frequent and intense because of climate change of having "a very big political agenda". "They say that we had hurricanes that were far worse than what we just had with (Hurricane) Michael," Trump said. "You'd have to show me the scientists because they have a very big political agenda," he said.

Trump against cancelling \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has vowed "severe punishment" if Saudi Arabia was behind the disappearance of its dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi who is feared killed at the kingdom's consulate in Turkey. Trump, however, opposed the idea of cancelling the mega USD 110 billion arms deal with Riyadh, saying this will hurt American companies and jobs.

His remarks came amidst mounting pressure as reports coming out of Turkey suggest that Khashoggi was brutally killed by Saudi officials inside their consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi, 59, a Washington Post contributor, had gone there to collect some papers

for his marriage.

"Well, there's a lot at stake. And maybe especially so because this man was a reporter. There's something — you'll be surprised to hear me say that. There's something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that were the case. So we're gonna have to see. We're going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment," Trump told CBS News. The interview was aired on Sunday.

In a statement issued through the official Saudi Press Agency, Saudi Arabia has said it would retaliate if there were any sanctions by the US. "It will respond with greater action" if there was any action from the



United states, it said.

"The Kingdom's economy has an influential and vital role in the global economy and that the Kingdom's economy is affected only by the impact of the global economy," it said. Trump resisted the move to take steps that would harm the United states itself. "What are your options? Let's say

they did. What are your options? Would you consider imposing sanctions, as a bipartisan group of senators have proposed?" he was asked. "It depends on what the sanction is. I'll give an example. They are ordering military equipment. Everybody in the world wanted that order. Russia wanted it, China wanted it, we wanted it. We got it," he said.

"I tell you what I don't wanna do. Boeing, Lockheed, Raytheon, all these companies, I don't wanna hurt jobs. I don't wanna lose an order like that. There are other ways of punishing, to use a word that's a pretty harsh word, but it's true," he said in response to the question. The matter is still being

investigated and Saudi Arabia has been claiming that Khashoggi left its Consulate in Istanbul.

Turkish investigative agencies, according to media reports, claim that they have audio and video evidence which indicated that the journalist was brutally killed inside the consulate. The US has sought information from Saudi Arabia.

Trump has said that he intends to speak to the Saudi King soon. "Nobody knows yet, but we'll probably be able to find out. It's being investigated. It's being looked at very, very strongly. We would be very upset and angry if that were the case. As of this moment, they deny it."

IMF should evaluate CPEC projects objectively while granting bailout package to Pak: China

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A cash-strapped Pakistan approached the IMF for a bailout agreeing to share the details of huge Chinese loans obtained for the CPEC, a wary China on Monday said the global lender should "objectively and professionally" evaluate its investments and ensure that any financial package does not affect close ties between Beijing and Islamabad.

Pakistan Finance Minister Asad Umar told the media on Sunday that Islamabad is ready to share details of the debt related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the IMF as he formally sought a bailout package from the international lender.

Speaking in Islamabad 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. He said an IMF team is scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on November 7 to negotiate the programme, likely to span over a three-year period.

Reacting to the move by its all-weather ally Pakistan to approach the IMF for a bailout package, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Lu Kang said here that China wants an

"objective and professional" evaluation of its loans to Pakistan by the IMF. The measures to be worked out by the IMF should not affect China-Pakistan relations, he said.

"As a member of the IMF, China supports the organisation having cooperation with Pakistan in objectively and professionally evaluating the situation on the ground in Pakistan," he said while answering questions on calls for scrutiny of Chinese loans by IMF and US officials.

"Also we support the IMF (helping Pakistan) in coping with the current difficulties. Their measures shall not affect normal bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan," he said. He said the CPEC projects have been undertaken by the two governments under the principle of "consultation and contribution for shared benefits".

The project and financing arrangements are made by the two sides on equal consultation, he said. "In fact, judging from the debt structure already released by the Pakistani government their debt incurred from the CPEC accounts for low proportion. So, it is not the reason for Pakistan's financial difficulties," he said.

Lu also said "China would like to work with Pakistan to substantiate and expand the CPEC projects and help Pakistan to achieve develop-

ment on its own strength".

After the new Pakistan government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan took over, China has agreed to extend the CPEC projects to the restive Balochistan province to address criticism that only the dominant Punjab province has grabbed most Chinese investments. India has also protested to China over CPEC as it traverses through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The entire project is stated to be worth around USD 60 billion. On his recent visit to Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said there were currently 22 cooperation projects in Pakistan within the framework of the CPEC of which nine have been completed and 13 are under construction. The total investment of the projects is to the tune of USD 19 billion.

A sense of unease prevailed in Beijing since the Khan-led government started taking a critical look at the CPEC projects in view of the difficult financial situation faced by Pakistan as well criticism over debt diplomacy being pursued by China by doling out excessive loans leaving countries in heavy debt.

Umar said Pakistan's current year debt repayments were about USD 9 billion but obviously, it would not entirely be available from the IMF. Ahead of Umar's comments, both IMF

and US officials spoke of concerns over the excessive loans obtained by Pakistan under the CPEC projects. The US said there was no rationale for the IMF to service Chinese debt and called for close scrutiny before extending a bailout package for Pakistan. The Trump administration has been critical of China's Belt and Road Initiative, saying that it has saddled some developing countries with debts they cannot afford to repay. In July, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said there was "no rationale" for an IMF bailout to Pakistan to pay off Chinese loans to Islamabad.

On October 13, US State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said Washington, a major stakeholder in the IMF, will examine closely Pakistan's request for loans, adding that "part of the reason that Pakistan found itself in this situation is Chinese debt".

"In all cases, we examine that closely from all angles of it, including Pakistan's debt position, in evaluating any type of loan programme," she said.

IMF's chief economist Maurice Obstfeld said China's involvement besides bringing development to Pakistan could also bring potential risks. "It is important that the design of the projects...be solid and excessive debts which cannot be repaid are avoided," he said.

Maldives leader blames defeat on 'disappearing ink'

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Outgoing Maldives President Abdulla Yameen has told the Supreme Court that disappearing ink and specially treated ballot papers were to blame for his heavy election defeat last month. The comments came as the court considered a petition by Yameen to have the September 23 election result annulled due to what his party called "rampant" vote-rigging.

On Monday afternoon the five-judge bench put off the case until Tuesday when it will announce whether to allow testimony from three unnamed witnesses named by Yameen's lawyers. His lawyers told a packed court room that the trio of yet unnamed witnesses could substantiate Yameen's allegations. However, the country's independent Elections Commission (EC) through its lawyers insisted that the petition was based on false allegations and should be dismissed. Local media also reported four of the five election commissioners have fled the country and sought refuge in neighbouring Sri Lanka following death threats after Yameen lost the September 23 vote.

The strongman leader of the honeymoon island nation had been expected to romp home in the election, with opposition leaders jailed or exiled, and warnings that he would try to fix the vote. But in



a surprise turn of events, a little-known united opposition candidate, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, was declared the winner, sparking celebrations across the tropical holiday destination. Yameen initially said he accepted defeat, and was ready to step down when his term ends on November 17. But last week he launched the Supreme Court challenge seeking a fresh vote.

At a hearing on Sunday which resumed Monday, Yameen's lawyer Mohamed Saleem accused the printer of coating ballot papers with an unnamed substance to make votes marked in Yameen's box vanish.

Saleem said a "special pen with disappearing ink" was also given to people who were going to vote for his client, a reporter at the hearing said. Counting officials also allegedly carried secret pens with

which they marked ballots for the opposition.

A lawyer for the EC denied any wrongdoing, including using any special ink. Yameen had also accused the EC of colluding with the printer of the ballots. Ahead of the court hearing in the capital Male, the United States warned "appropriate measures" would be taken if the will of the Maldivian people was undermined.

Europe and India have also issued similar warnings in the past. The US and its allies have been concerned by growing Chinese influence in the strategically positioned Indian Ocean archipelago, especially under Yameen's authoritarian rule. Yameen's Progressive Party (PPM) on Saturday said the vote was the "most farcical election in living memory" with the organisation "abysmal" and vote-rigging "rampant".

British royals arrive on landmark trip Down Under

London: Prince Harry and Meghan touched down in Sydney on Monday, kicking off a bumper Pacific tour that is the British royals' first major outing abroad as a couple.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex made a low-key arrival to a wet and wintry Australia after a weekend spent celebrating the marriage of their relative Princess Eugenie and following an overnight commercial flight with Qantas.

They were seen leaving the airport with staff, looking relaxed, as Meghan clutched a pair of purple binders and Harry carried a brown and green manbag.

Their more-than-two-week official visit will take in multiple stops in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand — all parts of the Commonwealth, a group of predominantly former British colonies. Queen Elizabeth II is

still the head of state in Australia although there is significant support for the country becoming a republic. Recent polls show Australians fairly evenly split on the issue, with only the slimmest of majorities in favour of ditching the British Queen and nominating an Australian head of state. During the trip, the royals plan to pet koalas, watch soldiers perform the haka and attend the Invictus Games, a multi-sport tournament for military service personnel and veterans who have been wounded or suffered injury or illness that opens on Saturday 20 October.

The whole visit will be keenly watched by the British and Australian media. Meghan, a photogenic US actress, married the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II in May, becoming the newest royal to attract media obsession in Britain and



beyond.

The 37-year-old made waves recently by bucking protocol and closing her own car door. The couple will be accompanied by a staff of 10 and a substantially larger swarm of reporters from all the major British papers and TV broadcasters. The official visit begins on Tuesday in Sydney, where they will be welcomed by Australia's Governor-General

Peter Cosgrove — the queen's official representative — and his wife Lynne. The royals will meet two koalas and their joeys at Sydney's Taronga Zoo. After sailing Sydney Harbour and visiting the famous Bondi Beach, meeting flying doctors, attending functions at the Invictus Games and meeting Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, they jet off to Fiji on October 23.

Prince Harry and Meghan expecting first baby next year

London (PTI): Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle are expecting their first baby in the first half of next year, Kensington Palace announced on Monday as the royal couple embarked on a four nation tour. The 37-year-old former actress who had married 34-year-old Harry, Duke of Sussex, at a Windsor Castle ceremony in May, is due to deliver the couple's first baby in the Spring 2019.

"Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are very pleased to announce that The Duchess of Sussex is expecting a baby in the Spring of 2019," Kensington Palace said in a statement, as the royal couple arrived in Sydney on their first overseas tour as a royal couple.

Assange allowed partial internet access by Ecuador: Wikileaks

London (PTI): Julian Assange, who has been holed up in the Ecuador Embassy here since 2012, was allowed limited internet access by the south American nation, seven months after it disabled for alleged breach of asylum terms, Wikileaks has announced.

The 47-year-old Australian national, who remains in hiding in a back room of the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London six years after losing a legal battle against extradition to Sweden, was told that his "isolation regime" would be ended following talks between UN officials and the Ecuador President Lenin Moreno last week.

"Ecuador rolls back @JulianAssange isolation," Wikileaks said in a message on Twitter on Sunday, and indi-



cated that Assange's communications via phone and internet have been partially restored. "It is positive that, through UN intervention, Ecuador has partly ended the isolation of Mr Assange although it is of grave concern that his freedom to express his opinions is still limited," said Kristinn Hrafnsson, Wikileaks' editor-in-chief. "The UN has already declared Mr Assange a victim

of arbitrary detention. This unacceptable situation must end.

The UK government must abide by the UN's ruling and guarantee that he can leave the embassy without the threat of extradition to the United States," he said. The Ecuador government had disconnected Assange's internet access in March after it claimed that he had breached "a written commitment made to the government at the end of 2017 not to issue messages that might interfere with other states".

Assange took refuge at the Ecuador Embassy in Knightsbridge in June 2012, having lost an appeal against extradition to Sweden for questioning on allegations of rape and sexual assault that went to the Supreme Court.

Trend Slazer

Aftab clocks 19 years in B'wood

Actor **AFTAB SHIVDASANI** looked back at how life changed for him 19 years ago when he stepped into Bollywood. He debuted in 1999 with Ram Gopal Verma's hit *Mast*, opposite actress Urmila Matondkar. "Over 19 years ago today, a new life began for me. A life I always dreamt of. An opportunity to pursue a childhood dream of becoming an actor. Thank you Ram for giving me this opportunity to realise my dream. Thank you to all those people who believed in me," he tweeted. For *Mast*, Aftab had bagged multiple awards. Currently, Aftab is preparing for *Setters*.



Straight from the heart



When the Canadian singer, **BRYAN ADAMS**, performed on the last leg of his Ultimate Tour, generation X believed that they were 18 till they die — at least for a day, says **SAIMI SATTAR**



'You haven't won an election to start with to be where you are Mr Akbar. Dear PM of India, you have to sack this serial offender and as soon as possible. So many women telling their story of sexual harassment have nothing to gain from this. Around 50 per cent of your electorate is us. Listen to us.'
—Sona Mohapatra

Actress **SONAKSHI SINHA** has praised actor **Hrithik Roshan** and thanked him for always motivating her to be fit. Lauding Sonakshi's transformation, Hrithik tweeted: "Stunning! I remember a 'before' conversation years ago and now this! Well done Sonakshi you are going to inspire many. Keep going." To this, Sonakshi replied, "That conversation was an inspiration in itself! Thank you for always being so motivating Hrithik! This is just the beginning."



Clapton unveils Happy Xmas

Musician **ERIC CLAPTON**'s album *Happy Xmas* is out now. It released on October 12 on Clapton's Bushbranch Records/Surfdog Records. *Happy Xmas* is Clapton's 24th studio album and his first since 2016's *I Still Do*. "Happy Xmas is here," Clapton tweeted. "I had in my head that these holiday songs could be done with a slight blues tinge, and I started to figure out how to play the blues lines in between the vocals. I got it down and one of the most identifiable songs on the album, the one that became the foundational style, is *Have yourself a merry little Christmas*," he said.



Those were the best days of my life, crooned Bryan Adams about the Summer of '69. I can say the same about the winter of '96. Nineteen years back I was a rookie reporter for this newspaper and I started a piece for these pages (which have transformed drastically, I may add) with these epic lines. During the interregnum, I have switched jobs, saw the world as well as India transform, lost a parent, ended a relationship which lasted almost half of my lifetime. But the tumultuous times failed to change my playlist where Adams featured most prominently. So on a personal level, it was befitting that when I am back in the newspaper, the Canadian singer decided to tour the country again for the fifth time and I saw him for the first. And yes, he made sure that it was a *Night to Remember*.

As we wended our way inside the Leisure Valley in Gurugram, we got a sense of how big the turnout was going to be. The access roads were shut to vehicular traffic and people trudged along to what seemed like the biggest walkathon in town — but with people dressed for an evening out rather than running around in track pants and hoodies.

Unlike say an Ed Sheeran or an EDM concert, it was the generation X that dominated the audience largely. Demographically if one was to make bar charts for the 15,000 plus audience at the concert, it was the 35+ category's bar that would see the greatest spike. People who had attended Adams' first concert in 1994 with their girlfriends or boyfriends turned up with their spouses and sometimes children who had abandoned Justin Bieber for the more lyrical and gravelly-voiced singer — at least for a day.

The opening act was performed by Harshdeep Kaur but despite popular numbers like *Ek Kabira* and *Channa Mereya*, the crowd was itching for the star performer to come on stage. Even after Harshdeep went off, it took some time for the stage to be prepped up for the main act. Gradually as the screen behind the stage flickered to life with a giant-sized head of Adams which made faces, behaved like a punching bag, came alive and became stoic at different points, the audience began to grow restless.

When Adams burst on the stage, he didn't disappoint. The high-energy and interactive performance saw the audience break out in a frenzy and sing

along with the numbers, especially the more popular ones. The multi-million selling recording artist ripped through two-dozen-plus hits covering nearly 40 years.

Adams dressed in a blue T-shirt and jeans, on a well-lit stage which had an oversized video wall where lyrics, black and white as well as colour videos played, was accompanied by a guitarist, a bassist, a drummer and a piano player. The 26-song set was heavy on Adams' established hits, especially the ones that are an ode to love.

He kicked it off with *Ultimate Love*, from his newest album. But it was when he played *Can't Stop This Thing We Started*, from his 1991 album, *Waking Up the Neighbours* that made the audience erupt in joy. The crowd was all revved up with *Run To You* that followed after.

But there was more in the coming. Adams established an instant connect when he said, "Hello, I am Bryan Adams," as if he was any common person introducing himself for the first time as the crowd laughed uproariously. It set the tone and tenor of the show as he went on to tell the appreciative capital's crowd that he looked forward to performing in the city. "Good evening Delhi. We have been coming here since 1994. It is great to be back again and thank you for having us. It's taken long and I've always asked where is my Delhi show," Adams said as the crowd broke out into applause. And when he said "I have all kinds of songs for you tonight, old ones, a few new ones, I'm not sure how much time you have but we have a long show ahead! Tonight we have the biggest party in India," the people answered, "Forever".

The two-way synchronicity was visible throughout. At times the singer asked the crowd to sing along and they were more than happy to oblige. Whether it was *Nana nana nana* during *Cuts Like a Knife* or to proclaim *18 Till I Die*, the audience was at its enthusiastic best. And when the raspy voice launched into the evergreen ballad *Heaven*, one was almost transported to the promised destination. The vibe was groovy and the couples (and singles) were mesmerised. The whole crowd sang the first verse in unison, accompanied by only a piano.

Here *I Am* did stir up the crowd, yet again but then it was the anthemic *Summer Of '69* which was sung by every man and woman in



When Adams burst on the stage, he didn't disappoint. The high-energy and interactive performance saw the audience break out in a frenzy

attendance. The audience asked for an encore and Adams obliged with a single line from the song sung softly and much mellower. Adams followed it up with *Please Stay* and the audience wanted him to live up to his promise.

When Adams announced that the song which was coming up was a duet with Tina Turner, the audience knew the beat to follow and announced *It's Only Love*. And it was during this number that his long-time guitarist and friend Keith Douglas Scott, sauntered over from their corners and met at centre stage to bounce their riffs off one another. The guitarist practically set the stage on fire in between numbers and during them with his maneuvering of the strings.

Compulsory on the playlist was *Everything I Do I Do it For You*, the popular number from the film, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, the number with which Adams burst into the popular imagination of the generation X in 1991. And did people sing along? Adams followed it up with *Back To You* and *Somebody* which provided more evidence of the polished performers' ability to craft hits with huge choruses.

When Keith, who had accompanied Adams on his first ever India tour, played a tune that

was distinctly Indian, the singer promised to "put the best dancers on stage on the screen" — which he did. Women climbed on their boyfriends' shoulders just to "share the stage" for a moment with Adams.

The way Keith plucked at the guitar and created magic, one knew even without being told, that the singer was drifting towards the sensuous and sultry flamenco number *Have You Ever Really Loved A Woman* during which the original recorded video played in the background to heat things up a bit. And when *The Only Thing That Looks Good On Me Is You* followed things just got louder.

The way the 58-year-old bound about on the stage with seemingly endless energy, the audience believed him when he belted out *18 Till I Die*.

Adams had a story to recount about *Straight From The Heart*. "It is a song I wrote when I was 18. The story is when I was 17, I asked my mother whether we could buy a piano with the \$1,000 we had set aside for my schooling? She knew I was not going back to school and said yes we can do that. So in the summer of 1977, I practised and drove my entire family out of the house with my terrible piano playing...But the point of my story is not about the song but about my parents. They had given the chance to me to be a free musician that I am. Otherwise I wouldn't be standing here today," he said. It was especially poignant given the fact that it has been a tough year for him. Adams took out time to tell the crowd of his father's passing away and his mother's stroke this year which had left her paralysed. And spoke about how he was pronounced "Indian" by a fellow flyer who was accompanying his old father. "This is the Indian way, he told me. And when I said that during the last years of his life, I took care of my father. He said, 'Maybe you are a little bit of Indian too'."

As he spoke, the strobe of light which was focussed on his head was abuzz with insects. The vegan admitted that he had swallowed one.

He ended the show with another film ballad, *All for Love* from *Three Musketeers* which he had sung with Rod Stewart and Sting. As the audience walked out, most of them in a daze, they subconsciously knew that it was the best day of their life.

Photo: Jagjeet Singh

The black curtains around the stage were replete with posters — 'One gender, one love,' 'Love has no gender,' 'Love is for all.' There were three multi-coloured gateways and as the middle one opened models sashayed in while the other two opened to reveal singers who gave a live rendition of Pharrell William's *Freedom* and more.

The rainbow show marked the finale of the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week that was high on colours, youthful energy and a plethora of designs. The festival celebrating Indian fashion and the talented artistes of the country hit a high note by being inclusive and diverse. From collaborations with Australia and Japan to using grassroots level weavers and artisans, the Fashion Design Council of India's four-day long event ended with the celebration of a judgement that takes India firmly into the 21st century, ahead of many other countries.

Through frills, stripes, shapes and innumerable patterns, the runway was a showcase of the country's acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

There were shrugs, bikinis, sarees, flared long dresses, floral motifs and rainbows spread across the stage to celebrate oneness. The show represented around 40 designers from across the country interpreting the verdict in their best way possible

Colours of freedom

The Rainbow Show paid tribute to the historic Section 377 judgement that was repealed last month through colours, frills and all moods of fashion. By CHAHAK MITTAL



through their colourful designs. Each designer dressed a model in an ensemble based on the rainbow theme, mainly comprising of six stripes — red, orange, yellow, blue, green and violet — representing diversity and peace.

While designer Suneet



Varma's yellow saree with floral motifs looked like a revelation, his model Sonalika Sahay's back said in bold, "Love is all, #377." Designer Rajesh Pratap Singh's attire brought in yet another classic element that left the audience awestruck. As the model made her way to the end of the runway, her pure white dress gradually got

splashed with infinite multi colours. Designer Rahul Mishra's attire screamed of simplicity and beauty through a multi-colour striped-blazer which was paired with a floor-length same pattern dress with blue net fabric. Designer Huemn's orange-red sweatshirt with a newspaper print skirt was a perfect example of celebrating

beauty and the fact that it comes in all shapes and sizes. It challenged body shaming as a plus sized model walked the ramp. While designer Gaurav Gupta's attire had colourful lights, designer Manish Malhotra's work brought back the floral motifs with vibgyor frills at the border. Wendell Rodricks's white bikini with colourful polka dots and stripes beneath, with a white superhero robe at the back, made one travel back to the series.

After the vibrance of the bright-coloured dresses, it was actress Huma Qureshi, the show-stopper, who looked stunning in a white gown with a feathered jacket with velvet fabrication, who attracted the audience.

Sunil Sethi, FDCI President, said, "Through such a show, we aimed at giving space to experiment with the pre-designed hue wheel and show solidarity with this cause. It's liberated millions of people living shackled by fear of societal pressure and often harsh judgement. We celebrate this victory of choice, dignity and privacy."

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

3rd opener, 2nd wk still grey areas for Australia Test tour

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian team management and the national selection committee will have to address few core issues when they decide on the Test squad for Australia, the primary concerns being a third opener and a second wicketkeeper for five-day games.

The net gains from the lop-

sided Test series against West Indies that concluded on Sunday, were youngsters Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant cementing their places in the XI for the first Test against Australia in Adelaide on December 6.

But with the team management's backing of KL Rahul, who has had 14 failures in 17 innings, the role of a reserve opener will become very important in the

larger context of the series.

"I am sure KL will look at his errors and look to rectify them. There is no doubt about his attitude and how he goes about his game. He is very positive in his head and he is someone who also appreciates people telling him his faults which is a quality to have," Kohli said after the second Test here which India won inside three days.

The skipper's certificate seals the deal with Shaw-Rahul at least getting one more shot as a pair in Adelaide. But what if Rahul fails again? Currently, neither the team management nor the selectors have a clear idea about it. Mayank Agarwal, who was the third opener for the West Indies series, is a contender for the yet-to-be-decided squad of 17 that will travel Down Under.

Agarwal has scored truckloads of runs but unlike Shaw, there are doubts about whether he has the game for the highest level and wherewithal to cope with Mitchell Starc's disconcerting bounce, Josh Hazlewood's 'fourth' stump attack and Pat Cummins' quick deliveries.

It is learnt that selectors are still wary of having Agarwal, Shaw and Rahul as three spe-

cialist openers as the line-up will be too thin on experience. And Rahul's poor form will also put pressure on the two youngsters.

In that case, Agarwal might just be unlucky like his state-mate Karun Nair as at least one experienced opener will be the order of the day.

In an ideal situation, it would have been veteran Murali Vijay, technically the most accom-

plished Indian opener of recent times. However, Vijay's failures in South Africa and England along with his much publicised difference of opinions with chairman of selectors MSK Prasad will be an issue. But after being dropped from the Indian team, scores of 56, 100, 85 and 80 for Essex in the English County would keep him in good stead. However, the first couple of Ranji matches will be

a big Test for him.

"I think it will be Mayank and Vijay opening in the New Zealand A series where the better performer will be selected. I find it the most logical way of doing things. No selection committee wants controversies and this committee will also want the same," former India opener and wicketkeeper Deep Dasgupta told said on Monday.

SINGLES

AUS A EVES BEAT IND A BY 91 RUNS

MUMBAI: Australia 'A' women cricket team crushed India 'A' by 91 runs in the opening match of the three-game ODI series here on Monday. Electing to bat at the Mumbai Cricket Association's Bandra Kurla Complex facility, Australia 'A' put up a decent 271/8 in their allotted 50 overs before bundling out the hosts for a meagre 180. For the visitors, Tahila McGrath top-scored with 58. The 22-year-old, during her 66-ball-knock, hit 10 fours and a six as she punished the India 'A' bowlers. McGrath received good support from Heather Graham (48) and Naomi Stalenberg (47), who played their parts to perfection as they guided their team to a competitive total. While chasing, the Indian women made a mess of the target and were 55/6 at one stage. For the Aussies, skipper Strano, an off-break bowler, starred with the bowl, too, as she returned with fine figures of 3-23. Australia 'A' are 1-0 ahead in series with the second ODI scheduled at the same venue on October 17.

JAYASURIYA CHARGED UNDER ICC ANTI-CORRUPTION CODE

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday charged former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya with two counts of breaching the ICC anti-corruption code. The charges relate to failure or refusal to cooperate with an ACU investigation and obstructing or delaying an investigation, including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information which may be relevant, a statement said. Jayasuriya has 14 days from October 15 to respond to the charges. The ICC statement further said the global cricket body won't make any further comment in respect of these charges at this stage.

ABD IN DRAFT FOR SA T20 LEAGUE

JOHANNESBURG: South African batting star AB de Villiers was on Monday named among 12 leading players for South Africa's new Mzansi Super League Twenty20 tournament. Six South African and six overseas players were named as marquee players at a Cricket South Africa media briefing. Six teams will be competing for their services in a draft in Johannesburg on Wednesday. England one-day captain Eoin Morgan and fellow England players Jason Roy and David Malan will join West Indians Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo and Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan as the leading overseas players. Six teams will be competing for their services in a draft which will take place in Johannesburg on Wednesday. De Villiers, who retired from international cricket earlier this year, heads the list of designated South African players. He will represent the Tshwane Spartans, who will be based at his long-time home ground in Centurion. The league, named after a colloquial term for South Africa, will run from November 15 to December 16.

GOLFER JOHNSON MAINTAINS TOP SPOT

MADRID: United States golfer Dustin Johnson continued to lead the World Golf Ranking released on Monday, followed by England's Justin Rose, as the top 10 players all held their positions this week. The majority of the top 10 spots were held by US golfers, including Brooks Koepka in third, Justin Thomas in fourth, Bryson DeChambeau in seventh, Rickie Fowler in ninth and Jordan Spieth in 10th. For the Europeans, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland came fifth, Francesco Molinari of Italy came sixth and Jon Rahm of Spain came eighth. Further down the rankings, Emiliano Grillo of Argentina jumped 13 places up to world No 49, after he tied for second at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia on Sunday behind first-placed Marc Leishman of Australia, who climbed to world No. 16 from No 24.

BOLT FUMES OVER DRUG TEST NOTICE

SYDNEY: Sprint legend Usain Bolt says he's stunned after being handed a drug testing notice despite retiring from athletics and having no professional contract as he bids to launch a football career in Australia. The 100m world record-holder quit athletics last year and is yet to be offered a deal by Australia's Central Coast Mariners, where he is currently on trial. "So guys I've retired from track and field looking to become a footballer but look at this," Bolt said Monday via an Instagram video as he zoomed in on the notice. The demand for the out of competition test — to collect urine and blood — appears to have been issued by Football Federation Australia. "How am I going to get a drug test today? I'm not even a professional footballer yet. Seriously," said Bolt. Despite his displeasure, it appears the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority guidelines mean he is eligible to be tested.

INDONESIA FACE HONG KONG IN FRIENDLY

JAKARTA: Indonesia's national football team is gearing up for a friendly match against Hong Kong on Tuesday. The match will take place at the Wibawa Mukti sport stadium in the West Javan city of Cikarang. Interim Indonesia coach Bima Sakti said on Monday that his charges had meticulously planned for the international friendly. "Hong Kong have some good players, which will give us an opportunity to determine which of our players should play more in future matches," he said. Indonesia emerged victorious in their previous international friendly last Wednesday, defeating Myanmar 3-0. Hong Kong head coach Gary White emphasized that his team would be going all-out to get a positive result against Indonesia, noting that Merah Putih had got a good result against Myanmar. "We came here to win," the Englishman stressed, adding: "I am certain that the match against Indonesia will be good and competitive, and we are enthusiastic about it."

SOUTH AFRICA'S WC PLAN TAKING SHAPE

BENONI: South Africa's time for experimentation ahead of the 2019 Cricket World Cup is coming to an end, according to coach Otis Gibson. Speaking after rain washed out his team's final Twenty20 international against Zimbabwe in Benoni on Sunday, Gibson said a short limited overs tour of Australia, starting later this month, would be a crucial part of the build-up to next year's World Cup in England. "We want to go there with an attitude of trying to win," said Gibson. "The squad that we pick will reflect that and reflect our feeling on the formula and the way we want to play cricket." South Africa were seldom under pressure in three limited overs and two Twenty20 internationals against Zimbabwe but tried to play the kind of positive cricket that will be needed for more demanding encounters. "There is a lot being said about being positive. The key is having the will to stick with it even when things get tough," said Gibson. The Barbados-born coach said leading batsman Hashim Amla would miss the tour of Australia because of a finger injury but indicated that veteran bowlers Dale Steyn and Imran Tahir would make the trip, adding to the strike power of fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi.

DJOKOVIC CLOSES IN ON NADAL'S NO 1 SPOT

PARIS: Novak Djokovic is closing in on Rafael Nadal's number one spot after winning the Shanghai Masters title, according to ATP rankings released on Monday. Nadal is struggling with a knee injury and has decided to sit out the current Asian segment of the ATP tour. Last week he joined the clean-up operation after deadly flash floods on his native Majorca. After his 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric in the Shanghai final on Sunday, Djokovic is just 215 points behind the Spaniard. While, Simona Halep has secured the year-end number one ranking in the WTA standings for the second year running. The Romanian spent 40 weeks at No 1 in 2018, a season that saw her win three titles from a tour-leading six final appearances, amassing a 46-11 win-loss record.

PRAJNESH PROGRESSES TO 2ND ROUND IN NINGBO

NEW DELHI: Third seed Ramkumar Ramanathan was knocked out of the ATP Challenger event in Ningbo, China after a stupendous start but his compatriot Prajnesh Gunneswaran advanced to the second round on Monday. Ramkumar took the opening set for the loss of just one game but Korea's Yuseong Chung turned the tables on the Indian, winning the opening round match 1-6, 7-6(7), 7-6(2) in two hours and 16 minutes. Left-handed Prajnesh moved to the pre-quarterfinals after taming Mohammad Safwat 7-6(2) 6-2 in one hour and 29 minutes. He will next face China's Zhe Li in the \$ 150,000 tournament.



INDIAN CUSTOMS

UNPRECEDENTED TAX REFORM

Enhanced Ease of Doing Business

Facilitating Trade

Easing Compliance





Indian Customs has taken a series of measures to simplify Customs processes and procedures during the last few years.

Reforms undertaken since April, 2017

- An online paperless processing application, E-SANCHIT, allowing trader to submit all supporting documents for clearance of consignments electronically has been introduced. There is no need to approach different regulatory agencies with hard copy of documents.
- Enhanced facilitation through Risk Management System has resulted in lesser time taken for clearances.
- Direct Port Delivery (DPD) allows registered importers to complete Customs clearances at the terminal itself and containers can be taken directly to factories without going to CFS.
- Direct Port Entry (DPE) allows direct entry of export cargo into port terminal without any need for going to CFS.
- Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) scheme provides faster Customs clearances and simplified Customs procedures to business entities. Already more than 1700 entities are getting benefits under it.
- Mandatory filling of Bill of Entry within specified time has resulted in discipline among the trade and resulted in reduced time in case of imports.
- E-sealing of containers has been introduced replacing earlier practice of supervised sealing by departmental officers. It has enhanced the integrity of cargo as RFID tamper-proof e-seals are being used to seal containers now.

Reforms undertaken during 2016-17

- Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) eases the NOC issuance procedures for 6 main Governmental Agencies and allows importers & exporters, the facility to lodge their clearance documents online at only a single point.
- Only 3 mandatory documents now required for import/ export which includes Bill of Lading/Airway Bill, Commercial Invoice-cum-Packing List and Shipping Bill / Bill of Entry from the earlier obligatory 10 documents.
- Based on the principle of 'Clear first-Pay later', facility of deferred payment of Customs duty is available. This helps to achieve seamless Wharf to Warehouse transit in order to facilitate just-in-time manufacturing. Currently being extended to importers holding AEO T-2 or T-3 status.
- 24x7 Customs Clearance facility extended to goods covered by facilitated Bills of Entry and goods shipped under Free Shipping Bills at designated Seaports & Air Cargo Complexes.
- National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) is an effective deliberative and decision-making structure. With its three-tiered composition and with representatives from trade and various governmental agencies on board, NCTF helps to ease bottlenecks for faster and streamlined clearance of goods.
- Customs Clearance Facilitation Committees (CCFCs) have been set up under the chairmanship of Chief Commissioner of Customs/Commissioner of Customs. CCFCs expedite clearance of import and export goods and help resolve grievances of trade and industry at various seaports, airports, ICDs and LCSs.



The overall impact of above reforms in terms of time and cost associated with imports and exports can be judged from the Time Release Study (TRS) 2018 data conducted at JNCH, Mumbai as under:

- The percentage of cases of filling Advance Bill of Entry has increased to more than 58%.
- The average release time for imports has improved to 144.18 hours in 2018.
- The average release time for DPD facilitated Bills of Entry is 84.48 hours.
- In case of Bills of Entry for auto-components falling under Customs Tariff Heading 8708, the average release time is 91.52 hours.
- The net average export release time, arrived at by excluding the domestic transport time from the gross average export release time is 84.1 hours.



Importers and Exporters can track their documents and containers on ICEGATE website.

- The location of container can be traced using facility "Track your Container" on www.icegate.gov.in for cargo moving to Nhava Sheva, Hazira and Mundra Ports only.
- The current status of Bill of Entry or Shipping Bill can be traced by logging into the ICEGATE website.
- Already electronic tracking of Nepal-bound cargo has been launched by Customs.

Indian Customs - Committed to Faster and Smoother Trade

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

www.cbic.gov.in, www.icegate.gov.in

dhnp 15502/13/0056/1819

AUSSIES TARGET SERIES WIN

Eyeing first series win in Asia since 2011, Australia lock horn against Pakistan in 2nd Test

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

Australian skipper Tim Paine vowed his team would do its utmost to win the second Test against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday for a first series win in Asia since 2011.

The trying conditions of the pitches and hot weather have stopped Australia from winning a series since they beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in 2011.

Since then they have lost 4-0 in India (2013), 2-0 in United Arab Emirates to Pakistan (2014), 3-0 in Sri Lanka (2016), 2-1 in India (2017) and drew 1-1 in Bangladesh last year.

But Paine's side snatched a morale-boosting draw on the fifth and final day in the first Test in Dubai, the skipper and number 10 Nathan Lyon seeing out the final 12.2 overs after being set a daunting target of 462 runs.

"We want to win every series we are involved in," Paine said Monday.

"We are focusing on what we do and if we can do well for five days then we have a really good chance of winning it."

"We are reasonably confident. After the last few days we got a little bit of relief and a little bit of mileage, so we know if we play our best cricket we have got a chance to win this Test match."

"We are coming into this Test with a bit more momentum and guys know what to expect a bit more in these conditions," said Paine, who announced pacer Mitchell Starc



Australian skipper Tim Paine, left, shakes hand with Pakistani players after Australia managed to draw first Test against Pakistan at Dubai

Pakistan vs Australia
Live from 11:30am IST
SONY ESPN NETWORK

spinner Shadab Khan. Pakistan's only series loss in United Arab Emirates — their neutral venue since attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in 2009 forced them to play here — was last year.

They lost to Sri Lanka 2-0, their first series loss in 10 attempts.

But Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed dispelled any fear of losing.

"There is nothing like that (fear) and you would see that with the way we played the first Test. Throughout we played good cricket but unfortunately we couldn't get across the line," Ahmed said.

"The team morale is high, batsmen have scored runs and bowlers have also taken wickets so we are very much hopeful of performing well to win the series."

SQUADS

Australia: Tim Paine (capt), Ashton Agar, Brendan Doggett, Aaron Finch, Travis Head, Jon Holland, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Shaun Marsh, Michael Neser, Matthew Renshaw, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (capt), Azhar Ali, Mohammad Hafeez, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Yasir Shah, Shadab Khan, Bilal Asif, Mohammad Abbas, Mir Hamza.

will play in Abu Dhabi.

That is hint enough that Australia are likely to keep the same starting XI.

A 'VERY GOOD TEAM'

Paine admitted Pakistan were a "very good team".

"They have some good batters, particularly in these conditions. We know what we are up against and we know they are an excellent team and even better in these conditions."

Pakistan have been forced into making two changes after opener

Imam-ul-Haq fractured his finger in Dubai. He will be replaced by Fakhar Zaman for his first Test.

They also left out fast bowler Wahab Riaz, who went wicketless in the first Test, and will pick one from uncapped pacer Mir Hamza or leg-

Kohli maintains top spot; Shaw, Pant make big gains

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli remains the number one Test batsman while Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant have made big gains in the latest ICC rankings following the home series against the West Indies.

Shaw, who led India to victory in the U19 World Cup this year, completed a memorable debut series as he finished the Hyderabad Test in 60th place, a gain of 13 slots after knocks of 70 and 33 not out. Shaw had entered the rankings in 73rd place after a century on debut.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Pant also continued his upward climb as his knock of 92 saw him gain 23 places to reach 62nd position. The Delhi batsman had started the series in 111th position and would be deriving satisfaction from the rankings gain after missing centuries in successive Tests, also dismissed for 92 in the opening match in Rajkot.

In other movements, Ajinkya Rahane has gained four places to reach 18th position after his knock of 80, while Umesh Yadav has gained four slots to reach 25th position after becoming

only the third India fast bowler to claim a 10-wicket Test haul on home soil.

For the West Indies, captain Jason Holder has made significant gains in all departments. His haul of five 56 in India's first innings has lifted him four places to a career-best ninth position among bowlers while his first innings half-century was good enough to help him gain three slots to reach 53rd position.

Holder has also overtaken South Africa's Vernon Philander to third position among all-rounders.

Other players from the visiting side to advance in the rankings include Roston Chase, whose first innings century helped gain 10 slots and reach 31st position, and Shai Hope, who has gained five places to reach 35th position.

The 2-0 series result sees top-ranked India gain one point while the West Indies have lost one point, without any change of positions in the team rankings.



Prithvi Shaw celebrates after scoring fifty in 2nd Test

Jharkhand, Hyderabad reach Vijay Hazare semis



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Left-arm spinner Anukul Roy picked up a four-wicket haul as Jharkhand beat Maharashtra by eight wickets in a rain-hit match to enter the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Monday.

The pace duo of Rahul Shukla (3/35) and Varun Aaron (2/47) provided the early breakthroughs before Roy (4/32) ran through the middle and lower order with a career-best effort to dismiss Maharashtra for 181 in 42.2 overs.

Rohit Motwani (52) and captain Rahul Tripathi (47) steadied the ship after Maharashtra lost four wickets for 72 runs.

Jharkhand's chase was halted in the sixth over due to rain, reducing the target to 174 runs in 47 overs before it was revised to 127 runs in 34 overs.

It was a comfortable ride for Jharkhand, who were 89 for two in 27 overs when the target was revised for the second time.

Shasheem Rathour (53 not out off 81) and Saurabh Tiwary (29 not out off 33) ensured Jharkhand got home com-

Shaw, Rahane boost for Mumbai in Hazare semis

MUMBAI: Formidable Mumbai got a major boost for the crucial semi-final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy tournament with the availability of three top players, two of whom missed the whole or part of the league phase.

Rohit Sharma, teenage sensation Prithvi Shaw and seasoned batsman Ajinkya Rahane are the three batsmen who will turn out for Mumbai in the semis.

Of these, Sharma, who played in the quarter-finals of the national ODI tournament, will be available for at least the semis along with Shaw and Rahane, who both featured in the victorious Test squad against the West Indies.

Mumbai's chief selector and former India pacer Ajit Agarkar confirmed that all the three players were available to play in the

semis. Mumbai crushed Bihar by nine wickets in a lop-sided affair in the quarter-finals to make it to the semis.

Shaw had played in the initial part of the tournament for the domestic giants before making a spectacular debut in the Test series against the Windies in which he picked up the man of the series award too.

The semi-finals of the national One-Day International (ODI) tournament will be played on October 17 and 18.

The five-match ODI series against West Indies begins on October 21 with the first match scheduled at Guwahati in Assam. Rohit Sharma is named as vice captain for the first two matches of the series, the squad for which was announced earlier.

50 overs.

Mohammad Siraj, who was released from the Indian squad after he couldn't find places in the Test squad against West Indies, made an impact with three wickets.

Hyderabad made a competitive 281 after put into bat, even though openers Tanmay Agarwal (31) and Akshath Reddy (18) failed to give a good start, but Sandeep rescued the team by smashing 96 off 97 balls after hitting seven boundaries in the company of skipper Ambati Rayudu (28).

Sandeep left the scene in the last over of the innings after giving a catch to Srikanth off B Ayyappa.

In reply, Andhra fell 15 runs short of their target, despite Hanuma Vihari's 95 and 112-run partnership he stitched with skipper Ricky Bhui.

At 207 for four in 39th over, Andhra were looking to seal the win, but Siraj poured water on to their dreams as they were reduced to 237 for 8 in 47th over.

Ravi Kiran claimed two wickets. Hyderabad will now face Mumbai in the first semifinal on Wednesday.



Indian player battles for ball against Malaysian counterpart during Youth Olympics summit clash

Maiden Silver for Indian hockey teams

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

The Indian men's and women's hockey teams went down in their respective finals but managed to script history by picking up their maiden Silver medals in the five-a-side competition of the Youth Olympic Games here.

While the men lost 2-4 to Malaysia, the women's team suffered a 1-3 defeat at the hands of Argentina in match that took place Sunday night. The Silver medals claimed in the Argentine capital are India's first set of hockey medals in the Youth Olympics.

The Malaysian men and Argentina women made history of their own by winning their first-ever Youth Olympic Games Hockey5s Gold medals.

Argentina men and China women secured the Bronze medals respectively following 4-0 and 6-0 wins over Zambia and South Africa.

In the men's Gold medal match, India took the lead after only two minutes through captain Vivek Sagar Prasad.

However, just about two minutes later Malaysia levelled through Firasud Rosdi, but the lead was short-lived as Prasad grabbed his second goal of the match for

India in the fifth minute. India took a 2-1 lead at the half-time stage.

After the break, Malaysia came out all guns blazing as Akhimullah Anuar brought the teams level again in the 13th minute before Amirul Azahar steered Malaysia to a lead three minutes later.

With only two minutes left on the clock, Anuar sealed the Gold by scoring Malaysia's fourth and his second goal of the day to win their first-ever Youth Olympic Games medal.

Later in the women's final, hosts Argentina were inspired by yet another capacity crowd.

India took an early lead after only 49 seconds through Mumtaz Khan.

But once the early nerves settled, Argentina got into their stride and Gianella Palet levelled after six minutes.

Sofia Ramallo then edged Argentina ahead with nearly nine minutes on the clock to give the hosts a 2-1 lead at half-time. In the second half, Brisa Bruggesser made it 3-1.

While India tried their best to get back in the game, Argentina held on to win their first Youth Olympic Hockey5s Gold medal in front of a jubilant home crowd.

Sindhu, Saina to lead in Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

Olympic medallists PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will lead a strong Indian challenge at the Denmark Open badminton tournament which gets underway here on Tuesday.

While Sindhu has been seeded third in the event, world No 11 Saina is unseeded here.

Sindhu will take on USA's Beiwen Zhang in the opening round of the women's singles. Saina, on the other hand, will be up against Cheung Ngan Yi of Hong Kong.

In men's singles competition, world No 6 Kidambi Srikanth will be India's best bet and has been seeded seventh in the tournament.

Srikanth will face Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark in the opening round, while B Sai Praneeth will

PV Sindhu vs B Zhang
Live from 1:10pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2



Saina Nehwal prepares to return a shot during her game

play Huang Yuxiang of China. However, it will be a difficult opening encounter for another Indian, Sameer Verma, as he will square off against third seed Shi Yuqi of China.

The other Indian in fray, HS Prannoy also faces a tough first round match as he will be up against sixth seed Son Wan Ho of Korea.

Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap, who lost his passport at Amsterdam and sought the Indian government's help on Friday, however doesn't feature in the men's singles draw.

In men's doubles, the Indian pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will take on local hope Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen in the opening round.

Ashwini Ponappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will face the Korean combination of Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yujung in the first round of the mixed doubles competition.

Ponappa will pair up with N Sikki Reddy and play the American duo of Ariel Lee and Sydney Lee in the opening round of the women's doubles event.

'Asian Champions Trophy will be good preparation for WC'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's hockey captain Manpreet Singh says the Asian Champions Trophy is not only a redemption chance for them after below-par show at the Asian Games but also an opportunity to test the waters before the World Cup at home.

India had lost to Malaysia in semifinals at the Asian Games in Jakarta but beat arch-rivals Pakistan to win a Bronze medal.

"We have had a tough few months as we could not achieve our target of winning the Gold medal at the 18th Asian Games, but it is time now for all of us to rejuvenate ourselves and prepare well for the Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018," Manpreet said before leaving for Champions Trophy, to be held in Oman.

World number five Indian team will begin its campaign against hosts Oman on Thursday.

"The Asian Champions Trophy will give the team a chance to face some of the best Asian teams, who will also be



Indian players pose during official photoshoot

involved in the World Cup later in November-December. Therefore we will try to produce our best performances and aim at winning the competition," said Manpreet.

With the Indian team facing competition from World No 12 Malaysia, arch-rivals Pakistan, World No 14 South Korea, Asian Games 2018 Gold medallists Japan, and hosts Oman, the tournament

will give the Indian team the opportunity to avoid committing the mistakes like those happened in Jakarta.

"We have trained well during our National Camp in Bhubaneswar, and have focused on minimizing the mistakes in our overall play.

We all knew that there were areas that needed work and the team has been determined in making things right as we approach the biggest two months in all of our careers," said the captain.

India are the defending champions, having won the title in 2016 when they beat Pakistan 3-2 in the final match in Kuantan, Malaysia.

"We have won the tournament twice before in 2011 and 2016, and we go into the 2018 tournament as defending champions. Our focus is on producing good performances throughout the five Pool stage matches in order to qualify for semifinals.

"We have strong opponents in Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and South

Korea, therefore we will need to give our 100% at all times, and make sure that we play like the highest ranked team in the continent," said Manpreet.

'INDIA IS FAVOURITE'

With barely three days to go for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here, reigning Asian Games champions Japan chief coach Siegfried Aikman on Monday backed defending champions India to retain the title.

Aikman, a Dutch national of Indian origin, praised the Harendra Singh-coached side's skills, tactical awareness and fitness but at the same time pointed out India's weakness in handling pressure situations.

"India are undoubtedly the contenders for winning the tournament. They have the skills, tactical awareness and fitness but they are vulnerable under pressure and that's the area which we need to capitalize if we want success against them," Aikman said in a statement.

