

**OPINION 8**  
THE GLOBAL WARMING  
GOAL AND INDIA

**WORLD 12**  
US ASKS TURKEY FOR  
AUDIO TAPE: TRUMP

**SPORT 15**  
DELHI ENTER VIJAY  
HAZARE FINAL

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## RSS chief pitches for Ram Mandir law

BJP netas hail push; Opp, Muslim leaders say call is politically motivated

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ahead of the crucial 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday put the contentious Ram Mandir issue back on the front burner, by exhorting the Narendra Modi Government "to clear the path for construction of a grand temple through appropriate and requisite law".

Addressing the RSS cadre at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur on Vijayadashami, Bhagwat charged that there was "an obvious game-plan" of a few elements to stall the judgment on Ram Mandir by presenting various newer interventions in the judicial process. He, however, stressed that the construction of Ram temple was necessary from the self-esteem point of view.

"It (Ram temple) will also pave the way for an atmosphere of goodwill and oneness in the country. This matter of national interest is being obstructed by some fundamentalist elements and forces that play communal politics for selfish gains. Despite such machinations, the decision regarding ownership of the land should be expedited, and the Government should clear the path for construction of the grand temple through appropriate and requisite law," Bhagwat said.

Several BJP leaders supported the RSS chief's push for a law to enable the construction

- Clear the path for construction of a grand temple through appropriate and requisite law, says RSS chief
- The construction of Ram temple is necessary from the self-esteem point of view, he says
- 'It (Ram temple) will also pave the way for an atmosphere of goodwill and oneness in the country'
- AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said Bhagwat's remarks indicated that the RSS and the BJP believed in totalitarianism and not in the rule of law
- BJP MP Subramanian Swamy said Bhagwat made a constitutionally valid demand and the Government should bring an Ordinance for construction of the temple



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses the Vijay Dashmi function at RSS headquarters in Nagpur on Thursday

of Ram temple, saying legislation is a constitutionally valid option. Opposition and Muslim leaders, however, linked his call for the legislation to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, saying his demand is "politically motivated".

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said Bhagwat's remarks indicated that the RSS and the BJP believed in totalitarianism and not in the rule of law.

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy said Bhagwat made a constitutionally valid demand and the Government should bring an Ordinance for construction of the temple.

Shrikant Sharma, a

Minister in the Uttar Pradesh Government and its spokesperson, echoed the view, saying the legislation to build the temple at Ayodhya will be in accordance with the Constitution.

Termining Bhagwat's speech historic, former BJP MP Vinay Katiyar rejected the contention that he made the demand for a law for the temple with an eye on the 2019 elections.

In Lucknow, Opposition parties and Muslim leaders said Bhagwat's call was meant to serve political interests. "The statement on Ram temple given by the RSS chief is a political statement before the upcoming elections," Samajwadi Party

spokesman in Uttar Pradesh Rajendra Chaudhary told PTI. Darul Uloom Farangi Mahal rector Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali said even a child knows that the Ram temple issue is raised by the RSS-BJP every time before the elections.

Babri Masjid Action Committee convener Zafaryab Jilani said Bhagwat is trying to influence the court, referring to the title suit for the disputed site in Ayodhya.

Firebrand Hindu leader Pravin Togadia questioned why such a law was not enacted in the last four and a half years of the BJP rule. The RSS is rais-

ing the issue now because elections are round the corner and the BJP Government's performance is dismal, he said.

Underlining the role of Sangh Parivar in the proposal to construct Ram Mandir (in Ayodhya), Bhagwat said, "In this very same context of honouring the 'Sewa' of the nation, Sangh has been associated with the sentiments of countrymen, in the efforts of constructing a magnificent Ram temple at the birthplace of Shri Ram who is the personification of the life energy of the nation and an icon of upholding dharma. "The place of Janmabhoomi is yet to be allo-

cated for the construction of the temple although all kinds of evidence have affirmed that there was a temple at that place. There is an obvious game-plan of a few elements to stall the judgment by presenting various newer interventions in the judicial process," the RSS chief said, as he called for expediting the decision on the ownership of the land and the BJP-led Government at the Centre bringing an "appropriate and requisite law" to facilitate construction of the Ram temple.

Through his remarks on Ram Mandir, Bhagwat has indirectly given a poll plank to the ruling BJP but also asked the Government to become pro-active in taking Mandir issue to a logical conclusion in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

It remains to be seen if the Modi Government would bring in a legislation in matters relating to the Ram Mandir construction, pending a Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute, the hearing for which will commence from October 29 before a three-judge Bench.

In his Dussehra rally address, Bhagwat spoke on a host of issues, including national security, internal security, "disturbing trends" in the country, the recent verdict on Sabarimala temple and the RSS' role and views on the 2019 general elections.

Continued on Page 7

## Court will examine statements of Akbar, witnesses on Oct 31

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) on Thursday said it will examine the statements by former Union Minister MJ Akbar and other witnesses on October 31, in the defamation case filed by the journalist-turned-politician against journalist Priya Ramani.

The #MeToo controversy had jolted the political quarters and led to the ouster of Akbar, who was Minister of State for External Affairs and had to demit office on Wednesday evening.

Akbar has filed a defamation suit against Ramani, who made allegations of sexual harassment against Akbar.

Ramani has accused Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago. Ramani's claims were seconded by several other women, who took to the social media and revealed their harrowing accounts of alleged sexual misconduct by Akbar.

Over the past 10 days, at least 20 women have come forward to narrate their experiences of alleged sexual harassment at the hands of Akbar during his days as editor of several mainstream publications.

Scores of scribes, lawyers and onlookers thronged the small courtroom at courts complex on Thursday around



2 pm to witness the first hearing of the high-profile defamation case. However, the curiosity, subsided drastically the moment they came to know that neither Akbar nor Ramani would visit the court for their first judicial face-off.

During the 20-minute-long hearing in the Patiala house court complex, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal heard the submissions of senior advocate Geeta Luthra, representing Akbar, who said the "controversial" tweets and similar social media posts of Ramani have caused irreparable loss to Akbar's reputation built over 40 years.

"Let the matter be fixed for examination of the complainant (Akbar) and his witnesses for October 31," said the magistrate.

Continued on Page 7

## No Sabarimala entry for women on Day 2

MHA asks Kerala Govt to ensure peace; tradition not taken into account: Bhagwat



Devotees arrive to pay obeisance at Lord Ayyappa Temple in Sabarimala on Thursday

PNS ■ PAMBA (KERALA)/NEW DELHI

Protesters blocked the entry of women belonging to "banned" age group in the Sabarimala temple for the second day even as the Centre asked the Kerala Government to ensure peace across the

State following protests against the Supreme Court order allowing women of all age groups to enter the shrine. In an advisory, the Home Ministry said the maintenance of law and order, including providing security to women wishing to visit the temple, was the

responsibility of the State Government.

Sabarimala Thanthri (chief priest) Kantaru Rajeevaru appealed to those involved in the controversy not to make Sabarimala a centre of conflict. He dismissed the alleged propaganda through the social

media that doors of the temple would be locked if women in the "banned" age group reach the shrine. Asserting that he was a law-abiding citizen, the priest appealed to the women in menstruating age group not to climb the hills, hurting the sentiments of large number of Ayyappa devotees.

Protesters kept a hawk eye on the trek route to Sabarimala temple and made sure that women from "banned" age group did not dare to make any attempt to reach the shrine. After Wednesday's violent protest and clashes, fewer women turned up on Thursday to reach the shrine.

Amid ongoing protests at Sabarimala, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat also joined the issue saying the Supreme Court verdict has not taken into consideration the nature and premise of the tradition that has been accepted by society and has given rise to "divisiveness" in society. He said questions such as why only the Hindu society experiences such repeated and brazen onslaughts on its symbols of faith, obviously arise in the public's mind and lead to unrest.

Continued on Page 7

## Withdraw case against Ramani, Editors Guild tells ex-Union Min

New Delhi: The Editors Guild of India on Thursday asked MJ Akbar to withdraw the criminal defamation case he filed against journalist Priya Ramani, as the top editors' body came out in support of the women journalists. The Guild also offered legal support to women journalists who have levelled the allegations against Akbar in case he does not withdraw the present case or files such cases against other women too.

The Guild's support for the women came a day after Akbar stepped down as the Minister of State for External Affairs in the face of mounting pressure following allegations of sexual harassment against him by several women journalists.

In a statement, the Guild said it salutes the courage shown by several women journalists in bringing to light instances of how they were sexually harassed. While Akbar is entitled to all legal instruments available to a citizen to seek vindication, it would be paradoxical for a veteran editor to employ the instrument of criminal defamation, the Guild said, adding that, "more so for Akbar who happens to be a former president of the Guild."

PTI

## Ashish Pandey surrenders in Delhi court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Patiala House Court on Thursday accepted the surrender plea submitted by Ashish Pandey, who was seen brandishing a gun and threatening a man at a five-star hotel in Delhi. Pandey, who is the son of former BSP MP Rakesh Pandey, was missing since October 14 when the incident occurred at Hyatt Regency.

Metropolitan Magistrate Neetu Sharma's court considered rival submissions and allowed the Delhi Police to quiz Pandey in custody for one day.

During the 20-minute hearing, the counsel representing police said the accused is from Lucknow. "Weapon has to be recovered to verify whether he has a licence for the gun or not. His custody is required to know the whereabouts of other accused and to recover the weapon," said the counsel.

Whereas, advocate SPM Tripathi, appearing for Pandey, said the custodial interrogation was not required as police already knew that he possessed a licensed gun and he was being framed only because his father was a politician.

"Police are well aware that the gun is licensed. We are ready to provide the gun. There are no cases registered against Pandey. This is only because the father of the accused was a politician and the incident was hyped by media."

Continued on Page 7

## ND Tiwari passes away on 93rd b'day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister ND Tiwari, who served in various positions at the Centre and in States and was even a strong contender for prime ministership in 1991, died on his 93rd birthday at a private hospital in the national Capital on Thursday after prolonged illness. The veteran politician was admitted to the hospital on September 20, 2017 after suffering a brain stroke and had been there since then.

Tiwari, a Congress veteran, had been in hospital for over a year. A team of doctors was monitoring his condition round the clock. A three-day State mourning has been announced in Uttarakhanda.

Tiwari had been admitted to the Max Hospital since September last year, after suffering a brain stroke. In July, he was shifted to the ICU after multiple organ failure, his condition was described by hospital sources as "very serious".

A former Chief Minister of Uttarakhanda, Tiwari was also Chief Minister of undivided Uttar Pradesh thrice. He also served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh for two years after which he resigned in 2009 after allegations of a sex scandal at the Raj Bhawan.

A political heavyweight once, Tiwari was even considered a potential candidate to be Prime Minister in the early 1990s. He quit the Congress in



1994 and launched his own party the Congress (Tiwari) along with another prominent Congressman Arjun Singh, but they later returned when Sonia Gandhi took over as Congress president.

In 2008, Rohit Shekhar filed a paternity suit claiming that Tiwari was his biological father. The result in 2012 of a court-ordered DNA test proved the claim right. Tiwari pleaded with the media to let him be himself. "I have every right to live my life my way. No one has the right to look into my private life. Please respect my privacy," he was quoted as saying. In 2014, Tiwari married Shekhar's mother Ujjwala Sharma in Lucknow, finding a new family in the mother and son at the age of 88.

Tiwari had won his first election on a Praja Samajwadi Party ticket from Nainital in 1952. A decade later, he joined the Congress and stuck with it for most of his life.

Continued on Page 7

## DIY robots on jihadis agenda in Valley

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Intelligence agencies have received alarming inputs that Pakistan-sponsored terror groups Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are trying to produce SAS313, a radio frequency-operated robotic device made by school students from Jammu and Kashmir under a Do It Yourself (DIY) project with an agenda to infuse technology into terror operations in the Valley.

The robot can be operated from a range of one kilometer and if deployed by terror groups, the terror operations will undergo a sea change in Jammu & Kashmir as they can hit police posts and paramilitary camps from a distance. This will change the dimension of the terrorist attacks against the security forces in the Valley.



Addressing commandos of the National Security Guard (NSG) at Manesar on Tuesday during the Raising Day celebrations, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said threats posed by DIY terrorists and

lone wolf attacks are new and are a major challenge for the security agencies.

The name given to the robotic device — SAS 313 — itself suggests fusion of modern technology with jihadi agenda

- Rajnath says threats posed by DIY terrorists and lone wolf attacks are new and are a major challenge for the security agencies
- Robot can be operated from a range of one km and if deployed by terror groups, the terror operations will undergo a sea change in J&K

and an indication of the high-tech nature of the next generation terror attacks being planned by the Pakistani terror groups.

While the alphabets have been taken from a variant of such a device from USA's NASA, the numerals indicate linkages to the terrorist ideology. A top Al Qaeda operative Iqbal Kashmiri, a former Pakistan Air Force official had formed a group named Brigade 313. Kashmiri was killed in a

drone strike by the US and his team members subsequently joined JEM. Intelligence officials said.

The officials said the model of the robotic vehicle and its usefulness for jihadi attacks are being circulated within the top echelons of the AQIS and JeM to their sympathisers to encourage them acquire such technology. The sympathisers of these terror groups are also spreading on the social media that the talent of Jammu and Kashmir students involved in the DIY projects are not getting their due recognition.

"There is a need to compact the children's zeal in science and technology projects with counter radicalisation measures. The science teachers need to be exposed to containment of radicalisation," a counter terrorism expert said.

Continued on Page 7

# UP Police recruitment to begin soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Facilitating a record 20 per cent seats reserved for females in recruitment in UP Police, the state government on Thursday announced vacancy of about 1 lakh post and announced that the process for the appointment for 52,000 personnel will begin soon. The government also announced the examination date and process for appointment of constables.

The announcement was made jointly by Principal Secretary (Home) Arvind Kumar and DGP OP Singh at a press conference in Lucknow on Thursday morning. Kumar said that there were 97,000 posts lying vacant in the UP Police. He said that recruitment started for 51,216 police constables and the selection process was already underway. "There are a total of 2.29 lakh posts of constables in UP Police, of which 97,000 are vacant," he informed.

Recently, UP government had promoted 37,500 constables to the post of head constable this year.

The Principal Secretary (Home) said that due to shortage of policemen, there was dif-



DGP OP Singh and Principal Secretary (Home) Arvind Kumar making an announcement about the commencement of police recruitment process

iculty in allowing them weekly off. He admitted that the situation in Fire Services and Prison departments was serious as there were 38 per cent vacancies in Fire Services and about 50 per cent vacancy in Prison department. He also said that due to shortage of force in Provincial Armed Constabulary, 74 of the total 273 PAC compa-

nies were on the verge of closure.

Kumar said that now with the government's fresh initiative, 30 of these 70 PAC companies, which were on the verge of closure, would soon start functioning with full force. The top official said that on the CM's initiatives, a plan was chalked out to fill all vacant posts so that with-

in the next few years, there were no shortage of manpower in the force and law and order situation in the state could be improved.

Kumar said that written exam for 51,216 police constables would be held at 482 exam centres of 16 districts of the state on October 25 and 26. The exams will be held in three ses-

sions. The result of the examination will be announced on December 1 and the final list will be declared by December 15.

Of the new appointment to be made, 20 per cent will be reserved for women while other reservations will be applicable as per the norms.

DGP OP Singh said that the recruitment and appointment of 97,000 UP Police constables would be completed by August 2019 and the process would start from November this year. The written exams will be held on January 8 and 9 next year and results will be declared in July, 2019.

Of the new appointments, 3638 constables will be for Prison which will include 3012 males and 626 females. At present, against 6490 posts of males constables in Prison department, 3514 posts are lying vacant while against 721 females staff, only 96 are doing their duty while the rest of the posts were vacant. Besides, 1679 firemen for Fire Services department will also be recruited. The relaxation in age will be given to those candidates who had cleared the last examination for selection of constables.

# Excise dept in a spot over hooch menace

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The festive season underway might have brought smiles and joy to the people of the state. But not so for the UP Excise department. As during festivals, while manufacture, sale and smuggling of illicit country-made liquor peaks, the Excise bosses hardly have the requisite manpower to curb the menace.

Besides staff crunch, the Excise department teams, which carry out raids have the backing the UP Police teams. But due to the festivals, the district police personnel are pre-occupied with law and order duty, making the situation further precarious. "There are around 3500 constables in Excise department across the state. In Lucknow, there are only 100 constables, in Barabanki, there are around 45, in Unnao 30 and in Sitapur 25. The number of constables in the rest of the districts are also only in two digits," sources said.

They said that manufacturing of illicit country-made liquor becomes a routine during festivals in nearly all districts of UP due to the hope of a heavy premium. The Excise department runs special campaign during festive season to check the menace. But it is difficult to carry out the drive successfully due to lack of adequate staff and police force in the festive season," they reasoned. "Most of the times, the police station concerned fails to provide adequate police force for carrying out raids along with the Excise department teams which renders the job further difficult," they pointed out.

They said Lucknow, Barabanki, Sitapur, Unnao, Bahraich topped the list of the districts where illegal distilling of country-made liquor were high.

Excise Commissioner Dheeraj Sahu could not be contacted for his comment. A Deputy Commissioner of Excise department preferring anonymity said that the department used to launch special drives during festivals and it also used to conduct raids depending on availability of police force in a particular district/area.

# Sacked Congress staff in a combative mood

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Twenty-four hours after protesting with state Congress chief Raj Babbar against summary removal and snapping of powerlines of their homes on the party office campus, now Congress office staff has threatened to move court if the party adopts double standards in removing them from their job.

"Ashok Kumar, an employee, has attained 60 years of age but is still working with the UPCC even as a cut-off age has been set for forcible retirement," cited a letter drafted by the staff who were compulsarily retired on August 31 last.

The agitated ex-employees of Congress office said that Kumar, as per educational certificates submitted with the UPCC, was born on June 18, 1958, thereby he has completed 60 years in June this year. "A list was also prepared by UPCC in which Kumar's name was mentioned for retirement but since he is close to a prominent leader, while 15 staff were forcibly retired on August 31, Kumar was spared," a sacked staffer complained.

The employees even

**They threatened that if the UPCC chief did not remove Kumar immediately, they would move court and challenge their forcible retirement on the ground of having completed 60 years of age**

claimed that the aforesaid leader was also entrusted with more powers to Kumar than even senior ministerial staff. They threatened that if the UPCC chief did not remove Kumar immediately, they would move court and challenge their forcible retirement on the ground of having completed 60 years of age. Some of them have already filed an application in the labour court against Babbar's decision.

On August 31, Babbar forcibly retired 15 staffers (including one who died a fortnight before the order). He said that as per service rules, employees had to retire as they have attained 60 years of age.

The staffers retired included additional permanent secretary KP Singh (78), KK Awasthi (66), permanent secretary Sajjad Hassan (77), assistant permanent secretary Vijay Dwivedi (62), Mritunjay Srivastava, Trilok Singh, office

superintendent Jagdish Singh Bisht, clerk Devaki Nandan, Anant Ram Upadhaya and five Class IV staff Ram Chander 'Chotu', Ramesh Bajpai, Kallu (driver), Babu Lal and Deep Chandra. The name of Rekha Bhargawa was also on the list but she died before the order came out.

Just a day before removing the staff, Babbar also terminated the services of three others — clerk Rana Pratap Singh, electrician Shiv Shankar and Class IV staff Pramod Shukla for their alleged indulgence in illegal activities and dereliction of duty.

Besides, a fortnight later, Babbar gave marching orders to 10 drivers working in the UPCC office for the last several decades. The reason offered was that the UPCC presently had just five vehicles, hence there was no room for extra drivers.

# RLD to highlight farmers' issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) will celebrate 'Sardar Patel Kisan Samman Week' between October 25 and 31 across Uttar Pradesh on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Giving details, RLD national spokesman Anil Dubey said that the celebration would start on October 25 with RLD vice-president Jayant Chaudhary starting a march in Allahabad accompanied by state RLD chief Masood Ahmad.

Dubey added that RLD leaders and workers would honour farmers in their respective districts/blocks/villages during the week. "Party workers and leaders have been asked to organise 'chaupals', meetings and marches to highlight issues related to farmers during the celebrations," he informed.

Praising Sardar Patel for leading and successfully carrying out Bardoli Satyagrah, Dubey said that the iconic leader was a great supporter of farmers and worked to better their lives till his end. "Senior RLD leaders have been asked to highlight farmer-related issues during the week and make the functions successful," the RLD leader said.

Even as party leaders evaded queries as to why the RLD was focusing on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary and why the function was being started from Allahabad, party sources said that the RLD leaders aimed at bringing farmers of east UP, Bundelkhand and central UP under its wings after consolidating in its stronghold of west UP. "The proposed celebration is also a counter to BJP's caste rallies which was held at different districts in recent past. The RLD leaders aim to bite into traditional vote banks of the BJP and the Samajwadi Party and also have aims at wooing followers of Sardar Patel," sources said. They explained that RLD leaders did not want to be seen as an appeaser of a particular community and so it was celebrating Sardar Patel's birth anniversary to highlight farmers' woes.



Anil Dubey



## NOTICE

It is for general information that Shivkumar Singh S/o Late Prithpal Singh residing at 139-A, Ravidar Garden, Sector-E Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P. declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as S. Chauhan in my PPO No.-09/97/B/S/00019/1991, the actual name of my wife is Mrs. Siyalali Singh, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirement in this connection.

Shivkumar Singh

## नोटिस

नोटिस  
एन कि अंडर निमन पत्नी श्री संजीव निमन पुत्री श्री ब्रज निमन प्रकाश निमन निवासी 108/320, गौरी नगर, पी. सी. कॉम्प्लेक्स, कानपुर 2000 न अंतिम निमन पुत्र स्व. निमन प्रकाश निमन, निवासी 182/11698, मसकान संवत्कार एंड अंतिम निमन पत्नी श्री मन्जो निमन पुत्री स्व. निमन प्रकाश निमन निवासी 182/11698, मसकान संवत्कार के मध्य समस्त सम्पत्ति एवं व्यापार सम्पत्ति को गये है यदि हमारा उरोकता माई किसी भी व्यक्ति से कोई अनुचित कार्य अथवा किसी भी व्यक्ति के विरुद्ध किसी भी प्रकार का कोई कथन या किसी भी प्रकार का कोई लेन-देन कथन है तो हमारा अथवा हमारे परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य का हमारे माई प्रतिक निमन से कोई लेना-देना अथवा संरक्षक न होगा, उसका उत्तरदायित्व स्वयं प्रतिक निमन होगा।

# Bhagwat's call politically motivated: Oppn

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Opposition parties and Muslim leaders Thursday said RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's demand for a law to enable construction of Ram temple was "politically motivated" as it comes ahead of assembly polls in some states.

In his customary Dussehra address to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) cadres at its headquarters in Nagpur on Thursday, Bhagwat had said that the Ram temple was necessary from the "self-esteem point of view" and it will also pave way for an atmosphere of goodwill and oneness.

"The statement on Ram temple given by RSS chief is a political statement before the upcoming elections," Samajwadi Party spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary told PTI here. "The RSS has not desisted from using the names of gods for political means and this statement proves their intentions in this regard once again," Chaudhary added.

Congress spokesman Anshu Awasthi said it was now an open secret that whenever the RSS and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) speak about Lord Ram it should be understood that elections are round the corner.

"In the over four years of their government they failed on all fronts, even the promise of

bringing Ram Rajya was not fulfilled," Awasthi said.

"Now they are out to raise the name of Ram shamelessly at election time to serve their political interests," Awasthi added. Backing the Opposition parties, rector of Darul Uloom Farangi Mahal, Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangimahli said even a child in the country knows that the Ram temple issue is raised by the RSS-BJP everytime before elections.

When the issue of triple-talaq can be raised in Parliament with fanfare, why was this matter not debated till now, Farangimahli, who is also member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said.

Since there is a rule of law in the country and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court, raising such a demand is against the law, he said.

It is in the interest of all that the decision of the apex court is implemented, he added.

Convener of Babri Masjid Action Committee Zafaryab Jilani said Bhagwat had issued similar statements in the past as well wherein he exhorted people to ensure that temple is constructed before 2019.

Bhagwat is trying to influence the court but I am sure he will not succeed, Jilani who is also a senior lawyer said.

The judges will not be

influenced and will act as per the apex court's procedures and law of the land, he added.

He further said that an ordinance cannot be issued for annulment of any order of the SC or the High Court as it is unconstitutional and against the settled law laid down by the apex court. As of now, the SC has ordered status quo on the issue, Jilani said.

Meanwhile, claiming there is "no opposition" to the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya now, a senior minis-

ter in the Yogi Adityanath government on Thursday advocated achieving the aim through Parliament.

"Over 500 years ago, foreign invaders came to India and tried to ruin our cultural heritage. There should be a Ram temple in Ayodhya where Ramlala's idol is situated as it is a matter of faith of crores of Hindus. A lot of politics has been done over the issue," UP government spokesperson and energy minister Shrikant Sharma told PTI.

**CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**  
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FAX No. 0532-2407787

**E-Tender Notice No. CORE/S/2302/5560A Dated: 17/10/2018**

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, Central Organization Railway Electrification, Allahabad, invites following E-TENDER:-

E-tender No	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Due Date	Earnest Money
CORE/S/2302/5560A	25 KV Single Pole Vacuum Circuit Breaker as per RDSO specification No. T/SP/PSI/LVCBIN/0120 (Dec, 2013) Ver.0. with A&C Slip No. 1 (Oct.2016)/Latest (Magnetic Actuator Operating Mechanism)	6Nos	12/11/2018	Rs. 4,00,00/-

Note: (1) The complete information of above E-Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://ireps.gov.in>. Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender. The e-bids may be submitted before 11:00 hrs on tender opening date.  
(2) Procurement policy: Bulk purchase will be made only from those firms, who are approved by RDSO for the tendered item.  
(3) Bidders downloading tender documents are not required to deposit tender cost.  
(4) In case of any technical difficulty, helpdesk of CRIS/New Delhi may be approached. The telephone numbers are:- 011-24105180, 24102855, 24100746, 24671469.

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No. PR/244/18 (Kaka)  
Serving Customers with a Smile

**पुनः ई-निविदा प्रकाशन सूचना**

अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय के पत्रांक ई-टेंडरिंग/मानव संसाधन/2018-19/6001 दिनांक 12 सितम्बर, 2018 के द्वारा जारी राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों हेतु जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति संत कबीर नगर द्वारा मानव संसाधन की आपूर्ति हेतु सक्षम सेवा प्रदाता एजेन्सी के चयन हेतु ई-निविदा प्रकाशित की गयी थी। जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त करते हुए पुनः ई-निविदा प्रकाशित की जाती है। इच्छुक निविदादाता निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी के लिये <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर लॉग इन करें।  
निविदा की अनुमानित लागत - 1000000.00 (रु. दस लाख)  
अनैस्ट मनी - 50000.00 (रु. पचास हजार)  
निविदा प्रपत्र की घनराशि - 2000.00 (रु. दो हजार) नान रिफंडेबल डी0डी0  
ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय - 17 अक्टूबर 2018 से सायं 06:00 बजे से।  
ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर आनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय - 26 अक्टूबर 2018 सायं 06:00 बजे।  
ई-निविदा की तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय विड खोलने की तिथि - 27 अक्टूबर 2018 योपहर 01:00 बजे।

मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी  
संत कबीर नगर

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD**

No. S/T & B/713 Dated: 16.10.2018

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

No.18/59 Dt.: 16.10.18

The complete details of the Stores tenders issued from the office of PCMM, North Central Railway/Allahabad are uploaded on IREPS portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)). E-tender notices for Stores tenders will not be published in the newspapers by the office of PCMM, North Central Railway/Allahabad any more. Firms desirous to participate in the tenders of this office may visit IREPS portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) regularly after registering themselves on IREPS portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only.

Sr.Material Manager/G  
1120/18 (R) For The Principal Chief Material Manager  
North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR

**FDDI**  
Footwear Design & Development Institute

**CORRIGENDUM**

Ref: FDDI/HO/10(1)/HR/ADVT/2018 Date: 18.10.2018

**Revised Advertisement for Recruitment for Non-Academic posts**

I. The last date for receiving the applications for various posts against advertisement no. FDDI/HO/10(1)/HR/ADVT/2018 dated 4th October 2018 has been extended to 26th October 2018.

II. Further, may kindly refer to [www.fddiindia.com](http://www.fddiindia.com) for the revised criteria for the post of GM (HR) and DGM (Civil), along with the revised terms and conditions in reference to relaxation of aggregate marks and age for SC/ST/OBC candidate for the various non-academic posts.

HR Department,  
Footwear Design & Development Institute  
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)  
A-10/A, Sector-24, NOIDA-201301, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP)  
Tel: 0120-4500120/ 4500122 E-mail: [jobs@fddiindia.com](mailto:jobs@fddiindia.com)

**DELHI JAL BOARD**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M) WS/NW  
MIU-BLOCK, PITAM PURA: NEW DELHI-110034.

**PRESS N.I.T. No. 10/ (E&M)WS/NW/(2018-19)**

S. No.	Description	Amount put to tender	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/ time for tender download through e-procurement solution
1.	AMC Contract for 1 Year for JICA Electrical Automation Panels for DJB Pitapur, New Delhi	Item Rate	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 95,200/-	18.10.2018 ID No 2018_DJB_1_160679_1	02.11.2018 at 12:00 Noon

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)  
Sd/-  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 462/2018-19  
EX. ENGINEER (E&M)WS/NW

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR.VIII  
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI  
S.T.P., YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110094.**

**PRESS N.I.T. No. 04 (2018-19)**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Tender Processing Fee (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/ time for tender download through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of damaged rising main 600 mm dia from S.P.S. Vivek Vihar Phase-I, C-Block to Vivekanand Mahila College.	69,91,127/-	1500/-	2018_DJB_160543_1 dtd. 16.10.2018	12.11.2018 upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govt.procurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Adv.No. J.S.V...458/2018-19  
Sd/-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C) DR.VIII

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD**

Tender Notice No: CM-I/CP/ LED TV/ALD/2018 Tender Notice

Following open tenders in sealed covers on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Allahabad on behalf of President of India.

Tender No. & Details of work including place	Approximate cost in ₹	Cost of Tender Form in ₹	Earnest Money to be deposited in ₹
(i) 29/2018: Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED/LCD/Video Wall at Allahabad station.	24,22,000.00	5,000.00	12,86,082.00
(ii) 30/2018: Commercial Advertisement Rights through LED/LCD/Video Wall at Kanpur Central station.	23,32,000.00	5,000.00	12,38,292.00

Office address from where the tender form can be purchased and dropped : (i) Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad. (ii) Dy. Chief Traffic Manager, North Central Railway, Station Building, Kanpur Central, Period of Contract For S.No. (i) & (ii) : 5 years, Date & Time for dropping the tender form: For S.No. (i) & (ii) : From date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 20.11.2018 upto 13 hrs., Date & time for the opening of tender: For S.No. (i) & (ii): At 15 hrs on 20.11.2018. Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen: The tender detail & documents can be seen & downloaded from North Central Railway's website <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in> & Government of India Portal <http://www.tenders.gov.in> and used and can be seen on the notice board of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad & Dy. Chief Traffic Manager, North Central Railway, Station Building, Kanpur Central. 11/18/18 (R)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR

# Time for adieu to Goddess



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

It's time to bid adieu to Goddess Durga and for most of the Bengali community, it is an emotional moment when the goddess departs on the occasion of Dashami. The penultimate day (Navmi) witnessed huge crowds at the puja pandals as mahabhog was served at many venues.

Besides the Bengali community, other devotees also paid obeisance to the goddess at several pandals even as traffic snarls were witnessed at several points. On Friday, the Bengali women will celebrate 'sindoor khela'. The women dressed in traditional Bengali attire (white saree with red border) will smear each other's faces with vermilion.

Monalisa Chowdhary, a professional in the medical sector, said that the end of festivities was an emotional moment. "We meet community members after a year and hence the end of celebrations pinches our hearts as we return to the grind," she added.

Aditi Das, a housewife, said they did not cook at homes for four days. "We visit the puja pandals and relish the bhog in the afternoon. In the evening, we eat out at hotels and restaurants," she said, adding that it was an extremely enjoyable phase for them.

Meanwhile, the stage is all set for 'visarjan' of the 125 idols of Durga Puja in the Gomti river at Jhulelal Vatika. The four-day Durga Puja festivities reached their climax with



(Top) Devotees at the Durga Puja pandal in Ravindrapalli and (above) artistes playing dhak at Bhoonath puja pandal on Thursday

Navmi celebrations on Thursday. On Friday, the Durga Puja committees from across the city will converge at Jhulelal Vatika and Kudia Ghat for immersion of the idols.

ADM (trans-Gomti), Anil Kumar, said they had made an artificial pond at the Jhulelal Vatika for the samitis to put their puja 'samagri' in it. Kumar said that the 'visarjan', likely to begin early in the morning, would continue till late in the evening.

Municipal Commissioner Indramani Tripathi said they had made elaborate arrangements for the 'visarjan'. "Artificial ponds have been created both at Jhulelal Vatika and Kudia Ghat. These ponds will have a plastic base so that the chemicals and paints from the idols do not make their way

into the river water. We will cover it with mud later."

He said they would request the samiti members to immerse the idols in these ponds and for those who wanted to immerse them in the river they could carry the process on. He said that over 50 employees from Lucknow Municipal Corporation would be on duty and remain present at Jhulelal Park and Kudia Ghat. Officials from Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) said they had already issued an advisory with regard to the things that needed to be observed for ensuring that the rivers were not polluted during the time of immersion.

President of Sri Sri Durga Puja Visarjan Samiti Rupesh

Mondal said that necessary arrangements for the immersion had been completed. Talking to *The Pioneer*, he said that they had taken permission from the District Magistrate for 'visarjan' in the Gomti river this year. "We will also not stop those who want to carry out 'visarjan' in the artificial ponds which have been created," he said.

He said that the samitis which consist of more than 25-30 members would also monitor that only the idols go into the river and not the puja materials. "We will ensure that the wood and the back portion of the idol made of Shola wood are removed before the immersion. We will not allow the immersion until these conditions are fulfilled," he added. He said that they had made arrangements for two mobile toilets, one for men and the other for women at the Vatika.

"In order to avoid any mishap we have streamlined the movement by making one path for the entry of the samitis and one part for their exit. There are arrangements for drinking water too. The processions also see a large number of women participants and care has to be taken to see that no mishap occurs," he said. He said that they had strongly prohibited the samitis from using Punjabi dhol, gular, DJ because they do not want that the people should arrive there in an intoxicated state. He added that he would also be talking to the SOs of Chowk and Kaiserbagh police stations for regulating the visarjan processions coming from their respective areas.

Mondal said that the Jhulelal Vatika took the ambience of Dussehra Mela at the time of 'visarjan' and hence the crowds had to be managed properly. He added that they had arranged a crane so that the idols could be picked from the vehicles and placed directly on the boats.

A former scientist of Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (IITR), Mukul Das said that the chemicals in the paints and the metallic content were harmful and could pollute the river. "There are so many people who drink water from the Gomti and live on its banks. Its water gets polluted due to the immersion of idols. This certainly is not good for the health of the river," he said, adding that he found the idea of discarding the idols after the puja not a good idea.



Little girls being treated to sumptuous food on the occasion of 'kanya puja' on Navmi

Pioneer

## Traffic diversions for visarjan, Dussehra

Lucknow (PNS): The Traffic department has announced diversions for 'visarjan' of the Goddess Durga idols on Friday. The traffic officials said vehicles moving from Nishatganj towards IT crossing would not be allowed to go straight from Indira overbridge trisection and would be diverted from behind the police lines and NCC office towards bandha road. Vehicles coming from Channilal crossing won't be allowed to move towards Police Line Hospital Gate No. 5 and IT crossing. This traffic won't be able to move from Central Bank crossing towards Indira overbridge crossing and would be diverted from behind Police Lines towards NCC office and bandha road.

Vehicles coming from GTI won't be allowed to move from Badshahnagar crossing towards IT crossing and will be diverted towards the overbridge and Papermill crossing. Vehicles coming from Daliganj bridge won't be allowed to move from IT crossing to Nishatganj and will be diverted towards Niralanagar overbridge and Kapoorthala crossing. The officials said there would be a 'no parking zone' from IT crossing to Gate No. 5 of Police Lines.

Uptill Central Bank trisection, there will be no parking allowed.

Meanwhile, diversions have also been announced for Dussehra. The diversions will be implemented from 5 pm. Normal traffic won't be allowed to move from Haiderganj trisection towards Aishbagh Ramliha grounds and will be diverted towards the mill area and Eveready crossing. Traffic won't be allowed from Naka crossing to Aishbagh Ramliha grounds and will be diverted towards Rakabganj and Mawaiyya. Traffic won't be allowed to move from the overbridge from Naka side towards Aishbagh and will be diverted towards Motinagar. No vehicles will be allowed from Rajendranagar crossing towards Ramliha grounds. This traffic will be diverted towards Motinagar. No vehicle will be allowed to move from Rastogi Inter College towards Aishbagh Ramliha grounds and will be diverted towards Babul Halwai crossing. Vehicles won't be allowed to move from Pili Colony trisection towards Ramliha grounds and will be diverted from behind Aishbagh Eidgah towards SN Mishra crossing. No traffic will be allowed from Aishbagh Eidgah towards Ramliha grounds.

## Ravan dahan with a #MeToo twist!



Lucknow (PNS): The message on the chest of the 121-feet Ravan effigy at Aishbagh Ramliha is one that reflects the #MeToo movement though the samiti members are not using the same word. Aishbagh Ramliha Samiti has always endeavoured to give a social message on the occasion of Ravan dahan, which symbolises the victory of good over evil. The message states that there should be no character assassination of any person from any gender and there should be an end to fear. It also reads that any reaction which has to be given against any wrong done to a person should be done immediately and women should not be made to live in fear. A samiti member said that the social message was given so that people were able to imbibe something good. The samiti has highlighted many social causes in the past. "When the arrow of Lord Ram strikes the effigy, it appears as if the evil has been quashed," he added.

# Police serve notice on resident doctor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In connection with KGMU junior resident Dr Manisha Sharma's mysterious death, the Wazirganj police on Thursday served a notice on senior resident Dr Udhram Singh, who was accused of abetment to suicide. "We have sent a notice to Udhram Singh's native place in Chandauli and to the warden of Gautam Buddha Hostel of KGMU where Singh lived," Wazirganj SHO Pankaj Singh said.

He said Udhram Singh had been asked to appear at the police station within a week and to get his statement regarding the allegation recorded. "In case he fails to do so, the police will initiate further action," the SHO said.

The Wazirganj police visited the KGMU campus on Thursday and met Manisha's colleagues and senior staff of the department concerned and officials of the medical university administration.

Though the Wazirganj SHO refused to share details, sources said the police collected details about the friends of Manisha and about Udhram Singh's present location from

## KGMU JUNIOR MEDICO'S DEATH

the KGMU officials. "Udhram Singh is untraceable since a case of abetment to suicide was registered against him on the complaint of Manisha's sister Deepa a couple of days ago. Udhram's mobile phone is switched off and his location is untraceable despite surveillance cell officials taxing their brains for the last few days," they said. On the condition of anonymity, a senior officer said the police required evidence to initiate legal action against Udhram for alleged abetment to suicide. "The content in the suicide note, which is believed to have been written by Manisha, did not hold Udhram responsible for her death. It also did not hint that Udhram incited or provoked Manisha by his conduct after which Manisha administered herself an anesthesia shot," the officer said. He added that Manisha was named in the Vyapam Scam and she was pursuing studies on a conditional bail granted to her by an MP court.

"When the circumstantial evidence do not corroborate



the crime of an accused in a case, police are hapless. Our primary task is to collect evidence to corroborate the crime of Udhram Singh or if he is guilty on any count," the officer said. Manisha was accused in the Vyapam Scam in 2015 and was on conditional bail to pursue studies. Her sister Deepa had lodged a case of abetment to suicide against

Udhram a day after Manisha died during treatment on Saturday. Manisha had injected herself a dose of medicine, suspected to be a component of anesthesia, sometime on Saturday and her pulse rate was very low when she was first spotted lying unconscious in the hostel room. On Wednesday, a day after the team of Forensic Science Lab (FSL) recovered a suicide note, two vials, a laptop and other items were recovered from Manisha's room at Buddha Hostel. In the suicide note which the FSL team recovered, Manisha had written "Main thak gayi hoon aur ab padhna nahi chahti. I love my father and all those who love me. No one is responsible for my death."

Meanwhile, hitting out at police, victim's sister Deepa said the delay in the arrest of Udhram Singh was beyond comprehension. She said she had lodged a case of abetment to suicide a day after Manisha died but the Wazirganj police were yet to arrest the accused. She also alleged that the Wazirganj police wanted to give a clean chit to Udhram Singh.

# Armed miscreants plunder two houses in Gudamba

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Armed miscreants plundered two houses in Gudamba and looted crude bombs on those who tried to chase them late on Wednesday night. The miscreants decamped with jewellery worth lakhs of rupees, valuables and cash from the houses. The daredevilry of the miscreants made the residents suspect that it might be a gang of dacoits. Police, however, discredited the apprehension and said it was a gang of thieves. The police said they were verifying if the miscreants looted crude bombs on being chased.

As per reports, the miscreants struck the house of Rishi Kumar Yadav of Khoje Ka Purwa locality. Yadav works with a private company in Chinhat. When he woke up early in the morning, he found the door of his room, in which

he and other family members were asleep, bolted from outside. He raised an alarm after which neighbours flocked to the scene. It later surfaced that Rs 45,000 in cash and jewellery worth lakhs had been stolen.

While the residents were guessing the route through which the miscreants fled after committing the theft at Yadav's house, they met another group of residents in Rajauli village, also in Gudamba. They had also reached to the outer fringe while guessing the way the miscreants fled after committing theft at the house of a farmer, Rafi of the village. It later surfaced that the residents of Rajauli village had given a chase to the miscreants when they were fleeing after committing theft at Rafi's house and even surrounded them. The residents of Rajauli village said the miscreants

lobbed crude bombs on them after being surrounded. This scared the villagers and they beat a retreat. Later, the miscreants vanished into the forest cover. Rafi told the police that 5-7 miscreants stormed his house and decamped with jewellery worth Rs 2 lakh besides cash and other items. Police sources said the miscreants' modus operandi was similar to those robbers who struck the house of realtor Naubat Singh in PGI. "The miscreants had bolted the rooms of Singh's house and decamped with jewellery and cash," the sources pointed out. A spokesman said that the police were cross-checking the claim of Rajauli villagers that the miscreants looted crude bombs on being chased. He added that the police had got some clues about the miscreants.

## Cop picks up fight with commuters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An incident in which a deputy SP rank official picked up a fight with some commuters outside a restaurant in Gomti Nagar Extension on Thursday night kept the police on their toes for several hours.

As per reports, the officer visited the hotel for dinner. When he came out, he found that the rear window pane of his car was broken. He started questioning some of the youths present there and it snowballed into a heated argument between the police officer and the youths. Hearing commotion, a huge number of commuters and residents flocked to the scene and later informed the police. The news sent the cops in a tizzy. A team led by Gomti

Nagar circle officer Chakresh Mishra and Gomti Nagar SHO Triloki Singh reached the place. Mishra said the police officer in question had left the place when the police team reached there. "We talked to the commuters and vendors and they told us the same story," the CO said. He rubbished the reports that the deputy SP was in a drunken state and kicked up a shindy over a trivial issue. He added that the police were trying to contact the deputy SP to know details of the incident.

Meanwhile, a trigger-happy youth opened fire on another youth working in a shop in Aminabad over a petty dispute on Thursday night and later fled the scene unchallenged.

The accused, identified as Aman of Thakurganj, had vis-

ited the house of his maternal uncle in Khuda Baksh Ka Hata in Aminabad. On Thursday night, he had a verbal spat with one Naem, who stopped him from smoking. It led to an altercation and some persons supporting Naem reached the scene. Surrounded by public, Aman whipped out a pistol and fired at Naem. The victim and his supporters were terrified at Aman's act and they hid themselves behind the shops. Aman later fled the scene. Kaiserbagh CO AK Rai confirmed that Aman opened fire and the police teams were on the spot.

He said both Aman and Naem were friends. "We are quizzing Naem. The Aminabad police have been asked to register a case against Aman," he said.



## Cycle rally team flagged off

Lucknow (PNS): The cycle rally team of 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre, Lucknow, consisting of one officer and nine other ranks, led by Major Lalit Pradhan, was flagged off by Maj Gen Praveesh Puri, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Madhya Uttar Pradesh Sub Area (MUPSA), on Thursday. The cycle rally is being conducted to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of the Infantry soldiers while fighting the Pakistani raiders in J&K on October 27, 1947 and also during various wars that the nation had to fight.

The team will traverse a distance of 597 kms and spread awareness about the glorious history and create social awareness among the students and interact with the veterans of the region. At Delhi, the team will join teams of other Infantry Regimental Centres to pay homage to martyrs and commemorate the Infantry Day. The cycle rally teams from all the Infantry Regimental Centres will be flagged in at Army Jawan Jyoti at India Gate on October 27 by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

# PGI developing acute critical care regimen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

SGPGI and institutions from India and United Kingdom are working in close partnership to address the issue of variations in the care of acutely unwell patients. Additional Professor (Anaesthesiology) and co-director, SGPGI, Sandeep Sahu, while talking to "The Pioneer", said that they had also organised a workshop for the 'Acute critical care course for clinicians (ACCC) that concluded recently at the SGPGI.

He said that SGPGI with UK partnership was trying to develop an apex nodal centre at the SGPGI to teach and develop acute critical care for clinicians for better patient care. "Sudden deaths in hospitals are not usually 'sudden' as we first think they are. A careful analysis of many of these deaths in India and

other low middle income countries show that signature signs of clinical deterioration existed for several hours if not days in these patients before the 'sudden death' is finally pronounced. More accurately phrased many of these institutions and doctors do not have a systematic approach to identify and correct some of the tell-tale signs frequently seen in a deteriorating patient," he said.

The doctor said that such variations in health outcomes were frequently due to inadequate training of junior doctors, nurses and other health care professionals in the recognition and management of deteriorating patients in hospitals. "Such deteriorations in patients' condition, at times, following routine surgical procedures or other reversible diseases have frequently not received due recognition in undergraduate

nursing or medical training programmes and the gaps in knowledge and skills amongst junior health care professionals continues to be a challenge in India," he said.

He said that doctors in the UK (Dr Geeta Shetty from Birmingham, Dr S Selvakumar, London, UK) and the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom had developed a close partnership with their counterparts in India in developing and delivering a two-day multi-disciplinary course in ACCC in order to address this problem.

The programme was the brain child of Professor Mahesh Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi International University in Jaipur (and former director of AIIMS, Delhi) in partnership with Ajay Sharma who is a transplant surgeon in Liverpool, United Kingdom.

# LMRC lifts barricades in Ganj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

On the occasion Navratri and Dussehra, Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation is ensuring hassle-free commute from Mayfair to the DM Residence and from Hussainganj to KKC as barricades installed for the construction have been lifted. The LMRC officials presented flowers to people for their corporation during the construction phase. LMRC is working to give a better transportation to Lucknowites to make their journey convenient. LMRC managing director Kumar Keshav said the construction of underground section in the heart of the city was only possible with the support and corporation of people and now it was the time for them to have convenient transportation in this festive season. "We are reopening the roads which were barricaded during the construction phase," he added.



# Horticulture, agriculture officers undergo training at ICAR-CISH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Horticulture and agriculture officers from one Union Territory and five states — Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh — participated in the 15 day-long training programme at ICAR-CISH. They were trained in recent technologies of production of mango, guava, bael, aonla, citrus, strawberry and other fruit crops. Apart from plant protection measures they were interested in problems of marketing the produce of farmers. Keeping this in view a workshop was organised to brainstorm on the problem of low returns to farmers for their produce. Apart from officers from five states and one Union Territory, scientists from CISH, IISR, NBFGR participated. CISH director Shailendra Rajan gave examples of innovations by the farmers from different parts of the country for getting attractive returns. The apple and vegetable marketing model of HP was discussed for adapting it with modifications as per the local conditions.

The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, has selected ICAR and Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture for professional excellence in 'Certified Farm Advisory of Fruits' where candidates were imparted intensive knowledge of fruits from October 3 to 17,



2018, and taught the latest techniques related to fruit crops.

In addition to having a basic knowledge about agricultural extension management, the person completing this course provided good knowledge on fruit production, MANAGE will display the names of the candidates on its website as 'Certified Farm Adviser for fruits.'

MANAGE launched a 'Certified Farm Adviser' programme to develop agricultural extension personnel into specialists in a fruit crop. This was the first programme of its kind which was organised.

"The programme consists of three modules. Module-I is on the basic aspects of latest technologies in fruit crop through online for about three months which was conducted by MANAGE. Thereupon in

Module-II candidates opted for a fruit crop to become an expert in that subject (kindly see the list of specialisation). Specialisation training could be taken up when a minimum of 20 candidates were enrolled. Based on the choice of the crop, the candidates were sponsored to relevant ICAR-CISH to undergo training for a period of 15 days. During the training the candidates were provided in-depth knowledge and learned the latest technologies relevant to fruit crops. After completing rigorous training the candidates were allotted Mentor Scientist/s from the Research Institute concerned for a period of one year for technical guidance to face the field-level challenges under Module-III," said the Director, Dr Shailendra Rajan.

On completion the candidate's knowledge will be

assessed based on the identified parameters and he or she will be declared as a 'Certified Farm Adviser' by MANAGE and technical partner institute. "Candidates completing this course will acquire good knowledge on fruit crops. After certifying the candidates as 'Certified Farm Adviser/Certified Livestock Adviser', MANAGE will display their names on its website so that the stakeholders could verify the credentials of the advisers and make good use of their services," he added. The training ended with an interaction among trainees and experts and proved helpful in cross learning. Candidates will be in direct touch with their mentors for a year and disseminate the technology at the farmers' level and take advice from the CISH scientists on various levels of adaptation.

# Senior DCM reviews facilities at Charbagh stn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

To ensure facilities to the passengers and hassle-free availability of tickets from different counters at Charbagh Railway station, a team led by senior divisional commercial manager, Lucknow division of Northern Railway, Jagtosh Shukla conducted a surprise checking on Thursday. The team checked the general ticket booking counter, tatkal sewa, different points where food stuff, snacks and other items are sold, and also reviewed facilities like drinking water, toilets, cleanliness and display of reservation lists. "We have zero tolerance for corruption and the clerks found guilty malpractices will be dealt with sternly," Shukla said.

"A team consisting of officials of commercial wing and supervisor level officials has been formed and asked to keep a close tab on wrongdoings, if any, at Charbagh and other stations of Lucknow division. The team has also been asked to address the complaints of passengers," Shukla said.

Pointing out that touts become active during the festive season, he said: "Such wrongdoers also temper with the tatkal sewa during the festive season. A core team has been given the task to keep a round-the-clock vigil on such persons and collect details about the gang, if any. We will conduct a big surprise raid in the time to come," the official said.

# LDA imposes penalty on two builders for sale deed violation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on two private developers for violating the terms and conditions of the sales deed signed with buyers. They have been directed to return 10 per cent of the advance money to buyers as penalty. Sounding a warning to the private developers, the LDA administration said their firms would be blacklisted if they failed to do as directed within a month. The developers were asked to strictly adhere to the terms and conditions laid in the agreement or be ready to face tougher action.

Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Nitin Gokarn said a strict policy should be chalked out and implemented

to restrain private builders from acting arbitrarily. This step was taken on the initiative of UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in a review meeting held with LDA Vice-Chairman PN Singh on Thursday. Large number of cases had been lodged with LDA regarding violation of the agreement.

Singh said five per cent of the money would be deducted from the amount paid by the buyers to the private developers so far and the amount would be returned to those deprived of registration. At least 5,000 buyers were allotted shelters but were deprived of registration.

Although there is no time-bound rules for property registration, the RERA authorities said it should be done within a year of allotment. The RERA officials were said to be of the

view that delay in their registration meant financial loss to the state exchequer.

Interestingly, over 15,000 buyers, who were waiting patiently for the past 6-8 years, were deprived possession of the shelters despite paying monthly instalments on time.

The RERA authorities have worked out a strategy which will be enforced within a month to check the arbitrary approach of private builders in a bid to earn easy money by misguiding buyers. The LDA administration has directed the private builders, whose projects are lingering on for the past several years, to complete the projects and hand over possession to their shelters after property registration within six months, otherwise heavy penalty would be imposed on them or their firms would be blacklisted.

# CSIR-IITR develop innovative tech for disinfecting water



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (CSIR-IITR) has developed an innovative technology for disinfecting drinking water with the trademark, 'OneerTM' which was transferred to M/s Bluebird Water Purifiers, New Delhi, on Wednesday in the presence of the Union Minister for Science and Technology and vice-president of CSIR Harsh Vardhan.

It is useful for continuous treatment of water and eliminates all disease-causing pathogens such as viral strains, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and cysts to provide safe drinking water to domestic and communities settings as per the national and international standards prescribed for potable water (BIS, WHO etc).

While speaking on the occasion, Harsh Vardhan said

that it was well known that infection through drinking water caused an increase in morbidity and mortality, particularly amongst children and Oneer developed by CSIR-IITR would provide access to safe and clean drinking water at a cost of just 2 paise per litre. Harsh Vardhan further added that the community-level model was of 450 LPH capacity which could be scaled up to 5000 to 1 lakh litres per day and was also maintenance and membrane-free. "The technology will be helpful, especially for the rural folk since it can be solar powered and this development is in line with the 'Make in India' Mission," added the minister.

Director general of CSIR and secretary of DSIR Shekhar C Mande lauded the efforts of IITR scientists in developing Oneer. He said that currently a large proportion of India's rural community was consuming water which did not meet the

WHO drinking water quality standards. According to the World Health Organisation, "access to safe drinking water is necessary for health, a basic human right and a component of effective policy for health protection."

CSIR is continuously focusing on translational research through Mission Projects and Fast-Track Translational Research Projects to develop technologies and products focused at unmet needs. One of the components of the programme is to enhance the quality of life of common people and remove drudgery.

IITR director Alok Dhawan also emphasised the application of this novel innovation for the masses. The smaller unit of Oneer is particularly suitable for homes, street food vendors and small establishments. He also thanked the Union minister and CSIR DG for showing a keen interest in this innovation.

# Cyber thugs operating from Jharkhand, reveals probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

An investigation into online frauds revealed that most of the cyber fraudsters were operating from Jharkhand. They randomly select mobile numbers posing as bank officials and terrorised the people by telling them that they would block their bank accounts. They take the bank and ATM card details of the account holders on the pretext of updating their accounts and then siphoned off their money to other accounts. Some times the ATM card and bank details were also used for online shopping. The cyber cell was worried as the incidents of online frauds were increasing every month. The cyber fraudsters duped not only the common people but the officials too and did not spare even a retired judge and a BDO recently. The fraudsters even managed to get the OTP (one-time password) from the customers to process the bank transactions. The retired judge was duped of over ₹1.50 lakh while the Bahariya BDO lost ₹2.50 lakh. An investigation into the incidents by the cyber cell revealed that the base of the fraudsters was in Jharkhand.



from an official bank account. The fraudsters used Deepak's Airtel wallet after luring him with commission. Deepak was booked but the police failed to trace the fraudsters. The cyber cell incharge, Brijesh Yadav, said that the people should remain alert against any such calls. Any call in which the caller introduced himself as a bank official and asked for bank and ATM details should be immediately reported to the police, he said. The bank customers should never share their bank and ATM card details with anyone, he pointed out further.

Meanwhile, more than 48 hours had elapsed since the incident in which some unidentified shooters gunned down a history-sheeter inside a puja pandal at the Akashvani Crossing under the Cantonment police station but the police had failed to make any headway in this connection so far. According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Nitin Tiwari, the CCTV footage revealed that there were four shooters. One of them first

shook hands with the history-sheeter, Neeraj Valmiki, and thereafter opened fire at him. The assailants also hurled a crude bomb at him as a result of which one of them was injured. Though the incident caused panic among the people at the puja pandal no other person was reported to have been injured in the shootout, he said and added that an FIR had been lodged against the unidentified assailants on a complaint being made by the family members of the victim, Neeraj Valmiki, who was wanted in connection with more than 10 cases, including those of murder, extortion, loot and kidnapping which were lodged against him at different police stations. The incident might be a sequel to a gangwar and the police was looking into his rivalry with other criminals. Teams had already been formed to work out this murder, the SSP added. Valmiki's nephew, Vishal, said he and some other persons threw stones at the assailants but they managed to flee on their motorcycle which was parked some distance away from there. It may be pointed out here that Valmiki had been released on bail only two months ago. He was an accused in the contractor, Pinky Gupta's murder which took place outside the Police Lines in the year 2010 and also in another railway contractor's murder in the Jhansi area here.

# 28-year-old woman killed over dowry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow: A 28-year-old woman was allegedly poisoned to death by her in-laws over dowry demand at Nawla village in Muzaffarnagar, police said on Thursday. Circle officer Rajive Kumar Singh said a case has been registered against the woman's husband Nitin Kumar, father-in-law Rakesh, mother-in-law Dulari and brother-in-law Sachin.

He said they are absconding. Minu married Nitin four years ago. In his complaint lodged with the police, Baburam, the father of the deceased, has said his daughter was being harassed for a motorbike and cash as dowry. Police said Minu was rushed to a hospital Wednesday where she was declared dead by the doctors.

Meanwhile, a 32-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by some unidentified persons in Pure Dinanath village in Lalganj area in Pratapgarh, police said Thursday. The incident took place Wednesday night when Shivshankar was shot at his

home. "The killing might be the outcome of an ongoing property dispute in the family," Lalganj circle officer OP Dwivedi said. Shankar was rushed to a hospital nearby where he died during the treatment. His body has been sent for postmortem, police said. Police are yet to register an FIR in the case.

Elsewhere, in Mathura, a 22-year-old woman was allegedly molested by a travelling ticket examiner (TTE) in a sleeper coach of the Trivandrum-bound Kerala Express, police said on Thursday. The incident happened Wednesday when the woman was going to Agra from New Delhi, they said.

Government Railway Police Inspector Shiv Kumar Ponia said the victim registered an FIR accusing TTE Arun Kumar Rai of forcibly hugging her. Divisional commercial manager (Jhansi) Neeraj Bhatnagar said a departmental probe was initiated to look into the allegation.

# PROPERTY DEALER JUMPS INTO RIVER

Lucknow (PNS): A property dealer living in Nishatganj (Mahanagar) jumped into Gomti river at Nishatganj bridge on Thursday night. He was identified as Ravi Agarwal. Police said Ravi left the house on a bike and reached the bridge. He later called his wife

# SCHOOLSCAN

## CMS STUDENT SELECTED IN THREE FOREIGN UNIVS

Shreeya Agarwal, a student of City Montessori School (Gomti Nagar Campus I) has been selected in three universities of England and Hong Kong. The University of Manchester (UK), King's College in London (UK) and The University of Hong

Kong selected Shreeya for her academic excellence. Several meritorious CMS students have been selected in top foreign universities. As many as 61 CMS students have been selected in the universities of America, England, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong etc this year.



# Imported lentils toxic: FSSAI

Food regulator asks people not to eat masoor, moong dal as they are induced with hazardous herbicide Glyphosate

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's apex food regulator, the Food Safety and Standards of India (FSSAI) has finally woken up to ensure Indians do not consume the highly toxic lentils imported from countries like Canada and Australia. The lentils such as masoor dal and moong dal are said to be induced with hazardous herbicide Glyphosate which is being used indiscriminately by farmers in some countries to clear weeds in the crop.

While India is yet to have its own standards for herbicide Glyphosate residues in lentils despite importing over 5 million tonnes of pulses, it has now, for the time being, decided to follow the international parameters to ensure that the pulses being sold and imported in the country are safe for consumption.

"There is a possibility of higher levels of residues of the herbicide Glyphosate in pulses which could adversely affect the health of consumers here. Since the minimum residual limits (MRL) for Glyphosate in pulses has not been specified in the FSSAI regulations, we have asked the concerned officials to follow the MRL for the herbicide as



**MRL FOR GLYPHOSATE RESIDUES AS SPECIFIED IN CODEX**

Commodity	MRL
Beans (dry)	2 mg/Kg
Lentil (dry)	5 mg/Kg
Peas (dry)	5 mg/Kg
Soya bean (dry)	20 mg/Kg

(MRL: Minimum residual limit)

specified in the Codex standards. Since 1961, the Codex Alimentarius international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice has been providing a common set of standards for food safety, ranging from nutrition labelling to maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides. However, countries can develop their own separate standards.

"This MRL (as specified in Codex) will also be taken into consideration for the purpose of import clearance (see box)," said an official from the top food regulator.

The FSSAI, in a recent order in this regard has also directed the authorised officers to instruct laboratories to test for the presence of herbicide 'Glyphosate' along with other parameters when the samples for pulses are forwarded for testing.

Known to be highly toxic and harmful to health, Glyphosate can adversely affect immunity to serious diseases and the absorption of mineral and vitamin nutrients, apart from disrupting protein-related functions.

The FSSAI action came after Indian-born Canadian food security activist Santanu (Tony) Mitra alleged that Australian moong dal and Canadian masoor dal contain high residues of Glyphosate. Food safety and agricultural scientists too are warning that the use of glyphosate may prove dangerous as in Sri Lanka, where many sugarcane farmers died due to renal failure after being overexposed to the herbicide.

Mitra thinks that the Indian diet might have become overly contaminated from imported pulses. The pulses need to be tested for glyphosate residue at

every entry point which is not being carried out presently, said the FSSAI official.

Till 2015, the herbicide was considered to be safe but then the World Health Organisation's IARC classified it as a probable human carcinogen. In India, it seems that Glyphosate is being used as a pre-harvest desiccant in several crops resulting in high residues in food.

Dr GV Ramanjaneyulu, agricultural scientist and founder of Centre for Sustainable Agriculture said in a report that while it is mandatory to label organic products, imported pulses are not labelled. "It's very difficult to find out if we are consuming Canadian pulses or locally grown ones, if they are sold in loose," he warned.

# Congress demoralising, demeaning Hindus: BJP

Rubbishes remark by Azad that number of Hindu candidates inviting him for campaigning has reduced drastically

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Congress, the BJP on Thursday accused the Opposition party of demeaning and demoralising Hindus and rubbished the reported remark by its leader Ghulam Nabi Azad that the number of Hindu candidates inviting him for campaigning has reduced drastically.

Azad reportedly made the comments at an event of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in Lucknow on Wednesday, apparently to criticise the political climate under the BJP-led Government.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said the falling stock of the Congress was the reason for fewer Hindu candidates inviting the Congress leader. He accused the Congress of demeaning and demoralising the Hindus. Patra also demanded a response from Congress president Rahul Gandhi saying the Congress will never use such remarks to refer to any other community.

"These are not ordinary words. It is an abuse for the country's secular fabric and Hindus. It is yet another attempt by the Congress to



BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said the falling stock of the Congress was the reason for fewer Hindu candidates inviting the Congress leader. Patra also demanded a response from Congress president Rahul Gandhi saying the Congress will never use such remarks to refer to any other community.



demean and demoralise Hindus," Patra said.

He also rejected Azad's allegation that the BJP is defaming the AMU and targeting Kashmiri students, saying if prayer meetings are held for terrorists then it will be condemned.

Three Kashmiri students of the AMU were suspended and booked for sedition last week for allegedly raising "anti-India" slogans and trying to hold a prayer meeting for Hizbul Mujahideen commander Manan Bashir Wani, who was killed in an encounter in north Kashmir.

The varsity revoked the suspension of two students on Tuesday. Patra said Azad had earlier claimed that the Army kills more civilians in Kashmir than terrorists.

It seems he wants to campaign in Pakistan, the BJP

spokesperson said. He accused the Opposition party of conspiring against Hindus and said its leaders have used terms like "Hindu Taliban", "Hindu Pakistan" and "Hindu terrorists" in the past.

He even alleged that Congress was carrying out advertisement in Pakistan to oust the Modi-Government and wondered as to what was the need for doing so in the neighbouring country.

The BJP has been alleging that the Congress has teamed up with elements in Pakistan to remove Modi from the power.

Patra flashed copies of a Facebook page which shows an advertisement of the opposition party calling for "Desh bachao, Modi hatao" (Save country, remove Modi), with Pakistan being highlighted as the location.

## INSHORT

**FORM MeToo PANEL : MANEKA TO PARTIES**  
**New Delhi:** In the backdrop of the MeToo movement, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi urged all recognised political parties to form internal committees immediately to look into complaints of sexual harassment. Maneka said she has written to six national parties and 59 regional parties to form internal complaints committee against sexual harassment and post information on it on their website.

**RAFALE DEAL: RAHUL ATTACKS MODI GOVT**  
**New Delhi:** Congress president Rahul Gandhi attacked the Modi Government over the Rafale deal alleging that it renegotiated the contract to benefit crony capitalists and reduced India's prestige globally. In a Facebook post, Gandhi said due to the renegotiated deal, India could not get transfer of technology as negotiated during the UPA rule and it was shameful that Indian pilots have to put their lives at risk flying the ancient Jaguar aircraft as the new technology did not come into the country.

**NO RAFALE IMPACT ON INDIA-FRANCE TIES: MEA**  
**New Delhi:** India said the controversy surrounding the procurement of 36 Rafale jets from France has not impacted the strong ties between the two strategic partners at all. "We continue to enjoy very strong relationship with France. It is our strategic partner. I can say that this (Rafale controversy) has not impacted our relationship at all," MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

**LANKAN PM ON 3-DAY VISIT TO INDIA**  
**New Delhi:** Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe arrived on a three-day visit with an aim to boost ties in a range of areas, including trade and investment and maritime security. His visit comes in the backdrop of controversial media reports that Lankan President has accused Indian intelligence agency RAW of plotting his assassination, a claim firmly rejected as "false" by Colombo. Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday.

**NEED MORE JOINT EXERCISES, SAYS MODI**  
**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday stressed need to hold more joint exercises by various stakeholders such as the NDMA to improve coordination between agencies in disaster relief management. Chairing the sixth meeting of the National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi, he reviewed the activities of NDMA to effectively manage and respond to disasters. He also reviewed ongoing projects undertaken by the authority, a brief statement by the Prime Minister's Office said.

**WOMEN SHOULD BE TREATED WELL: HRD MIN**  
**New Delhi:** Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday said women should be treated well everywhere and not only at workplace, as the #MeToo campaign continues to gather steam against sexual harassment faced by women in various spheres. Javadekar refused to comment on resignation of MJ Akbar.

**SEVERAL RECORDS MISSING FROM I-T DEPT**  
**New Delhi:** Several records have gone missing from Income Tax department because of restructuring drive in 2001 and 2013, the CIC has been informed. Information Commissioner Bimal Julka noted it in one of the cases heard by him when the tax department could not furnish information about pension fund in NTPC to an RTI applicant.

**AKBAR ATTENDS OFFICIAL MEETINGS**  
**New Delhi:** MJ Akbar attended official meetings on Monday and Tuesday as the junior External Affairs Minister after returning from a trip abroad, the Ministry said on Thursday, in first comments on the issue. MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said he was not aware of any specific meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Akbar on the allegations levelled against him.

**3-NATION ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PREZ**  
**New Delhi:** Ambassadors of Kuwait, Belgium, Portugal and Cambodia presented their credentials to President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan here, official statement said.

# CBSE revamps norms for giving affiliation to schools

**New Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has revamped its norms for granting affiliation to schools, leaving the onus of the infrastructural audit on States and limiting its own role to academic quality monitoring.

Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar announced on Thursday that the affiliation by-laws of the CBSE have been completely revamped to ensure speed, transparency, hassle-free procedures and ease of doing business with the board.

"The new by-laws denote a major shift from the highly complex procedures followed earlier to a simplified system based on preventing duplication of processes. At present, for issuing recognition under the RTE Act and the NOC, the State education administration verifies various certificates to be obtained from local bodies, revenue and cooperative departments. CBSE re-verifies them after the applications are received and hence the process becomes long drawn," he told reporters here.

"The board will now not revisit any of the aspects vetted by the State during its inspection and the delay due to scrutiny and non-compliance of deficiencies in these documents shall be drastically curtailed. Inspection of schools by the CBSE will now be outcome-based and more academic and quality-oriented," Javadekar added.

The CBSE has 20,783 schools affiliated to it across the country and abroad, with over 1.9 crore students and more than 10 lakh teachers. The affiliation by-laws were formulated in the year 1998 and were last modified in 2012.

"The inspection by the CBSE will focus on academic excellence and progress of students over time, innovations



Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. Alwin Singh | Pioneer

- The new provisions mandate schools to make full disclosure of fee structure and prohibit them from levying any hidden charges
- CBSE will inspect schools for learning outcomes
- CBSE has 20,783 schools affiliated to it and abroad, with over 1.9 crore students and more than 10 lakh teachers
- The affiliation by-laws were formulated in the year 1998 and were last modified in 2012
- Inspection of infrastructure will be carried out only at State-level
- CBSE schools have to give an undertaking about making sports mandatory



and quality of pedagogy, capacity of teachers and teacher training, inclusive practices in school, quality of co-scholastic activities, whether the curricular load is as per norms and whether there is adequate emphasis on sports," he said.

According to the new norms, the pendency of the

applications will also be dealt with seriously and the applications will henceforth be disposed of in the same year, and the entire process will be online. The new provisions mandate schools to make full disclosure of fee structure and prohibit them from levying any hidden charges, Javadekar said. **PTI**

# India, Japan to hold joint exercise in Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective to further strengthen strategic and bilateral Defence ties, Indian and Japanese Armies will hold the first-ever joint exercise in India for a fortnight in November. The exercise named 'Dharma Guardian-2018', focusing on honing anti-terrorism fighting skills, will take place at Counter Insurgency Warfare School, Vairengte in Mizoram from November 1.

The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles while the Japan Ground Self Defence Force will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment, Army officials said, adding the drill will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding and respect for each other's militaries and also facilitate tracking the worldwide phenomenon of terrorism.

During the fortnight long exercise, due emphasis will be laid on increasing interoperability between forces from both countries. Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a

series of well developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats that may be encountered in urban warfare scenario. Experts from both sides will also hold detailed discussions to share their expertise on varied operational aspects, they said.

Indian and Japanese navies besides Coast Guard regularly hold regular exercises in high seas but this is the first time ever that the armies of two nations will hold a joint exercise. It signifies deepening strategic and Defence relations through exercises and likely exchange visits of officers from two armies to each other's institutions in the coming years, sources said.

The decision to hold the first army exercise was taken during the annual Defence dialogue here in August between Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Japanese counterpart Itsunori Onodera. The two sides also decided to raise the level of maritime exercises particularly in the sphere of anti-submarine warfare and mine detection measures. The IAF chief is also likely to visit Japan in December.

# PM to inaugurate refurbished national police memorial on Sunday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the refurbished national police museum on Sunday. Home Minister Rajnath Singh and the top brass of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), central security agencies and State police units will be in attendance during the event on October 21 at the memorial based in Central Delhi's Chanakyapuri area.

"The day is observed to pay homage to ten policemen killed in an ambush by Chinese troops in 1959 in Ladakh's Hot Spring area. Numerous other personnel who laid down their lives protecting India's unity and integrity are also remembered on the occasion," CRPF Director General RR Bhatnagar said.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the event and the family of at least one personnel killed in the line of action from each force and police unit has been invited for the ceremony, officials added. The memorial has been refurbished and the central structure has been enhanced, they said. A large stone engraved in a raised platform has been erected at the memorial few years back at the same location.

The PM, during the event, will also unveil the country's first national police museum. The museum - depicting the history, artifacts, uniform and gear of central and state police forces - is coming up as an underground facility in the premises of the national police memorial. The museum project is being steered by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) in coordination with the central armed police forces (CAPFs) that function under the command of the Union Home Ministry.

# Talks & terror can't go together, onus on Pak: India

**New Delhi:** India on Thursday said the onus was on Pakistan to create conducive conditions for talks by taking steps such as action against terrorists and dismantling terror infrastructure operating from its soil.

During a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar reiterated India's stand that talks and terror cannot go together and said this was one of the reasons why the scheduled meeting in New York between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan was cancelled.

Barely 24 hours after agree-

I am not aware of any proposal for a track 1 or track 1.5 dialogue or a meeting between India and Pakistan, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar

ing to the engagement, the Government called off the meeting last month, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu & Kashmir and Islamabad releasing postage stamps "glorifying" Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani.

Asked if there was any message or signal from the Pakistani side for talks, he said, "I am not aware of any

proposal for a track 1 or track 1.5 dialogue or a meeting between India and Pakistan."

"The onus is on Pakistan to take credible steps, to create conducive conditions, for such talks which of course means taking action against terrorists, taking action against terrorist infrastructure which operates from its soil," he said.

Asked about Pakistan Army's statement warning of "10 surgical strikes" against India in response to a single such attack, Raveesh said, "You should ask this question to the Indian Army, they will give a

befitting reply to them."

India-Pakistan ties have nose-dived in view of a number of terror strikes by Pakistan-based groups. India retaliated by carrying out 'surgical strikes' in September 2016 across the Line of Control (LoC). India has been maintaining that terror and talks cannot go together.

Accepting proposal for meeting in New York, India had, however, made it clear that it was not resumption of dialogue and decision doesn't change country's position on cross-border terrorism. **PTI**

# Warmer winter predicted due to El Nino

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Winter this year could be comparatively warmer. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted that El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific Ocean and it is likely to develop in the next couple of months. "Currently, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over equatorial Indian Ocean. Neutral IOD conditions are likely to prevail during next two weeks," the IMD said.

In contrast to the Southwest Monsoon which sees more rains in La Nina and lesser in El Nino, rainfall activity during the northeast monsoon season is higher during the El Nino and very less in La Nina.

quently impact winter temperatures," officials added.

In a statement, the IMD said El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific Ocean and it is likely to develop in the next couple of months. "Currently, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over equatorial Indian Ocean. Neutral IOD conditions are likely to prevail during next two weeks," the IMD said.

The IMD said conditions are favourable for withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the country around October

20. "The conditions are also favourable for onset of north-east monsoon thereafter," it said. The northeast monsoon season makes an appearance after southwest monsoon bids adieu to the country and southwest monsoon may retreat any time in the country. Usually, Northeast Monsoon arrives during the third week of October.

The country witnessed rain deficiency of 9 per cent this year. This is despite that IMD had predicted normal rainfall in the country. As many as 254 districts are faced with drought like situation due to rain deficiency during southwest monsoon.

In the last few years, there have been varied rain amounts in the northeast monsoon season with 2017 witnessing 86 per cent of rain, 2016 seeing

very little rains at a mere 35 per cent, 2015 recorded a whopping 132 per cent of rainfall, rains were at 88 per cent in 2014, 86 per cent in 2013, 93 per cent in 2012, 96 per cent in 2011 and a massive 154 per cent in 2010. Rainfall pattern will also undergo some changes as the rainfall that usually occurs during afternoon and late evening, would now be witnessed during night and early morning hours. However, if there is any system, we can expect rain all along the day.

The kharif planting season ended with a drop in acreage over last year's figure. According to latest numbers from the Agriculture Ministry, kharif crop planting has covered 1,052.38 lakh hectare from June up to September 28, a 1.90 per cent drop from 1,072.79 lakh hectare a year earlier.

➤ Officials of IMD said El Nino refers to the cycle of warm temperature in ocean waters because of radiation

➤ The IMD said El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific Ocean and it is likely to develop in the next couple of months

➤ In contrast to the Southwest Monsoon which sees more rains in La Nina and lesser in El Nino, rainfall activity during the northeast monsoon season is higher during the El Nino and very less in La Nina

➤ The IMD said conditions are favourable for withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the country around October 20

# It was a blunder to divide Lingayats: Shivakumar

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major embarrassment to the Congress, party's strongman and Karnataka Water Resources Minister DK Shivakumar, who cherishes the ambition to become Chief Minister, has admitted that it was a grave mistake by the Congress to have interfered in the Lingayat issue in the run-up to the State Assembly elections in 2018.

The Congress government under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had appointed an expert committee to study proposals by Lingayat and Veerashaiva groups who were eager to dissociate themselves from Hinduism and become a minority religion. The Congress then as part of a strategy divided the Lingayat community which supports the BJP as Lingayat and Veerashaivas. The community which constitutes over 19 per cent of the State population plays a decisive role in Karnataka politics. The Congress lost because of this miscalculation and the first ever public admission by Shivakumar is an embarrassment ahead of by polls and 2019 general elections.

He said, "Our party has made a big mistake in this state. I don't deny it. I always believed, no Government should interfere in matters of religion and caste. It was a crime committed by our Government. Many ministers, leaders spoke about the issue but the verdict of the people in the election is proof that Governments should not interfere in these matters. If our Government has made a mistake, we ask you for forgiveness".

He was speaking at the Dasara Sammelan of the Rambhappari Seer Veera Sameshwara Shivacharya Swami in Gadag, in North Karnataka, on Thursday and the seer had opposed the Government (Siddaramaiah led Congress Government) move



to divide the Lingayat community.

The admission just five months after the assembly elections which led to the route of Congress and made the century old party to compromise with the regional party JDs to form a coalition Government is going to have a political repercussion in the State. It is history now that HD Kumaraswamy of the JDs with just 34 seats in the 224 assembly seats formed the Government to keep the BJP led by BS Yeddyurappa a Lingayat strongman with 104 seats away from capturing power.

The run up to the Assembly Elections in May saw several Congress leaders bring up the issue of recommending Lingayats as a separate religion. Congress President Rahul Gandhi turned to Basavanna, the 12th century philosopher who founded the Lingayat as a new religion to woo voters. He started quoting Basavanna and went to many mutts and temples to appease the lingayats. Rahul Gandhi also supported the move to divide the community which backfired.

Siddaramaiah used his three senior Ministers who were part of the Lingayat movement for separate religion lost in their constituencies while CM Siddaramaiah managed to scrape through with a win in Badami constituency by 1,696 votes. Siddaramaiah lost to JD(S) candidate GT Deve Gowda in the other seat he contested from

Chamundeshwari in Mysuru district. The Lingayats had seen the Congress move as a ploy to divide the Hindu religion. The RSS and BJP strongly opposed this move and BJP president Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi used this as a weapon to fight Rahul Gandhi and the congress.

In the Congress circles run up to by polls and general elections are maintaining a stoic salience over the issue and many feel that it might be part of a course correction to find a new strategy in the ensuing elections.

Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who addressed a gathering in Bidar, one of the powerful centres of Lingayat agitation, after the elections, did not mention Basavanna in his speech. Now, Shivakumar's admission appears to be the new found strategy to take on BJP and Modi - Shah Combine. Many in the Congress say that this would now become a potent weapon in the hands of BJP which is hell bent on re capturing Karnataka as the gate way to the south.

Lingayats are followers of 12th century social reformer Basavanna who preached against the prevalent caste system in Hinduism. There are also Veerashaivas who follow the teachings of Sri Renukacharya, who believed in Vedas, puranas and the caste system. Veerashaivas and Lingayats, who both worship Shiva, have always been considered one and the same. But there are some who contend they are different. They argue that Veerashaivas are a Shiva-sect of Hinduism, while the Lingayats must be deemed to belong to a different religion.

BJP had cautiously kept away from this controversy and always attacked the congress and Siddaramaiah Government of dividing the society to draw political mileage ahead of the last Assembly elections.

## Poll preparations in Mizoram satisfactory, says CEC Rawat

IAN S ■ AIZAWL

Preparations to hold free and fair elections to the Mizoram Assembly are satisfactory, Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat said here on Wednesday.

"Mizoram has always had an excellent record of holding free and fair elections. In the upcoming Assembly election, the State would once again establish its record of free and fair polls," Rawat told reporters before leaving for New Delhi after a two-day visit to the hill State.

Mizoram will vote to constitute the 40-member Assembly on November 28. Rawat, who was accompanied by Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa, complimented the District Magistrates, who are also the District Electoral Officers, for the poll preparations. "Their meticulous preparations would help in conducting a smooth and fair election."

"Concerns and views expressed by political parties, civil societies and officials over the Reang tribal voters sheltered in six Tripura relief camps, reliability of Electronic Voting Machines and ceiling limits on election expenditure were heard," he said.

These concerns would be addressed appropriately, Rawat added. The statutory election notification would be issued on November 2 and the last date for filing nominations is November 9. The single-phase election will be held on November 28.

As many as 768,181 people out of a total population of 10,91,014 are eligible to cast their votes.

Women once again outnumber men in Mizoram's electoral rolls. Of the total electorate, 393,685 are women and 374,496 men.

In the last Assembly elections in 2013, the Congress had won 34 out of the 40 seats.

# BJP begins search for Parrikar's alternative

IAN S ■ PANAJI

The BJP has formally started its hunt for a leadership alternative to ailing Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, party leaders as well as an alliance partner said on Thursday.

The issue of leadership change had been a taboo subject for most of the Bharatiya Janata Party leadership, including MLAs and State BJP president Vinay Tendulkar, who until late on Wednesday had maintained that there was no question of even discussing possible alternatives to Parrikar's leadership as the Chief Minister, who is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer, was "recovering" and "governing the state well".

The obduracy over the issue of leadership alterna-

**SARDESAI, WHO MET SHAH EARLIER ON THURSDAY, HAS ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE BJP LEADERSHIP IS 'SERIOUSLY LOOKING' AT THE LEADERSHIP ISSUE. "SOME NAMES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED," SARDESAI SAID**

tives to Parrikar appears to have given way to a sense of pragmatism in the BJP ranks, especially with their national President Amit Shah formally broaching the subject with leaders from Goa's ruling coalition parties.

Amit Shahji spoke to leaders from our coalition parties today in Delhi. They discussed the possible leadership options for

the near future. A final decision will be taken after consultation with the party high command and State leadership," a BJP leader said on condition of anonymity.

Among the names of leaders discussed as possible Chief Minister alternatives at the meeting held between Shah, Goa Forward Party President Vijai Sardesai and Maharashtra Gomantak Party leader Sudin Dhavalikar and other BJP leaders include Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik, State BJP president Vinay Tendulkar, Speaker Pramod Sawant and Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, the party official said.

Sardesai, who met Shah earlier on Thursday, has also maintained that the BJP leadership is "seriously looking" at the leadership issue. "Some

names have been discussed," Sardesai said.

The failure of Chief Minister Parrikar to attend to day-to-day administrative and political chores due to prolonged treatment of cancer has thrown Goa into a political crisis for several weeks.

The BJP earlier this week inducted two MLAs from the Congress into its own party, in a bid to foil a Government-toppling plan being engineered by the opposition party.

Ever since Parrikar's health conditioned worsened, allies like Goa Forward as well as the MGP had been in touch with Congress leaders tinkering with a possible regime change, even as they had also been pressurising the BJP to allocate more plum portfolios to ministers from the coalition parties.

## Shutdown by separatists affects life in Kashmir

Srinagar: A shutdown called by separatists affected life across Kashmir Valley on Thursday with heavy security deployed here and other vulnerable places.

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), a separatist conglomerate headed by Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umer Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik, called the shutdown against the killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, Mehrajudd in Bangroo, his associate Faiz Ahmad Waza and Rayees Ahmad in a gunfight on Wednesday in Srinagar's Fateh Kadal area.

Shops, other businesses and public transport remained closed in Srinagar and other district headquarters of the Valley. Skeletal private transport moved in the uptown areas of Srinagar. Educational institutions were closed due to the Dussehra holiday. The authorities have imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar's old city areas. Train services between Baramulla and Bannihal towns were suspended as a precautionary measure.

IAN S

# Death of lions: Cong alleges laxity, seeks answers from Guj CM

Ahmedabad: Alleging that the Gujarat Government's lax attitude led to the death of 23 lions in Gir forest, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Paresh Dhanani on Thursday sought explanation from Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on this "man-made tragedy".

In a letter written to Rupani on the issue, Dhanani sought action against those responsible for not devising a proactive action plan to deal with Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), believed to be the main reason for the deaths.

He alleged that although the Government knew that the disease has killed a large number of lions in Africa in the past, the vaccine for CDV, which was imported at the last moment, was not brought in advance.

"The Government knew that a vaccine is available to deal with CDV. However, we imported it (from the US) only after 23 lions succumbed to the infection. Such last minute arrangement

**'Lions could have been saved had the vaccine been made available well in advance. I firmly believe that action must be taken against those who were responsible for this man-made tragedy,' the Congress leader said**

led to this man-made tragedy. Why didn't we bring the vaccine well in advance?" asked Dhanani in the letter.

"Lions could have been saved had the vaccine been made available well in advance. I firmly believe that action must be taken against those who were responsible for this man-made tragedy," the Congress leader said.

He asked Rupani to probe whether the unavailability of vaccine was a "conspiracy".

Referring to the provisions enlisted in the Gir Management Plan for conservation of lions, Dhanani alleged that senior forest officials are not carrying

out their duty properly.

He claimed that the plan mandates that officials need to walk inside the protected forests for at least 50 kms in a month.

"In reality, officials hardly follow this provision of conducting foot patrolling. They only roam around in vehicles. As a result, health status of lions living inside deep forest is not known immediately," Dhanani claimed.

Referring to a 2013 Supreme Court judgment asking the State Government to find a new home for lions, Dhanani asked Rupani what steps his Government had taken since then in that regard.

He alleged that the State Government had only given assurances to the Supreme Court, but failed to undertake any concrete step to save the lions. Earlier, the State Government had admitted that CDV and Protozoa infection is responsible for the death of at least 11 of 23 lions in Gir forest last month. **PTI**

## Switching to clean energy may save 11 million life years in India: Study

PTI ■ BOSTON

India could save an estimated 11 million life years annually by replacing coal-fired powerplants with clean, renewable energy, according to a Harvard study.

The 2.7 billion people who live in India and China — more than a third of the world's population — regularly breathe some of the dirtiest air on the planet, said researchers from the Harvard University in the US.

Air pollution is one of the largest contributors to death in both countries, ranked 4th in China and 5th in India, and harmful emissions from coal-fire powerplants are a major contributing factor, they said.

In the study, published in the journal Environment International, researchers wanted to know how replacing coal-fired powerplants in China and India with clean, renewable energy

could benefit human health and save lives in the future.

They found that eliminating harmful emissions from powerplants could save an estimated annual 15 million years of life in China and 11 million years of life in India. Previous research has explored mortality from exposure to fine particulate matter (known as PM2.5) in India and China but few studies have quantified the impact of specific sources and regions of pollution and identified efficient mitigation strategies, researchers said.

"This study shows how modelling advances and expanding monitoring networks are strengthening the scientific basis for setting environmental priorities to protect the health of ordinary Chinese and Indian citizens," said Chris Nielsen, executive director of the Harvard-China Project and a co-author of the research paper.

# Rupani visits 'Statue of Unity' site ahead of unveiling by PM

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Thursday took stock of ongoing preparations at the site of the 'Statue of Unity' at Kevadiya in Narmada district.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to unveil the world's tallest statue at 182 metres, dedicated to the country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on October 31. It is being built on Sadhu Bet island near the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada river.

Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel also accompanied Rupani, stated an official release.

Meanwhile, Patel refuted media reports suggesting that the Prime Minister would board a sea plane to reach the site to unveil the statue on October 31. "The PM is not coming to Kevadiya in a sea plane," he said.

After the visit, Rupani held a high-level meeting at Kevadiya with government



officials on the ongoing preparations, stated the release.

During the meeting, Rupani told officials to stay prepared to handle a huge rush of visitors after unveiling the statue due to upcoming Diwali vacation, it said.

Apart from the statue, the administration is working on setting up many other "world class" attractions near it, such as the 'valley of flower', which is spread across 230 hectares, and a tent city near the statue.

Rupani instructed the officials to lit up the statue as well as other attractions, including

**MEANWHILE, PATEL REFUTED MEDIA REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BOARD A SEA PLANE TO REACH THE SITE TO UNVEIL THE STATUE ON OCTOBER 31**

the dam, with lighting, it said. Meanwhile, state Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama said in Ahmedabad that the BJP would take out "Ekta Yatra" ahead of October 31 as a tribute to Sardar Patel to spread awareness about his contribution in uniting the country.

The Yatra would be taken out in two phases during which it will cover 10,000 villages, said the minister.

The Chief Minister would flag off the first 'Ekta Yatra' chariot Friday at Bardoli town in south Gujarat, he added.



Final touches being given to the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya Colony, about 200 km from Ahmedabad on Thursday **PTI**

## Maharashtra BJP against simultaneous elections, say leaders

Mumbai: The Maharashtra BJP is understood to be against simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and the Assembly next year, according to some State party leaders.

The issue was discussed at a recent meeting between BJP Chief Amit Shah and Maharashtra leaders where the view of the State party unit was put forth, said the leaders who requested anonymity. A leader claimed that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis too is opposed to simultaneous elections and has conveyed this to Shah. "If Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are held together, there may be a compounded backlash from unhappy voters. If Lok Sabha elections are held first, we can do some damage control before the Assembly elections (later) next year," he said. "If Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are held separately, we can learn lessons from Lok Sabha's verdict and can plan accordingly for the Assembly polls," he added.

# 'No threat to mobiles issued using Aadhaar'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government Thursday said there is no threat of discontinuation of mobile numbers issued using Aadhaar, following the Supreme Court ruling that barred use of the national biometric ID by private companies.

Debunking reports that over 50 crore, or half of the mobile SIMs in the country, faced deactivation, the Department of Telecommunication and the 12-digit unique identity number-issuing authority UIDAI in a joint statement said, mobile phone users at their choice can seek a change of their Aadhaar-based authentication done in the past with alternate proof of identity without any disconnection of the number. An alternate form for buy-

ing new SIMs through a mobile app that will time capture photograph of the persons along with ID proof such as Aadhaar card, voter ID or passport is in the works.

"The Supreme Court in its judgement in Aadhaar case has nowhere directed that the mobile number which has been issued through Aadhaar e-KYC has to be disconnected," it said.

Termining the report as "completely untrue and imaginary", the Government said there is no reason for panic or fear at all. "People should not believe in such rumours," it said.

The Supreme Court has also not asked for deletion of the electronic-Know Your Customer (a means of establishing the identity of the person) data of telecom customers after six months, the statement said.

"What the apex court has asked that UIDAI should not keep authentication log for more than six months. The restriction of not keeping authentication log beyond six months is on the UIDAI and not on the telecom companies. Therefore, there is no need for telecom companies or AUAs/KUAs to delete authentication logs at their end," it added.

AUA is Authentication User Agency (AUA) and KUA is KYC User Agency (KUA).

DoT-UIDAI said telecom companies are required to keep authentication logs at their end as per Aadhaar regulations to resolve any consumer grievances.

The Supreme Court, it said, has prohibited the issue of new SIM cards through Aadhaar eKYC authentication process due to lack of a law.

**TELCOS TO ERASE AADHAAR DATA IF PROVIDED ALTERNATIVE KYC DOCUMENTS: COAI**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mobile service customers who want to get their Aadhaar details deleted from records of their telecom operators can do so by providing another valid documents for verification, industry body COAI said on Thursday. "Telecom players had a meeting with the Department of Telecom and they have been clarified that customers willing to get their Aadhaar details deleted from telecom operator data base should be allowed to do so against valid identity and address proof," COAI Director General Rajan S Mathews said.

He said that telecom operators will need some time to verify documents shared by customers but his connection will continue to work as till the time documents are verified. "Customers will need to call their operators to check about point of sales or service where they need to go with request for deletion of Aadhaar records," Mathews said.

# No plans to scale down steel production target: Minister

**INDIA'S STEEL PRODUCTION GROWING AT 6.7%**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has no plans to scale down its target for steel production unlike other countries as consumption of the alloy in India is growing slower than expected, Union Minister Birender Singh said on Thursday.

"...As far as China is concerned they reduction is 112 million tonnes (MT)...We are on a different footing and that's why we (have) decided in 2017 to have a capacity of 300 MT, which is at present...Is more than the double, rather 2.5 time more than our present capacity," the steel minister said.

Excess production of steel world over is a point of discussion globally, he said, adding "but in India the Government stand is to augment it to 300 MT".

"But, we made our stand very clear in that global forum of 34 countries and they have also accepted what we argued. And the level of consumption in the last two years has been 7.9 per cent (growth) in our country. That is one argument for having a capacity of 300 million tonnes.

"And if you see last eight months steel production figures in the current calendar year 2018 India has become the second largest steel producer in the world," Singh said.

India's steel production has been growing at the rate of 6.7 per cent, which is highest growth in output amongst the major economies of the world, he added.

The National Steel Policy (NSP)2017 that envisages ₹10 lakh crore investment, to take capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030-31, has been reduced to 8.8 lakh crore.

"We are organising one mega conclave on capital goods in steel sector manufacture in India. When we released our national steel policy in 2017 to create a capacity of 300 million tonne (MT) and about 260 MT production. So, that required about (initial estimates) about 10 lakh crore but now it is 8.8 lakh crore and out of that we will have to have machinery from other countries to the tune of 1,60,000 crore," he said.

The Government is expecting that 20 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) worth \$5 billion will be signed between India manufacturers, foreign technology provider and foreign capital good manufacturers during the conclave

next week. These foreign manufacturers are from eight countries, including Spain, Italy, Germany and Netherlands.

Well known world renowned steel technology companies such as Paul Wurth and Kawasaki will be involved in the signing MoUs, the minister said.

"Total MoUs till today is worth about ₹36,000 crore. Tatas may also join the signing some of the MoUs. Then...This is good beginning," Singh said, adding that "Our ultimate objective is to transform India into a world class manufacturing hub through massive collaborative efforts with best in class institutes industry around the world." NSP 2017 envisages setting up of 300 MT steel capacity by 2030-31. This means increasing the present capacity by 2.5 times from 138 MT to 300 MT in the next 12 years.

# Ex-Guj CM Vaghela's son resigns from BJP

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

In an important political development, former Gujarat Chief Minister Shankersinh Vaghela's son Mahendrasinh resigned from ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday.

Vaghela had joined the saffron brigade just three months back, but was feeling neglected in the new set and ultimately decided to quit the party ahead of Lok Sabha polls. Junior Vaghela however cited the reason in his resignation to Gujarat BJP president Jitu Vaghani that he decided to quit the party due to 'personal reasons'.

Following the footsteps of his father, Mahendrasinh had left the Opposition Congress party in July 2017 before the

**His father Shankersinh initiated his political career with Jan Sangh and went on to become senior most BJP leader**

State Assembly polls. His father Shankersinh initiated his political career with Jan Sangh and went on to become senior most BJP leader. He however left BJP in 1996 following differences with then Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel and formed his own political party and straight away became Chief Minister with the support of Congress party.

Ahead of the 1998 Gujarat assembly polls Vaghela merged his political outfit

with Congress. In UPA Government he was made Union Minister and held couple of portfolios also. Later on he was given the position of Leader of Opposition in Gujarat assembly post 2012 state elections.

He however left Congress as he was denied to project Chief Ministerial candidate in the 2017 assembly polls. The Congress party had also gave ticket to Mahendrasinh from Bayad assembly constituency from where he got elected in 2012.

Interestingly both Vaghelas along with their 12 more supporters defied the Congress' whip in the Rajya Sabha election held in Gujarat in August last year and had voted for the BJP against the senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel.

## INTELLIGENCE ALERT ON JMB Puja, Dussera security beefed up in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal police have stepped up security measures in Durga Puja pandals following Intelligence reports that the banned terror outfit of Bangladesh, Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, is planning to carry out subversive activities in the State.

The inputs from the Intelligence agencies become all the more important as immersion of idols of major Durga Puja committees will take place on October 23 when the State Government will organise the Durga Carnival — a procession of idols along the historic Red Road.

According to inputs the JMB terrorists may target North Bengal cities like Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Alipurduar and Coochbehar. "We are not taking chances on Kolkata as because the city draws crores of

**According to sources, the JMB activists have already entered Indian territories and are hiding somewhere in North Bengal. "Their target is to cause maximum damage during the Pujas" and on the Vijaya Dushmi Day**

people throughout the festive season," said a senior police officer.

With Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee fixing the day of the Carnival on October 23, the festive season gets extended four days beyond the Vijaya Dushmi Day which falls on Friday, the officer said adding the police have further tightened security measures from Mahashavami Day through the Mahanavami Day.

According to sources the

JMB activities have already entered Indian territories and are hiding somewhere in North Bengal. "Their target is to cause maximum damage during the Pujas" and on the Vijaya Dushmi Day.

JMB earned notoriety in Bengal following a bomb blast on October 2 in Khagrachari in Burdwan district when two of its militants were killed while making bombs intended to be transported to find their targets back in Bangladesh.

Subsequent investigations conducted by the NIA took the lid off a wide JMB network raised in several bordering districts of Bengal including Nadia, Birbhum, Burdwan, Murshidabad and Malda.

"This is no new situation as we receive inputs from time to time from the Centre. In any case the security has been tight throughout the Pujas and will

continue to be so this festive season," said a senior official.

A low-intensity blast near a TMC party office at Nabgerbazar off north-eastern Kolkata killing two persons and injuring at least 10 others had created flutter in the police brass. None has so far been arrested in connection with the case.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development the Bengal Government had made special ration packages this festive season for the poorest of the poor, officials said.

Subsidised packages of flour, rice, edible oil and sugar is being given to the people coming within the Antodaya and Special Priority Programmes — under National Food Security Act, sources informed adding the total number of baneberries this festive season would come to about 3 crore.

## First phase of coastal road to have three interchanges: BMC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The first phase of the proposed coastal road project will have three interchanges, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Thursday.

The first phase of this ambitious project runs between Princess Street and Bandra-Worli Sea Link Road and the three interchanges will be located at Amar Soms Garden, Haji Ali and Worli Seafac, it said.

These interchanges will have 18 alternative routes and nine entry as well as exit routes to facilitate the motorists, the civic body added.

"The total length of these interchanges will be 14 kms. They will be constructed as per the international codes of standards and using state-of-the-art tools," the BMC said.

The speed limit for vehicles on these interchanges has been fixed at 40 kmph, it said adding that crash attenuators will be installed at important points along these interchanges to minimise the impact of collision in case of possible accident.

According to a civic official, work on the first phase is expected to start by the next month, when work orders will be issued. The entire project may take almost four years to complete.

"Work on the 10-km stretch from Princess Street Flyover to south end of Bandra Worli Sea Link is likely to start by the end of the year," official said, adding that the first phase will comprise an under-sea tunnel starting from Princess Street flyover to Priyadarshini Circle.

Infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has been awarded the contract to construct a part of the project from Princess Street Flyover to Baroda Palace, including an underground tunnel passing below Girgaum Chowpatty, Malabar Hills and Priyadarshini Park.

The total length of the Coastal Road project is 29.2 kms. The eight-lane road project will start from Princess Street Flyover in Marine Lines and run up to Kandivli.

The standing committee of the BMC had given its nod for the construction of the ₹12,000-crore project last month.

## SHIV SENA DUSSEHRA RALLY

# 'If BJP says mandir promise a jumla, then we'll build Ram temple'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Demanding to know as to why Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not gone even once to Ayodhya during the last four and a half years, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said that if the ruling BJP declared its poll promise of building a Ram Mandir was nothing but a "jumla", then his party, along with Hindus living across the country, would undertake the construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Addressing a largely attended annual Dussehra rally at the historic Shivaji Park in north-Central Mumbai, Uddhav announced that he would go to Ayodhya on November 25 to remind the ruling BJP of its failure to keep its promise of building Ram Mandir there.

Mincing no words against the Narendra Modi government for its failure to keep its promises, including the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, Uddhav said: "You



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray addresses the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Thursday

(the ruling BJP) have so many false promises to the people that the country is on the verge of erupting like a volcano... You promised that you would deposit ₹15 lakh in the bank accounts of everyone. Later on you said that promise was a jumla. My challenge to you shameless fellows: either you fellows build Ram Mandir or declare the repeated promise to this effect was a jumla. Then we

will see what is to be done". "Hence I have decided that I will go to Ayodhya on November 25. We have nothing against Modi. But I would like to tell him not to play with the sentiments of the people. This is not a normal promise. This concerns Lord Sri Ram. You have been touring all over the world. But, I would like to know from Modi as to why he has not found time to visit



People assemble in large numbers as Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray addresses the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Thursday

Ayodhya during the last four and half years?," the Sena president asked.

"You (Modi) may not have gone to Ayodhya during the last four and a half years, but I — as the son of late Bal Thackeray — will go to Ayodhya with a saffron flag in hand. I will be going there for the first time to remind you about your poll promise of building Ram Mandir there. If you do not

start building Ram Mandir, then we the Shiv Sena — along with Hindus across the country — will build the Ram temple there," Uddhav said.

Uddhav slammed Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for his remark that his party leaders had made all kinds of promises to the people during the 2014 elections because they knew that the BJP would not come to power. "I would like to tell

**UDDHAV SLAMMED UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI FOR HIS REMARK THAT HIS PARTY LEADERS HAD MADE ALL KINDS OF PROMISES TO THE PEOPLE DURING THE 2014 ELECTIONS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT THE BJP WOULD NOT COME TO POWER**

Nitinji. You are also a Maharashtra like us. It is not the Maharashtra culture to mouth lies. What late Balasaheb has taught us; think a lakh times before you make a promise to the people. But once you make the promise, you will keep the promise come what may."

Hitting out at Modi and his Cabinet colleagues at the Centre for not bothering about fulfilling the promises made to the people during 2014, Uddhav said: "Instead of concentrating on developmental works, Modi, his Cabinet ministers and BJP chief ministers are now camping in five Assembly poll-bound states. I call this as a big defeat for you. Even if you win those elections, you will be able to

solve the problems of the people those states?."

Slamming Union Minister Ravi Shanker Prasad for his comment that the Government could not do much about the hikes in, Uddhav said: "What do you mean you can't do anything? How can you cannot bring down rates of petrol, diesel and cooking gas or reduce inflation? You have Lord Vishnu's 11th 'avatar' with you but you cannot stop inflation and galloping fuel prices and zooming US Dollar rates. If you can't do this, then are you sticking to power...?" Uddhav asked.

Targeting Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis for his failure to declare drought in Maharashtra, Uddhav said: "Karnataka has already declared a drought and started relief measures, but in Maharashtra, the CM is still studying the issue... If Fadnis does not declare a drought in Maharashtra in the next few days, then the Shiv Sena will take to streets to protest against the State Government."

## PSO sent to judicial custody for 14 days

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Head Constable Mahipal Singh, the Personal Security Officer (PSO), who had allegedly shot the wife and son of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Krishan Kant Sharma last Saturday, was produced before a local court on Thursday which sent him to 14 days of judicial custody at the Bhandisi Jail. Earlier the accused gunman was sent to four days police remand which ended on Thursday. The security guard was produced under cover of heavy police security in the court at around 5 pm.

In a first official statement on Wednesday morning, the SIT revealed that the incident occurred in the spur of the moment after the judge's wife and son rebuked the accused of being untraceable when they returned after shopping. The incident took place on Saturday in which Mahipal, the PSO shot ASJ's wife Ritu (38) and son Dhruv (18) at the busy Arcadia Market in Sector-49 in Gurugram. Ritu and Dhruv had reached Arcadia market and asked Mahipal to wait near the car. When they returned, Dhruv asked him to hand over the keys of the Honda City car. "This enraged the SPO and he started beating Dhruv. When Ritu intervened, the PSO pulled out his service revolver and shot at the mother and son," DCP (crime) Sumit Kuhar had said earlier in a statement. The PSO also tried to destroy the evidence by making an attempt to put injured Dhruv into the car but failed and he fled the scene with the car. The wife of the judge succumbed to her injuries on Saturday, while Dhruv is still critical and under treatment at a private hospital.

## NO SABARIMALA...

"Decisions taken without considering all aspects and patiently creating mindset of the society will neither be adopted in actual practice nor will they help in creating a new social order, in tune with changing times and positions, he said in his annual Vijayadashmi address, the last before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur. "The situation arising out of the recent verdict on Sabarimala temple shows a similar predicament. The nature and premise of the tradition that has been accepted by society and continuously followed for years together were not taken into consideration," Bhagwat said.

Meanwhile, a Delhi-based woman journalist of a foreign media outlet who trekked the Sabarimala hill was stopped midway by Lord Ayyappa devotees opposing the entry of women of menstrual age into the hill shrine. The journalist accompanied by her male colleague, a foreigner, descended the hills from Marakkootam area in the face of mounting protest by the Ayyappa devotees. The journalist later said she and her colleague decided to return after they were stopped by an "aggressive mob" which hurled stones at them. A stone hit her on the shoulder, she said. Reporters of Malayalam news channels who followed the journalist to the hill shrine said the devotees shouted slogans "ladies go back". Some even allegedly hurled abuses at her opposing her entry into the ancient shrine, the reports said. Police had thrown a security ring around the woman and her colleague. Local TV crew said she is in her late 40s. However, there is no confirmation regarding her age. The woman told protesters that she was a journalist and she was on her way to the shrine for carrying out her professional duty. The police told her that they were ready to provide her security but she decided not to climb the hills further, police said. The journalist and her colleague were later taken to Pamba police station.

If she had been able to climb the hills, she would have become the first woman of the

menstrual age group to visit the Sabarimala temple of Lord Ayyappa after the Supreme Court order permitting women of all age groups to enter the shrine. Six BJP youth wing activists were arrested at Nilackal for staging a protest in violation of Section 144 of the CrPC, which has been clamped in the area in view of violent demonstrations against allowing women in the menstruating age group inside the Sabarimala temple.

Police removed the slogan-shouting Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha members who launched a sit-in protest at Nilackal, the gateway to Sabarimala, soon after the BJP State president PS Sreedharan Pillai announced in Thiruvananthapuram BJYM activists would violate Section 144 in areas including Nilackal.

While being forcibly bundled into a police vehicle, State BJYM president Prakash Babu said not a single woman in the age group of 10 and 50 would be allowed to climb the hills which houses the temple.

Appealing to women of "banned" age group from entering the temple, the Sabarimala head priest, Kandaru Rajeevaru said, "We have never said that the temple will be closed if women of the traditionally barred age group enter there." It is our duty and responsibility to carry out the monthly pujas and other rituals. We will not break the custom," Rajeevaru said. He also said Sabarimala is a place where women are respected. The second major deity at the hillock shrine complex is 'Malikappurathamma' a goddess. "We respect the verdict of the Supreme Court. But, considering the sentiments of devotees and the tradition and rituals of the shrine, I humbly request you (young women) not to come to Sabarimala," Rajeevaru said.

After the Wednesday's violence and clashes, the Home Ministry on Thursday asked the Kerala Government to ensure peace across the State following protests against the Supreme Court order allowing women of all age groups to enter Sabarimala Temple. In an advisory,

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Home Ministry said the maintenance of law and order, including providing security to women wishing to visit the temple, was the responsibility of the State Government. The Kerala Government must ensure law and order and full compliance of the Supreme Court order allowing women of the menstrual age group to visit Sabarimala Temple of Lord Ayyappa, a Home Ministry official said. The State Government has been impressed upon the fact that it would be in direct contempt of the Supreme Court order if female devotees of any age are stopped from entering the temple, he said, quoting the advisory. Another official said the Kerala Government, in its communication, has assured the Centre that the apex court order would be implemented and the law and order situation at the pilgrimage site was under control.

## RSS CHIEF...

Among other things, Bhagwat charged that the "urban Naxals" were carving out a psychological warfare — called "Mantrayuddhi" in traditional Rajneeti Shastras - by manufacturing "vicious and hostile atmosphere that weakens and destroys the social cohesion - essentially the bedrock of internal security of a nation". Alluding to the recent activities of "urban Naxals", Bhagwat said: "To establish a new, unfamiliar, uncontrolled, out-rightly biased Naxal leadership with blind followers solely committed to them is the 'Neo - Left' doctrine of these urban Naxals. Their cohorts already established in social and other media, intellectual circles and other institutions are associated with such activities from start to finish. They execute this by defending such activities through intellectual and other methods, through delusory public campaigns related to agitations, while keeping a safe distance and maintaining their so-called eminent positions".

"So the emerging conclusion is, this is a bigger canny

conspiracy in collusion with forces from within and outside the country. It no more remains just a power politics by the Opposition, but in this process, politically ambitious individuals and groups - either knowingly or unknowingly - and weaker sections, crushed under deprivation and neglect get drawn as ammunition unknowingly or unwillingly," he said. "To eliminate such tendencies, the Government and administration have to alertly ensure that such incidents, of which trouble mongers can take advantage of, do not take place," he said.

## COURT WILL...

Akbar has listed names of two senior woman journalists - The Sunday Guardian's Editor Jyoetta Basu and journalist Veenu Sandal -- and four others as his witnesses to prove his defamation charges against Ramani. The senior lawyer referred to the sequence of events and said Akbar has resigned from the post of Minister of State for External Affairs due to these allegations and this showed the extent of damage caused to his reputation. She also referred to the reputation of Akbar as a journalist and sought judicial intervention in the matter by taking cognisance of the complaint. Akbar's name had cropped up in the social media campaign #MeToo against alleged sexual harassment when he was in Nigeria. Hours after returning home, Akbar had termed the allegations as "false, fabricated and deeply distressing" and said he was taking appropriate legal action against them. As per the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the court would now record the pre-summoning evidence and statement of Akbar and other witnesses, referred to in the complaint and would issue notice to Ramani to face trial if it is satisfied that there are prima-facie substance in the complaint. "Ramani has tweeted defamatory tweets against the complainant. Her 2nd tweet was clearly defamatory and liked by 1,200 people," Akbar's

lawyer Luthra reportedly told the court. "Since I have decided to seek justice in a court of law in my personal capacity, I deem it appropriate to step down from office and challenge false accusations levied against me, also in a personal capacity. I have, therefore, tendered my resignation from the office of Minister of State for External Affairs. I am deeply grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj for the opportunity they gave me to serve my country," Akbar had said in his plea. The women who accused Akbar of sexual harassment, included Ghazala Wahab, Shuma Raha, Anju Bharti and Shutapa Paul.

## METOO STARTED...

"This (MeToo movement) is the result of the behaviour of some people who have perverted minds," he was quoted as saying by PTI. The Union Minister further stated that he wonders if it would be right for men to start "making similar accusations like them." "That will be such a big insult...Will it be acceptable?" Radhakrishnan said.

## ND TIWARI...

There was a brief period, however, in the 1990s when he floated his own All India Indira Congress (Tiwari) with Arjun Singh also on board.

And last year, long after he had outlived his usefulness for his party, Tiwari openly announced his support for the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Assembly elections in Uttarakhand. Tiwari's political career began before Independence. As a teenager, he was jailed for 15 months in Nainital prison, according to one account for writing anti-British pamphlets, where his freedom fighter father too was lodged. On his release, he joined Allahabad University, becoming the president of its student union in 1947. In 1976, he became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the first time. Two more stints followed in the 1980s. They were all brief, trun-

ated terms but he will be remembered for being the last Congress Chief Minister of the populous, politically important State.

At the Centre, Tiwari served as Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Commission. Over the years, he also held portfolios of planning, finance, petroleum and external affairs in the Union Cabinet. Tiwari is said to have nurtured prime ministerial aspirations at one time, and there was speculation that he was in the running in 1991 when the party eventually picked PV Narasimha Rao. That was also the year when he lost his Nainital seat by just 800 votes. He was the third Chief Minister of the newly formed Uttarakhand State but the first one to complete a full term, from 2002 to 2007. He continues to hold the distinction of having been the only Uttarakhand CM who has done so. Tiwari is credited with helping the infant State, formed just two years before he took charge, gain a firm footing. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma to visit New Delhi and brought Tiwari's body to Lucknow with full state honour on Saturday. Tiwari body will be kept at Vidhan Bhawan so that people could pay tribute to the departed leader. Tiwari's mortal remains will be taken to Uttarakhand where the cremation will be held on October 21.

## GUN-TOTING...

No notice was served to the accused and non-bailable warrant issued against Pandey is mala fide. Four-day police custody is not required," the counsel contested.

The court had on Wednesday issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Ashish for brandishing a pistol at guests and threatening them in the foyer of Hyatt hotel.

Ashish's counsel had on Wednesday approached the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Dharmender Singh and moved an application seeking to surrender. However, since the magistrate concerned was on leave, the plea, seeking judicial nod to surrender to Ashish was referred to another

## DIY ROBOTS...

The major concern in the security agencies is that if the DIY enters chemistry labs, the fallout on the security situation in the Valley will be significant. Till now, the DIY projects are confined to Physics labs. The name of the project indicates that science students are getting indoctrination in radical ideology and the terror groups are out to exploit their technical knowhow for furthering their nefarious agenda. "There is a need to engage the students in more constructive work and firewall their inclination to separatist ideology," another official said.



# He had to go

### Talented editor MJ Akbar's departure from public office was his own doing

Mobashar Javed Akbar is credited with coining the term "unputdownable" in the context of *The Telegraph* newspaper which he launched over four decades ago. All these years his persona seemed to perfectly fit his own coinage. A flamboyant, dare-devil Editor, who charted a new course in contemporary journalism, busting conventions and making his own rules, Akbar ascended the pinnacles of fame as a journalist, Editor and author. When he migrated to politics, his journey was no less spectacular. Winning his first Lok Sabha election as a Congress nominee from Kishanganj in Bihar, he soon became Rajiv Gandhi's blue-eyed boy, not just Congress party spokesman. Not one to be "put down" when his party went under, Akbar deftly changed sides, caught Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eye and was chosen as BJP's candidate for the Rajya Sabha first from Jharkhand and later Madhya Pradesh. Deep knowledge of contemporary Indian history and politics and an enviable degree of articulation combined to make his march up the ladder unstoppable even in the BJP. There were few surprises when the Prime Minister inducted him as Minister of State of External Affairs, a job he was performing with characteristic aplomb, although many felt that several talented insiders were overlooked due to Modi's fascination for him. But when his past caught up with Akbar, fear came to his defence. The narratives of a succession of former employees of organisations he served as Editor caused grievous embarrassment to the Government and the BJP. Not a novice in the arena of controversy, Akbar predictably sought to brazen out the mounting charges of sexual harassment at the workplace by his ex-colleagues. The narratives were so graphic that their veracity could hardly be challenged, although it is unclear if he actually indulged in criminal intimacy (as defined by law) against a woman's will.

Considering the wide respect he commanded among a large section of journalists especially in the 1970s and 80s, Akbar may have done better to step down from his official position before these sextic tales gained currency. Arguably many big names in the entertainment industry have also been drawn into the vortex of India's latest variant of a "Me-too" movement, but Akbar was the only person holding a public office to be thus arraigned. Clearly, BJP president Amit Shah erred in his judgment when he averred that no action would be taken against Akbar without a proper inquiry, thereby ruling out his early removal from the Ministry. But with the alleged victims banding together and deciding to take up his challenge to fight out issues in court, the Government's options ran out. It would have been particularly awkward for a Minister to appear in court to face a battery of sexually explicit charges. In these circumstances, it is only proper that one of India's most celebrated contemporary editors demitted public office, something he would have been better advised to do as soon as the first whiff of the scandalous accusations became public. Given his fund of talent and aggressive temperament, he may yet live up to the unputdownable tag. But any which way, this episode will go out as a huge warning to many wannabe Akbars who still believe they can get away verbally or physically molesting vulnerable women using their superior authority. Hopefully India's workplaces will be somewhat safer for women hereafter.

### 50 WORDED IT Zika attack

With 80 cases being reported from Jaipur alone, India is, perhaps, witnessing the biggest Zika virus outbreak thus far. With no cure in sight yet even as the deadly virus has been reported in about 86 countries with the first one having been reported from India, authorities have their task cut out. While diagnosis at the right time is crucial, preventive and containment measures are equally important as they will determine the spread of the disease.

# Faith and law

### Ancient religious beliefs and modern legal systems will collide head-on more often than not

Belief in a higher power, faith, as we would call it, has been an essential component of humanity since the first human being capable of cognitive thinking emerged on the planet. After all what was our purpose on this planet? Who put us here and what did the future hold in an often dangerous planet with forces of nature far beyond our comprehension and prediction let alone the ability to control them. Organised religion as we know, dates back to 2000 BCE if one considers the time when the first basic beliefs of the Zoroastrian faith were formulated. The earliest tents of Hinduism and Judaism date back to 1000 BCE. The problem is that living in this modern age of communication technology and the fact that you can cross half the planet in a single hop in under a day is something that people, who wrote those ancient scriptures, could never have imagined, no matter how powerful the hallucinogens they took. There was disease, pestilence and constant war back then, women were bartered as commodities and wars over minor slights killed thousands. Communities and possibly religions were swept away in tsunamis or buried under volcanic ash. Because people those days knew no better. We do know better today but many still believe in ancient wisdom, and make no mistakes, some of the words in all our scriptures are very powerful and hold good even today. But some beliefs should hold no place in a modern, forward-looking society.

The question however is not whether we should change those beliefs but we should change those beliefs. It is not easy and to pretend that those who believe will not fight back or refuse to change no matter how compelling the reasons to change is irrational. And that is what we see happening at Sabarimala right now. The Supreme Court feels it is upholding the constitution, but it has ignored the beliefs of millions who are, rightly, in their opinion deeply hurt and troubled. Unfortunately in Sabarimala, India's dead-end democratic dance is playing a role with opposing sides being taken and making matters worse. To pretend that such change would not have been violent is almost criminally negligent by the authorities. And for the Supreme Court justices, sitting in Delhi to believe that with the stroke of pen such change can be enforced seems bizarrely naive. Changing beliefs is, for better or for worse, a long and painful process which has been evident in the schisms and trauma that afflicted Europe in the late-middle ages. But those changes led to the remarkable scientific and artistic progress of the Renaissance and beyond and took Europe to a higher plane. In India, our beliefs should also evolve to reflect the times we live in, but the state and the judicial system should be wary of trying to hasten the process, lest things get much worse before they get better.



**RK PACHAURI**  
The early part of October has been taken up worldwide in a debate and discussion on the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessing the scientific characteristics of climate change if the world were to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels. The report also assesses what needs to be done to achieve this goal. The report has generally shaken the global community which hardly needs a reminder of the serious impacts of climate change, given the destructive extreme events which are taking place all over the world. Consequently, it is hoped that this assessment by the best scientists from all over the world working under the umbrella of the IPCC brings about the urgent shifts in the manner that we use fossil fuels and conventional sources of energy.

The impacts of climate change with the 1.5 degree Celsius limit and the risks associated with them are significant in comparison with the impacts with the two degree Celsius limit. In essence, the differences between these two goals deal with differences in mean temperature in most land and ocean regions, hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitations in several regions, and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions. For instance, risks from droughts and precipitation deficits are expected to be higher at two degree Celsius compared to 1.5 degree Celsius global warming in some regions.

Similarly, risks from heavy precipitation events are projected to be higher at two degree Celsius compared to 1.5 degree Celsius in several northern hemisphere high latitude and/or high elevation regions, eastern Asia and eastern North America. Heavy precipitation associated with tropical cyclones is projected to be higher at two degree Celsius compared with 1.5 degree Celsius global warming. On the impacts of sea level rise projections suggest that reduction of 0.1 m in global sea level rise (SLR) implies that up to 10 million fewer people would be exposed to related risks, based on population in the year 2010 and assuming no adaptation. A country like Bangladesh and several small island states in the Pacific and Caribbean region are particularly vulnerable to the physical impacts of SLR and associated risks.

A good example of adaptation to higher SLR is the case of the Netherlands, which has 25 per

cent of its land area below sea level, but it has succeeded in keeping the sea out with extensive infrastructure which does not allow the sea get in, referred to as dykes. That country is currently engaged in strengthening and increasing the height of its dykes in anticipation of higher SLR in the future. However, a large number of small island states and low-lying coastal areas are essentially part of the developing world. Consequently, these societies just do not possess the means by which they can construct their own protective infrastructure and, thus, adapt to the threat of higher sea levels.

Similarly, with cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons, it can be seen that a cyclone hits a low-lying country like Bangladesh, there is considerable loss of life and property. A similar intensity hurricane which hits Florida with as much inland states and low-lying coastal areas are essentially part of the developing world. Consequently, these societies just do not possess the means by which they can construct their own protective infrastructure and, thus, adapt to the threat of higher sea levels.

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### POINT COUNTERPOINT

The number of Hindu candidates inviting me to campaign for them in elections has reduced drastically in the last four years.  
—Senior Congress leader  
**GHULAM NABI AZAD**



They (Congress) are the ones who started creating all this Hindu terror. They are becoming the victim of their own propaganda.  
—BJP leader  
**SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY**

# Women who lead by example

### Asma Bibi is an example for those women who give up their dreams never to lose heart. Everyone has the potential to become someone great, writes SADAF ZAREEN

Sometimes it is important to dream big. It can be more exciting than just pursuing bookish knowledge in order to do some work and be successful in life. Often, people remain confined to the four walls of their house because they feel that they cannot do anything in life and people will mock them. This tendency is mostly seen in women. Women, especially in the rural areas, are victims of this mentality. And this mentality is because of the social environment, where due to lack of education, women are considered to be objects of sexual pleasure and reproduction. This is a major reason for women not even dreaming of moving forward. Education is very important for women and our society is not very successful in providing education to women.

Education is an important factor for the advancement of any society. On one side, it explains the difference between good and wrong, on the other, it arouses curiosity in the mind. History has many examples, in which educated women have played an important role in preparing social structures with enthusiasm. But despite knowing the achievements of women over the years, the present stratum of society makes fun of them and their achievements instead of idolising them. Nevertheless, there are many women like Asma Bibi who, despite being uneducated, have been able to make their own distinct identity in society. Asma, who lives in a small village in Rohas district of Bihar, is totally uneducated. She cannot read or write even a single alphabet in any language, but through her own initiative, she has not only created an identity for herself in the but also become an example of women's empowerment.

The parents of 50-year-old Asma, living in Akbarpur village, located at Dehri in Rohas district, were illiterate. Being illiterate themselves, they kept their daughter away from acquiring any form of education. Asma was married at an early age and she had six children one after another. Her husband started spending all the household earnings on liquor and also used to beat Asma when she would refuse to give him money. Somehow life was carrying on despite all the problems when suddenly one day her eldest son went missing. Her husband also went away to the city in search of a job and never returned home. Even in this difficult situation, Asma did not give up hope. She kept on trying to find her son. After losing both husband and son, she



took up the responsibility of improving the condition of her home and raising her remaining five children. She started doing sweeping and swabbing in houses and with that money she started buying women's makeup items and other women's accessories from the city and selling it in the village. Even though she could not read the name of the station, Asma used to go to Ferrozabad as she items at cheap rates. At the same time, she started traveling further and further in the hope of finding her son.

Asma was very keen to learn how to read, whether it was in Hindi, English or Urdu. People used to make fun of her when she said the words wrong, but Asma never got angry or discouraged. She felt the sense of a lack of education in her life and the difficulties she faced because of being uneducated. This was the reason that she was determined to give her children a good education. Along with managing the expenses of the house, she started raising money for her children's education. She enrolled her three daughters in school and sent her two sons to a large Madrasa (Institute for Islamic Studies) in Aurangabad to receive religious education. Despite being uneducated, she used to run everywhere and get admission forms and new updates about the schools and colleges. She would even ensure she found out about scholarships and other government schemes to be able to provide her children with the best education.

Asma, without any support from anyone, has changed her own living conditions

but also that of her children's. This she did through her courage, hard work and enthusiasm. The circumstances in which they live today have changed completely from what it was earlier. She made sure that her daughters completed their graduation. She was able to get her daughters married into good families because they were well educated. Eight years later, finally, her missing son has also returned home, to help him earn a living. Asma has taken a loan from people to send him to Saudi Arabia to work there. The youngest son is a Hafeez (one who recites the Holy Quran by heart). Her desire to read is still very much alive even today and that is why she is completing her incomplete degree by learning to read the Quran. She learnt Urdu from her son.

Asma today has become an example for those women who give up their dreams and lose heart by throwing their desires of becoming someone great or of achieving knowledge. Thinking of themselves to be weak, they allow people to exploit them, both physically as well as mentally. The importance of education and the right of women in society is not understood. However, with changing times this mentality of society is gradually changing. But there is still not much of a change in the situation in the rural areas. In such a case, the positive success story of Asma Bibi will definitely prove to be a morale booster to many women and will help them realise their unfulfilled dreams. (Charkha Features)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### CONTRARY VIEWS

Sir — This refers to the article, "Sir Syed Khan: The renaissance man" (October 17) by MJ Warsi. The writer has paid rich tributes to the 19th century scholar and founder of the Madangharian Anglo-Oriental College (MAO) on his 201st birth anniversary. Sir Syed has been described as an "apostle of secularism and Hindu-Muslim unity". However, there are contrary views saying that Sir Syed Khan's emphasis on Muslim education and setting up Mohammedan Anglo-

Oriental College college led to "a movement for Muslim separatism gathering strength". Ashok Patnaik, in a review of BR Nanda's book, *Witness to Partition* — A Memoir, published by *The Pioneer* on August 29, 2004, noted that Sir Syed pre-empted "the idea of a separate Muslim nation" which MA Jinnah and other heavy weights of the Muslim League carried forward till they achieved their goal that the Muslims constituted a nation separate from the rest... The rest is history. M Ratan Via email

#### CELEBRATING DUSSEHRA

Sir — Dussehra is actually the festival of the Kshatriyas. But all Hindus observe this festival with great joy. Traditionally, in Indian culture, Dussehra was always full of dances, where the whole community mixed, and mingled. But because of external influences and invasions over the past 200 years, we have lost that charm. Otherwise, Dussehra was always very vibrant. Vijaydashami or Dussehra festival is of tremendous cultural significance for all of us, irre-

spective of caste, creed, colour or religion, and should be celebrated with gaiety and love. Jubeled C Cruz Mumbai

### Learn the art of tolerance if not love

The raging issue of the Supreme Court allowing women of all ages to enter the Sabarimala premises sparked a storm of protest as the temple gates were opened to women devotees. The most unfortunate part was that protesters, including women, started blocking even fertile women devotees of Lord Ayappa, who had come to visit the Sabarimala after observing a 41-day *wata* (penance). Curiously, is there any scriptural



backing for this unrighteous act of blocking? It is learnt that there is no specific written canon or order except traditional practice which debars women of all ages from entering the Sabarimala. So, it is well evident that this ritualistic practice is being observed as the same has been handed down from generation. In the annals of history, a slew of ritualistic practices were revoked as the court or the Government found them undemocratic and unrighteous. In this

case, too, the Supreme Court did not pronounce its verdict at the drop of a hat, but after hearing the case for 12 years. So, all those who are protesting must get down to brass tacks of the matter and think about what should be done. Therefore, let us all be prudent and try not to indulge in violence in the name of god who never allows us to be belligerent. Let us at least be tolerant if we cannot love. TK Nandanam Chennai

spective of caste, creed, colour or religion, and should be celebrated with gaiety and love. Jubeled C Cruz Mumbai

**TOUGH MEASURES**  
Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Entitlement culture" (October 18). The shocking incident where the son of a former BSP parliamentarian was seen brandishing his pistol openly is an eye-opener to several concerns. First, the incident makes it clear that the security mechanism in five-star hotels are just an eye-wash. Equally, it

calls for a review of the entire process of obtaining arms licenses in the country. As directed by the Supreme Court, the Modi Government should consider framing a law that can keep criminals away from politics much before the forthcoming election. Such practical and exemplary steps are the need of the hour to not only prevent such incidents but to also give a blow to the country's VIP culture. SG Agrawal Delhi

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FOR A COUNTRY LIKE INDIA, THERE WOULD BE LARGE CO-BENEFITS FROM A GREEN ENERGY FUTURE. THERE WOULD BE LOWER POLLUTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND MUCH HIGHER ENERGY SECURITY FOR THE COUNTRY

It is unfortunate that some leaders in the world choose to ignore the voice of science. The IPCC is an intergovernmental body that mobilises the best scientists from all over the world who devote their time and talent without any compensation in return. The reports of the IPCC are approved by all the Governments of the world, and the summary for policymakers, the essence of the extensive scientific documents produced

and designed especially for decision-makers, is approved word by word by all the Governments accepting the report by consensus. It is difficult to understand how any leader today can say that scientists have an "agenda" behind these reports. The only agenda dictating the work of the IPCC is the objective assessment of all aspects of the scientific reality of human-induced climate change and credible projections of the future based on robust and plausible scenarios of future developments. In the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC it had been assessed that in order to keep with in the two degree Celsius limit by the end of this century relative to pre-industrial values, the world would follow a mitigation pathway which would involve an additional cost of 0.66 per cent of global GDP annually. The new special report has elaborated on the dimensions of the energy transition that would be required for the 1.5 degree Celsius limit, and assessed that total annual average energy-related mitigation investment for the period 2015 to 2050 for moving along pathways which would require 1.5 degree Celsius is estimated to be around \$900 billion in 2015 values. This would correspond to total annual average energy supply investment of \$1,600 to \$3800 billion and total annual average energy demand investment of \$700 to \$1,000 billion in 2015 values. This means that energy related investments would be about 12 per cent higher for the 1.5

degree Celsius pathway as compared to the two degree Celsius pathways. Average annual investments in low carbon energy technologies and energy efficiencies would be upscaled by roughly a factor of five by 2050 compared to 2015. These figures may seem overwhelming, but it would be useful to know that there are huge subsidies on fossil fuels, estimated at 6.5 per cent of global GDP in a study, which need to be removed, and the savings thus achieved today should be directed towards the investments required for transformation of the energy sector. For a country like India there would be large co-benefits from a green energy future. There would be lower pollution at the local level and much higher energy security for the country. We are witness today to the harmful impacts of higher oil prices on the Indian economy, with a weakening of the rupee, which further adds to the import bill in dollar terms and other ill-effects. An earlier piece in these series had highlighted the need for India to come up with a concrete strategy for achieving greater energy independence, which requires a large overhaul of the current economic infrastructure and substantial increase in the use of renewable energy sources. It would not be a day too early if we embarked on such a course today.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

# A quintessentially postcolonial poet

### With his multi-layered narrative techniques, Kedarnath chose to write about the inescapable predicament of the post-independent nation which encouraged and even compelled young aspirational minds to go far from their rural, cultural backgrounds



SACHIDA NAND JHA

Even before Kedarnath Singh was conferred the Jnanpith Award in 2013, he enjoyed tremendous critical acclaim as a phenomenal Hindi poet who was favourably compared with some of the major contemporary Indian poets. The highest literary prize was in a way an attestation and confirmation of the fact that he had attained the status of a kind of cult poet for about a decade.

His classmate, a well-known Hindi writer, Vishwanath Tripathy, mentioned that Singh became popular from the Intermediate class itself. People used to praise him a lot and he was often discussed by his fellow students like a famous poet. A major Hindi poet, Manglesh Dabral, reinforced this perception and added that only Baba Nagarjun can be said to be more popular a poet than Kedarnath Singh.

As a matter of fact, Singh was not only popular but also a successful poet who received the Kumanar Asan Award in 1980, and the Sahitya Academy Award in 1989. In addition to the above prizes, he was also honoured with many other awards that were given by literary organisations from different States, such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. He also had the distinction of being a fellow at the Sahitya Academy, which is usually considered to be the greatest honour available to a creative writer in our country.

Otherwise deeply divided in their conceptualisation of the very idea of literature and, in turn, canon formation, Hindi poets belonging to both the progressive (*pragatwadi*) and modernist (*prayogwadi*) persuasion, had not just identical appreciation for his poetic endeavours, but also preferred to put him on a high literary pedestal. They are known to have come together for throwing such accolades before the way of only two other modern Hindi poets — Gajanan Madhav Muktibodhi and Shambhu Bahadur Singh.

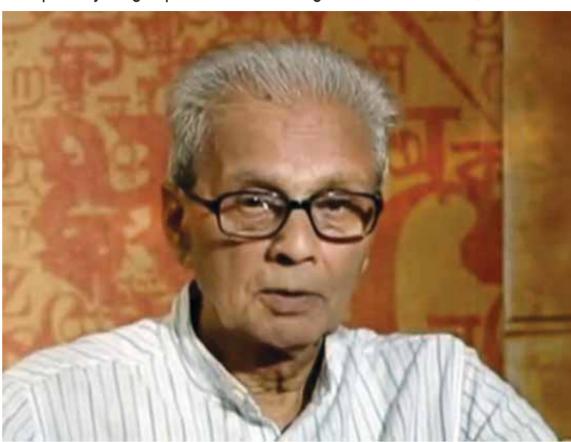
Ever since the highly influential Hindi writer, Sachchidananda Hirankanda Vatsyayan, popularly known by his pen-name Aggrey,

identified the poetic talent of young Kedarnath Singh in 1953, and chose to publish his poems in his prestigious journal, *Prateek* when the latter was only 19-year-old, and later included him in his canonical anthology, *Teesra Sapak*, Singh emerged as a wonderful poet. Singh almost equally wonderfully charted an impressive poetic trajectory during his five-decade-long literary journey. He published as many as eight volumes of immensely engaging poetry written with a distinctly different sensibility from what we witnessed in the preceding Chhayavadi poetry and with a more complex and remarkably consistent but independent poetic vision than we find even among many of his younger and elder contemporaries.

It is often argued that Trilochan Shastri, an elder contemporary poet who was given by literary organisations much earlier along the lines suggested by the Pragatwadi thought, generated a great deal of influence early on the way Singh began to conceptualise the idea of a poet. Many readers emphasise that the radical poet, Pablo Neruda, and the French surrealist poet, Paul Eluard, made a greater impact on the making of Singh's poetic sensibility.

Some discerning voices firmly believe that Singh eventually succumbed in his efforts to develop an effective and independent artistic framework which enabled his rural experiences to sit comfortably side by side with his sophisticated urban outlook. It helped him establish a harmonious connection between his refined poetic diction and stunningly unconventional images, and endeavoured him to put together in a productive way an alert, direct poetic voice with an apparently detached kind of poetic contemplation so as to strike a fine balance between the pulls of modernist tendencies and the pressures of indigenous sensibilities.

But a careful, critical look at his inextricably intertwined personal and poetic journey tells us a different story altogether. Singh has an undying attachment for his village, Chakiya, where he was born and which is situated in the Balia district of Uttar Pradesh. His rural upbringing allowed him to indulge in swimming for hours and climbing trees as a matter of routine. Like villagers of his generation, he loved walking barefoot and speaking Bhojpuri. Moreover, he used to thoroughly enjoy the delightful stories told by his



grandmother from the maternal side, and also those interesting songs that women of his village preferred to sing in the early hours in honour of the mother Ganga.

In fact, the river Ganga runs just three kilometers away from his village, so does river Sarayu. The former flows to the south of the village and the latter to the north. For Singh, it is indeed the rivers that made him aware of the presence of nature whose influence remained undiminished for the entire life.

When he left his village for Varanasi, where he studied first at Uday Pratap Intermediate College and then at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Singh discovered a new world which opened up newer opportunities for his academic and artistic development. College enabled him to read poems from the Indian poets themselves, like Kamayani Singh Dinkar and Hariwansh Rai Bachchan, and in some way encouraged him to begin writing poetry, that he eventually did.

And then he happened to meet his mentor, Trilochan Shastri, a Pragatwadi poet who had already revolutionised Hindi poetry by introducing democratic and radical contents in his very first collection of

SOME DISCERNING VOICES FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SINGH EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE AND INDEPENDENT ARTISTIC FRAMEWORK WHICH ENABLED HIS RURAL EXPERIENCES TO SIT COMFORTABLY SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIS SOPHISTICATED URBAN OUTLOOK

weaver and others like them. A character example can be seen in the embodiment of uneasiness and enduring tension between the rural and urban mindset which is pretty much evident from the poet's persistent anxiety about the presence of a *fatal* (spiral) in the drawing room of a metropolitan city like Delhi. In fact, his poetic endeavours can best be understood and interpreted in terms of his consistent engagement with as realistic representation as possible of the emergent socio-political and cultural conditions in different parts of the nation where he underwent the kind of experiences that a great majority of his compatriots were simultaneously undergoing.

It is precisely such a serious pre-occupation with the post-colonial conditions of the country for the sake of living them a vivid expression in his poetic compositions that primarily defines Singh as a quintessentially post-colonial poet. He chose to narrate with his multi-layered narrative techniques the inescapable predicament of the post-independent nation which encouraged and even compelled young aspirational minds to go far away from their rural, cultural life and to seek their fortune elsewhere which could not afford to forget and indeed kept longing for the rest of their lives.

This is the personal dilemma of the poet himself. But it is the collective of the university offered him too. This historical predicament makes our chances of upward mobility in life almost entirely dependent on a definite disconnection, a sort of rupture with our rural roots in order to often preempt the possibilities of a genuinely satisfying existence so evocatively articulated in the following lines: "My home is/Where we witness tremendous cry".

We all can only aspire as the poet does in his representative poem, *Haath* (hands): "While holding her hands/ Into mine/ I thought/ The world should be as pretty and warm/ As hers." Such aspirations for a better and beautiful world embodied the undercurrents of disappointment, rather disturbing post-colonial moments which constitute an indispensable part of the creative consciousness of post-colonial Indian poet who was a fiercely independent post-colonial mind.

(The writer is Assistant Professor of English at Rajdhani College, Delhi University)

# Give Bt Brinjal the go-ahead

### The Narendra Modi Government must put an end to the ordeal of Bt Brinjal cultivators and consumers with a decisive verdict in favour of science



NAVNEET ANAND

With news circulating that India has sought Bangladesh's opinion on Bt Brinjal, that our farmers have been growing since 2013, the debate on Genetically Modified (GM) crops has come alive. Over 50,000 Bangladeshi farmers have been growing this variety of brinjal for five years now, and apparently, all is well, unlike what was said about Bt Brinjal in India in 2010, just when it was about to be allowed for commercial cultivation. Politics and myopic vision prevailed over science and acumen of our scientists. Activists, adamant at derailing the march of scientific spirit, also had their way. In 2010, under pressure from activists and NGOs, the then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh had ordered an indefinite moratorium on commercial cultivation of Bt Brinjal. This even after scientific communities, including Ministry of Environment & Forests' high-powered body Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had approved it after analysing rigorous scientific studies over a long period of time.

One of India's best seed companies, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) and two agriculture universities — University of Agricultural Science (Dharwad) and Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (Coimbatore) — had signed an agreement in 2005 to develop Bt Brinjal. This was necessitated after scientists considered it appropriate to bring the benefits of advances in science to the farmers by developing a higher variety of brinjal seeds. According to a paper by Bhagirath Choudhary and Kadambini Gaur of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), over 1.4 million small and marginal India farmers produce an estimated of one quarter or about nine million tonnes of brinjal on 56,000 hectares of the total global production of 32 million tonnes. Brinjal is an important vegetable for vast majority of ordinary people in India and is ranked among the second most consumed vegetable after potato.

Brinjal is also among the most vulnerable crops and is prone to massive attacks from pests and insects which in turn affect farmers' incomes. Fruit and shoot borer (FSB) is the most prominent disease and causes losses of upto 70 per cent in commercial plantings. This also leads to indiscriminate use of pesticides. "Farmers usually spray twice a week, applying 15 to 40 insecticide sprays, or more, in one season depending on infestation levels. The decision of farmers to spray is influenced more by subjective assessment of visual presence of FSB rather than guided by the more objective science-based methodology of economic threshold levels. This reliance on subjective assessment of visual presence of FSB on gross over-spraying with insecticides, higher insecticide residue, and unnecessary increase in farmers' exposure to insecticides. For example, for the more productive hybrid brinjal plantings, 54 litres of formulated insecticide per hectare is sprayed, compared with a requirement of only 16 litres when economic thresholds are used to trigger spraying," said Choudhary. This leaves the brinjal with a large amount of pesticides residue, a serious concern for the consumers, even as they have to contend with an inferior quality of brinjals infested with larvae of FSB.

In this backdrop, it was important that science intervened to address this severe challenge. Mahyco developed Bt Brinjal which underwent a rigorous science-based regulatory approval process. Research trials confirmed that insecticide requirement for Bt Brinjal hybrids was on average 90 per cent less than for the non-Bt counterpart for the control of FSB. "As a result of the effective control of FSB, Bt Brinjal's average marketable yield increased by 100 per cent over its non-Bt counterpart hybrids, 116 per cent over popular conventional hybrids and 166 per cent over popular open-pollinated varieties (OPVs) of brinjal," reported Choudhary. This was a big boon for farmers as other than providing an effective control for FSB, Bt Brinjal ensured about 80 per cent less use of pesticides, and more than double the yield for farmers, thereby significantly enhancing farmers' earnings. It was a win-win for farmers and consumers.

The first expert committee in 2006, while concluding that Bt Brinjal was safe, suggested large-scale trials to reaffirm the findings of the scientific studies. In 2009, a second expert committee examined data from these trials and concluded that adequate safety tests had been performed, stating that "the benefits of Bt Brinjal event E-1 developed by M/s Mahyco far outweigh the perceived and projected risks", and advised the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to recommend commercialisation of the Bt Brinjal. The GEAC cleared Bt Brinjal for commercialisation on October 14, 2009.

However, Ramesh chose to ignore science and in February 2010 announced, rather diplomatically, that "until we arrive at a political, scientific and societal consensus, this moratorium will remain". This consensus still eludes us, thereby ensuring that Indian consumers continue to eat/inordinate amount of pesticides and our poor farmers endure the ravage of pests and diseases. Farmers remained poor and those who cried foul also remained silent. This has come for the Narendra Modi Government to end this ordeal with a decisive verdict in favour of science. Politics and myopia be damned.

(The writer is a strategic communications professional)

## OPEN-ENDED (GROWTH)

### SCHEME NAV

#### HDFC MUTUAL FUND

HDFC Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex Plus (FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623
HDFC Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	310.3341
HDFC Index FundSensex Plan (FV Rs 32.161)	306.9514

#### ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

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

#### KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Kotak Bluechip Fund - Dividend	31.653
Kotak Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	34.449
Kotak Bluechip Fund - Growth	210.72
Kotak Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	223.873
Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	21.4
Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	24.775
Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	34.874
Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	37.219
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.0761
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.2733
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7539
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0575
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0972
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.7321
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.4748
Kotak Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.5178
Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	22.874
Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	24.599
Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	105.552
Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	112.204
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.8918
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.3433
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	11.0058
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.5207
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.0839
Kotak Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.9064
Kotak Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	15.144
Kotak Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.921
Kotak Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	15.145
Kotak Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	15.85
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	19.512
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.626
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	47.867
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	51.495
Kotak Infra&Eco Reform F - Standard Plan-Dividend	16.292
Kotak Infra & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Gr	17.882
Kotak Infra & Ec Reform Fund-Direct Plan-Dividend Opt	19.067
Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund-Direct Plan-Growth Opt	19.287
Kotak-Small Cap Fund - Dividend	34.598
Kotak-Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	37.38
Kotak-Small Cap Fund - Growth	66.999
Kotak-Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	71.906
Kotak Standard Multipcap Fund - Dividend	21.002
Kotak Standard Multipcap Fund - Dividend - Direct	22.472
Kotak Standard Multipcap Fund - Growth	31.444
Kotak Standard Multipcap Fund - Growth - Direct	33.266

#### SAHARA MUTUAL FUND

SAHARA BAN&FIN SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	63.9824
SAHARA BAN & FIN SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OP	60.3297
SAHARA BAN & FIN SERV FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	21.7254
SAHARA BAN & FIN SER FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	21.3277
Sahara Growth Fund-Dividend	37.8863
Sahara Growth Fund-Dividend-Direct	38.584
Sahara Growth Fund-Growth	130.4723
Sahara Growth Fund-Growth - Direct	145.7019
Sahara Infra Fund ---FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	20.328
Sahara Infr Fund ---FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Gr	25.5011
Sahara Infr Fund ---FIXED PRICING OPTION-Div Option	17.2864
Sahara Infr Fund ---FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Op	23.6723
Sahara Infr Fund ---VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Di	22.3093
Sahara Infr Fund ---VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dir-Gr	28.0847
Sahara Infr Fund ---VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Di Option	20.1881
Sahara Infr Fund ---VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Gr Opt	27.4433
Sahara Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	72.0822
Sahara Midcap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	77.0124
Sahara Midcap Fund-Bonus	72.0822
Sahara Midcap Fund-Bonus- Direct	77.0124
Sahara Midcap Fund-Dividend-Direct	32.2666
Sahara Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	31.7907
Sahara Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	77.0124
Sahara Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	72.0822
Sahara Power & Natural Res-Fund - Dividend Option	16.6542
Sahara Power & Natural resources Fund- Growth - Direct	21.0339
Sahara Power & Natural resources Fund- Growth Option	19.5262
Sahara Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Dir	16.0357
Sahara R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option	19.4759
Sahara R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	19.8666
Sahara R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund	19.4727
Sahara R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund- Direct	21.4612
Sahara Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	17.0663
Sahara Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	16.7892
Sahara Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	23.3275
Sahara Star Value Fund-Growth Option	21.71
Sahara Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Sahara Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.8994
Sahara Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	20.5631
Sahara Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	18.9178
Sahara Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Div-DivOp	29.3354
Sahara W Fund-F Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	41.3844
Sahara Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Di Option	28.8619
Sahara Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Gr Option	40.5251
Sahara W P Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend	34.6896
Sahara W Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	48.3642
Sahara W P Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	34.2028
Sahara W Plus Fund-V Pricing Option-Growth Option	47.1764

#### SBI MUTUAL FUND

SBI MAGNUM NRI FLEXIASSET PLAN-DIVIDEND	30.3025
SBI MAGNUM NRI FLEXIASSET PLAN-GROWTH	30.1918
SBI ONE I F - DIVIDEND (PRE CL ENDED U 14/01/2010)	10.43
SBI ONE INDIA FUND - GTH (PR CL EN UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43

## OPEN-ENDED (INCOME)

#### DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

DHFL Ph Fxk MAT P - SE 47 - DIRECT PLAN -GROWTH	14.096
DHFL Pramerica FXED MA P - SERIES 47 - RE PL G	13.9784

#### ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

ICICI Prudential Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
ICICI Prudential Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
ICICI Prudential Blended Plan B - Monthly Div Option - I	10.266
ICICI Prudential Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
ICICI Prudential Bl Plan B - Di P - Dividend Option - I	17.7362
ICICI Pru B Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0808
ICICI Pru Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly D Op- I	10.3063
ICICI Pru B Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Di Option - I	10.0227
ICICI Pr Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Qua Di Option - I	10.7
ICICI Pr Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
ICICI Prudential Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	11.9703
ICICI Pru Bd Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.0332
ICICI Prul Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122

ICICI Pr Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan- Cumulative	72.4243
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
ICICI Pru Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Di	10.5669
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
ICICI Pr D Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
ICICI Pr Dyn Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
ICICI Pru Dynic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
ICICI Prudential D Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
ICICI Pru D Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9656
ICICI Prudential D Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
ICICI Prudential Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
ICICI Pru Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Di	10.7894
ICICI Pru In Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
ICICI Pru In Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan Bo	12.628
ICICI Pru Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
ICICI Prudential Inti Fu AnInterval Plan I - Direct Plan - G	18.0131
ICICI Pru Int Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
ICICI Pru In Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883
ICICI Pru I Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.6497
ICICI Pr II Fund Ann Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
ICICI Pru Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
ICICI Prudential Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Gr	23.3622
ICICI Pru I Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874
ICICI Pr Ival Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	21.8977
ICICI Pru I F Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7978
ICICI Pr I Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	10.8352
ICICI Pr Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.7495
ICICI Pru I Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6845
ICICI Pru I Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	21.7637
ICICI Pru Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	11.7708
ICICI Pru I Fund An Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4818
ICICI Pr Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4088
ICICI Pr I Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
ICICI Pru I Fund Mon Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	21.1844
ICICI Pru I Fund Mo Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692
ICICI P In Fund Mon Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
ICICI Pru Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
ICICI P Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
ICICI P I Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
ICICI Pr Interval Fund - Qu Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
ICICI P In F Qua Int Plan - I Retail Qualy Dividend Payout	10.0022
ICICI Pru I Fund Qua Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
ICICI Pru I Fu Qua Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
ICICI Pru I Fu Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Growth	17.5944
ICICI Prude Int Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Dividend	10.0017
ICICI Pru Int F Qua Int Plan - DirP - Quary D Payout	10.0023
ICICI P Int F - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271
ICICI P I F - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296
ICICI Pr I Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
ICICI Pr Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
ICICI Prudential Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9885
ICICI Pr In F- Qua I Pla III - Dir Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0085
ICICI Pru In Fund - Qua Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0063
ICICI Pr I Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
ICICI Pr I Fund III Qua Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
ICICI Pr In Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
ICICI Prudent Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
ICICI Prudential Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
ICICI P I Fund - Ser VI - An Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
ICICI P I F - SeVI - An I Plan - A - Direct Plan - Cumulative	13.9796
ICICI P I F - Se VI - An Inl Plan - A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.9291
ICICI P I F - Se VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
ICICI P I F - Se VI - An P - C - Direct Plan - Cumulative	14.9835
ICICI P I F - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
ICICI P I F - Series VI - An In P - D - Dict Plan - Cumulative	14.9454
ICICI P I F - S VI - An I Plan - D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.441
ICICI P I F - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
ICICI P I F - Series VII - A I P - C - Direct Plan - Cumulative	13.7979
ICICI P I F - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
ICICI Pru I Fu II - Qua In P A - Di P - Qua Dividend Payout	10.2479
ICICI P Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
ICICI Pru In Fu II - Querty Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
ICICI Pru Interval Full Qua In P A - Qerty Dividend Payout	10.0015
ICICI P I F II Querty Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
ICICI P I F II Quar In Pl A - Ret Quarterly Dividend Payout	13.6425
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
ICICI P I F II Qerty Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
ICICI P I F II Qerty Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Div Pay	10.0016
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - D	10.0016
ICICI P I F II Qerty Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth	14.0323
ICICI Pru Int Fund II Qu In Plan C - DirP- Qu D Payout	10.2204
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan C - In Q D Payout	10.2061
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
ICICI P I F II Quarterly In P D - Di P - Qu Dividend Payout	10.1535
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7073
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469
ICICI Pru I F II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Quarterly Di Pay	10.2309
ICICI P I F II - Dividend Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
ICICI P I F II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Div	10.0168
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Gr	17.1738
ICICI P I F II Quarterly In P F - Di P- Orly Dividend Payout	10.0095
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825
ICICI P I F II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth	17.716
ICICI P I F II Q I Plan F Retail Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0046
ICICI P I F IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009
ICICI P I F IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
ICICI P I F IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Di	10.001
ICICI P I F IV Qua Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794
ICICI P I F IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Q D P	10.2084
ICICI P I F IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
ICICI P I F IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.1688
ICICI P I F Q I Plan - II - Retail Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.234
ICICI P I F V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
ICICI P I F V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
ICICI P I F V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Di	10.0003
ICICI P I F V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.9183
ICICI P I F V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
ICICI P I F V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735
ICICI Prudential MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
ICICI Prudential MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
ICICI Prudential MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
ICICI Prudential MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829
ICICI Prudential MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171
ICICI Prudential MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248
ICICI Prudential MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602
ICICI Prudential MIP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
ICICI Prudential MIP - Growth	48.1366

#### JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

JM Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.6057
JM MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
JM MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
JM MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Di	19.5151
JM MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
JM MIP Fund (Direct)- Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
JM MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
JM MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
JM MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503
JM MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362
JM MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976

#### JM Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option

JM Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5684
JM Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.4602

#### KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Kotak Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Kotak Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Rei	10.188
Kotak B and PSU Debt - Dir Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604
Kotak Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	40.0759
Kotak Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.4693
Kotak Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Kotak Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.69
Kotak Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.5704
Kotak Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.1348
Kotak Bond - Growth - Direct	50.2741
Kotak Bond - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.6058
Kotak Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.4525
Kotak Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Kotak Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736
Kotak Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Kotak Bond Regular Plan Growth	48.0727
Kotak Bond Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	10.7502
Kotak Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Kotak Bond-Deposit-Growth	

'More than 60K Indians received Green cards in year 2017'

Washington (PTI): Out of the over 600,000 Indians waiting for the most sought-after Green Card, only 60,394 have received the legal permanent residency last year which allows them to live and work in the US, according to the latest official figures. Under the current regulation, skilled immigrants from India need to wait anywhere between 25-92 years for a Green Card due to per-country limits, said GCREforms.org, a website founded by members of the Indian diaspora living in the United States that focuses on immigration issues.

As of April 2018, there were 632,219 Indian immigrants and their spouses and minor children waiting for Green cards. Of the 60,394 Indians who received Green cards in 2017, the maximum 23,569 were issued to the employment-based preferences like those on the H-1B visas.

Having a Green Card allows a person to live and work permanently in the US. Indian-Americans, most of whom are highly skilled and come to the US mainly on the H-1B work visas are the worst sufferers of the current immigration system which imposes a 7 per cent per country quota on allotment of Green cards or permanent legal residency.

As many as 20,549 Indians were issued Green cards in the capacity of them being immediate relatives (spouses, children and parents) of the US citizens, while 14,962 Indians were issued the Green cards under the family sponsored categories like brothers and sisters. The latest annual figures released on October 2 by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), however, reveal that the number of Indians getting Green cards has dropped - albeit marginally - than the previous two years.

In 2015, as many as 64,116 Indians were issued legal permanent residency, and the next year in 2016, the figure was 64,687. Among the employment-based preferences - which is the route followed by the H-1B visa holders - 137,855 Green cards were issued.

The DHS said around half of its Green cards were issued to the immediate relatives of US citizens - spouses (292,909), children (74,989) and parents (148,610). In all 1,127,167 million foreigners received Green cards, which is a step below citizenship, in the year 2017, the figures revealed.

# US plans changes in H-1B visas by Jan ... move to impact Indian IT firms

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has said it is planning to "revise" the definition of employment and specialty occupations under the H-1B visas by January, a move which will have an adverse impact on Indian IT companies in the US and small and medium-sized contractual firms mostly owned by Indian-Americans.

The H-1B visa, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on Wednesday that the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) plans to come out with its new proposal by January, 2019.

The DHS said it was also proposing to remove from its regulations certain H-4 spouses of H-1B non-immigrants as a class of aliens eligible for employment authorisation.

The move to end the rule



could have an impact on more than 70,000 H-4 visa holders, who have work permits.

The H-4 visas are issued by the USCIS to immediate family members (spouse and children under 21 years of age) of the holders of H-1B visa.

The DHS said it will "propose to revise the definition of specialty occupation" to increase focus on obtaining the best and the brightest foreign nationals via the H-1B programme.

It will also "revise the definition" of employment and employer-employee relationship to "better protect" US workers and wages, the DHS said. Such a move, which is part

of the Unified Fall Agenda of the Trump administration, will have a detrimental impact on the functioning of Indian IT companies in the US and also small and medium-sized contractual companies in the IT sector, which are mostly owned by Indian-Americans.

In addition, the DHS will propose additional requirements designed to ensure employers pay appropriate wages to H-1B visa holders, the administration said.

The H-1B visa has an annual numerical limit cap of 65,000 visas each fiscal year as mandated by the Congress. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with

a US master's degree or higher are exempt from the cap.

As an H-1B non-immigrant, the applicant may be admitted for a period of up to three years. The time period may be extended, but generally cannot go beyond a total of six years.

The DHS said it was also finalising its interim regulation governing petitions filed on behalf of alien workers subject to the annual numerical limitations applicable to the H-1B non-immigrant classification. This rule precludes an individual from filing duplicate petitions on behalf of the same alien temporary worker.

The rule also makes accommodations for petitioners to create a more efficient filing process for H-1B petitions subject to the annual numerical limitation.

Observing that the demand for H-1B visas has often exceeded the numerical limitation, the DHS said it was proposing to establish an electronic registration programme for such applications.

This will allow USCIS to more efficiently manage the intake and lottery process for these H-1B petitions, it said.

The Trump administration is reviewing the H-1B visa policy that it thinks is being

misused by companies to replace American workers.

The administration has said publicly and also in its court filing that it wants to revoke work permits to H-4 visa holders, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans and women.

The move will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

The DHS in its Unified Fall Agenda said it believed that abandoning the current practice of granting employment authorisation to H-4 dependent spouses would benefit some US workers.

It said the proposed rule would no longer allow H-4 workers to enter the labour market early. The DHS, which has already delayed three times this year issuing of the necessary notification, said it was on its way to remove H-4 dependent spouses from getting work authorisation.

As of December 25, 2017, US Citizenship and Immigration Services had approved 126,853 applications for employment authorisation for H-4 visa holders.

These count all approvals since May 2015 when the rule was implemented. This number includes 90,946 initial approvals, 35,219 renewals, and 688 replacements for lost cards.

# US move to abolish H-4 visas set to impact tens of thousands of Indians

Washington: Abandoning the Obama-era rule of granting work permits to H-4 visa holders - who are spouses of professionals holding H-1B visas, mostly Indians - will benefit some US workers, the Department of Homeland Security believes. The Trump administration is planning to revoke a rule that makes spouses of thousands of immigrant workers eligible to work while in the US, a move that could impact tens of thousands of Indians.

H-4 visa is issued to the spouse of H-1B visa holders, a significantly large number of whom are high-skilled professionals from India. They had obtained work permits under a special order issued by the previous Obama administration in 2015. The move to end the rule could have an impact on more than 70,000 H-4 visa holders, who have work permits. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its Unified Fall Agenda released on Wednesday said it believed that abandoning the current practice of granting employment authorisation to H-4 dependent spouses would benefit some US workers. The DHS said the proposed rule would no longer allow H-4

workers to enter the labour market early.

The DHS, which has already delayed three times this year issuing of the necessary notification, said in its agenda that it was on its way to remove H-4 dependent spouses from getting work authorisation. In its agenda, the DHS said it anticipated that there would be two primary impacts that it can estimate and quantify.

First, the cost-savings accruing to forgone future filings by certain H-4 dependent spouses, and labour turnover costs that employers of H-4 workers could incur when their employees' employment authorisations are terminated. "Some US workers would benefit from this proposed rule by having a better chance at obtaining jobs that some of the population of the H-4 workers currently hold, as the proposed rule would no longer allow H-4 workers to enter the labour market early," it said. As of December 25, 2017, US Citizenship and Immigration Services had approved 126,853 applications for employment authorisation for H-4 visa holders.

These count all approvals since May 2015 when the rule was implemented. PTI

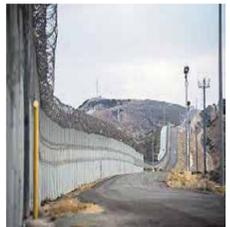
# Trump threatens to close US-Mexico border over migrant 'onslaught'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump threatened Thursday to send the military to close its southern border if Mexico fails to stem the "onslaught" of migrants from Central America, in a series of tweets that blamed opposition Democrats.

The attack comes less than three weeks before midterm elections where Trump's Republicans are fighting to retain control of Congress, and as thousands of migrants from impoverished Honduras were marching north through Guatemala toward the United States.

"I am watching the Democrat Party led (because they want Open Borders and existing weak laws) assault on our country by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, whose leaders are doing little to stop this large flow of people, INCLUDING MANY CRIMI-



NALS," Trump said. "In addition to stopping all payments to these countries, which seem to have almost no control over their population, I must, in the strongest of terms, ask Mexico to stop this onslaught - and if unable to do so I will call up the US Military and CLOSE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER!"

The tweets came as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepared to embark on a tour of the region that will see him visit Mexico ahead of its December inauguration of President-elect Andres Manuel

Lopez Obrador, as well as Panama.

Trump has made cracking down on illegal immigration a keystone of his presidency, but his animus toward Mexico had cooled in recent times with Obrador's election. Despite their ideological differences, the pair have so far been able to make progress on several issues, including the signing of an updated transcontinental trade pact, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). But, possibly with an eye ahead to the forthcoming polls that will be crucial in determining whether the White House will continue to be able to set the legislative agenda, Trump appeared willing to return to his previous fiery rhetoric.

"The assault on our country at our Southern Border, including the Criminal elements and DRUGS pouring in, is far more important to me, as President, than Trade or the USMCA," he said.

# US Congressman seeks designation of Pak as state sponsor of terrorism

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A top Republican lawmaker has urged the Trump administration to immediately designate Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism and terminate its non-NATO ally status, asserting that Islamabad consistently defends Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed and condemns US counterterrorism efforts.

Congressman Ted Poe said in the House of Representatives that Pakistan will not receive any financial support from the US if terrorists continue to live safely in the country. "Now is the day of reckoning. All assistance to Pakistan must end, its Major non-NATO ally status must be terminated, and the State Department should immediately designate it as a state sponsor of terrorism," Poe said last week, according to Congressional records.

In his remarks, the Republican Congressman from



Texas slammed Pakistan's Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi for what he described as lecturing the US on aid.

"While I do not oppose open engagement with Pakistan, our position must be clear: Pakistan will not receive a dime of US support if terrorists continue to live safely on their soil," he said.

two countries, he would accept responsibility and acknowledge that countless terrorists still live inside Pakistan. "This country has been the epicenter for extremism for decades, where extremists are still able to hold massive public rallies to incite young men to violence. This isn't conjecture, the evidence is well documented," he asserted.

Poe said Mumbai terror attack mastermind and the founder of the US and UN-designated terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba Hafiz Saeed operated freely in Pakistan.

Despite his role in the 2008 Mumbai attack, Saeed leads public rallies and can raise money for extremists causes, he said. "Yet, Pakistan, including its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, consistently defends Saeed and condemns US counterterrorism efforts," Poe said. He said Qureshi even claimed terrorist groups that target Pakistan had safe haven in Afghanistan under the US' watch.

# UK PM says open to longer post-Brexit transition

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

Prime Minister Theresa May confirmed Thursday that Britain would consider extending the transition period after Brexit for a few months if needed to agree a new trade deal with the EU.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier raised the idea as a way of breaking the deadlock on how to keep Britain's border with Ireland open after Brexit, the key issue holding up the divorce talks. But May emphasised she did not expect the extension beyond the current date of December 2020 to be needed, amid anger among eurosceptics at home that Britain could be tied to the EU indefinitely.

Arriving for a second day of summit talks in Brussels, May noted that both sides remained at odds over a "back-



stop" plan to avoid frontier checks in Ireland if and until a new trade deal could be signed.

"A further idea that has emerged - and it is an idea at this stage - is to create an option to extend the implementation period for a matter of months," she said. "But the point is that this is not expected to be used, because we are working to ensure that we

have that future relationship in place by the end of December 2020.

"I'm clear that it is possible to do that (deal) and that is what we are working for. "And in those circumstances there would be no need for any proposal of this sort and I'm clear that I expect the implementation period to end at the end of December 2020." The possibility of an extension made front-page news in Britain on Thursday and some eurosceptic MPs warned they could not accept such a plan.

The top-selling The Sun tabloid warned it was "an outrageous non-starter". "Unless she can give a date when we will leave the EU and ALL its major institutions she cannot claim to have fulfilled the referendum vote" in 2016 for Brexit, it said in an editorial.

# US could remove India from currency monitoring list

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India could be removed from US' currency monitoring list of major trading partners, the Treasury Department has said, citing certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi which address some of its major concerns. India for the first time was placed by the US in its currency monitoring list of countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies in April along with five other countries - China, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland.

The Department of Treasury maintained the same monitoring list in its latest report released on Wednesday but said if India continued with the same practices as in the last six months, it would be removed from its next bi-annual report. "India's circumstances have shifted markedly, as the central bank's net sales of foreign



exchange over the first six months of 2018 led net purchases over the four quarters through June 2018 to fall to USD 4 billion, or 0.2 per cent of the GDP," the Treasury said in its latest semi-annual Report on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the US. This represented a notable

change from 2017, when purchases over the first three quarters of the year pushed net purchases of foreign exchange above two per cent of the GDP, it said.

Recent sales have come amidst a turnaround in foreign portfolio flows, as foreign investors pulled portfolio capital out of India (and many other emerging markets) over the first

half of the year, it said. The rupee depreciated by around seven per cent against the dollar and by more than four per cent on a real effective basis in the first half of 2018, the report said. India has a significant bilateral goods trade surplus with the US, totalling USD 23 billion over the four quarters through June 2018, but India's current account is in deficit at 1.9 per cent of the GDP.

"As a result, India now only meets one of the three criteria from the 2015 Act.

If this remains the case at the time of its next report, Treasury would remove India from the monitoring list," the Treasury said. Observing that India's current account deficit widened in the four quarters through June 2018 to 1.9 per cent of the GDP, following several years of narrowing from its 2012 peak, the Treasury said the current account deficit has been driven by a large and persistent goods trade deficit, which has in

turn resulted from substantial gold and petroleum imports. The goods trade deficit has widened out in the first half to 6.4 per cent of the GDP as oil prices have risen.

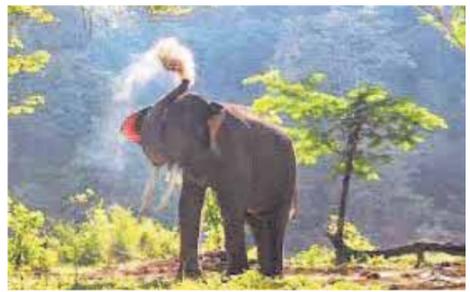
The IMF projects the current account deficit to be around 2.5 per cent of the GDP over the medium term as domestic demand strengthens further and favourable growth prospects support investment. India's goods trade surplus with the US was USD 23 billion for the four quarters through June 2018, it said, adding that India also had a small surplus in services trade with the US of USD 4 billion over the same period.

"India's exports to the US are concentrated in sectors that reflect India's global specialisation (notably pharmaceuticals and IT services), while US exports to India are dominated by key service trade categories, particularly travel and higher education," the report said.

# Indian elephant Sujata euthanised in Calif zoo

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Sujatha, a 47-year-old Indian elephant at a popular zoo in the US state of California, has been euthanised after the "beloved" animal failed to respond to an array of treatments employed to address her old age complications. The Santa Barbara Zoo announced on Wednesday the passing of Sujatha, one of its two Asian elephants.



difficult moment in 20 years" for him.

"She had been a beloved member of the Santa Barbara community ever since," he said, said in a statement

posted on the zoo's website.

"It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of 47-year-old Sujatha, one of the Santa Barbara Zoo's two Asian elephants," Block said.

Sujatha is considered elderly for her species and had been facing age-related challenges over the past three years, Block said. "We employed an array of treatments to address her challenges and pain, including laser therapy, stem cell treatments, physical therapy, hydrotherapy and medications.

"In the last two weeks, her health began to decline more dramatically. After exhausting all options to help Sujatha and following weeks of discussions, the difficult decision was made to humanely euthanise her last night (Tuesday)," he said. Sujatha shared exceptionally close bonds with her keeper staff of many years, as well with her lifelong companion, Little Mac.

# Autistic kids more likely to be obese: Study

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Children with developmental delays, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), are up to 50 per cent more likely to be overweight or obese compared with the general population, according to a study.

Among children with ASD, those with a higher degree of impairment and more severe symptoms were found to be at even greater risk of developing obesity by age five, said researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

The study, published in The Journal of Pediatrics,



included nearly 2,500 children between the ages of two and five years old.

This age group is especially relevant, since it is an important window for early obesity prevention, researchers said. The study analysed 668 children with ASD, 914 children with developmental delays or

disorders and 884 children from the general population who served as controls.

The study showed that children with ASD were 1.57 times more likely to be overweight or obese than the general population.

Children with developmental delays were 1.38 times more likely to be overweight or obese. The risk for obesity was even more pronounced in children with severe ASD symptoms, as they were 1.7 times more likely to be classified as overweight or obese than children with mild ASD symptoms.

"These findings make it clear that monitoring these children for excess weight gain

at an early age is critical, and that prevention efforts should be expanded to include not just children with ASD, but those with other developmental diagnoses, as well," said Susan E. Levy, director of the Center for Autism Research at CHOP.

Although increased obesity in children with ASD has been reported in other studies, this study is the first to examine if children with other developmental disabilities are also at increased risk for developing obesity.

The researchers examined connections between excess weight gain and the presence of other medical, behavioural, developmental, or psychiatric conditions.

# 'US asks Turkey for audio tape in Khashoggi's alleged killing'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

America has asked Turkey for an audio recording in the suspected murder of Jamal Khashoggi, US President Donald Trump has said as he sought a full report from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the dissident Saudi journalist's mysterious disappearance.

Khashoggi, 60, is feared to have been killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The incident has resulted in a global outrage, more so in the US where he lived as a legal permanent resident and worked for "The Washington Post". Khashoggi vanished on October 2 after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Turkish authorities suspect he was abducted and murdered by the Saudis.

But Riyadh insists that the journalist, a known critic of Saudi King Salman, had left the building and that murder claims are "baseless".

Trump told reporters at the White House that he had asked Turkey for the audio that gives a clue of the alleged brutal killing of Khashoggi. "We've asked for it, if it exists," he said. The New York Times, citing the content of the audio made available through its Turkish sources, said the audio gave a detailed account of the alleged brutal murder of Khashoggi. "I'm not sure yet that it exists. Probably does. Possibly does. I'll have a full report on that from Mike when he comes back," Trump said, referring to his meeting with Mike Pompeo on Thursday on his return from Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

"That's going to be the first question I ask him," he said. On his way back from Saudi Arabia and Turkey, Pompeo refused to comment on the existence of the audio tape.



"Have you heard or asked to hear the alleged audio on the actual murder?" he was asked. "I don't have anything to say about that," Pompeo said, insisting Khashoggi was missing and the Saudi government has launched a probe.

"They're going to do their investigation. I know you all are going to ask questions. I'm going to be very consistent: We're going to give them the space to complete their investigations of this incident, and when they issue their reports, we'll form our judgment about thoroughness, depth, and the decisions they make about accountability connected to that," Pompeo said. Trump told reporters that he wanted to find out from Pompeo what had happened.

"He went to Turkey; he went all over. But he spent a lot of time with the Crown Prince, and he's going to have a full report. I'm not giving cover at all," he said, refuting allegations that he is being soft on the Saudi establishment.

"Saudi Arabia has been a very important ally of ours in the Middle East. We are stopping Iran. We're not trying to stop Iran. We went a big step when we took away that ridiculous deal that was made by the

previous administration - the Iran deal - which was USD 150 billion and USD 1.8 billion in cash. What was that all about?" he asked.

"They (Saudis) are an ally. We have other very good allies in the Middle East. But if you look at Saudi Arabia, they're an ally and they're a tremendous purchaser of not only military equipment, but other things," he said. "When I went there, they committed to purchase USD 450 billion worth of things, and USD 110 billion worth of military (equipment). Those are the biggest orders in the history of this country - probably the history of the world. I don't think there's ever been any order for USD 450 billion," Trump said.

However, lawmakers continued to call for action against the Saudi establishment. Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said as additional questions and reports accumulate around the disappearance and reported torture and assassination of Khashoggi, so too does the list of misstatements, falsehoods, and denials from the Saudi Arabian government.

"These responses intended to answer international criticism of Crown Prince

Mohammad bin Salman's regime have included everything from categorical denials to claims that operatives of the Saudi government may have inadvertently murdered Khashoggi while attempting to detain, interrogate, and torture him in violation of international law," he said.

"Yet despite so much evidence to the contrary, President Trump appears ready to believe the Saudi Arabian government's denials. While President Trump may accept Saudi Arabia's denials about the disappearance and death of Khashoggi at face value, the American people won't," Krishnamoorthi said.

Senator Patrick Leahy said the credible, detailed reports from the Turkish government and the international press that Khashoggi was tortured and murdered after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 had shocked the world.

"While we do not yet have definitive proof, neither is there any other plausible explanation," he said.

Meanwhile, 11 Democratic Senators wrote to Trump seeking a full accounting of any financial ties between the Trump Organization and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This comes days after a bipartisan group of 22 senators recently triggered a probe and a Global Magnitsky Act determination relating to the circumstances surrounding Khashoggi's disappearance and possible murder.

"It is imperative that this sanctions determination, and US policy towards Saudi Arabia generally, are not influenced by any conflicts of interest that may exist because of your or your family's deep financial ties to Saudi Arabia," the Democratic senators wrote.

# French min pulls out of Saudi conference over Khashoggi

AFP ■ PARIS

French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said Thursday he was pulling out of a major investment conference in Saudi Arabia over the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. "I won't go to Riyadh next week," Le Maire told France's Public Senat TV channel, adding that "the current circumstances do not allow me to go to Riyadh".

The minister echoed President Emmanuel Macron's remarks last week on Khashoggi's disappearance, calling it a "very serious" matter. Le Maire is one of the first senior Western officials to pull out of the October 23-25 Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he will decide on Thursday whether to attend. Several busi-



ness titans and Western media groups have already pulled out of the conference organized by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund.

Khashoggi, who was living in self-imposed exile in the United States where he contributed to the Washington Post, vanished after entering

the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. He was critical of some of Saudi Arabia's policies.

Turkish officials claim he was killed and dismembered in the consulate by a hit squad which arrived from Riyadh — claims denied by the Saudi government.

# US newspaper publishes 'last piece' by missing journalist

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Two weeks after he disappeared, The Washington Post has published what it said appears to be Jamal Khashoggi's final column, in which the missing Saudi journalist writes of the importance of a free press in the Arab world. Such a forum is currently lacking, says Khashoggi, a Post contributor and US resident who disappeared entering Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

"The Arab world is facing its own version of an Iron Curtain, imposed not by external actors but through domestic forces vying for power," he writes. "The Arab world needs a modern version of the old transnational media so citizens can be informed about global events. More important, we need to provide a platform for



Arab voices," Khashoggi writes. "Through the creation of an independent international forum, isolated from the influence of nationalist governments spreading hate through propaganda, ordinary people in the Arab world would be able to address the structural problems their societies face."

The ultimate fate of Khashoggi - whose writings have been critical of powerful Saudi Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman - is still unknown, but leaks by anonymous Turkish officials have painted a picture of him allegedly meeting a grisly demise in the consulate at the hands of Saudi agents.

Saudi Arabia has denied to the United States having knowledge of what happened at the consulate. In the introduction to Khashoggi's column - which was accompanied by a photo of the smiling writer - the Post's Global Opinions editor Karen Attiah said the newspaper held off on publishing it in the hopes that he would return.

"Now I have to accept: That is not going to happen. This is the last piece of his I will edit for The Post," Attiah wrote. "This column perfectly captures his commitment and passion for freedom in the Arab world."

# China 'regrets' US leaving postal union amid trade dispute

Beijing (AP): China says it regrets Washington's decision to leave the United Nations treaty that regulates international postage amid a worsening trade dispute between the world's top two economies.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Thursday the move should not be linked to China, despite arguments that the arrangement especially benefits Chinese manufacturers by making it cheaper to ship packages from Beijing to New York than from San Francisco to the US East coast.

President Donald Trump says the 144-year-old Universal Post Union puts US businesses at a disadvantage and is used by shippers of the narcotic fentanyl to the US from China. The move comes as the US has imposed tariffs on USD 250 billion in Chinese goods and Beijing has retaliated by targeting USD 110 billion in US products.

# Ex-Chinese internment camp detainee denied US visa

Beijing (AP): An outspoken former detainee in China's internment camps for Muslims says his application for a visa to visit the US was rejected despite an invitation to speak at Congress about his ordeal.

Kazakh national Omir Bekali was asked to travel to Washington in September by the chairs of the Congressional-Executive Committee on China.

He said his application was rejected by the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2 after he was questioned about his employment status.

Bekali was one of the first people to speak out publicly about his experience in a camp in China's Xinjiang



region, where an estimated 1 million Muslims are being detained.

The State Department declined to comment on Bekali's case, saying US immigration law prohibits it from discussing individual visa cases.

# SC dismisses petition seeking Imran Khan's disqualification

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a review petition filed by a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Imran Khan over non-disclosure of his assets and ownership of off-shore companies. An apex court bench headed by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar dismissed the review petition filed by PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi, saying that "no lawful point has been raised in the petition", Geo TV reported.

During the hearing, Abbasi's lawyer said, "Imran provided documents in pieces which were not verified and not acceptable." At this, the chief justice said, "The court decides whether it is satisfied with the documents that are submitted and we are satisfied with the ones we received." Abbasi's lawyer, however, said, "If the court was advised then it would have clarified the law." In response, Chief Justice Nisar



said, "We have clarified the law in our decision."

Last month, the apex court had refused to form a full bench to hear Abbasi's review petition against its decision to dismiss the disqualification case against Prime Minister Imran. In his 13-page review petition, Abbasi had demanded the disqualification of Khan over non-disclosure of his assets and ownership of off-shore companies. The petition stated that now, since Imran has become the prime minister, the matter is more pertinent for the public.

# Taliban target NATO convoy, kill two Afghan civilians

Kabul (AP): A Taliban suicide bomber slammed into a NATO convoy near the Afghan capital, killing two civilians and injuring five Czech troops, Afghan officials and the Czech military said on Thursday. The attack, which took place late Wednesday in the district of Bagram in Parwan province, also wounded three Afghan civilians, said Wahida Shakar, spokeswoman for the provincial governor.

Bagram is about 40 kilometers (24 miles) from Kabul and is also the home of a sprawling US military base. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Of the five Czech soldiers, one was seriously injured when their vehicle overturned following the explosion. The soldier underwent surgery and the Czech military said he was not in life-threatening condition.

Earlier, NATO spokeswoman Sgt 1st Class Debra Richardson had said three



alliance service members were hurt in the bombing but didn't provide more details. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said an insurgent suicide bomber rammed his car into the NATO convoy.

The attack on the NATO convoy came at the end of a particularly violent day across Afghanistan as tensions are rising ahead of the country's parliamentary elections on Saturday. A Taliban bombing in southern Helmand province killed a candidate running in the elections. The Taliban also attacked checkpoints in the

northern Baglan province, killing six policemen and wounding two others in a four-hour battle. Also, in eastern Maidan Wardak province, a suicide car bomber targeted a military vehicle, killing two Afghan army troops. The Taliban have threatened the polls and warned teachers and students not to participate in the vote and not to allow schools to be used as polling centers.

The insurgents said in a statement Wednesday that they will target Saturday's elections, which they view as illegitimate, but that they do not want to harm civilians. In recent months, Afghan troops have come under near-daily attacks.

NATO troops, which handed over security to Afghan forces at the end of 2014, mostly train and assist with air power. So far this year, eight US soldiers and three other NATO service members have died in Afghanistan. N

# Turkish photographer Ara Guler dead at 90

Istanbul (AP): Ara Guler, an acclaimed Turkish journalist and photographer known as "the Eye of Istanbul" for his iconic black-and-white pictures of the city and its residents, has died. He was 90. The Florence Nightingale Hospital in Istanbul said that Guler died of heart and respiratory failure late Wednesday. Guler, from



Turkey's minority Armenian community, was born in Istanbul in 1928. In a career that spanned several decades, he worked for Magnum Photos, Paris Match and Germany's Stern among other organisations, interviewing and photographing politicians and artists, including Winston Churchill, Dali and Picasso.

# Malaysia opp leader held for graft

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's opposition leader was arrested Thursday on suspicion of corruption, a fresh blow to his party which was ousted at elections this year after six decades in power.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, a former deputy premier and ally of scandal-mired ex-leader Najib Razak, was detained after being questioned by anti-corruption authorities. He will be charged Friday.

He is head of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the lynchpin in a coalition of parties that ruled Malaysia from independence in 1957 until their shock defeat in May polls. The UMNO has been on the ropes since, with many coalition partners abandoning a party that had become synonymous with widespread graft, divisive racial politics and a rotten ruling elite. Najib has also been arrested and charged over allegations he oversaw the plundering of state fund IMDB, a scandal that played a major part in the election defeat. Ahmad Zahid was arrested in "relation to an investigation into abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering",



the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission said. It gave no further details but local media reported that he was accused of misappropriating 800,000 ringgit (USD 190,000) from a foundation he chairs to settle credit card payments in 2014 and 2015.

"I urge UMNO members to remain calm and follow the rule of law," Ahmad Zahid told AFP before his arrest. The UMNO quickly came to the defence of Ahmad Zahid, who was elected as party chief after May's polls, and said the arrest was politically motivated.

"This action is a strategy to portray Zahid as an untrustworthy and unqualified leader," said Jalaluddin Alias, a member of the party's supreme council. Ahmad Zahid, who also served as interior minister in the last government, stuck by Najib even as other senior figures abandoned him over the IMDB graft scandal.

US authorities say more than USD 4.5 billion was misappropriated from the fund, with nearly USD 700 million diverted into Najib's personal bank accounts. The ex-leader has denied any wrongdoing.

# Social media may help beat depression

PTI ■ WASHIN GTON

With a few finger strokes or swipes on a computer or smartphone, older adults with pain may reduce their risk of depression when visiting social media sites, according to a study. Researchers at the University of Michigan in the US found that using social media can reduce the negative health effects of curtailed social contact that comes as a consequence of pain. The findings are significant among an ageing society where social isolation and loneliness are key determinants of well-being.

"Our results may be possibly extended to other forms of conditions (eg, chronic illnesses, functional limitations) that, like pain, also restrict physical activity outside of the home," said Shannon Ang, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan.

Ang, along with Tuo-Yu Chen of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, used data from a nationally representative survey involving more than 3,400 Medicare beneficiaries aged 65 and older in 2011. The respondents were asked about



depression, pain and their social participation.

The data, however, does not distinguish between the types of social media that older adults use — although 17 per cent of them had used a social networking site in the last month. To capture if purport-

ed benefits were from social media and not just from general internet use, the analysis was adjusted for various online uses such as paying bills or shopping for groceries, Ang said.

The findings showed older adults who experienced pain

were less likely to participate in social activities that require face-to-face interactions, which offers mental benefits.

Social media may preserve cognitive function and psychological well-being in this population, the researchers said.

# Globally desi

President of Indian Culinary Forum, Chef DAVINDER KUMAR, aspires to make India a culinary destination. By AYUSHI SHARMA

We started with traditional and classic then came Mughal cuisine after that it was fusion and then came molecular, and now we are heading back to classic and traditional one. We have started using grains like unpolished pulses, rice, which we had forgotten over time because of industrialisation, commercialisation, transformation and because of the taste and preferences of the young generation," says Chef Davinder Kumar, President of Indian Culinary Forum, which is India's association of professional chefs. He has been a part of the industry for decades and has been a keen observer of the transitions that he has witnessed.

The chef strongly feels that Indian food is growing into two directions. One is classic and traditional and other is the modern and contemporary cuisine. He says, "Traditional cuisine prepared with conventional methods and accurate recipes is going to sustain. Modern is basically a mixture of traditional food presented with a contemporary twist. I even call it as an experimental cuisine where we play with various different flavours, ingredients and spices." He also feels that people love experimenting and delving into something new as well as unique. He says, "I don't think they are fed up of eating *Dal makhani* or *Paneer tikka*, but they won't mind seeking new tastes."

Elaborating upon this further, he goes on to add, "Food trends are rapidly growing and changing. When it comes to millennials they want casual dining and fun cooking. The focus is on healthy cuisines these days but healthy doesn't mean that it's food for a sick person. Instead it's a complete balanced meal which is tastier and well-presented as well. The difference comes in as some precautions are to be taken like making it with a lot of proteins, less of carbs, devoid of fat and using simple methods like steaming or oven baking. The focus is also on going back to basics; lighter cuisines which are prepared with organic and fresh ingredients."

He believes in blending and infusing the flavours but says, that one should never lose the root of



the cuisine, nor its originality and authenticity.

The popularity of pan-Asian cuisines is overdue in his opinion. Two decades back it was North Indian cuisines worldwide, *Butter chicken*, *Fish tikka*, *dal* and nothing beyond that. He points out, "But in the last two decades or so the awareness of original and ethnic food has grown in our country. People are now trying to preserve the authenticity of our Indian cuisines."

Looking beyond the country, food is a great tool of soft diplo-

macy and with Indian cuisine gaining popularity in other countries not just among Indian expats but also residents, chefs can be considered ambassadors of the soft power that the country can wield. Davinder aspires to make India a global culinary destination as he feels that by its sheer diversity in curries and cuisines it can beat any country in the world.

He says, "We need to document our traditional, ethnic and regional cuisines. In order to maintain the authenticity, we should teach these cuisines at

different catering institutes. It is very important for every chef who is a proud Indian to save our culinary heritage and promote India as culinary destination, for working towards that direction we need to hold food festivals across world, work out various marketing plans and organise cuisine tours in India where foreign guests can have a great experience and remember the food they were served."

The chef agrees with GB Shaw when he says, "There is no love sincerer than the love of food."

Fasting can also mean feasting, discovers CHAHAK MITTAL, who digs her spoon into the special Navratri *thali* to amble down the lanes of memory



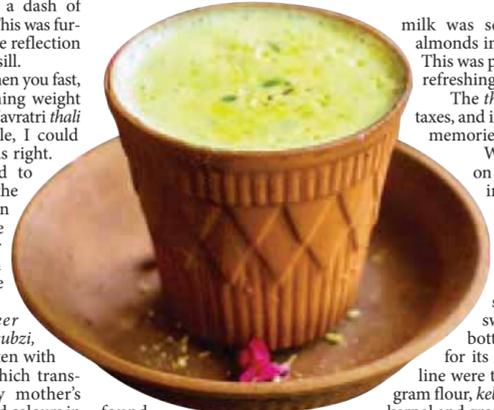
## SOUL FOOD

As children, my brother and I were very fond of the Navratri season. And this was despite the blues that we got because we were deprived of eggs or non-vegetarian food for nine long days, as per the conventions of a typical Indian home. But the scrumptious meals at the end of the day would more than make up for it.

And it was with this feeling that I entered The Creative Kitchen at the Radisson Noida, Sector 55. The sepia-tinted vintage photographs from New York, London, San Francisco, Los Angeles and many more places from across the world added a dash of colour to the white walls. This was further enhanced by the blue reflection of pool outside the glass sill.

I have a theory that when you fast, you actually end up gaining weight and as the quintessential Navratri *thali* made its way to my table, I could claim yet again, that I was right. But for once, I decided to refuse to worry about the weighing scale tipping in the wrong direction. The number of dishes and their appearance was enough to make me want to dive straight into it.

There was *paneer makhani*, *kacche aloo ki subzi*, *sitafal* which could be eaten with *kuttu ki puri* — all of which transported me back to my mother's kitchen. With all spices and colours in place, the three curries were perfect reminders of home-cooked food and fit for those who are away from their families at this festive time. The crispy *puris* would make one gorge for even more. *Sitafal*, however, which is supposedly sweet, didn't have adequate spices, salt or even sweet, as I



found it bland.

The sides added to the platter were *dahi ke aloo*, *shakarkandi chaat*, *kuttu ki pakori*, *samak ke chawal*, chopped fruits salad, and *samak ki kheer* sprinkled with almonds and raisins. Reviving the tradition of serving in clay utensils, *kesar pista*

milk was served with chopped almonds in a clay cup or *kulhar*. This was perfectly-seasoned and refreshing.

The *thali* starts at ₹749 plus taxes, and instantly go back to the memories of childhood.

While I was still gorging on the *thali*, I decided to indulge in some more and ordered *Thai Style Spring Roll*, and a cranberry-orange mocktail. The rolls served in six vodka-shot glasses with the sweet salsa sauce at the bottom scored full marks for its presentation. Next in line were the *Bhutiyi De Kebab*, gram flour, *kebabs* infused with corn kernal and green peas patties, seared on skillet, served with cabbage, beetroot, and lettuce. These were soft and succulent.

While my tummy was full, my heart kept wanting for more. The place surely is a must try as the meal makes you run through the streets of nostalgia.

## RECIPES

### SOUTHWEST BUDDHA BOWL

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Olive Oil: 2 tsp  
Garlic Cloves (chopped): 2-3  
Chickpea (boiled): 50 gm  
Spring onion greens (chopped): 2-3  
Boiled rice: 100 gm  
Salt  
Black pepper powder  
Red, yellow and green capsicum (sliced): ¼ each  
Medium avocado (sliced): 1  
Sweet corn kernels (warm): 50 gm  
Boiled eggs (cut into wedges): 2  
Cherry tomato (halved): 4-5  
Dr. Oetker FunFoods Southwest Dressing: 75 gm (5 tbsp)

**METHOD**  
■ Mexican rice: Heat one tsp oil in a non-stick pan (medium flame) add garlic, kidney beans, spring onion and rice. Sauté rice mix for 1-2 minutes and season it with salt and pepper.



- Heat remaining oil in a non-stick pan (medium flame) add capsicum and sauté it for one to two minutes. Season it with salt and pepper.
- Assembling: In a bowl alternatively place Mexican rice, followed by grill peppers, avocado, sweet corn, egg and cherry tomato. Season veggies with salt and pepper.
- Drizzle dressing on the bowl and serve.

Courtesy: Dr. Oetker India.

### MUSHROOM VOL AU VENT

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Mushroom mix: 80 gm and button, shiitake, wood ear  
Garlic and chopped onion: 1 tsp each  
Butter: 5 gm  
Olive oil: 5 ml  
Thyme: 2 sprigs  
Berry jam: 5 ml  
Vol au vent shell: 6 inches 1  
Cream: 40 ml  
Sea salt and crushed black pepper

**METHOD**  
■ Add oil and butter to the a medium heat pan.  
■ Add onion followed by garlic — let it sweat.  
■ Add medium-diced mushrooms.  
■ Add salt and pepper.  
■ Let the mushroom get medium soft.  
■ Add a little water and cream.  
■ Add fresh thyme.  
■ Cook till it gets a silky pale colour and the mushrooms are



- done.
- Open the vol au vent shell and put it in the oven for a minute for it to crisp.
- Brush some berry jam at the base of the vol au vent.
- Add the mushroom mix to the empty vol au vent shell.
- Finish with a whole sprig for thyme and some jam on the top.
- Serve hot.

Courtesy: Chef Tarun Sibal, Culinary Director, Café StayWoke, Gurugram.

### EGGLESS MULTIGRAIN COOKIES

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Wholewheat flour: 200 gm  
Salted butter: 120 gm  
Icing sugar: 80 gm  
Baking powder: 2 gm  
Full cream milk: 30 ml  
Multigrain seeds: 30 gm

**METHOD**  
■ Mix butter and flour in a bowl until comes to a creamy texture.  
■ In another bowl, take milk and mix icing sugar and baking powder in it.  
■ Now add milk mixture in flour mixture and mix it properly into a dough.  
■ Cling wrap the dough and keep in the fridge for 15 minutes.  
■ Take out the dough from fridge and roll it into thin sheet.



- Sprinkle multigrain seeds on the cookies sheet and again roll the dough sheet.
- Cut the sheet into desired shape.
- Place the cookies in a baking tray in a pre heated oven at 170 degrees.
- Bake for 15 minutes in the oven at 170 degrees.

Courtesy: Rajanish Dubey, Pastry Chef at Honey & Dough, Vasant Kunj.

### CHEESE TOAST WITH ANCHOVIES AND OLIVES

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Loaf of bread baguette: 1  
Wedge of hard cheese: 1  
Jar of anchovies in oil: 1  
Jar of pitted olives: 1  
Skewers or toothpicks

**METHOD**  
■ Cut the baguette into thin

slices and cut the cheese cured in small triangles.  
■ Distribute the cheese and the anchovies over the bread.  
■ Stick a toothpick or small skewer through the olives and place it on the anchovies.

Courtesy: Mahou India



## gorge us

Celebrate the joy of gifting this Diwali with a range of exquisite Diwali Hampers crafted for your loved ones and business associates.

The velvet boxes are filled with a choice of delectable choco chip cookies, cheese straws, assorted chocolates and nuts, sunflower seeds, paan raisins, hand rolled truffles, scented candles, tea cakes, Ganesha idol and much more. Available at all outlets. **Venue:** Eros Hotel, Nehru Place. **Price:** Starts from ₹1200 +taxes



Celebrate the most talked event of the town Oktoberfest with some lip smacking finger licking food and chilled drinks. Relish some delicious delights like Non Veg *Kebab Platter*, *Wok Tok Sambal Fish*, *Mutton Seekh Gilafi*, *Pita Falafel Rolls*, *Vegetable Thai Spring Rolls*, and many more along with 1 bucket of beer and 2 starters of your choice. **When:** Till 30th October **Venue:** Cove-The Bar, Radisson Blu, Sector 20, Faridabad **Time:** 7 pm to 11 pm **Price:** ₹1899 onwards

Treat your epicurean taste buds with a spread of soulful Punjabi delights as Aloft introduces a ten-day Punjabi Food Festival. The exclusive buffet serves traditional all-time favorites like *Amritsari Fish*, *Makki Ki Roti Aur Sarson Ka Saag*, *Amritsari Kulche & Chole*, along with classics like *Dal Makhni*, *Butter Chicken* and much more. **Venue:** Nook, Aloft, Aerocity.



**Date:** 19 to 28 October **Time:** 7:30 pm to 11 pm **Price:** ₹1,475 + taxes



Celebrate Diwali with Organic food as Fire, The Park presents seasonal organic menus reflecting their commitment to the environment. They host the Delhi Organic Farmer's Market and create a bridge between the primary producer, the farmers and the consumer. **Venue:** Fire restaurant, The Park Hotel **When:** Every Sunday.

## Trend Blazer

### Bahl files defamation

Filmmaker **VIKAS BAHL** has moved the Bombay High Court with a ₹10-crore defamation suit against his former Phantom Films partners **Anurag Kashyap** and **Vikramaditya Motwane** amid the #MeToo furore. Bahl sought direction from the court to restrain the two from making any statement about him to the media or via social media. The court posted the matter so that the alleged victim's side of the story can also be heard in the court's chambers. Bahl was accused of sexual harassment by a former employee of the film collective Phantom Films, for an incident that took place in 2015 in Goa during the promotion of the banner's movie *Bombay Velvet*. The allegation resurfaced after the #MeToo movement gained momentum in India, leading some others, including actress **Kangana Ranaut**, to point fingers at Bahl's behaviour towards women.



### 'There are so many people involved and more things will come out. We can't comment on every individual case. As an industry, we are trying to come together and constructively make a system where we all have a safe environment. I am part of that and hope we make a system that is equal and genderless for every human being.'



—**Radhika Apte**

Music composer **A.R. RAHMAN** said working with **Shah Rukh Khan** on *Jai hind hind, jai India* was an "interesting" experience. Rahman directed the actor for the first time for the official video of the song for Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar 2018. The song is penned by Gulzar.



"Gulzarji and I are extremely excited to share with you our latest song *Jai Hind, hind, Jai India*. Having SRK join us made it even more interesting," said Rahman. "I hope you enjoy it. We've created it after two decades of having created *Vande mataram*," he added.

### Had a troubled marriage: Elle

Singer **ELLE KING** said that she battled substance abuse and depression after "destructive marriage." She cancelled her wedding to a man she had actually already secretly married; split from said husband after a tumultuous year; and battled substance abuse, depression and post traumatic stress disorder. Today, King hopes to share her story on her new album, *Shake the Spirit*. "Last year almost broke me," King, 29, said, "but I'm stronger now because of it." She added, "We were two young, crazy people," and insists no one — not even her parents — knew she was married. "Before we even met, I had started kind of losing my mind," she said about marrying Andrew Ferguson.



The MG HS that will likely form the basis of the first MG Motor product in India



The Roewe Marvel X, inspired by others clearly, but a 500-km range, fully electric car at \$40,000. This is a OnePlus compared to Tesla's iPhone



KUSHAN MITRA



# THE CHINESE ARE COMING

MG Motor India is launching their first vehicle in India next year, and before that they took a group of journalists including this columnist to see their products and facilities in China. Let it be known that the manufacturers from the country have come a long way in making cars in little over a decade

I spent this past week in China as a guest of MG Motor India, the company which is a subsidiary of Shanghai Automotive Industrial Corporation (SAIC) China's largest carmaker. A bit about SAIC Motor before I get to the cars we got to see and drive a bit in China. SAIC was one of the few Chinese carmakers with a history as it has been making cars and commercial vehicles in Mao's China, before in 1984, it set-up a joint-venture with Volkswagen to jointly produce vehicles a few years after Deng Xiaoping opened up the Chinese economy. The company, which was wholly owned by the Shanghai Municipal Corporation at the time, received huge amounts of state-aid and it was allowed to build up a massive network of subsidiaries which quickly allowed it to completely integrate the manufacturing process domestically instead of just assembling knock-down kits from Germany. And in 1997, it entered a second joint-venture with General Motors.

Long story short, SAIC incorporated technologies from the joint-ventures and learned from them. They were outbid for the rights of the British carmaker MG Rover by rival Chinese company Nanjing Automotive, but SAIC's size and scale made them dominant in the Chinese market and they eventually acquired Nanjing Automotive and started selling homegrown cars in China under the Roewe brand. There are a couple of stories of how Rover became Roewe, one saying that it was for better enunciation in Chinese but the company says it was about name rights to Rover which were retained by Land Rover, today part of Tata Motors owned JLR. SAIC also acquired a stake in Korean carmaker Ssangyong but worker resentment allowed that company to drift into bankruptcy. While Ssangyong is today owned by Mahindra, it is believed that SAIC acquired a lot of technology from Ssangyong including vital technology for the development of electric vehicles.

Chinese products, sold under Chinese brands have come a long way. Back in the early 2000's when I visited China for the first time, Chinese cars in

the country were visibly worse than European and American cars. The Mahindra Scorpio had come out around the same time and was in some respects superior to anything the Chinese put out at that time. But cars like the Roewe Marvel X; whose Chinese enunciation is deceptively close to the 'Model X', Tesla's electric Sports-Utility Vehicle; are quite remarkable. The Marvel X has a 54 kilowatt-hour battery, good-enough for a range of 500 kilometers and its interiors are downright excellent. It works, and works well.

Then there is the MG HS and its sister car the Roewe RX5, whose platform is likely to form the basis of the first vehicle that MG Motor will bring to India in mid-2019. I genuinely have to be nitpicking to find major faults with the cars. Sure, they are not dynamically amazing, with more than a hint of understeer, but the interiors are excellent and the cars do ride quite well.

One reason for that is the Guande Test Facility in the province of Anhui about 300 kilometers west of Shanghai. This is a massive test-facility, way better than anything in India. It includes a nine-kilometer long oval and a bridge that rises and falls steeply up 50 metres. A massive 1,20,000 square metre piece of flat tarmac and roads that test-out everything

on cars. Also, the research and development centre that SAIC Motor has built, is truly remarkable. With such facilities at hand, it is little wonder that they are making decent cars and will only get better. For example, all the cars we saw had five-star ratings on the China New Car Assessment Program (CNCAP) whose crash norms are as strict as the European NCAP tests. You are not buying thin steel, these are not all looks and no heart. These are proper cars, so dispel the notion that Chinese cars will be cheap and dangerous.

One can use the analogy of the mobile phones. The first Chinese smartphones with Android were cheap and felt cheap, and many of them might have worn Indian brand-names on them. But then brands like Xiaomi, Oppo, Vivo and OnePlus came and they dominate the Indian smartphone market now. They have succeeded because they are considered to be 'value for money' products. They are not iPhones. Similarly even though they are not like the cars made by Elon Musk's Tesla Motors, but they are pretty good. And it is the same thing with the Chinese cars that I saw this week.

That does not mean to say that MG Motor India will be successful, the products they launch will have to be relevant for the country. Is a large seven-seat SUV in the Hyundai Tucson/Honda CR-V segment the correct product to bring first? We also know that the second product will be an all-electric car, likely either the Marvel X or the eRX5. Would a hatchback or sedan make more sense in a company looking to become a household name in India. Korean carmaker Kia is also launching a car next year and has been far more bullish, building a bigger factory from scratch, but maybe SAIC is playing the long game. The market will eventually decide. But the Chinese are coming into the Indian car market and they have let it be known, that they do make good cars.



## CUPID'S RIDE

Endless ballads are written for it. Poets wax eloquent about it. But love continues to be elusive for many of us. All of us fall in love, but how many of us understand its true meaning? Bollywood actor and VJ, Cyrus Sahukar is hosting a speed dating show *Elevator Pitch*, which gives a fresh and quirky definition of love on MTV.



VJ **CYRUS SAHUKAR** is hosting a speed dating show *Elevator Pitch*, which gives a fresh and quirky definition of love, says **AYUSHI SHARMA**

learn many different ways of wooing the girls!" The show incorporates humour and fun and this is what is missing from other dating shows, which majorly focus on love or relationships which are portrayed seriously. "Here none of those are important except funny characters and bizarre experiences. Eventually the best that is going to come out is two people ending up on a date," says Cyrus. Cyrus strongly agrees that there's no social relevance of these shows but believes that is where the magic lies. In a day and age like today where everything is so spread out, where

people don't necessarily know what they want but they definitely are sure of what they don't want. These type of shows deal with different people and different aspects of life. Acting and hosting exist parallelly for Cyrus.

He explains, "Being a host is a completely different job from acting. The host is primarily a person who has to have their personality speaking up for themselves whereas acting is about not necessarily being yourself but playing a character and I have tried to keep both alive. I have always kept them apart from each other. And because of that I have had a career that is very colourful."

"My hosting life has been very busy. But when it comes to the acting life, two years ago I decided that I wanted to explore theatre so I did one play, *Trivial Disasters* which had eight urban stories from different walks of life, directed by Atul Kumar. It had Kalki Koechlin, Richa Chadda and Purab Kohli also," he adds.

The definition of love has dramatically changed. This is the century for self love. The actor says, "Today we live in an age where relationships are very tough to sustain as people's wants and desires have evolved. It is a big change because our options have changed. Love will never be completely out of fashion and it will always exist. It's just that that the forms of love have changed. Earlier there was hype about getting married, but today you can see marriage is not that important. The way that they love I viewed had changed but love itself will never really change."

TODAY WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE RELATIONSHIPS ARE VERY TOUGH TO SUSTAIN AS PEOPLE'S WANTS AND DESIRES HAVE EVOLVED. IT'S A BIG CHANGE BECAUSE OUR OPTIONS HAVE CHANGED

## Spanish fiesta

As the city celebrates National Day of Spain, we explore what the event night had to offer

Not many people might know that October 12, 1942, the day that Christopher Columbus first landed on American land is known as the National Day of Spain or *Fiesta Nacional de España* or *Día de la Hispanidad*. This was on account of the fact that the expedition was sponsored by King Ferdinand of Spain.

While the celebrations were on in Spain, India celebrated the historic day at the Embassy of Spain in India recently.

José Ramón Barañano, Ambassador of Spain to India, hosted the grand evening which saw people and guests from various international embassies celebrating the event. The white and yellow lights around the lush green lawn brought in a festive vibe at the embassy, with food

and wine and beer stalls around the corners.

There were a number of Spanish delicacies spread across the tables. From Spanish *Paella* to various Indian snacks like *samosas* and chilli *pakodas*, Italian pizza and pasta, grilled meat and desserts created the perfect mood for the celebrations.

Fernando Bustamante, CEO at Mahou India believed that such events bring the two countries and their cultures closer. Spanish tourism and travel has also been a part of many of the Indian films and shows, especially the much-loved, *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*. Bustamante said that that it was their endeavour to bring together the two cultures and see that getting along more through such films.



# Pakistan all over Australia

Babar's 99, Sarfraz's 81 help hosts stretch their lead and the Aussies to a point of no return

## Maqsood picked in Pak squad for T20 series

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's cricket selectors on Thursday named uncapped left-arm pacer Waqas Maqsood in the Twenty20 International squad for the series against Australia. Maqsood was picked after a string of impressive performances in domestic cricket. At 30, he is a late bloomer and has appeared in 19 T20 matches in his career, taking 20 wickets. "Waqas Maqsood has been drafted in the T20 squad after his recent performances in the domestic cricket and Pakistan 'A' team in the recent series. Similarly, Imad Wasim makes a comeback in the team after his form and fitness was monitored by the selection committee during the current domestic matches," Chief Selector Inzamam ul Haq said. The selectors have also recalled all-rounder Imad Wasim for the three-match series in the UAE. Imad has been out of the Pakistan limited-overs squad since last year due to a knee problem and was also overlooked for the Asia Cup last month after failing a fitness test. The selectors have called back experienced batsman Muhammad Hafeez for the T20 series. Hafeez was included in the Test squad for the ongoing series with Australia as the 18th player and ended up scoring a hundred in the first Test. However, Pakistan selectors once again left out fast bowler Mohammad Amir. The 26-year-old went wicketless in three Asia Cup matches in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last month, losing his place in the country's Test squad as well as in the ongoing series against Australia. The Pakistan Cricket Board said the T20 squad was finalised after consultation with captain Sarfraz Ahmed and coach Mickey Arthur. The three-match series against Australia will be played on October 24, 26 and 28, 2018 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, respectively. **Pakistan Squad:** Sarfraz Ahmed (c), Fakhar Zaman, Muhammad Hafeez, Sahibzada Farhan, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Asif Ali, Hussain Talat, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan Shanwari, Hassan Ali, Imad Wasim, Waqas Maqsood, Faheem Ashraf. **PTI**



Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, right, takes a break after he was hit by a ball during 2nd innings **AP**

**AFP ■ ABHU DHABI**

Pakistan grabbed an early wicket after Babar Azam struck a fluent 99 to edge closer to claiming a series victory over Australia in the second Test at Abu Dhabi on Thursday. Azam narrowly missed out on a hundred after an aggressive innings, while skipper Sarfraz Ahmed followed up his first-innings 94 with 81 as Pakistan declared their second innings at 400-9, setting a daunting 538-run target for the tourists. By the close on the third day, Pakistan had Shaun Marsh dismissed for four -- bowled by left-arm paceman Mir Hamza for his first Test wicket -- to boost their chances of victory after Australia

clung on for a thrilling draw in the first Test in Dubai last week. Aaron Finch (24) and Travis Head (17) were at the crease with Australia, who are 47-1 and need another 491 for an unlikely win or to bat out two full days on a weary and spinning Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch. No team has ever chased more than 418-7 to win a Test, made by the West Indies against Australia at Antigua in 2003. Pakistan piled on the runs with Azam, Sarfraz and Azhar Ali -- who was the casualty of a bizarre run out -- all making half-centuries to build on the hosts' 137-run first-innings lead. But none of them could go on to score a ton, with Azam falling agonisingly



Mir Hamza, center, celebrates after he bowled Shaun Marsh **AP**

## AUSTRALIA TO PLAY T20 AGAINST UAE

**SYDNEY:** Australia will play the United Arab Emirates for the first time in an official Twenty20 clash next week after the game was sanctioned, officials said on Thursday. The touring Australians were scheduled to face the UAE as part of their tune-up for their upcoming T20 series against Pakistan. But it has now been granted full international status after both Cricket Australia and the Pakistan Cricket Board agreed to the move, the International Cricket Council said on its website. Emirates Cricket Board member Zayed Abbas said the match in Abu Dhabi on October 22 would give his side some

much-needed game-time against a leading international team. "Our thanks also go to Cricket Australia for approaching this opportunity so positively, and especially to the Pakistan Cricket Board for permitting this match during their home tour in the UAE with Australia," he said. "It has been an incredible effort from all parties to bring this match to fruition." The UAE are ranked 13th in the world, with the Australians third. Australia are currently playing the second Test against Pakistan in the UAE ahead of a three-game T20 series starting on October 24. **PTI**

close to his maiden hundred, trapped leg-before by medium pacer Mitchell Marsh. Azam, who hit three sixes and six fours, improved on his previous best Test score of 90 not out he made in New Zealand two years ago. He and Sarfraz added 135 runs for the sixth wicket to end any hopes Australia had of a fightback after taking the second new ball at 273-5. Sarfraz struck five fours and a six and delayed the declaration in hope of a century, but fell leg-before to leg-spinner Marnus Labuschagne who finished with 2-74. But the pick of the bowlers was off-spinner Nathan Lyon who followed his first-innings four wickets with 3-135 in a marathon 43-over vigil. After a dull opening period, the

embarrassing dismissal of Azhar brought the day to life. The batsman edged a Peter Siddle delivery towards the third-man boundary and, thinking the ball had crossed the rope, halted in the middle of the pitch to talk to fellow batsman Asad Shafiq. But Mitchell Starc picked up the ball less than a yard from the boundary and threw it back to wicketkeeper Tim Paine, who ran Azhar out, leaving the Pakistani duo -- who have combined experience of 130 Tests and over 9,000 runs -- stranded and looking bewildered. Azhar fell for a well-played 64, including four boundaries. Pakistan had earlier lost Haris Sohail for 17, stumped by Paine off Nathan Lyon after resuming at 144-2.

## Kuldeep will be India's No 1 spinner: Harbhajan

**FIANS ■ KOLKATA**

Going forward, chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav will become India's primary spin weapon, feels veteran bowler-turned-cricket commentator Harbhajan Singh. "Kuldeep has shown glimpses of what he can do on a first-day wicket. He is slower in the air and gets the ball to turn both ways. Going forward, he should be India's key and deciding factor. He will be the No 1 spinner in future," Harbhajan said. Kuldeep was the second-highest wicket-taker against the West Indies in the just-concluded two-match series, picking up 10 wickets. Earlier, Kuldeep played just the second Test in England and was wicketless, bowling nine overs and leaking 44 runs. India lost by an innings and 159 runs. Harbhajan, a lethal and celebrated off-spinner in his time who was part of India's World Cup-winning team, did not want to read too much into that performance. "In England, the conditions were seaming and the day he bowled, it was the coldest day in summer. So, for a wrist spinner, it is very difficult. He could not do the things he wanted. He has time and again proved his credentials and the team depends a lot on him and will in the future," said Harbhajan, who was commenting during the England tour and watched Kuldeep from close quarters. Asked about the two-Test series sweep against the West Indies, Harbhajan said the visitors were no side to beat at the moment, adding that this Indian team has in it to win the upcoming Test series Down Under. With Steve Smith and David Warner unavailable, this is their best chance. "The result shows that this was a one-sided affair. More than how well India played, the West Indies was not even competing," said Harbhajan, who has 417 Test wickets in 103 matches. "They have always produced some match winners, but at the moment I doubt whether they have any. This is worrying for cricket. Sri Lanka is going down,



Kuldeep Yadav celebrates with Rishabh Pant after taking maiden 5 wicket haul **PTI**

so is Zimbabwe. All these teams used to be so good," said the most successful off-spinner the country has produced. India will play four tests starting December 6 in Adelaide. "If we bat well there, we have got the bowling to get them out. Without Smith and Warner, this is our best chance to win a series there," Harbhajan opined. Lauding 18-year-old sensation Prithvi Shaw, who ended the series as the highest run-getter and was adjudged the Man of the Series, and young wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, Harbhajan said while the former has played fearless cricket, the latter is ready to take over in all three formats. "He plays a fearless brand of cricket which is great to see. His confidence is beyond his years and that is due to the number of runs he made in school cricket and Ranji Trophy. This is where credit should go to our infrastructure and the BCCI. "As far as Pant is concerned, the way he played in the IPL, he took the game away from the opposition. He has got power, balance and everything what you need as a batsman in the modern era to score runs. He deals in fours and sixes with so much ease. "He is someone who is ready to play in all formats. MS (Dhoni) is playing which is great as he will learn a lot from him."

## Negi, Navdeep take Delhi in decider

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**

Pawan Negi, batting at number nine, scored an unbeaten 39 under intense pressure, helping Delhi pull-off a thrilling two-wicket win over Jharkhand in the second semifinal of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Thursday. Chasing 200, Delhi were down and out at 149 for eight in the 38th over before Negi and Navdeep Saini (13 not out off 38) batted for almost 12 overs, sharing a match-winning 51-run stand for the ninth wicket. Pacer Saini was deservedly named man of the match as he gave the much needed support to Negi in the tense run chase after taking four



Pawan Negi plays a shot against Jharkhand during Vijay Hazare 2nd semifinal **PTI**

wickets that limited Jharkhand to 199 all out in 48.5 overs. Delhi, who have won the tournament once, meet the mighty Mumbai in the final on Saturday. With his stellar effort, Negi has attracted attention after a long time, having slipped off the radar after bagging a million dollar IPL deal in 2016. The southpaw, who had also played a T20 for India in the same year, collected five fours and a six in his gritty knock. Unmukt Chand, who made 17 off 13 balls, began the chase with a flurry of boundaries before falling to pacer Varun Aaron, driving the ball straight to Anand Singh at cover-point. In-form captain Gautam

Gambhir (27), Dhruv Shorey (15) and Nitish Rana (39), all got starts but none could convert them into a big score. Jharkhand medium pacer Anand Singh wreaked havoc by claiming three wickets as Delhi slumped from 51 for one to 87 for four. Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem joined the party by bagging two wickets as Delhi collapsed to 123 for five to 149 for eight, putting Jharkhand on the verge of a famous win before Negi spoiled their party. Sent into bat, Virat Singh's half century helped Jharkhand reach a fighting total. He stitched 55 and 44 runs partnerships with Nadeem (29) and Rahul Shukla (11) for seventh and ninth wicket.

At one stage, Jharkhand were struggling at 85 for six, with Navdeep Saini and Kulwant Khejroliya doing the damage. Saini bagged four wickets and Khejroliya and medium pacer Pranshu Vijayran claimed two each. Saini took the wickets of Ishan Kishan (0), Saurabh Tiwary (6), Kumar Deobrat (3), while Khejroliya removed Anand Singh (36) and Shasheem Sanjay Rathour (5). **BRIEF SCORES** Delhi 200/8 (Pawan Negi 39\*; Nitish Rana 39; Anand Singh 3/39) beat Jharkhand 199 (Virat Singh 71, Shahbaz Nadeem 29; Navdeep Saini 4/30) by two wickets.

## Ashwin, Rahane to play in Deodhar Trophy

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ajinkya Rahane have been named in squads for the Deodhar Trophy beginning here on October 23 with a slight tweak in the format. The tournament remains a three-team affair but it will not feature Vijay Hazare Trophy champions this time. Instead, India A, B and C, captained by Dinesh Karthik, Shreyas Iyer and Rahane respectively, will fight for the title. "It was decided during the technical committee meeting of BCCI that there will be three teams instead of one being Vijay Hazare champions," GM (Game Development) Saba Karim said on Thursday. The presence of India Test regulars like Rahane and Ashwin is not a surprise as they both have been out of India's limited overs set-up. Teenage sensation Prithvi Shaw, who made a successful Test debut against the West Indies, will play for India A. India A captain Karthik too will have a point to prove after being dropped from the national team for the first two ODIs against the West Indies. The wicket-keeper batsman will lead a team comprising Tamil Nadu teammate Ashwin,



Shreyas Iyer and Ajinkya Rahane take a quick run during Hazare 1st semis **PTI**

Gill, Delhi pacer Navdeep Saini, Jharkhand captain Ishan Kishan, Washington Sundar and Rajneesh Gurbani. None of the players representing nine new teams in domestic cricket have been picked. **SQUADS** India A: Dinesh Karthik (C & WK), Prithvi Shaw, Anmolpreet Singh, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ankit Bawne, Nitish Rana, Karun Nair, Krunal Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shreyas Gopal, Shams Mulani, Mohammed Siraj, Dhawal Kulkarni, Siddharth Kaul. India B: Shreyas Iyer (C), Mayank Agarwal, Rituraj Gaekwad, Prashant Chopra, Hanuma Vihari, Manoj Tiwary, Ankush Bains (WK), Rohit Rayudu, K Gowtham, Mayank Markande, S Nadeem, Deepak Chahar, Varun Aaron, Jaydev Unadkat. India C: Ajinkya Rahane (C), Abhinav Mukund, Shubman Gill, Ravikummar Samarth, Suresh Raina, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan (WK), Vijay Shankar, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Papu Roy, Navdeep Saini, Rajneesh Gurbani, Umar Nazir.

## I made a mistake, forgive me: Kaneria



Pak leggie Danish Kaneria **File Picture**

**PTI ■ KARACHI** Banned Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria on Thursday said he finally confessed to spot-fixing after years of denial to get closure for his mistakes and sought forgiveness from the country's "shocked" cricket community. "I just want the cricket board, my fans and the Pakistani people to understand my situation and forgive me. I made a grave mistake in associating with a bookmaker (Anu Bhatt) and not reporting it to the concerned authorities and I have paid the price for it," Kaneria said. "I am gutted at the moment because it is not easy to come out

like this after basically lying for six years. I had to do it now because it was a burden on me and I just couldn't take the stigma of being called a spot-fixer any longer and denying it," Kaneria said. Kaneria, who will turn 38 in December and who took 261 wickets in 61 Tests, said he wanted to rebuild his life and hoped the cricket authorities would accept his apology and show compassion. "What I did was very wrong...I hope the people forgive me," he said. "My mistake was getting close to this guy, (alleged match-fixer) Anu Bhatt who became like a family friend to us after he came to Pakistan and we went to India in 2005/06. He virtually started blackmailing me," he added. Kaneria is serving a life ban since 2012 for indulging in spot-fixing in English county matches. The ban was imposed on him by the English Cricket Board (ECB). Kaneria played his last Test on the tour of England in 2010 after which the PCB withdrew him from the squad when it was reported that the ECB was investigating the leg-spinner for fixing in county matches.

